

Medals Struck in or by Foreign Countries

Introduction

America's Centennial was truly an international occasion. Our standing in the world then was one of respect, admiration, and not a little envy. America had proven itself and was treated as a peer in world affairs. Our 100th birthday was a cause celeb throughout the world, and pro-American bon homie was universal. Forty-nine countries sent exhibitors and exhibitions to the Centennial Exhibition. Nineteen of them erected their own buildings! And six of them struck medals; at least, six of them that we know so far: Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Netherlands, and Poland.

Of these, France was by far the most prolific. In addition to the medals of French origin listed in this drawer, there is another, the French Participation medal, that resides in the Awards drawer, since its was struck in order to be presented to the French exhibitors at the Centennial Exhibition.

There are also two other medals with international flavor that also reside in the Awards drawer. For the international shooting match held in Washington, D.C. in September, 1876, the local Irish residents commissioned a medal to be awarded to the member of the Irish team that posted the highest score. Similarly, Australian residents of Washington commissioned their own medal to be awarded to the highest scorer on the Australian team.

As with all the other drawers in the Centennial cabinet, it is likely that more international Centennial medals exist, waiting to be announced or to be discovered.

Medals Struck in Foreign Countries

2550. Melbourne Expo Cook and Columbus



(1.2x)



(1.2x)

Obverse: Two famous explorers, Admiral Cook left and Columbus right stand on a platform with their arms draped over a large globe that is turned to display the Pacific Ocean with a line between America and Australia depicting the friendship between the two countries; Cook holds a sextant in his right hand; Columbus, an unidentified navigation instrument in his left; the globe sits on a plaque engraved: "MELBOURNE. 1875"; above the globe a rising sun in glory; in exergue to left: "O.R. CAMPBELL. DES." (the artist); in exergue to right: "J. HOGARTH. FEC" (the engraver); below in two straight lines: PHILADELPHIA / 1876"; beneath in tiny letters next to the rim, from 7:00: "STOKES & MARTIN" (a private mint); and from 5:30: "MELBOURNE".

Reverse: Inside a wreath of four eucalyptus branches (two species) crossed and tied at the bottom in five straight lines: "INGENS / PATEAT TELLVS / NEC SIT TERRIS / VLTIMA / THVLE". The second and third lines are separated by a row of five stylized five-pointed stars. The inscription is taken from a poem by Seneca in about 30 AD, which reads like a prophecy of Columbus' discovery of the New World. It translates as: "A vast continent shall appear, and a pilot shall find new worlds, and no longer will Thule's isle be the last spot of earthly soil." Thule is an island in the extreme north of Europe, once believed to be the most remote spot on earth.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 69 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Silver 2550si 96 minted.

Bronze 2550bz 233 minted.

The Victorian Intercolonial Exhibition was held in Melbourne, Australia, in September, 1875. Many of the Melbourne exhibits were selected and forwarded to the United States to be included in the Australian exhibit at the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876. Though six medals were struck to commemorate the Victorian Intercolonial Exhibition, only two of them, this large Columbus-Cook medal and the smaller Queen Victoria medal below, have inscriptions that commemorate both the Melbourne exhibition and the Philadelphia Exposition.

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2560. Melbourne Expo Queen Victoria



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In a depressed central field, a bust left of Queen Victoria in tiara, necklace, and earrings; in truncation: "JH" (for J.Hogarth, the engraver); flanked left and right in curved near-vertical lines: "EXHIBITION" and "MELBOURNE"; in a ring around the bust are listed the six states of Australia, each separated by a cross on a square tablet, clockwise from 12:00: "VICTORIA" (cross) "S. AUSTRALIA" (cross) "QUEENSLAND" (cross) "W. AUSTRALIA" (cross) "N. S. WALES" (cross) "TASMANIA" (cross); in the outer, raised, ring, clockwise from 6:30 in three phrases separated by small square tablets: "COMMEMORATION MEDAL (tablet) AUSTRALASIA 1875 (tablet PHILADELPHIA 1876 (tablet)."

Reverse: A winged goddess, barely clad in a flowing drape, hovers over a globe bearing a laurel crown in her right hand and a torch in her left; five stars in the field to the left; below, a thin platform; on platform to left: "J H"; below platform in two lines, the first straight, the second curved: "STOKES AND MARTIN / MELBOURNE".

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 38 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.
Silver	2560si
Bronze	2560bz
White Metal	2560wm

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2570. Brazilian Medal



(3.0x)



(3.0x)

Obverse: A crown; below in large letters: "P.II."; above, a crown; around, clockwise from 6:30: "PRENSA MONETARIA FEITA NA CASA DA MOEDA DO BRAZIL"; below at 6:00, a five-pointed star. (Rough translation: "Struck monetary(?) for the occasion by the Brazilian National Mint."

Reverse: In six straight lines: "PROVA / CUNHADA / NA EXPOSIÇÃO / INTERNACIONAL / DE PHILADELPHIA"; below that, a five-pointed star flanked left and right with a spear, pointed toward the star; below: "1876". (Rough translation: "Souvenir minted for the International Exposition in Philadelphia."

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 27 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 2570bz

The crown and the "P. II." refer to Dom Pedro the Second, Emperor of Brazil. Dom Pedro and his wife participated with President and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant in the opening ceremonies of the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876. Dom Pedro started up the Corliss Steam Engine, which powered most of the other machines at the Expo. Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his new telephone to the Emperor, which made him probably the first Brazilian to use the invention. He recited Shakespeare's classic line from Hamlet "To be or not to be" into it, and then exclaimed, "This thing speaks!". After that, the Emperor was the first person to buy stock in Bell's company, the Bell Telephone Company, and one of the first telephones in the world in a private residence was installed in the Emperor's Palace in Petrópolis, his summer retreat forty miles from Rio de Janeiro.

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2580. Canadian Government Medal



(2x)



(2x)

Photos courtesy of
Goldguy102

Obverse: An angel flies to the right blowing a trumpet; above: "DOMINION OF CANADA"; at bottom just inside the beaded rim: "R. TASSEY". In the space above the angel was typically engraved in script: "Exhibition Phila. // 1876"; below the angel would be engraved the recipient's name and the category in which the award was presented. It is possible that the basic medal was used for other purposes as well.

Reverse: The arms of Canada: Early settlers are represented by the three royal lions of England, the royal lion of Scotland, the harp of Ireland and the fleur-de-lis of France; The lion of England holds the British flag; the unicorn of Scotland holds the flag of Royal France; and at the bottom are the fleur-de-lis (France), the shamrock (Ireland), the thistle (Scotland), and the rose (England).

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 41 mm. **Edge:**

Alloy	No.
Gold	2580go
Silver	2580si
Bronze	2580bz

The Canadian Commission at the 1876 International Exposition in Philadelphia awarded this medal in gold, silver and bronze to its Canadian exhibitors. There were 13 gold, 174 silver, and 230 bronze medals awarded in 15 different categories.

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2590. To the President of the American Parliament



(0.74x)



(0.74x)

Obverse: In the center, a rendition of the coat of arms of America reminiscent of Dupre's version on the Diplomatic medal: the spread eagle head right with six arrows in its right claw and an olive branch in its left, bearing a scroll inscribed with the motto "IN PLURIBUS UNUM"; on its chest the escutcheon with thirteen paleways (vertical stripes) and 14 stars on the chief (horizontal band above the paleways); behind, a cloud surmounted by a glory of 53 rays with two bands of stars, 13 in the upper and 9 below; the seal encircled by three rings: solid, rope, and bead; clockwise around from 8:30 in two lines: "A MR. LE PRÉSIDENT DU PARLEMENT AMÉRICAIN / SOUVENIR DU CENTENAIRE DE L'INDÉPENDANCE" [To the President (or Speaker) of the American Parliament / Souvenir of the Centennial of Independence]; below, an ornate curved tablet with "A. BUREAU . GRAVEUR BTE / LILLE • FRANCE • NORD" (From the Bureau of the Mint Bldg / [city of] Lille, Northern France); "• 1776 •" to the right and "• 1876 •" to the left; the whole encircled by a bead chain inside a cove rim; on the edge: the bee symbol of the Paris Mint and "CUIVRE" (bronze).

Reverse: In eight lines, the top and bottom curved: "AGRICULTURE . HORTICULTURE . / 1876 / EXPOSITION / INTERNATIONALE / DE / PHILADELPHIE / 1776 / ARTS . INDUSTRIE ."; encircled by a cove border, outside of which is a dense wreath of oak leaves and acorns left and olive leaves and olives right, bound with a crossed ribbon at the four compass points; the whole encircled by border composed of a single line and a rope border.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 110 mm.

Edge: Lettered

Alloy

No.

Bronze

2590bz

One has to wonder for whom this medal was intended. The inscription could mean that this medal was intended for the President of the United States (Ulysses S. Grant), though he never presides over Congress, or for the President of the Senate and/or Joint Sessions of Congress, who is in fact the Vice-President (Henry Wilson), or for the Speaker of the House (Samuel J. Randall). However, there was no

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Vice President in 1876, because Henry Wilson died in office on 22 November 1875, but maybe the dies were cut before that happened.

Medals Struck in Foreign Countries

2600. Athena Pallas/Two flags



(1.6x)



(1.6x)

Obverse: High-relief bust to left of the goddess Athena Pallas, with an oak branch in her hair, wearing a feather-crowned helmet; its helm depicting a lion tearing asunder a ball and chain (representing America declaring its freedom); in the truncation of the neck: "VEYRAT F."; below that a small front face (the artist's mark); around, at the edge, 52 small pellets forming a circle; the rim is not upset.

Reverse: Two crossed U.S. flags, their staffs bound with a flowing ribbon; the left flag with thirteen stars representing the original colonies; the right flag with thirty-seven stars (the number of states in the union on July 4th, 1876 (Colorado, the 38th state was not admitted until August 1876)); above, centered between the flags, a five-pointed star; clockwise around from 8:00: "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INDEPENDENCE"; below, centered between the flagstaffs: "BRICHAUT DIR."; at 7:00 and 5:00, a five-petaled floret; around, between the florets: "1776 — 1876"; around, at the edge 50 pellets forming a circle; the rim is also not upset.

Cross-refs: F-319, H-81.

Diameter: 50.3 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.
Gold	2600go
Silver	2600si
Bronze	2600bz

"This is the French Medal and is very well done, the best of the centennial medals," according to Holland. It is certainly a finely executed medal, but it was probably executed at the Belgian Mint, rather than the Paris Mint, because Brichaut was the Director of the Brussels Mint, not the Paris Mint. Veyrat was the sculptor. This depiction of the goddess is properly Athena Pallas, her formal name when depicted as the goddess of war (as opposed to Ares, the god of war who represents the male, physical, side of war). She was also the guardian of Athens, her namesake, the defender of heroes, and the champion of justice and civil law. She was indeed a fitting subject to represent the jubilant and self-confident pride with which nineteenth-century Americans celebrated their first century of independence.

Issued in this country by Oeschger, Medash, and Co. (per Levine).

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2610. Statue of Lib/Booth Nations



(1.6 x)



(1.6 x)

Obverse: Within a beaded rim, an artist's rendering of the Statue of Liberty on Bedloe's Island (later known as Liberty Island) surrounded by the eleven-pointed star-shaped fortification known as Fort Wood, with New York Harbor in the background; in exergue: "A. BARTHOLDI. STATUAIRE"; to the left, "TASSET"; above, around from 10:00: "COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE [sic]"; below the text, an arc of 38 stars representing the 38 states of the union in 1876.

Reverse: Within a beaded rim, in eleven straight lines: "IN / REMEMBRANCE / OF THE OLD FRIENDSHIP / BETWEEN / THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE / BY / PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION / AMONGST THE CITIZENS / OF / BOOTH [sic] NATIONS / 1776-1876".

Edge: Stamped with the "bee" edgemark of the 1860-1879 period in France, and "CUIVRE" (copper).

Cross-refs: Not listed.

According to Dick Johnson, this medal was struck by the Paris Mint from original metal taken from Bartholdi's studio. Alan Herbert, *Numismatic News*, 30 Sep 09 states: "Our source indicates there was such a medal, described as 50mm in diameter, with the statue and the words, "Commemorative Monument of American Independence" on the obverse. On the reverse: "In remembrance of the old friendship between the United States and France by public subscription amongst the citizens of booth [sic.] nations 1776-1876." The incorrect spelling of "both" reportedly led to the withholding of the medal, which was never issued publicly."

Diameter: 50.7 mm. **Edge:** Lettered

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 2610bz

Medals Struck in Foreign Countries

2620. Franco-American Union Medal



(1.2x)



(1.2x)

Obverse: Marianne and America clasp hands in solidarity as their boat floats past the new Statue of Liberty while the Genius of America looks on; around and above, from 9:30 to 2:30, in two lines: “UNION FRANCO AMERICAINE / STATUE COLOSSALE DE LA LIBERTE ÉCLAIRANT IF (?) MOND”.

Reverse: Superimposed on the shields of America to left and France to right, the clothed bust of Bartholdi, the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty, with “AUGUSTE BARTHOLDI STATUAIRE” around; the whole resting on an olive branch; below that in four lines: “MONUMENT / ERIGÉ PAR LA FRANCE / ET L'AMERIQUE EN SOUVENIR / DE LEUR ANCIENNE AMITIE”; below that a tablet suitable for engraving; to left and above: “1776”; to right and above: “1876”; around from 8:00 to 4:00: “SOUVENIR DE L'INDEPENDANCE AMERICAINE”; to left in to lines: “HAUTEUR DE / LA STATUE 46M 8”; to right in two lines: “HAUTEUR DV / PIEDESTAL 35M”.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 67.8 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.	Note
Gilt	2620gi	
Bronze	2620bz	

Marianne is the French personification of Liberty, typically costumed in the French Revolution tradition as a freed slave (symbolized by the Phrygian cap she wears). America is portrayed as a toga-clad youth embarked upon his entire future, symbolized by the statue (America's new symbol of Liberty). Continuing the Roman theme, the naked winged youth represents the Genius of America. In Roman mythology, every individual, family, city, and state had a protecting spirit, its genius (analogous to the Christian guardian angel), whose role it was to grant intellect and prowess.

It appears that the inscription to the right of the rectangular tablet on the reverse contains two errors. First, "DV" should be "DE" and, secondly, the final height of the pedestal turned out to be 27.13 meters (89 feet) vice 35 meters.

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The Lady Came Late to the Ball (and her medal missed the Centennial)

The Franco-American Union medal presents a conundrum for U.S. Centennial medal collectors. It looks like a Centennial medal, but it was not issued during the Centennial. As a result, whether or not this medal should be included in this book is not simply answered. On the one hand, it was designed and sculpted specifically to commemorate America's 1876 Centennial; and the medal's reverse attests to that. On the other hand, it was not actually struck until 1886, when the Statue of Liberty was finally dedicated at its new home in New York Harbor, and the obverse commemorates that event. If ever a medal straddled two categories, it is the Franco-American Union medal. Normally, the late striking would trump the subject matter, and this medal would not qualify, but maybe not in this case. I see both sides of the question, so I will not attempt to settle it to anybody's satisfaction but my own. There is no denying that the Statue of Liberty and this medal were intended to be the centerpieces of America's Centennial celebration, but events transpired against them. I include this medal in the catalog simply to tell the story behind the medal, and to give it a home for those of us who believe that a Centennial collection would be incomplete without it.

The Statue of Liberty, formally entitled "Liberty Enlightening the World," was intended for presentation in 1876 by the people of France to the people of American for their Centennial. In 1865, while hosting a dinner for his fellow liberals, French historian and abolitionist Edouard Laboulaye proposed that this statue be presented to the United States to commemorate the alliance of France and the United States during the American Revolution. As he put it: "Wouldn't it be wonderful if people in France gave the United States a great monument as a lasting memorial to independence and thereby showed that the French government was also dedicated to the idea of human liberty?"



At the Philadelphia Expo in 1876

\$100,000 for Liberty's pedestal. Frederic Auguste Bartholdi constructed the statue from copper sheets assembled on a framework of steel supports designed by Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc and Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel (of Eiffel Tower fame). Fundraising problems on both sides of the Atlantic plagued and delayed the project several times.

In November, 1875, the Franco-American Union was formed to plan, fund, and administer the project. Laboulaye was named its president, while William M. Evarts led the American side of the union. Through private subscription, France agreed to fund the statue itself, while the United States committed to raise the funds for the statue's foundation and erection. Though it ended up taking ten years, the French people raised more than \$250,000 for the statue, and Americans came up with over



In Paris in 1876

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As a result, only Lady Liberty's right arm and the torch actually made the intended delivery goal in 1876.

Nevertheless, the arm and torch was proudly displayed as one of the most impressive and popular exhibits at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Meanwhile, Liberty's head, on display in Paris, created its own sensation. In 1877, Congress authorized Bedloe's Island, the site of Fort Wood, whose battery of cannon had defended New York Harbor since 1811, to be the site of the statue. Bartholdi finished the statue in June of 1884, and it was proudly displayed in Paris until spring of the following year, much to the delight thousands of French visitors. The statue was then disassembled, and on June 15, 1885, Miss Liberty arrived in New York Harbor in 350 pieces securely packed in 214 wooden shipping crates.

On August 5, 1884, the cornerstone of Lady Liberty's pedestal was laid, but fitful funding interrupted construction. On August 11, 1885, the front page of the New York World was finally able to trumpet, "ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS!" The goal for building Liberty's pedestal had been reached, thanks to contributions from more than 120,000 American citizens. Construction restarted, and the pedestal was finished on April 22, 1886. It took another four months to reassemble the statue on the pedestal. On October 25, 1886, Bartholdi and his wife, accompanied by Viscount Ferdinand-Marie de Lesseps, then chairman of the Franco-American Union, arrived in America. They were greeted by the American Committee. It was a public holiday, and even the rain could not dampen the enthusiasm of the more than one million people who lined the streets of New York. The New York Times reported that as the parade passed by, the office boys "from a hundred windows began to unreel the spools of tape that record the fateful messages of the 'ticker.' In a moment, the air was white with curling streamers," and a new tradition, the now-famous New York ticker-tape parade, was born. As he stepped onto the island for the statue's dedication on October 28, 1886, Bartholdi told waiting reporters, "The dream of my life is accomplished." That afternoon, President Grover Cleveland unveiled Liberty Enlightening the World. She has done so by welcoming immigrants and visitors to America every day since.

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2630. Coat of Arms Medal



(2.1x)



(2.7x)

Photo courtesy of
Eric Spencer.

Obverse: A representation of the U.S. coat of arms with the spread eagle in glory, head to left, and an unusually shaped shield on its breast; in its right claw it holds four arrows and an olive branch; the left claw is empty; beneath is a banner proclaiming "E PLURIBUS UNUM" with a puff of cloud behind the banner to the right; above the eagle's head are thirteen five-pointed stars in two rows, seven above and six beneath; below near the rim: "BRICHAUT DIR."

Reverse: In a central disk: "1776 // 1876" with a five-pointed star above and ornate dash and five-pointed star below; clockwise around from 7:00: "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INDEPENDENCE"; in the outer ring between the central disk and the rim are twenty-four five-pointed stars.

Cross-refs: Not listed

Diameter: 30.4 mm. **Edge:**

Alloy	No.
Silver	2630si
Bronze	2630bz

This medal appears to have been based on the set of 19 Presidential medals executed by Brichaut, probably in 1861. The obverse is the same. The reverse is similar, with a 3-line inscription consisting of the last name of the each president, and his inauguration date on the next two lines. An example of the Washington medal is included at right for comparison.



Medals Struck in Foreign Countries

2640. Main Bldg/U.S. Grant



(1.4x)



(1.4x)

Obverse: The Main Building with an angel hovering above; around, above the angel, clockwise from 10:30: "IN COMMEMORATION OF"; below the building in four straight lines: "1776 THE UNITED STATES 1876 / CENTENNIAL / INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION / OPENED"; below that, around, counterclockwise from 7:00: "AT PHILADELPHIA 10 TH MAY 1876"; in exergue below the building, to left: "J. FREY. EDIT"; to right: "KAUFMANN"; centered below the building: "MAIN BUILDING".

Reverse: Military bust left of Grant; around, clockwise from 7:00: "GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. OF AMERICA"; in exergue: "KAUFMANN".

Struck in France.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 60.3 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Gilt 2640gi

Silver-plated 2640sp

Medals Struck in or by Foreign Countries

2650. President Ulysses S. Grant / Great Seal



(1.3x)

Images
courtesy of the
National Numismatic
Collection



(1.3x)

Obverse: Within an ornate frame with integral hanger, bust of Grant; clockwise around from 7:00: "GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. OF AMERICA"; in exergue: "KAUFMANN". The outer frame consists of an oak-leaf wreath with a six-petaled flower at 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, and 9:00; the wreath centered between inner and outer bead chains; the integral oval hanger decorated with a floral motif. Kaufmann was the engraver. The medal was struck in France. (Levine Auction #55, 4 December 1993, Lot #167. "Clearly the most spectacular medallic item issued in connection with the 1876 Centennial. Other than this piece, the only other auction appearance we can find is the Kessler-Spangenberg-Drefuss specimen, which brought \$990 in 1986." Sold for \$880 in 1993.)

Reverse: The national eagle, wings outstretched, in a glory of 32 stars and 96 rays, grasping an olive branch in its right claw and three arrows in its left; on its breast a shield with seven stars and nine stripes; perched atop a ribbon with "E PLURIBUS UNUM"; below: "1776 1876"; in exergue at left under the ribbon "J. FREY, EDIT."

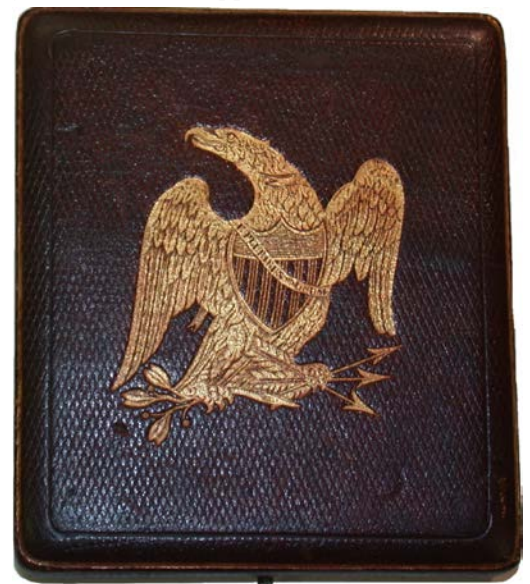
Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 61.5 mm **Frame:** 92.4 x 116 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Gilt 2650gi

This specimen was discovered in the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian. It is housed in a leather box, hinged at the back, with a spring-loaded catch in the front. The inventory slip states "dignitary's medal worn at the Centennial Exhibition."



Medals Struck in Foreign Countries

2660. Centennial Amulet



Red Clay
(2.2x)



Gray Clay
(2.2x)

Obverse: In the center, the U.S. shield above two crossed laurel branches; around from 9:30 to 2:30: "SOUVENIR D'AMÉRIQUE"; below, from 7:00 to 9:00, flanked left and right by a five-pointed star: "1776" and "1876" separated by a five-pointed star.

Reverse: In the center of this thick reddish composition amulet is a shield with three lions; around, from 9:00 to 3:00: "AMULETTE ODORIFÉRANTE"; below, from 7:00 to 5:00: "DE PERSE" flanked left and right by a five-pointed star.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: Red 36.7 mm.; gray 36.1 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.	Wt
Red Clay	2660rc	6.5 gm
Grey Clay	2660 gc	6.1 gm

This was apparently a scent-impregnated aromatic amulet intended to be carried in ladies' purses. The obverse French inscription hardly requires translation (Souvenir of America); the reverse translates to "Fragrant Amulet of Persia." The reverse design also exists with another obverse, unrelated to the U.S. Centennial, depicting a crescent moon, five-pointed star, and scimitar above the word "MÁRSHÁLÁ," the meaning of which is not known. (See image at right.)



Photo courtesy of
Jon Mark.

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2670. Netherlands Medal



(1.4x)



(1.4x)

Obverse: Medal in the shape of a eight-pointed star superimposed on a four-pointed star; the tips of the eight-pointed star terminate in a bead surrounded by a halo; the ends of the four-pointed star are plain, each with a series of three dots, each becoming slightly larger toward the point. In the center: "1876" on a disk bordered on the left by an oak branch, on the right by a laurel branch joined with a knot at the bottom; around the disk, a circlet with the words clockwise from 7:00: "INTERNATIONALE TENTOONSTELLING"; counterclockwise from 6:30: "UTRECHT"; with a dot to left and right separating the two inscriptions. At 12:00 is a finial pierced for suspension.

Reverse: Blank with a threaded stud.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

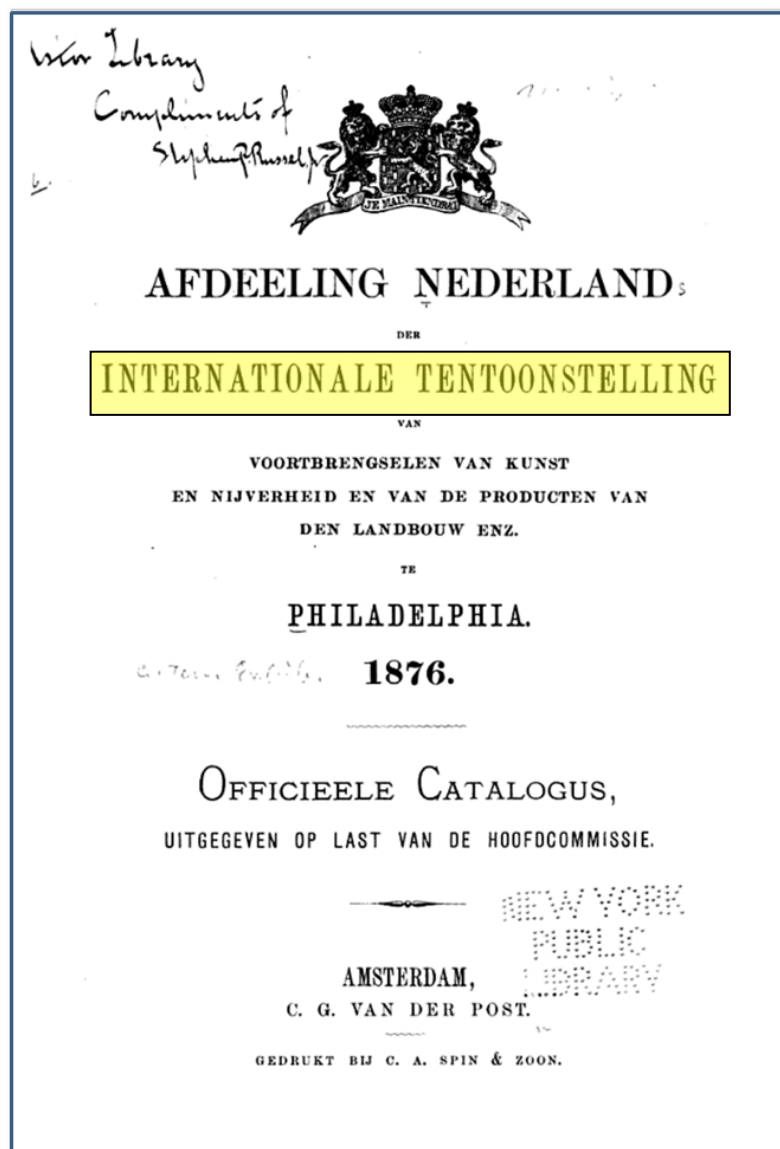
Diameter: 57 mm. **Edge:**

Alloy **No.**

White Metal 2670wm

I do not know for certain that this is in fact a medal issued for the U.S. Centennial. I know of no documentation that cites this medal, nor can I explain the significance of the reference to Utrecht, which is a province in the Netherlands, as well as the capital city of that province. The inscription on the obverse translates to "International Exhibition." There have been world fairs in Holland called INTERNATIONALE TENTOONSTELLING (in 1883 and 1914), but not in 1876. In fact, the only international exhibition held in 1876 was the one in Philadelphia. The Netherlands published a catalog in 1876 listing the artifacts in its exhibit at Philadelphia, and its title "Afdeeling Nederland den Internationale Tontoostelling" is evocative of the inscription on this medal (see below). It appears that this is, indeed, a U.S. Centennial medal. For now, it remains to be proven otherwise.

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(Translation)
Netherlands Department
at the
International Exhibition
of
The Products of Arts
And Crafts and of the Products of
Agriculture, etc.
at
Philadelphia
1876

Official Catalog
Financed by the Main Committee

Amsterdam
C.G. Van der Post
Printed by C.A. Spin and Zoon

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2680. Polish Medal



(1.4x)



(1.4x)

Photo courtesy of
iNumis.com

Obverse: Jugate portraits to left of Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski, Polish heroes of the American Revolution; clockwise from 8:00: "KOSCIUSZKO ET PULASKI POPULORUM LIBERTATIS MILITES" (Kosciuszko and Pulaski, soldiers in the army of liberty); below: "GODEBSKI SC. PATEY GR."

Reverse: **Undraped** portrait of Washington, left; clockwise from 7:00: "IN MEMORIAM CENTESIMI ANNIVERSARII AMERICAЕ LIBERTATIS CONDITAE" (In memory of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of American liberty); below, in three lines: "POLONI // 4 JULII // 1776-1876".

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 57 mm. **Edge:**

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 2680bz

On Oct. 12, 1876, a deputation from Poland, 20 strong, met with United States Minister Washburne at the American legation in Paris. Leading the deputation was M. Charles Edmund, a Pole and Librarian of the French of the French Senate, who was quoted as saying, "In the name of the Polish immigrants I deliver to your hands an address to the President of the United States written on the occasion of the glorious centenary which the Americans are commemorating; and also a medal representing the founder of American independence and two Polish heroes who fought in the liberating army." (See the NY Times article below.)

Henri Auguste Jules Patey (1855 - 1930) was a French sculptor, medalist, and coin engraver. Cyprian Godebski (1835 – 1909) was a Polish sculptor who was born and died in France.

THE POLES AND THE CENTENNIAL.

ADDRESS AND MEDAL PRESENTED TO MINISTER WASHBURNE FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE PRESIDENT BY POLISH EXILES.

PARIS, Oct. 12.—This afternoon a deputation of twenty Polish gentlemen delivered to United States Minister Washburne at the American legation, for transmission to President Grant, a special address and a medal struck on the occasion of the Centennial Exhibition. The medal on one side bears the effigy of Washington, and on the reverse the effigies of Kosciuszko and Pulaski. On handing the medal to Mr. Washburne, M. Charles Edmond, a Pole and Librarian of the French Senate, said: "In the name of the Polish emigrants I deliver to your hands an address to the President of the United States written on the occasion of the glorious centenary which the Americans are commemorating; and also a medal representing the founder of American independence and two Polish heroes who fought in the liberating army." Mr. Washburne made a cordial reply, and said: "Pending President Grant's answer he felt authorized to assure the deputation that he would be deeply touched by the honor they did him." Mr. Washburne also thanked the deputation on his own behalf, and said he shared their hopes for the establishment of liberty throughout the world. Several Americans were present, and the proceedings were most cordial.

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