

*The Premier Years of
Margaret Thatcher*



Preface

In addition to the mass of literature relative to and inspired by famous lives, there frequently grows a considerable field of related art - especially if the characters are strong and/or controversial. This 'art' may include painted portraits and sculptures through to a collection of memorabilia and commemorative items. Their style may be serious, extravagant, humorous or vulgar.

Many of the most famous politicians experience peaks in their career; great moments or historical events in which they played a major part. Souvenir manufacturers love such occasions as their topical interest affords them the opportunity to produce a range of commemorative memorabilia, whether they be elaborately designed loving cups or goblets, humble beakers or jugs, or the cheap souvenir of the moment.

There have been many peaks in Mrs Thatcher's parliamentary career, particularly the three successive general election victories which have led to her holding office for over 10 years.

The decade of Margaret Thatcher at the helm of British government has produced a large and extremely interesting range of collectables - some now very difficult to trace, but nevertheless still avidly sought after by many collectors.

The determined leadership by Mrs Thatcher during the Falklands campaign (and its successful conclusion) was the inspiration for a very fine series of commemorative memorabilia - some of which are of the highest quality and are shown in this book.

Many of Mrs Thatcher's contemporaries in Parliament, both colleagues and opponents, come under the spotlight from time to time and are themselves occasionally featured on souvenirs. As they share their political lives with Mrs Thatcher, some of the souvenirs showing these MPs are illustrated in the following chapters.

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