
The MCA Advisory

The Newsletter of Medal Collectors of America

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Dues: \$20.00/year

Calendar

1/15/2005 – MCA meeting and presentation at noon in a room provided by the New York International Show. Please join us.

From the Editor

For those of us who collect historical medals, the present issue of the Advisory contains good reasons for expanding our horizons. The Carnegie Jewish Life and ANS medals described herein are excellent examples of what modern artists can achieve. I already own one and will probably end up purchasing all three.

Pressed on short notice to give the New York International a topic for our meeting (see calendar), I volunteered. My topic will be Thomas Jefferson and how he used medals to promote our national interest. No political figure before and none after can rival TJ's keen appreciation of the value of medals in achieving diplomatic ends. Even as he is a Founding Father of our country, he is a founding father of MCA.

What's New On Our Website!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE EVERY MONTH

www.medalcollectors.org

Report on two new medals

(by Donald Scarinci)

Carnegie Hero Fund Medal

The Carnegie Hero Fund bestows a medal along with a monetary award to about 100 people each year who save a life. This is the modern day life saving medal awarded to contemporary American heroes. The name of the recipient is inscribed in raised lettering on the reverse cartouche.

To celebrate their 100th Anniversary, the Carnegie Hero Fund has issued a commemorative medal. It was sculpted by Luigi Baida and struck by Hugo Greco in Danbury, Connecticut.

The medal introduces a new portrait of Carnegie on the obverse. Baida is known for his portrait work and this medal will be sure to attract attention his other work. The reverse includes an inscription in the cartouche written by Dick Johnson. Only 500 medals were struck.

The medals are offered for sale on their web site: <http://www.cybercoins.net/> at \$59 each until December 31st (\$79.00 thereafter).

Three Hundredth (300th) Anniversary of Jewish Life in America Medal

Dana Krinsky, an artist from Israel, has designed a medal to celebrate 350 Years of Jewish Life in America. The following is an excerpt Mel Wacks web site: <http://www.amuseum.org/>.

The medal's obverse design features an extensive excerpt from George Washington's letter to Newport's Hebrew Congregation (now known as the Touro Synagogue), in which he repeated the sentiments originally expressed by Moses Seixas: "A Government which to bigotry gives no sanction, to persecution no assistance ...". The quote appears above a New York City-like skyline, with the official Celebrate 350 menorah-logo below.

These are Washington's words as inscribed on the 350th Anniversary Medal:

"The citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves for giving to Mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy. For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection, should demean themselves as good citizens. May the Children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."

Ms. Krinsky describes the reverse as "representing a straightforward idea of people and hope. Shown is a crowd of men, women and children on a journey of liberation." (Some see them in the shape of a ship's prow, signifying the millions of immigrants who came to America by boat.) She goes on to describe the horizontal lines and stars as a reference to the American flag, representing the hope for a new life, full with opportunities, for all people. The design is rounded out by a biblical phrase from Leviticus (that is also inscribed on the Liberty Bell): "Proclaim Liberty throughout All the Land" in English and Hebrew."

The medal is 76mm wide and comes in bronze, silver and gilt silver. It can be obtained by calling (818) 225-1348 or writing to the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, 5189 Jeffdale Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91364.

The Chairman of the 350th Anniversary Medal Committee is Mel Wacks, Founding Director of the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, President of the American Israel Numismatic Association, and a judge for Krause Publications' COTY (Coin of the Year) Award.

The other members of the Medal Committee are Dr. Ira Rezak, a major collector of Judaic medals and a member of the Medals and Decorations Committee of the American Numismatic Society; Daniel Friedenberg, the Dean of Judaic Numismatics, former Curator of Coins and Medals for The Jewish Museum, author of *Jewish Medals from the Renaissance to the Fall of Napoleon*, *Jewish Minters & Medallists*, *Great Jewish Portraits in Metal*, etc., and Robert Rifkind, Chairman of Celebrate 350. In addition, Dr. Lawrence Rubin, Executive Director of Celebrate 350, acted as a valued consultant to the Medal Committee.

MEMO TO OUR READERS

Do you want to learn about medal making? Then read the following superb essay by Dick Johnson – ed.

The Carnegie Medal Celebrates a Centennial.
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(by D. Wayne Johnson)

I HAD HEARD about the Carnegie Medal long before I entered the medallic field. I knew it was awarded for bravery in lifesaving. Later I found an entry on the Carnegie Medal in – of all places! – Merriam-Webster's International Dictionary. "Carnegie Medal" is a part of the English language! I photocopied that entry and pasted it in my notebook on notable medals.

Early on, when I was a medal dealer, I marveled at this medal and wondered why one never -- it seemed -- came on the numismatic market. Surely one of the recipients must have died and the medal was in an estate that was dispersed. Why had I never seen, or heard of this famous medal selling at auction?

Previously, when I worked for Medallic Art Company, I learned they did not make it. It was perhaps the most prestigious American medal NOT made by the company that was noted as the original manufacturers of the Pulitzer, Peabody, Caldecott, Newberry, National Medal of Honor, Congressional Medal of Honor and dozens of other famed medals.

Not that the company hadn't tried. Once, our vice president had visited the Pittsburgh office of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission on a sales trip. He reported back that the issuing organization was a group of lawyers too set in their ways to consider changing medal makers.

As events came about and five years into medal dealing I did receive my first Carnegie Medal for my Johnson & Jensen auction sales (J&J Auction Sale **19**, lot 861, 16 August 1982), then two more the following year (J&J **24**:542, **25**:273). And another awarded in Italy!

Stan Turrini, a medal collector from California contacted me; he wanted information on the Carnegie Medal for a paper he was writing for the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society. I gave him as much (or as little) data as I knew. Stan had one of the medals and was doing the right thing – researching its history! Later I learned he had acquired two more.

A year ago Wayne Homren sent me an email. He is the guru of the electronic newsletter *e-Sylum* and he knew of my interest in medals. He had been in touch with the director of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, whose Pittsburgh offices are nearby where he works. They were dissatisfied with their present medal maker. I sent to Wayne a list of all the American medal manufacturers who I knew could strike a medal of this size.

Then later I received a call from Douglas Chambers, the Carnegie Hero Fund director himself. We chatted about who could make their medal. I reduced the number of medal makers to two. He pressed me. Name one, he insisted. I recommended Greco Industries here in Connecticut.

He contacted Hugo Greco and March 9, 2004 he visited the Greco plant in Danbury. As crowded as the plant was, Doug Chambers was impressed by what he saw. I think it came down to Italian Craftsmanship that permeates the products in which this plant manufactures. The National Collegiate Athletic Association had been a long-time customer, for trophies as well as medals. (Yes! Every one of those trophies you see held overhead at the season end of some NCAA sport is manufactured by a medal maker!)

During Doug Chambers' Connecticut visit three of us went to lunch to discuss the Carnegie Centennial Commemorative Medal. I pressed for a separate design – to create a medal entirely different from the Carnegie Award Medal. I was voted down by both Doug and Hugo Greco who convinced me they could use the same design but make it different in other ways.

The award medal is bronze; so make the centennial medal silver. The award medal is 3-inch diameter, make the centennial medal 2 1/2-inch. The award medal has the recipient's name in the reverse cartouche, so make the lettering different to spell out the commemorative nature.

"Dick," said Doug Chambers,. "I want you to write that inscription." I was convinced.

With an ongoing exchange of emails with Doug Chambers that continued for months, I was able to contribute suggestions on

manufacturing, patina finishes, potential marketing for the centennial commemorative medal, an exhibit of the Carnegie Hero Fund Award Medals, that reverse inscription, captions for a process set exhibit, and a myriad of minor medal details.

An exhibit took on some importance. With great fortune, Wayne Homren was chosen to be the general chairman of the ANA convention in Pittsburgh in August 2004. So Wayne made plans for an exhibit of the Carnegie medals – past and present – to be displayed at the ANA convention.

Wayne worked on the historical medal exhibit with the people of the Carnegie Museum, who had some of the medals from the past. A press conference announcing the Commemorative Medal was planned for ANA and Stan Turrini agreed to give another talk on the Carnegie Medal at the ANA Educational Program.

IN HIS BENEFICENCE, Andrew Carnegie had set up similar hero lifesaving funds in other countries, eleven in all. So a medal was created in each country to be awarded for lifesaving.

The Carnegie Museum had specimens of many of these. Wayne Homren wrote up this exhibit identifying the medallist who had created each of the foreign Carnegie medals along with descriptions of each. This was on exhibit at ANA as was a detailed process set of how the new medal was made, complete with original drawings, plaster models, dies, sample strikings.

The sculptor chosen to create the new Carnegie medal was Luigi Badia of Sommers, New York. He had worked with Hugo Greco many times before on sculpture and medallic projects, but I said they chose each other

because both were born in Italy (and some of that Italian Craftsmanship permeates their work!). Call it the *Piasano* factor.

Luigi set to work on the models. The reverse had to change. In 1904, when the first Carnegie Medal was created, Newfoundland was a separate country; so the one medal covered three countries, along with Canada and the USA so the reverse bore three seals. In March 1949 Newfoundland became Canada's tenth province so its national seal had to be removed. Now the reverse bears only the seals of Canada and the USA and these are all awarded from headquarters in Pittsburgh.

Luigi's models were quickly accepted, picture perfect. A ribbon banner on the obverse under Carnegie's portrait noted the Hero Fund Centennial and the companion dates 1904 and 2004. The reverse – now with two seals – has the center motif of the inscription cartouche, the panel in which all lettering must be placed.

This lettering proved a production nightmare for the award medals. Incise lettering on a medal is easy to obtain by engraving -- by hand or machine. It was Andrew Carnegie's personal desire, however, that this inscription on his Fund's medals be in raised lettering. This is not a new technology. Collectors of the 1892-93 Columbian Exposition Award Medals will recall that all the recipient's names are in raised lettering.

Now, just as it was then, this must be done individually – one medal at a time! Often with multiple strikes. (The U.S. Mint, which was commissioned to make all those 1893 Expo award medals recognized the impossibility of their accomplishing the task).

The Mint subcontracted this to private industry, to Scovill Manufacturing of Waterbury, Connecticut. Even so, it took Scovill two years to strike the 34,000 Columbian Expo award medals, even assigning

a crew of workers to this one job alone – pressmen, engravers, clerks, finishers, case makers!

The technology is to prepare *Insert Dies* – flat rectangles of metal exact size of the panel inside the reverse cartouche -- which is engraved or inscribed incise with the lettering. One of these inserts must be made for each medal with the recipient's name and citation. There is a rectangular aperture (read *hole*) on the face of the reverse die.

The inserts must fit snugly into this aperture. A medal is struck a number of times to bring up most all the relief (with annealing in between strikes, of course). Then it is struck (twice more!) with the inserts seated in place. All this is eminently time consuming, but is evident of the medal maker's craft of fine medallic art creation.

After a trim around the edge of the cartouche (some pesky metal inevitably wants to squeeze out of the tiniest cracks there) this excess metal is removed. This is accomplished by *chasing* – removing the unwanted metal by hand with a burin -- the medal can then be given a patina finish. It is then placed in its custom-lettered case. Few other American art medals are so complex and detailed in their manufacture.

Since the Centennial Medal for the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission has fixed lettering in its reverse cartouche, they do not require such time-consuming steps. They are struck in a production run in bronze with proof surface and given a heavy silver plate. No need for a patina, they can then be placed in their capsule and custom cases. Ready for a desirous collector or admiring public.

COMING NEXT MONTH The Carnegie Medal Ceremony of the Century, held in Pittsburgh. Your correspondent attended and will report on the festivities. Also learn how you can obtain your own Carnegie Hero

Fund Medal -- in proof silver finish. If you collect Lifesaving Medals you must have one of these -- or just to show your friends -- you have a Carnegie Hero Medal!

What do We Collect?

(by Ye Editor)

Earlier this year, members filled out a questionnaire on their specialties. The areas of most interest were:

<u>Area</u>	<u># of Responses</u>
Art Medals	15
European Historical Medals	14
Mint Medals	13
Betts Medals	7
Medical Medals	6
Renaissance Medals	6
Civil War Medals	5

We are getting a pretty good flow of articles on the top four categories. How about some contributions on the next three?

As we all suspected, the hobby of collecting medals is extremely broad. Other areas receiving some mention were:

Classical	Minting Technology	Ex positions
Judaica	India	Military badges
Washington	Canada	Shakespeare
Ship Wreck	Latin American Procs	Czechoslovakia
	Railroads	Assay
Transportation		
Zeppelins		
Polar Exploration		
Inaugural		
Olympic/Sports		
Norse American		
West Indies		
Wrestling		

All right you guys and gals. You have some specialties that sound fascinating. How about writing an article on your favorite and show the rest of us what we are missing?

Comitia Americana Medals

(by David Fleischmann)

Some time ago I received a request from the Massachusetts Historical Society requesting information about Comitia

Americana Medals. I do not own any originals, however, I do have a very interesting restrrike of the Washington Before Boston medal. Although it is in humble bronze, and dates from the reign of Louis-Phillippe (I'd have to check the rim mark to determine the exact range of dates), it is, I think, quite interesting inasmuch as it is in an original leather case for two medals, with gilt explanatory lettering, accompanying a medal commemorating the inauguration of the American Library in Paris. It is accompanied by a short handwritten signed note from Alexandre Vattemare to the U.S. Librarian of Congress John Meehan. Vattemare is given credit for single-handedly creating the first system of the international exchange of government publications among libraries worldwide, and inspired such later exchanges as those of the Smithsonian Institution and the Brussels Convention. His efforts to establish the American Library in Paris are generally recognized. His relationship with Meehan had ups and downs; this pair of medals accompanied by a note is clearly from an "up" period.

(Vattemare is important to medal collectors in that his cultural exchanges included medals as well as library material. An extensive run of early U.S. medals now resides at the Bibliotheque Nationale and nearly 200 French medals are in our National Collection—Editor)

ANS Presents Medal to President Donald Partrick

(by Scott H. Miller)

The American Numismatic Society (ANS) presented a gold medal of appreciation 2004 to Donald Partrick at the general membership meeting Saturday, October 23. Donald Partrick has been the president of the ANS since 1999. He has been responsible for many changes at the Society including its move

from the facility it has occupied at Audubon Terrace since 1908

“Donald Partrick has made the resources of the ANS accessible to the collecting community and the public at large. Because of his generosity in time and money, the resources of the ANS are now accessible to a whole new generation of numismatists. The new facility in New York’s most historic area will open the doors of our hobby to countless numbers of would-be collectors and old time collectors alike,” said one ANS member

Partrick was surprised when Uta Wartenberg, Executive Director, made the presentation following her remarks to the general membership. She said that the medal was an expression of appreciation by Partrick's friends and colleagues. Partrick has made a significant financial contribution to the new ANS facility and the building is named after him.

Wartenberg called upon the committee of five who worked on the medal in secret for several months and helped raise funds for the presentation to Partrick to stand at his side during the presentation. The committee included herself, Tony Terranova, Roger Siboni, Scott Miller, Donald Scarinci and Jonathan Kagan.

The medal commemorates the ANS’s move from 155th Street to 96 Fulton Street. It is the first medal produced by the ANS since 1992. A small number of silver examples were struck for inclusion in sets of bronze and silver medals to be presented to major donors to the American Numismatic Society’s capital campaign. Bronze examples can be purchased from the Society, with inquiries to be directed to Joanne Isaac, Museum Administrator at Isaac@numismatics.org, or 212-571-4470, ext. 1306. Interested parties can also visit the ANS website at

<http://www.amnumsoc.org/store/medals/medals.html>.

Founded in 1858, the American Numismatic Society has a long tradition of publishing medals for significant events in its history, as well as that of the nation. Beginning with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the Society has issued more than 50 medals, often employing such renowned artists as Daniel Chester French, Laura Gardin Fraser, Hermon MacNeil, Victor D. Brenner, Adolph Weinman and Gutzon Borglum.

The present medal was designed by sculptor Eugene Daub, winner of the 1991 J. Sanford Saltus award for Signal Achievement in the Art of the Medal. Mr. Daub had previously designed the Society’s 1986 medal for the centennial of the Statue of Liberty. The obverse of the 3 inch medal depicts a bust of President Partrick; to the left is the new ANS building at 96 Fulton Street, while to the right is the date and a small pine tree, alluding to Donald Partrick’s interest in early American numismatics. The reverse portrays Hercules moving large coins bearing the ANS seal, symbolizing the enormous task of moving from the familiar site on Audubon Terrace to the present location in lower Manhattan. The phrase “Domus Nova” translates as New Home, denoting the Fulton Street site as more than just a new location. This medal is also unusual in that it does not clearly identify the obverse portrait.

During the nearly 150 years since its founding, the American Numismatic Society has issued several medals to honor its presidents, as well as one to mark its move to Audubon Terrace in 1908. Medals were previously issued in honor of President Charles Anthon in 1884, Daniel Parish in 1890, and Louis B. West in 1960. Although a medal was issued in 1908 in honor of Archer Huntington and the Society’s move to the building at

Audubon Terrace, at the request of Mr. Huntington, the medal does not bear his image. Since 1918, Huntington medal has been awarded annually for literary or other services to the science of numismatics. It is quite remarkable that while the 1908 medal bears Archer Huntington's name but not his portrait, the present medal bears the portrait of Donald Partrick but not his name.

Auction Information

(by John W. Adams)

Presidential Coin & Antique Company's Litman, Sullivan & Dreyfuss Collections Sale will be held at the Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention at the Baltimore Convention Center on December 4, 2004. Cataloged by Joe Levine, this sale offers something for medal collectors of every stripe.

Collectors of historical medals will be treated to a array of important pieces which includes three original silver Indian Peace Medals (51mm Polk; 62mm Taylor and 63mm Grant). Over 100 other medals struck by the U.S. Mint in virtually all of the major Julian categories supplement this offering.

A spectacular 23 1/2" bronze portrait plaque of U.S. Grant from Franklin Simmons' National Bronze Picture Gallery" is the largest presidential piece and heads a potpourri of several hundred different campaign and inaugural items.

Presidential Inaugural Medal collectors will relish the offerings in the David Dreyfuss Family Collection. Included in this important collection is the Theodore Roosevelt medal by Saint Gaudens; a 1913 Wilson medal in silver (1 of 30); the Harding official medal (the rarest bronze medal in the series); an incredible charm bracelet containing five gold inaugural charms from 1953 to 1965; and, last but not least, a 15 oz. 24k gold medal issued for the 1977 Carter Inauguration (1 of 4 struck).

Other important historical pieces include a hand engraved gold Princeton University Cliosophic Society medal; an 1837 silver South Carolina Society Centennial medal and a US Mint die engraved by Anthony Paquet of an 1864 period Abraham Lincoln medalette.

The sale also contains a selection of important art medals. A consignment from Dick Johnson's Collection of Galvanos, Medals and Dies for Medallistic Art leads off with important medals and plaques by Anton Scharff, Victor D. Brenner, Bela Lyon Pratt, Gutzon Borglum, Hermon MacNeil, John Flanagan, R. Tait McKenzie, Theodore Spicer-Simson, James Earle Fraser, Laura Gardin Fraser, Anthony DeFrancisci and Paul Manship, to name a few.

Well worthy of mention is a run of Washington Before Boston's—an original, an error reverse, a "first French restrike" and several others. An underrated and/or undiscovered cataloguer, Joe Levine brings insights to these pieces not found in any of the standard works on the subject.

A text only version of the sale is available on the Internet at <http://www.maineantiquedigest.com/adimg/precoin.htm>

The fully illustrated catalog may be obtained by contacting Presidential at 6550-I Little River Turnpike, Alexandria, VA 22312 or Jlevine968@aol.com.