

MCA ADVISORY

Number 4, July 2000

An Occasional Publication of Medal Collectors of America

P. O. Box 18053, Minneapolis MN 55418

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President's Message

David T. Alexander

MCA is growing up! We are now drawing on a pool of talented, able volunteers for major jobs in the organization. Charter Member Pete Smith has volunteered to serve as Editor of *MCA Advisory*, and his first issue is in your hands. Let's support him and his efforts for our publication, and thank him for his generous dedication of time to this critical endeavor.

New Editor Appointed

As of 3/31/00, Pete Smith is the editor for *MCA Advisory* an occasional newsletter for the MCA. David T. Alexander remains editor for *The Medal Cabinet*, the journal of the MCA.

Vision

Pete Smith

I have a vision of the type of newsletter I would like to produce for the Medal Collectors of America and of the differences between the two club publications. I see *The Medal Cabinet* as a high-quality, scholarly journal on glossy paper with extensive illustrations. In contrast, I see the *MCA Advisory* as more casual, more newsy and more frequent.

What would you talk about in a room full of fellow collectors? Can this newsletter capture the fun of sharing your experiences with others?

I would like to publish quarterly but frequency will depend on submissions. I would rather publish four pages, four times a year than sixteen pages, once a year.

I would be happy to see the name of each member appear in the newsletter at least once each year. From experience with other newsletters, I know some members are happy to pay their dues but never contribute to the newsletter. That's okay too. I want every member to feel they can make a contribution if they wish.

What do you want in the newsletter? I have started it according to my vision. The direction it takes is up to you, the MCA members.

Publication Policies

At this time there are no established policies set by the MCA officers or the editor. Let's see what develops.

Suggestions

Following are some suggestions for submissions to the newsletter.

Personal Profiles - What do you collect, how did you get started, why do you collect?

Identification Questions - Can we help identify the artist or producer of a medal?

New Issues - Announcements of new medal issues.

Exhibit reports - What was exhibited, who won, what did you like or dislike?

Sales Reports - What choice items will appear in an upcoming sale, what were the highlights or low-lights of a sale of medals?

Help Wanted - How can MCA help with your research?

Research update - What are you working on, when will it be published?

Travelogues - Did you visit a place portrayed on a medal, visit a museum showing medals? Tell us about it.

Submissions

I will accept typewritten manuscripts, camera-ready copy on disk, Internet attachments or notes on the back of a used envelope.

Our official address:

MCA Advisory

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Minneapolis MN 55418

Internet address for the editor:

smith.pete@dorseylaw.com

Please realize that my Internet address finds me at work and I need to limit work interruptions.

Officers 1999-2001

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Dues are \$20 per year, payable to the Secretary-Treasurer.

How do you Store Your Medals?

Pete Smith

I collect medals illustrating the Philadelphia Mint. The smallest is a half inch in diameter. The largest is three inches in size. Others are around 1.375 or 1.500 inch diameter. Still another is an oval.

Storage systems are designed for items of uniform size. I feel compelled to store my medals by size rather than by topic.

I keep items smaller than two inch diameter in poly bags inside paper envelopes. Slightly larger medals are in 2.5 inch envelopes. They fit nicely in plastic PCGS boxes designed for storage of slabs. I have a couple of boxes that hold three inch envelopes. Larger items are in odd-size envelopes that I keep in plastic shoe boxes.

Frustrated with my inability to find things quickly, I built a spreadsheet that I call my "finder" list. I keep track of the box number and a code indicating the category. Since some items fall in more than one category, I also have a second category for cross reference.

I know that soft vinyl flips are not good for long-term storage but they are handy, come in many sizes and let you see the medals. Paper envelopes may also release chemicals that react with the surface of medals.

Several years ago someone told me that I should keep medals in jeweler's tissue. I asked a couple of jewelers who either didn't know what I was talking about or didn't know a supplier.

How do you store your medals? Have you solved any of my problems in better ways. Do you have other storage problems? I will print interesting responses.

Congress Approves Medal for O'Connor

On March 5, 2000, President Bill Clinton signed the bill authorizing a Congressional Gold Medal for New York Archbishop John Cardinal O'Connor.

On April 19, 2000, the Commission of Fine Arts approved a design for the Congressional Gold Medal. Cardinal O'Connor died on May 3, 2000. Following is the text of the Act.

Public Law 106-175 114 Stat 21

AN ACT

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

- (1) His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor is a man of deep compassion, great intellect, and tireless devotion to both spiritual guidance and humanitarianism.
- (2) John Joseph O'Connor was born on January 15, 1920, in southwest Philadelphia, the son of Thomas J. O'Connor and Mary Gimple O'Connor.
- (3) John Cardinal O'Connor joined the Navy Chaplain Corps in June 1952 during the Korean Conflict, served with elements of both the Navy and the Marine Corps, and saw combat action in Vietnam. He later served as chaplain of the United States Naval Academy and was appointed as Chief of Chaplains of the Navy with the grade of rear admiral, from which position he retired four years later, in May 1979. He was ordained a Bishop by Pope John Paul II on May 27, 1979. He then served as Vicar General of the Military Ordinate (now the Archbishop for the Military Services) until 1984.
- (4) John Cardinal O'Connor became Bishop of Scranton, Pennsylvania, on May 10, 1983, was named Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of New York, on January 31, 1984, and was elevated to the rank of Cardinal by Pope John Paul II on May 25, 1985.
- (5) John Cardinal O'Connor has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public and parochial school education. He has supported and strengthened Catholic schools in their mission to provide a quality education to students of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and religions in the Archdiocese of New York and throughout the Nation.
- (6) John Cardinal O'Connor has provided comfort and care to the sick, the elderly, and the disabled and provided millions of people with spiritual and emotional support. He led the effort to open New York State's first AIDS-only unit at St. Clair's Hospital, remaining a frequent visitor and volunteer at the hospital.
- (7) Throughout his life, John Cardinal O'Connor has also served on behalf of the poor and oppressed, as exemplified by his assistance on behalf of famine victims in Ethiopia and victims in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- (8) Throughout his career, John Cardinal O'Connor has been a strong advocate of interfaith healing and understanding, particularly among individuals of the Catholic and Jewish faiths, and has played a significant role in helping establish diplomatic ties between the Vatican and Israel.
- (9) John Cardinal O'Connor took the inspiring words of the Declaration of Independence-- 'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness' -- and transforming them into a statement of purpose. He has dedicated his life's work to protecting and defending these inalienable right of all people.
- (10) John Cardinal O'Connor celebrated his 80th birthday on January 15, 2000, and has displayed remarkable courage and the true power of his faith in carrying on his life's work in the face of life-threatening illness.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED- The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropriate design to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a soldier, and a humanitarian.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING- For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the 'Secretary') shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION- There is hereby authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE- Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

Research Report: Book on State Anniversary Medals Underway

Jan Monroe

I have been working on a book on state anniversary medals for about five years. The purpose of the book is to provide information on state anniversary medals, medallions, medalets and commemorative coins. Municipal medals are not included.

Official state anniversary medals are defined within the book as "A medal officially sanctioned by the state or federal government commemorating an anniversary of discovery, exploration, settlement, territory, or statehood in the state's history." Some private issues not sanctioned by the state or federal government are listed in the appendices for the convenience of the reader but they are not official medals. The emphasis of this book is on the anniversary of statehood, however, other important events such as the discovery, exploration, founding (or settlement), and incorporation as a territory into the United States are also included. Typical anniversary dates include entrance into the Union, 25th year, 50th year (Semicentennial), 75th year, 100th year (Centennial), 150th year (Sesquicentennial), 200th year (Bicentennial), and 300th year (Tercentenary or Tricentennial). The 25th, 50th, and 75th years are also referred to as Jubilee years and may be referred to as the silver, golden, or diamond jubilees, respectively.

The book is intended as an asset to collectors of historical medals, Americana, exnumia, and commemorative coins by putting in one place information that is widely scattered through existing literature, and in some instances, only exists in unpublished state historical records, sales brochures and other obscure places. Mintage estimates, weight, composition, issue price, name of mint, sculptor, and a brief history of each event is included to the extent research has provided the desired information.

In addition to the collector of such medals, this book is intended to be of assistance to those persons charged with the task of issuing medallic commemoratives. Enough information is provided on previous programs so that programs of interest can be studied in more detail for successful strategies and ideas, and perhaps more importantly, failures can be learned from.

The numbering system in this book is designed so that new types of medals and varieties can be added without disruption of the numbering system.

From the standpoint of a collector, the small numbers of many of the medals produced make a complete collection impossible. For some varieties only a single example was struck and those examples often exist only in museums. Just collecting a single example of each TYPE, much less all to the varieties, is a difficult and rewarding challenge. These medals can be collected just for the state or states one is interested in or by such subcategories as discovery, founding, territorial anniversary, or statehood. They can also be collected by manufacturer such as Medallic Art Company medals.

An excerpt from the draft of the book is presented later in this issue.

Editor's Note:

For six weeks, Jan and I traded e-mails as we worked on reproduction of the photographic illustrations for his

article. They went from his computer by e-mail to my work computer, then by disk to my home computer. The format that worked is an uncompressed TIFF file.

The process of discovery may have tried our patience but was necessary to get through for this, my first issue of the newsletter. As I gain experience, the process should get easier.

Exhibit Results

The Central States Numismatic Society met in Minneapolis on May 5-7, 2000. Four exhibits were submitted in the classification of Tokens and Medals.

Taking second place was "Liberian Humane Order of African Redemption" in one case. The third place exhibit was placed by a Young Numismatist showing, "The United Nations 25th Anniversary Commemorative Medals" in two cases. The exhibit showed one of each medal by the Franklin Mint in each of five languages used at the United Nations. An exhibit of Conder Tokens took first place in the class and Best of Show.

The largest exhibit of medals was called "The Passion of Pursuit" showing six cases of items related to the U. S. Centennial, Sesqui-Centennial and Bicentennial. About 175 medals, tokens and elongates were shown with postcards, stereo view cards, stamps and other related items.

An exhibit in the Miscellaneous class had 23 medals for "An Illustrated History of Four Mints in Philadelphia" along with books, postcards, contemporary newspapers and peripheral items. This exhibit took first place in its class.

Call to the Annual Meeting

MCA has enjoyed warm relations with the American Numismatic Association since our organizational meeting at the 1998 Portland convention. Our thanks go once again to Brenda Bishop of the ANA convention bureau for our room assignment in Philadelphia. MCA Annual Meeting: Thursday, August 10, 2000, at 3 PM, Room 202A of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. We invite all members attending to bring a medal or medals, old or new acquisitions to display and describe to their fellow members, an MCA Show and Tell.

Questions and Answers

Our first questions were forwarded through the Numismatic Bibliomania Society e-mail network.

Question 4-1: I have two copper medals that I would like to learn something about. The first is 2 inches in diameter. Front side has raised relief bust and reads "George Frederick Handel." The reverse side has written within a wreath "Centenary Commemoration Crystal Palace MDCCCLIX." It is in a custom designed leather covered wooden case with velvet and silk inside. Where can I learn something about this? - SC

Answer 4-1: Your medal appears in Christopher Eimer's *British Commemorative Medals and their values* (Eimer 1527) and Laurence Brown's *British Historical Medals 1836-1901* (Brown 2656). Handel was born in 1685 and died in 1759. The festival was in commemoration of the centennial of his death. The Crystal Palace was built for the 1851 International Exposition in London and continued in use for large public gatherings. Eimer states that more than 25,000 people attended the festival and bronze medals were given to the performers. - Ed.

Question 4-2: My second medal is within a custom case designed to be hung on a wall. I cannot open it and see the reverse without damaging or destroying the case. It is 2 and 3/4 inches in diameter and has the raised bust of Napoleon. Around the perimeter it reads "Bonapart Premier Consul de la Republique Fran." Beneath the bust is a square tablet showing a battle scene, beneath which is written "Bataille De Maringo Le XXV Prairie AN VIII." It appears to be signed by "Andrieu F An X."

Answer 4-2: Your medal for Napoleon was sculpted by Bertrand Andrieu. The "F" is short for the Latin term "Fecit" meaning "made it." The obverse was shared by reverses struck around 1800. The battle on the plains of Marengo on June 14, 1800, was a victory of Napoleon over the Austrians and gained much of Northern Italy for the French. Several medals of the era are illustrated in *Catalogue Général Illustré des Éditions de la Monnaie de Paris*. Medals of the period are dated from formation of the French Republic in 1793 (AN VIII = Year 8) so their date Le XXV Prairie AN VIII is the equivalent of 14 June 1800. - Ed.

Question 4-3: I was wondering if you have any information on the gold medal issued by the Philadelphia Mint in 1988 for the Young Astronauts Program? It's about the size of a 2 1/2 dollar coin. - GH

Answer: Readers?

Question 4-4: I bought a Lincoln medal because I think it has one of the nicest finishes I have seen on a medal. The obverse of the 2.5 inch bronze medal has Lincoln facing left with the legend, "ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENT 1861-1865." In very fine print it says, "H. Ryden, SC / C. H. Hanson, MFR." The reverse has the U.S. Capitol in the background with a man and woman holding the American flag. The legend is "REUNION." Can you tell me why this medal was issued?

Answer: Readers?

Letters

Part of the fun of medal collecting is that dealers are still relatively ignorant. Recent examples: I bought a Luis I proclamation at the January UBS [Union Bank of Switzerland] sale only to find out that it was an aftercast. UBS insisted that it was an original - not out of malice but because they had never seen an original or, if they had, they did not retain the records on it. For a collector, the diameter, the weight and the details on the piece combine to be diagnostic. Similarly a Charles III proclamation in the March Ponterio sale was described as "unlisted in Betts and Herrera". In reality, the piece was listed in Betts and described (though not separately listed) in Herrera. I doubt that dealers will ever spend a lot of time getting educated on historical medals due to the lack of trading volume therein. Their preoccupations elsewhere are our opportunity. - John W. Adams

Survey Form

Enclosed is a survey form to gather a profile of our membership. Names will not be given when the results are discussed.

Are you an authority on some topic? Are you willing to share your knowledge and experience with other MCA members? Identify your area of expertise and I may contact you if I have questions.

Membership Form

Enclosed in a membership form. Please share it with a friend. Feel free to make copies.

Ads

MCA members may submit wanted ads or offers to sell up to ten items.

Wanted: Wrestling medals. Only medals depicting wrestlers in action. Send description and price.

Col. Bill Murray, 7400 Crestway #1423, San Antonio, TX 78239-3097

Wanted: Medals or tokens issued by stock exchanges or stock brokers or that commemorate either of the previous two.

Tom Sheehan, P.O.Box 1477,Edmonds,WA 98020-1477.

Wanted: Personal medals of numismatists. Also tokens, encasements, elongates, woods or other memorabilia related to people important to numismatics.

Pete Smith, P.O. Box 18053, Minneapolis MN 55418

What's on eBay?

On April 7, a search on eBay found 5884 items that included the word "medal" and 670 had "medals" somewhere in the description. Many are military awards or decorations. Some are awards for sporting events, dog shows, speech or music competitions. Others have "gold medal" as a brand or trade name.

A specific search for "art medal" found only five offerings and "historical medals" only one. Probably a thousand or more fit the broad definition of art or historic medals. Some won't sell and some will be reoffered later. With more than 50,000 items offered in a year, eBay represents a huge segment of the marketplace.

Many buyers and sellers have no contact with the traditional numismatic marketplace. They draw items into the marketplace that might otherwise remain out of view and take items with them out of the market. These participants may have no access to pricing information.

Following are a representation of items that appear to have sold recently for more than \$100. The numbers shown following the description are the opening price / number of bids / and closing bid.

1904 St. Louis World's Fair award medal in box, bronze, 64 mm. 125 / 1 / \$125.00.

1862 London Exposition medal by Maclise and Wyon, presented; bronze 77 mm.

49.99 / 9 / \$149.49.

1876 Centennial Award Medal, 3 inch in box. 75 / 5 / \$150.00.

1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, bronze shield shape medal in box. 75 / 13 / \$157.50.

Charles Lindbergh first flight by Whitehead-Hoag. 1 / 8 / \$159.38.

1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Expo Seattle silver medal in case, 3 inch. 125 / 3 / \$177.50.

Norman Rockwell Spirit of Scouting, 12 piece set by Franklin Mint. 36 / 9 / \$202.50.

1874 Assay Medal Julian AC-13 Bronze

9.99 / 15 / \$203.50.

1884-85 World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition award medal, 3 inch. (In my opinion, very nice) 75 / 9 / \$214.18.

1909 Hudson-Fulton silver medal by Emil Fuchs, Whitehead-Hoag, 4 inch. 99 / 6 / \$206.66.

1900 Paris Olympic participation medal (Paris International Exposition) 49 / 7 / \$256.51.

1898 Charities & Corrections, New York, 76mm, by V. D. Brenner, American Numismatic Society, Smedley 27, Baxter 118.

9.99 / 14 / \$260.55.

Authentic 1794 George Washington Peace Medal (The seller guarantees it is authentic)

299.99 / 1 / \$299.99.

Karl Goetz medal, "Watch on the Rhine" 1920, Kienast Opus 262 250 / 4 / \$330.00.

1914 New York Tercentenary Medal by Paul Manship, Circle of Friends, 70mm bronze, Baxter 361. 9.99 / 8 / \$355.25.

Wellington Box Medal with 12 roundels

99.99 / 14 / \$406.67.

1892 World's Columbian Expo medal, Eglit 107. 25 / 17 / \$415.00.

1906 Olympics participation medal.

435 / 4 / \$455.01.

1805 George Washington Medal, by Daniel Eccleston, 76mm bronze. 9.77 / 24 / \$610.51.

Thomas Jefferson Indian Peace Medal in pewter. 1 / 45 / \$660.00.

1937 FDR Inaugural Medal, 76 mm bronze, by Atchison, Medallie Art Co. 20 / 8 / \$750.00.

Dewey Medal, Battle of Manila Bay, small size on pinback, Tiffany & Co. by Daniel Chester French, USS Baltimore. A similar medal closed at \$1000 without meeting the reserve.

250 / 15 / \$2500.00.

1912 Olympic Games winners medal.

350 / 28 / \$2949.00.

1932 Olympic Games winners medal.

300 / 22 / \$5049.99.

1976 Gold Bicentennial Medal, 3 inch dia., 13.18 oz. gold, #340 of 424 struck.

5000 / 2 / \$6500.00.

Alabama Sesquicentennial 1969

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The Alabama Sesquicentennial Commission was authorized by Governor Albert P. Brewer with the approval of Executive Order No. 1, July 10, 1968.

This executive order created a commission of 12 members to be appointed by the Governor and the Governor also appointed the chairman. The Director of the Bureau of Publicity and Information was appointed as an ex-officio member to perform administrative duties and to be the Secretary of the Commission.

Members of the commission were Mrs. William W. McTyeire, Judge C. J. Coley, Mrs. William K. Nicrosi, Milo B. Howard, Mario Bottesini, Frank Samford, Henri Aldridge, Mrs. Dan Waite, A. Paul Felts, George McBurney, Harry Pritchett, Joe Farley. Ex-Officio members were Martin J. Darity Director of the Bureau of Publicity and Information and Secretary Robert H. Rockhold.

The purpose of the commission was "...assisting in commemoration and celebration of the 150th anniversary of admission of Alabama into the union."

John E. Schleder of Birmingham designed most of the medals struck. There were two series of medals struck. The first was a so-called souvenir "coin" (actually a medal) with five different obverse designs. These souvenir medals all had the same reverse (the sesquicentennial logo) with the five different obverses showing historical figures, events, and the space center. These medals were struck in both nickel silver (14 Gauge) and sterling silver creating ten varieties. The mint for the first medals is unknown to the author at this time.

An official commemorative medal was also struck by the U.S. Mint. Senator John Sparkman introduced the legislation (Senate Bill #1995). Governor Brewer authorized \$10,000 for the striking of the U.S. Mint Medals. This legislation was passed June 17, 1969, however very few medals were actually struck. Although the legislation authorized 5,000 silver medals and 50,000 bronze medals, only 2,500 silver and 10,000 bronze were struck. The first medals were not available until late November of 1969, the legislation ended the authority to strike the medals January 1, 1970, and the centennial commission disbanded in January of 1970.

Medals and commemorative coins were distributed directly by the Alabama Sesquicentennial Commission and by various banks. Overall the Alabama program was a financial success with receipts of \$154,079.61 and expenses of \$50,791.30.

Alabama Sesquicentennial Medal, 1969

(Unknown Mint)

AL-1969-1 through 5-A



Five variations of the medals were struck. Only the obverse was changed. All had a common sesquicentennial logo reverse.

Obv. Var. 1. Jugate busts of Tuskaloosa and Desoto facing left. Around the top ALABAMA SESQUICENTENNIAL. Around the bottom TUSCALOOSA and DESOTO.



Obv. Var. 2. State Capital Building. Around the top ALABAMA SESQUICENTENNIAL. Around the bottom STATE CAPITAL.



Obv. Var. 3. Sailing ship in center with bust of Raphael Semmes to the right Around the top ALABAMA SESQUICENTENNIAL. Around the bottom RAPHAEL SEMMES - Battle of Mobile Bay.



Obv. Var. 4. Figures fighting with knives and bust of Andrew Jackson to right. Around the top ALABAMA SESQUICENTENNIAL. Around the bottom ANDREW JACKSON - Battle of Horse Shoe Bend.



Obv. Var. 5. Five rockets in the center. Around the top ALABAMA SESQUICENTENNIAL. Around the bottom Space Orientation Center.

Rev. Sesquicentennial Logo. Alabama / 150 /1819 - 1969. Within the zero of the large numeral zero in 150 is a shield.

Alabama Sesquicentennial Medal, 1969

(Souvenir "Coin" in Nickel Silver)

AL-1969-1 through 5-A

Number Issue

Var. Size Metal Weight Struck Price

1-A 34 mm Nickel Silver 12.5 g. 20,000 \$.50*

2-A 34 mm Nickel Silver 12.5 g. 20,000 \$.50*

3-A 34 mm Nickel Silver 12.5 g. 20,000 \$.50*

4-A 34 mm Nickel silver 12.5 g. 20,000 \$.50*

5-A 34 mm Nickel silver 12.5 g. 20,000 \$.50*

*Most were sold in a five piece set inserted in a white card in a clear plastic envelope for \$3.00.

Alabama Sesquicentennial Medal, 1969

(Souvenir "Coin" in Sterling Silver)

AL-1969-1 through 5-B

Number Issue

Var. Size Metal Weight Struck Price

1-B 34 mm Sterling Silver 15.4 g. 2,000 \$10.00*

2-B 34 mm Sterling Silver 15.4 g. 2,000 \$10.00*

3-B 34 mm Sterling Silver 15.4 g. 2,000 \$10.00*

4-B 34 mm Sterling silver 15.4 g. 2,000 \$10.00*

5-B 34 mm Sterling silver 15.4 g. 2,000 \$10.00*

*Half (1,000 of each) were sold in a matched five piece serially numbered set in a Capital Plastics holder for \$60.00. The second thousand of each were also numbered but not issued in matched sets and were sold individually at \$10 each. All sterling medals are edge marked sterling.



Alabama Sesquicentennial Medal, 1969

(U.S. Mint)

AL-1969-6

John E. Schleder of Birmingham was the designer of the medal.

The U.S. Mint medals were struck in both bronze and sterling silver.



Obv. Jugate busts of former governors Bibb and Brewer facing left superimposed over a map of Alabama. Around the top ALABAMA SESQUICENTENNIAL. Around the bottom GOVERNOR W.W. BIBB 1819 - GOVERNOR A. P. BREWER 1969. U.S. Mint mark P (for Philadelphia) can be seen just below the map.

Rev. Sesquicentennial logo. Alabama / 150 1819 - 1969. Within the zero of the large numeral zero in 150 is a shield. (Same design as the souvenir "coin" reverse.)

Alabama Sesquicentennial Medal, 1969

(U.S. Mint)

AL-1969-6-

Number Issue

Var. Size Metal Fineness Weight Struck Price

A 38 mm Bronze N.A. 17 g. 10,000 \$2.00*

B 38 mm Silver .925 20 g. 2,500 \$10.00*

*Most silver medals were issued in a two piece [bronze and silver] serially numbered set in a Lucite case for \$15.00.

Alabama Sesquicentennial Medal, 1969

(Unknown mint)

AL-1969-7-

This medal appears to have the same style as the Capital medal series but the mint and artist(s) require additional research.



Obv. Capital Building of Alabama pictured in center. Around the top THE FIVE CAPITALS OF ALABAMA. At the bottom are the dates 1819-1969. Within and around the Capital Building are the names of all five capitals CAHAWBA TUSKALOOSA MONTGOMERY ST. STEPHENS HUNTSVILLE.

Rev. Map of the state with 150 / STATEHOOD superimposed. Around the top: 1819 ALABAMA 1969. Around the bottom: SESQUICENTENNIAL. (Word Sesquicentennial is upside down which is rather unusual.)



Alabama Sesquicentennial Medal, 1969

(Unknown mint)

AL-1969-7-

Number Issue

Var. Size Metal Fineness Weight Struck Price

A 39 mm Silver .999 31.4 g. ??? ???

*Edge marked .999 F. S. and serially numbered.

Published References:

The Numismatist Vol. 24, p. 290.

The Numismatist Vol. 74, p. 751.

The Numismatist Vol. 74, p. 893.

The Numismatist Vol. 90, p. 1804.

Numismatic Scrapbook, Vol. 36, p.941

Delany, Caldwell. *The Story of Mobile*. The Haunted Book shop, Mobile, 1981. (A children's history of Alabama and Mobile, however it provides a brief history of each of the significant events shown on the sesquicentennial souvenir coins and has illustrations of many other medals issued for Alabama events.)

Pessolano-Filos, Francis. *The Venus Numismatics Dictionary of Artists, Designers, Modellers, Engravers, and Die Sinkers whose works were commissioned or struck by the United States Mint 1792-1977*. Eros Publishing Company, NY, NY., 1983.

Annual Report of the Director of the Mint for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1969., U.S. GPO., 1970.

Unpublished References:

From State of Alabama Department of Archives and History

Executive Order Number 1, (by Albert P. Brewer Governor of Alabama), July 10, 1968.

Alabama Sesquicentennial bulletin February 1969.

Alabama Sesquicentennial Weekly Activities Reports Feb. 17-21, March. 10-14, March. 24-29, April, 1969.

Letter from Mrs. William McTyeire to Bob Ingram, March 25, 1969.

News Release undated.

Letter from Mrs. William McTyeire to John Rodgers, March 27, 1969.

Alabama Sesquicentennial Commission Minutes April 25, 1969.

Order Form for U.S. Mint Medal, May 27, 1969.

Alabama Sesquicentennial Weekly Activities Reports May. 19-23,

Alabama Sesquicentennial news release Nov. 20, 1969.

Alabama Sesquicentennial news release Nov. 21, 1969.

Alabama Sesquicentennial memorandum, Minutes of the Finance Committee and Statement of Receipts and disbursements January 29 & 30, 1970 .

MCA ADVISORY

Wanted: Any information concerning the statehood or territorial anniversary medals not included in published numismatic literature. I am especially interested in the State of Arizona medallic programs in 1963 and 1987 and the State of Michigan programs in 1986 and 1987. I am looking for mintages, issue prices, and names of medal manufactures. Copies of original order forms or advertisements are very helpful. Will pay as appropriate. Information to be included in my forthcoming book on State Anniversary Medals. Any help is appreciated and will be acknowledged.

Jan Monroe, 7909 El Monte, Prairie Village, KS 66208

Wanted: Any numismatic items related to Martin Luther and/or the Protestant Reformation. Collector prices paid for items that I need. Please write or e-mail me with a description (or Zak, Whiting, or Schnell catalog numbers), a photocopy or scan of the item if possible, and the price wanted.

Wendell Wolka, P.O. Box 569, Dublin, OH 43017 or PURDUENUT@aol.com