

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

Introduction

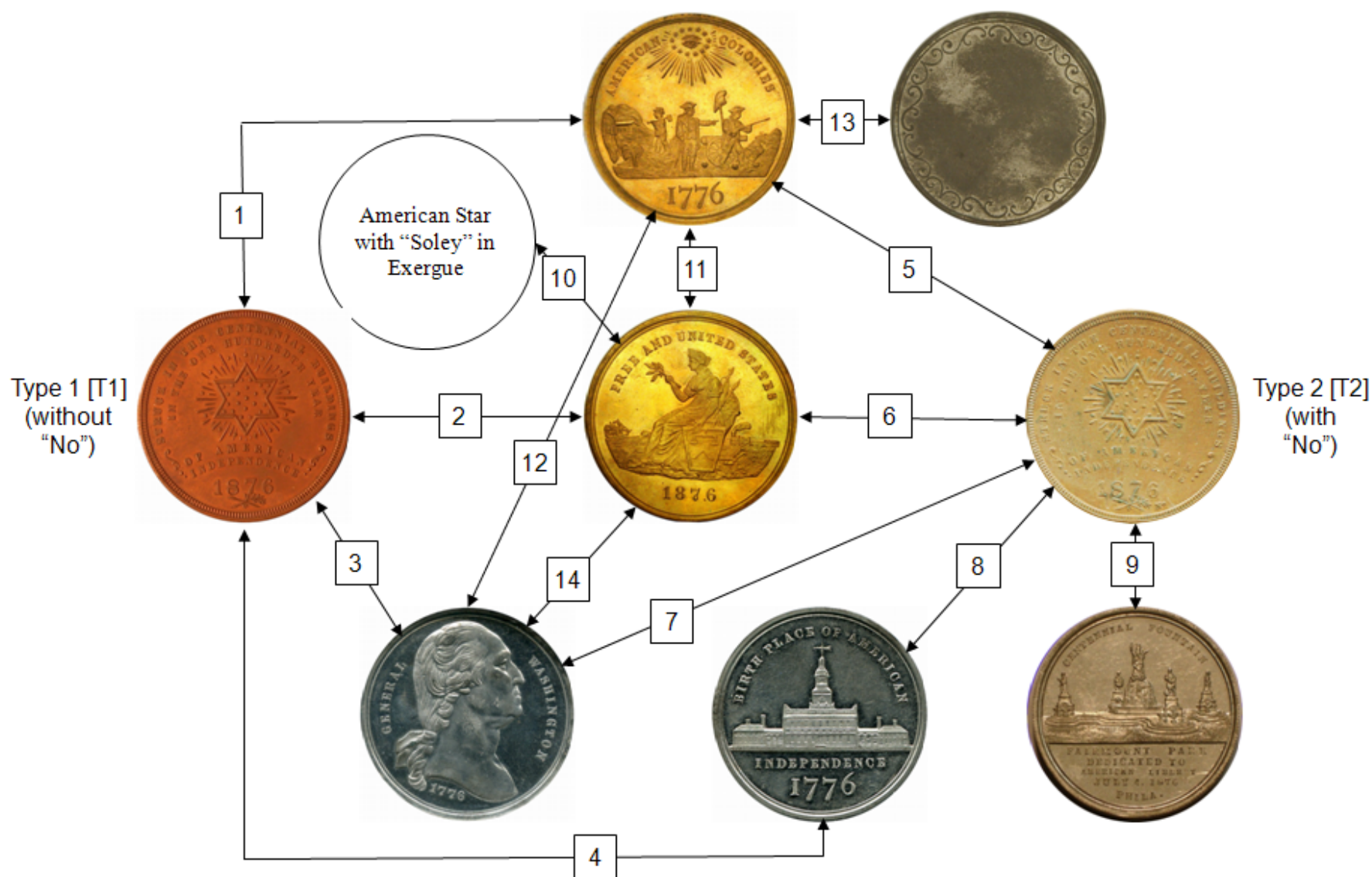
The Centennial Exhibition was a busy place. Not only did a grand total of 10,164,489 people attend the fair in its brief six months of existence (a world record at the time), but September 28, 1876, set another record with about a quarter million people attending Pennsylvania Day on the 100th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776. The average daily attendance was 55,242 fairgoers for 184 days. That's a lot of customers, and vendors of every imaginable souvenir eagerly plied their wares. Medals were among the most sought-after memntos (luckily for us collectors!), and one of the popular attractions at the exhibition was to watch your new medal being struck on the spot and, in at least one case, actually have it customized per your intructions!

The large majority of medals struck on the Exhibition grounds fall into two groups: first, the 38-mm "Struck in the Centennial Buildings" series and second, the 19-mm "Struck on the First Steam Coining Press" series.

The "Struck in the Centennial Buildings" series paired at least five stock Centennial dies with three different "American Star" reverses, which state that the medal was struck in the Cebtebbial buildings during the 100th year of American Independence. This results in at least twelve known mules, which are depicted in the second diagram below. Two of the three reverses differ by the presence or absence of "No" to the right of the crossed wheat stalk and laurel branch below the date. On the thrird reverse, the "No" is absent but the sculptor's name "Soley" appears in exergue. Below is a detail of the first two dies.



American Star Medals



Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1260. American Star T1/ "American Colonies (Mule 1)



(2.1x)



Proxy Pix:

(2.1x)

Obverse: In the center, a six-pointed star in glory with twenty-five five-pointed stars inside and thirteen five-pointed stars in the glory; above and around, in two curved lines: "STRUCK IN THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS / IN THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR"; below, in two curved lines flanked on each side by a scroll design: "OF AMERICAN / INDEPENDENCE"; beneath that "1876"; below the date are a wheat sheaf and a laurel branch, crossed.

Reverse: In the center, a pastoral battle scene: to left, a farmer with an ax over his shoulder walks toward his farmhouse; to right, an officer in Revolutionary uniform with drawn sword directs an infantryman with musket as he walks in front of a cannon with three cannonballs and a drum on the ground; a phrygian cap sits atop the cannon's loading pike; above, an eye surrounded by thirteen five-pointed stars in glory; around from 10:00: "AMERICAN (eye) COLONIES"; below at 6:00: "1776".

Cross-refs: HK-72c.

Diameter: 38.1 mm.

Edge: Plain

Alloy

No.

Silver

1260si

Bronze

1260bz

White Metal

1260wm

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1270. American Star T1/ Seated Liberty (Mule 2)



Obverse: In the center, a six-pointed star in glory with twenty-five five-pointed stars inside and thirteen five-pointed stars in the glory; above and around, in two curved lines: "STRUCK IN THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS / IN THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR"; below, in two curved lines flanked on each side by a scroll design "OF AMERICAN / INDEPENDENCE"; beneath that "1876".

Reverse: A representation of Liberty, reminiscent of the Trade Dollar; seated facing left, an olive branch in her right hand offering peace to a ship sailing towards her; at her left side is a keystone-shaped shield on which a set of scales and a square promise justice; behind her are two flags unfurled over the land on which a train steams toward her and a plow rests in a field; above around from 10:00 to 2:00: "FREE AND UNITED STATES"; below: "1876".

Cross-refs: H-130.

Diameter: 38.1 mm.

Edge: Plain

Alloy	No.
Silver	1270si
Bronze	1270bz
White Metal	1270wm

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1280. American Star T1 / General Washington (Mule 3)



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Proxy Pix

Obverse: In the center, a six-pointed star in glory with twenty-five five-pointed stars inside and thirteen five-pointed stars in the glory; above and around, in two curved lines: "STRUCK IN THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS / IN THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR"; below, in two curved lines flanked on each side by a scroll design "OF AMERICAN / INDEPENDENCE"; beneath that "1876".

Reverse: Large undraped bust of George Washington to right; at left: "GENERAL"; at right: "WASHINGTON"; in the truncation of the neck: "1876".

Cross-refs: B-433, H-128, HK-70a.

Diameter: 38.1mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Silver 1280si

Bronze 1280bz

White Metal 1280wm

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1290. American Star T1 / Independence Hall (Mule 4)



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the center, a six-pointed star in glory with twenty-five five-pointed stars inside and thirteen five-pointed stars in the glory; above and around, in two curved lines: "STRUCK IN THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS / IN THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR"; below, in two curved lines flanked on each side by a scroll design "OF AMERICAN / INDEPENDENCE"; beneath that "1876".

Reverse: A view of Independence Hall, including the outbuildings to left and right; around above from 10:00 to 2:00: "BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN"; below in two lines: "INDEPENDENCE / 1776".

Cross-refs: H-129.

Diameter: 38.1 mm.

Edge: Plain

Alloy **No.**

Silver 1290si

Bronze 1290bz

Brass 1290bs

White Metal 1290wm

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1300. American Star T2 / "American Colonies" (Mule 5)



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the center, a six-pointed star in glory with twenty-five five-pointed stars inside and thirteen five-pointed stars in the glory; above and around, in two curved lines: "STRUCK IN THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS / IN THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR"; below, in two curved lines flanked on each side by a scroll design: "OF AMERICAN / INDEPENDENCE"; beneath that "1876"; below the date are a wheat sheaf and a laurel branch, crossed, with "No" to their right, apparently for a serial number to be added later.

Reverse: In the center, a pastoral battle scene: to left, a farmer with an ax over his shoulder walks toward his farmhouse; to right, an officer in Revolutionary uniform with drawn sword directs an infantryman with musket as he walks in front of a cannon with three cannonballs and a drum on the ground; a Phrygian cap sits atop the cannon's loading pike; above, an eye surrounded by thirteen five-pointed stars in glory; around from 10:00: "AMERICAN (eye) COLONIES"; below at 6:00: "1776".

Cross-refs: H-132.

Diameter: 38.1 mm.

Edge: Plain

Alloy	No.
Silver	1300si
Bronze	1300bz
Brass	1300bs
White Metal	1300wm

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1310. American Star T2 / Seated Liberty (Mule 6)



(2.1x)

(2.1x)

Obverse: In the center, a six-pointed star in glory with twenty-five five-pointed stars inside and thirteen five-pointed stars in the glory; above and around, in two curved lines: "STRUCK IN THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS / IN THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR"; below, in two curved lines flanked on each side by a scroll design "OF AMERICAN / INDEPENDENCE"; beneath that "1876"; below the date are a wheat sheaf and a laurel branch, crossed, with "No" to their right, apparently for a serial number to be added later.

Reverse: A representation of Liberty, reminiscent of the Trade Dollar; seated facing left, an olive branch in her right hand offering peace to a ship sailing towards her; at her left side is a keystone-shaped shield on which a set of scales and a square promise justice; behind her are two flags unfurled over the land on which a train steams toward her and a plow rests in a field; above around from 10:00 to 2:00: "FREE AND UNITED STATES"; below: "1876".

Cross-refs: Item 1125 in Shevlin's 100814 SCD Auction at the 2010 Boston ANA Convention.

Diameter: 38.1 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 1310bz

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1320. American Star T2 / General Washington (Mule 7)



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the center, a six-pointed star in glory with twenty-five five-pointed stars inside and thirteen five-pointed stars in the glory; above and around, in two curved lines: "STRUCK IN THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS / IN THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR"; below, in two curved lines flanked on each side by a scroll design "OF AMERICAN / INDEPENDENCE"; beneath that "1876"; below the date are a wheat sheaf and a laurel branch, crossed, with "No" to their right, apparently for a serial number to be added later.

Reverse: Large undraped bust of George Washington to right; at left: "GENERAL"; at right: "WASHINGTON"; in the truncation of the neck: "1876".

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 38.1 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 1320bz

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1330. American Star T2 /Independence Hall (Mule 8)



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the center, a six-pointed star in glory with twenty-five five-pointed stars inside and thirteen five-pointed stars in the glory; above and around, in two curved lines: "STRUCK IN THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS / IN THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR"; below, in two curved lines flanked on each side by a scroll design "OF AMERICAN / INDEPENDENCE"; beneath that "1876"; below the date are a wheat sheaf and a laurel branch, crossed, with "No" to their right, followed by an incuse "5," which was stamped in after striking.

Reverse: A view of Independence Hall, including the outbuildings to left and right; around above from 10:00 to 2:00: "BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN"; below in two lines: "INDEPENDENCE / 1776".

Cross-refs: HK-47, 47a.

Diameter: 38.1 mm.

Edge: Plain

Alloy	No.
Silver	1303si
Bronze	1330bz
Brass	1330bs
White Metal	1330wm

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1340. American Star T2 / Centennial Fountain (Mule 9)



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Photos courtesy of
Steve & Daria Ryciewicz

Obverse: In the center, the Centennial Fountain; above, in a curved line: "CENTENNIAL FOUNTAIN" (without the trailing comma) and below, in five lines, the last curved: "FAIRMOUNT PARK / DEDICATED TO / AMERICAN LIBERTY / JULY 4. 1876 PHILA."

Reverse: In the center, a six-pointed star in glory with twenty-five five-pointed stars inside and thirteen five-pointed stars in the glory; in exergue: "SOLEY"; above and around, in two curved lines: "STRUCK IN THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS / IN THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR"; below, in two curved lines flanked on each side by a scroll design: "OF AMERICAN / INDEPENDENCE"; beneath that: "1876"; below the date are a wheat sheaf and a laurel branch, crossed, with "No" to their right, apparently for a serial number to be added later.

Cross-refs: H-131

Diameter: 38.1 mm.

Edge: Plain

Alloy	No.
Silver	1340si
Bronze	1340bz
Bras	1340bss
White Metal	1340wm

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1350. Seated Liberty / American Star “Soley” (Mule 10)



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the center, a six-pointed star in glory with twenty-five five-pointed stars inside and thirteen five-pointed stars in the glory; above and around, in two curved lines: "STRUCK IN THE CENTENNIAL BUILDINGS / IN THE ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR"; below, in two curved lines flanked on each side by a scroll design "OF AMERICAN / INDEPENDENCE"; beneath that "1876"; in exergue: "SOLEY".

Reverse: A representation of Liberty, reminiscent of the Trade Dollar; seated facing left, an olive branch in her right hand offering peace to a ship sailing towards her; at her left side is a keystone-shaped shield on which a set of scales and a square promise justice; behind her are two flags unfurled over the land on which a train steams toward her and a plow rests in a field; above around from 10:00 to 2:00: "FREE AND UNITED STATES"; below: "1876".

There are said to be only four, two in white metal and two in copper gilt, the reverse having then been altered.

Cross-refs: H-133.

Diameter: 38.1 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Gilt 1350gi

White Metal 1350wm

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1360. American Colonies/Seated Liberty (Mule 11)



Photos courtesy of
Jeff Shevlin



(2.1x)

(2.1x)

Obverse: A representation of Liberty, reminiscent of the Trade Dollar; seated facing left, an olive branch in her right hand offering peace to a ship sailing towards her; at her left side is a keystone-shaped shield on which a set of scales and a square promise justice; behind her are two flags unfurled over the land on which a train steams toward her and a plow rests in a field; above around from 10:00 to 2:00: "FREE AND UNITED STATES"; below: "1876".

Reverse: In the center, a pastoral battle scene: to left, a farmer with an ax over his shoulder walks toward his farmhouse; to right, an officer in Revolutionary uniform with drawn sword directs an infantryman with musket as he walks in front of a cannon with three cannonballs and a drum on the ground; a phrygian cap sits atop the cannon's loading pike; above, an eye surrounded by thirteen five-pointed stars in glory; around from 10:00: "AMERICAN (eye) COLONIES"; below at 6:00: "1776".

Cross-refs: F0312, H-42, HK-56-59.

Diameter: 38.1 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.
Silver	1360si
Gilt	1360gi
Bronze	1360bz
White Metal	1360wm

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1370. "American Colonies"/ General Washington (Mule 12)



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the center, a pastoral battle scene: to left, a farmer with an ax over his shoulder walks toward his farmhouse; to right, an officer in Revolutionary uniform with drawn sword directs an infantryman with musket as he walks in front of a cannon with three cannonballs and a drum on the ground; a phrygian cap sits atop the cannon's loading pike; above, an eye surrounded by thirteen five-pointed stars in glory; around from 10:00: "AMERICAN (eye) COLONIES"; below at 6:00: "1776".

Reverse: Large undraped bust of George Washington to right; at left: "GENERAL"; at right: "WASHINGTON"; in the truncation of the neck: "1876".

This obverse design has been incorrectly described by both Holland and Baker. Holland stated that the inscription around is "GEORGE WASHINGTON" vice "GENERAL WASHINGTON" and that the date in truncation is "1776" vice "1876". Baker got the inscription right, but also stated that the date in truncation was "1776" vice "1876". Neither the Holland obverse nor Baker's, as they described it, is known to this author.

Cross-refs: B-404, H-134, HK-71-72b.

Diameter: 38.1 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.
Silver	1370si
Gilt	1370gi
Bronze	1370bz
White Metal	1370wm

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1380. "American Colonies"/Blank with border (Mule 13)



(2.1x)

Proxy Pix



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the center, a pastoral battle scene: to left, a farmer with an ax over his shoulder walks toward his farmhouse; to right, an officer in Revolutionary uniform with drawn sword directs an infantryman with musket as he walks in front of a cannon with three cannonballs and a drum on the ground; a phrygian cap sits atop the cannon's loading pike; above, an eye surrounded by thirteen five-pointed stars in glory; around from 10:00: "AMERICAN (eye) COLONIES; below at 6:00: "1776".

Reverse: Blank, with a border of curves.

Cross-refs: H-102.

Diameter: 38.1 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Silver 1380si

1390. Seated Liberty / General Washington (Mule 14)



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: A representation of Liberty, reminiscent of the Trade Dollar; seated facing left, an olive branch in her right hand offering peace to a ship sailing towards her; at her left side is a keystone-shaped shield on which a set of scales and a square promise justice; behind her are two flags unfurled over the land on which a train steams toward her and a plow rests in a field; above around from 10:00 to 2:00: "FREE AND UNITED STATES"; below: "1876".

Reverse: Large undraped bust of George Washington to right; at left: "GENERAL"; at right: "WASHINGTON"; in the truncation of the neck: "1876".

This obverse design has been incorrectly described by both Holland and Baker. Holland stated that the inscription around is "GEORGE WASHINGTON" vice "GENERAL WASHINGTON" and that the date in truncation is "1776" vice "1876". Baker got the inscription right, but also stated that the date in truncation was "1776" vice "1876". Neither the Holland obverse nor Baker's, as they described it, is known to this author.

Cross-refs: HK-54

Diameter: 38.1 mm.

Edge:

Alloy	No.
Silver	1390si
Gilt	1390gi
Bronze	1390bz
Brass	1390bs
White Metal	1390wm

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

First Steam Coining Press Medals

This series of medals consist of five obverse dies (First Steam Coining Press) and six reverse dies (three Lord's Prayer, plus one each Masonic, Washington, and blank) muled in various combinations. So far, twelve different mules are known. They are diagrammed below.



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R1

Large beads.



R2

Small beads,
Three berries clear of vine.



R3

Small beads.
Two berries clear of vine.
One berry on vine.

Soley's Lord's Prayer Reverses



R4



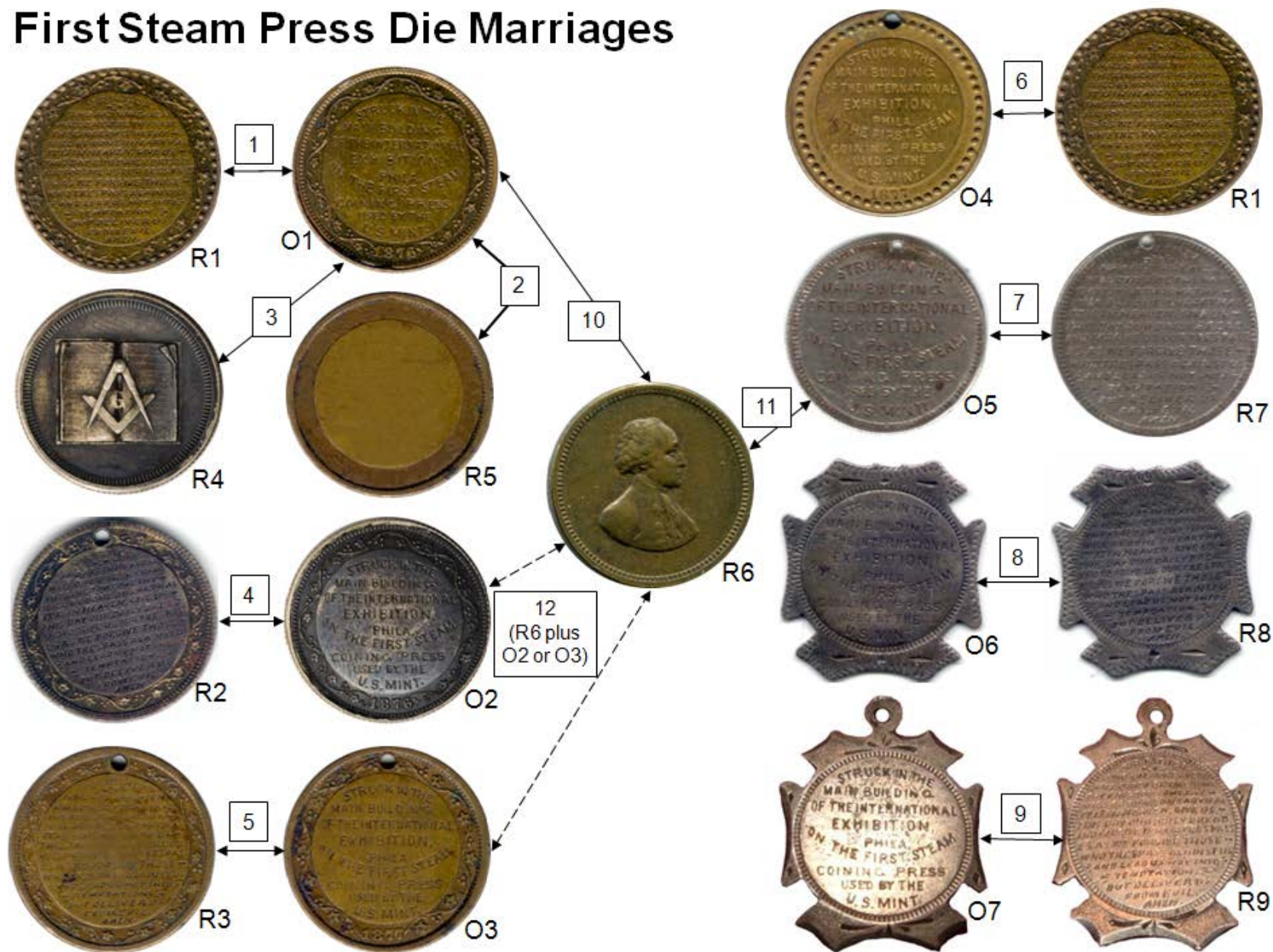
R5



R6

Struck at

First Steam Press Die Marriages



Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1400. 1876 Steam Press Medal (Mule 1)



(4.4x)



(4.4x)

Obverse: Incused on a circular disk in nine lines, the first and sixth curved, the rest straight: STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U.S. MINT." First obverse: in a slightly recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1876"; around, a border of grape leaves, the whole surrounded by a ring of small beads. (O1)

Reverse: The short version of the Lord's Prayer incused into a central circular disk; in a recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1876"; around, a grape wreath encircled by a border of large beads. (R1)

Cross-refs: H-162

Diameter: 18.6 mm.

Edge:

Alloy **No.**

Silver 1400si

Bronze 1400bz

On March 23, 1836, the United States Mint struck its first coinage on a steam press, the first mechanically powered coining press at the mint. During that year, all copper coins produced by the mint were struck on this steam press, at a rate of 100 coins per minute. The following year, it was used to strike half dollars as well. This first press continued in service until it was replaced in 1875. George B. Soley, a die sinker with a shop on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia, bought the press as an "historic relic." For the next thirty years, Soley exhibited the press on the "fair circuit" throughout the country, including the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, the 1901 Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, and the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. At these events, he struck mostly 13-mm medals, usually with the fair's logo on the obverse and the Lord's Prayer on the reverse.

In 1927, the Franklin Institute purchased the press from Mrs. Soley, and, in 1933, displayed it at the Institute's new Science Museum, where it was electrified and used to strike aluminum tokens for visitors. On the 64th anniversary of the Mint's first steam coinage, the Institute struck commemorative coins with

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the press on March 23, 2000. Then, in August of that year, the press was displayed at the American Numismatic Association Convention in Philadelphia, after which it has been on loan to the ANA Museum in Colorado Springs, CO, where it resides today.

If the steam-press medals from the 1876 Centennial are at all typical of Soley's "fair circuit," a complete collection from all his venues would be interesting indeed, for there are ten different 1876 and 1877 variations known and listed here. However, with four known obverses, three known reverses, and five known shapes, who knows how many possible combinations might exist?

1410. 1876 Steam Press Medal/Blank (Mule 2)



(x)



(x)

Obverse: Incused on a circular disk in nine lines, the first and sixth curved, the rest straight: "STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U.S. MINT." First obverse: in a slightly recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1876"; around, a border of grape leaves, the whole surrounded by a ring of small beads. (O1)

Reverse: Blank, inside a denticled border. (R5)

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 18.6 mm. **Edge:** Reeded

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 1410bz

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1420. 1876 Steam Press Medal (Mule 3)



(4.4x)



(4.4x)

Obverse: Incused on a circular disk in nine lines, the first and sixth curved, the rest straight: STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U.S. MINT." First obverse: in a slightly recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1876"; around, a border of grape leaves, the whole surrounded by a ring of small beads. (O1)

Reverse: Masonic symbols: an open book with the right-hand page dog-eared; on top, a compass and square enclosing the letter "G"; all within a toothed outer circle adjacent to the rim. (R4)

Only fifty struck.

Cross-refs: H-163

Diameter: 18.6 mm.

Edge: Reeded

Alloy	No.
Silver	1420si
Bronze	1420bz
Brass	1420bs

1430. 1877 Steam Press Medal (Mule 4)



(4.4x)



(4.4x)

Obverse: Incused on a circular disk in nine lines, the first and sixth curved, the rest straight: "STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U.S. MINT." Second obverse: in a slightly recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1877" with normal (thin crossbar) sevens; around, a grape wreath with the first leaf to the right of the date located below and to the left of the "T" in "MINT", the whole surrounded by a ring of small beads. (O2)

Reverse: The short version of the Lord's Prayer incused into a central circular disk; in a recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1876"; around, a grape wreath encircled by a border of large beads. (R3)

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 18.6 mm. **Edge:** Reeded

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 1430bz

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There was a trade card advertising an 1877 First Steam Press medal that appears to be offered both as a simple medal and also in an ornate frame. The medal appears to be a mule of Obverse 2 and Reverse 2, the same as the above medal (A 1460). However, since the illustrations are only facsimiles, it is difficult to be certain. I have never seen the framed medal. It may or may not have actually been sold as illustrated. (The reverse of this trade card pictured a bird's-eye view of the centennial Buildings in Fairmount Park.)



The image shows a trade card for a medal. At the top, there are three circular illustrations: the obverse of the medal (left), the reverse of the medal (right), and a framed version of the medal (center). The obverse and reverse are labeled 'O2' and 'R2' respectively. The framed medal is labeled 'O2' and 'R2' as well. The text on the card is as follows:

FAC-SIMILE OF THE MEDAL.
STRUCK IN THE
Permanent International Exhibition Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

The obverse Contains the Lord's Prayer in the smallest space ever known to have been struck on METAL.

Can be worn as a Charm for the CHAIN, NECKLACE or BRACELETT.

Sunday Schools can obtain the Medals at a Nominal Rate.

ORDERS RECEIVED AND SENT BY MAIL TO ANY PART OF THE UNITED STATES.

Solid Fine Gold Mounted,	\$ 10.00
Gold Silver,	.25
Bronze, Gold or Silver Plated,	.10

ADDRESS,
COINING PRESS,
International Exhibition Building, Philada.

1440. 1877 Steam Press Medal (Mule 5)



(4.4x)

(4.4x)

Obverse: Incused on a circular disk in nine lines, the first and sixth curved, the rest straight: "STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST / STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U.S. MINT." Obverse three: in a slightly recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1877" with broad (thick crossbar) sevens; around, a grape wreath with the first leaf to the right of the date located below and to the right of the "T" in "MINT", the whole surrounded by a ring of small beads. (O3)

Reverse: The short version of the Lord's Prayer incused into a central circular disk; in a recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1876"; around, a grape wreath encircled by a border of large beads. (R3)

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 18.6 mm. **Edge:** Reeded

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 1440bz

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1450. 1877 Steam Press Medal (Mule 6)



(4.4x)



(4.4x)

Obverse: Incused on a circular disk in nine lines, the first and sixth curved, the rest straight: "STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U.S. MINT." Fourth obverse: In a slightly recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1877" with normal (thin crossbar) sevens, no grape wreath, the whole surrounded by a border of large beads. (O4)

Reverse: The short version of the Lord's Prayer incused into a central circular disk; in a recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1876"; around, a grape wreath encircled by a border of large beads. (R1)

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 18.6 mm. **Edge:** Reeded

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 1450bz

1460. Undated Steam Press Medal (Mule 7)



(5.4x)



(5.4x)

Obverse: Incused on a circular disk in nine lines, the first and sixth curved, the rest straight: "STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U.S. MINT." Around, at the rim, a rope design. This medal looks like the center of one of the dated medals has been cut out, which would seem to be the case were it not for the fact that the edge is reeded rather than smooth. (O5)

Reverse: The short version of the Lord's Prayer incused into a central circular disk; in a recessed ring around the inscription, below: "1876"; around, a grape wreath encircled by a border of large beads. (R7)

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 15.1 mm. **Edge:** Reeded

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 1460bz

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1470. Undated Steam Press Medal (Mule 8)



(4.8x)



(4.8x)

Obverse: On a cruciform medal, incused on a central disk with a denticled border in nine lines, the first and sixth curved, the rest straight: "STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U.S. MINT."; with geometric designs carved into the tabs of the arms of the cross. (O6)

Reverse: The short version of the Lord's Prayer incused into a central circular disk with a denticled border. (R8)

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 17.1 mm wide x 18.9 mm high. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.
Silver	1470si

1480. Undated Steam Press Medal (Mule 9)



(4.8x)



(4.8x)

Obverse: On a cruciform medal, incused in nine lines, the first and sixth curved, the rest straight: "STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U.S. MINT."; with a rope design carved in a circle around the inscription and geometric designs carved into the tabs of the arms of the cross. (O7)

Reverse: The short version of the Lord's Prayer incused into a central circular disk with a denticled border. (R9)

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 17.1 mm wide x 18.9 mm high. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.
Silver	1480si

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1490. First Steam Press (Mule 10)



(4.4x)



Proxy Pix:

(4.4x)

Obverse: Incused inscription, STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION. | PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE | U. /S. MINT. In nine lines, the first sixth, and ninth curving; below: 1876; around the field a border, on which is a vine of ivy leaves and berries. (O1)

Reverse: Clothed bust of Washington to right, by Paquet. (R6)

Cross-refs: M-276a, in Notes and Corrections, page 296

Diameter: 18.6 mm. **Edge:**

Alloy	No.
?	1490

1500. First Steam Press (Mule 11)



(4.4x)



(4.4x)

Obverse: Incused inscription, STRUCK IN THE | MAIN BUILDING | OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION. / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U. S. MINT. In nine lines, the first sixth, and ninth curving; around the field a border, on which is a vine of ivy leaves and berries. (R6)

Reverse: Clothed bust of Washington to right, by Paquet. (RO5)

Marvin: "It is said but fifty were struck in each metal."

Cross-refs: M-276.

Diameter: 18.6 mm. **Edge:** Reeded.

Alloy	No.
Silver	1500si
Brass	1500bs

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1510. First Steam Press (Mule 12)



(4.4x)



(4.4x)

Obverse: Incused inscription, STRUCK IN THE / MAIN BUILDING / OF THE INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION. / PHILA. / ON THE FIRST STEAM / COINING PRESS / USED BY THE / U. S. MINT. In nine lines, the first sixth, and ninth curving; below: 1877; around the field a border, on which is a vine of ivy leaves and berries. (Could be O2 or O3.)

Reverse: Clothed bust of Washington to right, by Paquet (R6)

Cross-refs: Marvin 277.

Diameter: 19 mm. **Edge:**

Alloy **No.**

White Metal 1510wm

1520. Memorial Medal / "Struck Within"



(3.4x)



(3.4x)

Obverse: A depiction of Independence Hall; above around from 11:00 to 1:00: "MEMORIAL MEDAL"; below, "1776".

Reverse: In five lines, the top and bottom curved: "STRUCK WITHIN / THE / INTERNATIONAL / EXHIBITION / 1876."

Cross-refs: F-308, H-153.

Diameter: 24 mm. **Edge:** Plain

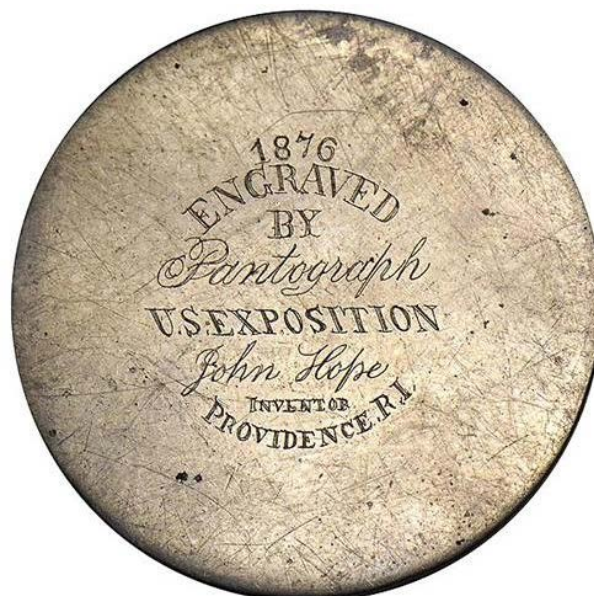
Alloy	No.
Gilt	1520gi
Bronze	1520bz
Brass	1520bs

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1530. Engine/Engraved by Pantograph



(2.6x)



(2.6x)

Obverse: Engraved on a thin silver disk, a line drawing of the Corliss engine; below: "CORLISS ENGINE"; with a border around the outside consisting of two rings of four fine lines each, bounding a circular zig-zag ornamented with a tiny circle in each angle of the zig-zag.

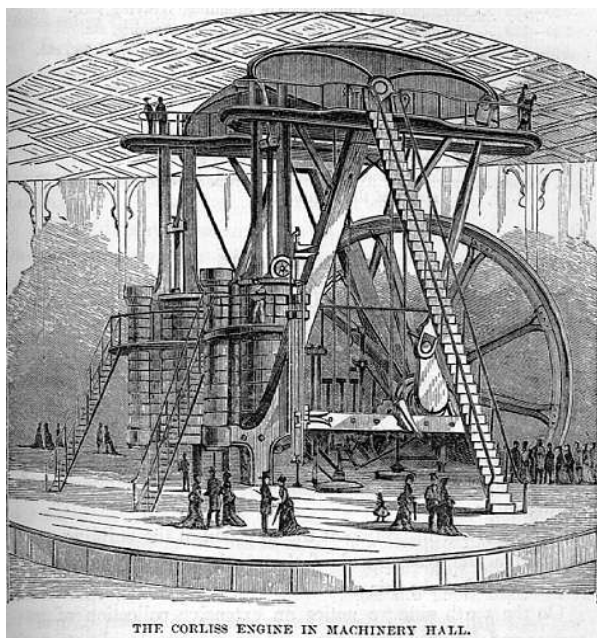
Reverse: In eight lines, the top two and bottom one curved: "1876 / ENGRAVED / BY / Pantograph / U.S. EXPOSITION / John Hope / INVENTOR / PROVIDENCE. R.I." "Pantograph" and "John Hope" are in script.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 31.8 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Silver 1530si



THE CORLISS ENGINE IN MACHINERY HALL.



Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

The Double Corliss Centennial Engine, specially built by George H. Corliss, dominated Machinery Hall. It was the largest and most powerful steam engine in the world. It stood 70 feet tall on a platform 56 feet across. It had two vertical cylinders, each forty-four inches in diameter with a ten-foot stroke. Together they spun a 30-foot-diameter, 56-ton, flywheel that generated 1,400 horsepower. By means of shafts totaling over a mile in length, the engine supplied the power needs for the entire hall and virtually all of the exhibits at the exhibition. On the first day of the Centennial Exposition, President Ulysses S. Grant and Brazil's Emperor Dom Pedro listened to an orchestral performance of (are you ready for this?) the Corliss Engine Grand March and then opened the hall by starting the engine. The engine ran throughout the exhibition. It was so dependable that one visitor wrote, "The Corliss Engine is essentially maintenance-free. The engineer on duty sits at a desk under the engine, reading the paper, interrupted only hourly when he inspects the machine and lubricates certain moving parts with his trusty oil can."

Medals Struck at the Centennial Exhibition

1540. Expo Souvenir ID Tags



(Images 2.4x)

Obverse: An oval key tag oriented with the long side on the horizontal; inside a denticled rim, the upper half of an eagle in flight carrying a banner in its beak; holed at the left; below are four wavy bands, blank until punched with purchaser's information at the point of sale. The information varies, but usually contains the owner's name, hometown, and usually the date of 1876.

Reverse: Usually blank, but sometimes seen with "CENTENNIAL // 1876" in two lines when all four lines of the obverse were used for other information.

Rulau lists this key tag as his No. 75, and includes the design as a token where it has been stamped as a store card for businesses in New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, etc. The blanks were manufactured by the firm of Peck and Snyder in New York. Obviously, from the engraving on this example (and others I own or have seen), these tags were manufactured earlier. I include as Centennial medals those examples that were stamped as souvenirs for visitors who attended the Centennial Exhibition.

Thomas Simons, the original owner of this ID tag, was born in Ivanhoe, England, May 10, 1839, and came to America with his parents when he was three years old. The family moved to Delhi Township in Delaware County, Ohio. Both he and his father served in the Union army until the end of the Civil War in 1865, as a result of which he enjoyed the unusual privilege of being a member of both the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Veterans. Thomas was active in local politics and in the Delhi Methodist church. He is especially remembered in Delaware County as the donor of their veterans' memorial and the bells in both the Methodist and Catholic churches in town. And now, the inclusion of his Centennial ID tag in this book adds one more datum point to a life well lived.

Size: 33.5mm. x 18.8 mm **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

White Metal 1540wm