

IYA2009 COMMEMORATIVE COINS & MEDALLIONS

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Featuring IYA2009 Coins & Numismatic Material Issued by Various Countries in
Celebration of *International Year of Astronomy 2009*

Preface

I think many of you are aware of what [IYA2009](#) is, although IYA2009 is already gone by now. For those who are new to the keyword IYA2009, it is the International Year of Astronomy 2009, which was celebrated throughout the last year around the globe. It was proclaimed and approved by [IAU](#) (International Astronomical Union) and UNESCO and there were lot of projects, activities, outreach events and a whole lot of variety of things happening all over the planet with the general theme “Universe is Yours to Discover”. That’s it about IYA2009.

There were lot of countries involved in this worldwide celebration during 2009, which was also the 400th anniversary of both the discovery of telescope for astronomical observation by [Galileo Galilei](#) and the publication of “[Astronomia Nova](#)” by [Johannes Kepler](#). These were the reasons which were prominent in specifying 2009 as the IYA.

Many countries took part in different projects and they didn’t stop from that, and went on further by issuing commemorative material to cherish the IYA2009. There were books, coins, stamps, medallions and many more. I’ve focused here on the coins and numismatic issues that have been issued in commemoration of IYA2009 in general.



Acknowledgement

Right from the beginning of preparing the sketch, to the phase of finalizing and publishing this book, there were many contributions to my efforts from various personnel. Thus I would like to acknowledge this outcome to you all my dear friends and colleagues.

First of all I'd like to thank Prof. Kavan Ratnatunga, the IYA2009 Sri Lanka Node SPoC, for his frequent updates regarding the IYA2009 numismatics, through [AALK](#) group. That broadened my scope of understanding about these rare coins.

Then, my heartfelt gratitude goes out to Pedro Russo who was the IAU Coordinator for IYA2009, for his co-operation throughout the composing phase of the book. Pedro was very helpful in getting me high quality images of various IYA2009 numismatic materials, to be inserted in ***IYA2009 Commemorative Coins and Medallions***. Moreover I really appreciate the communication skills that Pedro possessed.

I can never forget the immense help of Lee Pullen, who is the editor/ coordinator of [Cosmic Diary cornerstone](#), for his favors by numerous means, especially when I was creating the [website of IYA2009 coins](#).

Then I also thank my colleagues Thilina Heenatigala National Secretary of IYA2009 Sri Lanka and Hasitha Karunaratne the webmaster of local astronomy portal [SkyLK.com](#). Hasitha did a great job by designing the cover page of this book, with his creative talents with photoshop!

Not forgetting Tamas Maroti from [Numismatic Society of Hungary](#) for his appreciable information on the Gothard medal and other numismatic details.

In the end I'd wish to extend my gratitude to all others who were of great support, throughout this endeavor. And you the readers, thank you too!!



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[IYA2009 Coins of Austria](#)



The Austrian Mint in Vienna has issued this coin in celebration of International Year of Astronomy 2009. The specialty of this coin is that this is made out of silver and niobium metals. This elegant coin is valued at 25 Euros.

The obverse side of this coin is featured with the portrait of **Galileo Galilei** and his very own telescope, which he used to explore the heavens. In the same side you can find the drawings of Moon's surface by Galileo and some accounts on the development of telescope during the course of time.

The reverse side, which is the opposite of what was described above, is engraved with the other side of Lunar Surface, which Galileo was unable to observe, it also reads "Republik Österreich" in German together with the value printed as € 25.

The niobium pill covers the inner ring of the coin, as seen in golden yellow. It should also be mentioned that the Austrian Mint was the first to employ this modern metal (discovered in 1801) in commemorative coins, changing its color each year.



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

Here are some specifications of the Austrian IYA2009 coin.

Alloy:	Ring: 9 g AG 900/1000 Pill: 6.5 g niobium
Finish:	Special Uncirculated Quality
Diameter:	34 mm
Mintage:	65,000 (max)
Date of Issue:	11 March 2009
Face Value:	25 euro
Designer:	Herbert Wähler

Additional Info:

Something about Austrian Mint:-

The [Austrian Mint](#) is situated in the heart of Vienna and is the official minting authority for Austria with an 800-year history.

The Mint is the source for all Austrian Euro and Cent coins, whether they are intended for shopping, as an investment or for collection. Before the Euro, the Schilling and Groschen coins were minted, and before that – during the monarchy - Crowns, Guilders and Ducats were struck by the Austrian Mint.

The company is located close to the centre at the Vienna Stadtpark in a Biedermeier building erected under Emperor Ferdinand I. from 1835 to 1837. Today it accommodates one of the most modern mints in the world



[IYA2009 Coins of Italy](#)



The obverse of the coin (To your left) shows a representation of Liberty in profile. It is illustrated that she is looking at stylized stars. To her left, there is an astrolabe depicted, which is an instrument that had been used to predict the motions/positions of the planets and stars.

The reverse side of this Italian IYA2009 commemorative coin is much more complicated. (To your right) The main feature that splits the coin in half on a diagonal is a rendition of Galileo's telescope ([also featured on Austria's coin](#)). The top motif above the telescope is another astrolabe.

Below them are several constellations. If you scrutinize you may find some of them to be Leo, Böotes, Corona Borealis, and Cygnus as far as I guess, the denomination of €10 is engraved there, along with "ASTRONOMIA ANNO INTERNAZIONALE" ("International Year of Astronomy") in Italian.

The coin is a 92.5% silver proof coin with a 34mm diameter that weighs 22 grams. It has a mintage limit of 9,000 pieces.



[IYA2009 Coins of Australia](#)

There are few set of IYA2009-themed coins that have been issued by Australia in several occasions. Following is the first set of coins that came into Australia's account of IYA2009 numismatic collection.



Royal Australian Mint Shoots for the Stars with 2009 International Year of Astronomy Coins. The one dollar coin features an image of the famous radio telescope located in Parkes NSW, symbolic of Australia's place in international astronomy. The twenty cent coin design features three stargazers observing the night sky.

The coins were in fact issued prior to the IYA2009 itself, on 7 November 2008. This numismatic collection was really a boost for the IYA 2009, giving it much reputation. Above, you can see the reverse sides of two coins, jointly issued by the Royal Australian Mint together with the Canberra Astronomical Society.

Out of both coins, \$ 1 coin features C SIRO's Parkes radio telescope known as "The Dish" whereas the 20-cent illustrates 3 star-gazers, observing the starry heavens. This resembles one of the goals of IYA2009, getting more community involved with astronomy.



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

Here are some other coins made of gold and silver.



[Go here if you want to order the coins online.](#)

Some Other Links:

<http://www.perthmint.com.au/catalogue/international-year-of-astronomy-2009-1oz-silver-proof-coin.aspx>

<http://mintissue.ramint.gov.au/mintissue/product.asp?code=801373>

Australian Royal Mint didn't stop from this issue of \$1 and \$0, 20 coins. They went on to mint this innovative coin at the value of \$5 (AUD), expanding their numismatic collection for IYA2009. This is a silver proof coin, coming along with a mintage of 10,000 pieces. This coin varies from the rest of Aussie IYA2009 coins, not only from the value, but also from the material used for this mintage, for each coin



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IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

has a portion of a meteorite, known to be old 4,000 + years. Therefore any coin collector would love to have this coin, since this is one of a kind, having both meteorite and metallic compositions.



The obverse of this coin is rather different from the corresponding coins issued by the same Aussie Mint. The four faces, pointing at the center of the coin immediately grab the attention of anyone. If you look with scrutiny you would find 16 well-known landmarks, of the world. These icons are located near the round edge of the coin.

As far as the obverse is concerned few landmarks are identified as follows.

(Please note that this information has been yielded from online resources and these are not officially confirmed to be the places mentioned below)

Pyramids at Giza, Taj Mahal in India, Mt. Fuji in Japan, Sydney Opera House, A Radio Telescope (somewhere), Monuments at Easter Island, Machu Pichu in Peru, Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco USA, Statue of Liberty in New York USA, Stonehenge in England, Tower of Pisa in Italy, Eiffel Tower in France.

On the reverse, which is at your right, you will see a miniaturized portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, together with a stylized solar system with 8 planets. Additionally you can notice Earth's Moon and Pluto which can be easily recognized with the deviated orbit. There are also Queen's name and the official denomination engraved on the reverse.

The center of the coin contains a plastic "blister pack" that has 5 small pieces of an iron-nickel meteorite. The original meteorite weighed over 22 kilograms and was part of a shower that fell across Argentina some 4000 years ago. Composed mainly of iron, with trace elements of nickel, cobalt and phosphorous. Tough the meteorite is not radioactive it possesses an evenly displaced magnetic field, which is a common to many meteorite specimens.



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IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

The coin is presented in official Royal Australian Mint packaging with a certificate confirming the mintage of 10,000 silver coins.

Specifications of this Meteorite/ Silver proof coin

Type: Silver

Finish: Proof

Purity: .999

Diameter: 50.20mm

Weight: 50.00g

Mintage: 10,000

Face Value: 5 Dollars

About the Royal Australian Mint

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, officially opened the [Royal Australian Mint](#), Canberra, on Monday 22nd February 1965. The Mint was commissioned to produce Australia's decimal coinage, which was to be introduced into circulation on 14th February 1966. The Royal Australian Mint holds a place in history as the first mint in Australia not to be a branch of the Royal Mint, London.

Since opening in 1965 the Mint has produced over eleven billion circulating coins and has the capacity to produce over two million coins per day, or over six hundred million coins per year.

The Royal Australian Mint has struck coins for a number of South Pacific nations. Export coins were first struck in 1969 for New Zealand and, since then, coins have been produced for Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Western Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Malaysia, Thailand, Nepal, Bangladesh, Israel and Tokelau.

Now we come across the Perth Mint, which has also contributed for the IYA2009 coins of Australia. This is the 4th different coin for IYA2009 from Australia, with a face value of \$1 (AUD). Below, you can enjoy the coin the image of this coin. This is called **International Year of Astronomy 2009 1oz Silver Proof Coin**, and evidently the colorful obverse (to your right) is characteristic of the creativity, associated with Perth Mint.



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions



The obverse of this IYA2009 silver proof coin is designed with simplicity, featuring the Ian Rank-Broadley's effigy of Queen Elizabeth II with together with official denomination. The obverse also has a shiny surface.

On reverse you can see a big dish of a radio telescope, on which a telescope has been mounted. With the telescope are 2 people, a girl and a boy, at observing. Yet the colorful background of the duo can be a source of astronomical data if you're careful enough to find out. In the colorful layer, you will be able to make out the Orion constellation and Southern Cross with less effort. But if you go deep into the constellation of Orion, in colorful area, you can identify Orion Nebula, the Running Man Nebula, the Horsehead Nebula, and the Flame Nebula. Additionally there is the text: **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY 2009**, appearing in the upper left edge of this coin. The Perth Mint's historic 'P' mintmark is also seen on the reverse side of this silver coin.

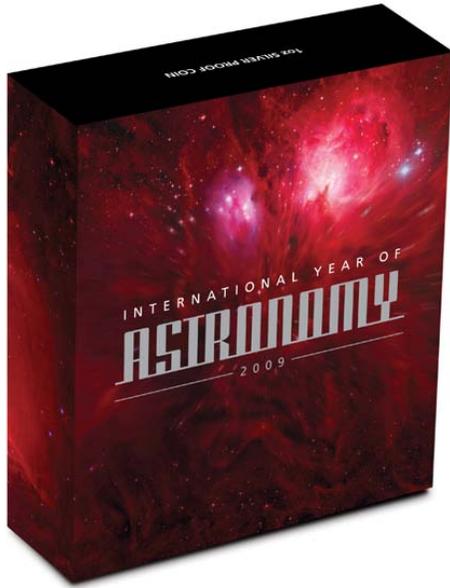
Each coin is housed in a black presentation case and is accompanied by a numbered Certificate of Authenticity.

Technical Specifications:

Mint: Perth Mint of Australia
Mintmark: P
Finish/Condition: Proof
Metal Content: .999 Pure Silver
Minimum Gross Weight: 31.135 grams
Diameter: 40.60 mm
Thickness: 4 mm
Mintage Limits: 7,500
Issue Date: 22 May 2009



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions



IYA2009 Coins of Malaysia

Here are the special coins issued by ANGKASA (The Malaysian National Space Agency) in co-operation with Central Bank of Malaysia. Of course, the objective of this set of coins was to make the public more aware of IYA2009 and its significance on us all.

The elegant set of 3 coins, featuring Gold, Silver & Nordic Gold



These 3 types of the Malaysian coins vary only with their color, as they have the same design on them. The obverse bears the images Langkawi National Observatory of Malaysia, whereas the reverse is occupied by the official logo of IYA2009.



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

The prices of the coins were as follows!

Selling prices:

Type	Price
Set of 3 (Single Gold, Single Silver & Nordic Gold)	RM1,450.00
Set of 2 (Single Silver & Nordic Gold)	RM200.00
Single Gold	RM1,200.00
Single Silver	RM150.00
Nordic gold	RM10.00

For any enquiry or details please contact: Name : Asnor Nadirah Binti Ishak
Email : asnor@angkasa.gov.my
Phone : +603-8888 8668

Please note: RM = **Ringgit Malaysia (1USD =3.424 RM as per 26th January 2010)**



[IYA2009 Coins of Canada](#)



Above, you can see the both sides of the \$30 Sterling Silver Coin issued by the Canadian Mint for [International Year of Astronomy IYA2009](#).

The design features an observatory with a universe of heavenly wonders shimmering within and around the beautifully painted night sky. This coin comes gorgeous with its silvery accomplishment and I think this would be adored by any numismatist to add to their collection. In fact the good news is that still you can order the coin from Canadian Mint, It's just less than US \$ 90.



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

Specifications

- **Mintage** : - Limited to 10000 coins worldwide
- **Composition**: - 92.5% silver, 7.5% copper
- **Finish** : - proof (with color on the reverse)
- **Weight** : - (g) 33.75
- **Diameter** : - (mm) 40
- **Edge** : -serrated
- **Certificate**: - serialized
- **Face value**: - \$30
- **Artists** : - Colin Mayne (reverse), Susanna Blunt (obverse)

An Update:

The one-year selling window for the Mint's sterling silver commemorative coin will come to a close in a few more months. It's presently not too late to order it from on-line store at:

<http://www.mint.ca/store/coin/30-sterling-silver-coin-international-year-of-astronomy-2009-prod650001>

<http://www.mint.ca/store/coin/piece-de-30--en-argent-sterling-annee-mondiale-de-lastronomie-2009-prod650001>



[IYA2009 Coins of Germany](#)

Below is the IYA2009 Coin issued by Germany in celebration of International Year of Astronomy 2009. Besides the usual German eagle, the obverse side (to your right) of the coin is simple in its design yet very important in what it represents.



It's significant that Johannes Kepler is featured in this German (Deutsch) IYA2009 coin, as same as in [IYA2009 coin of San Marino](#). Johannes Kepler was a then a scholar during the 17th century. His teacher was Tycho Brahe , who has won a great reputation as an astronomer, even he was gifted with an Island dedicated specially for his works, where he built an observatory called Uraniburg. It was one of the best ones in Europe. He had many scholars/ trainees, among whom was Johannes Kepler.

However it was the Kepler who was fundamental in deciphering the [laws of planetary motion](#), with the help of data archives of Tycho Brahe, after his demise. Well, that's too much the history.

Anyway, this coin features Kepler in profile along with a diagram of an ellipse, illustrating the derivation of his Laws. You may also notice the trigonometric illustration in the reverse side (To your left)of this German IYA2009 coin.

The coin is a silver proof. It has a face value of €10. There is a mintage limit of 200,000 on the proof version, which is a great news for numismatists and even anyone who's interested in IYA2009 as well. Without any doubt, they would be nice souvenirs/ legacies of [International Year of Astronomy IYA2009](#). Apparently the mintage of other corresponding counties was low.



[IYA2009 Coins of Vatican City](#)

These coins are from the world's smallest state, the Vatican, which has an area of 0.2 square miles. It's so great that Vatican is also joining the team of other European states, which have issued coins in celebration of IYA2009 - The International Year of Astronomy.

The coin's main focus is the connection of science and faith. The coin is issued with the face value at 2 Euros and it has bimetallic properties much similar to the IYA2009 coin of Austria, which has Silver and Niobium.



The Obverse (to your right) of this 2-Euro coin is featured with the map of Europe, inside the Ring, whereas the reverse is featured with the famous virtuoso [Michelangelo](#), who was an Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor, architect, poet, and engineer. Along with his etched image, there is also important astronomical equipment those were used during the same era.



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

Specifications of Vatican IYA2009 coin

Type: Bimetallic
Finish: Uncirculated
Designer: Orietta Rossi
Engraver: Maria Carmela Colaneri
Diameter: 25.75mm
Weight: 8.50g
Thickness - 2.2mm
Mintage: 106,084
Face Value: 2 Euro

Moreover the coin, itself comes handy with an official cover, which makes it more elegant.



You can order the coins here: <http://www.fleur-de-coin.com/shop/showcart.asp?id=eur15536>



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

[IYA2009 Coins of Republic of San Marino](#)

In fact there are 2 coins issued by the republic of San Marino in celebration of International Year of Astronomy 2009. Here is the first coin.



Following is the other San Marino's IYA2009 coin featuring eminent astronomer Johannes Kepler. It is quite simple and many numismatists will surely love simplicity of the coin.

The reverse side (To your left) of this IYA2009 coin bears the image of Johannes Kepler, along with the issuing country, which is "REPUBBLICA DI SAN MARINO." , Republic of San Marino. Kepler is shown with a compass on a globe.



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

The obverse side (To your right) of this IYA2009 coin is perhaps more interesting. It is engraved with Kepler's name (KEPLERO) along with the book he published, "New Astronomy" (or, "ASTRONOMIA NOVA"). It is made with the sun at the center of a system with 8 planets, bringing out the idea of Kepler's key influence in developing the heliocentric model of the solar system.

In addition you can also find the 12 signs of the Western/Greek Zodiac in the neighborhood of the same planetary system: They can be deciphered as follows.

♈ (Aries), ♉ (Taurus), ♊ (Gemini), ♋ (Cancer), ♌ (Leo), ♍ (Virgo), ♎ (Libra), ♏ (Scorpio), ♐ (Capricorn), ♑ (Aquarius), ♒ (Pisces).

The coin is different from the others in the following way that it is not influenced by its issuing nation (San Marino), rather it was struck by the Italian mint instead. (The obverse bears the large "R" mint mark as [Italy's coin does](#)). The mintage of this IYA2009 coin is 13,400 pieces. It is characteristic with its 18-gram & 92.5% silver features (sterling silver) with a face value of €5.



IYA2009 Coins of Czech Republic



The Czech National Bank put into circulation a CZK 200 coin last October (2009) in celebration of IYA2009, International Year of Astronomy. The Czech kept their attention more on 400th anniversary of the derivation of Kepler's Laws on planetary motion, by Johannes Kepler. The IYA2009 is also coincident to the 400th anniversary of discovery of Telescope for stellar observation, by Galileo Galilei, back in 1609.

This very special CZK 200 alloy coin is minted in two versions composed of 900 silver pieces and 100 copper pieces, each of which are specified for normal and proof respectively. They slightly vary from their formation of surface and edges.

The small set of 100 proof-quality coins have highly polished fields with plain edges with the inscription in Czech "ČESKÁ NÁRODNÍ BANKA" which means "CZECH NATIONAL BANK"

The normal-quality coins have milled edges with following properties.

Diameter : 31 mm

Weight : 13 g

Thickness : 2.3 mm

Designer : Vojtěch Dostál



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

The obverse side of this IYA2009 CZK 200 coin depicts the drawing of the orbit of Mars resembling the Johannes Kepler's famous book "Astronomia Nova". In addition the name of the state "ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA" - Czech Republic, is etched around edge of the coin. The bottom edge of the coin bears the denomination and abbreviated Czech monetary unit "200 Kč" courtesy of Czech Mint, together with the logo of the Europa project, which laid the basis for the IYA2009 CZK 200 coin to be issued.

The reverse side of the coin is featured with the portrait of Johannes Kepler on the background of the illustration of the law of areas, which is the Kepler's 2nd Law of Planetary Motion. The inscription in Czech reading "KEPLEROVY ZÁKONY POHYBU PLANET", which could be translated as "Kepler's laws of planetary motion" is positioned at the right-hand edge of the coin. Along opposite edge to that are the years "1609 – 2009".

If you look more carefully with scrutiny, you'll find out the reversed letter "D" on the same side. This reversed D stands for the name of Vojtěch Dostál the 1st designer of this Czech IYA2009 coin; this is carved near to the ear of Kepler.

Each coin comes with a blue postcard-sized catalog card. It is dry-stamped through silver foil. There is also a text given in both Czech and English. This card is the same for the normal-quality and proof-quality coins.



[IYA2009 Coins of Ukraine](#)

There are 2 impressive coins that are featured for IYA2009 from Ukraine. You will find below the first coin that was issued by Ukraine for IYA2009, back on 15th June 2009.



To your left is the obverse site of this silver coin, and on the top, is the small Coat of Arms of Ukraine or the Ukrainian emblem, well-known as Tryzub. Coming downward from that, you will get the inscription **НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ БАНК УКРАЇНИ**, which can be translated into English as the National Bank of Ukraine. There is also the solar neighborhood with the Sun being engraved near the left side of the obverse. Amongst other planets and their orbits the Earth is highlighted by engraving it with a blue topaz of 0.2 carat. Interestingly the obverse has many features that attract the eye of anyone. Then you get in the middle of the coin a depiction of an armillary sphere, which is a classical astronomical instrument, used to achieve precise details of celestial objects. Down below the coin, you get the denomination of 100 ГРИВЕНЬ (100 hryvnias), which is the face value of this silver coin.

On the reverse, first of all you can see certain symmetry when it comes to the design in as a whole, there's a certain balance in the left-hand and right-hand sides of the coin. In the upper half of the reverse, there lies the inscription "МІЖНАРОДНИЙ РІК АСТРОНОМІЇ" – International Year of Astronomy, as translated from Ukrainian. The creativity of this coin is more reflected in the Ukrainian word АСТРОНОМІЇ (equivalent to astronomy in English), as you can see its O being converted to an icon of Saturn. Towards your right, you can notice some vivid creations engraved in the coin. The great giant of the world of telescope, Galileo's circled portrait is visible near the left-hand edge of the reverse. Below that you get another circle, which depicts an icon that shows how the observations were like during 17th century. With a symmetrical correspondence to the latter two objects, you can notice icons, representing a galaxy and a radio telescope, respectively located above and below the central word АСТРОНОМІЇ. Down below this Saturn you can see a starry sky plus a modern observatory too.



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

This is the other IYA2009 coin from Ukraine, in celebration of IYA2009 - International Year of Astronomy 2009. This coin has been in circulation since 14th October 2009. This elegant coin comes with following specifications.

Denomination: 5 hryvnia (currency of Ukraine)

Metal: Copper-Nickel

Weight: 16.54 g

Diameter: 35 mm

Quality: special uncirculated

Edge: grooved

Mintage: 45 000

Designers: Volodymyr Taran, Oleksandr Kharuk, Sergei Kharuk.

Authors of models: Anatoly Demyanenko, Sviatoslav Ivanenko



On the obverse side of this IYA2009 coin are the Small Coat of Arms of Ukraine and the semicircular inscription НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ БАНК УКРАЇНИ (National Bank of Ukraine) plus a composition symbolizing cosmos. On the same side one can find the image of Urania (to the left side), the goddess of astronomy, one of the nine Muses in the Greek mythology, and the cosmic space together with a piece of illustration showing the motion of solar system planets. Below that are the year 2009, the year of issuance, the logo of the National Bank of Ukraine Mint and the coin face value 5 ГРИВЕНЬ (5 hryvnias) on the conventionalized scroll.

On the reverse side, is the portrait of Yurii Drohobych , a prominent Ukrainian scientist/ astronomer (to the right) with his lifetime (1450 – 1494) There under, the International Year of Astronomy logo (to the left) with the legend МІЖНАРОДНИЙ/РІК/АСТРОНОМІЇ (International/year/of astronomy); below there



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are depicted artifacts of cosmic space researchers.

Designer and engraver of the 100 hryvnia coin – Volodymyr Demianenko.

Designers of the 5 hryvnia coin: Volodymyr Taran, Oleksandr Kharuk, Serhii Kharuk.

Engravers of the 5 hryvnia coin: Anatolii Demianenko, Sviatoslav Ivanenko

[Yurii Drohobych](#) was a Ukrainian astronomer, scientist, philosopher and a great genius who lived in the Ukrainian city of Drohobych. During 1481-1482, he was the rector of University of Bologna. His work IUDICIUM PRONOSTICON ANNI 1483 CURRENTIS (Prognostic Estimation of the Year 1483) was the first printed book of a Ukrainian author.



[IYA2009 Medallion of Hungary](#)

This story is bit different from others; normally you expect to read about an IYA2009 coin issued by some county. This is in fact a medallion, issued by the Hungary. The [Hungarian Numismatic Society](#) took the initiative in issuing this commemorative medallion in celebration of IYA2009, International Year of Astronomy 2009.

Below you can see the image of both sides of this commemorative medal, which has been issued together with a plastic capsule. The medal has a shiny lacquer surface and it's much beautiful to see it live rather than just this image.



The obverse side of this medal (to your left) demonstrates the well known logo of IYA2009. But there are 2 differences that the logo is not in usual bluish color, this time it's brownish. The other is that the logo is etched in Hungarian. However there's an English version of the text reading International Year of Astronomy along the round edge of the medal.

The reverse is illustrated with the famous Hungarian astronomer [Jeno Gothard](#), who has passed away 100 years ago. Beside the portrait of Gothard, one of his greatest discoveries is also depicted on reverse. In 1892 he came up with the discovery that the spectra of Nova Aurigae are very similar to the spectra of planetary nebula. His drawing from his log book is replicated on this elegant IYA2009 medal.

Here are some of the properties of this IYA2009 Medallion.

Metal: Bronze



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

Diameter: 42mm (1.65")

Weight: 37.1gramm

Designer: Zsuzsa Csóka

Issued: 200 Pieces

Since there are just only 200 pieces, been issued, this medallion is sort of rarest among all IYA2009 souvenirs/ legacies.



[Romania, Issues Commemorative Coins + Medal for IYA2009](#)

This set of coins issued by Romania in celebration of International Year of Astronomy 2009 comes with elegant numismatic markup, together with a medallion issued for the same cause. This medallion is made up of silver and looks gorgeous as below.



The obverse side of this medal presents the official logo of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 and the inscription "ANUL INTERNATIONAL AL ASTRONOMIEI ROMANIA 2009" which is translated to "International Year of Astronomy 2009 ROMANIA.

The reverse side of this medal features in the center, a graphical composition that symbolizes the Astronomical Observatory of the Romanian Academy in Bucharest, the telescope of Galileo Galilei, his portrait and the planets of the Solar System. Outside this center arc, lies the inscription "DESCOPERA SINGUR UNIVERSUL", meaning Universe Yours to Discover, the general theme of IYA2009.

Apart from the medal, the Romanian IYA2009 coins have been put into circulation from 28th August, 2009 with a mintage of 1000 coins. They come with the face values of 1 ban, 5 bani, 10 bani and 50 bani. (US 1\$ = 295.57 bani)



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

Features of this Silver Medallion

- Composition: 800/1000 silver;
- Weight: 15.50 grams;
- Diameter: 28 mm;
- Edge: Smooth;
- Quality: proof;
- Circulation: 1000 copies;

More info: <http://www.bnro.ro/home.aspx>



[IYA2009 Commemorative Coins of France](#)

France has come up with 4 versions of commemorative coins issued in celebration of International Year of Astronomy 2009. In fact France has the most valuable of all the IYA2009 numismatic collection, which is a graceful golden coin, valued at \$2,000. This French IYA2009 coin, issued by the Paris Mint is the first domed coin of IYA collection, having convex (slightly bent upward in center, just like a lens) and concave surfaces on obverse & reverse sides respectively.

The physical properties of the coin gives the idea that the French have stuck to the facts of IYA2009, itself and the 40th anniversary of the first Lunar landing by humans, embracing the legendary footage of Neil Armstrong back in 1969, which gave a dramatic boost to then space exploration.

Here is the silver version of the IYA2009 coin of France.



The obverse as seen to your left, is depicted with the commemoration of 40th anniversary of Apollo 11, first lunar landing. The obverse is apparently covered with a finely crafted very 1st foot print of Neil Armstrong. There are also the face value of 10 Euros, denomination, mint, the year of 2009 plus an inscription in French meaning the "40th anniversary to the first landing in Moon", lying in the obverse.

The reverse appears quite simple, resembling a planetarium-like insight. It appears as such that the dome of the sky, complete with the stars all over the reverse. The Saturn is highlighted there in the top with much bigger print. The lower edge is made creative with the astronomical symbolic forms of planets, starting with closest Moon and going through all the way to Pluto. Yes Pluto is there but not in its standard symbol (♇). It's also noteworthy that Earth is missing in the queue.

As told earlier you can feel the golden coin, if you visualize the above coin made up of gold and blue gold instead, with the face value of \$ 200. There are 2 amazing facts about this gold coin, that the coin itself



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

weighs just 1 ounce and the other is that this beauty is marketed for a lump sum of \$ 2,000, 1000% of its original face value.

The above-pictured coin is minted with 10,000 pieces, where as its 163.8 gram version has a mintage of 500 pieces, and 8.45 gram gold coin being minted with 1000 pieces plus the most expensive gold and blue gold version coming up with 1000 pieces, weighing 31.104 grams.

Just think what amount of monetary gain that the Paris Mint has gained simply with the gold and blue gold version, it's simple math. 1000 pieces each worth \$ 2,000. \$ 2,000,000 ! Think about the amount of astronomy that they could do!

Here are some parameters of the Silver version of 4 coins issued by Paris Mint.

Artist: Atelier de Gravure

Weight: 22,20 g = 0,78 oz

Diameter: 37 mm = 1,46 inch

Mintage: 10 000

Metal: Silver 90%

Quality: Proof

Face value: 10€



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

The Silver Coin



The Golden Coin



The Blue-Gold Coin



[IYA2009 Commemorative Coins of Cook Island](#)

These coins are from Cook Island issued for the International Year of Astronomy 2009, in commemoration of the very celebration. There are 10 beautiful coins which are very picturesque and spectacular. The obverse sides of all the 10 coins are same, and the reverse sides are minted with the planets of the solar system. Therefore, in a nutshell, it can be said that this Cook Island numismatic collection features the solar system.

The obverse of these 10 coins features the Queen Elizabeth II, with a face value of \$1. The below is the image of the obverse side of the IYA2009 coin issued by Cook Island.



The 10 reverse sides depict the Sun, 8 planets of the solar system, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and the solar system, itself in a single reverse side. Significantly the designers of these Cook Island IYA2009 coins have associated Roman & Greek mythology with coins, for each reverse side also features a portrait of corresponding God or Goddess from the ancient mythology. Additionally they also have in them astrological symbols of each planetary body, represented.

Here are the reverse sides and the obverse side again of IYA2009 Cook Island coins.



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

Here are the specifications of IYA2009 Commemorative Coins of Cook Island

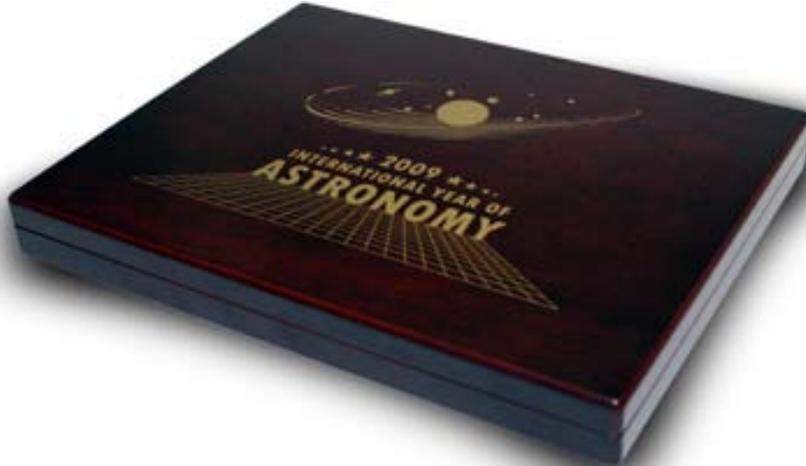
Diameter : 40.0 mm

Weight : 27.0 g

Composition : Copper (Cu), silver plated with pad printing

Mintage : 5 000

In fact this Polynesian island has the largest variety of IYA2009 coins issued by a single country. These elegant IYA2009 coins of Cook Island come enclosed in an official box with certificates as follows.



[IYA2009 Commemorative Coins of Greece](#)



The above is the commemorative coin of IYA2009, issued by Greece in 2009. To your left is the obverse side bearing the face value of 10 Euros. The obverse features in middle a wreath of olive leaves encircling an inscription from a book. There are also 7 stars brought out in different sizes.

The reverse side of the coin represents 8 noticeable stars, 7 of which are quite similar to those of obverse along with an additional start which is in the center of the coin in bright color. In addition the title "2009 International Year of Astronomy" is engraved in Greek in the below border of reverse.

When compared to other IYA2009 coins of different countries, the Greek coin is somewhat different from the design, as it is not a perfect circle in shape, but a unique shape as seen above.



IYA2009 Commemorative Coins & Medallions

Here are some specifications of this IYA2009 coin of Greece

Title: International Year of Astronomy

Grade: Proof

Details: The International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) is a year-long celebration of astronomy, taking place in 2009 to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the first recorded astronomical observations with a telescope by Galileo Galilei and the publication of Johannes Kepler's *Astronomia Nova* in the 17th century.

Diameter - 28.25mm

Thickness - 1.92mm

Weight - 9.75gr

Composition - Silver .925 (sterling)

Edge: Shaped edge with fine scallops

Mintage: 5,000 pieces

Well, that's it. I think you had a whole lot of reading. Especially for astro-numismatists, I leave this [IYA2009-Coin blog](#) link to explore more news about astronomy and numismatic issues. Go ahead and collect them all. I'm sure Ebay will help you a lot in ordering this numismatic stuff. Good Luck !!

