

Object number: 00004508

**Title:** Royal Society Captain



Object number: 00039565

Title: Royal Society Cook



Cook commemorative

medal Date: 1784

Primary Maker: Lewis Pingo

Medium: Silver Name: Medal

History: Following the death of Captain James Cook at Tahiti in 1779 the Royal Society under the Presidency of Cook's **ENDEAVOUR** companion Sir Joseph Banks resolved to strike a commemorative medal in Cook's honour. Banks was instrumental in the commissioning and production of the medal. Not having sufficient funding themselves the Royal Society sought the finances from public subscriptions. British engraver Lewis Pingo was granted the commission to design the work after competing with a number of other entrants. He received a payment of £84 for the two dies he created. The medal celebrated Cook's achievements in navigation and journeys through the depiction of the female figure Fortune holding a rudder over the globe. Only 20 medals were struck in gold, around 320 in silver and 574 in bronze. They were then sold to the subscribers of the Royal Society and a small number were also given to a few select prominent people. Elizabeth Cook was one of those gifted with a

limited edition and model



commemorative megai

**Date:** 1784

Primary Maker: Lewis Pingo

Medium: Bronze Name: Medal

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in honour of her late husband. The medal's obverse is inscribed with: IAC COOK OCEANI INVESTIGATOR ACERRIMUS (The Most Intrepid Investigator of the Seas) The reverse: NIL INTENTATUM NOSTRI LIQUERE (Our Men Have Left Nothing Unattempted).

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