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THE

ADVISORY

MCA



Volume 19

MAY ~ JUNE ~ 2016

Number 3

# MCA Advisory

2016 May / June Issue

Volume 19, No. 3



## *In This Issue*

<i>President's Message</i>	3
<i>Introduction by the Editor</i>	4
<i>Letters to the Editor</i>	5
.....	
<i>How a German Became King of England — A Medallistic History of Religious Conflicts in Britain – Part 2</i>	8
<i>by Benjamin Weiss</i>	
<i>The Lore &amp; Lure of American Medals</i>	
<i>A Presentation before the Medal Collectors of America by Q. David Bowers</i>	
	20
<i>The 1897 McKinley Presidential Medal</i>	33
<i>by Robert W. Julian</i>	

## *Medal Collectors of America*

Medal Collectors of America was founded in 1998. Its purpose is to foster the collection and study of world, American art and historical medals. Our goal is to encourage research and publication in the medal field, while bringing together all who are interested, through meetings, publications and activities. Our print *Advisory* is published six times a year and we encourage submission of articles with original research. It is also available electronically. We maintain an exceptional website at [www.medalcollectors.org](http://www.medalcollectors.org), and encourage everyone to visit the site to learn more about the organization. We hold two meetings a year featuring guest speakers on a wide range of topics relating to medal collecting. One is held in August in conjunction with the American Numismatic Association convention, and the second in January, in conjunction with the New York International Numismatic convention. Meetings are open, and all are encouraged to attend.

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## President's Message

If you have not already made your travel plans for the ANA's World's Fair of Money in Anaheim, what are you waiting for? This year's keynote speaker at our annual meeting is MCA Board Member Bob Fritsch, who will speak about "The Tools of Numismatics: Presenting your Collections." As Bob puts it, "many collectors buy albums and other supplies at their local coin shop, but collectors of numismatic items other than coins must come up with innovative ways to best present their holdings. Medals are a prime example -- not only do they require a detailed description that must accompany the piece, they often do not fit any pre-made holder." Bob discusses techniques and tools he has adopted over the years and encourages everyone to use any and all ideas that fit their own situation. "There is no idea that is too good to steal," says Bob; "I am happy to serve this smorgasbord to our members and guests." The meeting will be in the Huntington A room at the Anaheim Hilton Hotel Thursday, August 11, 2016, at 2:00 PM.

In my last presidential message I reported on our record high membership. This

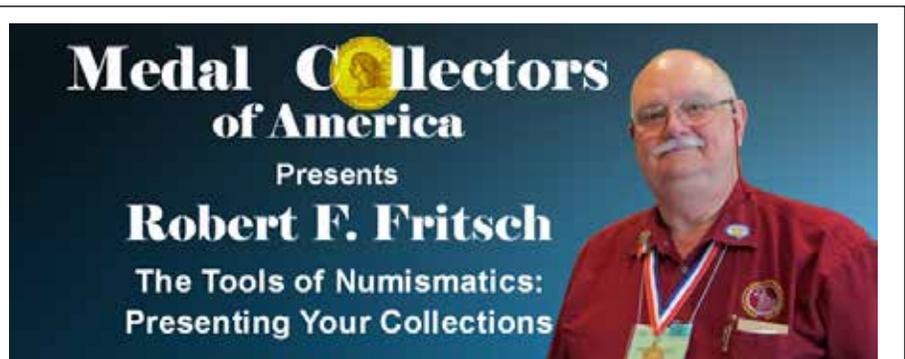
is an exciting accomplishment for our organization. We are a close community and I would encourage you to tell your numismatic friends about MCA and urge them to join. I want to thank everyone who has sponsored new members this year and I am challenging the rest of us to also bring in at least one new member before the end of the year.

MCA will have a club table at the ANA in Anaheim and we are looking for

volunteers to man the table. This will give you an opportunity to promote the club and meet other collectors. Please e-mail me at [Skyler.liechty@gmail.com](mailto:Skyler.liechty@gmail.com) or Tony Lopez at [tonyjlopez@comcast.net](mailto:tonyjlopez@comcast.net) if you would consider donating some of your time to this project. Even as little as one hour is helpful.

Until we meet in Anaheim,

Skyler Liechty



### The Medal Collectors of America Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2016

2:00 PM

American Numismatic Association - World's Fair of Money

Anaheim Hilton Hotel

Huntington A Meeting Room

No matter what we collect, we have to organize our holdings and present them somehow. This requires tools and materials that are not found in a traditional coin shop. Scales and calipers, nippers and scissors, card stock and poster-board are all found at other stores around town. Using a sonic sealer to best advantage, or coming up with a way to present and store hanging badges or military awards are also explored. This presentation is full of tips and techniques the presenter has developed over his years of collecting.

Bob started collecting coins in 1968 while stationed in Japan with the United States Navy. Subsequent assignments in Germany, Scotland, and Spain, along with several Mediterranean cruises added to his core collections of circulating coins of countries visited. Following retirement from the Navy, Bob started collecting New Hampshire town medals, medals of the New England Numismatic Association, elongated coins, woods, Hard Times Tokens, Mardi Gras Doubloons, ancients, state quarters, "classic" US commemoratives, and certain European art and historical medals. He has held numerous active leadership roles in numismatics, and as a member of nearly 50 coin clubs, Bob has served on the Board for several and President of six. We are proud to have him sit on the Board of Directors of the MCA. Bob's proudest achievements include serving as Assistant General Manager of the 2010 Boston World's Fair of Money and sitting as a member of the New Hampshire State Quarter Committee.

The Medal Collectors of America is an ANA Member club for collectors of world and U.S. art and historical medals. Contact us and we'll send you a complimentary copy of the latest issue of our club publication, the MCA Advisory. It is guaranteed to be a "good read" if you set aside an hour to enjoy it. Our purpose of course is to entice you to join others who love numismatic history, research, and medals worldwide from medieval times to the present. For more information, or to join MCA, email us at [medalcollectors@gmail.com](mailto:medalcollectors@gmail.com) or visit us at [www.medalcollectors.org](http://www.medalcollectors.org).

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## Introduction by the Editor

**M**CA member Stephen Scher has donated 450 art medals to the Frick Collection in New York City. The major dimensions of this philanthropy can be inferred from this quote by the recipient: “Considered to be the world’s greatest medal collection in private hands, rivaling and often surpassing those in American museums such as the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, it is noted for its comprehensiveness and outstanding quality.” The collection extends across all of Europe and covers the period of the beginnings of the art medal in the 15th century on up to the 19th century. Stephen is to be congratulated both for the Herculean efforts involved in assembling the collection and for his generosity in donating it to the Frick. Members can salivate at the prospect of an initial exhibition of the Scher medals beginning in May, 2017. It figures to be a vivid education in how the medal combined with contemporary paintings can enrich the understanding of both.

Several years ago, then President David Menchell suggested that the Club expand its focus to include So-Called Dollars. The acknowledged guru of this specialty is our member Jeff Shevlin who, along with William D. Hyder, authored the best book on the subject, “Discover the World of Charbneau So-Called Dollars “. Jeff has agreed to write an article for us and, after he does that, we will ask him to write another. It goes without saying that we have purchased the book and look forward to coming up the learning curve.

Admiral Vernon medals rank at the low end of the economic scale. Thus, it is with surprise that we have seen fakes offered on eBay. Several of these have been removed but one offering persists, despite rather specific comments made to the seller by ourselves. Caveat emptor.

The current issue features Part 2 of “How a German Became King of England”. The House of Hanover in the person of George I arrives on the scene in 1714 because English law at that time required a male, protestant successor

to the throne. His selection required an elaborate sifting through family trees resulting in a king who, whatever his other virtues, could not speak English. Author Ben Weiss has provided a piece de resistance for our readers with a genealogical bent, even as he offers a sumptuous feast to all readers with the rich mix of medals that illustrate his text. Ben would have us note the prejudice against non-Anglicans inherent in the British system for selecting royalty and, whereas this message comes through, it tends to be masked by the rich numismatic and historical content of the article.

Also in this issue is a re-enactment of the speech given by Dave Bowers at our

January meeting. Dave intended “The Lore and Lure of American Medals” to serve as an attractor to that large majority of numismatists who are not familiar with our specialty. Each of the fifty medals that he highlights has a story to tell, an attribute not possessed by most of the coins that non-medal collectors collect. The stories involve history, humor, adventure, art and a host of other attributes that make our specialty compelling to us but which are mostly unknown to the world at large. Any person exposed to Dave’s presentation is in danger of getting hooked on medals and we who are already hooked will get our batteries charged.



The Henry Clay Frick Museum at 5th Ave. and East 70th Street, New York

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On May 17, 2016, at 9:19 PM,  
John Adams wrote:

Good evening, Stephen – I just came across the article on your fabulous donation to the Frick. Congratulations for all that you did to assemble the collection as well as for your extreme generosity in making the gift. Is there any chance that I can convince you to write a piece on what you have done? It is truly special and I would love for your fellow enthusiasts to have the opportunity to celebrate along with you.

My very best, John

.....  
**From:** Stephen K. Scher  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 9:51 AM  
**To:** Adams, John  
**Subject:** Re: Frick

Dear John,  
Thank you for your very kind words. I am in the process of writing the introduction to the catalogue of my collection, which should appear in one year from now around the same time as the inaugural exhibition opens at the Frick, so it would be my pleasure to provide you with a short article about the collection and how it came about. Do you have a deadline and an idea of length?

With best regards,  
Stephen

.....  
**From:** Adams, John  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 10:41 AM  
**To:** Stephen K. Scher  
**Subject:** RE: Frick

Good morning, Steve - Fabulous! Our May-Jun issue is done; the deadline for July-Aug would be July 31st and for Sep-Oct would be Sep 30. As to length, this is important and you may have whatever amount of room you need to say what you want to say. The same goes for images, because readers will want to see your favorites.

I look forward to your opening and will be tempted to make one of my increasingly rare trips to New York.  
My very best,

John

**From:** Bill Allen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 4:09 PM  
**To:** Adams, John  
**Subject:** Paris Mint 1943

John,  
I'd be interested if you or any MCA members know the status of the Paris Mint during Nazi occupation. I was surprised to see that a medal that I recently acquired and stuck by Paris Mint is dated 1943. The medal (silvered bronze 53 mm) was acquired from the estate of a WW II veteran who brought it back from Europe in 1947. The engraver (presumably M. Dery) copied the obverse from an 1884 medal created by Alphée Dubois to honor astronomer Urbain Le Verrier (1811 - 1877). The reverse is copied from Jean Varin's 1674 Louis XIV Sun King medal. This is a common medal available in mass quantities on eBay - so it appears that mint cranked out thousand of copies after the war. Sellers on eBay describe edge dates from the 1960's thru 2010's. I would have thought that the need for war materials might have precluded production of a silvered medal in 1943 France?

Sincerely,  
Bill Allen

.....  
**From:** Adams, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016 4:26 PM  
**To:** Bill Allen  
**Subject:** RE: Paris Mint 1943

Good afternoon, Bill

You raise a great question and I hope readers will respond to the challenge. As to the silver, it was not considered a "strategic material" and thus you see the United States substituting almost 40% of the composition of nickels with silver during the years 1943-1945.

Best, John



DEVISE DE LOUIS XIV  
(1674)



Image from the 1926  
Paris Mint Sales Catalogue

# Letters

**From:** Len Augsburger  
**Sent:** March 17, 2016, 11:45 AM  
**To:** John Adams  
**Subject:** MCA and Newman Portal

With the consent of the MCA board, we have posted back issues of the Advisory (through 2012) on the Newman Numismatic Portal. These are arranged in a year-by-year format and may be referenced at <http://www.newmanportal.org/library/publisherdetail/510765>. In addition, John Sallay's recent survey of the electronic landscape is included for the year 2016. In archiving these back issues a number of anomalies in the Advisory numbering were uncovered. Could any Advisory readers shed further light on the following?

- a) Issue no. 2 was dated July 1999 while issue no. 4 was dated July 2000. Does an issue no. 3 exist, and if so, does anyone have a copy to lend for scanning?
- b) The volume numbering appears to skip from no. 4 in 2002 to no. 6 in 2003. Do any issues exist for volume no. 5?
- c) Do the following issues exist, and if so, could we borrow copies for scanning -- vol. 7, no. 9 (September 2004), vol. 8, no. 8 (August 2005), and vol. 12, no. 10 (December 2009)?

Regards,

Len Augsburger  
Project Coordinator  
Newman Numismatic Portal, Washington University in St. Louis

**From:** John Adams  
**Sent:** March 19, 2016, 10:55 AM  
**To:** Len Augsburger  
**Subject:** MCA and Newman Portal

Good morning, Len

I took over as editor for Volume 6 and somehow omitted Volume 5. I ask David Alexander and David Fanning to take a run at your first question on the earlier issues.

The three issues you requested in c) are in the mail. I vaguely remember an attempt to list all issues but, if this does not



surface, we will publish the blanks that David A and David F can fill in. Thank you for the questions.

My best, John

**From:** Kolbe & Fanning  
**Sent:** March 19, 2016, 11:13 AM  
**To:** John Adams, Len Augsburger  
**Subject:** MCA and Newman Portal

Hello, all:

I do not have a Vol. I, No. 3 in my library and do not know if it exists. I agree that Vol. V appears to have been skipped. JWA sent you the others, so you have that answer.

Now I have a question: does the publication go from Number 6 (June 2001) to Vol. IV, No. 1 (2002)?

Thanks.

David F. Fanning, Ph.D.

Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers LLC

*[Vol. 1, No. 3 is a rarity but it does exist. Yes, the publication does go from Number 6 (June 2001) to Vol. IV, No. 1 (2002), the first mistake of the then-rookie editor. For a full chronology of The MCA Advisory, see the article by Smith and Adams in the January-February 2013 issue. Ed.]*

April 2, 2016

Dear John,

This year's total medal sales will be 18 silver and 25 bronze. I'd like to offer a suggestion that we start a new MCA membership category. Call it "a with bronze medal subscription" – perhaps \$90 for hard copy with medal and \$65 electronic copy with bronze medal. This is like the ANS membership plus subscription to the American Journal of Numismatics. We need to sell more medals. Perhaps \$250 is too high for the silver copy. Whatever, we have a real rarity this year.

Gerry (Muhl)

P.S. Next year's design is ready to go.

**From:** Chester L. Sullivan  
**To:** Jim Rosen  
**Sent:** April 24, 2016, at 2:55 PM  
**Subject:** Your Inquiry

Thank you for this prompt response. I will be delighted to present my findings Friday, preferably in the afternoon because I will be coming from Kansas and it's too early to pin down my flight arrangements, therefore I don't know my schedule. Certainly, I'll bring my collection of twelve originals (ten silver and two copper) and I will urge fellow members to bring theirs. Jeff Rock has a splasher of the original reverse, Joe Esposito has an early die state original, John Bolger has three, Tony Terranova has four silver and several copper, David Gladfelter has some, Ronald Swerdloff (although I don't know if he's a member of 4C's) has a lovely MS 64, and I recently learned from David Menchell that he has an original silver, one I'd very much like to see. And I'll hand out copies of the census which positively identifies 45 original specimens, some of them quite thoroughly, others sketchily, but at any rate they've all been given identifying numbers. I'm sure with this much lead time we can pull together an interesting presentation.

Thanks,

Chester Sullivan

*[In the letter above, Chester is referencing an assemblage of Castorland tokens at the ANA Convention in Anaheim. Members who are interested in this material - and it sounds like there will be a lot of material - should watch for an announcement of specifics in the Convention program. Ed.]*



## NAPOLEON

Hello again John,

I'm including a short article about Denon and Napoleonic medals, particularly the medal that was to be struck in London following the successful invasion in 1804/5. Attached is an image of the example I have, which is an electro of the lead medal in the BM. Here's what I am saying about Denon and the Paris Mint:

Napoleon also made Denon the Director of the Mint, which he presided over from 1804 until 1815. During this period, many medals were struck which celebrated Napoleon's victories with the medals being signed by the engraver and Denon Director. Most of the designs for these medals were created by Denon with the engraver completing the finished medallic design. In 1804 Napoleon had embarked on his plan to invade England by assembling his army and 2,000 barges at Boulogne which was recognised by two medals under Denon's direction. A third medal was designed and trials struck, which was to be minted in London following the successful invasion. Only a lead trial piece survives, now located in the British Museum collection. However, Edward Thomason (1769-1849) in about 1820 created a fantasy medal based on the reverse of the original with an altered legend that reads 'Frappé a Londres' instead of 'Frappée a Londres en 1804'. Thomason had been an apprentice at Boulton's Soho works and established his own manufacturer in Birmingham in the early 1790s and a mint in 1807. Napoleon's invasion plans were thwarted by Admiral Calder who in 1805 prevented the combined Spanish and French squadrons from entering the Channel. Any future plans of invasion died with the destruction of the combined fleets at Trafalgar by Lord Nelson.

I really would like to find an example of the Thomason medal, so if you know of any Napoleon medal collectors who may have a spare example, I'd certainly like to buy one.

Attached are obverse and reverse images of an electrotype created from the unique

example of the original medal now in the British Museum.

Progress on the prepress of 'Matthew Boulton's Naval Medals' is going along just fine with lots of good images and lots of interesting text.

I don't have a publication date fixed, never do that!, but sometime later this year.

I'll certainly keep you posted as to progress on the book.

Best regards, Sim (Comfort)

*[We would be stunned if there is not someone(s) in MCA who know a whole lot about Napoleonic medals. Please speak up! Ed.]*



# How A German Became King Of England:

## Part II: Hanoverian Dynasty Incites Jacobite Rebellions

by Benjamin Weiss

And so it came to pass that George Louis, Elector of Hanover, Germany, though more than 50th in line to the English throne, but being the first in line of those who were a male Protestant, became George I, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland.

### THE HANOVERIAN DYNASTY

#### George I, the German King of England:

The new monarch was to be found in Germany, in the person of George Louis, shown here as Prince of Hanover in a portrait after Sir Godfrey Kneller, the leading English portrait painter of the period (Figure 1).

George's hereditary claim to this succession was somewhat circuitous: George was the eldest son of Ernest Augustus, Duke of Brunswick Lüneburg, and his wife, Sophia of the Palatinate. Sophia was the granddaughter of King James I of England through her mother, Elizabeth of Bohemia. This made George Louis the great grandson of James I through his mother Sophia and the closest male Protestant relative to James.

George Louis, Elector of Hanover, was to be the first of the Hanoverian monarchs, who in 1714 succeeded Queen Anne as King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, thus ending the Stuart line as sovereigns of England. Although a German, who could speak little English, he gained the throne as a result of the Act of Settlement which excluded Roman Catholics from ascending to the monarchy. George was chosen not only over the son of James II, James (III) Stuart (the Elder Pretender), but over many other individuals, who by inheritance might have acceded to the throne before George had they not been

either female or Catholic. (For a medallic history of these momentous religious conflicts, see Part I of this saga: Weiss, 2016, Part I, MCA Advisory, vol. 19, no. 2, pp 12-26).

The occasion of George Louis becoming the King of England, France and Ireland was commemorated by the issuance of a number of medals, engraved by celebrated medalists from both Germany and England. As some months are generally allowed to elapse between a monarch's Proclamation, Accession and Coronation, medals exist that celebrate all these events.



Figure 1. *George Louis, Prince of Hanover*  
After Sir Godfrey Kneller, 1680  
(Image: <http://www.npg.org.uk>)

One of these, a proclamation piece (not shown) by the German medalist Martin Brunner, bears the legend (translated), "George Louis, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, Duke of Brunswick and Lüneburg, Elector," thereby preserving his former German titles while at the same time proclaiming him as the new English monarch (MI ii, 419/1).

Another proclamation medal, shown in figure 2, also by a German artist, Ehrenreich Hannibal, depicts on the obverse an image of George with his usual titles of King of Great Britain, France and Ireland. The reverse shows George standing between two figures: Religion, holding the Christian standard, and Liberty, who crowns him. All are approaching Britannia who, while presenting him with the insignia of royalty, is trampling upon the beast of Discord. The reverse includes the legend, "To the Most Excellent Prince, Guardian of Religion and Liberty," leaving no doubt as to the importance of what the new king was guarding. Indeed, in *Medallic Illustrations* this medal is described as follows: "The object of the Hanoverian succession was to preserve the Protestant Religion and the



Figure 2.  
*George I, Proclaimed King*  
by Ehrenreich Hannibal, 1714, Germany,  
Silver struck medal, 67 mm  
Ref: Eimer 463, MI ii, 420/2  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

constitutional liberties of the kingdoms, and to suppress discord and the Papal party. The device of this medal is in accordance with these sentiments.”

Medals were also issued celebrating George’s Accession. One of these, by Georg Wilhelm Vestner, a medallist from Nuremberg, shows on the obverse a bust of George with the legend, “George Louis, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg, Elector of the Holy Roman Empire,” thereby proclaiming him as ruler not only of Great Britain, France and Ireland but also of certain German states and the Holy Roman Empire. The reverse shows the Sun in the middle of the constellation Leo, the legend reading “George now enters into the authority of the kingdoms of Britain, 12 Aug. 1714,” symbolizing George entering into the kingdom of the British Lion on that date (Figure 3).

That Vestner was the engraver of this medal is shown by his mark, a star below the bust. This symbol was previously the private mark of Georg Hautsch but was adopted by Vestner on Hautsch’s death.

Another medal celebrating George’s accession, also by Vestner, displays a map of Europe with the Hanoverian horse leaping from Hanover to Great Britain, with the legend suggesting that George has become sovereign of both kingdoms because Hanover alone did not suffice (MI ii, 422/5).



**Figure 3.**  
**Accession of George I**  
by Georg Wilhelm Vestner, England, 1714,  
Silver struck medal, 44 mm  
Ref. Eimer 464; MI ii, 421/4; Brockmann 812; Weiss BW818  
(Image from Weiss Collection)



**Figure 4.**  
**Arrival of George into England**  
by John Croker, England 1714,  
Silver struck medal, 67 mm  
Ref. Eimer 466; MI ii, 422/6 ; van Loon 252; Brockmann 87  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



**Figure 5.**  
**George I, King of England, France and Ireland**  
by Sir Godfrey Kneller, 1714, Oil on canvas (Wikipedia)

Soon after his accession, George made a triumphant entry into London. This was commemorated by a medal engraved by the esteemed English medallist John Croker (Figure 4). The obverse legend, as usual, refers to him as Defender of the Faith. The reverse shows the King as Neptune, drawn by sea horses approaching the coast of Britain. They are attended by Tritons and Nereids (Tritons in Greek mythology are gods who, by blowing on their conch shell, calmed the waves; Nereids are sea nymphs, who helped sailors on their voyages when they faced fierce storms.) The king is represented here as Neptune because the power of the British monarchy is dependent on the dominion of the seas.

About a month after George’s arrival to London he was crowned at Westminster Abbey, sitting in the same chair where almost every other English monarch had sat since Edward II in 1308. The occasion was memorialized not only by paintings (Figure 5) but by the issuance of several medals, again engraved by both German and English medallists.

The official coronation piece by the English medallist John Croker was minted in gold, silver, and bronze; an example of the gold medal is shown in figure 6.

Another coronation medal, this by the German medallist Georg Vestner, is shown in figure 7. The obverse of this medal is similar to that of Vestner’s medal commemorating the Accession of George I shown earlier (Figure 3). Like the other, the obverse depicts a bust of George with the same legend



Figure 6.

**Coronation of George I**

by John Croker, England, 1714, Gold struck medal, 34 mm  
 Ref: Eimer 470; MI ii, 424/9; van Loon V, 255; Wollaston 11.  
 (Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 7.

**Coronation of George I**

by Georg Wilhelm Vestner, England, 1714,  
 Silver struck medal, 44 mm  
 Ref: Eimer 469; MI ii, 425/12; Forrer VI, 253; Fearon 42/165.2;  
 Bernheimer 197/10; Brockmann 145/817; Harding 52; Weiss BW569  
 (Image from Weiss Collection)



Figure 8. **Sir Andrew Fontaine**

by Antonio Selvi, Italy, 1715, Bronze cast medal, 87 mm  
 Ref: Eimer 474; MI ii, 433/30; Vanel and Toderi 145  
 (Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

referring to his dominions in Great Britain and continental Europe. On the reverse is seen St. George on horseback slaying the Dragon, Victory hovering above crowning him; the legend reads, FIDEI DEFENSOR ET AEQVI. The translation of this inscription, “Defender of the Faith and of Justice,” might rightly raise the questions: defender of which faith and justice for whom?

The iconography on this medal may be described as follows: St. George is the emblem of the King. The Dragon is intended to represent Popery and Arbitrary Power, both of which were overthrown when George I from the House of Brunswick was established onto the throne of England.

Many medals were issued during the 13-year reign of George I. One that may be of particular interest to medal collectors is the large cast medal of Sir Andrew Fontaine by the Italian artist Antonio Selvi (Figure 8). Fontaine was warden of the mint and a connoisseur and collector of medals.

The figure shows on the obverse a bust of Fontaine and on the reverse Pallas Athena, Goddess of Wisdom and Arts, standing among various classical ruins and works of art. She is pointing to a group of medals lying upon a tomb, obviously alluding to the fact that this eminent antiquarian and art enthusiast included medals as part of his art collections.

**AFTERMATH**

The ascendancy of George Louis, Elector of Hanover, to the monarchy of England sparked numerous protests and a movement to replace him with what the opponents viewed

as the rightful, and in fact the legitimate, heir to the throne. These individuals who claimed the monarchy were termed “pretenders,” and by those who opposed them, “imposters.” Although there have been many such pretenders in the past, the archetypal pretendership was provided by the Stuart descendants of King James II of England.

The first of these “pretenders” was the son of James II, Prince James Stuart, Prince of Wales, who from the natural order of succession should have preceded even William, Mary and Anne, let alone George. In fact, according to the Jacobites (those who supported James II and his descendants), James

II did not cease to be king following the Glorious Revolution of 1688, and therefore his son and later his grandsons were his rightful heirs to the throne. Based on the accepted theory of indefeasible hereditary right as a base, Prince James' supporters waged a series of revolts, which became to be known as the Jacobite Rebellions.

**The Jacobite Rebellions:** The coronation of George I was elaborate as usual, but it was not totally peaceful — dissenters, some of whom supported Prince James Stuart, voiced their objection, even though such protests were deemed treasonable. And not surprisingly, despite the propaganda provided by the issuance of all these coronation medals (see figures 6 and 7), the assumption of George I to the monarchy did not end opposition to his rule. The Jacobites made many attempts to depose the foreign Protestant king and replace him with an English, Catholic heir, preferably a Stuart. Their main effort, which was aided by the primarily Catholic countries of France and Spain, was to promote the ascendancy of James Francis Edward Stuart, and later his heirs, to the British throne.

As you may recall, James Francis Edward Stuart (1688-1766) not only was the son of King James II and Mary of Modena but also the half-brother of the late Queen Anne. Titling himself James III of England and James VIII of Scotland, and dubbed the “Elder Pretender,” James spent a good deal of his life attempting to regain control of England from the Protestant and foreign Hanoverians back to Catholic rulers.

Encouraged by King Louis XIV, the Catholic French monarch, James Stuart staged a series of rebellions against George I of England, each of which ended in failure. Medals were issued both to support and oppose their cause, some of which are discussed below

Figure 9 shows a medal issued in 1721 in support of James (III) Stuart, the Elder Pretender. On the obverse is a bust of Prince James Stuart, with the inscription reading VNICA SALVS (Our Only Salvation), obviously implying that he alone can save England. The reverse shows the Hanoverian Horse stomping on the Lion of England, with a grieving Britannia seated, and a view of the Thames and London in the distance; Barbary pirates are at right. The legend asks the rhetorical question, QUID GRAVIUS CAPTA (What Is More Grievous than Being in Captivity).

This medal (which is sometimes called The South Sea Bubble and has also been attributed to Ermenegildo Hamerani) was intended for distribution among the Jacobites and was executed during the period when efforts were being made secretly to raise troops and supply arms to insurgents in Britain so that another effort might be made to place the Stuarts back on the throne of Britain. The omission of the Prince's name on the medal was intended to increase the interest of his cause. The Jacobites believed that the Lion and the Unicorn were symbols only of the Stuarts, and their treatment on the reverse of this medal was calculated to “fan the flame of indignation against the House of Hanover” (Sanda Lipton web site).



Figure 9.

**James (III) Stuart, the Elder Pretender:  
Jacobite Appeal Against the House of Hanover**

by Ottone Hamerani, England, 1721,  
Bronze struck medal, 50 mm

Ref: MI ii, 454/63; Molinari 41/124; Eimer 493; Weiss BW148  
(Image from Weiss Collection)



Figure 10.

**Prince Charles Edward Stuart,**

'Bonnie Prince Charlie', 'The Young Pretender'  
by Cosmo Alexander, Oil on canvas, 1749

(Image from artuk.org; National Trust, Sizergh Castle)

This attempt to bring back James II's son failed as did others attempting to put on the throne of England the second pretender to the throne, the eldest son of James Francis Edward Stuart, namely Charles Edward Stuart, commonly known in Britain as The Young Pretender (Charles III), and later as Bonnie Prince Charlie (Figure 10).

That the Jacobite supporters continued to yearn for the return of a Stuart monarchy is documented by the medal issued in 1745, during the reign of George II (Figure 11). Here we see on the obverse a bust of Prince Charles, the Young Pretender, the legend reading, Charles, Prince of Wales. The reverse depicts Britannia standing on the shore awaiting the Prince's approaching fleet. Britannia's hand rests on a shield on which is a globe revealing the British Isles. The legend *Amor et Spes* (Love and Hope) expresses the fervent desires of the Jacobite rebels.



Figure 11.

**Expected Arrival of Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender**  
by Thomas Pingo or C. N. Roettier (?); 1745, England,  
Bronze struck medal, 41 mm  
Ref: MI ii, 600/251; Eimer 595; Farquahar 1923-24, 178,184  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 12.

**Carlisle Taken: Jacobite Rebels Repulsed**  
by Johann Henrik Wolff, England, 1745, Silver struck medal, 37 mm  
Ref: Eimer 597; MI ii, 604/258; CP 83/4; Woolf 52:1a  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

During this same period, in 1745, the Jacobites, led by Prince Charles and his army, advanced into England but suffered a major defeat when they surrendered to the Duke of Cumberland at Carlisle. This victory by the loyalist British forces was celebrated by the issuance of the medal shown in figure 12. The obverse shows a bust of the duke with the legend reading, William, Duke of Cumberland, the Favorite of the Soldiers. The reverse shows the duke as a Roman warrior attacking the many-headed Hydra of Rebellion. Carlisle is seen in the distance. The legend translates as, "For my Father and my Country", and the exergue describes the outcome of the battle, "The Rebels Driven from England and Carlisle Reduced."

All hopes of the Stuarts regaining the throne of England and re-establishing Catholic rule were totally dashed with

the devastating defeat of Charles Edward Stuart's Scottish Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. This battle was of such great importance that it was memorialized in numerous paintings and medals issued at that period.

Figure 13 shows a painting dramatizing this battle, with the English aggressively attacking the Jacobites.

A gold medal celebrating the Battle of Culloden is shown in figure 14. On the obverse is a bust of the Duke of Cumberland, the younger son of George II and the leader of George's troops. On the reverse is the duke, as Hercules, trampling on Discord (the Jacobites) and raising Britannia. The exergue is translated as, "The Rebels Driven from England and Defeated at Culloden, 16 April, 1746."



Figure 13.

**The Battle of Culloden**  
oil on canvas, by David Morier, 1746.  
(From Wikipedia)

Following this defeat of the Jacobites, several medals were distributed by the British to further humiliate the rebels and to serve as a warning of what would happen to them if they persisted in their struggle.

One of these (Figure 15) shows on the reverse a Scottish Highlander kneeling in supplication before a crowned lion representing Hanoverian England.

Another (Figure 16), titled *Execution of the Rebels*, shows on the obverse the Duke of Cumberland on horseback and on the reverse an executioner hanging a rebel from a scaffold, while two others are kneeling waiting their turn, the legend reading "More Rebels a Coming." The medal is described in *Medallic Illustrations* as follows: "This poorly

Figure 14.  
**Battle of Culloden**  
by Richard Yeo, England, 1746, Gold struck medal, 51 mm  
Ref: MI ii, 613/278; Eimer 604; Forrer VI, 702  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



executed medal refers to the numerous executions of rebels after the battle of Culloden, and also to the terrible punishment which it was deemed necessary to inflict on them. These executions were not confined to Scotland, as hundreds of prisoners were brought up to London and were executed at Tyburn amidst the execrations of the populace. About one in twenty of the rank and file was hanged; the others were sent to the plantations.”

Still another, issued about the same time, shows on the obverse the Duke of Cumberland holding a raised sword while on horseback, and on the reverse a small figure of Prince Charles, while attempting to seize the crown, is grabbed by the duke and run through with a sword, the legend warning to “Come Back Again” (Figure 17). In the exergue is the word “PRETENTER,” spelled incorrectly, perhaps intentionally to ridicule the ill-fated attempts of the Jacobites. Although unsigned, these latter two medals are thought to be of the Pinchbeck series (MI).

Other art media were also used to mock the Jacobites during that period. Figure 18 shows an example of this, a satirical depiction of troops mustered to defend London from the 1745 Jacobite rebellion by the renowned English painter and pictorial satirist William Hogarth.

Despite the near total suppression of the Jacobite rebellion, the battle of the medals persisted for many years. As late as 1750, medals were still being issued supporting the legitimacy of the Jacobite succession.

One such medal (Figure 19) shows a bust of Prince Charles Edward Stuart (The Younger Pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie) on the obverse and the prince in a Highland costume approaching Scotia (Scotland) on the reverse. Behind Scotia is a pedestal decorated with a Thistle (symbol of Scotland) and surmounted by the Unicorn, representing the Stuarts. The legend “Always with arms and now with diligence,” expresses Charles’ determination to prosecute his cause by force of arms and with perseverance.

Regardless of all these attempts and promises to regain the throne, with the victory at Culloden by the supporters of the Hanoverian King George, the Stuarts never again would seriously challenge Hanoverian power in Great Britain, although there was one more who still retained the pretenders’ titlature. This was Henry Stuart, a cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church, who had been created Duke of York by his father, James Stuart, the Older Pretender. Indeed, although Henry made no serious effort to seize the throne, he was still calling himself Henry IX as late as 1788, as can be seen in the medal issued on the death of his brother, the Young Pretender, Prince Charles (III) (Figure 20).



Figure 15.  
**Jacobite Rebellion Defeated**  
by Unknown medallist, England, 1746,  
Bronze struck medal, 31 mm  
Ref: Eimer 609; MI ii, 616/286  
(Image: Baldwin, courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 16.  
**Duke of Cumberland, Execution of Rebels**  
by Unknown medallist, England, c.1746,  
Bronze struck medal, 33 mm  
Ref: Woolf 55:4; MI ii, 618/289  
(Image: Formerly in the Michael Finlay Collection)



Figure 17.  
**Failure of Prince Charles**  
by Unknown medallist, England, 1745,  
Bronze struck medal, 34 mm  
Ref: Woolf 56:3; MI ii, 618/290; Eimer 610; CP 91/24  
(Image: Formerly in the Michael Finlay Collection)



Figure 18.  
**The March of the Guards to Finchley**  
by William Hogarth, Oil on canvas, c.1749  
(Image from Wikipedia)



Figure 19.  
**Prince Charles, Legitimacy of Jacobite Succession**  
by Thomas Pingo, England, 1750, Silver struck medal, 51 mm  
Ref: Eimer 626; MI ii, 656/360; Farquahar 191; Pingo 6  
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

On the obverse we see a bust of Prince Henry in clerical cap and robes, the legend reading, Henry IX, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Cardinal Bishop of Tusculum. The reverse shows Piety holding a book and cross, with a lion at her feet. This feeble gesture of claim to the throne of England would be the Stuarts' last gasp.



Figure 20.

**Henry (IX) : Death of Prince Charles (III)**

by Giovanni Hamerani, Italy, 1788, Silver struck medal, 53 mm  
 Ref: Eimer 823; BHM i, 282; Woolf 73  
 (Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

**Other Hanoverian Monarchs:** George Louis, brought over from Hanover, Germany, to become King George I of England, began a dynasty that lasted for almost 200 years. These include: George George II, George III, George IV, William IV and finally Queen Victoria, the last of the Hanoverian monarchs.

**George II:** George II (King of England from 1727-1760) was the last of the British monarchs to be born outside of England. He was king during the time in which England was engaged in several important military events, including: the final defeat of the Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 (see Figures 13, 14); Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, which ended the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748) — this war, called the French and Indian War in the United States, was the greatest European war since the Thirty Years' War of the seventeenth century; it was followed by a period of relative prosperity in England, for which a medal was issued celebrating the State of Great Britain (Figure 21).



Figure 21.

**George II, State of England**

by Jacques-Antoine Dassier, England, 1750, Bronze struck medal, 55 mm  
 Ref: MI ii, 658/363(illustrated); Eimer 630; Weiss BW035  
 (Image from Weiss Collection)

This figure shows on the obverse George II in armor, wearing the Star of the Garter, with the legend reading “George II, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland.” On the reverse is Mercury (Commerce), with a Cornucopia, presenting Britannia, seated on the seashore, holding the Cap of Liberty. An infant Genius is measuring a globe; in the distance, shipping; the legend HAE TIBI SUNT ARTES (These are thy arts) refers to the bountiful State of England during his reign.

**George III:** George William Frederick, Prince of Wales, was the eldest son of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and his wife Augusta. As he was born in Britain and, unlike his predecessors, was raised speaking English, he was the first in the Hanoverian line not to be viewed as a foreigner.

George III was coronated in 1760 as King of Great Britain and Ireland, shown here in a portrait of him bedecked in his sumptuous coronation robes (Figure 22).

In 1759, a year before his coronation, George William Frederick reached his majority, an event celebrated by the issuance of a medal by Thomas Pingo, an English medallist of Italian origin (Figure 23). The obverse of this medal shows a bust of George as Prince of Wales. The reverse depicts Tellus (Mother Earth) playing symbols, seated with two lions, one holding the shield of Britain, while female figures dance around an oak tree; the scroll below is inscribed “The Strength of Britain.”

As recorded in *Medallic Illustrations (MI)*, the legend on the reverse of this medal TELLVS JACTABIT ALVMNO (The Earth shall boast in her offspring) “testifies to the joy of the nation on the occasion [of his majority], and expresses a hope that a young Prince would be a future strength and support to the country.” *MI* goes on: “The design may have been suggested by the 67th Psalm, ‘O let the nations rejoice and be glad,’ and ‘Then shall the earth bring forth her increase.’”

Again, as we have seen so often in the past, a beautifully executed medal, using



Figure 22.

**King George III in Coronation Robes**  
 by Allan Ramsay, Oil on canvas, c.1765  
 (Image: Wikimedia)

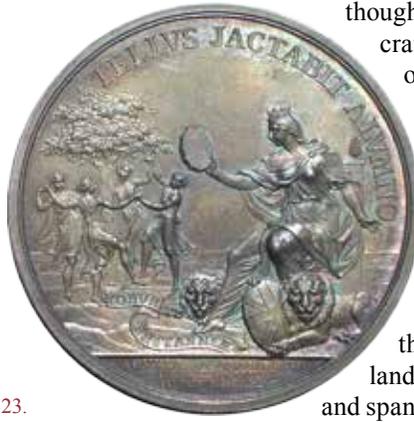


Figure 23.

**Majority of George, Prince of Wales**  
 by Thomas Pingo, England, 1759, Silver struck medal, 55 mm  
 Ref: Pingo 13; MI ii, 698/428; Eimer 666  
 (Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

thoughtful iconographic devices and carefully crafted Latin phrases, can make a forceful point of propaganda. The medal shows further how Scriptures are used, sometimes subliminally in this case, to strengthen the argument of how England benefits from the continued dominance of the Hanoverians.

George III is remembered in the United States largely because he was the British monarch from 1760 to 1820, a period that encompassed the continued usurpation by the Europeans of the lands occupied by the Native American inhabitants, and spanned the era in which the budding, nascent desires for American independence by American colonists led ultimately to the armed conflict between Great Britain and thirteen of its North American colonies (The American Revolutionary War, 1775–1783).

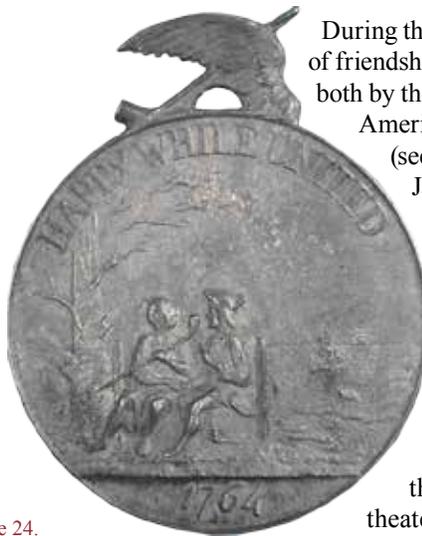


Figure 24.

**George III, American Indian Peace Medal: Happy While United**  
 by M. DeBruhl and D.C. Fueter, England 1764, Silver cast medal, 56 mm  
 Ref: Jamieson 12; Betts 513; Adams 2; Eimer 707  
 (Image courtesy of MHS)

During this early period of American history, several tokens of friendship, many in the form of Peace Medals, were issued both by the British and Americans to members of the Native American Nations to gain their support and allegiance (see Belden 1966; Prucha 1971; Adams 1999; Jamieson 2006; Pickering 2012; Weiss 2015). One such medal is shown in figure 24.

This medal, dubbed 'The Happy While United Medal,' was issued in the time of the Pontiac Revolt of 1763 (also called "Pontiac's War," "Pontiac's Rebellion," "Pontiac's Uprising"), an insurrection named after the Ottawa chief who led a war waged by Indians of the Great Lakes region against British rule after the French and Indian War (the North American theater of the worldwide Seven Years' War fought from 1754 to 1763). (See also Adams, pp.60-76 for details on the history of Pontiac's Revolt and other medals struck during this interesting period). The obverse of this medal shows an armored George III with a legend containing his usual titles. The reverse depicts an American Indian and a uniformed British officer seated beneath a tree, passing a pipe between them. Ships on a river are in the background. The legend 'Happy While United' expresses the British's desire for of their alliance.

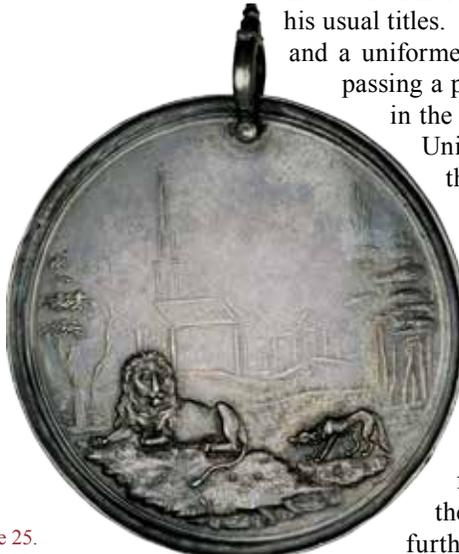


Figure 25.

**Lion and Wolf Medal**  
 by unknown artist, England, ca.1780, Silver struck medal, 61 mm  
 Ref: Betts 535; Adams 10.1; Fuld 6.2  
 (Image courtesy of Stacks)

Later, during the Revolutionary War, the French, having been defeated by the British in the Seven Years' War, were eager for revenge and so sided with the Americans. The British, in turn, allied with the Native American Peoples, using as an incentive the promise of helping them impede the further encroachment onto their land by the European colonists. This effort was furthered by giving the American Indians tokens of their friendship such as Indian Peace Medals, one of which is shown in figure 25.

As may be seen, on the obverse is a bust of George III in armor. The reverse depicts a lion (England) guarding the Anglican Church in the background. A wolf, representing the disloyal American colonists, is shown in a threatening pose.

Interestingly, a similar lion and wolf theme had been used previously in a medal commemorating the defeat of the Jacobite rebels by the Duke of Cumberland and his British loyalists (Figure 26). In this case the victorious Hanoverians are represented by the Lion, and Prince Charles and his rebellious Jacobite supporters by the Wolf, the legend reading ‘Justice Triumphant.’

The other major event that occurred during the reign of George III was the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, shown in this painting made in the year of his defeat in 1815 (Figure 27).

George wisely left the conduct of the battle in the capable hands of the Duke of Wellington, a medal of whom was issued several years later (Figure 28). The obverse of this medal showing a bust of Wellington is complemented by the reverse depicting him in a Bellerophon helmet, a plumed ornate helmet decorated with Pegasus spearing the Chimera: thunderbolt below. The legend reads, “We Celebrate New Victories.”

**George IV:** George Augustus Frederick (1762-1830) was coronated as George IV in 1821 on the death of his father, who in his later years had had periodic relapses into insanity. The official coronation medal by the Italian medallist Benedetto Pistrucci (Figure 29) shows on the obverse a bust of George IV with the usual legend reading, “George IV, by the Grace of God, King of the Britains, Defender of the Faith.” On the reverse is a coronation scene; the king, dressed as a Roman emperor, seated with a winged figure (Peace) behind him about to crown the king. Facing him are Britannia, Scotia and Hibernia, swearing loyalty at an altar. The



Figure 26.  
*The Rebels Repulsed*  
by Thomas Pingo, England, 1745, Struck silver medal, 33 mm  
Ref: Eimer 600; MI ii, 607/265 (Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 28.  
*Duke of Wellington*  
by Benedetto Pistrucci, England, 1841, Bronze struck medal, 61 mm; Ref: BHM ii, 60/2011; Eimer 1353; Eimer (Wellington) 69/118; Hocking 243/91; Parks Weber 189; Forrer IV p. 610 (illustrated); Weiss BW399 (Image from Weiss Collection)



Figure 27. *Battle of Waterloo*  
by William Sadler II, Oil on canvas, 1815  
(Image from Wikimedia)

legend translates as “Now in His Own Right in the Spirit of the Father.”

**William IV:** William IV (1765–1837), Duke of Clarence, had a relatively short reign, being monarch of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and King of Hanover from 1830 until his death in 1837. He acceded to the throne because King George IV died without having a surviving legitimate issue; his claim to the monarchy was being the son of George III and younger brother to George IV. At age 64, he was the oldest person ever to assume the British throne.

During his reign, William IV initiated several important reforms, including the restriction of child labor and the abolition of slavery in most of the British Empire. He also presided over some important building projects, including the opening of the London Bridge, an event celebrated by the issuance of the first of a series of medals produced by the Corporation of the City of London to commemorate important events. (More on this outstanding group



Figure 29.  
*George IV Coronation*  
by Benedetto Pistrucci, England, 1821, Bronze struck medal, 35 mm; Ref: BHM i, 264/1070; Eimer 1146a; Wollaston 12/24; Pollard II, 828/863; Weiss BW683 (Image from Weiss Collection)





Figure 32.  
**Queen Victoria, aged 80**  
 by Bertha Müller after Heinrich von Angeli, Oil on canvas, 1990  
 (National Portrait Gallery, from Wikipedia)

enthroned as the king of England, France and Ireland, and led to a Hanoverian dynasty that was to last for almost 200 years. It affected not only who was to be the supreme ruler of the British kingdoms but changed the prospects of British citizens of many stripes. It was particularly onerous for Catholics, non-conformist Protestants and Jews, as all these groups were denied the right to vote or to sit in Parliament for over 100 years afterwards. Indeed, the monarchs were not only forbidden to be Catholic, they were not even permitted to marry a Catholic, thus ensuring in perpetuity the primacy of the Protestant faith in Britain. Some of these laws are still on the books.

One might easily conclude that discriminatory laws such as these, which disallow certain persons from holding office based on their religious preferences, may well have been in the mind of those who drafted the United States Constitution, when they wrote into Article VI of the Constitution of the United States of America the clear and unequivocal stipulation that "...no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States." Adherence to this dictum was meant to assure that election to any public office in the United States would not be based on whether or

not persons seeking such an office had a religious affiliation or, if they were so inclined, that their election would not be based on what particular religion they professed. Whether or not they succeeded in achieving this goal is open for debate.

One might also suggest that this period of English history, in which religious conflicts were so destructive to society, was also in the minds of the framers of the United States Constitution when they enshrined into the Bill of Rights, as part of the First Amendment to the Constitution, that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." thereby requiring that the laws of the land be neutral toward religion, neither promoting its adoption nor restricting its practice.

## ENDNOTE

**1. Medals Struck by The Corporation of The City of London:** This group of medals, commonly called The City of London Medals, constitutes a series struck by the Corporation of the City of London to celebrate the accomplishment of notable public works, or to commemorate events of national and civic importance. The standard reference book, published in London in 1894, is *Numismata Londinensia*, which includes those medals issued from 1831 to 1893. In this book, the medals are photographed and the events prompting their issue are described in great detail by Charles Welch. Subsequent to the publication of *Numismata Londinensia*, several other medals have been issued by the Corporation of the City of London. Those medals produced from 1831 to 1973 are described in *Coins and Medals*, November 1977, where their mintage figures are provided.

Most of the medals in this series were struck in numbers between 350 and 450; a notable exception is the lead, glass-enclosed piece commemorating the Removal of Temple Bar from the City of London, which is extremely rare.

In general, the City of London Medals are of particularly high quality as they were executed by some of the finest medallists of the period, including several members of the Wyon family, the sculptor George C. Adams, the Belgium medallist Charles Wiener, and the fine Austrian medallist Anton Scharff.

Descriptions and other interesting historical notes are included in excellent compendia published more recently (See *British Historical Medals* by Laurence Brown, and *British Commemorative Medals and Their Values* by Christopher Eimer). Images and descriptions of these medals can be found in the author's website [www.historicalartmedals.com](http://www.historicalartmedals.com), under **England/City of London Medals**.

Acknowledgments and a biographical sketch of the author are shown at the end of Part 1, in the March/April 2016 issue.

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# The Lore & Lure of American Medals

A Presentation by Q. David Bowers

## The Lore & Lure of American Medals



Presented by Q. David Bowers

1. Welcome to the presentation given by Dave Bowers at the Medal Collectors of America seminar held as part of the International Coin Convention at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, Saturday, January 9, 2016. Dave was greeted by a standing-room only audience



Admiral Vernon medal commemorating  
the capture of Porto Bello in 1739

3. Among the most often seen medals relating to the New World and the Americas are those depicting British Admiral Vernon, who bravely conquered the Spanish fortification at Porto Bello with "six ships only." In England, citizens went wild, Vernon became a national hero. Today in America his name appears in many places, including Mount Vernon. A section of the Betts volume is devoted to these medals, and recently John W. Adams co-authored the definitive book on that specialty.

1



**General James Wolfe**

*Namesake of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire*

2

2. The discussion began with a medal relating to colonial America, British General James Wolfe, who gave his life leading his troops against the French in Quebec in 1759. Dave is from Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, named for the General, although Wolfe never visited the New Hampshire province. This particular medal, from the John J. Ford Jr. Collection, is part of a large series of medals, this one not listed, but most others in the volume by C. Wyllys Betts published posthumously in 1894, *American Colonial History Illustrated by Contemporary Medals*. Dave missed it at the Ford sale and suggested that if it became available again he would like to have an opportunity to acquire it.

3

4



Bust of Washington by Jean-Antoine Houdon, 1785, and its  
use on the 1776-dated Washington Before Boston Medal

4. In 1785 French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon visited General George Washington in retirement at Mount Vernon and sculpted his portrait, as shown here at the left. Among the most famous of early American medals is the 1776-dated Washington Before Boston issue, one of quite a few featuring the Houdon portrait

# The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



**The 1789 Voltaire medal with a fictitious portrait of Washington**

5. Voltaire, (the nom de plume of François-Marie Arouet) who is famous in French history, sponsored a medal in 1789 honoring Washington. There was a problem: no portrait of the subject was available, so a fictitious one was used!

5



**The Manly Medal of Washington sold to the public in 1790**

6. In 1790 in Philadelphia and advertised nationally with agents in various cities, a medal marketed by Jacques Manly was offered to the public in brass, as here, and in silver. These are the earliest-struck American medals featuring an authentic portrait of Washington, as taken from life when the president in the first year of his administration visited Harvard College in late 1789.

6



**The New York Gazette and General Advertiser, December 21, 1799**

7. Washington died at Mount Vernon on December 14, 1799, following a short illness. His passing was widely mourned. This is a typical newspaper notice.

7



**Washington funeral medal by Jacob Perkins  
"HE IS IN GLORY, THE WORLD IN TEARS"**

8. Not long after hearing the news, Jacob Perkins, an engraver in Newburyport, Massachusetts, issued medals with a eulogistic inscription on the obverse and Washington's biographical dates abbreviated on the reverse. Most were struck in silver and pewter. Gold examples, as here, are rare. These were holed at the top for suspension on a cord or ribbon. Thousands were worn in various memorial parades held on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1800.

8

## The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



Satirical medal published by Daniel Eccleston in 1805

9. At first glance seeming to honor Washington with eulogistic inscriptions on the reverse, the publisher of this medal, Daniel Eccleston, added a satirical twist by depicting a Native American in the center and the inscription, **THE LAND WAS OURS**.



Comitia Americana (American Congress) medal honoring naval hero John Paul Jones. Restrike from late die states.

11. The American Congress (Comitia Americana) sponsored an illustrious series of medals depicting early heroes, including John Paul Jones, the Portsmouth, New Hampshire naval commander shown vanquishing a British ship, the *H.M.S. Serapis*. A fine study on these was written by Anne Bentley and John Adams, both of whom are in the audience now.

9



Washington Cabinet medal, February 22, 1860

10. Although it may seem incredible to contemplate today, in 1859 and 1860 the hottest items on the American numismatic market were tokens and medals related to George Washington! At the time Mint Director James Ross Snowden was catalyzing the interest, assembling a fine display which was open to the public on February 22, 1860 – shown on the reverse on this medal. Snowden offered to trade restrikes and newly-made rarities for Washington items needed. The obverse is another rendition of the Houdon bust.

10

11



1778-1779 Rhode Island ship medal showing Americans fleeing (vlugtende).

12

12. Somewhat shrouded in mystery is the 1778-1779 Rhode Island ship medal, with legends in Dutch, showing Americans fleeing (“vlugtende”) in Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island.

## The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



The famous Libertas Americana medal, impression in silver

13. Probably the most famous of all American medals is the Libertas Americana, commissioned by Benjamin Franklin and struck at the Paris Mint. The obverse shows Liberty with a cap on a pole, the cap being a symbol of freedom. The reverse shows Great Britain being vanquished by young America in the foreground. This motif inspired the Liberty Cap design on American copper coins beginning in 1793.



1787 Columbia and Lady Washington medal distributed on a memorable trip by two ships to the Pacific Northwest.

15. One of my favorite medals is shown here. These were struck in Boston and sent on an exploring mission launched to the Pacific Northwest in 1787, which also carried Massachusetts copper half cents and cents. The illustrated medal is from the Massachusetts Historical Society. Today, probably fewer than 15 or 20 examples exist. Some years ago a book was written about the exploration, *Voyages of the Columbia to the Northwest Coast 1787-1790 and 1790-1793* by F.W. Howay, illustrating the fact just about any medal has a rich history to be explored. I've often felt that a medal is worth one point of interest and its history is worth another point, one plus one does not equal two but can equal three or four. If prompted I could probably stand on the proverbial soapbox and talk 15 minutes to a half hour on every medal in this afternoon's program.

13



Admission medal for Charles Willson Peale's Philadelphia Museum

14. This particular medal was a pocket piece issued by Charles Willson Peale for admission to his Philadelphia Museum. The Peale family eventually had museums in New York City and Baltimore as well. Peale, a Renaissance man in his era, named four of his sons after famous artists — Raphael Titian, Rembrandt and Rubens, and one, who became prominent at the Mint, after Franklin.

14

15



Indian Peace medal presented to Chief Red Jacket

16. Indian Peace medals were presented to tribal leaders by various emissaries on behalf of the president of the United States. This early medal, hand engraved, was given to Chief Red Jacket during the Washington administration. The chief is illustrated wearing the medal in a large folio volume of hand-colored prints published by McKenney and Hall in 1833.

16

## The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



“The Home,” “The Farmer” and “The Shepherd;” “Seasons” Indian Peace medals share the same reverse



17

17. The object of Indian Peace medals was to inspire Native Americans to adopt domestic ways of life. Engraved in England by Conrad Küchler, this series of three “Seasons” medals, as they are called, share a common reverse and show the blessings and comfort of the home and farm.



The reverse is an early medallic representation of a baseball game



18

1862 Indian Peace medal of Abraham Lincoln.

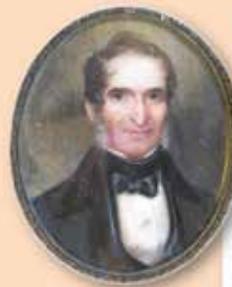
18. The 1862 Indian Peace medal of Abraham Lincoln shows a game of American baseball on the reverse, among the earliest medallic representations of what became America’s most popular sport.



Erie Canal medal, 1826, by C.C. Wright and original wood box carried aboard the *Seneca Chief*

19

19. The Erie Canal, begun in 1817 and finished in 1825, was celebrated in a ceremony in New York City in 1826. Charles Cushing Wright, probably America’s most famous sculptor in the private sector at the time, designed this medal, which was struck in silver (as here) and white metal. Many were encased in a round wooden box on the underside of which a label was affixed.



20

1836 Steam Coinage medal by Christian Gobrecht, original issue and postponed-date issue.

20. Christian Gobrecht, who joined the Mint as an engraver in 1835, went on to achieve fame and glory until his passing in 1844. This medal was issued to observe the first steam coinage at the Philadelphia Mint to be inaugurated on Washington’s birthday (always a favorite date for Mint ceremonies), February 22, 1836. At the lower right the reverse die is shown. However, the press was not ready, so the die was re-engraved to change to date to March 23. The obverse depicts the liberty cap, a popular motif at the time, well known on Mexican coinage and also used on a pattern gold dollar by Gobrecht in 1836.

## The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



Two silver award medals by Christian Gobrecht.

21. During his career Gobrecht designed an illustrious group of medals, often quite detailed as the two shown here. One was issued for the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association and the other to the New England Society for Promotion of Manufactures and Mechanic Arts.

21



Obverse of the New Haven medal, 1838. First Sabbath at Quinnipiack, Reverend Eliot preaching to the Indians.

22. The New Haven medal, 1838, designed by C.C. Wright, depicts on the obverse Reverend John Eliot preaching to the Indians, the First Sabbath at Quinnipiack. This motif became well known and was also used on bank notes, as illustrated in the upper right.

22

Reverse of the New Haven medal, 1838, with stylized cityscape of New Haven and a detail from a \$100 City Bank of New Haven note.



23. The reverse of the New Haven medal shows the buildings of that city arranged in a row along the river, artistic license. Below is a more realistic view of certain structures.

23



Congressional Award medal to Zachary Taylor, 1848, hero of the Battle of Buena Vista, February 1847. Struck from native California gold brought to the East by a special emissary in 1848.

24. In December 1848, a special emissary from California brought gold dust and nuggets to Washington, D.C., where President James Knox Polk received them. The gold was sent to the Mint in Philadelphia, where 1,389 quarter eagles were struck from it, each with "CAL" counter-stamped on the reverse, after metal had been set aside for a Congressional Award medal honoring Zachary Taylor. This gold impression is unique and was auctioned by my company a few years ago.

24

## The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



Medal commemorating the heroism of Captain Lewis Herndon U.S.N., who in the best tradition of the sea went down with his ship, the S.S. *Central America*, September 12, 1857.



25

25. The treasure of the *S.S. Central America* is part of my DNA by now, having been involved in the distribution of the treasure starting in 1999 and having written a book, *A California Gold Rush history: Featuring the treasure from the S.S. Central America: a source book for the Gold Rush historian and numismatist*. In late August 1857 the *S.S. Sonora* left San Francisco and headed towards Panama with hundreds of passengers and a large cargo on board, including gold ingots and coins. Upon reaching the destination the people and cargo traveled 48 miles on the Panama Railroad to Aspinwall on the Atlantic side where they boarded the *S.S. Central America*, headed toward New York City. In days before weather forecasting became a science, they had no way of knowing as they continued along the route that a rising gale would develop into a fierce hurricane. The ship took on water, the engine stopped, and early in the evening of September 12, it went down, with Captain Lewis Herndon standing on the wheelhouse. More than 400 lives were lost. In the 1980s much of the treasure was recovered from 7,200 feet below at the bottom of the sea. Following prolonged legal complications, the treasure came to market beginning in 1999. The illustrated medal was issued commemorating Herndon's heroism. Not many were made and today examples are rarities.



26

The burning of the Crystal Palace on October 5, 1858, furnished the subject for Augustus B. Sage's first Odds & Ends medalet. Dies by George H. Lovett

26. Augustus B. Sage, who as a teenager in March 1858 founded the American Numismatic Society, taught school as a profession and dealt in rare coins. Medalets were developing into a fad and Sage decided to issue his own. He selected the burning of the Crystal Palace as the first subject in his Odds & Ends series. The quantity struck is not known, but was probably not more than a few hundred. Today, only several dozen exist. The dies were engraved by George H. Lovett.



27

Paul Morphy, the American chess champion who dazzled Europe, was another subject for a Sage Odds and Ends Token

27. Another subject in the Odds & Ends series was Paul Morphy, American chess champion who made headlines in an era in which most metropolitan newspapers carried regular columns with chess puzzles and competition notes. Today, the Morphy token is very rare, with probably fewer than a dozen in existence. As is true with so many medals, it has not been widely publicized so when an example comes on the market it is apt to be quite inexpensive.

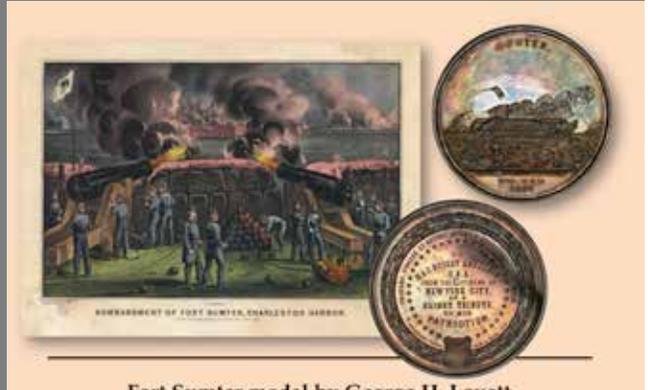
## The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



Medalet for Barnum's American Museum, the most popular attraction in New York City in 1860.

28. Phineas T. Barnum, America's most famous showman, operated the American Museum in New York City. In 1860 this medal was issued showing the museum and telling of certain of its exhibits, including coins and medals. Today, no inventory or specific description has been found of such pieces.

28



Fort Sumter medal by George H. Lovett, commissioned by Augustus B. Sage, the first medal issued for the Civil War

29. Augustus B. Sage was the issuer of the very first medal produced during the Civil War. The dies by George H. Lovett depicted the bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor in April 1861. Examples were struck in white metal, copper and silver and are rarely seen today.

29



American Institute gold award medal

30. The most available award medals struck in gold during the 19th century are those issued by the American Institute beginning in the 1830s. Each year this trade group held a display in New York City and bestowed honors on various exhibitors. Juries awarded prizes, with the gold medal being the highest. Often, the same product, invention or other item would be in competition later and might again win a gold medal, but the second time around the award was a "gold medal" certificate.

30

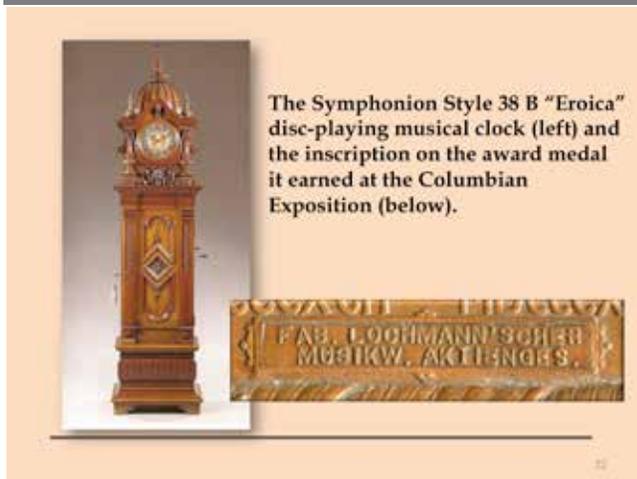


One of dozens of different medals issued for the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893

31. The Worlds' Columbian Exposition was intended to observe the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery (not that it was lost) of America in 1492. Delayed, it was not open until 1893. Awards were given to certain displays. The official medal, shown here, has the obverse designed by Augustus Saint-Gaudens and the reverse by Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber. Originally, Saint-Gaudens designed the reverse as well, but it featured a nude boy resulting in complaints, so the assignment was given to Barber. As any student of Saint-Gaudens knows, Barber was not respected by him or his contemporaries and at one point his art was called "wretched." I have a personal connection with the exposition as my great-grandmother, Frances Mumaugh, was a professional artist, and was invited to display five paintings there. Her art was also featured at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha in 1898 and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904.

31

## The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



**32.** The reverse of the Columbian Exposition medal shows that it was awarded, in German, translating to the "Music Factory of Lochmann." Paul Lochmann, of Leipzig, Germany, brought to the exposition a Symphonion disc-playing clock, illustrated here, which along with the original medal is a valued part of my collection. Not often can a small medal be a complement to an original item for which it was awarded! The clock crossed the auction block at Sotheby's in London some years ago, consigned by Lochmann's granddaughter.



**34.** The various expositions always had medals associated with them. For the Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in St. Louis in 1904, Adolph A. Weinman created a silver award medal, so inscribed, however, so many medals were given out that it was cheaper to make them in brass, as here!

32



33

The third Philadelphia Mint opened in 1901. Assay Commission medal.

**33.** Assay Commission medals, first issued in the 1860s, were made each year through the 1970s. This silver medal of 1901 observed the opening of the third Philadelphia Mint.



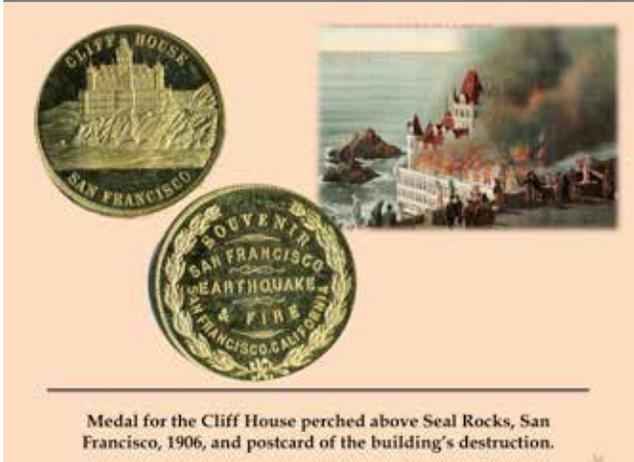
34

35

Much ado about a medal. Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber's official medal for the 1905 inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt, left, and the unofficial medal the president commissioned Augustus Saint-Gaudens to design, on the right.

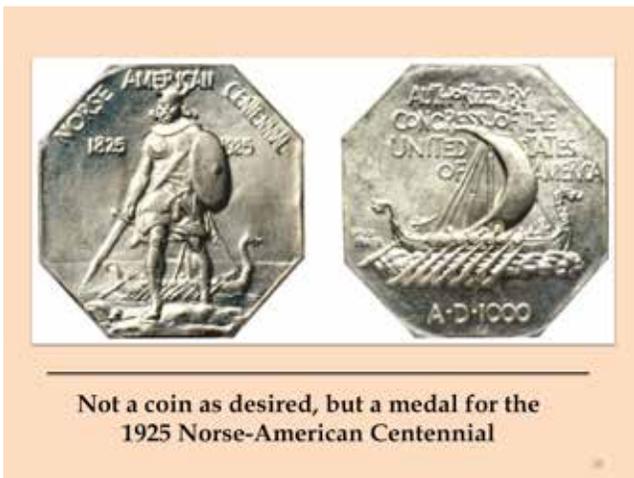
**35.** One of the most controversial early 20th century medals is that made for Theodore Roosevelt's 1905 inaugural. Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber produced the official medal at the Mint, as shown to the left. Roosevelt, who disliked American coinage designs and seems to have disliked Barber as well, commissioned Augustus Saint-Gaudens, America's most famous sculptor, to privately make an inaugural medal, shown to the right. This was said by many people, then and today, as to be much finer than the Barber design. The medal on the left is worth hundreds of dollars, the medal on the right is worth over \$10,000. I think that Barber's medal is quite acceptable, and while the Saint-Gaudens product is desirable as it bears the sculptor's signature, I do not see it as completely eclipsing the Barber design. What do you think?

## The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



Medal for the Cliff House perched above Seal Rocks, San Francisco, 1906, and postcard of the building's destruction.

**36.** To observe the April 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, this medal was issued illustrating the Cliff House, high on Seal Rock, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It escaped the disaster but it did not exist for long, as in 1907 it was destroyed by fire. Again, a medal can tell a story and I can probably talk for an hour about the Cliff House as some years ago I purchased many music boxes and other items offered by the Whitney family who built the new Cliff House after the 1907 fire.



Not a coin as desired, but a medal for the 1925 Norse-American Centennial

**38.** The Norse-American Centennial Commission in 1925 desired to have a commemorative coin made, but they did not push the idea very strongly, and the result was that a medal was created instead. Quite a few of these were struck in silver, on thin and thick planchets, and are popular collectibles today.

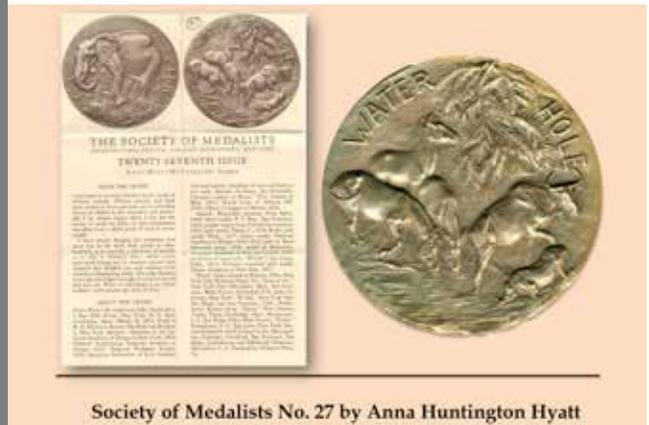
36



Audrey Munson posed nude for several films and for Robert A. Aitken, who featured her twice on the reverse of the official medal for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

**37.** Robert A. Aitken, best known numismatically for creating the octagonal and round \$50 commemorative coins for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, also created the official award medal. Modeling for the two female figures on the reverse was Audrey Munson, a lady who in the nude was sculpted by over a dozen artists in and around New York City, where she was well known in that profession. She appeared in films, including *Purity and Inspiration*, both of which had her as a model responding to the wishes of directors and sculptors. Nudity on the screen was almost unheard of at the time.

38



Society of Medalists No. 27 by Anna Huntington Hyatt

**39.** Beginning in 1930 the Society of Medalists asked prominent artists and sculptors to create medals of their own inspiration and choosing. This was a novel challenge, as typically medals were made to the order of patrons and depicted family members, buildings, events and the like, with the medalist having little say in the matter. Ideas ranged widely, and from then through over 125 medals later, the series includes a rich panorama of sculpture with no equal anywhere else. Although a fine reference book was written on the subject by David Alexander and published by the American Numismatic Society, its high list price precludes wide distribution. As a result, many of these medals are very inexpensive with most selling less than \$100 each. Shown is No. 27 by Anna Huntington Hyatt, wife of Archer T. Huntington, railroad fortune heir who donated land and much of the expense for a beautiful building for the American Numismatic Society opened in New York in 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Huntington were patrons of the arts, and also founded Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina, today an attraction with many sculptures in outdoor settings.

39

## The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



Society of Medalists No. 45 by James Earle Fraser and the commemorative half dollar he and his wife, Laura Gardin Fraser, created.

40. James Earle Fraser created Society of Medalists No. 45, with the reverse copied from the Oregon Trail half dollar of 1926.

40



Society of Medalists No. 128 by U.S. Mint sculptor-engraver Don Everhart

41. One of the latest issues in the series is by Don Everhart, today a distinguished sculptor and engraver at the U.S. Mint who has designed many coins and medals. This particular medal, produced by the Medallion Arts Company, has an unusual shape, not uncommon for modern pieces. The photograph shows Don in his office at the Mint and was taken by me during a recent visit.

41



The Huey Long "toilet seat medal" American Numismatic Society, 1933

42. One of the most interesting 20th century medals commemorates an event in which Senator Huey Long of Louisiana, who earlier served many terms as governor and was a virtual dictator in his state. He could have people sent to jail, influence laws being changed and do just about whatever he wanted. He was foul-mouthed and arrogant. At a gathering at Sands Point, Long Island in 1933 he was drunk, went to the men's room and found that a urinal or toilet was occupied so he peed on the pant leg of the person using it, who then turned around and slammed Long's face into the sink. The event made nationwide headlines. The Medallion Art Company created the medal illustrated here. Long was invited to a ceremony to receive a gold striking but declined, so it was given to the American Numismatic Society. Here again an entire program can be given on this particular piece. Long was assassinated in 1935. Historian William Manchester wrote that had he lived, and had he opposed Franklin Roosevelt in the 1936 election, as he planned to do, the history of the United States might be different than how we know it today. Long proclaimed, "Every man a king," and proposed to take assets from the undeserving wealthy and distribute them to others.

42



1946 Essai Ducaton medal commissioned by Abe Kosoff, Abner Kreisberg and Robert Friedberg to honor the United Nations

43. In 1946 a group of three New York numismatists banded together to create a medal observing the newly-formed United Nations, an Essai or trial Ducaton. It was hoped these would be struck in silver and gold and perhaps widely used, but apart from private coinage, this did not happen. Here, indeed, is another medal with a story.

43

## The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



New York Numismatic Club medal for president Oscar G. Shilke

44. One of my fine friends from years ago was Oscar G. Schilke, who lived in Connecticut and who formed a beautiful collection, most of which I and my business partner Jim Ruddy purchased over a number of years. At one time he was president of the New York Numismatic Club, which has had a tradition of issuing a medal for each of its presidents.



Token and Medal Society award medal, gilt brass, 1975

46. Since then I have received a number of award medals of various sorts, including this from the Token and Medal Society in 1975 for a study I did, A Tune for a Token.

44



1955 American Numismatic Association badge-medal for the annual convention in Omaha

45. My first “official medal,” so to speak, was part of the convention badge received in 1955 when as a teenager I attended and had a bourse table at the American Numismatic Association Convention in Omaha. I was not of legal age yet, so was not an ANA member, but was given special dispensation to set up – this being an era in which things were more casual than they are today.

45

46



Self-portrait medal by sculptor-engraver Frank Gasparro, former chief engraver of the U.S. Mint

47. Frank Gasparro, the former chief engraver of the Philadelphia Mint, has been a friend for many years. I remember when he created the Eisenhower dollar, and the Susan B. Anthony dollar. Stacks Bowers Galleries commissioned him to design a medal featuring himself, which he did, as shown here. Interestingly, some years ago a “definitive” study of Gasparro medals was published, but the author did not know anything about the fairly extensive list of medals, including this one, that Gasparro created in the 1980s and 1990s!

47

# The Lore & Lure of American Medals — continued



Moxie at one time outsold Coca-Cola in the Northeast

48. This medal, or perhaps it should be called a token – often the distinction is blurred – features the Moxie Bottle Wagon which was a popular attraction at amusement parks, city streets, and elsewhere in 1900 when it was issued. In time, the Bottle Wagon gave way to the Moxie Horsemobile, of which just one survives today. I am the co-owner of it, a 1929 LaSalle on display at Clark’s Trading Post in Lincoln, New Hampshire, as shown here.



Medals up to date: modern medal by Alexander Shagin for the Medal Collectors of America.

50. Completing my program is one of a modern series issued by the Medal Collectors of America, this by Alexander Shagin.

48



American Numismatic Society medal for QDB, 2006. Alexander Shagin, artist-sculptor

49. As I near the end of this presentation I show what would have to be my favorite modern medal, one sculpted by Alexander Shagin and presented to me by the American Numismatic Society. The reverse with the classical owl was a suggestion of ANS Executive Director Ute Wartenberg. When after Shagin did the model she found some adjustments had to be made and the coin which the eagle is holding in its talons and thus the final version is slightly different than the test version. I was deeply honored by the gala, an event I will always remember.

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Thank you!



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Images  
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 ● Stack's Bowers Galleries ● Alex Shagin ● Sotheby's (London) ● U.S. Mint

*[This speech was delivered to a standing room crowd on January 9th, 2016, at a meeting conducted by Medal Collectors of America. Dave Bowers' talks are invariably educational but this was one of his best. His purpose was to show medals in a way that would excite existing collectors and win new ones. Try this speech on yourself. If some number of the 50 slides do not reach out and grip you, your sensory buds may need re-charging. Ed.]*

## The 1897 McKinley Presidential Medal by Robert W. Julian

The striking of presidential medals is today taken for granted but this was not always the case. Prior to 1877 collectors purchased copper-bronzed specimens of the Indian Peace Medals for the different chiefs. Mint Director Henry R. Linderman, however, felt that a regular presidential medal was the better choice and in early 1877 instructed newly-arrived engraver George Morgan to execute a special three-inch medal for President Rutherford B. Hayes. Within a few years similar dies had also been prepared for Presidents Ulysses S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln, and William Henry Harrison but no more of the earlier presidents were so honored.

After the medal for Hayes, with each new president one of the mint engravers would model the subject either from life or a set of good profile photographs.

William McKinley was elected president in November 1896 and assumed office on March 4 of the following year. Not long afterwards Philadelphia Mint Superintendent Herman Kretz contacted the mint director, Robert E. Preston, about the usual medal work to be done for the new president. Preston made arrangements with the White House and in June 1897 Charles Barber traveled to Washington to complete a profile model of President McKinley from life.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, under date of June 16, 1897, carried the following news item: "Charles E. Barber, chief engraver at the Mint, returned from Washington last evening, where he had gone to visit President McKinley for the purpose of putting the finishing touches on the wax mould of the President's features, which is to be used to strike off a number of bronze medals. Mr. McKinley expressed himself as being well pleased with the wax model, and he congratulated Mr. Barber upon the excellent likeness he had obtained."

The news item makes it clear that Barber had prepared a likeness of the President prior to visiting the White House in person. This earlier work would have been done from photographs. The newspaper item did make one minor error in that it said that bronze medals would then be struck whereas in 1897 the Mint struck copper-bronzed medals, which were made of pure copper and then treated with a chemical solution.

Upon his return to Philadelphia the chief engraver prepared a plaster model carrying the portrait of the President and a copy was sent to the White House for examination and final approval. While the President liked the portrait some of his friends suggested minor changes and these were relayed to Barber. A revised obverse model was sent to Washington in July 1897, with final approval by the

President coming in August.

Once the approval had been granted, the chief engraver set about preparing the obverse and reverse dies. The available letters do not indicate if a reverse model was furnished to the White House and perhaps only a detailed sketch was sent. At any rate the dies were finished in early September 1897 and a medal sent to Washington.

The President liked the medal so well that he decided to present each of his Cabinet members with a copper-bronzed specimen, suitably encased. In September 1897 this meant the following individuals: John Sherman (Secretary of State), Lyman J. Gage (Secretary of the Treasury), Russell A. Alger (Secretary of War), Joseph McKenna (Attorney General), James A. Gary (Postmaster General), John D. Long (Secretary of the Navy), Cornelius N. Bliss (Secretary of the Interior), and James Wilson (Secretary of Agriculture). In all there were to be eight special medals.

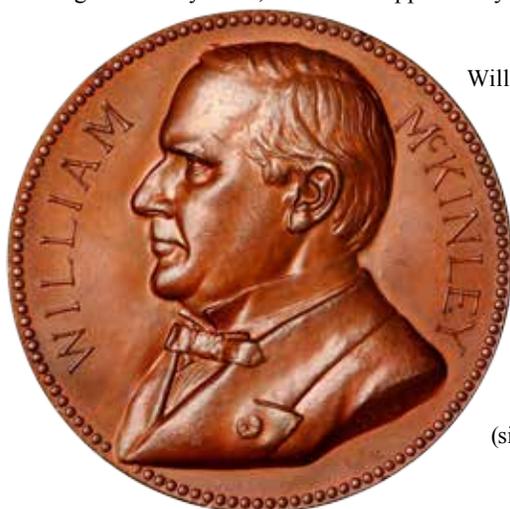
The medals ordered by the President were struck and made ready during the last week of September 1897. The interesting part about these medals is that the name of the recipient was engraved in small letters on the edge of each medal, perhaps the only time that this was done by a sitting president.

On October 1, 1897, Superintendent Kretz mailed the encased medals to the mint director, who then took them to the treasury department. From there they were carried to the White House. The medals were presumably passed out at the next full meeting of the Cabinet.

Kretz sent a further six copper-bronzed McKinley medals to the mint director on October 6 but the reason for this second set is not known. Once that was done the three-inch McKinley medal was placed on public sale at two dollars.

The present writer has not seen a McKinley medal with an edge inscription but two of them have appeared in auctions held by Joe Levine (Presidential Coin & Antique). Auction 61 (1996) had the Joseph McKenna medal while Auction 65 (1999) sold the James Gary specimen. Both were in the ornate cases prepared at the direction of the President. The other six are waiting to be found.

In 1902 the regular presidential medal for McKinley was replaced by a memorial medal, following his assassination at the hands of an anarchist in September 1901 at Buffalo, New York. As a numismatic side note, the Chapman brothers suggested this new McKinley medal to the Mint in early October 1901 and the idea was soon carried out.



1897  
William McKinley  
Medal

77 mm  
(size reduced)





AN INTERIOR VIEW OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Interior view of the Crystal Palace showing the great equestrian statue of George Washington at center. (Images courtesy of Yale University)



New York Crystal Palace fire October 1858



BURNING OF THE NEW YORK CRYSTAL PALACE.

