

## COLLECTOR COINS IN THE ROYAL SPANISH MINT

The manufacture of metal coinage (both for circulation and for collecting) is one of the most important production lines at the FNMT-RCM. As the direct successor to the old Madrid Mint, whose first historical references date back to the 15th century, the Coinage Department has the longest tradition in the Corporation. In 1989 minting began on the first collector coin line, and this currently occupies a foremost position in the international numismatic markets.



### Conscientious minting process



Latent image on a 12 Euro coin  
5th Centennial Christopher Columbus

The FNMT-RCM Coinage Department applies the latest design and manufacturing techniques in order to achieve maximum quality and efficiency, providing the coins with the utmost in security measures. Cases in point are bi-metal coins and the inclusion of the latent image, a patented in-house development. The latter requires that the engraving be performed with pinpoint accuracy with numerically controlled gravers, resulting in a double engraved image which changes depending on the viewing angle.

The coin manufacturing process is a perfect symbiosis between the age-old art of engraving, the actual minting, and cutting-edge industrial processes. It begins with the design and engraving of the dies. The minting of the coins takes place in hand-fed minting presses in order to prevent deterioration of the blanks and to achieve absolute precision, since the same coin may be struck several times to achieve a fully-stated image.



Painstaking design and a one-at-a-time minting process, supplemented by an individualized scrutiny of the finished product, utter thoroughness in the cleaning and inspection of the blanks, and the utilization of the latest procedures in metallic die coatings, produce top quality collector coins and medals.

## Superior qualities



The collector coin is primarily minted of precious metals (gold and silver), and is provided with a superior quality, or proof, finish, characterized by the high contrast between the matt-finish subject and the mirror-finish background.

This quality is achieved by submitting the die to a special treatment, but first and foremost by an extremely meticulous process and a strict quality control, characteristics of the FNMT-RCM.

## The value of collecting

The different sets of coins that the FNMT-RCM releases make it possible for the collector to acquire a product of recognized value, and one that bears witness to an outstanding event in the history of Spain and the world.

Prominent are the annual releases of coin sets and single coins that are offered to the public and that receive a warm welcome. Among these, the classic 12 Euro coins in silver that are made available throughout Spain via its banks.



Recent years have seen the minting of important sets with a pronounced artistic component, such as the set commemorating the 150th anniversary of Antonio Gaudi, or that dedicated to Salvador Dali in the centenary year of his birth.

## Awards and acknowledgements

In 2003 the FNMT-RCM released a collector coin to commemorate the 75 year period since the *Juan Sebastián de Elcano* training ship first came into service. This coin was awarded the “best silver coin” prize by the magazine *World Coin News*.



At the 23rd Mint Directors' Conference in 2004 the Cincuentin from the set commemorating the Centenary of the birth of Salvador Dali, won the award for the “technologically most advanced coin” for the cut-out shape on the reverse which serves to house a silver medal plated in standard gold.

