
The MCA Advisory

The Newsletter of Medal Collectors of America

Volume 12 Number 4

April 2009

Board Members

John W. Adams, President
John Sallay, Vice President, jsallay@comcast.net
Barry D. Tayman, Treasurer
David T. Alexander, davida@stacks.com
Robert F. Fritsch, bobfritsch@earthlink.net
David Menchell, dmenchell@aol.com
Scott Miller, wheatbix@comcast.net
Ira Rezak, ira.rezak@med.va.gov
Donald Scarinci, dscarinci1@aol.com
Michael Turrini, emperori@juno.com
Benjamin Weiss, Webmaster

John W. Adams, Editor

99 High Street, 11th floor
Boston, MA 02110
john.adams@canaccordadams.com

Barry Tayman, Treasurer

3115 Nestling Pine Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042
bdtayman@verizon.net

Benjamin Weiss, Webmaster

benweiss.org@comcast.net

Website: medalcollectors.org

Editor of Collectors' Guide, Dick Johnson
(dick.johnson@snet.net)

Dues: \$30.00/Year \$50.00/2 years

From the Editor 3

Presidential's June Sale Filled With Medal Delights 3

Medalist Eugene Daub to Speak at Los Angeles ANA Convention 3

The Treaty of Ryswick: The Effects it had on the Americas (by Skyler Liechty) 4

Betts 158 (by John W. Adams) 8

Some Background on the Elusive Betts 35 (by George Fuld) 10

MCA Launches Medal Interviews As Oral History on Its Web Site
Alan Stahl's Interview (by D. Wayne Johnson) 11

Letters to the Editor 16

Calendar

Annual Meeting August 7, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.
Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA

What's New on Our Website!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE EVERY MONTH

From the Editor

Our meeting in Los Angeles on August will feature the Carl Carlson and Gloria Stamm Chamberlain awards. This year's recipients will be named in our May issue. Also featured at our August meeting will be a talk by Henry "Scott" Goodman on the medals of Karl Goetz. Scott, a pioneer in the study of this important series, will have a great deal of new information to share.

Tony Lopez is totally serious about his project named "Shoulda Been in Betts." We kick it off with a piece in the current issue, but there is a building backlog of material to come from others. From these enthusiasts will emerge a committee that will, we hope, launch a multi-year effort to re-write "Betts" in its entirety.

The Board of MCA has voted to raise the annual dues from \$20 to \$30. Members sending in checks by 5/31/09 may use the old rate.

Presidential's June Sale Filled With Medal Delights

Joe Levine reports that his June Auction at the Whitman Baltimore Coin U& Currency Convention on June 13 will be filled with quality art medals. Chief among the offerings is a collection of 64 American Numismatic Society medals. Also featured is a collection of medallic ash trays, Janet Scudder portrait plaques and medals from the Estate of the painter, William Merritt Chase. In total, there are several hundred American art medals with virtually every important American medalist from the late 19th and early 20th century represented.

Joe will be pleased to send a complimentary copy of the sale to MCA members who request one. Requests should be made via e-mail to: JLevine968@aol.com. A copy of the sale can be downloaded beginning May 8 at

<http://www.maineantiquedigest.com/pages/page.php?id=9524>

Medalist Eugene Daub to Speak at Los Angeles ANA Convention

Renowned medalist and sculptor, Eugene Daub will be the main speaker at the annual joint meeting of the American Israel Numismatic Association and the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation, held at the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money® at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Daub will speak at 1:00 PM on Thursday, August 6th. The illustrated talk will be on medals he has designed for The Jewish-American Hall of Fame (Moe Berg, Milton Berle and Barney Ross); it will be free and open to the public.

Eugene Daub has also created medals for the American Numismatic Society, The New York Numismatic Club, and Brookgreen Gardens. He is the recipient of the highest national awards for medallic art: the American Numismatic Society's J. Sanford Saltus Award for Signal Achievement in the Art of the Medal and the American Numismatic Association's Numismatic Art Award for Excellence in Medallic Sculpture. Daub is the vice president of the American Medallic Sculpture Association, and a Fellow of the National Sculpture Society. His most recent sculptural achievements include portrayals of Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia, Bob Hope commissioned by the City of San Diego, and Harvey Milk at the San Francisco City Hall.

In addition, representatives from the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation will give sneak previews of upcoming new issues of coins, medals, etc. For further information call Mel Wacks, President of AINA, at (818) 225-1348 or email ainapresident@lycos.com.

The Treaty of Ryswick: The effects it had on the Americas

(by Skyler Liechty. A special thanks to Tony Lopez for his help)

Seventeenth and eighteenth century Europe was enveloped with numerous wars, many of which redefined the world as it was known. During this two hundred year period, several peace treaties were entered into that ultimately transformed territorial boundaries and the power structure throughout the whole of Europe. Additionally they had profound impacts on North America, South America, and the Caribbean islands. One example of such a treaty was the Treaty of Ryswick. The treaty was named after Ryswick in the Dutch Republic; it was signed on 20 September 1697. The treaty settled the Nine Years' War, in which the Grand Alliance of England, Spain, the Holy Roman Empire, and the United Provinces were pitted against France. This treaty would have lasting effects on Europe, as well as North America, South America, and the Caribbean islands. To fully understand the ramifications of this treaty it is essential to understand the events that led up to the signing of the treaty.

Following the Franco-Dutch war in 1678, King Louis XIV emerged as arguably the most powerful monarch in Western Europe. The use of tactics including aggression, annexation, and legal means immediately set a course for a French attempt at extending its gains. Louis not only consolidated those gains, but also brought about stability and strength on all frontiers. The tactics employed and the combination of belligerence and arrogance would lead to the eventual forming of a European-wide coalition. The coalition was formed in 1686 and called the League of Augsburg. After England joined the alliance in 1689, it became better known as the Grand Alliance and was determined to curtail the Kings of France's ambitions. The Alliance was led principally by King Charles II of Spain, the Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I, the Anglo-

Dutch Stadtholder-King William III, and Victor Amadeus the Duke of Savoy.

The Nine Years' War, also known as the "War of the Grand Alliance" or the "War of the League of Augsburg" was waged from 1688 to 1697. The majority of theaters were on mainland Europe, but it also encompassed battles in Ireland and North America. The first phases started to take shape the day after Louis XIV issued his manifesto *Mémoire de Raisons*, which was his justification for taking to arms. The Rhine was crossed by French forces, which acted as a forerunner to invading Philippsburg and other Rhineland towns. The dual purpose of such aggression served to both intimidate the German states into accepting his conditions - consisting of turning into a permanent resolution the terms of the Treaty of Ratisbon, and that Fürstenburg be appointed Archbishop-Elector of Cologne - and also to encourage the Ottoman Turks to persevere in their own struggles against the Emperor in the east. Many believed that Louis XIV had hoped for, and even anticipated, a quick resolution. With the crossing of the Rhine, however, his longest war to date had begun.

In North America, the Nine Years War was commonly known as "King William's War". This was the first of the French and Indian Wars, which would ultimately span nearly eight decades, and through two centuries, from 1689-1763 in four separate identified wars. King William's War was fought between England and the Iroquois, and France and the Algonquins. Theaters would encompass the colonies of Canada (New France), Acadia, and New England. After William of Orange - who had just been declared King of England by the English Parliament in the Declaration of Right in 1689- joined the League of Augsburg (which was pitted against France), fifteen hundred Iroquois attacked the New France settlement at La Chine. New France and its Indian allies then began numerous attacks on the English frontier settlements. The Schenectady Massacre of 1690 was the most notable of these; casualties included 60 dead

and 27 captured. The Quebec expedition, which was an attempt by the English to seize the capital of New France after Port Royal, Nova Scotia, had been taken was the last major offensive of King William's War. The remainder of the war reduced the English colonists to defensive operations and skirmishes.

By 1696 France was within the grips of an economic crisis, and the maritime powers, England and the Dutch republic, were financially exhausted as well. The stage was set for an attempt at concluding the hostilities. Louis XIV was brought to the point of consenting to the negotiations due to the combined financial woes of France and the unanswered question of the Spanish Succession. The question of Spanish Succession was vitally important to all of the European powers as it could have led to the unification of the Kingdoms of France and Spain under a single Bourbon monarch, which would have upset the entire European balance of power. The final move towards negotiating peace terms was the defection of the Duke of Savoy from the Grand Alliance. The Treaty of Turin was the cause of this defect. The treaty included provisions in which Louis XIV would return Montmélian, Nice, Villefranche, Susa, and other lesser towns intact to the Duke of Savoy. From this maneuver Savoy had emerged as an independent sovereign House and was considered a second-rank power. The boundaries of France in the south-east were extended to the Alps as well, rather than the River Po, in return for these conditions. The Duke of Savoy would agree to abandon the Grand Alliance, at which point all parties were ready for a negotiated settlement.

Negotiations of the terms for peace began in May of 1697, with few meaningful results during the first few weeks. With stalled negotiations, William III of Orange and Louis XIV of France each appointed a single representative to meet privately to negotiate terms of a settlement. William of Orange appointed William Bentinck, and King Louis

XIV appointed Marshal Boufflers. Agreeable terms were quickly drawn up and were considered satisfactory to all parties with the exception of Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I, and Charles II of Spain. After a short time of negotiating with Charles II, Spain gave way, resulting in the signed treaty of peace between France and the three powers of England, Spain and the United Provinces or the "Dutch Republic", which was the unification of the seven Dutch provenances. William Bentinck was then able to persuade Emperor Leopold I to make peace and sign the treaty with France. While the terms were agreed to by Louis XIV, they were not ideal, and were considered humiliating. All territorial gains obtained at a high cost to France over the previous 20 years were lost with the exception of Strausbourg and Landau.

General terms of peace were as follows:

- All towns and districts seized since the Treaty of Nijmegen should be restored.
- France was also required to surrender Freiburg, Breisach and Philippsburg to Leopold I.
- A substantial condition by the French was that their control of the western third of the island of Saint-Domingue (later to become Haiti) should be formally recognized by Spain.
- France also regained Pondicherry, after a payment to the Dutch, and France would gain Acadia.
- Louis XIV would agree to recognize William III as king of England, and give no additional support to James II of England, Louis' cousin and great ally.
- Louis XIV further agreed to abandon his interference in the electorate of Cologne and the claim which he had laid to some of the lands of the

Electoral Palatinate. The Duchy of Lorraine, which for many years had been in the possession of France, was restored to Leopold Joseph, who was a son of Charles IV, Duke of Lorraine.

- Spain recovered Catalonia, and the barrier fortresses of Kortrijk, Mons, and Luxembourg.
- The Dutch were to be allowed to garrison some of the primary fortresses in the Spanish Netherlands, including Namur and Ypres.

The largely unanswered question left by this treaty was the Spanish Succession which would prove to be problematic for years and would not be resolved by the signing of the treaty. At the time of the Treaty of Ryswick, with the future in mind, King Louis agreed to demolish the new French fortress of Fort Louis. This was an attempt by Louis XIV to gain favor in the sight of Charles II of Spain. Fort Louis was an attempt by La Salle to establish the first colony in the new territory of Louisiana (which due to inaccurate maps he ended up establishing it in what is now Texas.)

With Respect to North America and the Caribbean, the French had ultimately negotiated very significant gains in the Treaty of Ryswick, specifically the recognition of their control of the western third of the island Saint-Domingue and the control of Acadia. These gains proved to be very instrumental for the French endeavors in North America and Europe over the following century.

Saint-Domingue was a French colony on part of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, named by Christopher Columbus in 1492 upon taking possession. The entire island of Hispaniola, called Santo Domingo by the Spanish, was controlled by Spain from the 1490s until the 17th century. French pirates began to establish bases on the western portions of the island primarily due to the neglect by the Spanish colonists on that portion of the island.

The economic benefits of Saint-Domingue gradually expanded for France. Sugar and later, coffee, became important export crops of the island and the main economic products. This provided the French with a very large revenue source from the island as well as a major control of goods for the world. At its height, the island exported 72 million pounds of raw sugar and 51 million pounds of refined sugar, one million pounds of indigo, and two million pounds of cotton. Saint-Domingue was producing about 40 percent of all the sugar and 60 percent of all the coffee consumed in Europe during the late eighteenth century. To put this in perspective, this single colony, measuring 10,714 square miles, produced more sugar and coffee than all of Britain's West Indian colonies combined. The Treaty of Ryswick ended much of the warfare and disruptions that had been common in the years prior to Saint-Domingue, allowing it to become one of the richest and most productive European colonies.

Acadia was the portion of the French colonial empire in northeastern North America known today as Nova Scotia. Control of this territory shifted between the French and English, and for a short time the Dutch, during the seventeenth and eighteenth century. From 1604 when the colony was established, until 1674, the French controlled Acadia. The Dutch then had a short-lived control for a few months in 1674 after which France regained control and held power until the War of the Grand Alliance. English colonists captured Acadia during the course of the war; however England returned the territory to France in the Treaty of Ryswick at the end of the war. The territory was recaptured by forces loyal to Britain during the course of Queen Anne's War, and its conquest was confirmed by the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713. France retained possession of Île St Jean and Île Royale or Cape Breton Island, on which it established a fortress at Louisbourg to guard the sea approaches to Quebec.



Peace lasted for less than four years between the powers in Europe, and in their American colonies. The Spanish Succession question left unanswered by the Treaty of Ryswick reemerged with the death of Charles II of Spain in 1700. He bequeathed all of his possessions to the grandson of King Louis XIV Philip, duc d'Anjou, who became Philip V of Spain. With the threat of a potential unification of the Spanish and French kingdoms creating a single Bourbon monarch, several European powers combined to prevent unification, commencing the War of Spanish Succession.

Several dozen medals were struck to commemorate the Treaty of Ryswick. A large portion of these are listed in *Medallic Illustrations of British History: Volume II* by Hawkins, Franks, and Grueber. One of the most illustrious medals, and a personal favorite listed as MI 453. The dies are by Regnier Arondeaux who was a Flemish medalist who worked between 1678 and 1702. The Comte d'Avaux commissioned the medals illustrating the events of the rule of Louis XIV. In *Bibliographical dictionary of Medalists: Volume I* by Leonard Forrer, it states that "Pinchart says that Arondeaux's later medals

are elegantly modeled and beautifully treated, and that they place the artist in the rank of the best medalists of his time." About 30 of his medals are known, a good portion belonging to the English series.

The obverse features several diplomatic agents, who were invested with full power, attended by guards, closing the gates of the temple of Janus. The inscription on temple, IANO SACR, (Sacred to Janus). In front is an altar, and near it a devoted sow. Legend CAESA FIRMABANT FOEDERA PORCA. (they used to confirm treaties by slaying a sow). The main Temple of Janus stood in the Roman Forum. The temple had doors on both ends, and inside the temple was a statue of Janus, the two-faced god of boundaries. Janus was usually depicted with two heads looking in opposite directions. As legend has it, he had received the gift to see both future and past, in reward, from the God Saturn. The temple doors were closed in times of peace and opened in times of war. It was a very rare occasion to see the closing of the doors. Traditionally the Romans would confirm the treaty with a Priest Killing of a sow with a stone. This signified

that those who broke the treaty would meet a similar fate.

Reverse illustrates the Palace and Gardens of Ryswick, which is where the negotiations were carried out. Legend RYSWYK GUILLEMI III.D.G.M. BRITIAN. ECT. R. PALAT. (Ryswick the palaces of William III., by the Grace of God, King of the Great Britain). Around are the Shields of KEYSER, SPANGEIN, BRANDENBVR, PALTS, SAXEN, BEYEREN, ENGELAND, SWEDEN, 7 . PROVINTIE, S. NEDERLAN, 'T RYCK, LOTHARINGEN, SAVOYEN, and VRANCKRYK. (The Emperor, Spain, Brandenburg, the Palatinate, Saxony, Bavaria, England, Sweden, the Seven Provinces, the Spanish Netherlands, the German Empire, Lorraine, Savoy, and France).

Childs, John. Warfare in the Seventeenth Century. Cassell, (2003).

Elson, Henry William. "History of the United States of America," The MacMillan Company, New York, 1904. Chapter VIII. Transcribed by Kathy Leigh.

Forrer, L. Biographical Dictionary of Medallists- Vol. 1-8. Original Edition published in London (1902-1930)

Hawkins, Franks, Grueber. Medallic Illustration of British History: Volume II. Spink (1885)

Lynn, John A. The Wars of Louis XIV: 1667–1714. Longman, (1999).

Loomer, L. S. Windsor, Nova Scotia: A Journey in History. Windsor, N.S.: West Hants Hist. Soc., 1996. 399 pp.

MacDonald, William. Select Charters and Other Documents Illustrative of American History, 1606-1775. Macmillan Co. (1904)

Nezat, Jack Claude. The Nezat And Allied Families 1630-2007 Lulu 2007

Perkins, James. France under the Regency with a Review of Administration of Louis XIV Houghton Mill, (1901)

Wolf, John B. The Emergence of the Great Powers: 1685–1715. Harper & Row, (1962)

Wolf, John B. Louis XIV. Panther Books, (1970)

Encyclopedia Britannica Eleventh Edition

Livius.org: Janus

Betts 158

(by John W. Adams)

In the March edition, Tony Lopez proposed a regular column in which members could submit descriptions of medals that “Shoulda Been in Betts.” In support of Tony’s idea, we have volunteered the following on Betts 158—a medal so rare that even Betts mavens do not know it and which, further, was mis-described by Betts in 1894.

Betts 158 commemorates the Peace Treaty negotiated by Austria and Spain at Vienna in 1725. These were the two powers with the most at stake in the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1720) pitting a Hapsburg claimant against one from the House of Bourbon. England, Holland, Portugal, France and Spain were signatories to one or another of the Treaties negotiated at Utrecht in 1713-1714. Austria and Spain did not formally end hostilities until 1720.

The obverse of Betts 158 (which the editors of Betts list mistakenly as the reverse) depicts Philip V of Spain standing on the left and Charles VI of Austria standing on the right, each extending an olive branch. The legend reads: CAROLUS VI · IMPERATOR GLADIOS NUNC PERMUTAVIT OLIVIS

· | PAX CONCORDAT UTRUM QUE.
(Charles VI, Emperor, has now exchanged the sword for the olive branch. Peace unites both). Thus, the composer of the medal gives credit for brokering the peace to Austria, notwithstanding that it takes two to form an agreement.

The editors of Betts note that the treaty entailed an exchange of territories. Such was not the case. Rather, the treaty involved an exchange of commercial privileges with hospitality for visiting warships added as well. The same rights had been granted by Spain to the other European powers in earlier treaties.

The engraver of this medal, Philippe (III) Louis Roettiers, was yet another member of the prolific Roettiers family. He succeeded his father, of the same name, as Engraver-general of the coins of the Low-Countries and Engraver to the Antwerp Mint. Forrer attributes less than a dozen medals to his credit, of which Betts 158 would seem to be one of the most important and, as such, especially desirable given the scarcity of Roettiers' work. Though not overwhelming, the design and execution of the medal is quite creditable. Given that trade from and to the East Indies was a central issue of the treaty, the composition of the reverse is actually clever: ships sailing between two massive pillars atop which are the two monarchs and over which hangs the motto PLUS ULTRA (more beyond). It is not a great medal but it is a good one.

Betts 158 is a truly rare medal. It is not to be found in any of the great collections; it was not in Ford, Craige, LaRiviere or even Bushnell. Even more remarkably, it is not included in Pax in Numis. The medal has appeared in at least one auction sale on the Continent, notably Schulman #222 in 1952.

One can speculate on the reasons for the rarity of Betts 158. The simplest reason is that the Peace of Vienna was an anticlimax, and an inconsequential one at that. All of the other great powers had settled their differences at Utrecht in 1713-1714. Spain and Austria, the last to come to terms, had resolved the most

important issues between them in 1720. Unlike Gettysburg, Vienna was indeed destined to be little noted and not long remembered.



Some Background On The Elusive Betts 35

(by George Fuld)

Several weeks ago, I had the privilege of going through the coin accumulation at the Maryland Historical Society. This was all unattributed material, many in envelopes dating back to the turn of the 20th century. There were approximately 100 U.S. coins and about 900 foreign pieces. Among items that I found were two Maryland shillings, two Maryland six pences, a holed groat of Maryland, an altered copy of Idler's Baltimore denarius and a superb Standish Barry three pence. In one envelope, with about ten foreign coins was a folded document that has brought to light one of the MHS's prize possessions, the oval medal from 1632, Betts 35.

This signed document affirms the donation by twelve historical society members of the Betts 35 medal. A copy of the document is shown signed by each donor with the amount donated. As noted in the document, a special price of 25 pounds was negotiated by Judge Stockbridge with Spink & Sons of London. The total price of 25 pounds (in 1915 a pound was worth approximately \$4.50 U.S). As can be seen, the amount of \$120.00 was subscribed to by the twelve members.

Tony Lopez found in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* in Vol. XI, No.1 of March, 1916, pages 86-88, details of the transaction. At the meeting of December 13th, 1915, Judge Stockbridge discussed the negotiations for the medal with a background on the only other Baltimore medal, the Betts 34 then in possession of the society. The relevant description of the medal Betts 35 from C. Wyllis Betts is given and other references to *Md. Archives* from 1676 are noted.

The acquisition of this medal by the MHS reminds one of the acquisition of the gold Washington Before Boston by prominent Bostonians in 1876 for the princely sum of \$5,000 now at the Boston Public Library.

Alan Stahl Interview

SESSION ONE: MEDALLIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

00:01 I am Dick Johnson. I am talking with Alan Stahl. The date is November 19 [actually 21], 2008.

00:13 Greetings Alan. I would like to start this recorded session in your mid career with two books that are most useful to medal collectors: The COAC books. You were moderator of the symposium and editor of the published version. Tell us all about the two Coins of the Americas Conferences on Medals.

03:27 How do you define Beax Arts in medals?

06:15 You had some top speakers at the 1987 COAC symposium.

07:16 Ten years later for the Second COAC you had Ron Landis give a demonstration [of engraving].

09:04 Second most useful tool: You cataloged every medal at American Numismatic Society, ANS, and this is now on the internet. How can collectors access this information and what will they find?

12:59 You were involved with numismatics' most attractive medal: ANS 125th Anniversary Medal by Marcel Jovine. Tell us how it came about and why it was struck in Italy.

19:27 The Annual reports of ANS covers high lights of each year's medal acquisitions. I would like to mention one: the acquisition of Jaspon Lit collection of Brenner medals. How did this come about?

22:40 What other medal collections were acquired at ANS under your curatorship?

23:09 What is the criteria for a museum, say ANS or Princeton where you are now, accepting gifts of medals, either singularly or in a collection?

24:59 A collector faces a major decision after spending a lifetime forming a medal collection – to sell it by auction, say, so other collectors may enjoy owning these pieces – or to donate it intact to a

Interviewer's Notes:

[By D. Wayne Johnson]

Start with announcing both names and date.

My first question was too broad. I should have asked a question of shorter scope.

You have to listen and insert a question to explain some term that may not be known by every listener.

My second and third questions were a rephrasing of the first question (because of its too large a scope) to cover what still needed to be answered from the first question.

Second question on my prepared list of questions. I had compiled a list of about four pages of these, enough I thought for two 45-minute recording sessions.

You have to do your homework in advance to know the most important specific areas that the interviewee was involved with.

Ask about a specific subject.

Ask open questions that the interviewee can amplify on that subject.

Inquire of the interviewee's experience where he has specific and intimate knowledge.

Since this interview is intended for medal collectors consider their interest in phrasing the questions.

museum. This also includes the choice of a museum. What would be your suggestions or recommendations for such a collector to consider?

27:31 [Example: Vermeule collection.]

33:50 What stands out in your mind about the Eidlitz collection of architectural medals which came to ANS in 1929?

[You worked with Barbara Baxter in 1987 on Beaux Arts medals in Society's collections. Tell us about that.]

35:41 How would you describe the duties and responsibilities of a numismatic curator?

- 1: Conservation.
- 2: Writing & publishing
- 3: Research

40:08 Could we add a fourth – Exhibitions? You organized the yearly exhibits of the ANS Saltus winners for nearly twenty years and prepared a dozen other exhibitions involving medals. Some of these were the Medals of the American Revolution, of the Columbian Exposition, of Poland, Netherlands, and England, the Medals of Victor Brenner, and American Women Medallists. Care to tell us about any of these?

42:44 How were Saltus Medal winners selected?

44:44 Was your position at ANS your first contact with medals?

45:45

46:28 Describe how the medals were stored in the trays at ANS.

48:02 At ANS for example, is it unusual for a collection to be kept intact, or does, say, a general medal collection get distributed to subject categories, or by medal topics?

50:55 How many of these subject categories, or topics of medals, would you estimate are assigned their own trays at ANS?

51:15 In your opinion is there a better way of storing a medal collection or are trays the most practical way?

Let the interviewee give an example – this is excellent!

Again, a specific question.

This question omitted since Alan had already discussed this in the first three minutes on the COAC question.

Inquiring of the interviewee where he has intimate knowledge of his chosen field.

I had to be aware that Alan had ticked off three points; thus I had to state what I had next in my list of prepared questions and name this as the fourth point of his discussion.

Something Alan had intimate knowledge of.

Beginning asking personal information.

Of interest to medal collectors – every one faces this problem.

How do museums organize their collections.

Amplify the museum experience.

Gain some insight from an authority.

	[How about for smaller medal collections?]	
52:45	What other tips do you have for medal collectors?	<i>I deleted this from my list of prepared questions</i>
		<i>Important for all medal collectors, we could gain some valuable insight here.</i>
55:42	END FIRST SESSION.	<i>I had gone past my 45-minute limit, but I still had 15 questions left. I will start the second session with these.</i>
	SECOND SESSION – ACTUAL.	
00:07	Did you ever clean a medal at ANS?	
01:32	I once saw a lady at ANS making plaster casts of numismatic items. Tell about this practice.	<i>I started the second session asking a specific question.</i>
		<i>One of few times I inserted a personal observation.</i>
03:07	I know you had some medals at ANS refinished. What was -- or is -- your criteria for having a medal refinished?	<i>Same kind of my personal observation.</i>
04:15	What medal event in your lifetime excited you the most?	
		<i>Back to his personal experience.</i>
05:05	If you could design any medal of your choice and a prominent artist would model it, what would be that design?	<i>Often you don't know where the interview will lead to; the interviewer must be versatile to ask about a new subject an interviewee brings up.</i>
07:29	Would you like to see the Society of Medallists reinstated?	<i>I asked this even though it wasn't on my list of questions.</i>
08:33	You spoke previously of AMSA, even president for four years. Give us some highlights, accomplishments and perhaps even setbacks you recall from your years at the helm of AMSA.	<i>Asking for direct personal experiences.</i>
13:52	You have also been active in FIDEM, tell us about your FIDEM activities.	<i>More personal experiences.</i>
14:52	I am going to mention some famous people connected with American medals. What do you remember of: Robert Weinman?	<i>A good interview technique is to ask a general question in which multiple items can be asked</i>
15:52	Gilroy Roberts?	
16:06	Frank Gasparro?	
16:11	Marcel Jovine?	
18:36	What other famous person connected with medals would you like to comment about? John Cook	<i>I didn't think to ask about this medallist. Alan thought he was important enough to comment on. An open question.</i>
23:47	Other than your own books – which we will discuss shortly – what is your favorite book on medals?	<i>Always a good question: Ask about a favorite book or book currently reading or such.</i>

24:50 What other medal events in your career were highpoints as you remember?

An open-ended question.

SESSION TWO. PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
– RESEARCH, NUMISMATIC WRITINGS.

These are the questions I had prepared in advance for the second session.

27:08 The ANS Library database has 90 entries under your name – eleven books, 79 articles. You have been actively writing for 30 years. Can I ask you to comment about several of the most notable of these?

An introductory question to ask about selected articles Alan had written.

27:27 “Cast or Struck, a Medallion Option,” in Medallies, a paper you gave at the 1994 Budapest FIDEM.

First article was on theme all medal collectors are concerned with.

29:37 “Indian Peace Medals Official and Unofficial,” also in Medallies.

Subject always of great interest to medal collectors.

31:30 “The American Industrial Medal” which won for you one of your two Health Literary Awards for articles in The Numismatist.

Of American Interest.

33:19 “The Origins of the Struck Medal” you gave as a paper at the Colorado Springs FIDEM last year.

On a previous theme.

36:31 “The Earliest Known Medalists: The Sesto Brothers of Venice” in 1993-94 AJN.

He learned of these early medalists during his research in Venice.

39:25 How was this medal acquired?

An inserted question.

40:34 “Laufer’s Medal Cabinet” in Medallion Sculpture 1984.

42:48 And not on medals but one of your earliest: “New Technology Accelerates Analysis of Coins” in Coin World 1981.

I asked about his first article last because it was more on coins than medals.

Computer clustering

Chemical analysis

43:53 Tell about your several trips to research in Venice.

I knew of his research in Venice.

44:59 What were the Medieval history books published as a result of this research?

Inquire of his personal talents.

44:59 How many languages do you speak and read?

- 46:09 How many do you speak?
- 46:21 You mentioned your position at Princeton as curator of their numismatic collections. Tell us about Princeton and the medals in their collection.
- 51:42 What classes do you teach at Princeton?
- 53:31 What other subjects have you taught or would like to teach?
- 54:36 You got your first degree at University of California Berkley Phi Beta Kappa. Where did you get your PhD?
- 54:54 Over the years you have received nine grants and fellowships. I have saved the best for last. Your most recent is your Guggenheim Grant. What are your plans for this Award?
- 58:24 What is your next medal research project?
- 59:09 Where did you grow up?
- 59:19 What did you collect as a boy?
- 1:00:12 Alan M. Stahl. What does the M stand for?
- 1:00:18 What is your date and place of birth?
- 1:00:25 Do you have a web site or where someone may go to find additional information about you?
- 1:01:07 Have I omitted anything else we should know about you or your medal activities? Have I left out anything?
- 1:01:16 You have been very forthcoming in talking about yourself and your many medallic and numismatic accomplishments
- Alan, thank you! On behalf of Medal Collectors of America I appreciate all you have done in thefield and your many accomplishments. Good Luck with your future research and writing and I hope you stay with medals for many years to come.
- Again, thank you for sharing your time with us.
- 1:02:02 END
- A rephrased question*
- He had mentioned his new position, so I had to mention this instead of what I had as a prepared question.*
- Personal history.*
- More personal history.*
- His most recent and newsworthy accomplishment was saved for last.*
- Plans or future.*
- More personal history.*
- Important for research documentation.*
- Always ask this question now days as everyone has a web site it seems.*
- Last question should be open-ended to allow the interviewee to say anything he wishes.*
- Ending courtesies.*
- Mention MCA as the sponsor of these interviews.*

Letters to the Editor

Hello,

On the Medal Collectors of America web-site listing for the Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University, it states that there were 96 medals issued in the series. Only 94 medals are listed by name. Do you know who the other two medals were issued for?

Thank you.

Ellis Corets

John,

No one seems to know exactly how many Hall of Fame medals were actually produced, possibly because the shabby final moments of the Hall after the Bronx Community College take-over are shrouded in obscurity. Who was last elected and when? The 94 medals we listed are those actually observed or published.

Speaking of which, I've lost track of where my review of the series ended in MCA Advisory.

David T. Alexander

Hi Joe (Levine)

Many thanks for your call today.

I am currently researching into any coins and medals issued to commemorate solar eclipses.

I am interested in both acquiring examples as well as information / literature on the items in general.

If you come across anything along these lines I would be grateful.

Thanks also for the contacts you gave me - I am currently working through them.
Best regards

Kevin Smith

Dear John and Wayne:

I just had a nice long conversation with Kevin Smith on this subject and thought perhaps that members of the Bibliomania Society or Medal Collectors of America might be able to help him.

Thanks

Joe (Levine)

Agopoff Plaques

Dear Mr. Adams:

I am writing on behalf of the Denville Historical Society & Museum in Denville, NJ. In 1993, our museum received a donation of 30 or so plaster cast sculptures (plaques, busts, full body) by Bulgarian-born artist Agop Minass Agopoff (1904-1983), including plaques of President & Mrs. Nixon (appraised at \$1,500), President Kennedy (used for his memorial at Hyannis; appraised at \$2,500), Babe Ruth (appraised at \$2,000), Edwin Booth (appraised at \$1,500), J. Edgar Hoover (appraised at \$2,000), and several others.* I noticed that one of your Newsletters carried an article about Agopoff. Agopoff came to America in 1929 and opened a studio in New York shortly thereafter. He moved to Denville in 1944 so when he died his estate donated the plaster casts to us. While they are beautiful, they don't fit well with our local history museum. You and your members at MCA will be particularly interested in the plaster plaques which were made into bronze wall plaques and/or commemorative medals. Along with the sculptures are numerous papers, letters, sketches, news articles, and photographs once belonging to the artist.

The reason I contact you is that we are considering auctioning-off the whole collection of sculptures and documentation. However, if you or your members are interested in any of the plaques, *or* if you are aware of a museum that may be interested, please let us know and we can discuss a private sale. Be assured that we have proper title and documentation of ownership to all the sculptures. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please review the photos and advise. Best regards V. Bianco for the Denville Historical Society & Museum, P.O. Box 466 (113 Diamond Spring Road), Denville, NJ 07834. 973-625-1165.

*Professional appraisals were done in 1993, copies available.



Good morning, Syd - It turns out that the Vernon medals are made from a whole lot of different metals and that the kind of metal may identify the maker. I have been running a lot of specific gravities, data which really help in this analysis. Do you know what the specific gravity of Bath Metal is and, if not, can you send me two or three of your Bath Metal pieces to test (the process is non-destructive) ?

Thanks,

John Adams

John,

I'm in Florida now, returning to PA over the weekend. I'll arrange to send you a couple bath metal Rosa Americana pieces. I don't know the exact specific gravity, and caution you that I've discovered that when they made bath metal, the primarily metals rarely mixed together well, leading to great variations piece-to-piece or even within the same piece. If it is of any help, the formal composition of bath metal was/is:

Fine Brass (estimated as) 75.00%
Calamine Ore 33%
Copper 67%
Metallic Zinc (e.g. Tutanaigne) 24.73%
Silver: .27%

The fine brass referenced above was variable, as it was the result of cooking calamine powder and raw copper in a cementation oven. The only metallurgical analysis of which I am aware showed:

Copper +/- 50%
Zinc +/- 50%
Silver 0%

Hope this helps.

Syd Martin

Syd - Your numbers are very useful. I'll send you the results from the tests as soon as I do them.

Best,

John

Dear John:

I prepared a feature story on the John Paul Jones medal a few weeks ago using research from your book with Anne Bentley, Alan Stahl's research paper from the 1995 ANS COAC and R.W Julian's book on U.S. Mint medals. We're using the feature in this week's edition, and Coin World News Editor Bill Gibbs raised several questions that re-examining the resources didn't clarify for me.

1. From the Census and Metrology Chart in your book, you and Anne list two gold medals known, eight silver and 37 bronze. Are any of these considered originals? I'm interpreting that only two original gold medals were struck from the original dies, these being one for Washington and one for Catherine II. What about Jones' own medal? Didn't he get a gold original? However, the research indicates Washington's estate holdings record a silver version and Catherine II of Russia's former lover, Prince Potemkin, received a silver version also. Is that correct.
2. There are two gold medals listed in the known census, but are these the two originals, or are they restrikes from the original dies or the gun-metal dies hubbed from French restrikes? Julian indicates the gold medal at Jones' crypt at the Naval Academy is among the three struck circa 1950 with the original dies obtained from the Paris Mint. Do you know how the U.S. obtained the original dies, who obtained them, and

who struck the three gold pieces circa 1950?

Sincerely,

Paul Gilkes, Senior Staff Writer
COIN WORLD (<http://www.coinworld.com>)
PO Box 150
Sidney, OH 45365-0150
(800) 673-8311 Ext. 173 Direct Dial: 937-498-0855

Paul,

As I recall, the remains of Jones were removed from Paris to Annapolis just before WW II. If you want details on the circa 1950 ceremony, consult Jim Cheevers, who is the Deputy Director of the USNA Museum and a most obliging fellow.

I have no doubt that the third gold restrike still exists, but have made no attempt to trace it.

Washington's silver medal was obtained by Jefferson so as to complete the so-called Washington-Webster set. It was the last medal of the group to be struck and was not ready when Jefferson returned to the U.S.

The Ptomkin medal which, if memory serves, is at the Hermitage, was no doubt a gift from Jones as he sought to advance his standing in the Russian Navy.

Best,

John Adams

John,

I have a Henry Lee Comitia Americana medal. I do believe the coin is a replica, it seems to be made of pewter; and is in excellent condition. Have replicas been made? Would greatly appreciate any information about the medal.

Thank you for your time,

Karen
ktbooh@gmail.com

Karen,

There are U.S. mint restrikes, using the original obverse. These come in bronze and, occasionally silver. I've not seen any in white metal. Consult my recent book, COMITIA AMERICANA, for more details or feel free to send me an image of what you have.

Best,

John

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date:
Name:
Mailing Address:
Street:
City: State: Zip code:
Telephone (Work):(Home):
Email:

QUESTIONNAIRE

How did you learn about the MCA?

What are your collecting interests?

What would you see highlighted in MCA publications?

For volunteers: I am willing to devote time to the following MCA projects:

DUES: \$30.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR (Includes a subscription to monthly publications of the MCA advisory)

Please send completed application and payment to:

Medal Collectors of America
c/o Barry Tayman
3115 Nestling Pine Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Or email completed form to: bdtayman@verizon.net
MCA WEBSITE: <http://www.medalcollectors.org>