
The MCA Advisory

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Coming Events

May 23-25, 2006 Betts Medals II of John J. Ford, Jr.

August 17, 2006 MCA meeting at ANA @ 3:00 p.m.

October 17-19, 2006 Indian Peace Medals I of John J. Ford, Jr.

Stack's auction schedule is published on their website www.stacks.com since last minute changes to the Ford schedule have been known to

occur unexpectedly.

From the Editor

Ye editor has been away on vacation; some articles have not been thoroughly proofed, my apologies in advance.

How about some articles on U.S. Mint medals?

A Review by Robert B. Pickering, Ph.D. Indian Peace Medals and Related Items: Collecting the Symbols of Peace and Friendship, by Rita Laws, Ph.D.

Second edition. 205 pages. Printed by Online Only, Harrah, OK.

The strength of Rita Laws' contribution is her attempt to put peace medals in a broader context of politics and world events as well as to recognize that medals have had a great impact on other forms of medals and popular culture items. Particularly significant are her efforts to classify items of the "Indian Peace Medal family" into seven types. For the peace medal purist, this approach may be anathema. However, for those who recognize that even peace medals are products of their time and that they have significant iconographic and political antecedents as well as a proliferation of medallic successors, Laws' approach is very reasonable. The requirements and objectives by which Laws classifies members of the Peace Medal family may well be debated. However, they provide a good starting point for a discussion that could only enrich our understanding.

Laws relates European peace medals used in America to medals used in other countries by colonial powers, especially England. Her discussion of

African Chiefs' medals is enlightening. Her comparison of the iconography of the Indian Wars medals to Civil War and WWI medals is thought provoking. Throughout her volume, there are gems of insight and comparison.

Dr. Laws also addresses collecting and conservation issues relating to medals. For new collectors, her coverage of use of the Internet to collect should be valuable.

While I applaud Rita Laws for her innovative look at medals, there are some flaws that should be corrected in future editions. First, there are numerous typos. Although individually small, these errors detract from the volume's readability and credibility. Second, many medals are described but not all of them are pictured. For example, she provides an intriguing description of the E.K. Elder Indian Peace Medal of 1911 as a privately minted medal but provides no picture.

Even with the flaws, I recommend this volume to those who are broadly interested in peace medals. The seasoned researcher may find this volume a little short on detail and occasionally too broad in its conclusions. However, as an introduction and as a resource, it is a very worthy effort.

Rita Laws has taken a much needed and fresh look at peace medals and associated items. She has been a recent member of the CCAC and is a contributor to Coin World among her other accomplishments. The second edition is a paperback; spiral bound volume limited to 350 signed and numbered copies. Finding the book over the Internet or even at the web address on the book's title page was a problem. Finally, I called Erik Heikkinen, Curator

at the ANA Museum, who connected me with ANA's museum store where the book is sold.

John J. Ford, Jr. Sale of Spanish Proclamation Medals

(by John Kraljevich)

Though it numbered only 35 pieces, the recent sale of the John J. Ford Jr. collection of Spanish proclamation medals was one of the most significant to sell in the U.S. in decades. The sale in which it was included was a motley assortment of French coins that have gained acceptance as U.S. colonial coins, French coins that are otherwise associated with America through either a personality (John Law) or a shipwreck (*Le Chameau*), and various sorts of medals: Franco-American jetons seemingly associated with the French coins, the John Law pieces that seem relevant to some of the coins noted above, the disconnected Admiral Vernon subseries, and the so-called "early Betts" pieces, those from the first century and a half of American exploration and conquest.

With the next Ford Betts sale probably following a more natural narrative storyline – the war with France in North America, the war with the British in North America, and the commercial fallout from each of those two actions between 1750 and 1790 or thereabouts – a decision apparently had to be made on where to stick a widely collected subseries that spans much of the 18th century and is aggressively collected in Europe, the U.S., and Latin America. Presumably, the scheduling of the New York International Coin Show

(and the presence in New York of many of the major dealers and collectors of this sort of material) had some impact on placing the Proclamations in this magnificent catchall sale.

Betts places the Proclamation medals of Felipe V (1701) and Luis I (1724) in the midst of other chapters, but the great variety of Proclamations issued to celebrate Ferdinand VI (1746) and Carlos III (1760) allowed Betts to assign each of those two monarchs their own chapter in the original Betts work. Between those two rulers, nearly 100 different numbers are assigned. Ford's collection, while by no means complete, overshadows most other U.S. offerings of historical medals, including LaRiviere, who did not particularly pursue Proclamations and owned only two fairly common varieties of Carlos III. Most recent sales of important Proclamations have taken place within the Latin American numismatic collector community rather than as part of the Betts series; that Ford gathered in a good number of medals from this "outside" specialty is a testament to his curiosity and interest. Of course, it can also be pointed out that earlier collectors have some claim on putting together the cabinet; F.C.C. Boyd, for example, built the Luis I Proclamation collection almost as complete as it was sold in 2006.

The first two lots of Ford Proclamations were an interesting study in comparing an early generation specimen and cruder aftercast of the same design. The first piece, called "a fine cast" of Betts-89, the 1701 Mexico Proclamation of Felipe V, sold for \$1,800 to a well-known Latin American collector, while the "fairly crude aftercast" brought \$800 to an equally

well-known American dealer. Side by side, they made quite a study set.

The five Luis I Proclamations sold represented four different Betts numbers and only three different Proclamations: those of Mexico City, Panama City, and Zacatecas. The Mexico City pieces all bore essentially the same designs, though Betts-151 does not have legends around the entire obverse circumference as did the two specimens of Betts-150. The two Betts-150 medals hammered at \$800 and \$950, while the somewhat cruder Betts-151 sold for a high bid of only \$550. The Panama City piece was not only visually very interesting, but had never been seen before by a lot of us at the sale. Its rarity was recognized and it sold for an impressive \$15,000. The charmingly crude Zacatecas piece, showing a left-facing Luis I, sold for \$1800. Thus far, every one of the Proclamations had sold to one of the two bidders mentioned in the last paragraph.

The Ferdinand VI pieces offered enough variety that many were not terribly rare and could be purchased by new enthusiasts. The first four pieces were all from Guatemala and bore the same designs. These are not medals for those who love high art – indeed, all four were holed and showed finger paint-quality execution. But as interesting medals recognizing a new king in a town that would be destroyed by a calamitous earthquake within a generation, they are very desirable items! The largest at 33.4 mm, brought \$1,600, while the second largest piece (23.0 mm) sold for \$900. The second two, measuring 16.3 mm and 17.5 mm and both numbered as Betts-347, sold for \$200 and \$500. An interesting and rare Santiago de Cuba Proclamation followed, sold for \$6,000.

Two varieties of the Vera Cruz Proclamation medal of Ferdinand VI (Betts 371 and 372) sold for \$3,500 and \$1,400 to the same bidder. The less scarce medals issued by the Academy of San Marcos in Lima, Peru brought \$950, \$800, and \$600. The two varieties represented are numbered by Betts as 398 and 399; both are desirable to collectors of academic medals in addition to Proclamation enthusiasts.

The Carlos III medals included several familiar types, that do turn up in auctions specializing in Latin American material. The large (38.7 mm) Proclamation medal from Chile was especially handsome and well preserved; it brought \$3,750. The large Guatemala piece, Betts-459, sold for \$2,000, more than a similar piece struck for Ferdinand VI but also unholed. While some pieces sold for \$200-400, allowing anyone who has an interest in the history of these pieces to easily acquire a specimen, the real highlight was the gold Proclamation of Carlos III from Lima. While the silver Proclamation of the same type is perhaps one of the most available of all Carlos III Proclamation medals, the gold piece is an extreme rarity, hinted at by the terse “rare” following the surface description of the medal. Opening at \$3,500, the medal was chased up to \$17,000 by those in the room, surpassing the Luis I Panama City medal as the most valuable of Ford’s Proclamations. A few more common pieces sold next, including several featuring G.A. Gil’s exceptional workmanship, and a crude but cute little Proclamation medal of Hispaniola brought \$7,000 on a \$500 open.

The real fireworks were yet to come. Following some non-Betts Spanish medals with clear American connections,

three of the most famous and rare of all Spanish Proclamation medals were offered in consecutive order. Long whispered about by U.S. colonial coin enthusiasts, the Florida Proclamations have rarely been offered at auction. The complicated nature of their production (i.e. casting and/or unfamiliar Spanish colonial die work) has made other offerings fall under a shadow, and more mainstream American collectors have often shied away from spending exorbitant sums on the pieces since so little was previously known of them. Combining John Ford's and Mike Hodder's research on them, the Ford sale published more than was ever previously promulgated in one place about these rare issues.

The first of the Florida Proclamations was struck in 1760 to recognize Carlos III. Listed by Betts, Herrera and Grove, in addition to Breen's work on U.S. coins (he supposed it circulated as a half dollar, and thus was a coin), no example had been offered since 1925. The piece was catalogued as the only struck specimen known, a fact that may have assuaged several advanced American specialists who worry about detecting counterfeits of cast material. The piece featured an interesting 7-tipped repeating leaf edge. It opened at \$22,000 and quickly moved to a hammer price of \$200,000 – more than most present expected by a long shot.

The second piece was a cast of the same type, though not an exact duplication of the designs. Its authenticity did not concern me after studying it for a long time and I prepared a bid for a client. It opened at a mere \$2,500 – suggesting that perhaps others

were worried about a cast not being worth much. It sold for \$70,000 to the same bidder as the first piece, a strong price but within the realm of reason to be sure. After all, when was the last time you got to buy one?

The final piece was the most famous of the three: a struck specimen of the legendary Vicente Manuel de Zepedes Carlos IV Proclamation for Florida. Other specimens have been on the market in memory, but this appears to be the only struck specimen known. It was beautiful, well made, and showed an unusual parallel diagonal edge device. It opened at \$17,500 but eventually sold for \$200,000 – the same as the first lot – to the same bidder who bought the other two. The Florida set would stay intact, and new records would be set in the meantime.

Other Spanish medals followed, noting the earliest Spanish attempts to colonize the New World and take credit for their “discoveries.” Prices were generally in the mid to high four figures, similar to the prices for the LaRiviere specimens of the single digit Betts numbers, and most or all seemed to sell to the book. Perhaps another great collection is quietly being formed!

What Is It?

(by D. Wayne Johnson)

Scott Goodman, who acquired the rights in April this year to the Goetz catalog compiled by Gunther Kienast, purchased the above Goetz item in Germany recently. Scott is earnestly working on updating the Goetz catalog, plans to put it on the Internet and hopefully publish a printed version as well. He is to be congratulated for

undertaking this extremely beneficial project for medal collectors on both sides of the Atlantic. Every medal collector, it seems, has at least one Goetz piece. We are all looking forward to Scott's final work.

After he received the piece pictured above he wondered how it was used in the preparation of Goetz satirical piece, Kienast 483 -- the lettering reads backwards! He emailed me an inquiry and I asked him for further information.

The description in the auction catalog was not much help, he relates. Here is what it said (and the English translation):

Großes Eisenmodell
(spiegelbildliche Patritze) für Die
Rückseite der Medaille von 1933,
DEUTSCHLAND ERWACHE, Zu
Kienast 483, 115mm. Sehr selten.

Large iron model (laterally reversed hub) for the reverse of the medal of 1933 "DEUTSCHLAND ERWACHE." Belonging to Kienast 483, diameter 115mm. Very Rare.

I had asked about the composition and size. He carefully tested, measured the piece and replied:

"The piece is Cast iron, 115mm in diameter overall and, 110mm from medal rim, the same size as Goetz's cast examples of K-483. It is 3mm thick. The edge has been machine beveled slightly towards the design face."

Here is what I emailed back to Scott:

"Technically this piece is a **PROOF WITH RETROGRADE LETTERING**. It is not a piece from any step of any medal making process. It was made as a "proof" (the original meaning of proof, not the proof surface in modern proof coins) to examine the piece for its visual elements,

the relationship of all design elements and the lettering and how they relate together for a total medallion creation. As such it is just as effective to have this flipped image as a correct one.

You must realize that a positive can be made from a negative, or a negative can be made from a positive -- at any stage of a relief creation (sketches, models, patterns, dies). Artists can add relief or carve relief in either positive or negative, whatever they are comfortable with. But they like to examine the total image, irrespective of the polarity of the image. These are "proofs" before the die goes on the press [or the item is cast, as in this case].

This piece is a result of **PROVING**, examining the image before the die is cut, or the final mold is made for casting. It was made for the artist only (or perhaps he would show it to the editor at the medallion making firm) to attest to the competency of the design and the quality of the modeling."

I believe this piece would not be considered a "TRIAL." Trial pieces are only made when the dies are on the press. All previous stages of testing the dies -- called **PROVING** -- are made by the artist or engraver and called such terms as **HOT TIN IMPRESSION, LEAD PROOFS** or such. Thus I call this piece a "proof" from the final stage of modelling. In final comment, it is the mark of a very competent medallion artist, as was Karl Goetz!

Scott also asked about "negative casts."

Here was my answer: In regard to negative casts. Typically a model would be created from a sketch in soft material, clay, plastilene or wax. Typically this would be positive. From this the artist

would make a plaster cast -- he would make a negative cast from the positive model (like the many negative casts you have).

If Goetz created this for a medal-making firm, he would make a second cast, this time a positive from a negative. (Casting changes polarity every time.) He would keep the negative plaster cast in case something happened to the positive plaster cast sent elsewhere. If that positive was lost or broken he easily could make another from the mold he had on hand. He would keep the negative plaster cast as medallic insurance (that he would not have to go to all the trouble to model the entire design again). It is like the carbon copy of the manuscript sent to a publisher before the days of writing on a computer.



Hall of Fame at New York University Medal Series

(By D. Wayne Johnson, Copyright © 2004.)

One of the most popular portrait series of medals in the world, the Hall of Fame for Great Americans Series honors the most famous Americans chosen by highly selected judging committees and sponsored by New York University. The first election was held in 1900 -- when a building was erected to house the Hall and an ongoing collection of statues.

Elections were held every five years thereafter.

Bronze statues of the honorees were installed within outside niches along the open colonnade at the University Heights campus. It partly surrounds a Pantheon style building created by architect Stamford White that has served as a library and auditorium over its first century.

The Medals. In 1962 a coalition was formed to sponsor and market fine art medals to honor these same famous Americans. The coalition consisted of New York University, the owner of the Hall of Fame; the National Sculpture Society, which would furnish an art committee; the Medallic Art Company, which would manufacture the medals; and the Coin and Currency Institute which would market the medals.

The Art Committee was formed of five members with sculptor Donald De Lue as chairman; this committee issued commissions to American sculptors who expressed an interest in creating one or more of the medals. (Those sculptors who had created the bust were given first choice to do the medal.) Over the next 13 years, 96 medals (listed below) were created by 42 sculptors, predominantly members of the National Sculpture Society.

Rules for the medal design were simple. It had to bear a portrait on the obverse, significant scene from that subject's accomplishment for the reverse. The lettering HALL OF FAME FOR GREAT AMERICANS AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY must appear on the medal, either side was permissible. While the design was left to the artist, each submission had to pass the

approval of the Art Committee composed of the artist's sculptural peers.

Medals were struck in two sizes. A large 3-inch (76mm) size in bronze only, and a small 1 3/4-inch (44mm) in bronze and silver. The silver was serially numbered.

Medalist Laura Gardin Fraser had selected two medals to create -- Mary Lyon and Gilbert Stuart -- but died before completing the models. Sculptor Karl Gruppe finished the two medals as close to her designs and style as possible. The two Wright Brothers, with different statues and years of election, appear on one medal, by Paul Fjelde.

Later status. In 1973 and 1976 the last 20th century elections were held and seven new honorees* were elected into the Hall (which would fill in every niche in the colonnade). In 1973 New York University sold their University Heights Campus to City College of New York along with the building and the statues forming the Colonnade. The statues, and the Hall of Fame itself, were in limbo for awhile. Bronx Community College, which now occupies the campus, is present stewardship of the Hall. Since 1977 no elections have been held, no new statues erected or medals issued.

However, visitors to New York City can still travel to University Heights in the Bronx and walk the Colonnade, viewing the magnificent statues overlooking the Hudson River. Or they can build a set of fine art medals created by some of the most talented medalists of the 20th century with high relief portraits and stunning medallic art.

* For 1973: Louis Brandeis, George Washington Carver, Franklin Delano

Roosevelt and John Phillip Sousa. For 1976: Clara Barton, Luther Burbank and Andrew Carnegie.



Hall of Fame III – Granville Carter through DE LUE 11-25-05

(by David T. Alexander)

Medals of Granville Carter

Granville W. Carter was born in Maine and began his career carving wooden horses to sell at state fairs. His formal art education began at the School of Fine Art in Portland, Maine, in New York at the School of Industrial Art and National Academy of Design. A Tiffany Fellowship permitted study in Paris at the Grand Chaumiere and the Sculo del Circulare in Rome.

He was assistant to Herbert Haseltine, Bryant Baker, Joseph Kiselewski and Sidney Waugh. His work for the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. brought him the Henry Hering Memorial Medal for successful collaboration between architects and sculptors. His statues of St. Augustine of Canterbury and Archangels Michael and Gabriel won especial acclaim. He was a Fellow of the National Sculpture Society and Academician of the National Academy of Design.

James Fenimore Cooper Medal, 1963. Elected 1910. After bust by Victor Salvatore, unveiled 1930 by Dr. Henry S. Fenimore Cooper, the honoree's great-grandson.

James Fenimore was born in Burlington, N.J. in 1789, died in 1851 in Cooperstown, N.Y., a town founded by his father. He was expelled from Yale in his third year, spending the next five years at sea. He returned to Cooperstown to marry in 1811 and began writing with a novel, *Precaution* in 1820. He was an overnight success with *The Spy* in 1821, followed by such titles as *The Pioneers*, *The Pilot*, *The Last of the Mohicans* and *The Prairie*.

Returning from five years in Europe, Cooper immersed himself in feuds with his critics, but published his *History of the Navy of the United States*, *The Pathfinder* and *The Deerslayer* in 1839-41. He was the first American novelist of international reputation.

Obv High relief bust after an oil painting by John Wesley Jarvis and a marble bust by Pierre Jean David, poised over his nine most influential books and laurel sprays, vital dates flanking.

Rev A quill pen separates ship, American eagle from stockade, cliffs, Indian head and oak, symbolizing Cooper's major interests and strength, HOF lower legend.

**PATINA AND EDGE
MARKINGS OBSERVED:**

Large Bronze tan-gold patina,
Edge **B**; Silver, Edge **I**.

**Thomas Alva Edison Medal,
1965.** Elected 1960. After bust by Bryant

Baker, unveiled 1961 by Charles Edison and Mrs. Madeleine Edison Sloane, son and daughter of honoree.

Thomas Alva Edison was born in Milan, Ohio, in 1847, and died in Llewellyn Park, N.J. in 1931. He was self-educated, reading Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* and operating his own cellar laboratory by age 11. After saving a railroad station agent's son from death under a train, he was taught telegraphy by the boy's grateful father and worked for five years as a telegrapher in the Midwest.

He moved to Boston in 1868 and received his first patent for an electric vote recorded, proceeding to New York with his electric stock printer. With \$40,000 from this invention he set up his pace-setting laboratory at Menlo Park, N.J. He invented the phonograph in 1877, incandescent light in 1879 and the motion picture camera in 1891. He illuminated the streets of both London and New York during 1882. Ultimately he held 1,097 U.S. patents, 356 involving electricity.

After World War I he headed the Naval Consulting Board, predecessor of the Naval Research Laboratories. Edison had little respect for formally educated electricians or engineers. Newly hired college graduates would be handed one of his bamboo-filament, irregularly shaped light bulbs and ordered to calculate its volume.

Most began a long struggle with slide rule and higher math followed except for young Frank Julian Sprague, future inventor of the trolley car. Sprague simply unscrewed the bulb from its base, filled it with water and measured the water's volume!

Obv Bust r. over laurel and vital dates, **THOMAS ALVA EDISON** above.

Rev Winged angel patterned inspired by a sculpture in Edison's library, holding a glowing bulb, test tubes, anchor and gear below, HOF legend.

**PATINA AND EDGE
MARKINGS OBSERVED:**

Large Bronze yellow-gold patina, Edge **B**; Silver, Edge **I**.

Jane Addams Medal, 1968.

After bust by Granville Carter himself, dedicated May 10, 1968.

Born in Cedarville, Illinois, in 1860, Jane Addams graduated Rockford College and later studied medicine at Women's Medical College in Philadelphia, though completing her studies was derailed by ill-health. She became aware of world poverty during her first European tour and returned to Chicago and became a pioneer in social work. After a second European tour, Addams and Ellen Gates Starr opened Hull House, the first organized social work center in America, offering a cultural program including a little theater, boarding for poor girls, community kitchen, day nursery and gym for poor boys.

She was chairperson of the Women's Peace Party in 1915, opposing America's entry into the First World War, for which she was expelled from the Daughters of the American Revolution. After the war, Herbert Hoover involved her in war refugee work. In 1931 she shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Columbia University President Nicholas Murray Butler. She died May 21, 1935.

Obv Virtually full-face portrait over laurel sprays, **JANE ADDAMS** flanking, vital dates at lower l.

Rev Wings hover over welcoming Hull House with a circle of dancing children in foreground, HOF name in exergue. According to the sculptor, this design symbolized Addams' quote, "We may either smother the divine fire of youth or we may feed it."

**PATINA AND EDGE
MARKINGS OBSERVED:**

Large Bronze tan-gold patina, Edge **A**; Silver Edge **I**.

Stonewall Jackson Medal, 1972. Elected 1955. After bust by Bryant Baker, a gift of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, unveiled 1957 by Mrs. E. Randolph Preston, Mrs. J.B. McAfee grand- and great-granddaughter.

Thomas Jonathan Jackson was born in Clarksburg, Va. (now West Va.) in 1824 and was raised by his uncle. After elementary education in a country school he attended West Point and served in the Mexican War. He then taught at Virginia Military Academy and sided with his home state in the Civil War, leading his VMI boys into battle and emerging from fighting at Harper's Ferry as brigadier general.

At First Manassas he gained his nickname when a commanding general exclaimed, "There is Jackson, standing like a stone wall!" His service in the Shenandoah Campaign, and Fredericksburg was epic. He was killed by friendly fire after routing the Federals at Chancellorsville, and died whispering

“Let us cross the river and rest in the shade of the trees.” Granville Carter noted that Jackson’s greatest strength lay in careful planning and rapid movement of combat troops rather than in static defense.

Obv Uniformed, bearded bust l. in border of laurel, **STONEWALL JACKSON** above, vital dates below.

Rev Jackson on charger with sword and “Stainless Banner” of the Confederacy, **RALLY MEN** at l., **HOF** and date below.

PATINA AND EDGE MARKINGS OBSERVED:

Large Bronze tan-gold patina,
Edge **B**.

George Washington Medal, 1966. Elected 1900. Patriot, soldier, President. After bust by Jean-Antoine Houdon, unveiled 1922 by Field Marshal Earl French of Ypres.

Although the main facts of George Washington’s life are well known, a brief outline was provided in the **HOF** brochure. He was born in Fredericksburg, Westmoreland County, Va. On Feb. 22, 1732 (New Style), and died at Mount Vernon, Dec. 14, 1799. During a busy lifetime he was a major in the colonial militia, a frontier surveyor and Virginia legislator.

He learned vital military lessons in the French and Indian War under Britain’s General Braddock which he later used against the British in the American Revolution. He was an early leader in opposition to British colonial policies as a Continental Congress member in 1774-1775, when he accepted

the command of colonial forces outside occupied Boston.

Washington drove the British from the port city and gradually built an army out of disparate units from the revolting colonies. A long series of defeats and retreats in Long Island, Brooklyn Heights, Manhattan and Westchester culminated in the disastrous winter at Valley Forge. French aid and the military discipline imposed by German volunteer Baron von Steuben turned the tide until Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown in October 1781.

After years of inept government under the Articles of Confederation, Washington used his immense prestige to propel a inter-state meeting on river-borne commerce into a full-fledged Constitutional Convention and served as its chairman. He then led the fight for the Constitution’s adoption, creating the first effective Federal government.

Washington was unanimously chosen as first President, inaugurated in New York City, the new nation’s first capital, in April 1789. Judicious in all his acts as chief executive, realizing that his every act would establish precedent for the republic’s future, he created the cabinet system and opposed the rise of political parties.

Fiercely opposed during his second term by the pro-French Democratic Republicans, Washington refused a third term, retiring at last to his beloved Mount Vernon where his death was more a result of the abysmal state of medical science than of any specific malady. He was virtually deified by coming generations, to the great loss of true understanding of his actual greatness.

A modest man always aware of his own limitations, Washington did the

seemingly impossible by volunteering to relinquish power and return to the life of a private citizen after eight years in office. Comparing this behavior with that of many founders of new nations appearing on the scene since 1945 will demonstrate to the thoughtful reader how exceptional a leader Washington was.

Obv Head r. after the marble by Jean-Antoine Houdon against a waving 13-star U.S. flag, **WASHINGTON** above, **1732 • 1799 •** below over laurel sprays.

Rev Spread eagle on fasces in glory of 13 stars, Washington Monument, HOF legend.

Carter's Washington is undoubtedly one of the most successful medallic portraits of the Pater Patriae achieved in modern times. It is listed as Baker F356 in the Russell Rulau-George Fuld revision of William S. Baker's *Medallic Portraits of Washington* (Krause Publications, Iola, Wisconsin, Second Edition, 1999). Rulau wrote with remarkable understanding, "These are very well-executed medals with a strong Washington effigy. Were they better known, they might well command higher numismatic valuations. There was a glut of medals produced in the 1960's and 1970's, many of which ended their careers in the melting pots of 1979-1980. Overproduction by Franklin Mint, Medallic Art Co., and a number of their imitators meant that many pieces saturated a market unwilling to retain them over a long period; the excellent and the mediocre both suffered as a result."

**PATINA AND EDGE
MARKINGS OBSERVED:**

Large Bronze tan-red-gold patina, Edge **B**; Silver, Edge **I**.

A characteristic of all Granville Carter's HOF medals was their beveled or rounded rims. Nearly all utilize the stylized laurel sprays or wreaths below their portrait busts.



**Medals of Elizabeth Gordon
Chandler**

Chandler's primary artistic medium was the portrait bust and among her works to gain recognition were busts of Adlai E. Stevenson for Princeton University, Owen W. Cheatham for Georgia Pacific Corp., Chief Justices John Jay, Charles Evans Hughes and Harlan Fiske Stone. Her bust of Navy Secretary Forrestal was the first work of a woman sculptor to be placed on an American fighting ship, the aircraft carrier named for him.

She received the Gold Medal of Pen and Brush, American Artists Professional League and Hudson Valley Art Association among many awards of leading art groups. She and architect Stuart Constable received first place in the competition for the Brooklyn War Memorial.

Benjamin Franklin Medal, 1962. Elected 1900. After bust by Robert Aitken. Elected 1900, unveiled by Gen. Hugh L. Scott, great-great-great grandson of honoree.

Born in Boston in 1706, Franklin died in Philadelphia in 1790 after an epic life as printer, scientist, statesman and patriot. After settling in Philadelphia, he bought the influential weekly newspaper

Pennsylvania Gazette and launched the best-selling *Poor Richard's Almanack*. He became a civic leader, organizing one of America's first circulating libraries, the American Philosophical Society and the academy which grew into the University of Pennsylvania.

He invented a bifocal lens, harmonica and introduced many improvements in home heating with his Franklin Stove, and demonstrated the electrical nature of lightning in the famous experiment with a kite and keys recalled on the medal.

He served as colonial agent in England and was deeply involved in massive land speculation in the trans-Alleghany country. He urged moderation in opposition to the Stamp Act and was a delegate to the Continental Congress and a member of the committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence.

He negotiated French assistance in the American Revolution as representative of the Thirteen Colonies. The image of an American philosopher, he and his consciously simple "Franklin fashions" became wildly popular among the French people, and French financial and military support assured the success of the Revolution. He was a leader in the 1787 Constitutional Convention, assuring the document's completion and adoption.

Obv Full-face mature bust of Franklin on boldly concave field with tall **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, 1706 1790** below.

Rev-Clouds with lightning, flag-pattern kite with keys and quote "THIS CONSTITUTION/ CAN END IN DESPOTISM/ .. WHEN THE PEOPLE/ SHALL BECOME SO/ CORRUPTED AS TO/ NEED DESPOTIC

GOVERNMENT." HOF legend in slightly smaller letters than obverse.

Success in full-face medallic portraiture is notoriously difficult to achieve. This Franklin Medal is one of the most dramatic examples of this treatment at its finest, assisted by the deeply concave field.

PATINA AND EDGE MARKINGS OBSERVED:

Large Bronze brown-gold patina, Edge B; Silver, Edge I.

Jonathan Edwards Medal, 1972. Elected 1900. After bust by Charles Grafly, elected 1900, unveiled May 1926 by Dr. Marion Edwards Park, great-great granddaughter of honoree.

Born in East Windsor, Connecticut in 1703, Edwards died at Princeton, N.J. in 1758. He entered Yale at 13, graduating as valedictorian at 17 and receiving his MA four years later. Ordination followed two years of additional study. Influenced by the writings of Isaac Newton and John Locke, the young clergyman worked out a doctrine of extreme Calvinism influenced by contemporary philosophy in which Newton's natural laws demonstrated the existence of the all-ordering mind of God.

He joined his grandfather as pastor at Northampton, Mass, the largest and wealthiest congregation in Massachusetts outside Boston, becoming sole pastor in 1729. He preached his first published sermon to the Boston clergy in 1731, beginning years of assault on the perceived moral decay of New England and boldly asserting his first tenet: the

absolute sovereignty of God in the work of salvation.

His almost-violent eloquence helped launch the "Great Awakening" that swept the colonies with its pitiless vision of "sinners in the hands of an angry God." He was ousted from his Southampton pastorate in a dispute over qualifications for Communion and was rusticated to the remote Berkshire settlement of Stockbridge, where he wrote *Freedom of the Will*, denouncing the concept of a self-determining will and emerging as the "first great philosophic intellect" in American history.

After Stockbridge, Edwards became President of Princeton New Jersey, where he stated his support for smallpox inoculation by undergoing it with his family, but use of defective smallpox vaccine caused all to die of the disease. His grandson was Aaron Burr.

Obv Massive, stern-featured bust l. in canonical garb, signature in l. field, vital dates r.

Rev Hand of God in clouds holding the globe, **HEAD/ OF THE/ UNIVERSAL SYSTEM/ ON WHOM ALL IS/ DEPENDENT**, HOF legend.

**PATINA AND EDGE
MARKINGS OBSERVED:**

Large Bronze tan-gold patina, Edge **E**.

Albert Abraham Mitchelson Medal, 1973. After bust by Elizabeth Gordon Chandler herself, Unveiled 1973 by the honoree's two daughters and one granddaughter, the gift of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Mitchelson was born in Strelno, Prussia, in 1852, coming to America as a

child, he was raised in the Far West, Nevada and California. He died in Pasadena, Cal., in 1931. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1873 and was an educator in the sciences at several Midwestern universities, ending his career as head of the Physics Department of the University of Chicago, 1892-1931.

He was a pre-eminent physicist of light, studying light velocity, discarding long-held beliefs about the properties of light and propounded new theories that led to the concept of relativity.

His echelon spectroscope gave direct evidence of the effect of heat on molecular motion and revealed the effect of a magnetic field upon a source of radiation. He measured the diameter of distant stars and adopted the wave length of cadmium light as a standard measuring unit. He determined that the rigidity and viscosity of the earth were comparable to that of steel.

Obv Bust r., **ALBERT ABRAHAM MITCHELSON**, facsimile signature r., vital dates below. In right field is his revolving mirror from his final report on the "Experimental Determination of the Velocity of Light."

Rev 20-foot Interferometer telescope with two sets of mirrors is focused on the star Betelgeuse, seen through the opening in the observatory dome. Mirrors channel star light into the telescope for measurement of the star's diameter. Incuse formula of visibility of fringes of light as determined by Mitchelson's experiment appears at lower r., HOF legend,

**PATINA AND EDGE
MARKINGS OBSERVED:**

Large Bronze tan-gold patina,
Edge B.



Medal of Nathaniel Choate

Born in Southboro, Massachusetts in 1899, Choate graduated Harvard in the Class of 1922, proceeding to Paris for advanced study at the Academies Colorossi and Delecluse. After extensive travel in Europe, Morocco and the Sudan, he resided near the famed Italian marble quarries at Carrara and widened his artistic outlook.

Choate gained the Medal of Honor of the Architectural League for his second New York exhibition, with a lengthy roster of significant commissions including bas-reliefs for the Federal Building of the 1939 New York World's Fair and the statue *Alligator Bender* for Brookgreen Gardens, S.C. His wildlife sculptures and murals were especially numerous around New York City in public and private settings.

He was a Fellow and vice-president of the National Sculpture Society and was Academician of the National Academy of Design. His 1961 David and Goliath Medal was the 64th issue of the Society of Medalists.

Joseph Story Medal, 1964.
Elected 1900. After bust by Herbert Adams, unveiled 1930 as a gift of American jurists and lawyers.

Born in Marblehead, Mass., in 1779 and died in Cambridge in 1845. He began pre-college studies and entered Harvard in 1795, graduating second in his class in 1798. He gained fame as an orator with a eulogy for Washington at Marblehead in 1799. He was admitted to the Bar in 1801. A staunch Republican,

he served in the Massachusetts legislature and the U.S. Congress, where he was an eloquent opponent of slavery,

The 31 year-old Story was appointed Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in November 1811, the youngest jurist ever to hold this office which included circuit duties at the time. He systematized admiralty law during the chaotic years of the War of 1812. He resided at Cambridge as professor in Harvard's new Law Department and in 1832 released the first volume of his definitive *Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States*. This multi-volume series earned Story some \$10,000, an astronomical sum for the time. This in-depth study remains definitive in the 21st century.

A profound student of history, Story searched the pages of the past to find evidence for a prediction of the future, startled at the fleeting, transitory existence of past republics. Showing amazing prescience (think of some recent presidential experiences) he wrote of the Constitution, "the structure has been reared by architects of consummate skill and fidelity, and its defenses are impregnable from without... it may, nevertheless, perish in an hour, by the folly or corruption or negligence of its keepers, the People. Republics fall when the wise are banished from the public counsels because they dare to be honest, and the profligate are rewarded because they flatter the people in order to betray them."

Obv Bust $\frac{3}{4}$ l. after a drawing executed by Story's young son William in 1845.

Rev Story standing in judicial robes, surrounded by stars and scroll bearing the semi-legible script names of

Justices J. Duvalle, William Livingstone, John Marshall, John Story, Bushrod Washington, Thomas Dodde, William Johnson.

**PATINA AND EDGE
MARKINGS OBSERVED:**

Large Bronze, Tan-gold patina,
Edge **B**; Silver, **I**.



Medals of Anthony De Francisci

Anthony DeFrancisci was born in Italy in 1887, coming to New York City as a young man. He studied at Cooper Union, the Art Students League and National Academy of Design. He served as studio assistant to James Earle Fraser, Philip Martiny, Hermon MacNeil, A. A. Weinman and later taught art at Columbia University and the Beaux-Arts Institute in New York City. He died in 1964.

During a long career, DeFrancisci created many outstanding works of medallic art and monumental sculptures, including the 1920 Maine Statehood commemorative Half Dollar and the 1921 Peace dollar. The new Dollar was one of the last classic redesigns of the 1907-1921 era and was modeled by his wife Theresa Cafarelli DeFrancisci.

This coin was criticized for low relief. A Philadelphia newspaper quoted in Cornelius Vermeule's indispensable *Numismatic Art in America*, (Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1971) carped, "Liberty is growing younger... The young lady has lost her Greek profile. Hellenic beauty has been superseded by the newer 'flapper' type. A sculptor of genius would have put into

that face some quality of divinity... the head is merely that of a fairly attractive girl of 17... whose immature chin and half-open mouth merely suggest the expression of her kind. If words were issuing from her lips they would hardly take the elegant languor of 'Line's bizzay!' They would more probably be 'Say, lissen!'"

C.R. Morey in "Sculpture since the Centennial," *American Spirit in Art*, Yale University Press, 1927, wrote condescendingly of the artist, "A garden sculptor of the Italian marble cutter school, De Francisci's medals are far superior to his statues. They lack the sharp definition with which Weinmann [sic] exacts full value for every contour, but avoid the sketchiness whereby many sculptors confuse medallic art with low relief..."

In 1935 he created the widely acclaimed 12th issue of the Society of Medalists, FIAT VITA. Near the end of his long career, his portrait medal of Confederate General Robert E. Lee medal was released coincident with the Civil War Centennial in 1964.

Contradicting the critics noted above, DeFrancisci received many high honors, including the J. Sanford Saltus Medal from ANS and the Lindsey Morris Award from the National Sculpture Society.

Abraham Lincoln Medal, 1963.

Elected 1900. After bust by Augustus Saint Gaudens, unveiled in 1923 by Mrs. Mary Lincoln Isham, granddaughter of the honoree.

Lincoln was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, in 1809, the son of the frontier, accustomed to heavy labor and largely self-educated in law and

literature. His family removed to frontier Illinois where Lincoln grew up. His mother died in his early childhood but he formed a warm bond with his father's second wife, who encouraged his love of books and learning.

His first run for the Illinois legislature failed but he was elected four times between 1834 and 1840 and was elected to Congress as a Whig in 1846. He ran for the Senate against the "Little Giant," Stephen O. Douglas, and despite victory in the campaign debates with Douglas, he was defeated in the hotly contested Senate race.

The new Republican Party was organized in Jackson, Michigan on July 6, 1854, bringing together remnants of the Whigs and many Northern Abolitionists. Its first Presidential nominee was General John Charles Fremont and though a comparative unknown on the national scene, Lincoln received the Republican nomination in 1860.

The apotheosis of Lincoln, like that of Washington, has obscured his very human qualities, in including those most necessary for a true understanding of his greatness. Only in modern times has it been possible to comprehend the physical challenges with which Lincoln contended. He was afflicted with Marfan syndrome, which caused his unusual height and gaunt features and battled clinical depression all of his life, what he called his "black Lincoln moods."

On the eve of his disastrous marriage to the unstable Mary Todd he came near to committing suicide. His wife was a source of continuous anxiety and the death of their son contributed much to her troubled state.

He was of two minds on the slavery issue, and was never a strong believer in racial equality, though he embraced Abolition after years of uncertainty. Southern fear of a Republican victory led to the secession of several Southern states and creation of the Confederate State of America in the wake of his election and to the great Civil War.

With its immensely greater population, industrial resources and railroads, the Union had vast resources, but the early war years saw a succession of defeats, incompetent or hesitating military commanders, and vigorous personal criticism of the new President. Economic turmoil saw the issue of non-redeemable Greenback paper currency.

Lincoln focused the Union's industrial resources on winning the war and his appointment of General Ulysses S. Grant reversed the military situation. The economic picture revived with military success and European credits were obtained by such financiers as Commodore Vanderbilt and New York's Joseph Seligman.

Lincoln planned a peace of reconciliation with the defeated South, "with malice toward none... with charity toward all," though this policy was repugnant to vengeful radical Republicans. He emancipated the slaves in the seceding state in September 1862 and was planning the postwar settlement when he was assassinated by actor John Wilkes Booth at Ford's theater in Washington on April 15, 1865.

Only Washington received the veneration accorded to Lincoln, whose corpus of portrait medals was well served by DeFrancisci's HOF design.

Obv Craggy bust r., **LINCOLN** above, vital dates l., tiny script **With malice – toward none •/•• with – charity for all ••**.

Rev Hands raised with broken shackles on the wrists against a rising sun and legend **EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION**, above a tangled mass of slave men, women and children walking, staggering, crouching, kneeling toward l., legend **A • HoUSE • DIVIDED AGAINST • ITSELF • CANNOT • STAND**. HOF identification in exergue. This design is exceptionally busy, overcomplicated and a stark contrast to the relatively simple obverse.

PATINA AND EDGE MARKINGS OBSERVED:

Tan-gold, B, Silver, I

Peter Cooper Medal, 1964.
Elected 1900. After bust by Chester Beach, unveiled by Miss Edith Cram, great-great-granddaughter of honoree.

Peter Cooper, manufacturer and philanthropist was born in New York City in 1791 and died there in 1883. He began his business career in a number of family-owned enterprises before establishing his own fortune by monopolizing glue and isinglass making in Manhattan. A greater success was the Canton Iron Works which he began with two partners in Baltimore in 1828.

Here was built the *Tom Thumb*, first steam locomotive constructed in the U.S., with which the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad conquered its twisting and steeply graded right of way and emerged as one of America's greatest railroads. The B & O had a numismatic component, as it was the source of the wealth for the

Garrett family of Baltimore, builders of one of the greatest American coin collections.

Cooper was a pivotal figure in financing Cyrus Field's trans-Atlantic cable. He created iron for the first fireproof office buildings and received the Bessemer Gold Medal of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain. Much of his career was centered in New York, where he spearheaded creation of paid, professional fire and police departments and the public school system.

Possibly his greatest benefaction was Cooper Union, an institution of higher learning offering free courses in science, engineering and the arts. Cooper's personal modesty was great. On the medal commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Cooper Union created by French medalist Louis Oscar Roty under the direction of his granddaughter, he was entitled merely, "Peter Cooper, a Mechanic of New York."

Obv Bust ¾ l. with long hair and trademark bushy beard, facsimile signature flanked by oak springs below, vital dates r.

Rev Robed family group is led by the spirit of education to the arduous path to the summit over which is the winged horse Pegasus incuse in the sun, recessed outer border is inscribed **FOUNDER OF COOPER INSTITUTE** below, HOF legend around.

PATINA AND EDGE MARKINGS OBSERVED:

Large Bronze, tan-gold patina, Edge **B**; Silver, Edge **I**.



Medals of Donald H. De Lue

De Lue is one of the few medallic sculptors to be the subject of a comprehensive biography, D. Roger Howlett's *The Sculpture of Donald De Lue, Gods, Prophets and Heroes* (Boston, David R. Godine, 1990). Born in Boston in Oct. 5, 1897 as Donald H. Quigley, the sculptor adopted his mother's maiden name after his father's suicide in June 1914.

He studied with such great sculptors as Bela Lyon Pratt, Richard Recchia, Robert Baker and Bryant Baker before setting forth on his own path to artistic success. Excelling in architectural sculpture, he created huge granite panels and eagles for the Philadelphia Court House, a humorous *Alchemist* for the Chemistry Building of the University of Pennsylvania and *St. Michael and the Crusader* at West Point and Arlington. His *Washington Kneeling at Prayer* may be seen at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

De Lue's continuing success attracted hostility from modernists and less talented artists. A particular triumph was his 22-foot high *Spirit of American Youth*, which crowned the U.S. Military Cemetery Memorial at Omaha Beach, St. Laurent, Normandy. The 1964 New York World's Fair featured his *Rocket-thrower*, a composition savagely attacked by those claiming to speak for modern art.

As noted in the introduction, De Lue directed the medal project of the Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University. He assembled an impressive roster of honors and commissions, including the Avery Prize and the Gold Medal of the Architectural League, New York; the Lindsey Morris Memorial Prize of the National Sculpture

Society; Allied Artists of America Gold Medal, the Samuel F.B. Morse Medal of the National Academy and the Sanford J. Saltus Medal of the ANS.

General Robert E. Lee Medal, 1967. Elected 1900. After bust by George T. Brewster, unveiled by Dr. George Bolling Lee, grandson on honoree in 1923.

Born in Westmoreland County, Virginia in 1807, Lee graduated second in his class at West Point in 1829. He married Mary Ann Randolph Custis, great-granddaughter of Martha Washington. He served with distinction in the Mexican War and served as Superintendent of West Point, 1852-1855.

He was offered supreme command of the Union Army at the outbreak of the Civil War. After his native state seceded he turned down the Union command to be made a Confederate General, ultimately commanding the Army of Northern Virginia. By sheer logistical skill, careful strategy and determination he held off far larger and better equipped forces for most of the war, carrying the fighting as far north as Gettysburg, Pa.

He became Confederate General in chief in February 1865, immediately before surrendering his exhausted forces to General Grant at Appomattox in April. After the war he led the movement to forgive and forget, serving as President of Washington University until his death in 1870. He died mourned as a gentleman revered for his military prowess, bravery and his role in national reconciliation.

Obv Rugged bust l. in Confederate uniform upholding a sword, 3 stars in field.

Rev Battling nude swordsmen on chargers symbolizing 'Brother against brother.' Broken chain at their feet symbolizing a shattered Union. All three De Lue medals show a recessed outer rim holding HOF legend and honoree's name. All reverses display bold designs in exceptionally high relief, typical of De Lue's style.

**PATINA AND EDGE
MARKINGS OBSERVED:**

Large Bronze tan-gold patina, Edge **B**; Silver, Edge **I**.

John Adams Medal, 1971.

Elected 1900. After bust by John Francis Paramino, unveiled 1924 by the President's great-great-grandson John Adams.

John Adams was born in Braintree, Massachusetts (now Quincy) in 1735. He graduated Harvard in 1755 and balanced his public opposition to the Stamp Act by acting as attorney for British soldiers charged for the "Boston Massacre." He served in the first and second Continental Congresses, nominating Virginian George Washington for the command of the fledgling Continental Army besieging Boston and signing the Declaration of Independence.

He represented the new U.S. in Europe, scoring notable success in obtaining recognition and loans in the Netherlands. He took part in the abortive peace negotiations with Admiral Howe, who announced that "Mr. Adams is a decided character," not revealing that Adams, like Washington was scheduled to hang for treason.

After the war, Adams suffered as first American Ambassador to Great Britain. His presentation to interview with King George III, as historian David McCullough notes, must have been a titanic strain on both men. He was elected as the second President of the United States, seeking to moderate the violence of party spirit between followers of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, once describing himself with some exaggeration as "the most hated man in America."

He was defeated for a second term in 1800 by Jefferson and incurred criticism for leaving the capital before this successor's Inauguration. Retired in Braintree, Adams swiftly became a venerated elder statesman dying only in 1826 and virtually the same time as Jefferson, to whom he had become reconciled after years of politically-induced estrangement.

Obv Thoughtful bust nearly *en face* over quill pen in 13-star border.

Rev Cosmic battle between nude Michael and Lucifer unmasked by Sword of Righteousness, driven from Heaven by the triumph of Principle. Legend **PRINCIPLE RIGHT OVER EVIL** at 4 compass points.

**PATINA AND EDGE
MARKINGS OBSERVED:**

Large Bronze, tan-gold "MACO Vanilla" patina, edge **B**.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Medal, 1974. Elected 1930. After bust by F. William Sievers, unveiled 1931 by Matthew Fontaine Maury III, great-grandson of honoree.

Matthew Fontaine Maury was born near Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1806. He was the father of Oceanography and completed three major voyages including one circumnavigation of the globe in the Vincennes. He retired after being partly crippled in a stagecoach accident but headed the new Naval Observatory and revolutionized sea travel with his study of winds and currents.

His research and charting knocked 10-15 days off the New York-Rio de Janeiro run, reduced sailing time from New York to San Francisco from 180 to 133 days during the Gold Rush era. His definitive study, *The Physical Geography of the Sea* was the foundation stone of modern oceanography.

Maury was a Confederate naval commander during the Civil War and was not included in the post-war amnesty. He only returned to the U.S. in 1869 to head the Virginia Military Institute. He died in Lexington on February 1, 1873.

Obv Bust r. with head resting on hand, vital dates flanking.

Rev Sounding sperm whale, octopus, sharks, swimmers, whaling vessels symbolizing Maury's close work with whalers in practical knowledge of the oceans and in charting currents and winds.

**PATINA AND EDGE
MARKINGS OBSERVED:**

Large Bronze, golden bronze patina, Edge **B**.

Letters to the Editor

Hello John,

I am looking for a source for medals depicting the SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION. Either the Presidential Art Medal series (bronze or pewter) or the Franklin Mint silver ones. Can you point me to some good sources?

Thanks

Dave

.....
David Lee Ingram, 140 Old Bridgewater Road, Mt. Crawford, VA 22841
primary - ingram@cfw.com
alternate - dlingram50@msn.com
(v) 540 828-2778
(f) 540 828-2683
visit www.surveyhistory.org

* * * * *

Thanks to Ford XII, the study of Franco American Jetons is on the uptake. A necessary tool for such study is the illustrations of the obverses from the 1925 Wilson sale, offered below:

Douglas Robins, P.O. Box 823,
Corvallis, OR 97339.

Reprint Plates (2) by John J. Ford, Jr. of Jetons from 1925 WWC Wilson sale \$45 post paid.

