Andreas Vesalius

in

Nummis

by

Maurits Biesbrouck

Roeselare (Belgium)
2019
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Introduction

Numismatics deals not only with coins as means of payment but also with commemorative medals. In order to get some order in collections it was suggested to give the different categories a unique identification number (Kisch, 1945). Herein the number for the coins is preceded by the letter (A), that for the medals with a (B), followed with the number ‘2’ when the medal represents a person, the ‘1’ being used for the medals representing a symbol. This is followed again with a number ‘1’ in case of graduate physicians famous for their contributions to medicine. So, according to this classification, the Vesalius-medals belong normally to the categorie ‘B21’. Within this group Vesalius should be arranged where he belongs in an alphabetical order. (Kisch, 1945) Several coins also do exist with the image of a physician and, since 1997, this is also the case with Vesalius. (Bouvy, 1995)

At the occasion of the solemn commemoration of the 500th anniversary in 2014 of the death of our illustrious compatriot Andreas Vesalius, he will be honoured in different ways as it was in the past. Every one knows indeed examples of etchings, paintings, statues or statuettes with his portrait honoring him and his works. Several publications on these subjects appeared in recent years. But few people are very well conversant with the different representations of our anatomist or his work on medals. Therefore I present here a series of exemples of that kind of art, which is little known and hence to less appreciated.

The first and until now the only searcher who published in a more systematic way on Vesalius-medals was M.H. Spielmann, who made his research for the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum in London. He gave an overview of the medals he knew in his Iconography of Andreas Vesalius edited by John Bale in London in 1925. In his work he mentioned 11 medallists with 18 medals, of all of which - but one only - he had a copy in his possession.

Here I will try to give a more up-to-date overview as since his publication several more medals on Vesalius were struck. I started the preparation to this with a lot of enthousiasm but
soon I had to admit that it was indeed very difficult to find reliable information on the medallist-sculptors involved. Even although several of these pieces are rare or very rare, it was frequently easier to find a copy of the medal itself, than it was to find much info about their creators. The physical characterisitics of each medal were of course easier to establish once it was before my eyes, but I started my collection only about the year 2000.

Spielmann wrote in 1925: No public medallic collection - not even that of the Cabinet de Médailles and in the Hôtel des Monnaies in Brussels - appears to possess anything like a complete series of the medals of Vesalius. Although I made an effort here to give a list as complete as possible, the same applies here too. In March 2007 the Yale University Library listed only five Vesalius medals in their online overview of Commemorative Medals in the Medical Historical Library.

We may, somewhat artificially, divide the Vesalius medals into four major groups: (a) portraits of Vesalius at the front side; (b) portraits of Vesalius on the reverse side; (c) only indirect references to Vesalius through his work, such as the Occo medals. Most medals have on the obverse a portrait of Vesalius, depicted presumably with his only known official portrait of the Fabrica as a working basis (also in the Epitome and the Chyna root epistle). Only rarely Vesalius is seen on the reverse only, the obverse showing the head of king Leopold I of Belgium (Jouvenel - 1841), and occasionally we see an other image, that has something to do with him or his work. As it makes it easier to locate an unknown find, I arranged the medals instead in a chronological order. Dealing with the complexity of the medals by Jouvenel I added their numbering attributed by Spielmann.
List of the artists

Here follows the list with the artists involved. Those with an (S) were already mentioned by Spielmann, the others being the later ones. When the name of the medallist him- or herself could not been retrieved I mentioned the name of the society or institution that was responsible for its release. In total there are more than thirty artists until now. Most medals were struck between 1800 and 1850 and between 1950 and the year 2000.

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<td>Wiener, Léopold (S)</td>
<td>Belgian</td>
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Where possible the **measurements** of the diameter and the edge were made with a nonius and are up to one decimal. Sometimes the thickness of the edges tends to differ somewhat at different spots along the rim where measurement are made, but the averages are given. The weight is measured with an electronic balance type *Salter*, with a sensitivity of 0,05 grams, and up to one decimal too.
The Occo medals

Of the six so called Occo-medals three of them are also Vesalius medals, and as such they were the very first. The Occo’s were a family of physicians, who originated from East-Friesland: Adolf Occo I (1447-1503), his adoptive son Adolf Occo II (1494-1572) and Adolphus III (1502-1606). All three were active as physicians in Augsburg and they had a large interest in the arts, culture and science. Circa 1552 medals were stuck for the three generations with their portraits. Vesalius was himself personally acquainted with Occo II and Occo III. The latter was a numismatist himself, who published a work on the coins of Roman emperors (Antwerp: Plantijn, 1579). It was frequently reissued and would remain the standard till 1683. (Bouvy, 1995)

In particular three medals were made, for Adolphus Occo III, which remember us to Andreas Vesalius, because the reverse shows, in each of them, the second skeletal figure from his *Fabrica*, each somewhat different in details. All three medals were in bronze and were produced by Christof Weiditz (about 1500-1559) or one of his successors round about the year 1552. (Houtzager, 2000 and idem, 2004) Because of their year of creation chances are real that Vesalius must have seen these medals with his own eyes, and could even have possessed a copy of them.

A number of these medals were on auction on March 17th, 1975 (catalogue 286) and in 1995 by Dr. Busso Peus Nachf. in Frankfurt am Main and by the auction house Dorotheum on March 30th, 1998 in Vienna. (Houtzager 2013). For a further discussion see (Dietrich 2013, and Wischermann 1976).
Three Vesalius medals for Occo III by
Christoph Weiditz - circa 1552

Medal 1

(photos H.L. Houtzager)

Medallist: Christof Weiditz (about 1500-1559), German School

Year: circa 1552

Material: bronze

Diameter: 65 mm

Weight: ? grams
Obverse: bust of Adolphus Occo III, in 3/4 from the right

Reverse: Skeleton depicted after the second skeletal figure in the Fabrica. Here the skull is replaced by an hour-glass. The Latin text on the tomb is replaced by the Greek words: ! ? K A3 ? / I ? E ! OC3 / I ! ; ! I ? K
Legend around: 9 ? 9 + ; A ! ; 1 $ ; +E ? ) ? E +3 I ? ; %$ ; I +? ) ? E I + E +

Edge: ? mm; edge milled

Signed: ?

Number of copies: not known

Notes: The obverse legend means ‘Adolphus Occo from the third generation of the physicians Occo’. Houtzager gives another interpretation ‘Adolphus Occo, descendant of Adolphus from Trigonia’, Trigonia refering here - according to him - to Frisia, the motherland of the Occo’s.

The Greek on the reverse, visible on the tomb, means ‘Faithful to his work and devoted until his death’. (Houtzager, 2000) In the Fabrica the text on the tomb is in Latin ‘Vivitur ingenio, caetera mortis erunt’ (The spirit keeps on living, the rest will die). The text around the edge means ‘Isn’t this for all an entrance, by the mighty God of life?’

Another copie in München, Staatl. Müntzsammlung
(Nicolai Kästner)
Medal 2

(photos H.L. Houtzager)

Medallist: Christof Weiditz (about 1500-1559), German School

Year: circa 1552

Material: bronze

Diameter: 33 mm

Weight: ? grams

Obverse: bust of Adolphus Occo III, bust in 3/4 from the right, head in profile
Legend around, in Latin: ADOLPHUS OCCO . A. F. AUGUST. MED. ANNO AET. X... . (rest not legible)

Reverse: The same skeleton as in the first medal but with differences in details. The Latin text on the tomb now reads: STIPENDIUM / PECCATAE / MORS
Legend around: DIXI PUTREDINI PATER MEUS ES
Edge: ? mm; edge milled

Signed: ?

Number of copies: not known

Notes: The obverse legend means ‘Adolphus Occo, son of Adolphus, physician in Augsburg, at the age of X ????’.

The text on the tomb means ‘The reward of sin is death’. The text around the edge means ‘To putrefaction I said: you are my father.’
Medal 3

(photos H.L. Houtzager, and Picqué 1899)

Medallist: Christof Weiditz (about 1500-1559), German School

Year: circa 1552

Material: bronze

Diameter: 55 mm

Weight: ? grams

Obverse: Bust of Adolphus Occo III, in profile from the left

Legend around, in Latin: ADOLPHUS OCCO . A. F. AUGUST. MED. ANNO AET.
XXVIII (last I partially obscured by the bust)

**Reverse:** The same skeleton as in the first medal again with some differences in details. The Latin text on the tomb here reads: ABSORPTA / EST MORS IN / VICTORIAM
Legend around: DEUS IPSE IUBET MORTIS TE MEMINISSE

**Edge:** ? mm; edge milled

**Signed:** ?

**Number of copies:** not known

**Notes:** The obverse legend means ‘Adolphus Occo, son of Adolphus, physician in Augsburg, at the age of XXVIII.’. This is a problem: A. Occo III being born in 1502 would have reached the age of 28 in 1530, thirteen years before the publication of the *Fabrica* by Oporinus in Basel! In 1552 he was 50 (L) years of age and that’s the way he looks on the three portraits on his medals (including this one). An explanation could be that the legend has nothing to do with the portrait and only means that Occo III became physician in Augsburg at the age of twenty-eight.

The text on the tomb means ‘The reward of sin is death’. The text around the edge means ‘Death has been turned over in victory’.

Camille Picqué has seen a silver copy of this medal, signed with MDLII on the obverse, just below the arm. Although his description is the same as for the bronze above, according to him the engraver was the brother of the painter Frans Floris (Cornelis). (Picqué, 1899)
Smeeckes - ca. 1706

Medallist: Unknown

Year: circa 1706

Material: bronze

Diameter: ? mm

Weight: ? grams

Obverse: Third skeletal figure from Vesalius’s *Fabrica*, comparable with those on the reverse of the Occo medals (see above), with a flower on the left.

Reverse: *Mr. / Hendrick / Smeeckes / Chirurgijn.*
Edge: 
Signed: 

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This is a presentation medal on the name of Hendrik Smeeckes in the collection of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. His portrait was painted in 1706 with those of Nicolaes Kies and Nicolaes Heems by an unknown painter (same museum). Smeeckes obtained the medal as a proof of his membership of the *Guild of Surgeons* of Amsterdam.

This medal deviates however from the official one of the Guild of Surgeons of Amsterdam, dating from 1620, and existing both as a medal and as a hanger. (see there) (Houtzager, 2004 and IJpma, 2013)
Chirurgijnsgilde Amsterdam - 1776

Medallist: [Chirurgijnsgilde Amsterdam]

Year: 1776

Material: bronze

Diameter: 45,4 mm

Weight: 29,40 grams

Obverse: upper half: Arms of the city of Amsterdam
Lower half: name and year of the member of the guild of surgeons (i.e. GERRIT / BATTEKE / 1776) in catouche with a human skull below
Reverse: standig skeleton with a scythe in the right hand and the left hand on an hourglass resting on a tomb or altar, on a background of plants

Edge: 4,4 mm; blank

Signed: not signed

Number of copies: not known; individualized

Notes: Provenance Laurens Schulman BV, Harderwijk (the Netherlands). Bought in August 29th for 450 €.

Medal in moulded brass of the Guild of Surgeons of Amsterdam (see <https://archief.amsterdam/invetarissen/inventaris.366.nl.html>) The guild existed yet in 1550 but is probably much older. It was suspended in 1778 and taken over by the Commissie van Geneeskundig Toezicht (Committee of Medical Supervision). The skeleton is reminescent of that on the frontispiece of Vesalius’s Fabrica and looks like a mix with his second skeletal figure. Other medals of the guild have a similar skeleton or do copy another Vesalian skeleton. The text on the tomb was sometimes left blank or replaced by a number, probably the number of the guild’s member. In some the city arms are replaced by a vase with flowers. See <www.laurensschulman.nl/collection/medals/amsterdam-1684-chirurgijnsgilde> Some also exist as hangers. See also Smeeckes.
Comazzini - 1779

Medallist: A. Comazzini, Italian School

Year: 1779

Material: bronze, silver

Diameter: 45,5 mm

Weight: 29,70 grams (silber)

Obverse: Façade of the hospital Santo Spirito in Rome.
Below a crowned shield of arms with double cross between two branches of foliage.
Legend, around: VEN. ARCU. S. SPIRITUS. IN. SAX. DE. URBE (difficult reading)

Reverse: Vesalius kneeling gives a skeleton to the naked Apollon.
Legend, around: NEC. TE. POENITEAT. DEXTRAM. TRIVISSE. SECANDO
(difficult reading)
Below: AN. MDCCLXXIX

Edge: ? mm

Signed: ?

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This is the first known Vesalius medal with a depiction of the anatomist, although not a portrait. (Brettauuer no. 2969)
Merlen - 1804
(Spielmann no. 1)

Medallist: Jean Baptiste Merlen (floruit 1804 - died circa 1837), Franco-Belgian School

Year: 1804
Material: bronze (above), pewter (middle), and silver (below)

Diameter: 28.25

Weight: bronze: 7.2 grams; pewter: 7.9 grams; silver 9.00 grams

Obverse: bust, from the left, head almost full-face; ANDREAS VESALIUS ANATOMICUS

Reverse: within a wreath composed of two oak-branches joined together with a knot of ribbon: SOCIÉTÉ / DE / MÉDECINE / DE / BRUXELLES. / - / MESSIDOR / AN XII

Edge: bronze: 1.4 mm; pewter 1.3 mm; silver 1.7 mm; milled edges

Signed: MERLEN F (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This medal, also jeton de présence, is Spielmann no. 1 and dates from the year XII. Reverse is upside down in relation to the portrait on the obverse-side of both bronze and pewter copies. This is the oldest Vesalius-medal with his portrait. Following Bouvy it was struck in 1803 (Bouvy 2001), according to Edwards on July 19th of 1804 (Edwards 1837).

Spielmann knew of one copy in pewter (*) in the British Museum, the only Vesalius medal then in that department (see Spielmann, pp. 203-204 and plate LXV no. 1). But Jean Maes from ATEM Belgium (Mechelen), who sold me his pewter copy of the Merlen-1804, ensured me that there are also gold copies [gilded bronze?] (personal communication). Edouard Vanden Broek gives a description of this medal and of the second by Merlen (that follows) as well. He communicates that both were present in the important collection of Mme SÉhnée in Paris. (Vanden Broeck 1900)
Jean Baptist Merlen was a Flemish medallist-engraver, who apparently came over to this country from France, where he had engaged in medal-work under the First Empire. This Vesalius-medal must have been one of his earliest productions as those were jetons for the Academy of Medicine of Brussels, dated an XII. From this might be inferred that he learned the art of medal making in Brussels. During the reigns of George IV and William IV, he filled the post of assistant-engraver at the Royal Mint (London) under William Wyon; Pistrucci was Chief Medallist. His connection with the British coinage ceased with the accession of Queen Victoria. No works from his hand are known after 1837. He must have died about 1837, or at least retired from his office. J.B. Merlen engraved also William IV and George IV. (Forrer, 1900)

There was a Flemish family of engravers from Antwerp named Van Merlen. The most famous were Abraham (1579-1660), who had several pupils: his brother Jonas (1578-before 1622), working in Amsterdam; the latters son Theodoor I (Amsterdam, 1600-1659); his own son Theodoor II (1609-1672) and the two sons of the latter Theodoor III (1661-ca. 1700) and Cornelis (1654-1723). No relationship with our Merlen could is known. (GNLE)

(*) Pewter is an alloy of 85-99% tin, the remainder being copper and antimony (as hardeners), bismuth, and sometimes lead, although less commonly today. The latter gives the medal a blue appearance. Sometimes silver is also used.
Merlen - 1804 (2)
(Spielmann no. 2)

[photos Spielmann]

Brass copy

Medallist: Jean Baptiste Merlen (see before this)

Year: 1804

Material: bronze
Diameter: 29 mm

Weight: 10,80 grams

Obverse: bust, profile from the left
Legend: ANDREAS VESALIUS ANATOMICUS

Reverse: within a wreath composed of two oak-branches joined together with a knot of ribbon (but not the same): SOCIÉTÉ / DE / MÉDECINE / DE / BRUXELLES. / - / MESSIDOR / AN XII

Edge: 2,6 mm; milled edge

Signed: MERLEN F (obverse, truncation of arm)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This is Spielmann’s medal no. 2 and it exists also in silver. Just as no. 1 it was produced during the French Revolution for the Société de Médecine de Bruxelles, in the year XII. (Spielmann pp. 204-205 and plate LXV no. 2; Ferner pp. 58-59) A copy of this very rare medal is in the British Museum. (Levinson, 1943) A photo of a very good copy is given by Ferner (1972) on p. 59. Vanden Broek (1900) mentions a copy in yellow copper, probably a proof.

The Société de Médecine de Bruxelles was founded in the month Messidor, an XII, but the decision to struck the jeton fell on February 17th, 1807; it was boarded out to the Mint in Paris as Brussels did not yet have its own mint. See also notes in the previous medal of Merlen.
The year 1805 did in fact never exist in Belgium: it was more precisely the year 14.
The French revolution (1789-1799) had several consequences, one of which was a total change of the calendar. So on the second of the month Vendémiaire of that year 14 (The 24th September, 1805) the Société de médecine de Bruxelles awarded the first prize for a treatise on the influence of the night on subjects in good health as well as on the sick.

The winner was Jacques-Julien-Richard de la Prade, as a physician, the medical assistant in the civil and military hospital of Montbrison (dep. of the Loire), with his essay: *Quid est igitur quod me impediat, ea, quae mihi probabilia videantur sequi; quae contra improbare; atque affirmandi arrogantiam vitantem, fugere temeritatem, quae a sapientia dissidet plurimum*; Cicero, de Offic.

The prize consisted of a golden medal with the portraits of Lommius, Andreas Vesalius and Palfijn, worth 200 francs. There was also a second prize consisting in a golden medal with the portrait of Napoleon, worth 100 francs. (Fournier, 1805) The medal and its circumstances are also mentioned by Vanden Broek (1900)

No artist name of this medals is mentioned but as the more likely ones we think of Charles-François Trébuchet, an engraver born in Paris (February 22nd, 1751) who worked at that time in Brussels and died there (July 17th, 1817). He made golden medals and one of Napoleon as a naked bust (1810). In those years a Belgian engraver Pierre-Joseph-Jacques Tiberghien

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(born in Menen, Belgium) was also very active, but unfortunately he never signed his work. He made most medals for the city of Gent. (Tourneur, 1911)

But, according to C. Broeckx, who talks only about one medal in gold and worth 200 francs, it would have had the portrait of Lomniius, Palfyn and Vesalius, but the French secretary Fournier decided, on his own initiative, to replace those medical celebrities by the portrait of Napoleon the Great. It follows that, when Broeckx was right, this Vesalius-medal never existed. (Broeckx, 1841)
Binfield - 1820
(Spielmann no. 3)

Medallist: W. Binfield (floruit 1800-1824), British School

Year: 1820

Material: bronze

Diameter: 41.2 mm

Weight: 38.6 grams

Obverse: bust, from the right

Legend: ANDREAS VESALIUS

Reverse: NATUS / BRUXELLIS / IN BELGICA / AN.M.D.XIV. / OBIIT / AN.M.D.LXIV. / _ /
SERIES NUMISMATICA / UNIVERSALIS VORORUM ILLUSTRIUM / _ /
M.DCCC.XX. / DURAND EDIDIT
Edge: 3,7 mm; blank

Signed: W. BINFIELD F. (W. Binfield fecit)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This is Spielmann’s medal no. 3, struck by Amédée Durand, who started in 1818 the issue of a long series of historical medals which continued until 1846.

W. Binfield, of Birmingham, worked for Durand in Paris, for whom he produced a number of medals, including those of William Harvey and Lord Byron (1824). According to Spielmann it was as a consequence of the poor resemblance between this medal and Vesalius’ portrait in the Fabrica that Durand had two others engraved and struck by Lefèvre, and a third by Le Boulonois, that were no more resemblant. (Spielmann p. 205 and plate LXV no. 3)
Medallist: Lefèvre (floruit 1800-1824), French School

Year: 1820

Material: bronze

Diameter: 40,9 mm

Weight: 37,4 grams

Obverse: bust, profile from the right; ANDREAS VESALIUS

Reverse: NATUS / BRUXELLIS / IN BELGICA / AN.M.D.LXIV. / OBIIT / AN.M.D.LXIV. _ / SERIES NUMISMATICA / UNIVERSALIS VIRORUM ILLUSTRIUM. / M.DCCC.XX. / DURAND EDIDIT
**Edge:** 3,8 mm, blank

**Signed:** LEFEVRE (obverse, below bust)

**Number of copies:** not known

**Notes:** Described by Spielmann as nos. 4 and 5. His no. 5 is a variant in that it is signed in smaller letters than no. 4 and Vesalius’s beard reaches further than the rim of his collar. There are other small differences.

The obverse resembles the Vesalius portrait by Binfield, but there is a distinct difference. The legend on the reverse differs between the Binfield and the Lefèvre medal(s) showing a slight change of spacing between some letters. (Spielmann pp. 206-207 and plate LXV nos. 4 and 5)

Spielmann did not find any personal details on Lefèvre, but he mentions the name of a certain Ernest-Charles Lefèvre, born at Courtrai in 1825, possibly a relative of the engraver and found in *Numismata* (first part, Bruges, 1846).

Also in lead with weight 50,0 g and diameter 41,0 mm. Dr. Andreas Hoop (Bützow, Germany), mentions a not signed copy in tin.
Le Boulonois - 1820
(Spielmann no. 6)

Medallist: F. Le Boulonois (Floruit 1800-1824, French School)

Year: 1820

Material: bronze

Diameter: 43,2 mm

Weight: 42,1 grams

Obverse: bust, profile from the right; ANDREAS VESALIUS
Reverse: NATUS / BRUXELLIS / IN BELGICA / AN. M.D.XIV. / OBIIT / AN. M.D.LXIV. / _/
SERIES NUMISMATICA / UNIVERSALIS VIRORUM ILLUSTRIUM / _/
M.DCCC.XX./ DURAND EDIDIT

Edge: 4,2 mm, blank

Signed: LE BOULONOIS F. (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This is Spielmann no. 6 and part of the series Numismatica Universalis Virorum Illustrium by Durand. (Spielmann no. 6; see p. 207 and plate LXV).
In June 2008 ebay, the internet auctioneer, presented a copy with stamp "CUIVRE" and Paris Mint hallmark, in use between 1842 and 1845.

A rare proof, struck of this medal (also 43,5 mm)
Mercandetti - 1820
(Spielmann no. 7)

Medallist: Tommaso Mercandetti (1758-1821), Italian School

Year: circa 1820 according to Spielmann; circa 1810 according to <www.inumis.com and www.worthpoint.com> and circa 1800 according to Gerhard WOLF-HEIDEGGER & Anna Maria CETTO. Die anatomische Sektion in bildlicher Darstellung, Basel & New York, S. Karger, 1967, on p. 454.

Material: bronze, silver

Diameter: 48 mm, 49 mm and 50 mm (various diameters)

Weight: ? grams (29,08 or 42,88 ??)

Obverse: Dissection scene with Vesalius, in a toga, dissecting a body whose legs are covered with sheets. The corpse is laying on a draped bench in the open air
under the foliage of large trees. The head of Vesalius, although being small, is recognizable.

Legend: SEXCENTOS EXSECVIT * VT NATVRAM SCRVTARETVR

**Reverse:**
A view of the Hospital of the Holy Ghost, at Rome.

Legend, above: NOSOCOMIVM
Below the line: MERCANDETTI FECIT ROMA,
followed by PRAEMIA STVDIOR, and: the arms of the hospital (a crowned shield bearing the the symbol of the Holy Ghost (pigeon) and the double cross) from behind which spring, right and left, two different branches.

**Edge:**
? mm (various thicknesses); blank

**Signed:**
. T . M . I . (i.e. Tommaso Mercandetti Invenit; obverse below); also (ut supra) on the reverse, below the line: MERCANDETTI FECIT ROMA

**Number of copies:** not known

**Notes:**
This is Spielmann’s medal no. 7. He remarks that Kluyskens, and all the writers following him, give the initials incorrectly as “T. M. T.”. He also argues that the obverse should be regarded as the reverse and vice versa. According to Kluyskens and others this medal was used as a prize medal for anatomy and surgery. Brettauer specifies that it was struck for that purpose by pope Pius VII (pontificate 1800-1823). (Spielmann pp. 208-209 and plate LXVI no. 7; Kluyskens 1859; Brettauer 2970)

The observe shows a striking likeness in design with the medal by A. Comazzini (1779). Both representing the façade of the hospital Santo Spirito in Rome, with the shield bearing the double cross below on the one side and a scene with Vesalius as the actor on the reverse, whereas most of the other medals show an inactive portrait of the anatomist. In all likelihood Mercandetti found at least part of his inspiration with Comazzini. The
legend of the reverse of the present medal comes from Tertullian’s *De Anima*.

Of the revers there are two variants, the Jacobs and the Storer variant, differing in many details. In the Jacob variant the more important differences are: two trees on the right side instead of one and a side branch on the left tree. Vesalius’ hairline is different too as is the treatment of the draperies. For a more detailed description and a discussion of previous errors of descriptions see Freeman 1964.

Tommaso Mercandetti was born in Rome on December 2th, 1758. His father was Pietro, his mother Virginia Fratejace. During his education in Albano in 1767 his father died suddenly. His mother moved to Rome where he studied under Girolamo Rossi, the former teacher of his father. Pope Pius VI knew already as a cardinal the quality of Mercandetti’s work. His first medal dates from circa 1775. In 1796 he went to the Roman Mint and he engraved the papal medals from 1796 till 1797. After the exile of the pope at the end of the century he was nominated National Engraver of the Republica Romana. After a short stay in Bologna he returned to Rome where the new pope Pius VII was elected and for whom he created a commemorative medal. With the pope’s encouragement he made a series of medals on famous italians from the seventeenth and eighteenth century. They had 67-68 mm in diameter and took the years 1805 till over 1809. But in 1808 pope Pius VII was exiled too and Mercandetti became unemployed. Having a large family he got a difficult time. But from 1810 onwards he could create several beautiful pieces again. He died on March 11th, 1821. (Rossi 1881; wikipedia; see also <numismatica-italiana.lamoneta.it/zecchieri/TommasoMercandetti>
Simon - after 1820
(Spielmann no. 8)

Medallist: Jean Henri Simon (1752-1834), Franco-Belgian school

Year: after 1820

Material: bronze

Diameter: 46,5 mm

Weight: 60,7 grams
Obverse: bust, profile from the left; ANDREAS VESALIUS

Reverse: NATUS / BRUXELLIS / IN BELGICA / AN.M.D.XIV. / OBIIT / AN.M.D.LXIV. / *

Edge: 4,5 mm, blank

Signed: Simon F. (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: In Spielmann this in medal no. 8. Looks as a copy of the medal by Lefèvre in the Durand series. Brettauert 1265.

There are also copies in cast iron (45,6 mm and 46,7 grams).

Jean Henri Simon (Brussels, October 28th, 1752 - Brussels, March 12th, 1834) was the son of the engraver Jacob Simon who was his teacher. Not quite fifteen he became the engraver of Prince Charles Alexander of Lorraine. He moved to Paris in 1775 to work for the Duke of Orleans in Chartres and he became also the engraver of King Louis XVI until 1792. Afterwards he went to work in Spain at the court but was soon recalled to Paris to teach the art of engraving at the Institute for Deaf-Mutes. He worked also for the empress Josephine. After serving in the army he returned to Brussels in 1816 where he stayed during the rest of his life. He also etched on cupper and made portraits of famous men of the Netherlands. He published L’Armorial général de l’Empire (2 vols.).
(Spielmann no. 8, see pp. 209 and plate LXVI; Jean Henri Simon in Wikipedia)
Jouvenel - circa 1841-1846
(Spielmann no.9)

Medallist: Adolphe Christian Jouvenel, called by Spielmann ‘Adolphe Baptiste Jouvenel’ (1798-1867), Belgian School

Year: circa 1841-1846

Material: bronze

Diameter: 46.6 mm

Weight: 44 grams

Obverse: bust, profile from the left; ANDRÉ VÉSALE NÉ EN 1514 MORT EN 1564
above: an arrangement of books on a board, one of which is open, inscribed across the two leaves: DE CORPORIS / HUM. FABRICA / LIB. VII. BASIL. / 1543

below, in sixteen lines:
(Until now no proof exists that Vesalius was in Montpellier)

Edge: 3,5 mm, blank

Signed: JOUVENEL (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This medal is in Spielmann no. 9. The portrait engraving itself dates from circa 1841 but it was reused in 1846 (vide infra). Vesalius has a jacket with a turned-down collar. The relief is high. For the head he used apparently the portrait in front of the Fabrica with curled hair and a well groomed beard with small curls. Spielmann remarks that the nose is long and straight, diverging somewhat from the original and that his looks are less vivid.

Why Spielmann called the engraver erroneously Adolphe Baptiste instead of Adolphe Christian (sometimes Christian Adolphe) is not known. Perhaps the error arose by mixing up his first names with those of his father Jean Baptiste Clément. The son Adolphe Christian Jouvenel was born in Lille, France, May 10, 1798. His father Jean Baptiste Clement (born 1773/4 in Lille) was already an engraver but he engraved only four medals (no one on Vesalius). They moved to Brussels in 1815, where the son made sixty-
five medals for the *Royal Academy of Science, Letters, and Fine Arts* and
died in Brussels on September 9th, 1867. Adolphe-Christian studied under
Rude and he was already a renowned medallist when the king asked his
Minister of Finance on November 26th 1833 to charge Jouvenel with the
engraving of new coins. (Vandamme, 2000) Adolphe Christian Jouvenel
was, together with Joseph-Pierre Braemt (Gent, 15.06.1796 - Brussels,
02.12.1864), one of the very first Belgian medallists. Another engraver of
this family was H. Jouvenel who stayed in Lille. (see *Jouvenels in Belgium;
Tourneur 1911, Guioth 1850*)

This medal belongs to the series *Grands Hommes de Belgique*.
(Spielmann p. 210 and plate LXVI no. 9; Kluyskens 1859 en 1874) Several
errors in the legend on the verso side here have been corrected a few years
later in a somewhat shorter text. (see *Jouvenel circa 1846*).

**The Jouvenel medals as a collection in its own:**

This is the first Jouvenel medal is no. 9 in Spielmann. It belongs to a series
of Vesalius medals made by this engraver. Most have the same portrait of
Vesalius on the obverse. Others have the head of king Leopold I, with or
without a laurel-wreath, and with the Vesalius’s portrait in a smaller
medallion on the reverse, above in a small circle. Variations of those
different variants are due to the dimensions of the medal, the metal choosen,
and the design and content of the legends.

Jouvenel’s designs have later been used at different occasions (see
*Jouvenel 1956, Jouvenel 1956 ‘Ad Honorem’, 1964, and 1983*), also for
awards (see Spielmann 10 and 11), even long after his death. All of this
make of the Jouvenel medals the largest group of Vesalius medals.
Jouvenel - 1841

Medallist: Adolphe Christian Jouvenel (1798-1867)

Year: 1841

Material: bronze
Diameter: 56,7 mm

Weight: 73,8 grams

Obverse: bust, naked head of king Leopold I (no laurel-wreath) in profile from the left; LEOPOLD PREMIER ROI DES BELGES.

Reverse: Around: ACADEMIE ROYALE DE MÉDECINE DE BELGIQUE
with seven partially overlaying medallions (except that of Vesalius and Rega), each 16 mm in diameter arranged in a circle: André Vésale 1514 (above; bust in profile from the left), and counter clockwise: Verheyen 1648, Van Helmont 1577, V. D. Spieghel 1578, R. Dodonée 1518, N. Jos. Rega (*) 1690, Palfyn 1650.
In the centre: INSTALLÉE / LE / 26 SEPT 1841 / NOTHOMB / MINISTRE / DE /
L’INTÉRIEUR
Around this medallions a ribbon and laurel branches.

Edge: 3,4 mm; blank

Signed: J. (reverse, between the two lowest medals)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: In Spielmann this is medal no. 12. It exists also in silver.
The reverse departs in some details from Spielmann no. 11. It is known as the Médaille de l’Installation de l’Académie royale de Médecine de Belgique. In same copies the central circle is left blank for the inscription of a name. The medal was ordered by the Government and struck again on March 12th, 1846. In1851 it was awarded as a prize by the Royal Academy of Medicine. It remained the prize-medal and was from time to time struck at Brussels Mint on the demand of the Academy. (Spielmann pp. 213-214 and plate LXVII no. 12) The Jouvenel medal of 1841 was on January 29th, 1983,

(*) The error "N" (for H. = Henri) in Rega’s name appers neither in the 50 mm medal (Spielmann 11), nor in the seal of the Academy.
Jouvenel (king laureated) - 1841
(Spielmann no. 11)

(photos Spielmann)

Medallist: Adolphe Christian Jouvenel (1798-1867)

Year: 1841

Material: bronze, silver

Diameter: 50 mm

Weight: ? grams

Obverse: Head of king Leopold I, laureated, in profile from the right;
Legend: LEOPOLD PREMIER ROI DES BELGES.
Reverse: Around: ACADÉMIE ROYALE DE MÉDECINE DE BELGIQUE
with seven partially overlaying medallions (except that of Vesalius), each 14
mm in diameter arranged in a circle: And. Vesale 1514 (above; bust in
profile from the left), and counter clockwise: Verheyen 1648, Van Helmont
1577, V. D. Spieghel 1578, R. Dodonée 1518, H. Jos. Rega 1690, Palfyn
1650.
The central circle is blank.
Around this medallions a ribbon with two laurel branches.

Edge: ? mm; blank

Signed: J. (reverse, below, and between V.D. Spieghel and Dodonée)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: In Spielmann this is medal no. 11, being the medal of the Creation of the
Academy. On the reverse the portrait of Vesalius is the same, but reduced,
as in the other medal with a not laureated king Leopold. Part of these medals
have been struck for award to the student and the inner circle is left blank
for the insertion of the winner’s name. The other ones are inscribed with:
ARR. ROYAL / DU / 19 SEPT 1841 / NOTHOMB / MINISTRE / DE / L’INTÉRIEUR.
In some pieces with the not laureated head of king Leopold, the inner circle
also has the name of Notomb. (see Jouvenel no. 12)

According to Spielmann this medal was originally struck on a thin
blank. When the striking was resumed, in 1846, for distribution as a prize-
medal a thicker blank was adopted. Thus:

- the 50 mm medal (1841), with king Leopold I laureated and to the
  right, is that of the Creation of the Academy (Tourneur 1911, no. 546, p.
  160);

- the 56,5 mm medal (1841), with king Leopold I not laureated and to
  the left, is that of the Installation of the Academy;
- the 50 mm medal (called 1846, but really 1841, like Spielmann no. 10, but on a thick blank) is the prize medal for successful students. At the time of Spielmann describing this piece it was no longer used as the award, the larger version of 56.5 mm (Spielmann 12) being used for that purpose. (Spielmann pp. 212-213 and plate LXVII no. 11)
Jouvenel (Seal) - 1841
(Spielmann no. 13)

Medallist: Adolphe Christian Jouvenel (1798-1867)

Year: 1841 and 1846 (according to the legend in plate LXVIII in Spielmann)

Material: lead, iron

Diameter: 72,3 mm
Weight: 100,1 grams

Obverse: Within a laurel wreath, without ribbon, as in the verso side on Spielmann nos. 11 and 12 the seven medallions of celebrated Doctors of Medicine are arranged as before. The medallion of Vesalius is 18 mm in diameter and is inscribed as in Spielmann no. 11.

Legend: ACADEMIE ROYALE DE MEDECINE DE BELGIQUE

Spielmann describes the centre as a Louis XV cartouche, not quite circular, with the royal arms: a crowned shield bearing the Lion of Belgium, a banderolle floating at the sides, and the motto: L’UNION FORCE. The missing words FAIT LA are supposed to be masked by the lower part of the shield.

Reverse: Blank

Edge: 2,5-2,8 mm; blank

Signed: JOUVENEL F (below the medallion of Dodonée)

Number of copies: 1 or 2 in lead and 1 in iron

Notes: In Spielmann this is ‘medal’ no. 13, being the SEAL OF THE ACADÉMIE ROYALE DE MÉDECINE DE BELGIQUE, of which no medals have been struck. There only exist(ed) one or two proofs struck in lead, one of which was in Spielmann’s possession and was said to be unique. Another one was cast in iron.

Also according to Spielmann it is obvious that Kluyskens nor Guioth had ever seen the Seal itself. The latter writer reproduces a lead impression of Spielmann no. 10, surrounded by a metal ring - which increases the diameter to 73 mm - as being the Seal of the Academy. The piece which came into Spielmann’s possession was an earlier proof struck in lead; it had the shield, but still lacked the lion, the banderolle, the national motto, and
the artist’s signature. The copy of the Seal, which was cast in iron, belonged in 1919 to Ch. Dupriez of Brussels. (Spielmann p. 215 and plate LXVIII no. 13; Guioth 1844; Kluyskens 1874)

At the beginning of 2013 I found a copy in lead in the on-line shop of Annette Hossfeld, Arnsberg (Germany), which I bought on February 4th, 2013 for 65,00 euros. Asked for more information she answered: Ich habe die Medaille schon 15 Jahre. Sie kommt - wenn ich mich richtig erinnere - aus der Sammlung Kisch - groszer Sammler von Mediziner-Medaillen. Ich glaube, das er in New York lebte. Bin aber nicht sicher. (*)

Seal

Diameter: 72 mm

Weight: 100 grams (lead)
(*) According to Dr. Alexander Kisch: The Guido Kisch Collection documents the life and professional activities of Guido Kisch (Prague, January 22, 1889 - Basel, 1985) teacher, researcher, and scholar in the field of Legal History. It also documents personal and professional lives of some of the other members of the Kisch family, most notably his brother, Bruno Kisch (1890-1966), a cardiologist, and their father, Alex Kisch, who was a rabbi and a writer. The collection includes brochures, booklets, clippings, correspondence, financial documents, minutes, notes, off prints, photographs, printed materials, and writings.

...In 1915 Guido Kisch began his distinguished career as a teacher and scholar of legal history when he was appointed Privatdozent and became an instructor in legal history at the University of Leipzig. In 1920 he was appointed Professor Ordinarius of History of Law and Political Theory at the University of Königsberg (now Kaliningrad, Russia). In 1922 Kisch became Professor Ordinarius of History of Law and Political Theory at the University of Halle... In 1933 he was dismissed by the Nazi Government and immigrated to the United States in 1935...

He settled in New York, where he taught Jewish History at the Jewish Institute of Religion/Hebrew Union College. During this period he also lectured at a number of universities in the United States as well as abroad. In 1962, he returned to Europe, where he settled in Basel, Switzerland and taught at the Law School at the University of Basel. (see <archive.org/details/guidokisch>)

His brother Bruno Kisch had an impressive collection of medical medals and wrote several articles on medical numismatics. (Kisch 1945)
Medallist:  Adolphe Christian Jouvenel

Year:  c. 1846

Material:  silver (Spielmann mentions only vermeil)

Diameter:  34.5 mm

Weight:  17.3 grams

Obverse:  bust, profile from the left; ANDRE VESALE NE EN 1514 MORT EN 1564

Reverse:  IL FUT / LE PÈRE DE/ L’ANATOMIE. 1537, APRÈS / AVOIR ÉTUDIÉ ET AVOIR / OBTENU LES PLUS BEAUX SUCCÈS EN MONTPELIER, / À PARIS, À LOUVAIN, À PADOUE / ET À VENISE. IL PROFESSA L’ANATOMIE ET LA CHIRURGIE / À L’UNIVERSITÉ DE PADOUE. / IL Y COMPOSA SON MAGNIFIQUE / OUVRAGE SUR L’ANATOMIE DU / CORPS HUMAIN. AYANT QUITTÉ / LA COUR DE
MADRID OÙ IL NE SE PLAISAIT POINT, IL MOURUT À ZANTE OÙ LES VENTS CONTRAIRES L’AVAIENT JETÉ.

Edge: 2,8 mm; blank

Signed: JOUVENEL (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This is no. 10 in Spielmann (see p. 211 and plate LXVI no. 10). The same medal exists also in red and yellow copper or brass (messing), diameter of 34,5 mm, edge 2,8 mm, weight 17,3 gram for silver
34,5 mm, edge 2,6 mm, weight 16,8 gram for messing
34,5 mm, edge 2,3 mm, weight 15,6 gram for red copper
(Ferner 1972; Brettauer no. 1267):
Wiener - 1847
(Spielmann no. 15)

Medallist: Leopold Wiener (1823-1891), Belgian School

Year: 1847

Material: bronze

Diameter: 30,3 mm

Weight: 14,3 grams

Obverse: Vesalius’ statue by Joseph Geefs in Brussels; STATUE D’ANDRÉ VÉSALE INAUGURÉE LE 31 DEC: 1847
Reverse: SOUS LE RÈGNE / DE LEOPOLD I / ROI DES BELGES. / LE GOUVERNEMENT / LA PROVINCE DE BRABANT / LA VILLE DE BRUXELLES / ET / LE CORPS MÉDICAL / BELGE.

Edge: 3,4 mm, blank

Signed: L. WIENER (on reverse, against right foot of statue) D’AP.J.GEEFS (other side of foot)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This is Spielmann no. 15, existing also in silver. (A. De Witte 1914) The piece was also struck on both thin and thick blanks. Some erroneously attributed this medal to Jacques Wiener, the elder brother of Leopold. (Spielmann p. 217 and plate LXVIII no. 14 and 15; Tourneur p. 241 no. 774 and plate XXXI no. 11) The inauguration of the statue on December 31st, 1847 was on the 333th anniversary of Vesalius’s birth day.

The obverse was used as the reverse of the medal described by Spielmann as no. 14. That one has a shield with St. Michael on its obverse and was engraved by Jacques Wiener (1815-1899). (see there p. 216)

A copy of this medal was also included in the base of the statue of Charles de Lorraine in Brussels. (Arnould 2009)
[Wiener] - 1847  
(Spielmann no. 16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medallist</th>
<th>anonymous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>1847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter</td>
<td>? mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>? grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obverse Legend</td>
<td>ANDREAE VESALIO SCIENTIAE ANATOMICAE PARENTI. - NATUS BRUXELLIS. 31 DEC. 1514. NAUFRAGUS IN ZACYNTHO. OBIIT 30 OCT. ANNO 1564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse</td>
<td>AUSPICIS LEOPOLDI PRIMI + + BELGARUM REGIS, ET PUBLICO NEC NON PROVINCIÆ ET MUNICIPIÆ AERARIS DE PROMPTA IN SUMPTUM PECUNIA UT ET EX PRIVAT. UNIV. MEDIC. BELG. ORDIN. COLLATIONE ERECTUM HOC MONUMENTUM ET DICATUM 31 DEC. 1847.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edge</td>
<td>? mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-56-
Signed:      

Number of copies: not known (3, or more?)

Notes: This is Spielmann’s medal no. 16. As he could not find the engraver he called it *anonymous*. This jeton was struck to celebrate the inauguration of the statue of Vesalius by Joseph Geefs. 

It was in 1925 already so rare that Spielmann himself was unable to find an example of it. Both faces of the little medal are occupied fully by the inscriptions, and he thought that for this reason no one cared to possess it or to preserve it. According to him only Kluyskens and Rudolphus give a record of it. (Spielmann pp. 217-218; Kluyskens 1874) Following an article in *Messager des sciences* a medal with this inscriptions on the obverse and reverse sides was executed by Wiener (no Christian name is mentioned), who give it to the committee. Three copies of it were included in a lead coffin together with the coins of the kingdom, and tablets in copper with the official report of the inauguration and the history of the monument. That coffin was placed inside the piédestal of the statue. (Messager des sciences, 1847)

The iron medal from an ‘unbekannter Medailleur’, mentionned by Ferner (Ferner 1972) is another one, which resembles the one of Lefèvre 1820 (Spielmann no. 5).
Wiener & Wiener - 1847
(Spielmann no. 14)

Medallist: Leopold Wiener (1823-1891) and Jacques Wiener (1815-1899), Belgian School

Year: 1847

Material: bronze, silver

Diameter: 30 mm

Weight: ? grams

Obverse: By Jacques Wiener:
Arms of the city of Brussels: on a shield surmounted by a ducal crown, St. Michael slaying the Demon.
Legend, around: JETON DE PRÉSENCE
Below: S. P. Q. B. (Senatus Populusque Bruxellensis)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reverse:</th>
<th>The same as the obverse of the medal in Spielmann no. 15 with Vesalius’s statue by Geefs in Brussels on the Barricadenplein. (see there)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edge:</td>
<td>? mm; blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed:</td>
<td>as in Spielmann no. 15, here on the reverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of copies:</td>
<td>not known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes:</td>
<td>This is Spielmann’s medal no. 14. The jeton was struck to commemorate the inauguration of the Statue of Vesalius in Brussels. It was the first of its kind which was commissioned by the Conseil Communal de Bruxelles on the recommendation of Jacques Wiener, to celebrate annually in this manner &quot;an interesting event in the history of the City” so that the series would form historical documents. (Spielmann p. 216 and plate LXVIII no. 14 and 15; Brettauern no. 1269)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Van der Stappen - 1904
(Spielmann no. 17)

Medallist: Charles H. Van der Stappen (1843-1910), Belgian School

Year: 1904

Material: bronze

Diameter: 50,0 mm

Weight: 50,4 grams

Obverse: head, profile from the left; ANDREAS * VESALIUS ** OCYUS JUCUNDE ET TUTO *

Reverse: Centre: Oak tree with roots, trunk, branches and foliage, with the legend:
EN / SOUVENIR DU / CONGRES INTER / NATIONAL DES PHYSIOLOGISTES /
TENU A BRUXELLES / AUX / INSTITUTS SOLVAY

Around:
HOMMAGE * A * ANDRE * VESALE * 30 AOUT * 1904 * 3 * SEPT*BRE *

Edge: 2.3 mm, blank
Signed: C.H. V. D. STAPPEN (obverse, on the right of the head)

Number of copies: 321 in bronze, also 31 in silver, and only one in vermeil

Notes: This is Spielmann no. 17, existing also in silver (A. De Witte 1914) and vermeil. The portrait does not resemble Vesalius at all. The motto Ocyus, jucunde et tuto comes from the Roman physician Celsus and Vesalius used it on the border of his table in his portrait in the Fabrica. (Spielmann p. 218 and plate LXVIII no. 16; Brettauier no. 2464; Sonnenschein p. 447; de Witte pp. 162-163).

Charles Van der Stappen was born in September 1843 at Sint-Joost-ten-Noode (Brussels). He educated at the Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts in Brussels (1859-1868. He contributed to the Brussels Salon and produced work of a high and novel order in every class of sculpture. He also made funeral monuments (William the Silent at the square Kleine Zavel - Petit Sablon in Brussels) and in 1893 he began a successful collaboration with Constantijn Meunier. He died in 1910. (Gemmill 1973, and Charles van der Stappen, Wikipedia)
Bonnetain - 1914
(Spielmann no. 18)

Medallist: Armand Bonnetain (1883-1973), Belgian school

Year: June 1914

Material: bronze

Diameter: 29.1 mm

Weight: 11.2 grams

Obverse: Head in profile from the left. ANDRE 1514 VESALE 1564.

Reverse: Broad beaker between two snakes rampant as supports. In background a decorated bookspine upon which a crowing cock over: VIGILANTIA. Against the edge: FEDERATION MEDICALE BELGE. Underneath: 1864 - 1914.
2,0 mm, blank; with double ring to hang

BONNETAIN (obverse, below head)

300

This is Spielmann no. 18. Exists also in gold, vermeil and silver. This medal (or breloque) was struck at the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Fédération Médicale de Belgique. (see Spielmann no. 18, p. 219 and plate LXVIII, no. 17)

Armand Bonnetain was born in Ixelles (Brussels) in 1883. His father Jean-Marie (1855-1924) was a frenchman and a famous master chef. His mother was Adèle-Constance Hébert (1859-1943). Although living in Belgium during his whole life, Armand had the French nationality, and he became belgian only in 1926. His first education as an artist was in painting, with Constant Montald and Herman Richir as his teachers. Paul Delvaux, René Magritte, and Edgar Tytgat where among his fellow-students. Later he followed lessons in sculpture with Charles Van der Stappen (1843-1910), who taught him the medal art. He devoted himself almost exclusively to medals and was a rare adept of the direct engraving (lost wax technique). He never totally stopped painting, but this almost only as a private hobby. He realised something as 300 medals and was fascinated by the antique Greece culture and medals. As a very succesful artist the royal family repeatedly asked for his cooperation and he was the engraver of several Belgian mints. He made also the bust of Jules Destrée (Brussels, garden of the Paleis der Academiën). He married Madeleine Bégault in 1923 but they had no children. He died in 1973 in Brussels. Armand Bonnetain was the winner of the Grand prix de Paris in 1937 and became a member of the Royal Academy of Belgium in 1940. (Callatay, 2007; de Witte, 1891)
Medallist: Hoffstätter (Bonn), German School

Year: 1933-1945, possibly even later

Material: bronze

Diameter: 50,6 mm

Weight: 63,7 grams

Obverse: bust, profile from the right; ANDREAS VESALIUS.

Reverse: AUGSBURG below the townhall of that city (Germany). FÜR DIE FÖRDERUNG DER PRAKTISCHEN WISSENSCHAFTEN *
Edge: 3,2 mm; blank

Signed: HOFFSTÄTTER BONN (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: The medal exists also in silver (835/1000, see below) with the reverse reading: FÜR DIE FÖRDERUNG DER ÄRZTLICHEN FORTBILDUNG *
diameter 50,6 mm; edge 3,6 mm, weight 73,8 grams.
This bust is very much alike that of the Le Boulonois.
The concern Hoffstätter Bonn was founded in 1818 by Ferdinand Hoffstätter and still exists. It is specialised in making medals, pins and tinnies and ‘militaria’, of which they made thousands for the Third Reich. The chefs had close relations with the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (NSDAP), the Nazi Party, and some occupied high functions in it.
This copy of the variant in silver was donated to Prof. Dr. E. Zdansky, and others, by the mayor Müller of Augsburg, in March 1960, for their merits in medical education and practice.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medallist:</td>
<td>Michael Belen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year:</td>
<td>1943?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material:</td>
<td>terracotta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter:</td>
<td>200 mm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weight:</td>
<td>/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obverse:</td>
<td>Bust, from the right, head almost full face</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legend, left: 1514.1564 О КИТАЙСКОМ КОРНЕ</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>right: АНДРЕЙ ВЕЗАЛИЙ / О СТРОЕНИИ ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКОГО ТЕЛА</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse:</td>
<td>blank</td>
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<td>Edge:</td>
<td>/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signed:</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of copies: unique

Notes: This is a unique medal commemorating Vesalius’ works from a series of medals on medicine in terracotta by Michael Belen. The Ukrainian legend reads in translation, left: “1514-1564. On the China Root”; right: “Andreas Vesalius / On the structure of the human body”. Not dated; according to the style and the commemorated works possibly from c. 1943. I thank Dr. Andreas Hoop (Bützow, Germany) for this info. (Барштейн, 2003)
Cenni - 1954

Medallist: G. Cenni

Year: 1954

Material: silver (800/1000)

Diameter: 60,4 mm

Weight: 97,1 grams

Obverse: bust, from the right, head almost full face
Legend: ANDREA VESALIUS; middle: 1514 1564

Reverse: Antique anatomical theatre with a dissection scene of a woman amidst several men. On the left a muscle man, on the right a skeleton.
Legend: XVI ANATOMI - CORUM CONVENTUS PISIS MCMLIV PISIS * MCMLIV

Edge: 3,8 mm; two struck signs

Signed: G. Cenni (obverse, below in bust)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This medal exists also in bronze: diameter 60,4 mm, edge 4,0 mm blank, 91 grams, bought from Bruno Grandi (Beinasco, Totino, Italy) for 120 euros in May 2018. It commemorates the sixteenth anatomical convention in Pisa 1954. Left eye represented too large.

According to ArtPast - catalogo opere d’arte (SBAPPSAD Pisa) ‘1954’ is mentionned as the date of creation of the silver medal, the authors being Barlacchi, Cenni G., and Picchiani, whereas for the bronze copy the year of creation mentionned is 1981 with only G. Cenni as the author. See also <www.culturaitalia.it/viewitem.jsp?id=oai:artpast.org:0900597823>
B.G. - 1956

Medallist: B.G.

Year: 1956

Material: bronze

Diameter: 38.1 mm

Weight: 27.8 grams

Obverse: Vesalius depicted as on his portrait in the Fabrica. On the table before him a paper, inkpot and pen. The wall behind him is a paper scroll with two times two muscle men in a landscape. Below VESALIUS.
Reverse: Eleven scientific/technical symbols: (left to right) planet, wheels, plant, retort, man, atom, microscope, seahorse, globe, compasses and circle on pyramid with on the right ‘BG’; line; "ANDREAS VESALIUS (1514-1564) IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN AND REFORMER OF ANATOMY WHO TAUGHT BY DISSECTION AND ILLUSTRATION".

Edge: 3,1 mm; two stamps - "BRONZE", otherwise blank.

Signed: ‘BG’ (obverse, left side of head)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: One of a series honoring medical and scientific pioneers. This medal was also struck in silver (999 fine silver) that was afterwards electroplated with 24KT gold. It was then part of a collection of 74 medallions of the Medical Heritage Society issued over a period of time beginning in 1972 and continuing through 1975. It is officially known as the Medical Heritage Society Limited Edition Medallic Treasury of Science History. Besides those there was also an oversize Nobel anniversary medal. (ebay, February 2006, object 8382540590)
Jouvenel - 1956

Medallist: Adolphe Christian Jouvenel

Year: 1956

Material: bronze

Diameter: 50,0 mm

Weight: 55,6 grams

Obverse: bust, profile from the left; ANDREAS VESALIUS * BRUXELLEN SIS MDXIV - MDLXIV.

Reverse: Center: BRUXELLIS / ANNO / MDCCCLXVI / ACTUS

Around: CONGRESSUS UNIVERSUS PHYSIOLOGICAE VIGESIMUS *
Edge: 3,0 mm, blank

Signed: JOUVENEL (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: not known; nowadays still easy to find

Notes: This portrait of Vesalius was engraved by Jouvenel circa 1846 and reused for this medal, issued at the occasion of the 20th Congres of Physiology in Brussels in 1956. (see Spielmann p. 210 and plate LXVI no. 9)

The same medal was struck in silver with the same diameter but weighing 68.30 g and an edge of 3,0 mm too but inscribed with a struck sign (below) and H. JANNE (above).
Medallist: Adolphe Christian Jouvenel (1789-1867, Belgian School)

Year: 1964

Material: bronze

Diameter: 50.0 mm

Weight: 70.9 grams

Obverse: bust, profile from the left; ANDREAS VESALIUS BRUXELLENSIS MDXIV - MDLXIV.

Reverse: ACADEMICA / COMMEMORATIO / GENTIUM ACTIONE AD / QUARTUM CENTENARIUM / ANNUM / ANDREAE VESALII / DEFUNCTI / 1514 - 1564 (National Academic Commemoration at the 400th anniversary of the death of Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564).
Signed: 'JOUVENEL’ (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: Both academies of medicine in Belgium organised together in 1964 a solemn commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the death of Andreas Vesalius with a congress from 19 till 24 October with prominent international speakers. They also ordered to struck a commemoration medal. Their choise was an existing portrait of Vesalius by Adolphe Baptiste Jouvenel (1789-1867, Belgian school). See Jouvenel - 1846.
Albert d’Andrea - 1967

Medallist: Albert d’Andrea (American school)

Year: 1967

Material: bronze

Diameter: 76,5 mm

Weight: 192,0 grams

Obverse: bust, 3/4 from the right
Legend (right side): And. Vesalius

Reverse: Legend (around): ANDREAS VESALIUS * SYMBOL OF MEDICINE AND ART
Centre: TENTH ANNIVERSARY 1967 and a satyr upon the letters MD, between two semi-circular laurel branches
Edge: 5,3 - 7,8 mm; MEDALLIC ART C.D. N.Y. BRONZE, on multiple tiny concentric rings

Signed: Albert d’Andrea

Number of copies: not known

Notes: Albert Philip d’Andrea (1897-1982) was born in 1897 in Benevento (Italy), but he went to the United States in 1901. He was a student of the National Academy of Design School and of the Pratt Institute of Art. From 1918 to 1948 he was a faculty member of the City of New York, and Professor of Art, and Chairman of the Art Department from 1948 to 1968. From 1948-1967 he was also the Director of Planning and Design of New York, and also member of the Audubon Society of Artists, the Brooklyn School of Artists, and the National Sculpture Society. He is known for sculpture, painting, engraving and teaching. Work of him is exhibited in the Brooklyn Museum of Art. He died in 1982 in Brooklyn (New York). (Peter Hastings Falk, Editor, Who Was Who in American Art)
Medallist: Magdeleine Mocquot (Paris)

Year: 1969

Material: bronze

Diameter: 81.0 mm

Weight: 358 g

Obverse: portrait from the head to the middle with luxuriant beard, slightly from the right but almost full face, sitting in an arm-chair, holding a book with loose ribbons with the right hand and with his index finger inserted between the pages, and holding binoculars in his left.

Legend, on both sides of head: ANDRE VESALE / ANATOMISTE & MEDECIN / BRUXELLES 1514 ZANTE 1564
Reverse: two muscle men: left from the rear (eleventh muscle man), right from the front (first muscle man) in a landscape with trees and houses.

Legend around (italic): AND. VESALII DE CORPORIS HUMANI FABRICA.

Edge: 6.0-6.7 mm; YEAR [struck sign] BRONZE

Signed: M MOCQUOT. (reverse, below)

Number of copies: not known; variants. In April 2018 a seller in Malta offered via eBay a bronze copy for 287.34 euros and minted in 100 pieces only, with the no. 21/100, but having a diameter of 89 mm and weighing 300.60 grams.

Notes: According to Bouvy this medal was struck in Paris in 1969. (Bouvy 2001)

There is an original in the Deutschen Medizinhistorischen Museum in Ingolstadt (Germany), after which copies of the obverse were made in tin for Boehringer Ingelheim.

In 1970 a copy with the same dimension was struck by Monnaie de Paris with on the edge “PRIX DE LA TRUELLE D’HIPPOCRATE”, followed by the year.

In 1976 a thinner (4.6-5.7 mm) medal with diameter of 81.0 mm too appeared, weighing 317 g.

A bronze uniface of the reverse side exists, still thinner (4.4-5.5 mm) and a slightly smaller diameter of 80.3 mm, weighing only 237.5 appeared with on the edge “1981 [minter’s sign] BRONZE”.

The obverse is executed following an engraving by T. Ver Cruys after the painting by Titian, the reverse shows the muscle men no. 1 and 11 of the Fabrica. A limited number of 100 numbered copies has been reserved for the members of the Club de la médaille in plain copper and with a special patina and a light cloth which brings the diameter at 89 mm. (Julien 1971)

Magdeleine Mocquot, born on December 4th, 1910 in Paris, was the daughter of professor Pierre Mocquot. She had a young talent in drawing and as an artist painter. Supported by her grand-father Edouard Quénu she began
as a sculptor with Jean Camus (1877-1955) as her teacher. From 1930 on she had exhibitions in Paris in the Salon des Indépendants (scultures and engravings from 1947 to 1954), in the Salon d’Automne, Salon des Tuileries, Salon de Mai (engravings in 1954-1962), Salon des Artistes Français... For a statue she won a bronze medal of the Société des artistes français (1936) and a silver medal as a medaillist (1966). She attended the great exhibitions in Italy, Germany and Austria, such as the Exposition Internationale de la Médaille Actuelle (1967) and the Biennale internationale du Centro Dantesco di Ravenna (1975-1983). She studied drawing work by children and organised the exhibition “Dix ans d’art primitif” in Paris (1960); for this she cooperated with the ethnologist Jacques-A. Mauduit. She had a large number of pupils at the school Sainte-Marie (in Passy, Paris 16e, and in Neuilly) and in her studio in the quartier des Ternes in Paris as well. On April 29th, 1991 she died in Paris.
M.H.S. - 1969-1972

Medallist: The Franklin Mint for the Medical Heritage Society (Chicago)

Year: 1969-1972 (sold with a small 2 p. folder from 1970)

Material: silver (Sterling silver 925)

Diameter: 38,7 mm

Weight: 26,2 grams

Obverse: bust, from the right: Vesalius with corpse with dissected arm as on his portrait in the Fabrica.
Legend, above: THE FOUNDER OF MODERN ANATOMY; below: VESALIUS

Reverse: Left: Aesculape (staff with snake).

Edge: 2,7 mm; blank

Signed: FM (obverse, below)

Number of copies: 1386; this is no. 0440 (another found with no. 1358)

Notes: This is medal no. 6 in a series of 60 of the *The Medallic History of Medicine* issued in 1969-1972 by the Franklin Mint for the *Medical Heritage Society*, Chicago and exists also in bronze.

The mintage had 1931 sets in bronze and just 1386 sets in sterling silver. But due to the silver melts of 2010, possibly less than half of these sets still exist. (WorthPoint, 25/05.2011) The continued rapid rise in the value of silver has had the obvious consequence of increasing the melt values for silver coins.
Medallist: Abram Belskie (1907-1988), British-American School

Year: 1970

Material: bronze and silver

Diameter: bronze 44.3 mm; silver 44.3 mm

Weight: bronze: 65.3 grams; silver: 71.7 grams

Obverse: bust from the right, head almost full face;
legend around, above: ANDREAS * VESALIUS
   below: STRUCTURE OF THE HUMAN BODY
middle on both sides of head: 1514 1564 / ANDREAE VESALII / BRUXELLENSIS

Reverse: Vesalius’s portrait and a body with dissected arm as in *Fabrica*.
Legend, on the left: BASEL / 1543
Around: DE HUMANI CORPORIS FABRICA

Edge: bronze: 3.3 mm; MEDALLIC ART CO.N.Y.
silver: 3.3 mm; MEDALLIC ART CO.N.Y. / 999+ ??RE SILVER

Signed: © ABRAM BELSKIE 1970 PAM (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: bronze: not known; silver: not known, this is no. 501

Notes: The medals are struck in bronze (not numbered) and in silver (numbered) by
the Medallic Art Company (MACO) and are part of sets of 50 pieces of the
*Men of Medicine*.

Abram Belskie was born in London (England) as son of refugee
parents on March 24th, 1907. He grew up in Glasgow (Scotland) where he
was a gifted student of art. At the age of 22 he embarked for America. He
arrived in New York on November 11th, 1929 shortly after the beginning of the Great Depression. He worked together with John Gregory, a student of Paul Manship, whose style had by this transfer a great influence on Belskie. After having married Helen Atkinson they moved in 1931 to Closter (New Jersey) where he had the most fruitful phase of his career. He began to design and create medallic art in the early 1950s. Under the guidance of the renown physician Dr. Robert Latou Dickinson, Belskie started to create sculptural medical models which revolutionize medical teaching methods. So he became one of the leading medical illustrations in the country. He received the highest national awards as a medallic artist. He died on November 7th, 1988. Five years after his death the Belskie Museum of Art and Science opened its doors to the public. His work can be found in many musea. (Abram Belskie, wikipedia)
Medallist: Cabral Antunes (1916-1986), Portuguese School

Year: circa 1975

Material: bronze

Diameter: rectangular: 65,6 x 83,3 mm

Weight: 237,3 grams
Obverse: bust, more than 3/4 from the right, in a frame with two different leaves in the upper corners, and a climbing snake beneath the leaves; legend in a cartouche at the bottom: 1514 ANDRÉ VESÁLIO 1564

Reverse: Vesalius dissecting an arm. Three men are attending.
Legend on banderole: FOI O MAJS ILUSTRE ANATOMISTA DO SEC. XVI. NASCEU EM BRUXELAS E MOR- / REU NUMA MISERÁVEL CABANA NA COSTA ZACINTO. FOI O PRIMEIRO A PRA- / TICAR SISTEMÁTICAMENTE A DISSECAÇAD DO CORPO HUMANO; ATACOU AUDA- / CIOSAMENTE AS TRADICIONAIS OPINIÕES DE GALENO. / AUTOR DE CORPORIS HUMANI FABRICA LIBRIS SEPTEM.

Edge: varies 3,2 and 8,2 mm; 110 - 750

Signed: CABRAL ANTUNES (obverse, middle right)

Number of copies: 750

Notes: Cabral Antunes (1916-1986) was an engraver from Coïmbra (Portugal), where he has his statue, by Celestino Alves André. For his and for other countries he made innumerable medals, statues and busts.
Medallist: RR for The Franklin Mint

Year: 1975

Material: Sterling silver (925)

Diameter: 39 mm

Weight: 18 grams

Obverse: Vesalius dissecting a man on a wooden table; middle: the artery man; right and foreground: bust from the right, almost full face.
No legend

Reverse: Above: Naked man before a planetary system.
Legend: ANDREAS VESALIUS / 1514-1564 / RENOWNED FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN ANATOMY. / HIS BOOK
"ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE HUMAN BODY" ESTABLISHED THE MODERN METHOD IN THE STUDY OF ANATOMY.

Edge: 2,3 mm; STERLING; 4 stamps

Signed: Obverse: RR (on left shoulder)
Reverse: FM (below)

Number of copies: 1968

Notes: The bust must be apparently of Vesalius but shows a poor resemblance. No details are know of of the medallist.

This is one medal out of the series The Medallic History of Science containing 28 medals by The Franklin Mint, 1968 sets of which were made.
Medallist: R. Duboc, French School

Year: 1978

Material: bronze

Diameter: 80,5 mm

Weight: 61,2 grams

Obverse: bust, profile from the left; HISTOIRE DE LA MEDECINE VÉSALE
Reverse: blank

Edge: 1.9 mm, blank

Signed: R. DUBOC (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: 6000

Notes: A total of 6000 encyclopedias were produced. My copy of this encyclopedia is no. 305, a special numbering reserved for the subscribers of the Benelux and distributed by the Centre Bénélux d’Edition et de Diffusion (C.B.E.D.). In fact two sets of books are circulating: one with the medal worked in the front cover and signed with ‘R. Duboc’ and another with the medal pasted on the cover, without the signature of the artist and with a much lesser patina: plastic? (copy donated to Prof. em. Dr. Omer Steeno on October 17th, 2013)

This bust is very much alike the one by Jouvenel in 1846, but with another text (compare with Jouvenel). The medal is pasted in the front cover of volume 3 of ‘Histoire de la Médecine, de la Pharmacie, de l’art dentaire et de l’art vétérinaire’ (Poulet, Sournia, Martiny), and is part of a series of eight different medals, one for each volume of this encyclopedia on the history of medicine realised by Jacques Poulet, Jean-Charles Sournia and Marcel Martiny (Paris: Albin Michel, Laffont, Tchou, 1977) for the Société française d’éditions professionnelles, médicales et scientifiques. Each medal is made by Duboc, who also made: 1: Hippocrates, 2: Galen, 3: Vesalius, 4: Harvey, 5: Laennec, 6: Claude Bernard, 7: Fleming, 8: Marie Curie.

R. Duboc is a French sculptor who made also medals of René Laënnec, Sigmund Freud and Jacques-Yves Cousteau (1910-1997) and his Calypso.
Not signed copy
(collection of Prof. em. Dr. Omer Steeno)
Medallist: Magdeleine Mocquot

Year: 1978

‘Reverse’: image printed on the verso side of the paper sheet.

Diameter: 90 mm

Weight: /

Obverse: bust from the front, head from the right almost full face
Legend, on both sides of head: ANDRE VESALE / ANATOMISTE & MEDECIN / BRUXELLES 1514 ZANTE 1564

Reverse: two muscle men: left from the rear, right from the front in a landscape
Legend around: AND. VESALII DE CORPORIS . HUMANI FABRICA .

Edge: < 1 mm

Signed: M MOCQUOT. (reverse, below; difficult reading)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: This is a replica in thin tin of the original of 1969 in the Deutschen Medizinhistorischen Museum in Ingolstadt (Germany). It is part of the Sammelmappe für die Albego-Serie titled Medici in Nummis with 10 famous physicians by Boehringer Ingelheim, from 1978. The medal is accompanied with a short biographical text by J. H. Wolf.

The obverse is executed following an engraving by T. Ver Cruys after the painting by Titian. (Julien 1971)

Magdeleine Mocquot, born on December 4th, 1910 in Paris, was an engraver and an artist painter. She had exhibitions in the Salon des indépendants and at the occasion of the great exhibitions in Italy, Germany and Austria. She won the golden medal of the Société des artistes français and had a large number of pupils at the école Sainte-Marie de Neuilly and in her studio as well. On April 29th, 1991 she died in Paris. (wikipedia)
Cândido - 1981

Medallist: A. Cândido, Portuguese School

Year: 1981

Material: bronze

Diameter: rectangular: 64,3 x 84,0 mm

Weight: 208,2 grams

Obverse: bust, profile from the right, almost full face; on the left: VESÁLIO, on the right: 1514-1564
Reverse: eleventh muscle man, signed MEDAGLIS Lda, above: DE HUMANI CORPORIS FABRICA, below: VESÁLIO PAI DA ANATOMIA MODERNA

Edge: 4,0 mm; lower rim: “214-400", otherwise blank

Signed: ESC. A. CÂNDIDO / 1981 (obverse on the left, below bust)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: The full name of this Portuguese medallist should read Domingos Antonio Cândido. He also made a bronze commemorative medal at the occasion of 60 years Radio Marconi. No further information could be found.
Coëffin - c. 1981

**Medallist:** J.H. Coëffin

**Year:** 1981 (or later)

**Material:** bronze

**Diameter:** 67.9 mm

**Weight:** 142.2 grams

**Obverse:** bust, profile from the left; at left border DIRECTEUR DU MUSEE DE L’HOMME ET DE L’INSTITUT DE PALEONTOLOGIE HUMAINE / HENRI.V.VALLOIS

**Reverse:** above: second skeletal figure from Vesalius’s *Fabrica* representing a human skeleton leaning on an tomb and holding a skull. The tomb has an inscription in Greek: ‘Τ24/ F, “Know yourself”. Horizontally at different levels ANATOMIE / ANTHROPOLOGIE / PALEONTOLOGIE.
Edge: 3,0 - 4,3 mm; casting sign and ‘BRONZE’

Signed: J.H. COEFFIN (obverse, on the right) and J.C. (reverse, below)

Number of copies: not known


This must be a posthumous cast medal engraved by Josette Hébert-Coéffin (Rouen, 16.12.1906 - Paris, 3.6.1973), a French sculptor and engraver-medallist. She was pupil of Robert Wlérick, Charles Despiau and Maurice Gensoli and started her studies in Rouen where she obtained the first prize of Sculpture and Architecture in 1922. She was the first laureate of the foundation John-Simon-Guggenheim in New York. (see Wikipédia)
Medallist: Armindo Viseu, Portuguese School

Year: 1982

Material: bronze

Diameter: 69.8 mm
Weight: 160,0 grams

Obverse: bust, profile from the right, head almost full face, with dissected arm and half torso on the right; no legend

Reverse: Above around: VESÁLIO

Centre, above: flower branche; legend in middle:
NASCEU EM BRUXELAS FOI DOS / RAROS ANATOMISTAS QUE CONTRA / A OPOSIÇÃO DA IGREJA DISSECOU / O CORPO HUMANO PARA ESTUDO * FOI / AUTOR DE HUMANI CORPORIS FABRICA
Between 1514 and 1564: a snake around a staff and a burning oil lamp before an open book.

Edge: varies from 3,5 to 5,5 mm; 11/1000 partially superposed upon:
- GRAVARTE * LISBOA * PORTUGAL-

Signed: Armindo Viseu (obverse, on the left on the jacket)

Number of copies: 1000 (see notes)

Notes: This is copy no. 11 of 1000. But the internet auctioneer ebay presented in 2008 a copy (470/500), and other ones in 2009 (??/??). in November 2012 (408/500), in September 2013 (332/500), and in November 2014 (353/500). So the medal was obviously struck two times. In april 1985 500 copies of a small calendar cart (julho 1985 - junho 1986) have been issued by Poligrafica (Porto-Lisboa) with an inscription, recto, beneath the picture of the medal on a blue background: “6- VESÁLIO / NASCEU EM BRUXELAS. FOI DOS RAROS / ANATOMISTAS QUE CONTRA A OPONIÇÃO DA IGREJA DISSECOU O CORPO HUMANO PARA ESTUDO. FOI AUTOR DE HUMANI CORPORIS FABRICA / EDIÇÃO MEDALHÍSTICA DA / GRAVARTE - LISBOA”, verso: beneath calendar: “MEDALHAS / OFERTA ETERNA / COMO O BRONZE.”
Armindo Viseu is the pseudonym of Armindo Ribeiro (Viseu, 11.01.1916 - Viseu, 2004). He was a sculptor, painter, and engraver working at Viseu (Portugal). He was born in Carcavelos (district of Lisabon). He studied at the Escola Industrial e Comercial Dr. Azevedo Neves, now the Escola Secundaria Emidio Navarro. In the years ‘30 he emigrated to Brazil, where he studied under various masters. After 17 years in Alcobaça (Estremadura, Portugal) he returned to Viseu until his death in 2004. He created also several statues. (see Bouvy, 2001)
Jouvenel - 1983
(for the O.E.R.T.C., as 1841)

Medallist: Adolphe Christian Jouvenel (1798-1867)

Year: 1983 (as 1841)

Material: bronze, gilt

Diameter: 56.6 mm
Weight: 120,0 grams

Obverse: bust, naked head of king Leopold I (no laurel-wreath) in profile from the left; LEOPOLD PREMIER ROI DES BELGES.

Reverse: “ACADEMIE ROYALE DE MÉDECINE DE BELGIQUE” with seven partially overlaying medallions (except that of Vesalius and Rega), each 16 mm in diameter arranged in a circle: André Vésale 1514 (above; bust in profile from the left), and counter clockwise: Verheyen 1648, Van Helmont 1577, V. D. Spieghel 1578, R. Dodonée 1518, N. Jos. Rega 1690, Palfyn 1650. In the center “29 janvier 1983”
Around this medallions a ribbon with two laurel branches.

Edge: 5,5 mm; “EN RECONNAISSANCE DES ACTIVITES DE L’O.E.R.T.C.”

Signed: J. (reverse, below the two lowest medals)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: The Jouvenel medal of 1841 was here on January 29th, 1983, used again for the European Organization for Research on Treatment of Cancer (O.E.R.T.C.). (See Jouvenel-1841)
Huybrechts - 1985

Medallist: Paul Huybrechts (Belgium)

Year: 1985

Material: Bronze (silvered); right: copy in white soft plastic made by P. Huybrechts (on my request) after his only bronze one left.

Diameter: 69,9 mm

Weight: /
Obverse: Torso from Vesalius’s De Humani Corporis Fabrica (Basel: Oporinus, 1543), book V, chapter 22. Open male abdomen with liver, kidneys, the great vessels and the reproductive organs. * DE HUMANI CORPORIS FABRICA LIBER V * ANDREAE VESALII BRUXELLENSIS M.D.XLII *

Reverse: 50e CONGRES / DE LA / SOCIETE BELGE / D’UROLOGIE / 8-9 JUIN 1985

Edge: DON DE PARKE DAVIS SA FISCH FONSON

Signed: PAUL / HUYBRECHTS / 1985 (obverse, below)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: Silvered bronze medal at the occasion of the 50e Congrès de la Société belge d’urologie (8-9 June 1985).

Paul Huybrechts (from Leuven) is a belgian sculptor and artist of that country’s first ECU coins. As a medallist he is internationally celebrated. He produced the official medal for Europalia Mexico ‘93 and created the Sunken Treasures of Egypt in 2007. He is the engraver of 50 poststamps for the Belgian government and eight different coins in about twenty executions. As a medallist he executed about 1000 medals for all kind of occasions. He is also involved in engraving luxury watches and he is the engraver of the saxophone of the American President Bill Clinton. Together with others he formed a new art medal society in 1991 called “Promotion of the Art Medal”. Now he is living at the Swertmolenstraat 3, B-3020 Herent (near Leuven). (Reekmans, 2011)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Janis Strupulis (Latvia)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter</td>
<td>65,0 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>72,6 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obverse</td>
<td>bust, profile in 3/4 from the right; ANDREAS VESALIUS - 1514-1564.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse</td>
<td>blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edge</td>
<td>2,4 mm., blank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Signed: ‘[S] 86' (obverse)

Number of copies: not known: normally rather few, perhaps six

Notes: Janis Strupulis is born on January 28th, 1949 in Vecpiebalga (Latvia). He created since 1975 about 600 medals and coins of Latvia. He won several prizes and his works are collected at fifty-six musea in fifteen countries.
J.L. - 1990-2000

Medallist: J.L. (as on recto side)

Year: 1990-2000

Material: sterling silver (925/1000)

Diameter: 37.0 mm

Weight: 22.9 grams

Obverse: Bust in profile from the right, head almost full face; on the right a man with the vascular system; on the left dissection material with saw, scissors, two knives, hammer, and a ball of wire.

Legend (in bust): ANDREAS / VESALIUS / 1514-1564.
Reverse: Around: BELGIE BELGIQUE BELGIEN

Centre: crowned shield with lion and two banderoles with L’UNION FAIT LA FORCE and EENDRACHT MAAKT MACHT. Below a cross of honour on a decorated chain.

Edge: 2,6 mm, blank

Signed: JL (obverse, left middle); reverse: two struck signs (left and right)

Number of copies: 2500

Andreas Vesalius 1514-1564

Vesalius was één van de meest gerenommeerde geneesheer van de renaissance. Hij bracht een revolutie teweeg in de biologie en de praktische geneeskunde door zijn nauwkeurige beschrijving van de anatomie van het menselijk lichaam. Vesalius studeerde aan de universiteiten van Leuven (1528-1533) en 1536, Parijs (1533-16) en Padua (1537). Zijn belangrijkste werk is De humanae corporis fabrica libri septem (1543). De zeven boeken over de structuur van het menselijk lichaam. Door Keizer Karel V werd hij benoemd als hofarts in 1543 en door Philips II als arts aan het Spaanse Hof in 1556.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metaal</th>
<th>zilver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gehalte</td>
<td>925/1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gewicht</td>
<td>22,85 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter</td>
<td>37 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slagkwaliteit</td>
<td>proof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max. oplage</td>
<td>2.500 stuks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JJF Scitons
Muntpoort International
Branco - 1991

Medallist: Soares Branco, Portuguese School

Year: 1991

Material: bronze

Diameter: 78.7 mm

Weight: 205.3 grams

Obverse: A galleon under full sails and in the sun is approaching a wild stormy sea. Above: UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA PORTUGUESA / HOSPITAL DE ST MARTA / LISBOA 6-9 DE MARÇO DE 1991

Reverse: Insert in higher level, above on the right: image of a spectral Doppler scan, with on top: LÉANDRE POURCELOT 1963. Cadre left on a lower level: portrait
of Vesalius after that in his *Fabrica* with text ANDRE / VESALIUS / 1538. On equal level on the right below: DOPPLER CLUBE DE PORTUGAL. II REUNIÃO / DOPPLER CLUBE DE FRANÇA. XVI REUNIÃO / CLUBE INTERNACIONAL DE DOPPLER. III REUNIÃO / I CURSO INTENSIVO TEÓRICO E PRÁTICO / DE ACTUALIZAÇÃO EM ULTRASONOGRAFIA VASCULAR / PRESIDÊNCIA - LEANDRE POURCELOT / PATRICK SMITH RANGEL MESQUITA / OFERTA O LABORATÓRIOS VITÓRIA S.A.

Edge: 4.5 - 6.8 mm (two levels), blank

Signed: ESC SOARES BRANCO MED-151 - MEDAGLIS.Lda (reverse, below)

Number of copies: not known

Notes: Soares Branco, born in 1925 in Lisbon, is a sculptor working and teaching at Mafra & Lisbon studios (Portugal). He is involved in a variety of projects including portraits, large scale statues and reliefs, plaster casting, silicone rubber molding, medal making, plaster restoration.
Medallist: Giò Pomodoro (Italian School)

Year: 1992

Material: bronze

Diameter: ? mm

Weight: ? grams

Obverse: left ‘page’, above: ANDREAS VESALIUS / BRUXELLENISI / Anatomes
Restourator / Studium Patavinum / 1537 - 1543
right ‘page’: relief of back side of erect human torso

Reverse: left ‘page’: relief of erect human torso
right ‘page’, above: impression of a character set (to propagate scientific knowledge); below: a lancet for dissection and an engraving-needle
This *Osella* (medal) is formed as an open book (not round). (Università degli Studi di Padova, 2012; see http://www.issuu.com/universitypadova/docs/brochure_oselle_issuu) The *Osella* was a medal-coin of the Republic of Venice donated by the Doge to the members of the Great Council. In 1990 the University of Padua (that was the Studium of The Most Serene Republic of Venice) started a new tradition: every year the Chancellor (Rettore) gives to all professors a medal to commemorate figures or events of the history of science. For this reason the *Osella* is not commercially available. (mail Savioli)

Giorgio (Giò) Pomodoro (Orciano di Pesaro, November 17th, 1930 - Milano, December 21st, 2002) was an Italian sculptor, juweler and engraver, with international fame and the brother of Arnaldo, sculptor. He studied at the *Instituto per Geometri* in Pesaro, where his family moved in 1945. When his father died in 1954 he moved to Milan and from 1955 on he exposed his works at the gallery *Numero* in Firenze, the gallery *Montenapoleone* and the gallery *Naviglio* in Milan, the gallery *Cavallino* in Venice and the gallery *Obelisco* in Rome.

He worked for the journal *Il Gesto* and worked together with his older brother Arnaldo and with renowned artists such as Piero Dorazio, Gastone Novelli, Giulio Turcato, Tancredi Parmeggiani, Achille Pirelli and Lucio Fontana. He devoted himself to research on sculpting and worked with *Superfici in tensione, Archi e Spiralo*, etc. He loved to make large works in bronze and marble. He had exhibitions in the *XXVIII Biennale of Venice* (1956) in *documenta* 2 in Kassel in 1959 (Germany) and was in 1961 in the international gallery in Paris and in the gallery *Blu* in Milan, and a year later for the second time at the *XXXI Biennale of Venice*. In 1966 and 1967 he was
in the USA and exhibited in the galleries *Marlborough* and *Martha Jackson* in New York. In 1978 he had a thirth exhibition at the *Biennale of Venice* and a fourth time in 1984.

Apart from galleries and musea in Italy, some of his works are exhibited in Brussels (Museum van Elsene and Stichting Veranneman), Washington (Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden), New York (Collection Nelson Rockefeller) Mexino (Museum of Modern Art), Jedd (Collection of Modern Art), Wuppertal (Kunst und Museumverein), Wakefield (Yorkshire Sculpture Park). He won several international prizes. (Giò Pomodoro, *wikipedia*)
1993 - Huybrechts - C.H.U. Vésale

Medallist: Paul Huybrechts
Year: 1993
Material: bronze
Diameter: 71,0 mm
Weight: 122,4 grams
Obverse: Hospital Vésale behind some bushes and a tree.
Legend around: IOS - C.H.U. VESALE - UNITE A.V.C. 5 MARS 1993 -
Reverse: Centre: stylized figures of the brain with a star, a patient in a wheel-chair, one with a rolator and a runner.
Outer circle: three stylized laurel branches.
Legend in inner circle: UNITE DES ACCIDENTS VASCULAIRES CEREBRAUX *
C.H.U. VESALE *

Edge: 4,2 mm

Signed: P H (obverse, right of the tree)

Number of copies: only 20 were struck

Notes: The medal was ordered by Fibru-Fisch (personal communication of P.H.)
Medal struck at the occasion of the inauguration on March the 5th, 1993 of the C.V.A.-unit of the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire André Vésale of the Intercommunale des Éuvres sociales de la Région de Charleroi (I.O.S. - C.H.U. André Vésale) at Montigny-le-Tilleul (near Charleroi, Belgium).

A reduced version in silvered bronze was made as a key-ring (diameter 35 mm). (Buchet, 1994)
1993 - Rotary

Medallist: for Fibru-Fisch, Brussels

Year: 1993

Material: bronze

Diameter: 70,3 mm

Weight: 136,9 grams

Obverse: Rotary wheel, with inscription ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Reverse: Upside down with respect to obverse.
Centre: BRUXELLES / VESALE surrounded by two olive branches, joined together beneath with a ribbon.

Edge: 3,3 mm; stamped with FISCH FONSON

Signed: not signed

Number of copies: not known

Notes: Struck for Rotary international by the renowned workshop of Fibru-Fisch in Brussels, where they were active from 1853 till 1998 in the Edmond Rostandstraat 59, after taking over the activity from the house Fonson. They were one of the few who marked their production with a masterstamp on the rim of their medals. They realised a lot of decorations, militaria, trophies and awards. Now the name has changed into Fibru-Europe bvba, working still at the same address.

Three Belgian medaillists were known named Fisch: Antoine (1827-1892), the founder of the house, Joseph (1870-1931), and Paul (born in 1865, year of death unknown). No foreign medaillists with that name were found. As the first Rotary Service Club started its activities on February 23th in 1905, only Joseph or Paul Fisch may have been the engraver of the present medal.
Medallist: Paul Huybrechts, Belgium

Year: 1996

Material: bronze

Diameter: 225 mm.

Weight: 1470 grams


Reverse: blank

Edge: 5 mm, blank

Signed: ‘PAUL HUYBRECHTS ‘96' (obverse, below bust)

Number of copies: only 2 copies

Notes: The largest Vesalius medal ever seen. (See Huybrechts, 1987) Also in a reduced form in alpacca (white metal), 40 mm. diameter, in an illustrated blister.
Europa - 1997

Medallist: ?

Year: 1997

Material: silver (999/1000)

Diameter: 40,1 mm

Weight: 21,3 grams

Obverse: On the right: bust of Vesalius, profile from the left, almost full face; On the left: Five stars and Aesculapios with staff and snake; Legend below: Europa / Belgique

Reverse: Centre: ‘europa’ (in gothic type) between ‘1997’ and ten stars Outer ring: +KCSA/ EUROPE EUROPA EUROPE

Edge: 1,9 mm, corrugated
Signed: n.s.; reverse below: struck sign and "999"

Number of copies: not known - in my collection copies nos. A 0737, 1053 (no prefix) and B 5004.

Notes: With an Echtheits-Zertifikat "Die ersten EUROPA-Prägungen" and Echtheits-Zertifikat PP 1QL279 by GODE Bayerisches Münzkontor, with a short biography of Vesalius.

Another silver medal exists, in the same style but rather a coin, with "Euro" as a legend on the obverse and on the reverse the value of 10 euros.
Europa - 1997 - 10 euro

Medallist: [not known] for Europe

Year: 1997

Material: silver (999/1000), mint value of 10 euros

Diameter: 40,0 mm

Weight: 21,5 grams

Obverse: left: Five stars with increasing dimensions; Aesculapios with staff and snake; right: bust of Vesalius from the left; below: EURO (in gothic lettering)

Reverse: rim: BELGIUM * BELGIEN * BELGIQUE * EUROPA
centre: 10 EURO 1997 surrounded by 12 stars

Edge: 2,1 mm; corrugated

Signed: ?

Number of copies: not known (more than 5000)

Notes: This is not a medal but a silver coin, with a value of 10 euros.
Medallist: Paul Huybrechts, Belgian School

Year: 2014

Material: bronze

Diameter: 60,0 mm

Weight: 74,90 grams

Obverse: bust, from the right

Legend: ANDREAS VESALIVS LOVANIENSIS VNIIVERSITATIS ALVMNVS
Below bust: MDXIV-MMXIV
Reverse: Blank, for the name of the deserving Alumnus, to which the medal is presented.

Edge: 3.0 mm, blank

Signed: PAUL HUYBRECHTS (left of bust)

Number of copies: only 100

Notes: The medal was an idea of mine, worked out by Dr. Luc Missotten, professor emeritus of ophthalmology of the University of Leuven, and treasurer of Alfagen, the Louvanian society of the Alumni of the Department of Medicine of that University. It was struck at the commemoration of the 500 anniversary of Vesalius’s birth in Brussels and the 450 anniversary of his death at Zakynthos. The resemblance with the only known ‘official’ portrait of the Fabrica is almost perfect.

(See Huybrechts, 1987)
Huybrechts - 2014 (2)

Medallist: Paul Huybrechts, Belgian School

Year: 2014

Material: bronze

Diameter: 155.0 mm

Weight: 1216 grams

Obverse: bust, from the right

Legend, rim above: ALVMNVS VNIV.

Rim, below: - ANDREAS VESALVS-
Centre, left: MDXIV; right: MMXIV

Reverse: Blank (uniface)

Edge: 6.6 mm; blank

Signed: PAUL HUYBRECHTS (left of bust)

Number of copies: only 6 were moulded

Notes: This medaillon was casted at the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Vesalius’s birth in Brussels and the 450th anniversary of his death at Zakynthos. It is an almost perfect copy of the lesser medal (above). Only 6 copies were made at the occasion of the inauguration of the restaurated Theatrum anatomicum (Minderbroederstraat, Leuven) on May 15th, 2015, when a copy was gifted by Prof. em. Dr. Luc Missotten, thesaurier of the Alumni van de Faculteit Geneeskunde (Alfagen), to Rik Torfs, rector of the University of Leuven (together with copy no. 1 of the bibliophilic edition of my own translation of book I of Vesalius’s Fabrica 1543). One copy is with the artist (author’s proof), one is kept by Alfagen, one I have in my possession, whereas the two orders were still unsold on July, 2014. (See Huybrechts, 1987) The medaillon goes with a stand in two pieces of imitation wood.
Portrait of Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564) by Paul Huybrechts.
Gild artificial mould, measuring ca. 13 x 8,6 cm, made as an artist’s proof (épreuve d’artiste) for the medal and medaillon of 2014.
Unique piece
Medallist: Luc Luycx

Year: 2014

Material: gold

Diameter: 29 mm

Weight: 15.55 grams

Obverse: Bust, 3/4 from the right. At the right a reproduction of a dissected corpse
Legend, around: ANDREAS VESALIVS 1514 - 1564 - 2014

Reverse: Map of the European Union, with four horizontal lines crossing four vertical ones.
Legend, centre: 100 / EURO / 2014
Legend, around: BELGIQUE - BELGIE - BELGIEN qp and 12 stars LL

Edge: 2 mm; blank
Signed: On reverse below the stars: LL.

Number of copies: 500

Notes: On February 3th, 2014, the decision was made to struck this golden (999 pro mille) medal at the 500th anniversary of Andreas Vesalius birth in Brussels (Belgium). (Federale Overheidsdienst Financiën KB of 3 feb. 2014, Belgisch Staatsblad - Moniteur Belge, 29.04.2014) Only 500 copies. Offered by Peter Eyckmans of Huis Albert bvba, Kapellen (Belgium) as EU-BEL-11240 for 775 euro’s. With signed certificate. This is copy no. 168.

Luc Luycx was born in Aalst (Belgium) in April 11th, 1958. As a computer engineer, living in Dendermonde (Belgium), he worked for the Royal Belgian Mint since ca. 1980. He designed the common side of the euro coins in 1996. His signature on all euro coins is visible as two overlapping L’s. On the 2-euro coins it is located under the ‘O’ of the word ‘EURO’ on the side with the coin value. The choice for his project was announced by the European Council at Amsterdam on June 13th, 1997. He also engraved the 2 euro coin at the occasion of of the Belgo-Luxemburg economic union, the very first of which both the obverse and the reverse were engraved by the same artist. He also engraved other works, such as the belgian commemorative coin of 2 euros of 2006 represention the Atomium at the occasion of its re-opening.
Medallist: Pascale Pollier

Year: 2018

Material: bronze resin

Diameter: 70.6 mm

Weight: 67.40 grams

Obverse: Head of Vesalius from the left in 3/4. The left side gives his skull with some muscles and an eye; the right side in intact.

Reverse: Legend, centre: AB AMICIS / IN INSULA ZAKINTHOS / AD D. MARIA
Legend, around and above: VESALII CONTINUUM 2017
Around, below: PASCALE POLLIER & THEO DIRIX
Pascale Pollier was together with Theo Dirix (then Belgian consul in Athens) the co-organiser of the international commemorative conference *Vesalius Continuum* at Zakynthos (Greece) in September 2014. She was the artist of the new Vesalius monument, together with Richard Neave, inaugurated at that occasion. In the mean time it has been moved to the beach road near the library.

This artisanal medal, and the monument as well, are inspired by the search they made to recover Vesalius’s remains on the island, and their intention, in case of success, to make a reconstruction of his face by R. Neave. Despite serious efforts however, by many interested searchers, up to this date (May 2018) no one succeeded.
Vesalius Exhibition (Leuven 2014-2015)

During the Vesalius exhibition *Vesalius. Het lichaam in beeld* [Vesalius. The Body in Focus] at the Museum M in Leuven, from October 2nd, 2014 to January 18th, 2015, an important selection of the previous medals was exhibited at the Anatomical Theatre (Minderbroederstraat, 50, Leuven), thanks to the initiative of Prof. em. Dr. Omer Steeno, together with his collection of the known Vesalius stamps.

That same exhibition had also one of the most recently discovered copies of the Hamman-painting (*) and of a bronze statuette of E. Picault with a kneeling muscle man (both from Alfagen) and a hitherto unknown oil painting of Vesalius’s heath (O. Steeno).

The exhibition showed also a video with an impressive view of his life and on the importance of his works, and on another video an impression of Vesalius’s walk through to streets of Leuven after taking away the skeleton at the gallows outside the side gates. A wall filling map of the city highlighted the important spots during Vesalius’s stay. At the centre of the theatre, before the wooden seats, was an old dissection table in white porcelain, upon which vistors could turn over the leaves of a fac simile of the *Fabrica 1543*, of my Dutch translation of the first book, and of a reprint of the *Paraphrasis* (Leuven: R. Rescius, 1537). All this was realised thanks to Prof. em. Luc Missotten, treasurer of Alfagen.
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Description and illustrations of the two medallions by Merlen (Spielmann, 1, 2), each one in the collection of Mme. Soehne, the only ones known.

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A. de WITTE, Ed. LALOIRE. Médailles historiques de Belgique, Tome II, Règne de Léopold II, Bruxelles, Goemaere, 1891-1908, 259 pp., ill.

For medals on Vesalius see pp. 162-163 and pl. XL, n° 100.

Abbreviations