

PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC LEAGUE
"FIELD DAY" MEDALS
by Paul Lajoie

This collection identifies medals that were presented as awards to New York City elementary and high school students by the Public Schools Athletic League from 1906 and 1930.

Through a contract with Joseph Pulitzer's *Sunday World* newspaper, gold, silver, golden bronze, and bronze medals were given to winners of schoolboy athletic events. Additionally, Field Judges for the events wore identical medals.

The events and their winners were summarized regularly in the *Sunday World*, the *Evening World*, and *The New York Times*. In the 25 year span approximately 65,000 medals were awarded. The 1917 "yearbook" identified 1,980 each of the silver and bronze medals for that year, with 38,850 awarded up to that date.

Gold medals, such as the 1914 and 1918 "solid gold" are known to have been awarded to winners of city championships in team sports such as basketball (for certain) and baseball (possibly). There is evidence that some City Championship medals had distinctive Championship bars from which the drupe and medal were suspended (1920 and 1922). For regular field day events, first place awards were sterling silver, and second place awards were bronze. Third place winners sometimes received a ribbon, evidenced by a 1921 award.

The brass medals given to Field Judges, identical to the competitive awards, were suspended from a red/white/blue ribbon instead of the usual red/white/red ribbon seen on the competitive awards.

The design of the medals changed each year, resulting in many diverse styles. Though roughly the same size, about 1½ inches in diameter, the shapes range from basic round (1912 and 1921) to indescribable (1909).

The formation of the Public School Athletic League, under the direction of General George C. Wingate, was first reported in November 1903. The demise of the Pulitzer Newspaper Empire in 1931 effectively ended their sponsorship of the medal awards, thus defining the beginning and the end of the set of *Sunday World* "field day" medals.

Additional corroboration proving the beginning and ending dates of the awards is available through the annual yearbook that was published for the Public Schools Athletic League, and the *Official Handbook*, Public Schools Athletic League, published for the Spalding's Athletic Library.

FIELD DAYS DEFINED

The 1916 "yearbook" of the Public Schools Athletic League explained just what constituted a "field day". Since it became a "day off" from school and provided a chance to play sports, it had the perfect formula for success!

"Through the passing of a By-Law several years ago by the Board of Education, every school is permitted to annually take from its regular school year one full day to devote to what is known as "Field Day". These are held upon one of the large athletic fields of the Board of Education or Park Department and are participated in by each school as a body. In each of the field days the principal acts as referee and the teachers assist him. Prior to the school games, which constitute the athletic events, some special patriotic exercises such as "Salute to the Flag" are held. Many schools also hold folk dances and special races for the girls.

Public Schools Athletic League of the City of New York,

Official YearBook of the, Year 1916, New York, New York.

About Ribbons – Most of the reported survivors of these medals that have ribbons show excessive wear. The pieces from 1909 to 1914 inclusive have a fob type loop which is often mistaken by the uninitiated for a watch fob. The ribbon on these medals was threaded directly through this fob without the need for any secondary metal loop.

The 1906, 1919, and 1920 dates have a hole directly in the medal through which a small metal ring was attached. A second ring at the bottom of the draped ribbon would secure the drupe to the medal. In similar fashion, all other medals exhibit an integral loop for the attachment of the ribbons to the medals. The ribbons themselves, that attach to the medals that were awarded to the athletes, are of a red/white/red color. The ribbons for the brass Field Judges Medals were of a red/white/blue color, and affixed to the medals in the same manner, but also had, in addition, a small yellow bar containing the words "FIELD JUDGE". The evidence suggests that medals awarded for city or team championships were attached to red/white/blue ribbons. 1920 and 1922 championship medals are examples of this.

WINGATE MEMORIAL MEDAL 1965



Awarded to Juan Lieba of
Charles Hughes High School
"FOR THE/BEST RECORD/IN ATHLETIC/
IMPROVEMENT/SCHOOL WORK/
AND CHARACTER"
GEORGE C. WINGATE
(1840-1928)
FOUNDER OF THE NEW YORK CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC LEAGUE, 1903

Lawyer, New York City

Instrumental in the foundation of the Nation Rifle Association (1871), and its president for 25 years.

1906 STERLING SILVER VARIETY P.S.A.L. MEDAL



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes, supported by a winged athletic foot.

Around above:

SUNDAY WORLD MEDAL

Below: In a ribboned cartouche P.S.A.L. FIELD DAY

Outside of cartouche 1906

Reverse: Dieges & Clust/John S/STERLING

Size/Shape: 29 mm, scalloped edge, with integral loop at top for suspension from a replacement red/white/blue ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver

Possible varieties: Gold, Bronze

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1907 STERLING SILVER AND BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes, sitting on a winged foot.

Around above:

SUNDAY

WORLD MEDAL

Below and around: 19//07//P.S.A.L.//FIELD DAY.

Reverse

C.G./BRAXMARCO//N.Y.

Size/Shape: 29x29 mm, Maltese cross, elongated octagonal edge, with integral loop at top for suspension from original red/white/red ribbon/drupes

Known varieties: Sterling Silver; Bronze

Possible varieties: Gold; Brass

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1908 STERLING SILVER AND BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS

Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes, within a border of laurel.



Above: A sprinter in the starting position, and within a ribbon: SUNDA//Y

WORLD/P.S.A.L./MEDAL

Below: In exergue FIELD DAY//1908

Reverse: Dieges & Clust./23/

John St. N.Y./STERLING

Size/Shape: 33x27 mm, irregular edge, with integral loop at top for suspension from an original red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver & Bronze

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1909 STERLING SILVER AND BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Above: A wreath forming a large hole for suspension, flanked by two track men on either side, with a shield in between them.

Center: On a ribbon,

SUNDAY WORLD

Below: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.

Left: P.S.A.L.

Right: MEDAL

Below FIELD DAY/1909

Reverse: Dieges & Clust./23/ John St. N.Y./STERLING

Size/Shape: 40x27 mm, irregular edge, like a Christmas tree from reverse, with integral loop at top for suspension from an original red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver; Bronze

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1910 STERLING SILVER AND BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Four quadrants separated by bars going from NE to SW, and NW to SE, with intertwined PSAL letters woven within a circle.

Above: SUNDAY WORLD/

FIELD DAY

Right: A male figure in half stride

Below: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes/1910 in exergue.

Left: A shot-putter at the ready.

Reverse: In a diamond shaped cartouche

LAMBERT BROS./N.Y./3RD AVE. COR 58TH ST.

Below: STERLING

Size/Shape: 37x30 mm, octagonal edge, with integral loop at top for suspension from an original red/white/red ribbon/drupe. The bottom quarter is distended to reveal the date in exergue.

Known varieties: Sterling Silver, bronze

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1911 STERLING SILVER AND BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Center: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.
 Above: SUNDAY/WORLD
 Left: Field/Day
 Right: P.S.A.L.
 Below: A sprinter in the starting position, and within an extended fancy cartouche, 1911
Reverse: In a diamond shaped cartouche

LAMBERT BROS./N.Y./3RD AVE. COR 58TH ST.

Below: STERLING

Size/Shape: 40x31 mm, botonée cross with rounded edges, and an integral fob loop at top for suspension from an original red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver; Bronze

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1912 STERLING SILVER AND BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Above: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.
 Around Above: SUNDAY//WORLD
 Center: On a ribbon FIELD DAYS
 Below: A runner at the blocks. On each side P.S.//A.L.
 In exergue: 1912
 Denticles surround the entire inner rim

Reverse: In a diamond shaped cartouche

LAMBERT BROS./N.Y./3RD AVE. COR 58TH ST.

Below: STERLING

Size/Shape: 32 mm, round, with integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver; Bronze

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1913 STERLING SILVER AND BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Above: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.
 Around below in four separate circles, left to right: A hurdler; a broad jumper; a sprinter; and a shot put athlete Center: SUNDAY WORLD/FIELD DAYS/P.S.A.L./1913
Reverse: In a diamond shaped cartouche

LAMBERT BROS./N.Y./3RD AVE. COR 58TH ST.

Below: STERLING

Size/Shape: 34 mm, basically round, but appearing scalloped due to two globes and circles, with an integral fob loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver; Bronze

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1914 STERLING SILVER AND BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes, flanked by United States flag on left and New York City flag on right.

Above: 19//14

Center: A large winged foot

Around below: On a ribbon SUNDAY//WORLD//FIELD DAY, and in an arched ribbon behind the foot, P.S.//A.L.

Reverse: In an arch: Dieges & Clust//STERLING

Size/Shape: 41x21 mm, very irregular edge, with integral round loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver; Bronze

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1915 STERLING SILVER VARIETY

P.S.A.L. MEDAL



Obverse: Center: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes, 19//15 above, and P.S.A.L. on a cartouche below.

Around above: In a border SUNDAY//WORLD

Around below: In a border FIELD//DAY

At North a lamp of knowledge; at East the head of Hercules; at South the New York City Seal; and at West the head of Mercury

Reverse; In an arch: Dieges & Clust/

STERLING

Size/Shape: 35 mm, basically round, but distended at compass points, with integral small loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver

Possible varieties: Bronze, gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1915 STERLING SILVER

HIGH RECORD VARIETY

P.S.A.L. MEDAL

Obverse Center: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.

Around above: SUNDAY WORLD WALKING CLUB/P.S.//A.L.

Below the logo: HIGH RECORD/MEDAL

Reverse

Won By/A. Herold/July 4TH/1915

In an arch: Dieges & Clust/STERLING

Size/Shape: 32 mm, octagon, with hole for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver

Possible varieties: None

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 1,000 silver only

1916 STERLING SILVER VARIETY

P.S.A.L. MEDAL



Obverse: Above: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes, sitting on a cartouche. SUNDAY//WORLD

Center: In exergue P.S.//A.L. on each side of the New York State coat of arms.

Below: A sprinter at the blocks, left 19 and right 16. FIELD//DAY

Reverse: Dieges & Clust/ STERLING

Size/Shape: 35x27 mm, elongated octagonal edge, with integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver, Bronze, Brass (field judge)

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: 1,980 each silver and bronze

1917 STERLING SILVER AND GOLD BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS

Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.

Above: SUNDAY//WORLD

Center: On a banner that reaches into the rim on each end from SW to NE: ❖P❖S❖A❖L❖

Left center: On a ribbon FIELD DAY

Right below banner: 1917 in a ribbon; leaves; a shield; leaves.

Reverse: Dieges & Clust/Gold Bronze

Size/Shape: 31mm, seven sided, with integral round loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver; Gold Bronze

Possible varieties: Bronze

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1918 SOLID GOLD AND BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.
 Above center: A United States flag with a sprig of leaves to each side.
 Center: On a banner SUNDAY//WORLD
 Below center: Above the logo, P.S.//A.L.

Below: Left of logo FIELD/19, right of logo DAYS/18

Reverse: Dieges & Clust//Solid Gold

Size/Shape: 32 x 27mm, tablet, with integral round loop at top for suspension from a red/white/blue ribbon/drupe, and a metal ribbon marked BASEBALL (On the bronze variety only)

Known varieties: Solid (18 kt?) Gold; Bronze

Possible varieties: Sterling Silver

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1919 STERLING SILVER AND BRASS/GOLDTONE VARIETIES



P.S.A.L. MEDALS

Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.

Above: A large winged foot/ P.S.//A.L.

Center: On a ribbon SUNDAY//WORLD

Below: FIELD DAY

In exergue extending from round medal: 1919

Reverse DIEGES & CLUST

Size/Shape: 27 mm, round, with integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe. The bottom is also distended to house the date

Known varieties: Sterling Silver and Brass or Goldtone

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1920 STERLING SILVER AND BRONZE VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.

Around a band in the center: ★SUNDAY WORLD★FIELD DAYS Left, top, and right: P/S//A/L

Below: 1920

Reverse: Dieges & Clust/

Sterling

Size/Shape: 33 mm, exaggerated maltese style cross, with hole at top for suspension from a red/white/blue ribbon/drupe. Championship award has "Championship/1920" on pinback bar at top of drupe.

Known varieties: Sterling Silver; Bronze

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1921 BRASS/BRONZE TONE VARIETY

P.S.A.L. MEDAL



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.

Above: On a ribbon SUNDAY WORLD

Beneath the logo: On a ribbon with leaves on each side FIELD/1921/DAY

Below: On a ribbon P.S.A.L.

Around the entire rim: A denticled border

Reverse: DIEGES & CLUST

Size/Shape: 28 mm, round, with integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe.

Known varieties: Brass or Bronzestone

Possible varieties: Sterling Silver; Bronze, Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1922 STERLING SILVER - GOLD BRONZE, AND BRASS VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.

In a band above: SUNDAY WORLD Below that: FIELD DAYS 1922

Left and right: P·S·//A·L·

Reverse: Dieges & Clust/

Sterling

Size/Shape: 30 mm, octagonal with integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/blue ribbon/drupe. Championship award has "Championship/1922" on pinback bar at top of drupe.

Known varieties: Sterling Silver;

Gold Bronze, and Brass

Possible varieties: Gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1923 STERLING SILVER AND BRASS "FIELD JUDGE"

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes, with berry leaves on each side.

Above: P S // A L,

left 19, and right 23.

Center in a ribbon: SUNDAY//WORLD

Below: A full figured distance runner in full stride, with two trailing runners, and on each side in another ribbon FIELD//DAYS

Reverse: D&C Logo/Sterling/

Dieges & Clust

Size/Shape: 35x30 mm, shield shaped, with integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red or red/white/blue ribbon/drupe.

Brass variety has celluloid bar with words "FIELD JUDGE"

Known varieties: Sterling Silver; Brass (field judge)

Possible varieties: Bronze, gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

924 STERLING SILVER AND BRASS VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes, with berry leaves on each side.

Above: An athlete jumping a hurdle

P S // A L

Center in a ribbon: SUNDAY WORLD

Below: Left FIELD/19, and right DAYS/24.

Reverse: D&C Logo/Sterling/

Dieges & Clust

Size/Shape: 29 mm, wavy round cross potent shaped, similar to a fireman's badge, with integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red or red/white/blue ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver, bronze

Possible varieties: gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1925 STERLING SILVER AND BRASS VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.

Above: In a small trapezoid, 1925, at the top of an arch with Corinthian columns on each side extending beyond the halfway point, and a track runner in the blocks between the columns.

Center in a ribbon extending into the edge of the medal: SUNDAY WORLD

Center sides outside the columns: Leaves

Below the ribbon and between the columns: P.S./A.L.

On a ribbon each side of the logo: FIELD//DAYS

Reverse

D&C Logo/Sterling/Dieges & Clust

Size/Shape: 33 x 23 mm, very irregular rounded at top with shape of leaves at sides, and rounded at bottom, with integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red or red/white/blue ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver, brass

Possible varieties: Bronze, gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1926 STERLING SILVER

P.S.A.L. MEDAL



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.

Above: On three ribbons at top, above center and center SUNDAY/WORLD/P.S./A.L.

Center: A standing athlete holding a sprig of laurel

FIELD//DAYS

Below: On a fourth ribbon 19//26

Reverse

D&C Logo/Sterling/Dieges & Clust

Size/Shape: 44 x 24 mm, very irregular slightly rounded at top, and rounded at bottom, with integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver

Possible varieties: Bronze

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1927 STERLING SILVER

P.S.A.L. MEDAL



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes

Center on a ribbon: SUNDAY WORLD

Below center right: FIELD/DAY

Below: A sprinter at the blocks, left 1927.

In a cartouche at bottom: ·P·S·A·L·

Reverse: D&C Logo/Dieges & Clust/STERLING

Size/Shape: 35x20 mm, elongated rectangular edge, with gable top and integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver

Possible varieties: Bronze, gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1928 STERLING SILVER AND BRASS VARIETIES

P.S.A.L. MEDALS



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes

Center on a ribbon: SUNDAY WORLD

In exergue: ·P·S·A·L·

Below center: FIELD//DAYS

Below: A sprinter at the blocks, below 1928.

Reverse: D&C Logo/Dieges & Clust/STERLING

Size/Shape: 34x25 mm, diamond shaped, with flat points and integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver, Brass,

Possible varieties: Bronze, gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1929 STERLING SILVER VARIETY

P.S.A.L. MEDAL



Obverse: Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes.

Above: On a ribbon, SUNDAY WORLD

In exergue, P.S.A.L.

Center: 1929

Below: A winged foot extending up both sides of the medal

Reverse

D&C Logo/STERLING/Dieges & Clust

Size/Shape: 39x23 mm, very irregular edge, like a teardrop, with integral round loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Sterling Silver

Possible varieties: Bronze, gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze

1930 BRASS/BRONZE VARIETY

P.S.A.L. MEDAL



Obverse: Above: P.S.A.L., Pulitzer Newspaper logo of the Statue of Liberty between two globes

Center in a ribbon: SUNDAY//WORLD

Below: A sprinter in the blocks, and on each side in two ribbons FIELD//DAYS

In a cartouche: 1930

Reverse: D&C Logo/

Dieges & Clust

Size/Shape: 35x23 mm, shield shaped, with integral loop at top for suspension from a red/white/red or red/white/blue ribbon/drupe

Known varieties: Bronze/Brass

Possible varieties: Sterling Silver, Bronze, gold

Designer: Unknown

Mintages: Under 2,000 each silver and bronze