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

It is fitting to celebrate this holiday season by offering you the twelfth issue of the current calendar year. We have been more regular and more fertile than I dared dream possible.

Our correspondents have been on the quiet side, leaving us with plenty of space in the current issue. Taking a page from Penny-Wise, we have decided to experiment with advertisements. Whereas we must enter the disclaimer that none of the advertised material is guaranteed in any way by the periodical or by the Club, nonetheless we will follow a policy that any advertiser must be known to your editor. If my acquaintanceship is comprised of crooks, we will all be sadder but wiser together.

What's New On Our Website!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE EVERY MONTH

www.medalcollectors.org
The Army Medical Museum
(by Bill Murray)

The Army Medical Museum Medical Collection still exists. The Army Medical Museum now is located at Fort Sam Houston here in San Antonio, but when it moved here from Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., certain of its holdings were withdrawn to be placed in the Museum of Health and Medicine, still at Walter Reed. Alan Hawk, whose title is Collection Manager, told me today that the collection is still in existence with about 3000 items. That is the same number referenced in the latest e-Sylum. He said he would be glad to show the collection to interested numismatists, but would need an appointment to do so. His direct telephone number is 202-782-2205. I'm not sure if his first name is Alan or Allen, but Hawk is correct. Boy! would I like to be the one to get involved with it. Good luck, someone.

Part II - The Carnegie Medal Celebrates a Centennial

Bywayne Johnson

THE INVITATION arrived inviting my wife and I to the Carnegie Hero Fund Centennial Dinner, to be held in Pittsburgh on October 16, 2004. We responded “yes” immediately. I had missed the ANA convention in Pittsburgh this year, so I did not want to miss this gala function.

Discreetly I learned Wayne Homren and his wife Dee were invited for his help in building the Carnegie Medal exhibits. Artist of the medal – of course -- Luigi Badia and his wife Kandy were invited, as was medal maker Hugo Greco and his wife (but they could not attend for a family wedding the following day). So I asked the Carnegie staff if we three couples could be seated at the same table. They were kind to oblige.

Prior to the day of, the celebration, wife Shirley and I arrived in Pittsburgh. We had set up a dinner with the Homrens. Bring the kids, I said to Wayne, we love kids (with six grandsons of our own). Pick a family restaurant. We did and enjoyed learning of their upcoming Halloween costumes. Later, back at their home, we spent hours in Wayne’s fantastic numismatic library, which is also grand central headquarters where he receives electronic messages throughout the week then edits and creates e-Sylum every Sunday night for more than 700 subscribers Monday morning.

Saturday afternoon was a guided tour of Pittsburgh, sponsored by the Carnegie Hero Fund. And the big event was the celebratory evening. It started with a gathering in the theater of the Carnegie Museum’s Music Hall. After a Welcome by the Carnegie Hero Fund’s president, Mark Laskow, we were blessed with a talk “Heroes Among Us” by David McCullough, the historian, author, educator, lecturer, documentarian and moderator of the TV series Smithsonian World and The American Experience.

From the four pages of notes I took on McCullough’s speech the heroes among us are often not well known but those who rise to an occasion at hand,
people with high moral character and an inherent concern for their fellow man. As a historian, McCullough gave examples from American history, particularly those he had included among his six books. The less well known included Molly Corbin, Benjamin Rush and John Greenwood (you will have to read his books for the historical heroic efforts of these people). His well know examples were John Quincy Adams, Teddy Roosevelt and George Marshall. (These are household names of course – but their heroic efforts are not that well known! I learned something new about each.)

Later we adjourned to the Carnegie Museum’s Architectural Hall for further festivities. The centennial dinner guests were overwhelmed by the surroundings – arches and elaborately detailed doors, some of which must have been thirty feet high. Why this was so appropriate? These monumental architectural works were the same form of art as the medal the Commission awards – bas-relief – but in vast extremes of size!

Luigi Badia was recognized from the podium as sculptor of the new medal. He stood up at our table to a round of applause from the assembled dinner guests. He deserved that accolade for the absolutely stunning bas-relief he created for both the new Carnegie Hero Fund Award Medal and the Carnegie Hero Fund Centennial Medal.

Table favors included a CD containing an appropriate film and a book, both of which titled “A Century of Heroes,” the later edited by Douglas R. Chambers, chronicling the history and the thrust of Carnegie Hero Fund. The flower centerpiece at each table was composed of laurel, ivy, oak and thistle – the same foliage that appears on the medal – which symbolizes glory, friendship, strength and persistence respectively, all of which, significantly, have adorned heroes of the past.

If Andrew Carnegie looked down on the Centennial festivities that evening he would have been proud 100 years after he set in motion an idea to honor lifesaving. The current director of his commission, its officers, the commissioners, and for fact the entire commission’s staff are performing superior tasks to accomplish Carnegie’s ideals. They are doing this in a manner and style he would have approved, I’m sure.

THE NEW MEDAL bears Andrew Carnegie facing right, a similar portrait to the first century’s medal. The early medal was designed by American artist Charles Osborne (who died in 1927); Osborne’s design was patented in his name December 11, 1905 and assigned to the Carnegie Fund. His distinctive design was modeled by Charles F. Hamann, a sculptor member of the National Sculpture Society. Philadelphia’s jewelry firm, J.E. Caldwell, was granted the contract to produce the medals beginning in 1905.

Caldwell commissioned a Bridgeport Connecticut firm, Whiting Manufacturing Company, to cut the dies from Hamann’s models. Caldwell struck the 3-inch medal in gold, silver and
bronze in the early years (21 in gold until the 1920s, 620 in silver into the 1970s) with bronze at all times. At some point Caldwell forewent the actual striking, instead subcontracted this step of manufacture to Simmons Brothers, also in Philadelphia, until 1990 when Simmons began supplying the custom medals directly to the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

It is not well known that a cash grant is bestowed with each Carnegie Hero Fund Medal. This has increased over the years, currently $3,500, and in some cases the Fund has supplied scholarships in instances like the death of a father. The Commission learns of lifesaving events from a newspaper clipping service. These are thoroughly examined and in the most deserving cases, an investigator is sent into the field to interview the family, the hero, the conditions under which the event occurred – they are researched thoroughly to meet the Funds exacting criteria. In the first century, 78,000 prospects were thus considered.

Once the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission decided in 2003 to issue a centennial medal it further chose to make this medal available to all – a most democratic policy for which they should be applauded. Collectors of medals, numismatists, and numismatic museums could obtain the Carnegie Hero Fund Centennial Medal, where an original award medal is almost impossible to obtain.

Tables were set up outside the lecture hall the night of the Centennial affair for the University of Pittsburgh Press -- for sale of the centennial book -- and for the sale of the Centennial Medal. Here I met the Stief family; father Ted, Mother and son, Blaine. They are the official distributors for the Centennial Medal. Their firm Cybercoins.net is located in Pittsburgh. I couldn't get my money out fast enough to purchased a Centennial Medal. I got serial number 88 of 500 struck. I'll bet they reserved these low numbers just for the occasion.

On first inspection the medal appears totally silver – actually it is struck in bronze proof and silver-plated by the manufacturer – Greco Industries. Silver plating is one of the firm’s specialties and this medal exhibits their mastery in this field. (Master plater Hugo Greco has been gold and silver plating medals since he first entered the medal industry in October 1955.)

Mounted in a plastic capsule, each 2 1/2-inch medal is housed in a blue case with white satin liner. The liner contained the exact wording on the reverse cartouche of the Centennial Medal. My own words coming back to me!

Unabashedly, I recommend the purchase of this Carnegie Hero Fund Centennial Medal by any medal collector. And if you collect lifesaving medals, this is a Must! There is a special price before the end of the year. Go online to cybercoins.net for the details. (Call 412-531-3100 or write Cybercoins, 2925 W. Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15216). Buy this medal right away. You have been warned, the price is going up. Get it now.
TO GIVE a reply to the question posed in Part I of this article – Why had I never heard of this famous medal selling at auction? – the answer is that families are loathe to part with them. In most families a parent’s medals are highly prized by their children. This becomes less so, in say, the third or fourth generation removed (often these were the consignors to my medal auctions).

Despite the fact 8,764 Carnegie Medals were bestowed in the first century of its existence (1,873 of those awardees died in performing their lifesaving act) it is my opinion they are still held in high esteem by family members, perhaps beyond even the third generation. If grandpa was a sportsman, his track or field medals may not hold that much interest for his descendants. But a Carnegie Medal is different. Grandpa was a documented Hero and a Carnegie Medal proves it!

Dick Johnson (who writes under the name D. Wayne Johnson) wrote his first numismatic article in 1949 at the age of 19. His 1998 script, The Medal Maker, was narrated by Elizabeth Jones, former Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint, and made into a home video by Hollywood film producer Michael Craven. Johnson created Coin World, the world’s first numismatic news weekly in 1960 and served as its first editor. He was the first Director of Research for Medallic Art Company, a position he held for a decade and where he edited the firm’s collector newsletter, The Art Medallist. He has owned or managed two numismatic auction firms specializing in medallistic art. In his retirement he is compiling a directory of American artists, diesinkers, engravers, medallists and sculptors of coins and medals. He has collected the terms of coin and medal technology and plans an encyclopedia of this vital information. In the electronic internet field he has written answers to basic inquiries (FAQs) for coin and medal artists at http://www.amsamedals.org/frameset_faq.htm and for medal collectors at http://www.medalcollectors.org/Questions/index.html where he is also editor of the Collector’s Guides and Checklists section. He is a frequent contributor to e-Sylum, a weekly internet newsletter for collectors of numismatic literature (see www.coinbooks.org free subscription at esylum-request@binhost.com).

For More Information


Luigi Badia Honored
(by D. Wayne Johnson)

New NSS member Luigi Badia was honored Saturday, October 16, 2004 at a dinner in Pittsburgh for the centennial of the Carnegie Hero Fund. Badia had created new models for a revised medal for the second century of this 100-year old philanthropic organization, established by Andrew Carnegie April 15, 1904. Carnegie was inspired by a Pennsylvania coal mine disaster that year that took 179 lives to reward those who save human life.

Previously the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission had awarded a medal created in 1905. Designed by Charles Osborne, it was modeled by NSS member Charles F. Hamann, the most important medal he created. Over the first 100 years 8,764 medals have been awarded. A certificate and a cash award of $3,500 were bestowed to each recipient. Over 65,000 people were nominated during this period.

In addition to the new award medal, bestowed in bronze 3-inch size, Badia also created a Centennial Commemorative version of the award medal. It is being offered to the public by the distributor, Cybercoins.net of Pittsburgh. This medal is a 2 1/2-inch bronze silver plate in proof surface. It bears a centennial inscription in the cartouche on the reverse:
Commemorative Medal / Celebrating a Century of Heroes / 1904 - 2004 / Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. Only 500 have been struck and these are serially numbered.

The award medals bear the recipients name and a brief description of his or her heroic efforts in saving a life in this reverse cartouche panel. The names and award details are in raised relief, which was the desire of Andrew Carnegie himself. This raised lettering means each medal must be struck individually with an insert plate that bears incuse lettering.

The firm of Greco Industries of Danbury, CT was awarded the contract to produce these medals. The unique production problem of raised lettering was solved by the firm’s founder, Hugo Greco. The medals are awarded with a new bronze patina, created by the firm that also specializes in fine art medal patination.

Badia has created over 200 medals. He was born in Andretta, Italy and came to America as a 10-year old in May 1970. He was educated at City University of New York (BS in Sculpture) and Pratt Institute (MFA in Sculpture). He was elected as a professional NSS sculptor member in August 2004.

Ford Collection - VII
(by David Alexander)

Part VII of the Ford Collection offers a rich variety of American-related British Militaria, including rare neckpieces or gorgets of several regiments with American experience, medals of units that saw service in the
final defeat of France in the colonial war of 1763 and in the American Revolution.

Official British campaign medals were not awarded to veterans of earlier battles such as the War of 1812 until 1847-1848 during the reign of Queen Victoria. Before this, individual regiments sometimes created their own medals, such as the Germantown Medal cited by C. Wyllis Betts. The Navy General Service Medal and the War Medal, (often called the Peninsular Medal from the number awarded to veterans of the Duke of Wellington’s campaigns in Spain) could be given to living veterans who were aware of the medals’ availability.

These first two official British campaign medals set the pattern for dozens of later campaign awards. The early Naval General Service Medals bear the name of the recipient and the ship on which he served. Army awards bore the name and rank, unit name and later a serial number of the recipient. Such “named” medals are eagerly sought and studied by British collectors who often concentrate on specific units as well.

American collectors and the general public are often mystified by collectors’ ability to find such medals more than a century after issue. The answer is tied to the different directions taken by American and British collectors since about 1893. That was the date in which August G. Heaton’s slim booklet, *A Treatise on the Branch Mints of the United States*, appeared and dramatically changed the course of collecting for most coin seekers in the U.S.

From the birth of coin collecting in the 1850’s, pioneer U.S. numismatists sought such items as ancient and world coins, Washington medals, U.S. tokens with nearly equal fervor. After Heaton riveted attention on dates and mintmarks only, the bulk of American collectors cut themselves off from the larger world of numismatics, falling out of the loop that regularly brought information about such things as campaign medals to their attention.

Collectors of British Militaria are serviced by a network of dealers, societies and auction houses that seek out such historic collectibles and offer them for sale both in Britain and in the wider world. From 1940 to 1980, John J. Ford Jr. was one of a tiny handful of American professional numismatists and collectors aware of and tied into that network.

By diligent study of the kinds of material that interested him and might one day come his way, and by remaining in close contact with the network, Ford became aware of new items as they appeared and was ready to act decisively to obtain them. It was basically a question of learning what he wanted and being ready to jump for it when it became available. Few other Americans possessed this ability in the years that Ford was most active.

Ford Part VII offers 13 Naval General Service Medals (NGS) and related items awarded for events in the War of 1812. Most of the medals are graded Extremely Fine, though grading is far less significant here than in the
field of coins. Many have replacement ribbons, since cloth seldom lasts as long as imperishable silver. Once again, to dedicated Militaria collectors an original ribbon is delightful but not a life and death consideration. Similarly, past cleaning is almost inevitable, since the recipients had to pass inspection throughout their subsequent naval or military careers.

Among the most historic items are three relating to the battle of USS President under Commodore Stephen Decatur and HMS Endymion on Jan. 15, 1815. The American ship left New York harbor in a howling snowstorm and immediately fell in with British vessels blockading the city, where it engaged Endymion with great loss of life for two and one-half hours. HMS Pomone and Tenedos then arrived, opening fire on the already damaged President and forcing Decatur’s surrender. As a tribute to his courage, the Captain of HMS Majestic returned Decatur’s sword with the gallantry of the era.

The first NGS offered in the Ford Collection is named to Supernumerary Private John Barnett of the Royal Marines. Its replacement ribbon bears a single bar, ENDYMION Wh PRESIDENT. Joining the medal are two Endymion Crooks, silver decorations for midshipmen to wear ashore in tribute to their role in overcoming the American vessel.

Griffiths Morris was recipient of another NGS with two bars, SHANNON Wh CHESAPEAKE and later bar NILE. This Royal Marine recipient took part in an extraordinary action of June 1, 1813 off Boston that was a the result of a challenge to single combat by British Captain Philip Bowes Vere Broke of HMS Shannon to U.S. Navy officer Captain James Lawrence of USS Chesapeake. Lawrence will be remembered for his heroism in the earlier Hornet versus Peacock fight.

In a furious 12-minute fight, the British ship lashed itself to the American vessel and stormed aboard, killing Captain Lawrence. In the disorderly hand-to-hand deck fight that followed, the now leaderless Americans tried to heed the dying Lawrence’s cry “Don’t give up the ship,” but Chesapeake was overwhelmed. She was sailed as a prize to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where Lawrence was buried with full military honors. Recipient Griffiths lived on to take part with Lord Nelson in the pivotal Battle of the Nile, whence his second bar.

Francis Fox, Ship’s Cook, received the NGS for his part in the bloody battle of HMS Pelican versus USS Argus off St. David’s Head on Aug. 14, 1813. This 45-minute engagement first cost American Captain Allen one leg and then cost his First Lieutenant his life. The Second Lieutenant continued the struggle but Argus was now unmanageable and her colors hauled down before the British boarded her. This medal’s single bar is inscribed PELICAN 14 AUG 1813.

Rear Admiral Cockburn’s rampage along the Susquehanna River is recalled by an NGS named to George Bishop, Lieut. RN. HMS Statira shelled the villages of Frenchtown and Havre-du-Grace between April 28 and May 3, 1813, sending landing parties to invade and
partly burn these riverside towns. These actions also gave Ordinary Seaman John Pilgrim the NGS next offered in Ford VII, for service aboard *HMS Maidstone* in the same attacks. His bar is inscribed *AP & MAY BOAT SERVICE 1813*.

The next NGS was awarded for actions at the very jugular of the U.S. to *Thomas Marriott* with bar *THE POTOMAC 17 AUG 1814* with its original paper box of issue. Marriott was a midshipman aboard *HMS Erebus* in the bombardment of Fort Washington and the capture of Alexandria, Virginia.

Another NGS offered is that awarded to *W. Choppin*, landsman aboard *HMS Royal Oak* for Dec. 12, 1814 service against American picket boats covering the approaches to Lake Ponchartrain and the city of New Orleans. Rowing 36 miles against the current, Commander N. Lockyer’s 42 launches and 980 seamen cleared the approaches to the city. When the NGS medal was made available 30 years later, no fewer than 200 survivors of these strenuous actions were alive to receive their medals.

The Army General Service (AGS) Medals in Ford VII are as historic. Three were awarded for the victory of *FORT DETROIT* of August 1812 and bear that bar. These are named to *J. Brownridge, Serjt. 41st Foot; W. Caldwell, Capt. Canadn. Militia; P. Larose, Canadn. Militia*. The Canadian recipients’ names greatly increase the medals’ value for Canadian collectors. The medals also recall a miscalculation by the Americans in the Revolution as well as in 1812-1815 that somehow Canadians would be won over to the U.S. They were not in either struggle.

No fewer than eight AGS Medals bear the *CHATEAUGUAY* bar for the pivotal Battle of Chateauguay, Oct. 16, 1813. Canadian Militia awardees represented here are *A. Daigneau, C. Daigneau, Serjt. Pierre Gendron, P. Godbout, L. Lavoie, O. Onellet*. Of outstanding significance to collector or the casual reader are two Chateauguay AGS Medals inscribed to American Indian recipients, *Warriors Henias Atenharha, A Nikarawesa*.

Another significant British-Canadian victory was the Battle of *CHRYSTLER’S FARM*, Nov. 11, 1813, that turned back the planned U.S. assault on Montreal. Representing Canadian Militia are medals with this bar, named to *Privates C. Gonge and R. Langevin* of the Canadian Voltigeurs. Accompanying them is a final AGS named colorfully to *Big Jacob Pahahiwickjecomwaby, Warrior*.

Following these campaign medals are six examples of the Upper Canada Preserved Medal, struck from dies engraved by T. Wyon Jr. for the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada for presentation for gallant service in the War of 1812. The British lion, Canadian beaver and American eagle confront each other along the St. Lawrence River on these medals’ obverses but the pieces were never presented as originally planned and are rare today.

John J. Ford Jr.’s interest in military continued through American wars past the end of World War II into the 1990’s. Highlighting the Mexican War
is the spectacular 64.8-millimeter, 249.26-gram Congressional Gold medal to Major General Zachary Taylor (Julian MI-23). Authorized by Congress on March 2, 1847, this medal bears a heavily uniformed bust of an officer who hated appearing in uniform.

The artistically indifferent reverse offers an oar wreath enclosing a text marking Congress’ Resolution marking Taylor’s victory at Monterrey, September 1846. This is one of the very few Congressional Gold Medals ever to cross the auction block and is the medal cited by Julian on page 135 of his catalogue of U.S. Mint medals as “… presently in the collection of John J. Ford Jr.”

The offering of Mexican War and Civil War medals that comprise the remainder of Ford VII will also repay close examination. Further information about this and other Stack’s auction sales may be obtained from Stack’s, 123 West 57 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 or via email, Info@stacks.com.

Recent Sales

Morton & Eden conducted an auction on 11/23-24/2004. The piece that caught our eye was lot #1084, a Charles II Royal medal in gold and in outstanding condition. Eimer (his #267) calls this an award medal, citing numerous silver examples with suspenders. Morin alone speculates that it may have served as an Indian peace medal, a theory for which there is no current evidence but one that deserves some research vetting. The piece fetched a shade more than $20,000.

The Coin Galleries Sale that closed December 14th contained a delightful potpourri. An uncirculated Waterloo electro, one of the originals, is not an every day occurrence. The high estimate (by far) was for a unique Simon Bolivar assassination medal in gold; the cataloguer’s full-page description of lot 1708 is recommended reading. A smattering of Betts medals included a dozen Admiral Vernon’s in decent condition. Caviar for the cognoscenti (we suspect) was an extensive consignment of the Medallie art of H. Alvin Sharpe. Perhaps one of our modern maven will comment on this rarely seen material.

Laurens Schulman can be relied on for one great sale of historical medals every year. Their auction of November 8th through the 10th is in this tradition. The 17th and 18th century medals commemorating peace treaties are a favorite of ours because they often involve the swapping of territories in the new world with seeming abandon [Had Parker Brothers invented Monopoly a few centuries earlier, it would have been a big seller on the Continent]. The two Admiral Ruyter medals (lots 2043 and 2044) are outside our collecting purview but not outside our collector’s lust: between the extremely high relief of the busts and the delicate chasing, Wouter Muller’s execution is unforgettable. The basic technique—two cast plates joined by a broad band—may sound simple but these pieces are in no danger of being copied by our modern forgers. Get the catalogue and drool over the images.
ADVERTISING

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Add $4.50 per order ($5.00 western states) for shipping. Shipping by UPS. You must give a street address.

Low-Priced Medals for Sale

Each of the following medals is priced at $25. They come in white envelopes with Paul Patterson’s descriptions. Dr. Paul Patterson of Albany, New York, was an extremely energetic collector of Betts medals back in the 1970’s and 1980’s. One day, I will write up the man and his collection in an Advisory article. If this offering proves popular, I will list more of his material and, if that proves popular I will be forced to write the article.


Betts 430. Bronze. Holed at K12 which probably accounts for the extensive but even wear. Very good.

Betts 566. Awarded to Lt. Col. DeFleury for the attack on Stony Point. From the mint copy dies of 1880 but a much later strike in yellow bronze. Fine or better.

Casterland Medal. Dated 1796 but a modern restrike in silver. Fine or better.

Betts 620. Benjamin Franklin Natus Boston. Dated 1786 but struck from modern French copy dies. Silver and very fine.

**Books for Sale**

1) Nine volumes of The Medal, beginning Autumn 1990 thence consecutive to Autumn 1994. Runs of this, the most prestigious journal on the subject, rarely appear. Very fine. $75 including shipping.

2) Volumes 3, 4, 5, 7 and 16 of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson edited by Julian Boyd. Volumes 3, 4 and 5 provide the background for the issuance of the Virginia Happy While United Medal. Volume 7 contains Robert Morris’ lengthy proposals to Congress for a national coinage, including sketches of the four-piece set of Nova Constellation patterns. Volume 16 is by far the best background on Comitia American medals—better than Loubat, Betts and Clain-Stefanelli combined.

a) Volumes 3, 4, and 5. Fine or better in original dust jackets. $125 for the three.

b) Volume 7. Fine or better in original dust jacket. $100.

c) Volume 16. No dust jacket, marks of use but still tight. $125.

Contact Jadams@adamsharkness.com or mail check to John Adams, 99 High Street – 11th floor, Boston, MA 02110.