
The MCA Advisory

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From the Editor

Our website—medalcollectors.org—was initiated on August 15, 2003. Now, one year later, it is appropriate to celebrate the talents of our Webmaster, David Boitnott. A volunteer for the job, David has cheerfully maintained the site as well as adding the cornucopia of material that it now contains.

Speaking of which, we need also to celebrate the seemingly bottomless well of knowledge possessed by our Dick Johnson. He is responsible for almost all of the material now resident on the site. A current index of his “Medallic Sets and Series Lists” is appended below.

Blessed with a savvy Webmaster and a Fountain of Wisdom, our cup runneth over. Nonetheless, there are many topics which others of you could be posting and/or writing for the Advisory. What's been on e-bay? What medals are being offered by the U.S. Mint? Etc. etc.

What's New On Our Website!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE EVERY MONTH

www.medalcollectors.org

Medallic Sets & Series Lists (now on our website)

- American Art-Union Medal Series
- Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University
- Liberty National Memorial Shrines Series
- NASA Mission Medals by Balfour
- Presidential Art Medals
 - Presidents of the United States
 - Signers of the Declaration of Independence
 - Statehood Medals
 - World War II
 - Apollo and Skylab Coming Soon!
 - Great Men of Medicine Coming Soon!
 - Great Religions of the World
 - Aviation Hall of Fame Coming Soon!
- Society of Medallist

An Interview with John J. Ford, Jr.

As Ford sales I through IV demonstrate, John Ford is a world-class collector in many fields. He was drawn to those segments where knowledge was more important than money. When asked if he had one favorite segment, his immediate reply was “Yes. Medals.” Let’s take it from there:

Editor: Why do medals have such a strong appeal for you?

Ford: The history. Every piece is an education.

Editor: Why else?

Ford: There is less competition. The boobs with the wallets can’t be bothered. Moreover, what you pay today will be returned to you tomorrow and probably then some. The “boob material” is speculative.

Editor: Where should a new collector begin?

Ford: Where his interests take him. There is no right answer to this question. It’s a pretty good idea to begin by buying copies of Betts and Julian. These will open up many worlds.

Editor: How about some specifics?

Ford: A fairly simple beginning would be to collect one of the U.S. Mint series. Or buy a low-priced Betts medal, lean all about it and see where that takes you.

Editor: Have you personally got any collectors started on medals?

Ford: Yes. The first that comes to mind is Ted Craige. He was a serious collector of colonial coins but once he started on medals, he never looked back and he put together one helluva collection [Ed. The Craige collection was sold privately in 1982 and 1984].

Editor: What got him hooked?

Ford: I sold him a Kittanning medal. Now that was starting at the top but, for a guy like Craige, he needed to be challenged.

Editor: What are your own favorite medals?

Ford: If I had to pick one, it would be the Diplomatic Medal [Julian's CM-15]. Here, Thomas Jefferson considered the medal to be so important that he designed it into our national policy. It is beautiful just as a piece of art.

Book Review

In numismatics, superficial knowledge can be dangerous to one's purse. Therefore, we become specialists who know a great deal about narrow fields. Such insularity protects us from being preyed upon. However, it also isolates us from any glimpses of the bigger picture.

Kolbe/Spink has just published a translation of one of the greatest "big picture" books in numismatics. In 1901, Ernest Babelon wrote Ancient Numismatics and Its History Including a critical Review of the Literature. The book explores in a highly readable manner the most fundamental dimensions of our hobby: What is a numismatist? When did it all begin? Why is numismatics important? Where do history and numismatics intersect?

For over a century, Monsieur Babelon's wisdom has been hidden by a language barrier (he wrote in French) and by being a small section of an epic series on classical coins, Traité des Monnaies Grecques et Romaines. The publishers have done modern numismatists a signal service by lifting this section from the whole and by translating it into English. Thus

rendered, Babelon provides a broad perspective for all collectors, whatever their specialty may be. By his eloquence in describing our roots, the author helps us to place our own interests in context, thus enriching our collecting experience. Babelon is must reading for all enthusiasts. Copies of this re-invigorated classic may be obtained either from George Kolbe of Crestline, CA, or from Spink in London. (John W. Adams)

The Definition, Object and Scope of Ancient Numismatics (an excerpt from Ernest Babelon's Ancient Numismatics and Its History)

Numismatics—as its name, derived from the Greco-Latin *nomisma* or *numisma*, suggests—is the study of coins and medals. In the broadest meaning, it encompasses every aspect of the study of coins and related subjects. Numismatics examines memorials to the past, from the coins themselves to the written records which, describe them, in economic, legislative, metrological, or artistic terms. It also looks at coins in the context of the historical sciences: mythology, iconography, epigraphy,¹ geography, and chronology among them. Numismatics is not only one of the fundamental backbones of archaeology: it is also one of the most prolific sources of information about the economic evolution of civilized societies.

Ancient Numismatics covers all kinds of monetary and monetary-related

¹ : "La numismatique est la science de la monnaie dans ses rapports avec l'histoire, l'art et l'économie financière" (L. Blancard, *Essai sur les monnaies de Charles Ier, comte de Provence*, Intro.).

objects made by the Greeks and Romans, as well as those made by the barbarian peoples who hovered at the edges of ancient civilisation. Today, when referring to the coins which posterity has left to us, it is customary to use, simultaneously, the terms coin and medal: a short explanation is necessary here. The word medal dates from the fifteenth century and is derived from the Italian *medaglia* which, during the Middle Ages, was synonymous with *obol* or *half-denarius*. DuCange quotes from early twelfth century documents in which the word *medalla* or *medallia* is used for *obol*.² In the mid thirteenth century, Charles I of Anjou, King of Sicily, and brother to Saint Louis, ordered the fabrication of silver *carlins* and *half-carlins*, specifying thus:...*Que sunt MEDIFORMES*.³ So, originally, a medal was a *half-denarius*, and it is the low Latin term *medalia* or *medalla* from which, by contraction, the old French term *maille* was derived, and has the same meaning.

How was it, then, that *medalia* came to be a term used to describe an old Greek or Roman coin or commemorative medal, rather than the original *half-denari*? Lenormant explains it as follows.⁴ The Italian term *mailles* or *medaglie* fell into disuse, as it referred to ancient coins which had, by that time, no monetary value and were of no interest to anyone; later on, through natural analogy and extension, people began to use the same word to describe all kinds of old coins, particularly ancient ones.

² Du Cange, *Gloss. Med. Et infim. Latinitatis*, see *Medalla*.

³ *Rev. num.*, 1864, p. 308.

⁴ Lenormant, *La monnaie dans l'antiquité*, Vol. I, p. 4.

This new meaning is first defined from the second half of the thirteenth century onwards, in several texts referred to by Du Cange, most notably in a passage from the *Chronicle of the monastery of Padua*, where a discovery of ancient gold coins was made in 1274: *thesaurus magnus in medaleis* (alias, *metallis*) *auri optimi*.⁵

In the French language, Philippe de Commines was the first to use the word *medaille* in the sense of a coin which had no value other than historical (when referring to the numismatic collections of Piero dei Medici).⁶ *medaglia* or *médaille* no longer referred to coins in circulation; Lenormant adds that people had come to use the word *médaille*, as opposed to the word *monnaie* “for coins of no face value that had begun to be produced no earlier than the fifteenth century (and have been produced ever since), with a similar appearance to coins, and created using the same procedure. They were artistic objects, portraits on metal, a means of perpetuating the memory of events, but not intended to circulate with a legal value”. The present day understanding of a ‘medal’ is that it is an object which resembles a coin but which is quite distinct from it, as its metal, type, weight, and dimension is chance and arbitrary.

The Greeks and the Romans, however, with a few exceptions (such as *tesserae* and large medallions), only

⁵ *Chronicon Patavinum* in Muratori, *antiquitates Italicae*, 1741 edition, Vol. IV, col. 1146; cf. Du Cange, *Gloss*, see *Medalla*.

⁶ Commines, *Mémoires*, ed. Chantelauze, p. 544; cf. Lenormant, *La monnaie dans l'antiquité*, Vol. I, pp. 4 and 84.

rarely struck medals in the modern sense of the word; or, more exactly, they did not generally distinguish between medal and coin. For them, a medal and coin were one and the same, because they were both commemorative objects and means of exchange. That is, their coins fulfilled the same role as do our modern coins, in all senses; but, at the same time, the many-varied types were often inspired by the events they were intended to commemorate, like our modern medals. So we can understand why, in the context of antiquity, it is equally correct to use the word medal (as in commemorative coin) or the word coin (as in coin in circulation): the two sense are bound to each other and cannot be separated).

Medals dealing with American Colonial History not listed in Betts (A summary of David Menchell's COAC paper)

With the death of numismatic prodigy and researcher C. Wyllys Betts at the early age of 41 in 1887, it was left to fellow numismatists William T.R. Marvin and Lyman H. Low to edit and supervise the publication of his "American Colonial History Illustrated by Contemporary Medals", which was published in 1894. This landmark numismatic reference was the first comprehensive listing of such items.

While largely successful, there are errors of inclusion and exclusion, no doubt as a result of Betts' premature death preventing further editing of the text. Examples of medals incorrectly listed include Betts 15, the so-called Raleigh's Plantation token (no evidence

linking it to Raleigh and the Lost Colony), medals dated in the Colonial Period but struck after, such as the 1776 and 1783 dated American Revolution commemorative medals engraved by John Reich and struck at the Philadelphia Mint ca. 1805-8, or unconfirmed medals included solely on the basis of a contemporary written description, such as Betts 77, the gold medal reportedly given to Captain Elliott for the English defense of Jamaica against a French naval attack.

Among the pieces left out are a number of medals commemorating important military events in the New World, treaties between the European powers affecting their American possessions and Colonial trade, and personal medals depicting important figures of American Colonial history, in addition to a variety of miscellaneous items, such as religious and fraternal medals, school awards, military decorations, and engraved pieces commemorating births, deaths, marriages and friendships. Furthermore, there are unlisted varieties of medals belonging to topic areas covered in Betts. Several of these areas have been superseded over the years by more comprehensive references, such as the McCormick-Goodhart monograph on Admiral Vernon medals and the Medina and Herrera works on Spanish Proclamation medals.

We begin our survey with an important example of a personal medal not listed in Betts, and probably the earliest dated medal belonging in his corpus, that depicting the Spanish conquistador, Hernando Cortes. This

medal, done by the German sculptor and medalist, Christoph Weiditz, is based on drawings done while he and Cortés were at the court of Emperor Charles V from 1528 until 1530, as indicated by the obverse legend (DON · FERDINANDO · CORTES · M-D · XXIX · ANNO · ETATIS · XXXXII: "Don Ferdinando Cortés, 1529, at age 42"). The reverse legend (IUDICIVM · D[omi]NI / APREHENDIT · EOS / ET · FORTITVDO · EIVS / CORROBORAVIT / BRACHIVM · MEVM: "The justice of the Lord touches all, and His power has strengthened my arm") suggests the attitude of the Spanish in their conquest of the indigenous peoples of the New World. Ironically, Betts was unaware of this medal when he wrote "but even Cortez and Pizarro [...] are not immortalized by Medals."

Probably the most extensive series of medals excluded from Betts are those commemorating treaties between the European powers in their efforts to control territory and trade in the Western Hemisphere. While not always having specific legends or devices relating to America, the relevance of these medals becomes apparent when one examines the terms of the treaties. An important reference, which has helped to rekindle interest in this area, is Frances Davenport's "European Treaties bearing on the History of the United States and its Dependencies". Davenport's work, while not a numismatic reference, provides the historical framework to justify the inclusion of many medals commemorating those pertinent treaties. Among the treaties so commemorated are those between the Dutch (United Provinces), France, England, and Spain, as they vied for control of North America and the Caribbean. Of greatest interest

are the settlements following the three Anglo-Dutch Wars of the mid-seventeenth century (the Treaties of Westminster of 1654 and 1674 and the Treaty of Breda, 1667) and the treaties bringing to a close the conflicts in Europe which were paralleled in America by the four French and Indian Wars: The Nine Years' War/King William's War brought to a close with the Treaty of Ryswick [1697], War of the Spanish Succession/Queen Anne's War and the corresponding Treaty of Utrecht [1713], War of the Austrian Succession/King George's War and the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle [1748].

Only the final conflict of 1754 to 1763, which is commonly referred to as the French and Indian War, and the subsequent Treaties of Paris and Hubertsburg are referenced in Betts.

Even with such guidelines, deciding which treaties and the corresponding medals to include is not without its difficulties. Let us examine the Treaty of London of 1604, between England and Spain. There are three English medals depicting James I which were struck to commemorate the signing of this treaty (Medallic Illustrations p. 193, 14-16). As mentioned in Davenport, a key point of the negotiations was the freedom of English merchants to trade in the Indies. In the final treaty, there is a statement allowing mutual access of the English and Spanish to the cities, ports, towns, etc. controlled by each country, as per the terms of earlier contracts. The English interpreted this clause as permitting them access to areas in the West not colonized by Spain, while the Spanish took a much more restrictive

view. Within two years, two English companies were organized for purposes of American colonization, leading to the establishment of Jamestown in 1607. Do we include these commemorative medals based on this significant historical information, even though neither the treaty nor the medals explicitly mention America or the Indies? Because there are surviving documents indicating the great efforts on the part of the English negotiators to secure favorable trade status in the West and their interpretation of the treaty that led to the establishment of England's American colonies, I have included it in this survey.

Another dilemma is illustrated by the Treaty of Munster of 1648. Bringing the Thirty Years' War to a close, a number of European powers were involved in the ensuing peace. However, the events of the war had little to do with American Colonial history, with one important exception: the Dutch, anxious to protect their trading interests in the West, negotiated a separate treaty with Spain. Included in the terms of this treaty are clauses permitting the Dutch to recover territory in Brazil taken by the Portuguese and sanctioning free trade between the Dutch West India Company and Spain in areas controlled by either party in the West Indies. A number of medals were struck by several countries to commemorate the negotiations and ratification of the treaties. However, since only the Dutch and Spanish agreement pertains to matters of American interest, should we only include those commemorative medals struck in Spain and the United Provinces, even though other European

powers struck medals to celebrate the peace in Europe? In this instance, I have narrowed the field to those medals reflecting specifically the Dutch-Spanish agreement. In this regard, there is no shortage of material, since the Dutch regarded this as a major accomplishment and celebrated the Treaty with no less than some 16 medals and jetons (Pax in Nummis nos. 85-94, 99-104).

Fortunately, most subsequent treaties to be discussed, and the medals issued to commemorate them, have terms whose importance to America is unequivocal. A good example is the Treaty of Breda (1667), bringing to a close the second Anglo-Dutch War. The series of conflicts between the Dutch and English were spurred to a large extent by commercial competition in the West. Following hostilities, which included the British seizure of New Netherlands from the Dutch in 1664, important provisions of this treaty focused on the retention of territories captured by the Dutch (Surinam) and British (New York and Delaware). Specific mention is also made of the Caribbean islands of Montserrat and Antigua and the British portion of St. Christopher, as well as Arcadia, captured by the French, which were to be restored to the English. It seems paradoxical that the series of French medals struck to commemorate their victories in the Caribbean, such as Betts 42 (Conquest of St. Christopher), were thought worthy of inclusion in the Betts opus, yet the medals struck for the subsequent attainment of peace were excluded.

There are several medals struck by the English and Dutch following the

signing of this treaty. The English issued, among others, two large silver medals of Charles II by Jan Roettier, the so-called "Favente Deo" medals based on the reverse inscription (Med. Ill I, p. 535/185-186). These medals have the distinction of being among the earliest examples of English medallic art of the modern era utilizing the allegorical figure of Britannia. She is depicted on the reverse seated and reviewing the English fleet seen in the distance, with her name in the exergue.

The Dutch countered with several elaborate medals. From a historical perspective, the most interesting of these is a medal done by Christoffel Adolfszoon (Med. Ill. I, p. 528/176; van Loon II 534/1). The reverse shows an allegorical scene of Peace trampling arms. However, the imagery and legends of the obverse were found offensive by the British and were cited among the grievances in the declaration of war precipitating the Third Anglo-Dutch War in 1672. The medal depicts a woman representing the United Provinces trampling the prone figure of Discord, with the allegorical lion and lamb behind. However, in the distance are burning ships, thought to refer to the Dutch attack on the English fleet in the Medway. The legend "PROCUL HINC MALA BESTIA REGNIS" (Hence from these kingdoms, evil beast) referring to the prostrate figure of Discord, was felt to be a reference to Charles, whose features appear to be parodied by the face of the lion. At the insistence of the English, the dies were destroyed and a formal apology and denial were offered by the Dutch, although Adolfszoon was rewarded with compensation of 1000 ducats, further

irritating the English. [For a far more salacious interpretation of this piece, see issue #17, Autumn 1990, of *The Medal*. The ed.]

Fighting resumed in 1672 with the Third Anglo-Dutch War. With negotiations and the signing of the Treaty of Westminster in 1674, several medals were issued. A provision of this treaty, often overlooked, was the return of New York to the English, which had been recaptured briefly by the Dutch the preceding year. Further hostilities between the Dutch and French fought to a large extent in the West Indies, were brought to a close by the Treaty of Nymwegen of 1678.

The next major period of warfare was fought in Europe between the English and their continental allies (the League of Augsburg, uniting the Netherlands, Austria, several German states, Sweden, Savoy, and Spain) in opposition to the expansionist policies of France's Louis XIV. The colonial conflict which paralleled events in Europe (King William's War) was the first significant period of warfare between the French colonists of New France and the English inhabitants of the bordering Atlantic colonies, particularly New England, New York and Nova Scotia. The French, with their Indian allies, initiated hostilities with a series of bloody raids at Pemaquid, Maine, and Schenectady, New York in 1690. The British countered with a naval expedition organized by Sir William Phipps of Maine, which captured Port Royal in Nova Scotia. Subsequent military efforts by the British, land forces raised by New York and Connecticut sent to capture Montreal,

and naval forces sent by Massachusetts against Quebec, were unsuccessful. Further warfare was limited to attacks by French-inspired Indians on frontier settlements: the towns of York, Maine, Durham, New Hampshire, and Groton, Massachusetts, were the scenes of bloody massacres, and hundreds of people were slain. In 1697, a treaty of peace was signed at Ryswick, a village near The Hague, resulting in a temporary end to the warfare. Acadia, which had been prematurely incorporated with Massachusetts, was restored to France, as were forts and trading posts on Hudson's Bay captured by the British. A large number of medals were struck to celebrate this piece, including an "official" English medal done by John Croker (Med Ill. p. 192/499), with images of William III and Britannia, and several medals done as part of the historical series celebrating the accomplishments of Louis XIV of France (Med Ill. p. 183/480-484). There are also a large number of Dutch medals, reflecting William's ties to the Netherlands as Prince of Orange. It is ironic that the peace, commemorated with some 70 medals or so, turned out to be a short respite in the continuing struggle, which was to resume with the War of the Spanish Succession in 1702.

In brief, the next period of warfare in Europe was triggered by Louis XIV and his attempts to gain control of the Spanish throne by a bequest on behalf of his grandson, Philip of Anjou, following the death of Charles II. In addition, Louis' continued support of the son of the deposed James II of England provoked the anger of the current English monarch, Queen Anne. Again, conflict

erupted in both Europe and America. A series of frontier skirmishes followed, the most notorious being the massacre at Deerfield, Massachusetts in 1704. Again, a series of naval expeditions were sent, which finally led to the fall of Port Royal in Nova Scotia in 1710. A large naval force sent from England again attempted the capture of Quebec, again with no success. The eventual settlement, with the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), was largely in favor of the English. The French ceded control of Newfoundland, Hudson's Bay, Acadia, and the French portion of St. Christopher to the English, but retained control of Isle Royale and Isle Saint-Jean (modern-day Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island). The English were granted sovereignty over the Iroquois and free trade in French territories. However, the ambiguous delineation of borders between French and English territories led to further disputes in the future. Again, a large number of medals were issued by the European signers to commemorate the signing of the accord, including medals of Queen Anne, again done by John Croker (Med. Ill. II p. 399-400/ 256-257), and the corresponding French medals (Med. Ill II p. 406/268). A number of other medals were done, particularly by the Dutch and Germans, including a well-known satirical medal with rather scatological images of the English, Dutch and French (Med. Ill II p. 409/273). This medal pokes fun at the insincerity thought to surround the negotiations, and the likelihood that the peace would soon break down.

An extended period of relative calm then followed the Peace of Utrecht. There were some disputes between the

English and Spanish regarding access to Spanish-controlled ports in the Caribbean and seizure of English merchant vessels. This ultimately led to Admiral Vernon's celebrated capture of the Spanish port of Porto Bello in 1739, but was preceded by an attempt at a negotiated settlement of English and Spanish grievances at the Conference of El Pardo earlier in the same year. Reflecting the English public's indignation at the policies of the Spanish, there are a small group of medalets struck in England depicting the British envoy, Benjamin Keene, and English sentiments against the Spanish seizures ("No Search"), which was not addressed in the treaty (Med. Ill II p. 528-9/90-1). Keene is shown holding a moneybag, with the Spanish envoy having an empty sack at his feet on the reverse. Below is the amount of the settlement owed by Spain, £95,000, which was never paid.

Shortly thereafter, events in Europe surrounding the succession to the Austrian throne precipitated the next period of conflict, which led to limited but significant fighting in America. The North American struggle, known as King George's War, began when the French tried unsuccessfully to regain Nova Scotia. Louisbourg was then captured in 1745 by a retaliatory force of 4000 New England soldiers. A French fleet sent in retaliation in 1746 was dispersed by storms and further naval convoys sent the following year were defeated by the British. On the 24th of April 1748, a congress assembled at Aix-la-Chapelle for the purpose of bringing to a conclusion the war, including the American campaign of that war.

The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, as it pertains to New France, was largely negotiated by England and France and was marked by the return of territories each had lost during King George's War. Louisbourg and Île Royale were returned to France in exchange for return by the French of Madras (India) to Britain. As in earlier conflicts, several commemorative medals were produced in honor of the peace settlement, which also proved to be short-term. The medallic series was somewhat limited, being struck to honor William, Prince of Orange and Louis XV. There is no official British medal, perhaps reflecting the skepticism of the English in the long-term stability of the peace. [The Colonials and the British fell out over sharing the credit for Louisbourg—ed.]

To close this brief survey, one should be aware of a range of other medals, some being struck by European countries having a somewhat more limited role in the West, such as Denmark and their island possessions in the Caribbean, and a wide range of personal medals, having limited historical significance, but having been issued to commemorate significant events in the lives of individuals in the Americas. A good example is a personal medal found in a tray of Dutch medals at the ANS. Done by the Dutch engraver G.W. Wahl, this is a charming medal struck to commemorate the 25th wedding anniversary of Ian Hendrick Specht and Maria Henrietta Plier, celebrated at Curacao. The obverse scene of Cupid seated on a cloud, holding several coats of arms, and surrounded by articles associated with commerce, such as a

bale, barrels, with a ship in the distance suggests that the husband was involved in commodities and shipping, and certainly he would have had sufficient wealth and influence to afford the striking of such a medal. The reverse figures of the infant Time holding a scythe leading a winged figure with an hourglass on his head a clearly a metaphor for the fleeting nature of life. There are no doubt other such items reflecting the day-to-day lives of the inhabitants of American colonies waiting to be found. (David MENCHELL)

Betts Medals For the United States

(A summary of Dick Johnson's presentation at COAC 2004)

MY INTENT in conducting the study for the COAC Conference sponsored by the American Numismatic Society and held at their new building in lower Manhattan, May 15, 2004, was to isolate those medals directly related to the United States. The conference theme was Charles Wyllys Betts monumental work, *American Colonial History Illustrated by Contemporary Medals*, published in 1894. Betts had cast a wide net for every possible medal to include in his book.

What Betts found were medals unevenly distributed across the 230 years of medal issuing throughout the industrial world at the time.. The first medals were assigned to a Period of Discovery [of Western Hemisphere] and dated from 1556. Understandably, more medals were issued at the end of his chosen period, with 78 percent issued after the Intercolonial War (1745-

1763), with a heavy concentration of 116 medals issued for the American War of Independence, his cutoff date.

Betts cataloged 623 medals. How many of these were for the American colonies, that narrow band of settlements along our east coast, ultimately to become the 13 original states?

The result of my study identified 92 medals or 14.77 percent of all Betts-listed medals. Less than one out of almost seven medals were directly related to what is now the United States. What, you may ask then, were the major number of Betts medals geographical designations?

The answer was how the Europeans viewed the world west of the Atlantic Ocean!

Like Leonard Forrer in his monumental work, *Biographical Dictionary of Medalists*, Charles Betts defined ANY resident or ANY subject of the Western Hemisphere as "American" (not just those of what was to become the United States). Thus Betts defined his American Colonial History topic -- the parameter for the choice of medals to be included in his book -- as "Any medal concerned with the Western Hemisphere."

Because of this, there are 54 Canadian medals, 51 Mexican, 84 West Indies, 14 Central America, and 46 from South America. But even with 92 U.S. medals this still doesn't add up to 623. What gives? Betts included 167 Admiral Vernon medals, 28 John Law and Mississippi Bubble medals, 10 Vigo

medals, 15 British colonies in America, and 8 American Century Plant medals. Plus 53 unspecified or where no known geographical category could be assigned. Total 623.

I admitted I had an ulterior motive in doing this study of Betts medals. It was to double check that I had all the artists of the American Betts medal series identified and listed in my upcoming book, "American Artists, Diesinkers, Engravers, Medalists and Sculptors of Coins and Medals, 1652 to Date."

Speaking of artists. Let me speak about the artists, all engravers of the period. Setting aside the Admiral Vernon Medals (I'll wait for MCA's president John Adams upcoming study of these), the other 446 Betts medals were mostly unsigned. Of this 446 only 171 medals had one or more signatures of their known engravers. (Five were signed by initials only, we still do not know these artists' full names.)

Of the 92 U.S. American Betts medals, we can identify 45 medals by known engravers. That's a better percentage than non-U.S. medals. Only one of these artists was American born; all the rest were Europeans. That one native engraver was Joseph Wright, born in Bordentown, New Jersey. He was also the first engraver at the 1792 U.S. Mint. He only did a pattern coin or two and the Henry Lee victory at Paulus Hook Medal (Betts 575) before his life was cut short by the yellow fever epidemic. He died in September 1793 after only a few months at the nation's Mint.

I illustrated my COAC talk with slides of 20 Betts medals – or their printed listing when a specimen could not be found to photograph. These were graphic examples of notable medallic items; like Drake's Voyage Medal (Betts 9), or God Preserve Carolinas and God Preserve New England (Betts 78 to 80). Some of these slides illustrated problems I encountered in my research; some even gave me new knowledge – like the medals for Eutaw Springs and Cowpens, I learned, were battle sites located in South Carolina. The speech ended with an illustration of the beautiful Libertas Americana Medal.

Note: ANS plans to publish the papers of all the speakers of the COAC Conference. I plan to list the 92 medals of the America American designation in the published version. In the meantime if you would like this list, or the chart of Geographical Summary, email me: dick.johnson@snet.net. (D. Wayne Johnson)