Famous Women on Coins and Medals

American Numismatic Association

Slide Set #7
Athena – Goddess of Wisdom

A Dekadrachm (10 Drachms)
Athena was the guardian deity of ancient Athens, Greece
Athenian Owl – Lady Owl?

The Athenian Owl found usually in profile, here faces the viewer.
Arethusa-Goddess of the Fountains

A Dekadrachm of Syracuse, circa 400 B.C.
The work of ancient engraver Kimon
Arsinoe – Wife of Ptolemy II

Arsinoe was wife to Lysimachus first (a general of Alexander the Great), then after he was killed in battle, she married her own brother Ptolemy II.
Cleopatra

Ruling Egypt from 50 to 30 B.C. she was the last Greek Ruler
Reverse of a coin of the Ptolemys

Standing Eagle clutches a thunderbold in its claws
Joan of Arc, 1412-1429

Martyred by being burned at the stake for her religious & military exploits
Isabel, Queen of Castile

Is this commemorative quarter the only U.S. coin to depict a foreign monarch?
Elizabeth I of England, 1558-1603

During her reign, Shakespeare, Spencer, & Bacon lived, Sir Francis Drake and others made discoveries in the New World; the Spanish Armada was defeated
Pocahontas, 1595?-1617

Did she save Captain John Smith? Only the Shadow knows!
Christina, Queen of Sweden

She became queen at age 26 on her father’s death, but resigned after 14 years on the throne. Unsuccessful in returning to the throne she died in 1689.
Queen Anne of England, 1702-1714

During Anne’s reign, England united with Scotland and captured Gibraltar, the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea.
Maria Theresa, of Hungary

Her silver bullion coin is still being struck with the 1780 date. She was the wife and daughter of an emperor, and had 16 children, many becoming dukes, queens, etc.
Elizabeth of Russia, 1741-1761

Her reign was one of constant intrigue and war
Isabel II of Spain

The last queen of Spain until modern events
Born in Florence, Italy, she became a nurse at 22, and after ministering to the soldiers during the Crimean War, returned to England and established nursing colleges.
Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale

Discovered at age 9 by an actress, she was admitted to the Stockholm Conservatory and made her operatic debut at age 18
Reverse of the Jenny Lind Medal

Medal shows the Goddess of Genius & Art; inscription reads “The Spirit of Art”
In exergue, it reads “By the Royal Musical Academy”
Victoria, Queen of England

Victoria ruled for 63 years and England was a world power during her entire reign.
Susan B. Anthony

An abolitionist, temperance society member, and woman’s suffrage champion
A humanitarian, founder of Hull House for the underprivileged; she developed the first public playground in Chicago, fostered child labor laws, juvenile courts & woman’s suffrage.
Marie Curie

With her husband Pierre, discovered the element Radium for which they won the Nobel Prize in 1903; later she was the first woman to win the Chemistry Nobel Prize in 1916
Amelia Earhart

She was 39 years old when she undertook the flight around the globe, never to be heard from again after leaving Hawaii on that fateful flight.
Frances E. Williard

She was the first female dean of Northwestern’s woman’s college, president of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, and is one of 8 women elected to the American Hall of Fame at New York University.
Queen Wilhelmina

Succeeded her father to the throne of the Netherlands at age 10
Queen Juliana

Succeeded to the throne of the Netherlands in 1948 when her mother abdicated in her favor
Hilary Clinton?

We shall see!