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The numismatics of brave animals

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Figure 1. An electrum trite or third stater (4.66 grams) of Lydia or Milesia. Issued ca. 575 B.C., probably at Sardis. The roaring lion's head was the dynastic badge of the Lydian royal house. Photograph courtesy of Mr Jim Noble, Noble Numismatics Sale 94 Catalogue of 29 July 2010.

Abstract

The cultural evolution of humankind has been characterised since earliest times by the bestowal of human characteristics upon animals. The symbols of virtue which humans confer upon animals are found extensively in the numismatic record. Such anthropomorphic associations take two separate and distinct forms. The first comprises a two-way reflexive attribution wherein an animal species is given a human quality – the courage, dominance and conquering strength of the lion, for example – and that animal's virtue is then portrayed by a returned dynamic as a metaphor for a king, ruler or nation. The second anthropomorphic dynamic is the bestowal of human qualities upon individual animals. The species as a group is not endowed with the virtue, but specific and exceptional individuals are identified and apportioned esteem. Memorialisation of such

virtues in individual animals of a species – highlighting such virtues as courage, loyalty or service – takes several forms including poetry, statuary and monumental memorials. One of the most enduring examples of the anthropomorphism of animal courage is that enshrined in the numismatic record which this paper seeks to document. It includes an account of some important medals bestowed upon animals for bravery, war service, metaphors of virtue, and primacy in competition and endurance. The numismatic record also includes a distinct class of medals awarded to humans specifically for saving animal life. These awards comprise a heritage record of the close links between the animal kingdom and humankind. They form a permanent witness that the virtues of duty, service and courage can transcend the barriers that otherwise partition the living world.

Introduction

Animals have been portrayed on coins since the invention of coinage probably in the late seventh century B.C. by the Lydians, who featured lions on the obverse of their coins. Often when early moneyers depicted selected species of animals on the coinage of kings, it was because they were metaphors for human-endowed qualities such as courage, fighting prowess, physical strength and loyalty.¹ (Fig. 1). The strength and courage of the warhorse, the eagle's power and dominance of the skies, and the speed and graceful agility of the dolphin are examples of die-engravers' metaphors which were popular in the first two hundred years of the chronology of coinage. Especially fine examples include the eagle on coins from the Akragas mint on Sicily (ca. 470-425 B.C.); the quadriga with Nike flying above her war chariot, struck in Syracuse also in Sicily (ca. 480 – 470 B.C.); and the depiction of Alexander the Great (336-323 B.C.) wearing an elephant headdress.

The attribution to animals of human virtues takes two separate and distinct forms. The first is a reflexive dynamic in which humans attribute a virtue to an entire animal species, and then uses the metaphor of the generic animal virtue to identify specific human individuals or kings with the attributed virtue. The lion's head on the first Lydian coins is an example of this process. Two and a half thousand years later, the lion accompanied Britannia on the reverse of

recent British coins in a similar example of this metaphor of animal strength and courage. Second and distinct from this process, is a different one-way dynamic wherein humankind both bestows and rewards perceived virtue not on a whole species, but on individual animals. This is the same process as rewarding individual human subjects for gallantry, courage or service beyond the call of duty. Both these processes constitute the phenomenon of anthropomorphism.

Anthropomorphism

Anthropomorphism is the imparting of human moral, ethical and behavioural qualities, both good and bad, upon animals. The phenomenon is all-pervasive in human culture. It is enshrined in the creation beliefs of many peoples, and no more so than in the world's longest continuous surviving cultures - the Aboriginal Peoples of Australia. One example is the attribution of life-giving creativity to the Rainbow Serpent.

In the process of anthropomorphism both virtues and vices are bestowed upon whole species and on individuals within a species. An ancient written reference to such anthropomorphism was the Persian custom of imparting an immoral quality to certain birds, a practice described by Herodotus (1.138) in the fifth century B.C. He wrote that many Persians drove away white pigeons which they believed had contracted leprosy as a result of sinning against the god. Herodotus (1.23-4) also

recorded the alleged rescue of a famous musician from drowning by dolphins. Snakes play a role in the Old Testament, most famously the serpent in the Garden of Eden which was attributed with deviousness and evil (Genesis 3.1; 3.4-5; 3.22). Similar examples abound in virtually all ancient cultures.

Anthropomorphism is an idea which endured to modern times. The website animal-symbols.com describes the eagle “as a symbol of power, action, speed and perception, and has powers of intuition and creativity and can balance power with grace”; and the lion as “a symbol for deathless courage, strength, fearlessness, bravery and royalty, the lord of the land”.² In his book, *Animals as Social Beings*, Adolf Portmann wrote that:

*From the 1930s, biologists became unwilling to call all animal behaviour [simply] instinctive. It was recognised that all behaviour was made up of many different components, some fixed and automatic, others highly adaptable and more or less modifiable by experience...*³

This dynamic was given a certain cachet following the demonstration that 98.4 percent of human DNA was shared with that of chimpanzees;⁴ and 90 percent with that of mice.⁵ A wake was held in Edinburgh in February 2003 to celebrate the life of Dolly the sheep, the world’s first cloned mammal. Dolly was “the world’s first ovine megastar”.⁶ Scientists and anthropologists have

made a strong case that we need animals in our lives and that there are deep-rooted reasons why this is so.⁷ The evolutionary process of selection has resulted in the selection of personalities in both humans and animals, just as it does in the selection of phenotypes.⁸

It is well known that a large percent of owners of cats and dogs acknowledge celebrating their pet’s birthday, or include them in celebratory affirmations of love such as the giving of presents at Christmas.⁹ The Queensland veterinary surgeon, Dr David Paxton in his book, *Why It’s Okay to Talk to your Dog*, noted:

*I think it is okay to talk to your dog. I talk to Toby all the time. I do not talk to Toby about the meaning of life. He would not be interested, having abrogated the cerebral side of things to his human partner... Toby communicates by body language and trusts implicitly that I will respond.*¹⁰

Altruism and Anthropomorphism

Of the many virtues which humans bestow on individual animals, that of courage takes the highest ethical form. In this context there are three grades of service to others – duty, supererogation and altruism. Duty is the phenomenon of response to a perceived or imposed “ought” or “should”. Supererogation is going beyond that call or duty – “going the extra mile”. Altruism is supererogation in which there

Medals for Animal Courage
<p>Dickin Medal (Instituted 1943) (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals)</p> <p>People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Silver Medal (1943-1969)</p> <p>People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Gold Medal (from 1969)</p> <p>National [UK] Canine Defence League Bronze Medal</p> <p>Dogs Trust [UK] Gallant Canine Medal</p> <p>Purple Cross. RSPCA Australia (Instituted 1993)</p> <p>National [Australia] Animal Valour Award (Instituted 1998)</p> <p>Royal New Zealand SPCA Bravery Award Medal (1953-1957)</p> <p>Royal New Zealand SPCA Silver Medal of Merit (from 1958)</p> <p>Royal New Zealand SPCA Bronze Medal of Merit (from 1958)</p> <p>Stillman Award Medal (American Humane Society)</p> <p>Single (opportunistic) Issue Medals. e.g.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">New York State Poultry Society (1869)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>The Sun's</i> Hero Dog Award Medallion</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(UK Dogs Trust and <i>The Sun</i> newspaper)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The <i>VITA Wireless</i> Samaritan Medal – National Hero Dog Award</p>
War Service Medals to Animals
<p>Dogs enlisted, promoted and decorated for war service through the ranks of the US Army, the US Marine Corps and the US Coast Guard.</p> <p>The Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association Medal (from March, 2009).</p>
Coins and Medals Depicting Animals as Metaphors of Virtue
<p>Coins of all nations depicting lions, bulls, dolphins etc. as metaphors of strength, courage, elegance.</p> <p>Silver Greyhounds Medallion – icons of the Queen's Messengers.</p> <p>The Dogged Devotion Award (UK Dogs Trust Award to dogs which provide exceptional emotional support).</p>
Performance Medals – Primacy in Strength and Endurance
<p>Horse racing Medals</p> <p>Pigeon racing Medals</p>
Medals to Humans for Saving Animal Life
<p>Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (UK) Silver Medal</p> <p>National [UK] Canine Defence League Silver Medal</p> <p>People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Cross</p> <p>Royal New Zealand SPCA Gold Medal of Merit</p> <p>RSPCA Australia Humane Award Medal (Instituted 1990)</p>

Table 1. Classification of coins and medals relating to animal service and courage.

exists an extra element – a personal acknowledged risk of deprivation, loss, danger, injury or death; or the loss of property, livelihood or status. Courage is a necessary component of both supererogation and altruism. While it is unlikely animals act out of altruism, they undoubtedly manifest courage.

An example of perceived extreme animal loyalty – supererogation as an anthropomorphic bestowal - was Hachikō, an Akita dog which became a national symbol of Japanese loyalty, with the dog's memory perpetuated in a statue in Tokyo.¹¹ Another was Bobby, a Skye Terrier who spent every night at his master's grave, for 14 years after the latter's death (1858). The dog's statue in Edinburgh, "Greyfriars Bobby", is a metaphor of unquestioning loyalty. It has been visited by a great many people over the decades, including the author.¹²

"Balto", a famous Alaskan sled dog, was the lead dog on the final run in 1925 bringing supplies of diphtheria antitoxin serum to Nome during an epidemic. Balto's stamina and dutiful service are memorialised both in a statue in New York's Central Park and in the annual Iditarod Race.¹³

Humankind strives to enshrine, in as permanent a form as possible, its own cultural record of extreme examples of duty, courage and loyalty. The Victoria Cross is afforded primacy in the British Commonwealth Order of Precedence of all bestowed decorations. Just as in the record of human gallantry, so also are the perceived virtuous deeds

of animals memorialised for posterity. Such examples of animal courage form the subject of poetry and paintings, memorials, statues and coins and medals.¹⁴

The numismatic record is the most enduring of all these repositories of cultural heritage; and it is in this record that one finds many examples of an extreme example of anthropomorphism, animal courage.

Numismatics of Animal Service and Virtue

A proposed classification of coins and medals relating to animal service and courage is shown in Table 1. There exist four distinct types of award. In addition there is a separate family of medals bestowed upon humans who exhibit bravery in saving animal life. This paper deals primarily with the first class which relates to the medallic record of what is perceived as true animal courage. Examples of all the other groups are given for completeness.

Medals for animal courage

Several nations bestow awards for animal heroism, although it has been said that "giving medals to animals sounds peculiarly British".¹⁵ There exist many different medals for what is perceived as courage or heroism displayed by individual animals. Selected examples include:

1. Dickin Medal

The highest international award for animal courage is the Dickin Medal.¹⁶

A bronze disc 36 mm in diameter, it is suspended from a riband of three equal bands of green, dark brown and pale blue. The obverse bears the central inscription, "For Gallantry. We Also Serve", surrounded by a beribboned non-fruiting laurel circlet (Fig. 2). The reverse is engraved with the date, name of recipient and details of the award. The medal is also portrayed in Portland stone in the Animals in War Memorial in Park Lane, London, designed and sculpted by David Backhouse and unveiled by the Princess Royal on 24 November 2004.

Its principal inscription reads:

*From the pigeon to the elephant
they all played a vital role in
every region of the world in the
cause of human freedom. Their
contribution must never be
forgotten.*¹⁷

The Dickin Medal was instituted by Mrs Maria Dickin (1870-1951) in 1942, and the first award was made a year later. It is known as the "Animals' VC", and the qualifying criteria are for any animal displaying conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty associated with, or under the control of, any branch of the Armed Forces or Civil Defence units in circumstances of conflict.¹⁸ It is awarded by the (UK) People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

To date some sixty-two Dickin Medals have been awarded, but only ten since 1949. These have included thirty-one pigeons, twenty-seven dogs, three horses and one cat. Notable recipients have included: "Rob", a para-dog which

made more than twenty parachute drops while serving with the Special Air Service on top-secret missions in Africa and Italy; "Ricky", a canine mine-detector which continued the dangerous task of clearing a canal bank in Holland despite suffering head injuries; the Search and Rescue Dogs, "Beauty", "Peter", "Irma" and "Jet", which located survivors buried in the debris of the London Blitz; and the London Metropolitan Police horses, "Olga", "Regal" and "Upstart", which overcame their fear of fire and the hail of flying bombs during the Second World War. A more recent recipient was "Buster", a six-year-old Springer spaniel which won the Dickin Medal for service in Iraq in 2003 for discovering a hidden cache of explosives in the southern city of Safwan.¹⁹

A large number of awards were bestowed on pigeons flown by the Secret Operations Executive in the Second World War. To prevent pigeons carrying secret messages from the Resistance in Occupied France, the Germans kept raptors at ports on the English Channel. One recipient of the Dickin Medal, "Mary", a pigeon from Exeter, flew back to England across the Channel "with her neck and right breast ripped open, savaged by hawks kept by the Germans at Calais".²⁰

Only two Dickin Medals have been awarded to Australian animals, one of these was to a Tasmanian Blue Bar cock pigeon number DD-43 T139, part of the loft of the No. 47 Australian Water



Figure 2. The Dickin Medal.

Transport Company based at Madang during the New Guinea Campaign. Bred in 1943, by July 1945 “Pigeon 139 had flown more than a thousand miles on 23 missions”. It won the “Animal VC” for flying 64 kilometres through a tropical storm, carrying an urgent message from a stricken barge. The message read:

*Engine failed. Washed on beach at Wadaw owing heavy seas. Send help immediately. Craft filling up with sand.*²¹

Pigeon 139’s Dickin Medal is on display at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.²²

A “feline” Dickin Medal was awarded to “Simon”, the ship’s cat of HMS *Amethyst* in an engagement in the Chinese Civil War on 20 April 1949. During this operation, the *Amethyst*

was shelled in the Yangtze River. The Royal Navy crew suffered 42 casualties including 17 dead. Simon was injured in the blast but won the award for continuing to dutifully dispose of rats.

Three dogs were awarded Dickin Medals for loyalty and gallantry following the terrorist atrocities in New York of 11 September 2001. One was “Apollo”, one of the search and rescue dogs selected by ballot from more than 300 such dogs to receive the award. Replicas of the Dickin Medal, in cast steel, are also known.²³

2. PDSA Gold Medal (from 1969)

This decoration replaced the earlier Silver Medal awarded by the People’s Dispensary for Sick Animals, and is a gilt disc 45mm in diameter. Three awards have been made since 1969.²⁴ One recipient of the Gold Medal was “Bamsi”, an heroic Saint Bernard dog honoured with a statue and a book.²⁵ Another was “Cracker”, a yellow Labrador Retriever in Northern Ireland’s Search and Rescue Dog Team, awarded the PDSA Gold Medal in 1999 for service in the 1999 Turkish Earthquake Rescue Efforts.

3. National [UK] Canine Defence League Bronze Medal

Instituted in 1890, the League intended that this bronze medal be awarded to dogs “for brave acts”.²⁶ The Medal is a bronze disc, 30 mm in diameter, suspended by a red riband. The obverse portrays the allegorical

figure of Victory. She is standing with a sword, impaling a vanquished dragon, her right hand resting on the head of a mastiff.

4. Dogs Trust (UK) Gallant Canine Medal

The Dogs Trust was established at the outbreak of the First World War to protect dogs' welfare.²⁷ The medal by Spink is bronze, 64 millimetres in diameter. At the outbreak of war, the British Government planned to destroy fifty percent of dogs in the belief that food would be too scarce to waste on them. A campaign led by the Dogs Trust persuaded the Government to abandon the plan. Dogs Trust helped soldiers' families pay for dog licences. In the Second World War, the Trust issued instructions about protecting the family dogs during air raids and anticipated gas attacks. Its Dogs Trust Leaflet 489 advised about using family dogs to protect the family from Nazi invaders. The Trust advised specifically about Invader Guard Dogs and their deployment:

*Domestic dogs and the Invader Guard Dogs usually kept outside should be brought indoors at night to give timely warning of the approach of German paratroops and may protect the family by menacing or attacking stray marauders. Kept outside on a chain, guard dogs will be easy victims to enemy tommy-guns.*²⁸

The Dogs Trust awards a Gallant

Canine Medal for perceived acts of bravery by dogs serving with the military. One such recipient was "Sarge", a Collie which rescued buried humans, other dogs and cats during the London Blitz. It later worked as a mine detecting dog in the D-day landings in France. With its handler and the sappers of the mine clearing team, Sarge advanced through to Germany from June 1944 over the ensuing six months.

5. The Purple Cross (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Australia)

The highest Australian award for animal courage is the Purple Cross. It is a pewter disc with a central purple enamelled cross, 50mm x 4mm, weighing 90 gr. It was instituted in 1993,

*to recognise the deeds of animals which have shown outstanding service to humans, particularly if they show exceptional courage in risking their own safety or life to save a person from injury or death.*²⁹

The name derives from the Purple Cross Service of Victoria, usually referred to as the Purple Cross Society. It was established in Melbourne on 28 January 1915, as the Australian Society of a world-wide animal welfare body with its headquarters in Paris. In Britain, its equivalent was the Blue Cross Fund, formally the Society for the Encouragement of Kindness to Animals. The Fund's objectives were to establish

veterinary hospitals for wounded war horses close to the battlefields in France in the First World War, and to provide resources to humanely euthanise those many thousands of horses too badly wounded to recover.³⁰ The Purple Cross Service of Victoria took as its terms of reference the raising of funds to provide equipment and veterinary care for the horses of the Australian Light Horse Brigade. The Purple Cross Society was disbanded in 1971, its functions formally subsumed by the Victorian Branch of the RSPCA.

The first Purple Cross was awarded on 25 September 1996 to “Fizo”, a nine-year old Silky terrier. Fizo saved four children threatened by an Eastern Brown snake although bitten and severely envenomed. The second award, one which adorned the office wall of the author during his appointment as Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force (1998-2000), was bestowed posthumously by the Acting Prime Minister, Mr Tim Fischer, to “Murphy”, Simpson’s Gallipoli donkey, on 19 May 1997 (Fig. 3).³¹ Murphy’s Citation reads:

Awarded posthumously to Simpson’s donkey ‘Murphy’ and for all the donkeys used by John Simpson Kirkpatrick for the exceptional work they performed on behalf of humans while under continual fire at Gallipoli during World War I (1915).

Prior to 2002, five of the first six Purple Cross awards were bestowed

upon dogs. They were deemed to have exhibited great courage in the face of what humans perceived as potentially mortal risk. The Purple Cross has had a distinct historical flavour. Besides the Cross awarded to Simpson’s donkey 82 years after Gallipoli, RSPCA Australia awarded another Purple Cross medal to “Wee Jock”, the mortally wounded Pikeman’s Dog, 143 years after the latter demonstrated loyalty at the Eureka Stockade. It was presented at the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery on 30 November 1997. The ceremony took place in front of the original Eureka Flag that the dying Pikeman defended at Eureka Stockade in 1854. Detective Sergeant Peter Lalor, the great-great-grandson of Peter Lalor, the leader of the diggers at Eureka Stockade, accepted the award on behalf of the Eureka Trust:

The Pikeman’s Dog, a little terrier, showed great devotion and bravery at the death of his master at the Eureka Stockade on 3 December 1854. As a result of the attack on the miners by Crown forces, five British soldiers and some thirty miners died. Among the miners lay a Pikeman, mortally wounded with some 15 wounds. Guarding his body throughout the hours it lay unclaimed at the battlefield, and later accompanying it on the death cart as the remaining bodies were transferred to the cemetery, was this little companion, “Wee Jock.”³²



Figure 3. The Purple Cross awarded posthumously to "Simpson's donkey 'Murphy' and for all the donkeys used by John Simpson.... Under continual fire at Gallipoli during World War I". Photograph: John Pearn.

The most recent Purple Cross was awarded to “Sarbi”, the bomb-sniffing dog of the Australian Army, for his service in Afghanistan.³³ A Labrador-Newfoundland cross, Sarbi was decorated for action in the same military operation for which Corporal Mark Donaldson was awarded the Victoria Cross.³⁴

6. National [Australia] Animal Valour Award

This award is Australia’s second highest award for animal bravery. It was instituted in 1998 by RSPCA Australia “to honour the performance of a deed by an animal that displays exceptional courage in the face of danger, thereby greatly benefiting a human or humans”³⁵. Eight awards were made prior to 2005. The first marsupial to be decorated for gallantry, “Lulu”, was a pet Eastern Grey kangaroo which was awarded the Australian National Animal Valour Medal on 19 May 2004 “in recognition of her life-saving actions”.³⁶ It was the ninth animal to receive the RSPCA’s second highest award and “the first ever native marsupial”. Lulu raised the alarm when her owner, Mr Len Richards, of Tanzil (east of Melbourne) was knocked unconscious by a falling tree branch. Lulu discovered Mr Richards and “barked like a dog persistently until finally his family were alerted and came to see what was causing the commotion”.³⁷ Mr Len Richards later described her as “a particularly smart kangaroo”.³⁸

7. Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Bravery Award Medal

The first New Zealand legislation to protect animals was passed in 1878 and in 1882 the Dunedin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was formed. A national Executive Council was formed in 1951 which united more than 50 local Societies. It operates under the abbreviated title of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Its first Bravery Award Medal was struck in 9-carat gold. Two Bravery Award Medals, each with a suspensory ribbon of blue and white, were awarded before it was ceased in 1957.

8. Stillman Award Medal (American Humane Society)

This medal is named in honour of Dr. William O. Stillman, physician and President of the Society 1905-1924. The medal is a silver disc. A notable recipient of this Medal, in 1984, was “Priscilla”, the pig that saved a child from drowning. Its portrait and story are featured in the Texas Animal Hall of Fame.

War service medals to animals

A second class of medals comprises those bestowed on animals for war service. Until 2009, these are almost exclusively American, although “Just Nuisance”, the only dog to have been officially enlisted in the Royal Navy, was also buried with full military honours upon her death in 1944. The Corporal

Chesty Dogs, a series of bulldogs which are formally enlisted in the US Marine Corps, serve as official mascots of the Corps. Most attain the rank of Corporal. One of them, Corporal Chesty III, was awarded a U.S. Good Conduct Medal.³⁹ The tradition of enlisting dogs in the US Armed Forces dates from World War 1, when Sergeant “Stubby” became the most decorated American war dog in US history. Sergeant Stubby lived for ten years (c.1916-1926) and surviving photographs show him wearing a coat adorned with at least five medals. He was also a mascot of Georgetown University. “Sinbad”, a dog enlisted in the US Coast Guard, was even the subject of a canine biography.⁴⁰ Sinbad rose to the rank of Chief Petty Officer, and is the subject of one of the US Coast Guard’s “Frequently Asked Questions”.⁴¹

The Australian Defence Act of 1903 prohibits the Australian Government from issuing military medals to any animal. By 2009, there were some 200 Military Working Dogs serving with the Royal Australian Air Force, and dozens more served in mortal risk duties as Explosive Detector Dogs in Afghanistan. In 2008, with full approval of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and State Government Dog Agencies, the ADF Trackers and War Dogs Association (TWDA) designed and issued medals for dogs that had served overseas. The risk of a violent death to such dogs is significant. In March 2009, four surviving Tracker and Explosive

Detector Dogs, and one, “Razz”, which was killed in Afghanistan on service with 2 Combat Engineer Regiment, were awarded the inaugural ADF TWDA Medals.⁴²

Coins and medals – animals as metaphors of virtue

Animals are depicted on thousands of different coins in which the animal is a metaphor for the virtues of beauty, grace or courage. In Australia, several coins have been issued to denote the courage of specific animals. Examples are the 2000 Australian 5-dollar coin (stainless steel and aluminium bronze) featuring Phar Lap, the 1930 winner of the Melbourne Cup; and the 1990 5-dollar coin featuring Simpson and his donkey.

Specially selected men, often retired Regimental Sergeant Majors, are employed as the Queen’s Messengers, called the Silver Greyhounds. They personally carry messages to the Queen and Heads of State when they are abroad. The Queen’s Messengers are identified by the possession of a case containing a silver medallion on which is portrayed a greyhound. The Queen’s Messenger Service began in 1660, when the monarch (King Charles II) was living in exile in Holland. The King employed this medallic sign to identify his trusted servants to carry secret information across the English Channel to his supporters in England. The anthropomorphic qualities ascribed to the greyhound were loyalty, fleetness

and focused purpose.

Other numerous badges and logos of animals portray the anthropomorphic qualities of bravery and loyalty. One Australian example is the 2001 Royal Sydney Easter Show badge which features Banjo Paterson's *The Man from Snowy River* and his loyal horse which was ridden to exhaustion. Another is the international iconic logo and trademark of *His Master's Voice* Company, depicting the loyalty of a dog listening to his master's voice in the bell-shaped, fluted speaker of an early hand-wound gramophone.

Performance Medals for Primacy in Strength and Exertion

This family of medals includes the many thousands of awards for place-getters in horse races, greyhound races and other competitions where endurance, fleetness and competitive performance are rewarded. Examples are the medals awarded by the British Royal Pigeon Racing Association. This body awards four medallions, in addition to its other trophies: the Trawlerman's Messenger Medallion, the J.M. Young Medallion, the German Middle Distance Medallion and the Vic Johnson Long Distance Medallion.⁴³

An example of a Long Distance Medal awarded to a pigeon was that awarded to "Iron Man", a five-year old pigeon flown by the Richardson brothers, coalminers of North Seaton Colliery in Northumberland. Iron Man won the medal at the Olympiade

Colombophile (the "Pigeon Fanciers' Olympics") held at Alexandra Palace in London in 1963.⁴⁴ Pigeons from twenty-six nations competed in that animal Olympiad.

Medals to Humans for Saving Animal Life

It is a supreme act of altruism to put one's life at risk to save an animal. The author has researched the subject of "Drowning for Love" in the Australian context, where more than one hundred and forty individuals (often parents of children) have themselves drowned over ten years in trying to save a human or animal struggling in the water.⁴⁵

In 1900 the British National Canine Defence League instituted its Silver Medal to commemorate and reward "Acts of bravery or exceptional humanity in the rescue of dogs from dangerous situations".

The UK Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' highest award for rescuing animals is its Silver Medal. It is rarely awarded. "[O]ne of the most dangerous, difficult and longest animal rescue operations ever recorded" was recognised by the Silver Medal to the Cornwall Miners Rescue Operation in 2003. Two Jack Russell terriers, "Dink" and "Tyde" fell down a crevasse from the hilltop at Godrevy Head, Gwithian, on 16 September 2003. The Cornwall Mines Rescue Team undertook the dangerous and difficult rescue, 21 metres below the surface, using abseiling and caving

techniques. The planning and execution of the successful rescue took five days.⁴⁶ The medal is a bronze disk, 40 mm in diameter suspended from a white ribbon with central and lateral red vertical stripes.

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Cross is "Awarded to people who have performed acts of bravery involving animals". This fine medal, a silver enamelled *cross pattée*, 32mm in diameter, features St Giles on the obverse; and is suspended from a ribbon composed of a broad central red band with a narrow blue central stripe and broad white edges. Similarly, The Royal New Zealand SPCA bestows its Gold Medal of Merit to humans for distinguished service to animal welfare, including personal gallantry in attempts to rescue distressed animals.

In 1990 the RSPCA Australia established its Humane Award Medal and Certificate:

To recognise persons who have rescued an animal, and in doing so, have shown exceptional courage and bravery and risked their own personal safety.

One RSPCA Australia Humane Award Medal has been awarded approximately every two years. The third RSPCA Australia Humane Award Medal was awarded posthumously on 31 October 1996 to the family of the late Thomas Windsor. Mr Windsor was killed on 20 December 1995, accidentally struck by a car, whilst trying to save the life of an injured koala. The

fifth RSPCA Australia Humane Award Medal was presented to Mr Guy Ellis, then seventeen years of age. Mr Ellis dragged an elderly man from a burning flat then returned to the flat to rescue the man's dog, "Buster". It was the opinion of the Fire Service that had Mr Ellis not intervened, the man, and certainly his dog, would have perished.

Conclusion

Humankind has co-evolved with animals following their domestication in Neolithic times. The destinies of humans and animals, both wild and domestic, are intertwined, with the nexus symbolised in enduring form in the numismatic record. Coins and medals portray a bond so close that kings and countries adopt the symbols of animal virtue as their emblems. In turn the representatives of society bestow human emblems of esteem on individual animals – that the virtues of duty, service and courage might transcend the barriers that otherwise partition the living world.

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Notes.

1. Other reasons included puns on a city's name such as the seal for Phokis, and examples from mythology.
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Memorial in 'Dogs We Trust', *Mentioned in Despatches* (January 2008): 22. On 30 October 2007 the Royal Australian Engineers dedicated a memorial to Explosive Detection and Tracker Dogs at the School of Military Engineering, Casula. The sandstone Memorial bears the plaque: *Dedicated to the Explosive Detection Dogs who have paid the ultimate sacrifice so others may live. My eyes are your eyes, to watch and protect yours. My ears are your ears, to hear and detect evil minds in the dark 'Lest we Forget'.*

A memorial to horses which served in war is to be found in St Jude on the Hill, a church in Hampstead, London. It honours the millions of horses that have been requisitioned for British war service. The wording of the Memorial includes the phrase: "Most obediently and often most painfully they died – faithful unto death". The Animals in War Memorial in Park Lane, at Brook Gate near Marble Arch in central London contains, on its wall, a depiction of the Dickin Medal. The Memorial was designed and sculpted by David Backhouse, under the patronage of The Animals in War Memorial Fund, and unveiled by Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, on 24 Nov 2004. Cf. also the portrait in Gardiner, J. (2006) *The Animals' War: Animals in Wartime from the First World War to the Present Day*, London.

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- figures of mules, a horse and a dog are of cast bronze. There are three principal elements in the design – two different levels with a dominating and powerful wall between them. On the lower level, two heavily laden bronze mules struggle through an arena, enclosed by the Portland stone wall symbolising the war experience. The mules approach a flight of steps that leads through the wall. Beyond the wall, on the upper level, a bronze horse and dog stand facing north into the gardens, bearing witness to the loss of their comrades and representing hope for the future. On the outside of the wall on the memorial is a line of ghostly silhouettes, representing the animals lost in conflicts. See http://www.animalsinwar.org.uk/index.cfm?asset_id=1374 (accessed 18 August 2011).
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he has long advocated the importance of pets in children's lives, and has delivered invited papers to the Australian College of Veterinary Surgeons and to various world conferences on human-animal medical themes. As a numismatist and historian, he has commissioned sixteen medals, as annual or commemorative awards, relating to medicine in Australia; and has published on medical numismatics in both national and international journals.

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