

Introduction to the Centennial Woods

Among the most interesting and unusual of the Centennial medals is a set of medals and plaques manufactured by the Philadelphia Ornamental Wood Company. They were described in wonderful detail by Hank Spangenberg in the March and April 1969 issues of the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*. He lists twenty-one medals and plaques (his numbers 1876-1 through 1876-21), twenty in black walnut and one (his 1876-2) in cherry. There are actually twenty-two woods in the set, since there are in fact two distinct versions of his 1876-3, the second of which, though listed in Holland, Spangenberg had never seen and therefore doubted that it existed. It has since been re-discovered, confirmed, and listed in this catalog.

The woods were actually pressed rather than struck, as we normally think of in medal manufacturing. The blank wooden disks and rectangles were steamed, placed between dies, and squeezed under great pressure. The steaming softened the wood, allowing the designs to be pressed in it and reducing the risk of cracking.

The Philadelphia Ornamental Wood Company set of Centennial woods consists of twelve round medals and ten rectangular plaques. The plaques were issued in two sets of five, one set with a common reverse inscription and the other with five blank reverses. The medals were produced in three sizes: approximately 55 mm, 62 mm, and 76 mm. The plaques are all approximately 68 mm by 98 mm. The sizes are approximate because the wood is subject to shrinkage and expansion due to the moisture content of their storage environments. Similarly, their thicknesses vary even more radically, partly from moisture and partly because the thickness and density of the original blanks probably varied as well.

The Centennial woods were sold individually packaged in thin cardboard boxes and as a set of six, consisting of two 76 mm and four 62 mm medals. They came in a fitted and hinged cardboard six-sided box. The inside of the cover was available in two designs, referred to as the Bird's-eye View and the Centennial Buildings covers. The former has a lithograph of the Centennial Exposition grounds as seen from above, and the latter pictures five Exposition buildings: Memorial Hall (the Art Gallery), Machinery Hall, the Main Exposition Building, Agricultural Hall, and Horticultural Hall. It should come as no surprise that the boxes are scarcer than the medals they contained.



(Photo courtesy of Andy Kaufman.)

Box with Bird's-eye Cover



(Photo courtesy of Steve Nathan.)

The Centennial Buildings Cover

Wood Medals and Plaques

While the plaques were intentionally issued both with and without lettered reverses, it is unlikely that the round medals were issued with blank reverses. Spangenberg reports two that he had purchased with purported blank reverses, but on closer inspection he determined that the reverse design had been sanded smooth. I own one that I purchased for its apparently blank reverse, but under magnification the remnants of faint sanding swirls can be barely discerned. It is, of course, possible that legitimate blank reverses do exist, but I cannot confirm it at this time.

The black walnut version of the small official Centennial medal was recorded by Spangenberg as his 1876-1. He purchased it from a collector near Philadelphia who had obtained it from the estate of a prominent Philadelphian who was well acquainted with Mint officials. Spangenberg reported his suspicion that the medal is unique, having been manufactured at the specific request of the original owner. In any case, he considers it to be the scarcest of the woods.

The Washington “Magna est veritas” medal is an anomaly in that it was made with cherry wood rather than black walnut, probably because it depicts on its reverse the story of the young George Washington chopping down the cherry tree. It is the same design, both obverse and reverse as the larger 50-millimeter Masonic medal, executed in silver, bronze, white metal, and lead. The wood version is listed here with the Centennial Woods. Its metallic big brother is listed in the Organizations drawer, where the wood version is cross-referenced. This is another one of many medals that could be placed in more than one category, but hold only one catalog number and reside in only one drawer.

1550. Replica Commemorative Medal in Wood



(1.4 x)

(1.4 x)

Obverse: Lady Liberty wears a long gown with a long shawl or veil billowing behind; resting on her right knee; sword in her right hand pointed to the ground; left hand pointing upwards; above her head a glory (halo of 13 stars from which radiate a number of lines representing beams of light); in exergue "1776"; surrounded by a circle of small beads, outside of which is inscribed: "THESE UNITED COLONIES ARE AND OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES."; all surrounded by a circular solid line just inside the rim.

Reverse: A standing female figure of Columbia, representing the United States, in a long off-the-left-shoulder full gown, wearing the liberty cap, with a sheathed sword at her left side, and supporting the shield of the United States leaning against her left leg, holds a beribboned crown in each outstretched arm. With her left hand, she crowns a kneeling female figure representing Art, depicted with her right hand resting on a sculptured bust, holding a modelling stick in her left hand, and next to her lies a palette, brushes, and a maulstick. With her right hand, she crowns a kneeling female figure representing Manufacturing, depicted with a hammer in her right hand, supporting a large cog-wheel, and next to her a large anvil. In exergue: "1876". All surrounded by a rope or beaded ring; outside the ring: "IN COMMEMORATION OF THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE."; below: "ACT OF CONGRESS JUNE 1874."; all surrounded by a circular solid line just inside the rim.

This set of medals in black walnut were made by the Philadelphia Ornamental Wood Company. They can be found with both medal and coin flips. Rotated dies are common, and the thickness and weight vary considerably.

Cross-refs: Sp 1876-1

Diameter: 57 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.	Wt	Note
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Black Walnut	1550bw		
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Wood Medals and Plaques

1560. Washington Bust R?/"I Can Not Tell A Lie"



(1.3x)



(1.3x)

Obverse: Nude bust of Washington to left, "R.L." on truncation; "R. LAUBENHEIMER in exergue; Below:the bust in a curve: "BORN FEB. 22. 1732 -- DIED DEC. 14. 1799." In a circle outside this is inscribed: "FIRST IN WAR, FIRST IN PEACE, AND FIRST IN THE HEARTS OF HIS COUNTRY MEN." Between the first and last words of the inscription is the Masonic symbol of compass and square. Surrounding all is a crossed and tied laurel wreath with a star in glory above. Below the wreath in tiny letters: "PATENTED" to left of the bow and "JUNE 8. 1875".

Reverse: In the center is a scene depicting the story of Washington and the cherry tree. The young George stands in a clearing next to a felled tree and hands his hatchet to his waist-coated father carrying a cane. In the background is a row of trees behind a rural fence. Above is the GW monogram surrounded by a crossed and tied laurel wreath embracing the all-seeing eye. Around and above: "MAGNA EST VERITAS ET PRÆVALEBIT." Below the scene, in a wavy curve: "I CAN NOT TELL A LIE." and beneath that is "1876".

Cross-refs: H-78, Sp 1876-2.

Diameter: 62.2 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Note

Cherry Wood 1560ch

This medal is a replica of number 1890, executed in metal and 50mm in diameter. Holland incorrectly describes this obverse as "Head of Washington to R" in his number LXXIII. Spangenberg stated that he only knew of two copies of this wooden medal in existence, his own and one in the collection of Arlie Slabaugh. Of course, it cannot be that rare, since I own this one.

1570. Washington/"100th Anniversary"



(1.3x)



(1.3x)

Obverse: Nude bust right; above around in a single line: (five-pointed star) "GEORGE WASHINGTON" (five-pointed star); below around in a single line: "BORN FEB. 22. 1732. (five-pointed star) DIED DEC. 14. 1799"

Reverse: Around the circumference (six-pointed star) "THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE " (six-pointed star. Below: (six-pointed star) "1876" (six-pointed star); within in six lines (the second and third lines curved in a scroll, the rest straight): GREAT / INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / FAIRMOUNT PARK / PHILADELPHIA / 4TH OF JULY".

Cross-refs: F-17, H-14, Sp 1876-3.

Diameter: 62.2 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 157-bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1580. Washington/"100th Anniversary"



(1.3x)



(1.3x)

Obverse: Similar to the above except that the design of Washington's bust differs with a steeper truncation of the neck, more chest, and different pigtail and bow. The bust is also slightly smaller, as may be noted by the larger distance between the bust and the inscription. Thus, nude bust right; above around in a single line: (five-pointed star) "GEORGE WASHINGTON" (five-pointed star); below around in a single line: "BORN FEB. 22. 1732. (five-pointed star) DIED DEC. 14. 1799"

Reverse: Around the circumference (six-pointed star) "THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE " (six-pointed star. Below: (six-pointed star) "1876" (six-pointed star); within in six lines (the second and third lines curved in a scroll, the rest straight): GREAT / INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / FAIRMOUNT PARK / PHILADELPHIA / 4TH OF JULY".

Cross-refs: F-18, H-13, Sp 1876-3a.

Diameter: 62.2 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1580bw

In 1876, Holland reported two Washington black walnut medals (H-13 and H-14), as follows:

“XIII. *Ob.* GEORGE WASHINGTON * BORN FEB. 22. 1732. * DIED DEC. 14. 1799 *; head of Washington to R. Rev. Same as the last. Black walnut; size 40.”

“XIV. Same as the last, except that the head is larger, and the execution of the obv. a little better than the others. Black walnut; size 40. These medals, with Nos. XVII, XVIII and XXII, were made by the Philadelphia Ornamental Wood Company, in wood only.”

In the March, 1969, issue of the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine*, Henry Spangenberg opined that the difference, if any, is not in the die but in the quality of the strike. He stated:

“H. W. Holland listed the known Centennial medals in numerous issues of “*The American Journal of Numismatics*” during 1876 and 1877. He makes note of another Washington head medal similar to

Wood Medals and Plaques

1876-3 but with a larger head and better executed. I did not list this medal as I found no other mention of it, have never seen it, nor do I know of any one who has seen it.”

The two foregoing medals (their obverses pictured below) solve the contradiction between Holland and Spangenberg. There are, indeed, two distinct obverses, differing not only in the size of the portrait but in the design of the bust itself. Having never seen both medals (or their images) side by side, it is not surprising that Spangenberg was unable to verify Holland's assertion from his (Holland's) insufficient descriptions. The side-by-side comparison below makes the differences quite clear. Holland was correct.



Holland 13



Holland 14

Wood Medals and Plaques

1590. Goshorn/"100th Anniversary"



(1.2 x)



(1.2 x)

Obverse: Nude bust left; above, in a single curved line:(five-pointed star) "ALFRED T. GOSHORN" (five-pointed star); below, in a single curved line: "DIRECTOR GENERAL U. S. INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION"; in the truncation, "PAT. JUNE 1. 1875".

Reverse: Around the circumference "THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE ". Below, (six-pointed star) "1876" (six-pointed star); within, in six lines (the second and third lines curved in a scroll, the rest straight): GREAT / INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / FAIRMOUNT PARK / PHILADELPHIA / 4TH OF JULY".

Cross-refs: F-20, H-12, Sp 1876-4.

Diameter: 62.2 mm. **Edge:** Plain **Flip:** Both

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1590bw

1600. Hawley/"100th Anniversary"



(1.3x)



(1.3x)

Obverse: Nude bust right; above, in a single curved line: (6-pointed star) "GEN'L JOSEPH R. HAWLEY" (six-pointed star); below in a single curved line: "PRESIDENT U S. INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION"; in the truncation: "PAT. JUNE 1. 1875".

Reverse: Around the circumference (six-pointed star) "THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE " (six-pointed star. Below: (six-pointed star) "1876" (six-pointed star); within in six lines (the second and third lines curved in a scroll, the rest straight): GREAT / INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / FAIRMOUNT PARK / PHILADELPHIA / 4TH OF JULY".

Cross-refs: F-19, H-11, Sp 1876-5.

Diameter: 62.2 mm. **Edge:** Plain **Flip:** Both

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1600bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1610. Independence Hall/"100th Anniversary"



(1.3x)



(1.3x)

Obverse: In the center, Independence Hall; Above and around in large letters: "1776 INDEPENDENCE HALL 1876"; within, to left of tower, in smaller letters: "BIRTH PLACE OF LIBERTY."; in exergue in two straight lines: "COMMENCED 1729 / FINISHED 1734".

Reverse: Around the circumference "THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE ". Below, (six-pointed star) "1876" (six-pointed star); within, in six lines (the second and third lines curved in a scroll, the rest straight): GREAT / INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / FAIRMOUNT PARK / PHILADELPHIA / 4TH OF JULY".

Cross-refs: F021, H-22, Sp 1876-6.

Diameter: 62.2 mm. **Edge:** Plain **Flip:** Both

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1610bw

1620. Main Bldg Stats / "Anniversary of American Independence"



(1.1x)



(1.1x)

Obverse: End of the main building; above, in three curved lines and one straight: (six-pointed star) "1776" (six-pointed star) "IN MEMORIAM" (six-pointed star) "1876" (six-pointed star) / "MAIN BUILDING / LENGTH 1880 FT. / WIDTH 464 FT. / HEIGHT 70 FT."; in exergue to the left: "PAT, MAY 11. 75."; below in three lines, the bottom one curved: "GREAT INTERNATIONAL / EXPOSITION / PHILADELPHIA".

Reverse: Around from 8:00 to 4:00: (six-pointed star) "THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE" (six-pointed star); from 7:00 to 5:00: "U.S. AMERICA". Inside, in six straight lines "4TH OF JULY 1876 / EXHIBITION OPEN / FROM MAY 10 TO NOV. 10 1876 / FAIRMOUNT PARK / PHILADELPHIA".

Cross-refs: F-15, H-17, Sp 1876-7.

Diameter: 76.4 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1620bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1630. Art Gallery Stats/" Anniversary of American Independence"



(1.1x)



(1.1x)

Obverse: End of the Art Gallery (also called Memorial Hall); above in four lines, the first curved, the next two straight, and the last curved: (six-pointed star) "1776" (six-pointed star) "MEMORIAL HALL" (six-pointed star) / OR / ART GALLERY / 365 FT. LONG. 210 FT. WIDE."; in exergue to the left: "PAT. MAY. 11. 1875"; below in two straight lines and one curved: GREAT INTERNATIONAL / EXPOSITION / PHILADELPHIA."

Reverse: Around from 8:00 to 4:00: (six-pointed star) "THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE" (six-pointed star); from 7:00 to 5:00: "U.S. AMERICA". Inside, in six straight lines "4TH OF JULY 1876 / EXHIBITION OPEN / FROM MAY 10 TO NOV. 10 1876 / FAIRMOUNT PARK / PHILADELPHIA".

Cross-refs: F-16, H-18, Sp 1876-8.

Diameter: 76.4 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1630bw

1640. Main Bldg / "The Anniversary of...."



(1.1x)



(1.1x)

Obverse: The Main Building of the Exhibition with a detailed, almost whimsical, foreground consisting of shrubbery, horse-drawn carriages, pedestrians, and two large groups of spectators. Above and around: "1776 MAIN BUILDING 1876", below and around: "INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION".

Reverse: Around from 8:00 to 4:00: (six-pointed star) "THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE" (six-pointed star); from 7:00 to 5:00: "U.S. AMERICA". Inside, in six straight lines "4TH OF JULY 1876 / EXHIBITION OPEN / FROM MAY 10 TO NOV. 10 1876 / FAIRMOUNT PARK / PHILADELPHIA".

In describing the reverse, Holland stated "from dies much worn." The specimens that I have seen confirm this, though there may be exceptions.

Cross-refs: H-66, Sp 1876-9.

Diameter: 76.4 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1640bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1650. Memorial Hall "Int'l Exhibition"/"The Anniversary of...."



(1.1x)



(1.1x)

Obverse: Memorial Hall with shrubbery, two carriages, and pedestrians in the foreground; above and around from 9:30 to 2:30: "1776 MEMORIAL HALL 1876"; and below from 7:00 to 5:00: "INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION".

Reverse: Around from 8:00 to 4:00: (six-pointed star) "THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE" (six-pointed star); from 7:00 to 5:00: "U.S. AMERICA". Inside, in six straight lines "4TH OF JULY 1876 / EXHIBITION OPEN / FROM MAY 10 TO NOV. 10 1876 / FAIRMOUNT PARK / PHILADELPHIA".

From Levine 6096. #1292. Unc. \$27.50: MEMORIAL HALL-UNIFACE. 76.4mm. Unc. Same obverse as above, the reverse is blank. Spangenberg notes that the only blank reverse example of this medal he has seen was created by someone carefully removing the original reverse. After careful examination, we conclude that the piece offered here was similarly created. (B)

Cross-refs: H-67, Sp 1876-10.

Diameter: 76.4 mm. **Edge:** Plain **Flip:**

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1650bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1660. Horticultural Hall/"Three Million Colonists"



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: Horticultural Hall with a foreground of shrubbery; above in a curved line: "CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION" and below in a straight line: "HORTICULTURAL HALL"; in exergue to the right the initials "A.H."; all framed in a beaded border.

Reverse: Within a rope frame: "1776" at top left; "1876" at top right; then in a curved line bounded by calligraphic flourishes: "THREE MILLIONS OF"; then in three straight lines: "COLONISTS / ON A STRIP BY THE SEA / NOW FORTY MILLIONS OF"; then in a curved line bounded two pointing cuffed hands: "FREEMEN"; and finally bounded by flourishes in the shape of waves: "STRETCHING FROM OCEAN TO OCEAN".

The original size of these plaquettes was 101.6 mm x 69.9 mm; however, every specimen that I have measured is smaller than the published data, likely due to shrinkage from drying of the wood. Spangenberg states that they are approximately 98 mm x 68 mm, which is a good average to use.

Cross-refs: H-70, Sp 1876-11.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1660bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1670. Agricultural Hall/"Three Million Colonists"



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: Agricultural Hall with a foreground of shrubbery; above in a curved line: "CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION" and below in a straight line: "AGRICULTURAL HALL"; in exergue to the right the initials "A.H."; all framed in a beaded border.

Reverse: Within a rope frame: "1776" at top left; "1876" at top right; then in a curved line bounded by calligraphic flourishes: "THREE MILLIONS OF"; then in three straight lines: "COLONISTS / ON A STRIP BY THE SEA / NOW FORTY MILLIONS OF"; then in a curved line bounded two pointing cuffed hands: "FREEMEN"; and finally bounded by flourishes in the shape of waves: "STRETCHING FROM OCEAN TO OCEAN".

Cross-refs: H-71, Sp 1876-12.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1670bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1680. Machinery Hall/"Three Million Colonists"



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: Machinery Hall with a foreground of shrubbery; above in a curved line: "CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION" and below in a straight line: "Machinery Hall"; all framed in a beaded border.

Reverse: Within a rope frame: "1776" at top left; "1876" at top right; then in a curved line bounded by calligraphic flourishes: "THREE MILLIONS OF"; then in three straight lines: "COLONISTS / ON A STRIP BY THE SEA / NOW FORTY MILLIONS OF"; then in a curved line bounded two pointing cuffed hands: "FREEMEN"; and finally bounded by flourishes in the shape of waves: "STRETCHING FROM OCEAN TO OCEAN".

Cross-refs: H-72, Sp 1876-13.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1680bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1690. Main Building/"Three Million Colonists"



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: The Main Building with a foreground of shrubbery; above in a curved line: "CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION" and below in a straight line: "MAIN BUILDING"; all framed in a beaded border.

Reverse: Within a rope frame: "1776" at top left; "1876" at top right; then in a curved line bounded by calligraphic flourishes: "THREE MILLIONS OF"; then in three straight lines: "COLONISTS / ON A STRIP BY THE SEA / NOW FORTY MILLIONS OF"; then in a curved line bounded two pointing cuffed hands: "FREEMEN"; and finally bounded by flourishes in the shape of waves: "STRETCHING FROM OCEAN TO OCEAN".

Cross-refs: H-68, Sp 1876-14.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1690bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1700. Memorial Hall/"Three Million Colonists"



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: Memorial Hall with a foreground of shrubbery; above in a curved line: "CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION" and below in a straight line: "MEMORIAL HALL"; all framed in a beaded border.

Reverse: Within a rope frame: "1776" at top left; "1876" at top right; then in a curved line bounded by calligraphic flourishes: "THREE MILLIONS OF"; then in three straight lines: "COLONISTS / ON A STRIP BY THE SEA / NOW FORTY MILLIONS OF"; then in a curved line bounded two pointing cuffed hands: "FREEMEN"; and finally bounded by flourishes in the shape of waves: "STRETCHING FROM OCEAN TO OCEAN".

Cross-refs: H-69, Sp 1876-15.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1700bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1710. Horticultural Hall/Blank



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: Horticultural Hall with a foreground of shrubbery; "CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION" is not present; below in a straight line: "HORTICULTURAL HALL"; in exergue to the right the initials "A.H."; all framed in a rope border.

Reverse: Blank

Cross-refs: Sp 1876-16.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1710bw

1720. Agricultural Hall/ Blank



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: Agricultural Hall with a foreground of shrubbery; "CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION" is not present, and below in a straight line: "AGRICULTURAL HALL"; all framed in a rope border.

Reverse: Blank

Cross-refs: Sp 1876-17.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1720bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1730. Machinery Hall/Blank



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: Machinery Hall with a foreground of shrubbery; above in a curved line: "CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION" and below in a straight line: "MACHINERY HALL"; all framed in a rope border.

Reverse: Blank

Cross-refs: Sp 1876-18.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1730bw

1680. Main Building/Blank



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: The Main Building with a foreground of shrubbery; above in a curved line: "CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION" and below in a straight line: "MAIN BUILDING"; in exergue to the right the initials "AH"; all framed in a rope border.

Reverse: Blank

Cross-refs: Sp 1876-19.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1680bw

Wood Medals and Plaques

1750. Memorial Hall/Blank



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: Memorial Hall with a foreground of shrubbery; "CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION" is not present; below in a straight line: "MEMORIAL HALL"; in exergue to the right the initials "AH.", all framed in a rope border. Note: on this specimen, there is no visible period after the "A", though a period does appear after the "H." (See the detail below.) This could be either in the die or simply a weak strike in the wood. Pete Smith has an example that appears to show a period after the "A" so it looks like "A.H." is the correct monogram on a full-strike specimen.

Reverse: Blank

Cross-refs: Sp 1876-20.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1750bw



Memorial Hall Token



(Images compliments of Richard DeLeo)

This is Centennial token, not a Centennial medal, because the reverse is the business card of the Philadelphia Ornamental Wood Company that manufactured the medals and plaques. Therefore, it has not been assigned a Centennial medal number, though it is undeniably collectable and rare. This token sold on eBay on 11 September 2013 for \$1,901.76, a rude shock to the losing bidders and a pleasant surprise to the consigner.

Wood Medals and Plaques

Obverse: Same as above.

Reverse: Inside a rope border, an eight-sided rope-bordered tablet with a helmeted bust left, upper-case letter “D,” figural meerschaum pipe, and leaf cluster; above: PHILDALEPHIA ORNAMENTAL WOOD CO / MANUFACTURERS EVERY DESCRIPTION”; below: “OF / FANCY WOOD ORNAMENTS // 1129 CHERRY . ST . PHILADA . PA.” to left, vertically: “KNOBS ALL KINDS / BUSINESS CARDS / ESCUTCHEONS / ETC. ETC. ETC.”; to right, vertically: “MEDALLIONS. / BRACKETS. / BUTTONS. / ETC. ETC. ETC.”

Cross-refs: Unlisted.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Wood Medals and Plaques

1700. Liberty Bell/"Old State House Bell"



(x)

(x)

Obverse: Liberty Bell with its inscriptions suspended from the beam; below, "LIBERTY BELL. "; all surrounded by a rope frame.

Reverse: In four lines: THAT OLD STATE HOUSE BELL IS SILENT / HUSHED IS NOW ITS CLAMOROUS TONGUE / BUT THE SPIRIT IS AWAKENED / STILL IS LIVING - EVER YOUNG", below right in smaller print: "W.S. & CO."; with four decorative rivet heads in each of the four corners; all framed in a decorative beaded border.

According to Levine: This is one of the rarest of the entire wooden medal series. Spangenberg commented that, "I have not be able to find it listed in any publication and this is the only specimen I have seen."

Cross-refs: Sp 1876-21.

Diameter: 99.8mm.wide x 67.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Black Walnut 1250bw