Press Notice

Court's opening sculpture to inspire Diamond Jubilee mementoes

A sculpture commissioned to mark the opening of the UK's highest court is set to feature as one of the key commemorative elements of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012, it was announced today.

The Royal Mint has published details of the official UK £5 coin to mark 60 years of Her Majesty's reign, the obverse of which features an effigy of The Queen inspired by the bas-relief sculpted for the Supreme Court.

The bronze bas-relief is mounted in the entrance hall of the UK Supreme Court, and was unveiled by The Queen and HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at the Court's official opening ceremony on 16 October 2009. It was designed and modelled by the sculptor Ian Rank-Broadley, whose effigy of HM Queen has appeared on all UK and Commonwealth coinage since 1998 and who created the sculpture for the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire in 2007.

The half-length life size portrait depicts Her Majesty in profile, crowned with a tiara, and wearing the Sovereign's robes of the Order of the Garter. The sculpture was cast by Castle Fine Arts Foundry Ltd.

Lord Phillips, President of the Supreme Court, warmly welcomed the news: "We were delighted to learn that the sculpture which stands proudly in our entrance hall has been used as the inspiration for the effigy on the coin. Each coin produced will convey the very best wishes of this Court as Her Majesty, the nation and the Commonwealth prepare to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee."

The Supreme Court building is open to the public on weekdays, enabling the inspiration for the effigy to be freely viewed.

The cupro-nickel coin is available for sale now from the Royal Mint, with precious metal versions available from January 2012.

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