



Restorer's Workshop

DOUBLE-SIDED MATRICES OF COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS FOR THE OPENING OF KAUNAS NINTH FORT MEMORIAL COMPLEX

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- 1984
- Matrix material: ferrous alloy
- Matrix dimensions: 8x12 cm, 6.7x6.2 cm (2 items.), 7.5x6 cm

The museum's collections contain a variety of exhibits, including commemorative medals and their matrices for embedding medals in the press. These are cylindrical and high-quality hardened steel products with a mirrored obverse and reverse of the medal engraved on them.

Matrices of commemorative medals dedicated to the opening of Kaunas Ninth Fort memorial complex entered the restoration workshop of Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum after the annual assessment and inspection of the exhibit condition of the museum collections. It was noted that solid corrosion foci formed on the surface of the iron alloy, while the matrices were covered with solid corrosion products and dirt. Therefore, a decision was made to restore these important exhibits related to the history of the museum: to stop the decay processes, protect the exhibits from harmful external factors and provide them with an image suitable for exposition.

After assessing the condition of the exhibits, the restoration method and order were chosen:

1. Photo fixation before restoration.
2. Research on the chemical composition of metals.
3. Mechanical removal of surface dirt.
4. Chemical softening of corrosion foci.
5. Removal of corrosion foci.
6. Degreasing.
7. Dehumidification.
8. Coating with a protective coating.
9. Polishing.
10. Photo fixation after restoration.

Restoration results: corrosion products and surface and other dirt removed; metal preserved; the exhibits are provided with an image suitable for exposition.

A commemorative medal was made using these matrices in 1984, when Kaunas Ninth Fort memorial complex was opened. Commemorative medals are usually made to commemorate an important event or place as well as honor a person. They are minted or cast from a variety of metals and their alloys, come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and have a simple or bulk engraving. The surface of medals is often coated with various coatings; it can be matte, polished or with texture. An important feature of the commemorative medals is their exclusive and unique design and limited edition. The commemorative medal dedicated to the opening of Kaunas Ninth Fort memorial complex was created and minted by professional artists working at Kaunas Arts and Crafts Manufacturing/Production Centre. The medal is currently stored in the collections of Kaunas Ninth Museum.

- Medal material: copper alloy
- Medal dimensions: 5.9x0.4 cm
- Medal form: circle

The obverse of the medal shows a fragment of the monument to the victims of Nazism depicted in sharp and brutal forms typical of the historical period: three people turned to the right and raising their fists. An impression is created that there are more people. The strict forms on the obverse of the medal echo the lines of the memorial itself. The reverse of the medal has an inscription in Lithuanian and Russian: "KAUNAS IX FORT". It also contains stylized and broken prison bars. It seems that behind them a prisoner is warning: "People, be vigilant."



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