

Royal Commemoratives



1
Rare English Delft Queen Caroline commemorative plate, dated 1738. Bonham's, Bath. Jun 03. HP: £9,800. ABP: £11,564.



2
Wedgwood Liverpool printed creamware Royal Commemorative teapot & cover, c1761. Phillips, London. Feb 01. HP: £4,000. ABP: £4,720.



3
Worcester mug, transfer printed, half length portrait of George III in profile, incorporating the Royal Arms, c1761, 5.75in high. Clarke Gammon, Guildford. Dec 03. HP: £3,800. ABP: £4,484.



4
18thC Worcester commemorative mug, printed in lilac portraits of George III and Queen Charlotte, after engravings by James McArdell, (af), 11.5cm high. Charterhouse, Sherborne. Oct 11. HP: £1,800. ABP: £2,124.



5
Wedgwood Royal commemorative mug designed by Eric Ravillious, 1937, Coronation of King George VI & Queen Elizabeth, pattern 6225, 4in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 07. HP: £1,300. ABP: £1,534.



6
Aynsley Edward VII coronation cup, 2 portrait panels, gilt decoration, 7in high. Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Jul 01. HP: £860. ABP: £1,014.



7
George III shell-moulded prattware vase, relief-moulded with a portrait bust to each side, one poss. King George III, other bearded, shrouded/wreathed, feather-edge mouldings painted in blue, on pedestal stem, 8.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 05. HP: £850. ABP: £1,003.



8
Early Victorian Staffordshire Royal commemorative mug, 1838, printed with 2 portraits of 'Victoria Regina' & script in puce, 3in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 06. HP: £750. ABP: £885.



9
Haslem, John (1808-1884), portrait miniature of Prince Albert, enamels on ceramic plaque, tiled, signed, dated London 1840 verso, 13 x 10cm. Richard Winterton, Lichfield. Aug 09. HP: £720. ABP: £849.



10
Pair of Victorian salt glazed decanters as Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, reverse impressed Savage & Austin wine and spirit merchants to Her Majesty Castle Square Brighton, 15in. Denhams, Warnham, Sussex. Aug 07. HP: £680. ABP: £802.

Royal Commemoratives of the past in this year of the Diamond Jubilee

John Ainsley

This Diamond Jubilee year marks a rare event in the time calendar of our nation. However the celebration will extend far beyond the famous shoreline of the white cliffs of Dover. For this most famous year is an international celebration for our Queen marking the Sixtieth Anniversary of her accession to the thrones of seven countries upon the death of her father King George VI on the 6th February 1952. Today Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen Regent of sixteen sovereign states, twelve of which were British Colonies or Dominions at the beginning of her reign. Queen Victoria in 1897 was the only monarch in the histories of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and other Commonwealth realms ever to have celebrated such a rare event.

And it is to rarity that we dedicate this celebration of the historical commemoratives of this nation. Here to ensure that we have on display only the worthwhile I have kept the prices over £100 hammer. Below that figure Royal commemoratives tend to only appear at auction in multiple lots and the ubiquitous twentieth century examples which appear everywhere have little value. Common examples begin with the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887 and then proliferate with the Diamond Jubilee ten years later. Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, who was not crowned, and George VI commemoratives exist in large numbers, as do commemoratives from the present reign. Of the thirty five examples I have chosen more than half were sold before 2007 and only ten in the last five years. I expect the rare examples to appear less frequently in the future and to continue to multiply in value. Twelve of the examples shown relate to Georgian monarchs, only one to William IV, ten are related to Queen Victoria's reign and the remainder are of twentieth century monarchs. Of the pastes and bodies used in manufacture the rarest is English delft, followed by eighteenth century soft paste porcelains, creamwares and pearlwares. Eighteenth century Jasper is particularly rare and the only example I have found is at 16 and I think these medallions are undervalued at £531 in 2011. Seventeenth century English delft examples are known but are usually in poor condition with multiple museum repairs. Nevertheless when they appear they realise astronomical sums.

I would hope that most collectors with ambition will recognise the earlier wares and the earlier pastes and bodies. For porcelains in general we use the term 'paste' and for earthenwares we refer to their 'body'. Even though eighteenth century Royal commemoratives are extremely rare, it is still surprising how comparatively little they might fetch at auction compared to retail. For example is £2,000 enough for the Worcester soft paste example at 4 or a £1,000 for the Prattware at 7? Certainly the former is a case in point as it was only purchased in 2011. And again at 21 is £330 enough for the very rare pearlware plaque, and I would certainly have paid more for the rare Victorian salt glazed stoneware window rest at 27. Even going back to 2001 at Hamptons in Godalming, £165 for an extremely rare George IV Coronation buff stoneware jug was 'giving it away' and such a handsome commemorative today should command well into four figures. As the saying goes 'find me another' and compare this with the £708 paid for a Queen Victoria plate at 12. Too much of course but here the high price reflects more the fact that it is Swansea than a rare commemorative. The Welsh revere their ceramic output and prices for Welsh ceramics are always at a premium.

Finally a word about Ravillious. I have selected three examples and these can be found at 5, 14 and 35. At 5 the example is of the 1937 Coronation and the price of £1,534 is excessive at auction, where over the last several years prices have ranged between about £600 and £1,500 but the average is only about £700. I have seen examples fetch as little as £400. The George VI example at 14 is a typical price. However the 1953 example at 35 is below the average of recent years which tends to be about £150 to £180. However not everybody gets excited about the 1953 version and there are lots of examples in recent years of examples fetching under a £100. The lowest I have found is £30 in 2008.



11 Rare late 18thC Prattware teapoy and cover moulded on both sides with figures, poss. George III & Queen Caroline, 5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jul 00. HP: £600. ABP: £708.



12 Swansea Royal commemorative plate for coronation of Queen Victoria, 15cm wide. Rosebery's, London. Jun 03. HP: £600. ABP: £708.



13 Wilkinson Ltd character jug modelled as Edward VII, after a design by Franci Caruthers Gould, holding a globe in his hands and titled 'Pro Pattia', 30.5cm high. Rosebery's, London. Sep 04. HP: £550. ABP: £649.



14 Wedgwood Royal commemorative mug designed by Eric Ravilious, Coronation of King George VI & Queen Elizabeth, 1937, printed design with blue lower border, 4in. Gorrings, Lewes. Oct 07. HP: £550. ABP: £649.



15 Wemyss Victorian diamond Jubilee commemorative goblet, painted with pink dog roses, square base, impressed Wemyss Ware R.H. & S. and oval T. Goode & Co mark, 5.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 00. HP: £460. ABP: £542.



16 George III & Queen Charlotte, white on solid blue jasper, latter impressed Wedgwood & Co, rim nibbles, 4.5cm and 4.7cm. (2) Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Feb 11. HP: £450. ABP: £531.



17 Royal Doulton Edward VIII 2 handled loving cup, c1936, painted mark, No 594 of 2000, 26cm high. Wintertons Ltd, Lichfield. May 03. HP: £400. ABP: £472.



18 William IV commemorative coronation mug, externally printed in black with portraits of King William and Queen Adelaide flanking a Royal crest within a foliate wreath, internally printed around the rim with floral garlands and titles, beaded rims, moulded foot rim, pearlware glazed, 10cm high. Rosebery's, London. Mar 05. HP: £320. ABP: £377.



19 Robinson & Leadbeater parian portrait bust of Queen Victoria, impressed 'Jubilee 1887', R.J. Morris Sculp., on socle plinth, 13.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jun 03. HP: £320. ABP: £377.



20 George IV Coronation cream ware mug, painted a crown, G IV R cypher and dated July 19th 1821 (a.f.), 15cm high. Charterhouse, Sherborne. Dec 10. HP: £280. ABP: £330.



21 Pearlware plaque, early 19thC, centrally moulded with head and shoulders portrait of 'King George III' (sic) above a titled banner, painted in yellow, blue, pink and brown within a brown 'frame', incised DL on reverse, 6.5 x 7.5in. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £280. ABP: £330.



22 Walter Moorcroft tankard commemorating King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra Coronation Day. W & H Peacock, Bedford. Jul 03. HP: £260. ABP: £306.



23 Early 19thC Queen Victoria commemorative charger, head and shoulders portrait 'Victorian Regina', border of cornucopia/cherubs, rim with prowling lions, incised Minton mark overpainted black crossed swords, 18in dia. Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Sep 06. HP: £250. ABP: £295.



24 Royal Doulton Coronation loving cup, No.1362/2000 celebrating the Coronation of George VI, with certificate, 10.5in high. Hartleys, Ilkley. Dec 07. HP: £250. ABP: £295.



25 Royal Doulton Queen Elizabeth coronation loving cup, 1953, No.407/1,000, height 27cm. Richard Winterton, Lichfield. Mar 11. HP: £240. ABP: £283.



26 Early 19thC Commemorative Queen Caroline plate with portrait centre and painted floral moulded border, 6.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 00. HP: £220. ABP: £259.



27 Victorian salt glazed stoneware window rest, decorated with a portrait of Prince Albert shown in his youth, probably Fulham, 4.25in. Gorrings, Lewes. Oct 08. HP: £220. ABP: £259.



28 Rare Victoria 1838 Coronation commemorative Sunderland lustre jug, reverse with a temperance movement view of Father Matthew, 5.5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Jun 11. HP: £220. ABP: £259.



29 Bargeware teapot, 'To Commemorate the Coronation of King Edward VII June 26th 1902', 10.5in high. (cover a/f) Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Apr 06. HP: £200. ABP: £236.



30 English pearlware small pink and copper lustre commemorative jug, printed with half length portrait of Queen Caroline above a banner inscribed 'God Save Queen Caroline', c1820, 8cm. Woolley & Wallis, Salisbury. Sep 00. HP: £160. ABP: £188.



31 Late 18thC Prattware tea caddy moulded with caricatures of George III and Queen Charlotte, 5in. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 02. HP: £160. ABP: £188.



32 Rare George IV Coronation buff stoneware jug, 22cm high. Hamptons, Godalming. Nov 01. HP: £140. ABP: £165.



33 Doulton Lambeth stoneware jug, baluster form commemorating Queen Victoria's 60th Year as Queen with portrait roundels, foliate shoulders & with tube lined inscription 'She wrought her people lasting good', 7.25in high. Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb 07. HP: £120. ABP: £141.



34 Royal Doulton Edward VII and Queen Alexandra salt glazed commemorative jug, imp'd Royal Doulton 1331, 7in. Denhams, Warnham. Feb 04. HP: £110. ABP: £129.



35 Eric Ravilious for Wedgwood, 1953 Queen Elizabeth II commemorative mug, decorated with fireworks and the Royal Coat of Arms on a pink ground, printed mark, 10cm high. Cheffins, Cambridge. Apr 05. HP: £110. ABP: £129.