
The MCA Advisory

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From the Editor 3

Webmaster's Report (by Ben Weiss) 3

Medal Sale on January 12th 3

Byways of Washingtonia
(by David Thomason Alexander, Fellow of the ANS) 4

**A Tour of the Garrett's Underground
Coin Vault at Evergreen House**
(by Max B. Spiegel and Elliot M. Wehner) 19

Letters to the Editor 22

What's New on Our Website!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE EVERY MONTH

From the Editor

The coin market has been described to us as being “in a state of flux.” This is, of course, a euphemism for declining prices. Our guess is that medals have been relatively immune to this trend, not because of innate value but because the reasons for collecting medals have more to do with education than investment. May it always be so.

David Alexander’s piece on Washingtoniana gets us off to an outstanding start in the New Year. It will be suitably memorialized with a limited edition off-print. The first off-prints that we published were quite popular but the last one (the Truxton medal) did not “sell” well. Accordingly, we are instituting a new policy whereby members will be offered off-prints for \$35 and then the unsold remainder will be given to a dealer for general distribution at \$50. Mr. Alexander’s article will be done in an edition of twenty five, signed and numbered. Those members wishing to own this future classic should send a check for \$35 to our treasurer.

“Washingtonia” will not, we suspect, be our last off-print of the year. Warren Baker is hard at work on a study of the Louis XIV dynasty medal, as is Barry Tayman on Spanish peace medals. As if this were not prospect enough, Margi Hofer has written an enthralling article on the “Schyler” medal and Scott Miller is preparing a piece on the N. Coleman Hart Medal. Stay tuned.

Webmaster's Report

(by Ben Weiss)

The next meeting of the Medal Collectors of America will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2009, at 12 noon in the Sutton Suite of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, as part of the New York International Numismatic Convention. The MCA meeting will highlight a Panel Discussion on *Technology and*

Numismatics, chaired by John Sallay. All are invited to attend.

The MCA Oral History Project is progressing nicely, thanks to the leadership and efforts of several of our members, in particular, John Sallay, John Adams, Mark Schlepphorst and Dick Johnson. We especially thank Mark Schlepphorst, who has done the bulk of the work of editing and providing the audio files, and Dick Johnson, who has conducted extensive interviews. We now have interviews of John Adams conducted by John Sallay, and of Alan Stahl interviewed by Dick Johnson. We currently are in the process of completing these for publication to our website along with other useful material related to the interviews. A number of other Oral Histories of prominent members of the community of Medallic Art is planned. Anyone interested in conducting such interviews please contact John Sally, Mark Schlepphorst or Ben Weiss.

Please stay tuned, as more information about this exciting and informative project will be forthcoming in the weeks and months ahead.

An article entitled *Medallic History of Religious and Racial Intolerance: Medals as instruments for promoting bigotry*, by Ben Weiss has been published on the website, www.kunstpedia.com. The article traces the repercussions of religious and racial intolerance through the eyes of historical and commemorative medals.

MCA website: www.medalcollectors.org

Medal Sale on January 12th

On January 12th, Stacks’ auctioned the John W. Adams collection of Indian peace medals from the colonial period. Inevitably, this collection will be compared to that of John J. Ford, Jr. The two overlap on many items such as the undated George III medals (including the small size), Lion and Wolf (Ford had two, Adams had three), the very rare Kittanning and Treaty of Easton medals,

George I/II trade tokens and the George III medals from the War of 1812. It is a tribute to the strength of the general interest in medals that, prices on Adams pieces were 10-15% higher than on comparable items from Ford.

Whereas the degree of overlap was high, it is the differences between the two collections that is of special interest. Ford possessed an example of the Montreal medal which, though the recipients name was mutilated, fetched an astonishing \$135,000. Adams did not own a Montreal medal but he did possess extremely rare French and Spanish medals not in Ford. The 1693 Louis XIV Family medal, in gold, fetched \$105,000 at the hammer. The same medal in silver, also of large size brought a most reasonable \$14,000. The Charles III Spanish medal large size in silver was undoubtedly the steal of the evening at \$15,000.

For many, the highlight of the Adams Collection was the 1780 Virginia Happy White United. Not seen at auction since 1933, this item fetched \$80,000 after spirited bidding. For history buffs with less expensive tastes there was a rich mixture of documents including a 3000 word piece by William Johnson, dated 1754, on the status of what was then our Northwest frontier. Johnson's insights landed him the job as the first superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern colonies. Other documents also involved Sir William and/or his family.

Club Meeting In New York

Snow or the threat thereof prevented the attendance of our founder and our webmaster. Mark Schleppehorst filled in for Ben Weiss, explaining the oral history project and its imminent debut. President Adams explained that 2009 is an election year for MCA, with all positions open to any member who chooses to run (my e-mail is jadams@ahh.com).

Mr. Adams also laid out plans for upcoming issues of The Advisory which, in

turn, led to a discussion of off-prints of important articles. Only four of the 20 members in attendance evinced an intention to buy the next off-print, which will feature David Alexander's superb article on Washingtoniana. Not easily discouraged, ye editor will move forward on this front, offering unsubscribed copies beyond our relatively small membership. Good material deserves to be enshrined and we will find a way to make it work for our treasury.

The last and largest portion of the meeting was a panel presentation on "Technology and Numismatics." Ably chaired by John Sallay, the panel included Mark Schleppehorst, Chris Eimer and Dr. Hubert Lans. The subject evoked a heated discussion, with some in favor of sharing their holdings (all or in part) over the Internet and others not. Stay tuned for the launch of "NeoCollect," vice president Sallay's new business that will be an important enabler for those who want to exchange.

Byways of Washingtonia

(by David Thomason Alexander, Fellow of the ANS)

NOTE: This article was originally prepared for and presented at the American Numismatic Society's Conference on Coinage of the Americas, Nov. 20, 1999. It appears here in slightly modified form with permission of the Society.

The collecting and study of coins, tokens and medals relating to George Washington were essential to the pioneer generation of American numismatists. At the time of the Civil War, Washington pieces dominated American collecting, partly because, by 1860, coinage of the U.S. Mint had only been struck for 73 years.

The actual number of collectible Federal decimal coins was quite small. Collecting was in some measure a patriotic exercise in the 1850's, making it desirable to enlarge collecting parameters. Increasing

attention was paid to coinage die varieties, especially of early coppers, vastly increasing the corpus of collectible coins.

Token and medal collecting flourished under the same impetus. Certainly no greater focus for patriotic fervor could be found than the already larger-than-life figure of George Washington. Medals of the *Pater Patriae* offered a rich variety of designs and impressive sizes. Each told some part of Washington's saga and many were struck to add to his legend.

There has been some discussion of the correct inclusive term for Washington items. "Washington pieces" sufficed for William Spohn Baker when he published what still remains the seminal work in this field, his 1885 *Medallic Portraits of Washington*. (1) During the 20th century, the Latinesque *Washingtoniana* competed with the slightly shorter *Washingtonia*.

Linguistic logic suggests a decisive choice, especially for those with a speaking acquaintance with the sciences. In botany, one of the most statuesque palm trees is *Washingtonia*, a tall, straight, palmate-leafed member of the family *Palmaceae*. *Washingtoniana* describes collectible medals, tokens and ephemera of the first President, just as *Lincolniana* (not "Lincolnia") describes material relating to America's 16th President.

This writer's interest in *Washingtoniana* owes a great deal to his experience as a numismatic cataloguer. A determined cataloguer seeking the full significance of a given design quickly becomes aware of the superficiality of nearly all Washington medal catalogues.

One of the first listings of *Washingtoniana* was U.S. Mint Director James Ross Snowden's 1861 volume, *The Medallic Memorials of Washington in the Mint of the United States*. This beautifully bound volume bore a gold-stamping of the U.S. Mint Washington Cabinet Inauguration Medal on its front cover.

The sumptuous binding enclosed a list so utterly lacking in factual description as to be virtually useless. Snowden engaged an engraver to prepare the plates, and the resulting "images of images" frequently require careful study with medal in hand to ascertain just what medal is intended. The engravings omit such key elements as engravers' names to make the reader's task all the more challenging.(2)

William Sumner Appleton offered somewhat more detailed descriptions in his 1873-74 and 1876 series, "Washington Medals," in the *American Journal of Numismatics*. At least Appleton picked up on the importance of identifying engravers by name, such as the enigmatic TWIGG discussed below. Neither on his engraved plate nor in his text did Snowden do even this much. (3)

When Baker's book appeared, interest in Washington material was already waning. Each passing year saw an increase in the number of U.S. Federal coins. Then Augustus Heaton published his slim 1893 *Treatise on the Coinage of the U.S. Branch Mints*, decisively changing the direction of general U.S. collecting. (4) Dates and Mint marks gained a grip on the typical American collector that has proved well nigh unbreakable. Excluded by this new and rigid focus, all other numismatic categories suffered.

Frozen in time, cut off from the larger picture of European numismatics, *Washingtoniana* languished. The fall was dramatic. In 1850-1885, Washington medals were among the most popular numismatic collectibles and held most of the outstanding auction records. Hard Times tokens, merchants' cards and political medalets were also largely abandoned by mainstream collectors. By 1910 all had changed despite the protests of numismatists such as New York's Thomas L. Elder in his eloquent "Plea for American Token Collecting." (5)

Elder was never one to hold back in expressing an opinion, however controversial. His summation included these words, "Let us

not fall under the spell of the tendency to collect die-cracks, dates, error dies, and monotonous lines of dates of United States coins. We do not have to go any further to realize that we have in this subject of tokens, a field of great interest, and great possibilities.” Elder might easily added “of medals” to this exhortation.

Limiting their attention to U.S. coins by date and Mint mark, American collectors isolated themselves from the wider world of numismatics and segregated themselves from other broad categories of American collectibles. Study of other important areas virtually languished, to the great impoverishment of numismatics.

One result of this hyper-focus was that numerous “mysteries” were encysted in Washingtoniana and many false or inadequate tales about particular medals became permanent features of the numismatic landscape. The myopia of the now-constricted world of strictly American numismatics eliminated any drive to find solutions to enigmas of the Washington series.

This writer’s monthly column in the numismatic weekly *Coin World* (appearing monthly since 1991) has provided a setting for the exploration of some of the Washington mysteries. Since 1991, “The Research Desk” has offered in-depth historical interpretation of U.S. and world medals, and Washingtoniana has provided more than a few subjects.

Work on the column has underlined the continuing need for original research. Excessive reliance on standard catalogues and widely used guide books can have a stifling effect. The research impulse is often deadened by a comforting belief that “It’s all in Krause, the ‘Red Book’ or Baker.” The very complexity of fields such as Washington pieces, Hard Times or Civil War tokens refutes this simple belief.

Delving into the study of Washingtoniana also reveals the startling and widespread ignorance of American history

today. When most modern Americans’ grandparents attended school, whether in remote rural Ohio or Iowa or in major cities such as New York City or Chicago, American history was a vital part of the curriculum. Fifty years later, many of them could readily recall battles, name commanders and describe events in the Revolution with marvelous accuracy.

Shifting trends in historiography, the “history of history,” contributed mightily to this ignorance. The excessive adulation of the early 19th century corroded real understanding of Washington. The 1800 *Life and Memorable Action of George Washington*, by Mason “Parson” Weems substituted fanciful tales for historical fact. Saccharine stories of a silver dollar thrown across the Potomac, or a hatchet wielded against the trunk of a cherry tree veiled the historical Washington, obscuring his basic humanity, personal foibles and actual virtues.

During the 1920’s, David Saville Muzzey and other anglophile historians recast the American Revolution as an economic struggle between two groups of Englishmen, deadening its heroic aspects. Then came the debunkers, called by Esmond Wright “the Masochistic School of American history,” who joyfully assailed the foundations of the struggle for independence and its participants. This process is now continued by the “politically correct” who attempt to judge the past by trendy notions of the early 21st century.

A sober appreciation of Washington’s real greatness can be gained by contrasting his career with those of many leaders of nations achieving independence since 1945. In 1781-1789, the new United States had many characteristics of the nations identified today as the Third World. The new nation was saddled with an unstable and virtually bankrupt Confederation government, long-enduring economic dislocation from war, corruption and mismanagement, inflation of unsecured paper money and the acute danger of stronger states splitting off to seek their own destinies.

Force of personality and incomparable prestige enabled Washington to summon and preside over the Constitutional Convention of 1787, directing its creation of a strong Federal government capable of effective rule at home and gaining respect abroad. He became its first President and directed the day-to-day development of the new government, introducing the Cabinet system and other day-to-day necessities for an untried Federal regime.

He selected assistants such as Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson and made them work in harness. Washington oversaw the restoration of financial stability and established precedents which still guide the Federal government two centuries later. It can be argued that Washington showed his greatest strength of character by resigning the nation's highest office in 1797. Virtually none of the numerous "national founders" of 1789-2000 successfully crowned their careers with such enlightened self-effacement.

After Baker's *Medallic Portraits*, there was a 56-year hiatus in meaningful contributions to the literature of Washingtoniana. In 1941 Wayne Raymond published *The Early Medals of Washington* as Number 4 in the *Coin Collectors Journal*. (6) This 16-page monograph added nothing new to knowledge while perpetuating old errors.

The long-neglected area of later Washington medals was explored in Susan H. Douglas' "The George Washington Medals of 1889" in the May-July numbers of *The Numismatist*. (7) Most 1889 issues were inexpensive White Metal pieces, as were the thoroughly neglected 1883 issues for the Centennial of the British evacuation of New York and the 1887 Centennial of the Constitution.

The 1932 Bicentennial of Washington's birth was marked by an outpouring of inexpensive brass medals across the country, somewhat sketchily listed by Harvey Hansen in *The Numismatist*. (8) It is often forgotten that

the official occasion for the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair was the celebration of the Sesquicentennial of Washington's Inauguration in New York City in 1789. Here again could be found a flood of generally small sized, inexpensive medals, catalogued by Ernest Weidhaas in *The Numismatist* in 1963-66, reprinted 1968. (9)

Decades of inactivity in the Washington field ended in 1965, when a partial revision of Baker's *Medallic Portraits of Washington* by Dr. George Fuld appeared under the imprint of Krause Publications. (10) Twenty years later, Krause released a long-awaited general revision of Baker. Directing this 1985 Centennial edition were Russell Rulau and Dr. George Fuld. Collector response to the "new Baker" was highly positive. The second revised edition appeared in 1999 and corrected a number of deficiencies of Baker's work and the first revision, but much new information remains to be integrated, some of which is suggested here. (11)

During this long drought, auction literature played a major role in renewing interest in Washingtoniana. Q. David Bowers' 1976 auction of the Stanley Scott Collection (12) was a milestone in this revival. (12).

One of the most significant landmarks in this new wave of auction literature was the Kessler-Spangenberg Collection sale of April 1981, conducted by Numismatic and Antiquarian Service of America (NASCA) with medal cataloguing by Carl W.A. Carlson. (13). Before illness ended his career in the early 1990's, Carlson had been an advocate of what he called "Research Cataloguing," in-depth presentation for significant medallic items that influenced several other leading cataloguers.

The Washingtoniana and other American medals in Part IV of the Garrett Collection Sales by Bowers & Merena highlighted many rarities long sequestered in the vast collection of this great Baltimore collecting dynasty. (14). Another significant contribution was the joint offering by Bowers

and H. Joseph Levine of the great David W. Dreyfuss Collection. Rich in Inaugural material as well as Washington items, the Dreyfuss sale was Michael J. Hodder's debut as a medal cataloguer. (15)

Stack's 1990 Fixed Price List of American medals was catalogued by David T. Alexander and Carl Carlson. The New York firm's catalogue of the Gil Steinberg Collection, its annual Americana sales that began in January 1998 continued the trend. A major contribution were the 21 catalogues of the great collection of the late John J. Ford Jr., which unhappily ignored most modern Washington research. (16)

Specialized firms such as H. Joseph Levine's Presidential Coin and Antique and the Danbury, Connecticut partnership of Johnson and Jensen played a significant role by offering a wealth of correctly described, widely varied medallic material. Johnson & Jensen successfully sold inexpensive medals by printing remarkably detailed catalogues on newsprint. Their Washingtoniana offerings were often significant, helping to re-popularize this field. (17).

This article examines selected Washington medals whose origins and full stories have long remained obscure or unknown. Reintegrating them in the wider world of numismatics beyond the constricting limits of the United States has resolved some persistent Washington "mysteries." Included are medals of 1883, which Baker may have dismissed as too recent, plus others issued after publication of his 1885 catalogue.

All of these varied medals possess significant historical interest, but their study has been delayed by the long slumber of Washington material.

EARLY WASHINGTONIANA

Philadelphia merchant Jacques Manly commissioned the first Washington medal struck in the United States in 1790. Associated in the enterprise were Philadelphia Post Master

Robert Patton and Peter Prynberg of Wilmington, Delaware. Cutting the dies was Samuel Brooks of 20 South Front Street, Philadelphia, a well-known goldsmith and seal-cutter.

It would be three years before the Philadelphia Mint opened and Manly had to confront the problem of finding coining machinery powerful enough to strike a 47 millimeter medal in copper, White Metal, silver or gold. The solution was to cast the planchets with partial relief in the area of the main device, Washington's bust, giving the coining press a flying start when it brought the dies together.

Several strikes were still necessary to bring out the higher points, especially on the copper and silver strikes, and most existing Manly Medals show evidence of shifting between strikes in the lettering or devices. The obverse presents an aged, haggard bust in uniform facing left with legend **GEO. WASHINGTON BORN VIRGINIA**, Old Style birth date **FEB. 11./ 1732** below.

Only on sharply struck specimens is the artist's signature **BROOKS F.** clear on the narrow, sharply angled truncation. White Metal pieces show this vividly, but it may be illegible on even the most sharply struck copper medals.

The reverse presents an 11-line career outline and maker's name, ***/ GENERAL/ OF THE/ AMERICAN ARMIES/ 1775/ RESIGNED/ 1783/ PRESIDENT/ OF THE/ UNITED STATES /J. MANLY &c. 1790**

Manly advertised his new medal proudly in Philadelphia's prominent newspaper, *The Freeman's Journal or The North American Intelligencer* on March 10, 1790. Short quotes from this ad have been reproduced in numerous catalogues, but the full spirit of the era and the pride of the issuers emerge in the whole advertisement, which the late Harrold E. Gillingham reproduced in the September 1934 issue of *The Numismatist*.

(18) It makes fascinating reading, with its colorful sentence structure and archaic spellings.

***A SUBSCRIPTION for/
A MEDAL
OF GENERAL WASHINGTON.***

Medals, from the earliest period of time, have been regarded by every enlightened people as the greatest help to history, and the best method of transmitting to posterity the memory of the heroes and patriots of the age, and one of the most honorary compliments a grateful people could confer on their favorites --- As the history of mankind furnishes no instance of a hero or patriot who has better deserved, or has been more justly instilled to the affections or esteem of a grateful people, than his excellency the president of the United States, (General George Washington) an artist is induced to offer to the citizens of America, a medal with a striking and approved likeness, and such inscriptions or allegorical figures as shall best suit so great a character; and he humbly hopes to be honored with their patronage

To subscribers, a medal will be delivered of fine white metal, to resemble silver, for one dollar; of a fine gold-coloured metal, for two-dollars; of fine silver, for four dollars; and of gold, in proportion to weight.

Subscribers will please to particularize the kind they choose. As the medals are now striking, and will be ready to deliver in a few days after the order comes to hand, it is hoped every gentleman will pay at the time of subscribing.

Subscriptions will be received at Wilmington by Mr. PETER PRYNBERG; or any gentleman may have any number of medals sent to any part of the continent, by sending his order and remittance for the same, to J. MANLY, to the care of ROBERT PATTON, Esq. Post-master, Philadelphia.

COPY

We, the undersigned, have seen the medal of General Washington, and think it a strong and expressive likeness, and worthy the attention of the citizens of the United States of America.

**THOMAS MIFFLIN,
Governor of the State of Pennsylvania.**

**RICHARD PETERS.
Speaker of the House of Assembly.**

**CHRISTIAN FEBIGER,
Treasurer of the State.**

**FRANCIS JOHNSTON,
Colonel of the late American Army.**

The Manly Medal was undoubtedly referred to in a less widely publicized broadside reproduced in the December 1918 issue of *The Numismatist* by Boston's great numismatist Malcolm Storer. (19) This solicitation advertised medals and other minor artworks including silhouettes:

**MEDALS, MINIATURE
And Profile Painting and Shades**

The Publick are respectfully informed, that the artists, who took the most correct likeness of the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES and executed a Medal of him, are at the House of Mr. JOHN COBURN, in State Street, and will continue for one month only, to take the most correct likenesses in two minutes sitting; and finish them from one dollar, to three, or a Miniature from seven to fourteen dollars. They likewise execute the most elegant devices in hair, on various subjects, and have a variety of fashionable Gold Locketts, adapted for that purpose and for Miniatures, with a number of Medals, struck in memory of various periods of the American war. Also, of the

late Dr. Franklin, and that most approved Historical Medal of the PRESIDENT of the United States; acknowledged a striking likeness: Nothing was ever so well calculated to transmit to posterity, the memory of the friends and patriots who served their country. They are the lasting monuments of publick respect, and publick gratitude; and the only thing which keeps pace with the tide of fleeting time, as every age increases their value.

*In some friendly Patriots cabinet, secure they lie,
From rage of popular commotions, or inclement sky
And like time itself, pass on to all eternity.*

They may be has as above, in white and gold coloured Metal and Silver, at one, two and four DOLLARS each, where the specimens of the ARTISTS' ability in painting and Hair Work may be seen.

The publick may depend on particular and obliging attention. Ladies and Gentlemen who read the above, are requested to communicate it to their friends.

All who wish to have any of those articles, will please to apply soon, as the ARTISTS cannot stay longer than the time proposed, having engaged to go to Carolina in the next month.

N.B. That all Persons may have an opportunity of purchasing those Medals, a person will be appointed to wait on Ladies and Gentlemen, at their Houses.

TAVERN KEEPERS will oblige the **ARTISTS**, by putting this up in some conspicuous part of their public rooms.

The reader may wonder whether **THE ARTISTS** included medalist Samuel Brooks, but what a marvel! Home delivery and medallic publicity in "everyman's club," the friendly tavern! Apparently habituated to the heroic

Houdon bust, Baker called Brooks' Washington likeness "quite aged." However, consider the new President's description by an onlooker at the first Inauguration, Massachusetts Congressman Fisher Ames, (20) "Time has made havoc on his face...his aspect (is) grave, almost to sadness." Here is portraiture distinctly more accurate than heroic.

Perhaps the arch-type of supposed Washington medal mysteries is the 34 millimeter portrait piece universally known as "The Twigg Medal." Neither Appleton, Baker nor his present-day editors, nor Wayte Raymond could provide any hard data on the artist who signed himself simply as TWIGG.

Stranger still, Leonard Forrer was also at a loss in his definitive *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists*, satisfying himself with "TWIGG (*amer.*). (21) This Die engraver's signature occurs on a Portrait-medal of Washington, 1789, with bust on Obv. And Inscription on Rx; diam. 34 mill."

This medal presents a mature uniformed bust with severe expression facing right with legend **GEORGE WASHINGTON**. The reverse offers a 9-line precis of Washington's military and civil career, **GENERAL/ OF THE AMERICAN/ ARMIES 1775./ RESIGN'D THE/ COMMAND 1783./ ELECTED PRESIDENT/ OF THE UNITED STATES 1789.**

American medal engravers of 1789 could have been counted on the fingers of both hands with digits to spare. Not even the cosmopolitan Raymond seemed to realize that if Twigg had indeed been American, he would undoubtedly have created other works. Blinkered by American exclusivity, these cataloguers failed to take the most basic step of looking into the wider world to find this seemingly mysterious artist.

A glance into British sources existing by the 1880's might have enlightened earlier cataloguers. Today, Lawrence Brown's monumental *British Historical Medals*, Volume I, cites **Charles Twigg** as engraver of the 1793

Capitulation of Valenciennes Medal. (22) This medal bore a bust of the victorious Duke of York and an all-inscription reverse hailing the surrender of French revolutionary forces at Valenciennes in July 1793. This 37 millimeter White Metal piece is signed TWIGG and I.S.G. (BHM 369).

“I.S.G.” was Johann Samuel Göttinger the Younger, engraver to Margrave Alexander of Brandenburg-Ansbach. Göttinger settled in London after the Margrave abdicated and conveyed his southern German principality of Ansbach to Prussia in 1791.

The same signatures appear on the King and Constitution Medal (BHM 370), also listed among British Tradesmen’s tokens as Dalton & Hamer Middlesex 187-190. This 37mm White metal patriotic issue bore an uniformed bust of King George III facing right. Its reverse presented a 12-pointed Garter star with legend KING AND CONSTITUTION, rallying cry of British loyalists opposing the excesses of the later French Revolution.

Twigg alone signed the 35mm White Metal George Prince of Wales and Caroline Princess of Brunswick Wedding Medal, 1795 (BHM 394, called RRR). It bears the portraits of the dissipated Prince on one side, his unappealing bride on the other, perhaps mirroring the physical separation that would characterize this disastrous union after its first night.

Numismatic researcher Michael J. Hodder has found contemporary advertisements of Charles Twigg in both London and Birmingham. He was described in the latter city as a “toymaker,” standard whimsy for medallic engraver in the Matthew Boulton era. (23). One of the most persistent “mysteries” of Washingtoniana, Twigg’s identity, has been resolved by re-connecting American numismatics with the outer world, Great Britain and Germany.

Some early Washington designs are so similar to one another as to suggest direct inspiration. It is possible that Twigg was

inspired by the all-inscription reverse employed by Samuel Brooks for the Manly Medal. Thomas Wyon’s Presidency Resign’d Medal of 1797 (Baker 66) is a 37mm White Metal a reworking and updating of the Twigg effort.

Wyon’s distinctly different Washington bust faces left with legend **GEORGE WASHINGTON**. The reverse bears an updated Vita, **GENERAL/ OF THE AMERICAN/ ARMIES, 1775./ RESIGND THE COMMAND 1785/ ELECTED PRESIDENT OF /THE UNITED STATES 1789/ RE-ELECTED 1795/ RESIGN’D/1797.**

That Twigg was an English die-sinker and a contemporary of Wyon’s is reinforced by the similarity of these two White Metal issues. A more original design is Wyon’s 33mm Bronze Repub. Ameri Medal or Penny, 1796, (Baker 68, D&H Middlesex 245). Nearly all known examples are bronze, but one or two are reported in White Metal. Most have plain edges.

This obverse bears a civil bust facing right, identified as **GEORGE WASHINGTON**, date 1796 below. The reverse shows **three concentric lines of legend** surrounding an inner circle bearing a scroll inscribed **REPub. AMERI**, over cannon, fasces and caduceus. The legend records **GENL. OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES RESIGND. THE COMMD. 1783:/ ELEC.D. PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES 1789+/ surrounding RESIGNED THE PRESIDENCY 1796+.**

Some numismatists consider this, a coin-relief piece with plain edge, a medal. Dalton and Hamer included it in their compendium of 18th century British Tradesmen’s Tokens, still unhappily called “Conder Tokens” in the U.S. The late Walter Breen listed it among circulating pieces in his *Complete Encyclopedia of United States Coins*. (24) Rulau and Fuld place it among Washington coins and tokens. Worn examples in existence testify to actual circulation and a

rare variety is known with a token-style incuse edge device, **PAYABLE IN LONDON LIVERPOOL OR ANGLESEY**, which should clinch the argument.

The 41mm 1778 Voltaire Medal, (Baker 78) is generally accepted as the first Washington portrait medal to be struck anywhere. Exiled in London, Loyalist Samuel Curwen of Massachusetts recorded this medal in his diary for April 20, 1778. Curwen was owner of the unique NOVA CONSTELLATIO copper “5” piece associated with Robert Morris and Benjamin Dudley and was obviously well-informed about contemporary numismatic happenings.

It is believed that French *Philosophe*, satirist and revolutionary thinker Voltaire commissioned this medal in the year of his death in Paris at the age of 84. (25) Most of these medals were struck in bronze on thin, somewhat convex planchets, and possibly seven are known in silver (see Stack’s sale of the Gilbert Steinberg Collection, lot 43; a medal reappearing in Bowers’ Lucien LaRiviera sale, lot 3078).

The small, round head is unlike any known Washington portrait. This should be no great surprise, as there was no authentic portrait available to the unknown engraver who created the medal. A persistent, if unverified belief is that the head is that of British humanitarian Jeremy Bentham. Since Bentham’s mummified body is still on display in London, it might have been suggested that some interested numismatist could have verified this supposed resemblance visually.

The English-language legend identifies **GE. WASHINGTON ER. GENERAL OF THE CONTINL. ARMY IN AMERICA**. The **GE** is presumably a space-saving abbreviation of **GEORGE**, but what is **ER**? The Continental Congress granted Washington the title Excellency, but that title has no ‘R’ in French or English.

The reverse presents a trophy of arms with banners, trumpet, drum and cannon balls

in glory with French legend **WASHIN. REUNIT PAR UN RARE ASSEMBLAGE, LES TALENS DU GUERRIER & LES VERTUS DU SAGE**, **Washington Unites in a rare Assemblage the Talents of a Warrior and the Virtues of a Sage**. The Voltaire Medal has no derivatives or close copies of later date.

Among the most impressive early Washington Medals is the 1805 Eccleston Medal, (Baker 85), a 76mm bronze which may have been struck like the Manly medals on cast planchets. A large bust faces r. in an armored breastplate or cuirass with legend **GENERAL WASHINGTON/ INSCRIBED TO HIS MEMORY BY D. ECCLESTON MDCCCV**. The artist’s signature (Thomas) WEBB appears on the truncation.

The reverse presents **three concentric lines of legend**, separated by solid lines, **HE LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN LIBERTY IN THE XVIII CENTURY/ INNUMERABLE MILLIONS YET UNBORN WILL VENERATE THE MEMORY./ OF THE MAN WHO OBTAINED THEIR COUNTRYS FREEDOM**. A heavier circle encloses a standing Indian holding an arrow, leaning on a bow with legend, **THE LAND WAS OURS**.

This medal has attracted much comment. Baker called the armor “a singular conceit,” unaware in his American numismatic isolation that armor was an Old World medalist’s shorthand for a victorious military commander. Several years ago a noted auction cataloguer added to a routine description of the Eccleston Medal, “In our opinion the entire medal is satirical and is an unusual way to express an ‘admiration for Washington...’” (Scott sale lot 471). This was a superficial misreading of Quaker humanitarian Eccleston’s purpose, as the 1999 Baker revision admits.

Eccleston traveled extensively in the West Indies and North America, including a stay as Washington’s guest at Mount Vernon. Returning from Montreal to Boston, he navigated Lake Champlain in a birch bark

canoe with the Chief of the Connawaga Indians. He was a lifelong advocate of aboriginal rights and expressed this fervor on his medal. However, he idolized Washington and nothing as crude and disrespectful as satire against him would have entered his mind.

Speaking of inter-relationships, the sharp-eyed numismatist may be aware of seeing this specific medallion Indian before. He stands on the reverse of Lewis Pingo's 1775 William Penn, By Deeds of Peace Medal, clasping hands with a figure resembling the imposing Penn. Detached from Penn's hand on the 1805 medal, the same Indian now grasps an arrow. Christopher Eimer's recent work on the Pingo family and its medals did not discover this linkage. (26)

Eccleston himself appears on his own 1794 Halfpenny Token by the engraver Ponthon. (D&H 57, R.C. Bell p. 82-83). This unusually handsome obverse displays cartwheel rims with incuse legends identifying **DANIEL ECCLESTON, LANCASTER**. The reverse presents a sailing ship with the statement **LANCASHIRE HALFPENNY 1794**. This widely circulated halfpenny exists as a circulating token and as a bronzed Proof.

R.C. Bell, the British token specialist well known on these shores for his many articles in the old *World Coins* Magazine, tried to cleanse the Augean Stables of 18th century British tokens by eliminating all non-circulating collectors' items from his catalogues.

He recorded that Eccleston was active "in several trades successively as a liquor merchant, insurance broker etc. He was a collector of coins and medals and had a large and handsome medal struck of George Washington, sending copies to the Government officials of America, the Emperor of Russia and other heads of state; while in 1794 he issued a quantity of halfpenny tokens bearing his own effigy. In these pursuits he squandered most of his property and in the later years of his life his means of support were supposed to be

very limited. He was a member of the Society of Friends but was excluded by that community through his total neglect of attending their meetings." (27)

Possibly the most bizarre incident in Eccleston's long life was his refutation of his own Obituary, which had appeared in 1816 in the *Lancaster Gazette*, which informed the world that he had died at Kidside near Midthorpe at the age of 71. The next issue carried the news that Mr. Daniel Eccleston was "not defunct," though in the spirit of the thing his letter to the newspaper was indeed dated from the Next World:

*and the Ladies Cry in doleful dumps,
Daniel's dead! What's Trumps?!*

Addressing the erring editor as "Friend," the writer drew attention to perceived errors in his life story, ending with "We are totally precluded from giving you poor mortals any description of this Happy Country...this happy habitation in heaven, the New Jerusalem, The City of the Saints." This extraordinary communiqué was signed in eight lines written from left to write across the page, *Daniel Belteshazzar/ Fitz-William/ Caracticus/ Cadwallador/ Llewellyn/ ap-Tudor/ Plantagenet/ ECCLESTON*. This Lancashire numismatist-traveler was a rare bird indeed! (28)

It is decidedly possible that engraver Thomas Webb received some inspiration from Thomas Wyon's 1796 *Repub. Ameri.* reverse, with its highly distinctive three concentric legends.

LATER WASHINGTONIANA

Washington was also widely regarded as a hero in Europe and Latin America, and Paris Mint Engraver Emile Rogat created a handsome 53mm bronze medal for an organization called the *Cercle Britannique*, at Rue Neuve St. Augustin 55 in Paris.

Washington is portrayed first on the right in a trio of honorees.

Next is his aide in the American Revolution, the then-youthful Marquis de Lafayette. After exile and imprisonment for his role in the first French Revolution, Lafayette returned home during the Restoration. Lafayette took a leading part in the 1830 revolution, bringing to the French throne the erstwhile Jacobin, Louis Philippe, Duc d'Orléans, hailing the new July Monarchy as "The Best of Republics." (28)

Rogat portrayed the Marquis with his revered father-figure Washington and Polish patriot Tadeusz Kosciuszko (here **THADEUS**) who died in 1817 at Solothurn, Switzerland. This medal (Baker 196) is dedicated **TO THE HERO'S (sic) OF LIBERTY AND FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE'S INDEPENDENCE**.

Rogat's reverse provides interestingly spelled biographical data separated by oak crowns. Struck by the Paris Mint, this medal is remarkably rare in original, plain edge form. Later strikings are known with the familiar Paris edgemarks Antiqué Prow and CVIVRE of 1841-45.

There is a whole category of later-date Washington pieces that have received little study. One example is this 32.8mm Bronze (Baker 272A), engraved by Joseph Davis, British commercial medalist of Birmingham. Rulau-Fuld trace this half-length bust to a Gilbert Stuart portrait but the reverse is hauntingly familiar to collectors of other American medals, with its seated Liberty or Columbia holding a U.S. shield, Liberty cap on pole, spread eagle at left with a ship on the horizon.

That design should be familiar because it is an unabashed reworking of the American Institute Medal by Robert Lovett Sr. Most of Davis' design elements appear on a 28.1mm gold American Institute medal awarded in 1851. Here can be seen the same Liberty and eagle, but the bird is now on the right with implements of agriculture and commerce

suggesting that Davis did a simple medallion "cut and paste" from this design.

A bold crossover from medals to U.S. coins originated with Peter L. Krider's 50mm bronze and White Metal 1881 Yorktown Surrender Centennial Medal (Baker 452). Krider, a prominent private Philadelphia medalist, placed a Houdon-like Washington and a mature Lafayette copied from François Caunois' 1824 medals facing right. (29) The reverse re-creates the ceremony of British surrender with the handing over of furling battle flags.

In 1900, U.S. Mint Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber appropriated these heads for his Lafayette Dollar, America's first (and long its only) commemorative silver dollar (Baker C-8). It is curious that Barber chose to depict the aged Lafayette of 1824, rather than the stripling barely out of his teens that joined Washington early in the American Revolution. A young Lafayette was subject of Paul Wayland Bartlett's equestrian statue depicted on the reverse of the commemorative dollar.

This was not the only time that the imperious Barber casually adopted another artist's work. His Columbus bust on the 1892-1893 World's Columbian Exposition half dollars was lifted from a Columbian Exposition Medal by Olin Levi Warner with the same insouciance. (30)

A little-known engraver of the 1883-1889 era was New York's Abraham Demarest. If modern collectors know his work at all it is probably because Susan Douglas illustrated some of his 1889 designs with their very distinctive, *art naïf* stick-figure like treatments of the human form.

A higher quality Demarest work is Baker R-456A, a 42mm bronze medal. This design combines three themes, Washington's Newburgh, N.Y. headquarters, his family coat of arms (**FROM WHICH THE AMERICAN FLAG WAS DESIGNED**, a popular 1880's belief) and a reference to a largely forgotten episode of the late Revolution, **HE WAS**

MOST NOBLY CROWNED BY REFUSING TO BE CROWNED.

Demarest devoted a separate 27mm White Metal medalet to this incident (Baker S-456). Most are known holed, but the example illustrated is not, bearing a tiny raised circle called a limiting guide where the hole would be punched. Washington stands with one foot on a rejected crown, holding a Liberty Cap rather gingerly in his left hand within **GEO.**

WASHINGTON REFUSING THE CROWN, NEWBURGH. The reverse presents winged Fame with trumpet and an inscription noting the 1783 PROCLAMATION OF PEACE AND VICTORY.

At his Newburgh headquarters Washington relinquished his military command and disbanded a largely unpaid standing army that he had just talked out of a threatened march on Philadelphia. The disaffected troops planned to turn out the ineffectual Continental Congress, which had failed to provide financial support to the army.

The Revolution's republican experiment was in real danger in 1783. Monarchy was the standard form of government in the 18th century world, and Irish-born Pennsylvania Continental Army officer and Supply Officer to the Continental Army Col. Lewis Nicola came up with a solution to the army's dilemma and the new nation's uncertain future. He suggested abandoning the exotic republican concept and selecting a good king loved and respected by army and people: Washington himself. (31)

Historians agree that the aged Nicola was undoubtedly well meaning and sincere. Let Washington but say the word and the Continental Army would triumphantly declare him king, head of a new dynasty that would provide the public order, stability and continuity Congress had so signally failed to provide!

Nicola was devastated by the cold fury with which Washington greeted his proposal,

suggesting that the monarchists had found the individual least likely to entertain such an idea. He demanded to know what he might ever have done to give anyone the idea that he might entertain such thoughts. Washington pointed to existing public distrust of his large, poorly paid and disgruntled force and asked Nicola to imagine his audacious proposal's effect on public opinion and a suspicious Congress. Nicola withdrew and his monarchist idea faded away, leaving scarcely a ripple.

Soon after, Gen. Nathaniel Greene offered the army's support for a proposed five percent impost for financial support of Congress. Shouting "No dictation by a Cromwell," Congress now voted down this proposal which the legislators had already approved!

In 1883 the nation celebrated the Centennial of British Evacuation of New York City. This great seaport almost became an American Hong Kong, as the British Army still occupied it two years after the surrender at Yorktown ended full-scale fighting. The British departure was written into the treaty of peace and steps were taken to combine an orderly British exit with a suitably ceremonious entry of Washington's army with no unpleasant last minute scenes.

By this agreement, the British forces and civilian Loyalists would withdraw to Royal Navy ships in the Upper Harbor via the Battery at the tip of Manhattan Island. After the last Redcoats and Tories were aboard ship, Washington and his entourage would ride down Broadway to take possession of Fort George at the Battery amid general rejoicing. That, at least, was the plan.

Such passivity was too much for an unidentified British sailor, as two White Metal medals by Demarest recall. The first is a 32mm 1883 piece (Baker A285); the second is an unlisted mule of an 1883 Evacuation Day obverse and 1889 Inauguration Centennial reverse not listed by Susan Douglas. Both show the same event but with a bizarre difference.

Some older historical references recorded that a British sailor decided to sabotage the proceedings. (31) He climbed the flagpole of Fort George, nailed a British flag to the wooden staff, ripped away all pulleys, eyes and lanyards used to raise or lower a flag and then thoughtfully smeared the pole with pig fat as he descended. He then rowed offshore and waited in his longboat to enjoy the Yankee reaction.

“An American sailor lad” saw the British flag, seized a hammer and handful of steel spikes and rapidly pounded an impromptu ladder into the pole. He climbed up, ripped away the British flag and nailed the American flag in its place just before Washington’s force rode into sight. Demarest’s 1883 medal shows **DAVID VAN ARSDALE UNFURLING THE AMERICAN FLAG AT THE BATTERY**. The lad hangs on the right side of the pole as a Union Jack floats to the ground at the right. The reverse presents Washington coat of arms with legend hailing it as **THE ORIGIN OF THE STARS AND STRIPES**.

The 1883-89 Mule provides a more distant perspective with an applauding crowd, noting that **JOHN VAN ARSDALE REMOVED THE BRITISH/ FLAG AND NAILED THE EMBLEM OF/ FREEDOM IN ITS PLACE**. The lad now hangs from the left as the British Red Ensign floats to the ground. This reverse shows Washington taking the Oath of Office at Federal Hall from Chancellor Livingston and John Jay. Both medals are pierced for suspension. Here is one mystery not yet resolved. Was it David or John... or perhaps no one? Here is a pleasant topic for later research.

A final item deserving mention links the late 19th and middle 20th centuries. It is a grotesque hybrid combining the heads and facial features of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Robert P. King described it without any expression of bewilderment as “a Nude bust of Lincoln wearing a pigtail.” (original diameter 25mm, King 270-276).

Original strikes include the legend **16th PRESIDENT of U.S. 1861-1865. (32)**

The example shown here is a modern uniface strike without legend. It is almost certainly the work of the brash young Robert Bashlow, creator of the controversial 1961 “Second Restrike of the Confederate Cent” and other 1960’s mules struck for him by August C. Frank of Philadelphia.

Close study reveals that this portrait began its life as a Houdon-style Washington bust, over which William H. Key or another engraver imposed the nose, beard and wrinkles of Lincoln! King apparently saw nothing worthy of mention in this strange hybrid, showing that 20th century cataloguers are capable of the obliviousness as those of the 19th.

This brief survey of Washington medals both familiar and obscure has traveled from 1790 to our own time. While answering a number of long-standing questions, this excursion into the byways of Washingtoniana has shown that the field still offers many opportunities for significant research as a new Millennium dawns.

FOOTNOTES

1. Baker, William Spohn. *Medallic Portraits of Washington*. Philadelphia, Robert M. Lindsay, 1885. The original Baker appeared in a very limited edition, printed on exceptionally acidic paper whose rapid deterioration has made pristine copies major bibliophilic rarities in modern times.

2. Appleton, William Sumner. *American Journal of Numismatics & Bulletin of the American Numismatic & Archaeological Society*. Volume VII, No. 4, April 1873; Volume VIII, No. 1, 2, MONTH 187-; Volume IX, No. 2. October 1874; Volume XI, No. 2. October 1876. In all, Appleton noted 284 principal types in no discernable order. He applied the tersest

descriptions while exhibiting an amiable egotism, as in his summation of the Voltaire Medal, "Specimens in bronze are valuable, but not very rare; but mine and one other are the only ones I have ever seen in silver."

3. Snowden, James Ross. *A Description of the Medals of Washington, of National and Miscellaneous Medals; and of Other Objects of Interest in the Museum of the Mint.*

Philadelphia, J.N. Lippincott & Co., 1861. 203 pp, 21 pl.

4. Heaton, Augustus Goodyear. *Treatise on the Coinage of the U.S. Branch Mints.* Washington, D.C., 1883. 54 pp.

5. Elder, Thomas Lindsay. *A Plea for American Token Collecting.* Originally delivered as a paper read before the New York Numismatic Club, Jan. 8, 1915

6. Raymond, Wayte. *The Early Medals of Washington.* Coin Collectors Journal Number Four, Wayte Raymond Inc., New York, 1941.

7. Douglas, Susan B. *The George Washington Medals of 1889.* The Numismatist, 1949.

8. Hansen Harvey L. *George Washington Bicentennial Celebration, 1732-1932.* The Numismatist, January 1934.

9. Weidhaas, Ernest, *New York World's Fair Medals, 1939-1940.* The Numismatist, March - June 1963, July 1966.

10. Baker, William Spohn, *Medallic Portraits of Washington*, revised by Dr. George Fuld including addenda and photo plates. Reprint by Krause Publications Inc., Iola, Wisconsin, 1965. This re-issue of the classic Baker text included an updated bibliography of works appearing since 1885, half tone plates illustrating some highlights of Washingtoniana, a price list and rarity guide.

11. Baker, William Spohn with Russell Rulau and George Fuld, *Centennial Edition, Medallic Portraits of Washington.* Iola, Wisconsin, Krause Publications, 1985. Preserving and extending Baker's numbering system while drastically revamping the entire text, this edition added hundreds of new listings with dropped-in illustrations. This new treatment grouped medals in Baker-style categories, causing perplexing discontinuities in the sequence and resultant difficulties in locating many items.

12. The Stanley Scott Collection. American Auction Association/ Bowers & Ruddy Galleries Inc. (Subsidiary of General Mills), Hollywood, California, June 5-7, 1975. (Hereinafter Bowers & Ruddy). Lots 400 through 614 comprised one of the finest offerings of Washingtoniana in the second half of the 20th century.

13. The Kessler-Spangenberg Collection of U.S. Colonial Coins, Medals of the Mint et Al. NASCA, Rockville Centre, L.I., New York, April 28-29, 1981. The late Carl W.C. Carlson argued at this time for what he called "research cataloguing" for in-depth lot descriptions. Lots 1588 through 1963 formerly comprised the collection of long-time ANA Historian Hank Spangenberg. Hank was another modern pioneer of the medal field whose columns in *Numismatic Scrapbook* magazine introduced many collectors to medals for the first time.

14. The Garrett Collection Sales, Part IV. Bowers & Ruddy, March 25-26, 1981. Lots 1693 through 1912 were Washington items, often described in satisfying depth.

15. The Collection of David W. Dreyfuss. Bowers & Merena Inc., Wolfeboro, (Hereinafter Bowers & Merena) and Presidential Coin and Antique Company Inc., Alexandria, Virginia, April 12, 1986.

16. American Historical Medals, Fixed Price List, 1990; The Gilbert Steinberg Collection of Washington, Lincoln, Columbus and United States Mint Medals, May 6, 1992; Americana Sales, Jan. 14-15, 1998; Jan. 12-15, 1998; Jan. 12-13, 2000; Jan. 16-17, 2001. One of the most significant offerings of modern times took place after this COAC presentation, the pieces in the John J. Ford, Jr. collection, Part II. Stack's, New York, N.Y. Regrettably the Ford Washingtoniana cataloguing often relied on obsolete data in the few instances in which it offered any interpretation whatever.
17. Johnson & Jensen Sales 1 through 27; Feb. 20, 1978 through Dec. 11, 1983. Part 2 of the firm's Sale 10, April 12, 1981 offered an outstanding selection of Washington medals. Largely forgotten today, Johnson & Jensen relied heavily on interpretive cataloguing.
18. Gillingham, Harrold E. The full advertisement for the Manly Medal discovered by him was featured in *The Numismatist*, September 1934, p. 561.
19. Storer, Malcolm. *The Numismatist*, December 1918.
20. Ames, Fisher (1758-1808), leading Federalist and Congressman from Massachusetts, 1789-1797. His violent rejection of the excesses of the French Revolution made Ames a passionate believer in Washington's importance in the new American government.
21. Forrer, Leonard. *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists, Coin-, Gem- and Seal Engravers, Mint-Masters &c. Ancient and Modern, with References to their Works, B.C., 500-A.D. 1900*. Spink & Son Ltd., London, 1916. Volume VI. P. 155.
22. Brown, Lawrence. *A Catalogue of British Historical Medals, 1760-1960*. H.A. Seaby Ltd., London, 1880. Volume I, 1760-1837. (Hereinafter BHM).
23. Michael J. Hodder, personal communication, September 1999.
24. Breen, Walter Henry. *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. Doubleday. New York, 1988. Breen listed copper and white metal REPUB. AMERI. pieces among other early Washington tokens as numbers 1275-1277 and 1278-1281.
25. Appleton, op. Cit. "This medal appeared in France during the Revolutionary War, and is probably first mentioned in April 1778, by Samuel Curwen, who says in his Journal, that it had been lately struck for M. Voltaire."
26. The identity of this Indian on both the Penn and Eccleston Medals was first published in Alexander, David T., "The Research Desk," *Coin World*, Sidney, Ohio, July 12, 1993. Eimer, Christopher. *The Pingo Family and Medal Making in 18th Century Britain*. London, British Art Medal Trust, 1998. #53.
27. Bell, R.C. *Commercial Coins, 1787-1804*. Newcastle upon Tyne, Corbitt & Hunter Ltd., 1963, pp 82-83.
28. For a comprehensive examination of Lafayette's role in the July Days of 1830, see de Stoeckl, Agnes. *King of the French*. New York, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1958, p. 160 ff.
29. See Alexander, David T. and DeLorey, Tom. *Coin World Comprehensive Catalog & Encyclopedia of United States Coins*, Second revised edition, 1998, p. 297. The section devoted to the first series U.S. commemoratives includes a far more comprehensive treatment of design history than has been customary with popular guides.
30. Alexander-DeLorey, Op cit, p.297, illustrated in Eglit, Nathan M., *Columbiana*, p.94 (Eglit 406).

31. Martin, Harry V. *America's First President – John Hanson. FreeAmerica, 1997*. This Internet historical feature is one of many that explore many aspects of the Revolution that have been played down or ignored altogether in standard print-medium histories.

32. Internet sites have once again returned this story to prominence today. John Van Arsdale is featured on at least two Internet sites, *Compton's Encyclopedia Online*, (The Learning Company, 1997), which includes an artist's sketch of the young man atop his flagpole with hammer in hand. He is also illustrated in DeWan, George, *Long Island, Our Story, America Celebrates its New Freedom*, "Defeated British and Loyalists board ships to leave U.S."

33. King, Robert P., "Lincoln in Numismatics, *The Numismatist*, 1924, medals number 270-276. The August C. Frank-Robert Bashlow recreations are described in "The Research Desk, George's Successor, 'Most Worthy' Lincoln appears on bizarre medal," *Coin World*, Dec. 8, 1997, p. 34.

A Tour of the Garrett's Underground Coin Vault at Evergreen House

(by Max B. Spiegel and Elliot M. Wehner)

The Evergreen House, nestled in the middle of Loyola College in Baltimore City, now part of the Johns Hopkins University, was once home to two generations of the Garrett family, the famous collectors, patrons of the arts, and socialites. Built in 1857 for the wealthy Broadbent family, the mansion was purchased in 1878 by John W. Garrett for his son T. Harrison Garrett. The home, a vivid symbol of what Mark Twain dubbed the Gilded Age, underwent a series of massive renovations by T. Harrison Garrett and his wife Alice Whitridge. In 1920 the house was given to their

son, John Work Garrett, who continued to modify Evergreen.

These two generations of Garretts—both husbands and wives—were major supporters of the arts and often invited European artists to stay with them, creating an environment mirrored after the French *salons*. A theater was even built in the basement of the house. They were important collectors with a variety of interests, including paintings, drawings, Tiffany glass, Chinese porcelain, Japanese artwork, rare books, and, of course, coins. Much of the numismatic collection was stored in a vault at the Robert Garrett & Sons building in downtown Baltimore. In 1904 the Great Baltimore Fire destroyed the building, melting and fusing the coins and medals stored in its vault. By a stroke of luck, however, most of the coins had been sent to Princeton University just a few weeks earlier. (For more information about the Garretts and their coin collection, see MBS's article in the Winter 2006 issue of the *ANS Magazine*.) Safe storage became a major concern of the family, and when John Work Garrett commissioned Lawrence Hall Fowler to design a new library to house his immense book collection, he had a special vault built underneath.

The library, finished in 1928, became something of a sanctuary for John Work Garrett. He was known to spend hours there reading his books or examining his coin collection. If he wanted to view any coins, he could send one of his servants down to the vault, tell him which number tray to send up, and using a dumbwaiter the tray could be sent up to Garrett, without him ever having to leave his chair. When John Work Garrett died on June 26, 1942, he bequeathed the Evergreen House and his collection to the Johns Hopkins University. For security reasons the coins were kept in a bank vault until the University decided to sell the collection during the 1970s and 80s.

While recently searching through the numismatic books still kept in the Evergreen

House (albeit not in the Fowler Library), we were offered an extraordinary opportunity: a rare glimpse into John Work Garrett's coin vault. Entering the Fowler Library, which is open to tours, we were struck by the thousands of volumes of extremely rare and important books. After our guide carefully rolled up one of the carpets, pulled up a few floorboards, and even moved some furniture, a steep and narrow staircase was revealed. We carefully descended the stairs and stood in a room that was probably 50 square feet. To the right of the staircase was the dumbwaiter used to deliver the coins to Garrett while he sat comfortably in the library. Along the walls were several safes of varying sizes, along with a seismograph that had long since failed. Connected to this room was a smaller space that contained several gray archival boxes. Our interest piqued; we knew we had to look inside these boxes and safes.

Much to our surprise, the boxes and safes were not empty! Several of the trays were full of medals and tokens, although most were not of any significance. We were told that there are 1,665 medals still stored in this vault, most of which are likely the remains of the Garrett collection. A search of the museum's online database indicates that the University possesses some other medals, including a Charles Carroll of Carrollton piece, but it was unclear whether these were being stored in this vault as well. In all likelihood the collections have probably been combined and all of the University's medals are kept inside the vault as part of the 1,665 pieces. It would take a long time to properly catalog every token and medal stored in the Evergreen House, but it is certainly a task that ought to be done.

The archival boxes, however, proved significantly more interesting. They contain numerous nondescript envelopes that hold the many foreign coins and medals that were damaged or destroyed in the 1904 fire. Much of this mangled mess of metal is now unidentifiable, but a look inside several randomly selected envelopes revealed some

significant pieces. A copper peace medal, identifiable by its "Peace and Friendship" reverse, is joined to another blackened medal. When one of the authors (MBS) wrote an article about the Garrett collection for the *ANS Magazine* two years ago, he assumed that all of these fire-damaged medals had been donated to the American Numismatic Society by John Work Garrett. While some did end up in the ANS collection many boxes remain in the vault beneath the Garrett library. The 1,665 assorted medals along with the numerous fused pieces warrant thorough cataloging, as it seems no detailed inventory exists.

Unfortunately our tour concluded quicker than we would have hoped. Before leaving the vault we were able to snap a few pictures of the white-washed walls lined with safes and boxes. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the vault was the special mechanical pulley system designed to carry trays of coins to John Work Garrett as he sat comfortably in his library. One can imagine him sitting in his armchair and waiting for a servant to send him some of his prized coins from the vault below him. As we climbed up the steep and narrow staircase, we could only think about the incredible coins and medals that were once housed in this vault. As our host replaced the floorboards, rolled back the carpet, and shifted the furniture, the secret entrance to Garrett's vault was again hidden in the grandeur of the Fowler library. The hundreds of medals that remain in the Evergreen House deserve a closer look, and as we left that day, we were already planning our next trip back.



Letters to the Editor

Sons of Liberty Medal

Hi John (et alia)

I happen to own David Hackett Fischer's *Paul Revere's Ride*, and can add to Katie Jaeger's note on the medal of the Sons of Liberty. On page 377 under "Notes to Pages 20-26," footnote 47 says the group began as the Secret (or Loyal) Nine. No direct mention of source for the medal's description, but several works are cited:

Maier, Pauline, *From Resistance to Revolution: Colonial Radicals and the Development of American Opposition to Britain, 1765-1776* (New York, 1972).

Morgan, Edmund S. and Helen M., *Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to Revolution* (Chapel Hill, 1953), 121-22.

Anderson, George P., "A Note on Ebenezer MacKintosh," *CSM* 26 (1927): 348-61.

Unlike the replicas, which look cast or struck, the originals were likely engraved planchets--quick and easy for Revere to turn out. I haven't checked his day or account books, but he didn't list everything he produced...nor do we hold a complete set of his ledgers.

Professors Maier and Morgan are members of the Historical Society, so I'm sure that the works Fischer cited are in our library. I'll check to see if the description originates with either of them when I return to work on the 6th.

Happy new year to all!

Anne Bentley

Hi John,

One of the reasons I am interested in Betts-76 is that I do not believe it belongs in the Betts series, believing it to have been included in Betts solely because of its

resemblance to Betts-75. Is that common knowledge or would this make an interesting short article for MCA? One of my favorite numismatic books is Charpentier's volume on Louis XIV medals, which is why I was interested in buying one even though I felt its connection to early American history to be non-existent.

Let me know what you think.

All best,
David Fanning

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Hopefully, Warren Baker is going to expound on the Family medal at length. For now, let me quote Victor Morin on the 1686 version: "The examples of this medal that were brought to Canada caused a commotion among the Indians, who saw it not only as the portrait of the King, but also those of his son and grandsons; in a word, the entire royal line; since this piece was also of fairly good size (41 millimeters), it became a highly desired medal."—Ed.

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