

CYPRUS



1901 - 3 PIASTRES - REVERSE

CYPRUS, BRITISH ADMINISTRATION
LONDON MINT

3 PIASTRES 18MM .925 FINE 1.88 GRAMS

1901 300,000

^OV: Crowned and veiled bust of Victoria, facing left / DES. under bust VICTORIA • DEI • GRA • BRITT • REG • FID • DEF • IND • IMP • (VICTORIA DEI GRATIA BRITANNIAR REGINA FIDEI DEFENSOR INDIAE IMPERATRIX = Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith, Empress of India) around.

^RV: Crown / 1901 divided by large 3 within circle of pearls, CYPRUS above ❖ left and ❖ right, PIASTRES below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: DES. = George William DeSaullés

REFERENCE: Y-4, KM-4

POPULATION: Cyprus - 1901 = 237,022 including 51,309 Mohammedans, with capital Nicosia with 14,752 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: All the Cyprus coinage in this series were minted at the Royal Mint, London. Note the small mintages which have a relationship to the small population of this British Colony. The monetary unit of Cyprus; 1 piastre = 40 para.



1901 - 3 PIASTRES - OBVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Cyprus, an island lying on the south of Asia Minor, and the most eastern in the Mediterranean. Its greatest length is 145 miles, maximum breadth about 60 miles; area, 3678 square miles. The chief features of its surface are two mountain ranges, between them is the bare and mostly uncultivated plain called Massaria. There is a deficiency of water. The climate is in general healthy. The mountains are covered with forests of excellent timber (now under government supervision), and the island is esteemed one of the richest and most fertile in the Levant. Agriculture, however, is in a very backward state. Cyprus was conquered by the Turks in 1571 and annexed to the Ottoman Empire. In 1878 it was ceded to Britain (In 1191 Richard of England had conquered it when engaged in the Third Crusade) By the Convention of Constantinople concluded between England and Turkey. The island has become much more prosperous under British administration, and roads, harbour-works, etc., have been constructed, trees planted, and schools opened...population 1891 - 209,286 of whom three-fourths belong to the Greek Church. *Cabinet Cyclopaedia, 1895.*

FOOTNOTE: By a secret treaty between the British Government and the Ottoman Empire, June 4, 1878, the former promised to defend Asiatic Turkey against further aggression by Russia, in return for the permission to occupy Cyprus. Since 1878 Cyprus was administered by Great Britain on behalf of the Ottoman Empire. The local government consisted of a High Commissioner, who was also Commander-in-chief, with a council of 18 members. Six members are non-elective and three are chosen by the Mohammedan residents. Cyprus pays an annual subsidy to Turkey of £ 92,746 (\$455,472). Great Britain maintains a garrison of 502 officers and troops (1905). When Turkey entered World War I with Germany, Cyprus was annexed and on November 5, 1914 became a British Crown Colony.



1921 - 4 1/2 PIASTRES - REVERSE

CYPRUS, BRITISH ADMINISTRATION
LONDON MINT

4 1/2 PIASTRES 19.5 MM .925 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1921 600,000

▲OV: Crowned head of George V, facing left
GEORGE V DEI GRATIA REX ET IND:IMP: (GEORGE V DEI GRATIA
REX ET INDIAE IMPERATOR = George V by the grace of God,
King and Emperor of India) around / B.M. on truncation.

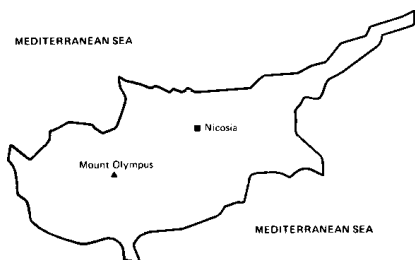
▲RV: A crowned shield with lion rampant, scroll
below crown with inscription: CYPRUS, shield divided date 19
and 21, within part circle of pearls / FOUR & A HALF PIASTRES
around below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: (obv) Edward Bertram MacKenna
(rev) George William DeSaulles

REFERENCE: Y-18, KM-15



The island of Cyprus



1938 - 4 1/2 PIASTRES - REVERSE

CYPRUS, BRITISH ADMINISTRATION
LONDON MINT

4 1/2 PIASTRES 19MM .925 FINE 2.82 GRAMS

1938 192,000

▲OV: Crowned head of George VI, facing left
GEORGE VI DEI GRA • REX ET IND • IMP • = (GEORGE VI DEI
GRATIA REX ET INDIAE IMPERATOR = George VI by the grace of
God, King and Emperor of India) around.

▲RV: Two lions passant guardant / K.G below,
• CYPRUS • above, FOUR AND A HALF PIASTRES • 1938 facing
out around below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: (obv) Percy Metcalfe
(rev) K.G = Kruger Gray

REFERENCE: Y-28, KM-24

FOOTNOTE: Cyprus is an island, third largest in the Mediterranean
Sea, 40 miles south of Asia Minor and 60 miles west of Syria, and
240 miles north of Egypt. It has been administered by England
since 1878, under an agreement with Turkey; on November 5,
1914, it was annexed. Fourth-fifths of the inhabitants are Greek
Christians, and nearly all the remainder are Turkish Mohammed-
ans. More than half are illiterate. Population of Cyprus - census of
1931- 347,959.

