

Royal Coin for Timothy of Arindale and Gabrielle van Nijenrode 45th King and Queen of Æthelmearc

In medieval Europe, as today, bears were seen as creatures of immense strength and aggression. There were to be feared by travelers and warriors alike. Thus, one way of emphasizing the holy might of a saint was with legends showing the submission of a bear to the saint's will. Examples include St. Corbinian in Germany, and St. Gallen in Switzerland. These legends have in common a bear preparing to strike down the saint, only to be awed by his holy presence and instead befriending the saint.

In the case of St. Gallen (sometimes, St. Gall or St. Galleus, 550AD – 646AD), the saint was camped by a fire in the woods when a bear attacked. The saint scolded the bear for its bad behavior. The bear was so in awe of the holy man that instead of killing him, he returned to the forest to collect firewood for the saint. From that time forth, the saint was always accompanied by his friend the bear, who continued to carry heavy loads and perform feats of strength.

The city of St. Gall, Switzerland, commemorates its namesake saint on many of its coins. The city symbol is a rampant collared bear, which often appears alone on the obverse of a coin. But sometimes, the saint is also shown, either scolding the bear or in companionship. When both figures are on the coin, the bear is depicted carry a thick branch of wood on its shoulders.



For Timothy and Gabrielle's Royal coin, we modified the tale slightly, with Her Majesty in the role of the saint, having tamed the bear to perform feats of strength for her.



The bear is depicted with a Crown, and Her Majesty is depicted with an "Æthel-halo".
On the reverse, several of Their Majesties' former reigns are listed.