

KIMBERLEY MEDAL

Sunday, 31 August 2003

The Kimberley Medal is the suppressed forerunner of the Kimberley Star. Created by the Mayor and Council of Kimberley, it is thought that the medal was struck in England; the designer remains unknown. The medal was never officially issued. It is thought that instructions were given that it be melted down as, without sanction, it had incorporated into its design the Royal Cipher VRI on the reverse and carried the wrong date of investment, that is the 15th October 1899 instead of the 14th October 1899.

The ribbon in this example is distinctly different to that usually favoured, namely that used later for the Kimberley Star. It is worthwhile noting that what ribbon was intended for use in actuality is entirely unknown. Details of recipients of the medal (if any) are unknown; so too how many medals were minted and how many have survived. Its scarcity is unquestioned; and it's a highly desirable collector's item rarely seen at auction.

The Kimberley Medal : Size 38.5 mm; Metal silver 0.925 fine; Edge plain; Suspension claw and loop with 10mm silver ring; Design unsophisticated; Obverse carries the figure of Victory placed above an image of the Kimberley Town Hall with the dates 1899-1900; Reverse carries the inscriptions in two shields: INVESTED 15 OCT. 1899 and RELIEVED 15 FEB. 1900, the Imperial Crown and Royal Cipher with the legend TO THE GALLANT DEFENDERS OF KIMBERLEY.

