

The Hand in Art: The Hand on the Maltese 2-Euro Coin

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On May 1, 2004, Malta joined the European Union and became a member of the Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union. On January 1, 2008 Malta adopted the euro as its official currency.¹

The 2-euro coins have been used in the circulations of European countries since 2002. The coin has a common reverse side that demonstrates the denomination and the map of Europe. The obverse side of the coin, which is the country-specific national side, varies among the different countries.² Each European country may issue two 2-euro commemorative coins per year with a diverse national side to commemorate its national events.³

Malta began to mint a series of five 2-euro coins from 2011 to commemorate the milestones in its constitutional history. The theme of the first coin issued in 2011 is the “First Elected Representatives—1849” (Fig. 1).⁴ In 1849, Great Britain granted Malta a constitution creating a Council of Government authorized to declare “law for peace, order and good government.” In that year, Malta experienced its first process of democratic elections for political representation.²



FIGURE 1: The obverse side of the Maltese 2-euro coin. A hand votes. Legend: Malta—First elected representatives 1849. Coin type: commemorative. Mint date: 2011. Material: bi-metallic. Outer segment: copper-nickel; center: nickel-brass. Weight: 8.5 g. Diameter: 25.75 mm. Thickness: 2.2 mm. Denomination: 2 Euro.

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