

Introduction

The Centennial Exhibition was America's first World's Fair. As such, its primary purpose was to showcase America on the occasion of its 100th birthday. The attitude in America in 1876 during the Centennial could hardly have been more different than it was in 1976 for the Bicentennial. In 1876, America stood up and shouted to the world, "Hey, world, take a look. We're America – proud, competitive, innovative, and ready to prove it! Bring us the best you've got, and let's see whose is better."

America's competitive spirit and pride in its accomplishments made the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition not only a world-wide contest but also a competition among the states. Forty-nine countries accepted our invitation to display their best, and nineteen built their own buildings at the fair. All 38 states of the newly reunified union were represented, and nineteen had their own buildings, if you count Tennessee's tent!

Nowadays, the most likely "innovation" to make headlines at state and county fairs is the latest and wierdest entry in the "deep fat frying category" – fried Snickers, fried Twinkies, even fried butter! At the Centennial Exhibition, on the other hand, Alexander Graham Bell introduced the telephone, H.J. Heinz debuted catsup, and Charles Hires introduced the world to root beer. The Remington typewriter, the Otis passenger elevator, Pullman railroad cars, Goodyear tires, Pratt & Whitney engines, the Corliss steam engine, the sewing machine, the General Leroy Stone's steam-powered monorail, bananas served in tin foil, and the Statue of Liberty (at least part of it) were all showcased.

George B. Grant even demonstrated a mechanical calculator! It measured 5 feet by 8 feet, weighed 2,000 pounds, had over 15,000 parts, and could calculate only 10-12 terms per minute. As for the Statue of Liberty, despite its being intended as France's Centennial gift to America, all that was completed in time were the head and the right arm holding the torch. The head was displayed in Paris, while Philadelphia fair-goers could pay fifty cents to climb a ladder into the balcony around the torch.

Not everything introduced at the 1876 world's fair turned out to be a success, though. The kudzu vine made its first American appearance as part of the landscaping in the Japanese Pavilion. It quickly became popular as a forage crop and a soil cover; but, due to its aggressive growth upward and outward as much as a hundred feet a season, it is now known as the "plant that ate the south," where it is rumored that the best way to plant kudzu is to drop it and run.

With all these new introductions and inventions, it's no surprise that competition, judging, and awards became a dominant element in the course of the exhibition, which ran from May 10, 1876, until November 10, 1876. There were so many judges, judging categories, and competitive events that the judges had their own building (Judges' Hall), and the final list of awards filled several volumes after the fair. Perhaps it was the sheer staggering volume of it all that prompted the judges to come up with a novel way to streamline the process. In lieu of the traditional gold, silver, and bronze medals to be awarded on the basis of merit, there would be only one official award medal, and it would be made of bronze. Every exhibitor deemed worthy of mention would receive the same medal. Any differences in quality would be recognized in the text of an accompanying certificate (often called a diploma) where the relative merits of the entry would be cited.

As a result, the official Centennial Award Medal is arguably the most common Centennial medal of all, because over 12,000 identical 3-inch bronze medals were awarded at the Centennial Exhibition. Fortunately for us collectors, Julian lists three versions of the medal, and there were lots of contemporary reproductions manufactured for award recipients to use as advertising and marketing pieces. In addition, there were several "private but official" award medals, because the judging rules stated that privately-produced medals could be awarded as long as they were provided to the judges in advance and given only to the competitors selected by the judges. Interestingly, these private award medals are among the rarest of all Centennials, with some of them being unique and perhaps no longer extant.

Centennial Awards

580. Trial (4") Commission Award with Reverse Inscription



(0.8 x)

Proxy Pix:
Obverse of A-580
with enlarged
reverse of A-600.



(0.8x)

Obverse: In the center, a female figure, representing the United States, seated facing left on a brick wall, holds a crown in her extended right hand; her left hand rests on an oval shield emblazoned with the national eagle and shield; behind her is a factory with smoking stack and before her are implements of manufacture and art: a cog wheel, a bow saw, a vase, and a sculptured bust. On a slightly raised margin, with the inner edge beaded, are four oval panels interspersed with stars, clockwise as follows: top oval, 9 stars, right oval, 10 stars, bottom oval, 10 stars, left oval, 9 stars. The ovals depict seated female figures representing geographic regions: the top oval depicts America, seated facing right, with an eagle and rising sun; the right oval depicts Africa, seated facing right, with palm trees and pyramids; the lower oval depicts Asia, seated facing right, with Indian and Chinese temples; and the left oval depicts Europe, seated facing left, with Grecian temples and Gothic spires. In exergue, HENRY MITCHELL DES. & SC. BOSTON, U.S.A.

Reverse: Within a wreath of two laurel branches open at the top and crossed at the bottom: "AWARDED BY / UNITED STATES / CENTENNIAL / COMMISSION", outside the wreath, within a beaded border: "INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, / PHILADELPHIA, MDCCCLXXVI."

After a few (Holland says five) trial pieces of this 4-inch medal were struck, the Director of the Mint, James Pollock, decided that it was too large to be struck in the quantity and timeframe required. He ordered smaller, three-inch, dies to be engraved.

Cross-refs: H-96, J-AM12.

Diameter: 101.5 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 580bz

Bronzed WM 580wm

White Metal 580wm

Lot #1776,,NASCA Kessler-Spangenberg Collection, April 1981

Lot #1775,,NASCA Kessler-Spangenberg Collection, April 1981

Copper uniface shells of the obverse and the reverse from these dies are known (Lot 1774, NASCA Kessler-Spangenberg Collection, April 1981 and Lot 771, Bowers and Ruddy Willing Collection Sale, June 1976)

590. Trial (4") Commission Award without Reverse Inscription



(0.8x)



(0.8x)

Obverse: Same as the preceding. In the center, a female figure, representing the United States, seated facing left on a brick wall, holds a crown in her extended right hand; her left hand rests on an oval shield emblazoned with the national eagle and shield; behind her is a factory with smoking stack and before her are implements of manufacture and art: a cog wheel, a bow saw, a vase, and a sculptured bust. On a slightly raised margin, with the inner edge beaded, are four oval panels interspersed with stars, clockwise as follows: top oval, 9 stars, right oval, 10 stars, bottom oval, 10 stars, left oval, 9 stars. The ovals depict seated female figures representing geographic regions: the top oval depicts America, seated facing right, with an eagle and rising sun; the right oval depicts Africa, seated facing right, with palm trees and pyramids; the lower oval depicts Asia, seated facing right, with Indian and Chinese temples; and the left oval depicts Europe, seated facing left, with Grecian temples and Gothic spires. In exergue, HENRY MITCHELL DES. & SC. BOSTON, U.S.A.

Reverse: Outside a wreath of two laurel branches open at the top and crossed at the bottom, within a beaded border: "INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, / PHILADELPHIA, MDCCCLXXVI." Inside the wreath is engraved: "TO / Edward Schippen Esq. / for Services."

After the last of the three-inch medals were struck, the Mint received private orders for the four-inch medal. These medals omit the inscription inside the laurel wreath on the reverse and have the longer exergual line below the seated figure. Between September, 1877, and June, 1878, 23 silver and 123 bronze medals were struck in this larger, more impressive size.

Cross-refs: J-AM11.

Diameter: 101.5 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Silver 590si

27 silver large award medals were struck by the mint.

Bronze 590bz

123 bronze medals were struck by the Mint.

Centennial Awards

The “Unique” Four-inch Silver Award



In 2009, Stack’s offered at auction the only known remaining silver four-inch award medal. The following is taken from the lot description of that offering:

“Initial planning for this important celebration included the bestowing of substantial numbers of award medals in this imposing 4-inch diameter in silver and bronzed copper. Engraver Mitchell finished the massive steel dies in early October 1876, and the first 4-inch medal was struck at the Philadelphia Mint on October 16. However, Coiner Oliver C. Bosbyshell soon notified Director James Pollock that it would be impossible to produce a sufficient quantity of medals in this imposing size in a timely manner using the Mint's existing equipment.

“He recommended reducing the size of medals for award to three inches. Hubs for this smaller size were received on June 30, 1877, and working dies were made in early March. Even these smaller medals had to be subcontracted to the prominent Philadelphia concern of Peter L. Krider in order to assure a sufficient supply. Krider struck several thousand pieces.

“The four-inch medals began their career as rarities. Julian states that only 27 Silver and 123 bronzed copper four-inch medals were struck by the Philadelphia Mint between September 1877 and June 1878. In 2009, however, only one Silver example is known to exist with absolute certainty, and that is the medal offered here. Institutional collections including the Smithsonian Institution do not contain this imposing medallic rarity.

“A clue to this amazing rarity's existence is provided by the name, rank, and titles of its recipient, Charles Henry Gordon-Lennox, Duke of Richmond, Duke of Gordon, Earl of March, Baron of County York; Duke of Lennox, Earl of Darnley Baron Methuen, and Earl of Kinrora. He was President of Board of Trade (1870-1876) and served as Secretary for Scotland in 1885-1886. The Duke was an intimate friend of Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales.

“When the great International Exhibition was opened in Philadelphia, the Duke was already far advanced in the world of British politics and government. He played a leading role in planning and directing the British exhibits at the Philadelphia gathering. The British pavilion and associated exhibits were by far the most extensive of any participating nation. The Duke's reception of this glorious medal was a testimony to his stature at the event and in the wider world. The reverse is engraved ‘His Grace / the Duke of / RICHMOND & GORDON KG’. KG denotes that he was a Knight in the Order of the Garter.” The medal, uncirculated in its original case sold for \$11,500.

However...



*Images courtesy of
Jeff Dan.*

On 7 September 2012, Jeff Dan sent the above photos of the second known 4" silver Award Medal. This second specimen, which is in VG condition and appears to have been cleaned, without its case, sold on eBay for \$5,100.

600. Trial (4") Commission Award Uniface



Obverse: Same as the preceding. In the center, a female figure, representing the United States, seated facing left on a brick wall, holds a crown in her extended right hand; her left hand rests on an oval shield emblazoned with the national eagle and shield; behind her is a factory with smoking stack and before her are implements of manufacture and art: a cog wheel, a bow saw, a vase, and a sculptured bust. On a slightly raised margin, with the inner edge beaded, are four oval panels interspersed with stars, clockwise as follows: top oval, 9 stars, right oval, 10 stars, bottom oval, 10 stars, left oval, 9 stars. The ovals depict seated female figures representing geographic regions: the top oval depicts America, seated facing right, with an eagle and rising sun; the right oval depicts Africa, seated facing right, with palm trees and pyramids; the lower oval depicts Asia, seated facing right, with Indian and Chinese temples; and the left oval depicts Europe, seated facing left, with Grecian temples and Gothic spires. In exergue, HENRY MITCHELL DES. & SC. BOSTON, U.S.A.

Reverse: Blank.

Diameter: 101.5 mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

White Metal 600wm

It appears from the look of the reverse that this die trial is the product of what is called powder metallurgy. It started either as an obverse shell that was filled with fine powdered metal, compacted into the shell, and then sintered, or as a planchet that had been formed by powder metallurgy and then struck with the obverse die.

610. Production (3") Award Medal



(1.1x)



(1.1x)

Obverse: In the center, a female figure, representing the United States, seated facing left on a brick wall, holds a crown in her extended right hand; her left hand rests on an oval shield emblazoned with the national eagle and shield; behind her is a factory with smoking stack and before her are implements of manufacture and art: a cog wheel, a bow saw, a vase, and a sculptured bust. On a slightly raised margin, with the inner edge beaded, are four oval panels interspersed with stars, clockwise as follows: top oval, 9 stars, right oval, 10 stars, bottom oval, 10 stars, left oval, 9 stars. The ovals depict seated female figures representing geographic regions: the top oval depicts America, seated facing right, with an eagle and rising sun; the right oval depicts Africa, seated facing right, with palm trees and pyramids; the lower oval depicts Asia, seated facing right, with Indian and Chinese temples; and the left oval depicts Europe, seated facing left, with Grecian temples and Gothic spires. H. MITCHELL. SC. on exergual line to left.

Reverse: Within a wreath of two laurel branches open at the top and crossed at the bottom: "AWARDED BY / UNITED STATES / CENTENNIAL / COMMISSION", outside the wreath, within a beaded border: "INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, / PHILADELPHIA, MDCCCLXXVI." Engraved, "FOR SERVICES" between the inner inscription and the wreath. This was a relatively common practice when the Centennial Exhibition Board of Finance wished to honor someone for services rendered.

This is the smaller three-inch medal ordered by the Director of the Mint after deciding that the four-inch version would be impractical in the numbers required. The Mint struck about 3,000 of these and commissioned Philadelphia medallist Peter Krider to produce about 9,000, for a total of 12,000 medals, which were awarded to the exhibitors at the Philadelphia Exposition. Julian states that the medals were awarded with no names engraved on them, but examples are known with awardees' names engraved on the reverse and on the edge, most likely by the recipients themselves. The pictured example was presented by the Centennial Commission to someone (unnamed) for services rendered to the Centennial Exhibition.

Cross-refs: F-320, H-97, J-AM-10.

Centennial Awards

Diameter: 76.4mm.

Edge: Plain

Alloy

No.

Bronze

610bz

3,000 bronze medals were struck by the Mint, and the other 9,000 were struck under contract to Peter Krider, a Philadelphia medallist

Gilt

610gi

The example pictured below was most likely gilded outside the Mint, either contemporaneously by an award recipient, or in more modern times, in which case it should be considered an altered original or complete counterfeit. Collectors should decide for themselves. In either case, it measures 75.14 mm in diameter and 10.6 mm thick at the rim.



Replica Award Medals

While there were about 12,000 bronze award medals handed out at the Centennial Exhibition, only one medal and one certificate were given to each recipient. But, business is business, and, common though the medals were, the advertising opportunities associated with winning an award were too good to settle for only one medal, and creative entrepreneurs were only too happy to satisfy the demand. In fact, in a letter dated 1 November 1876, only nine days before the end of the Centennial Exhibition, The Rand Avery Company, Boston printers, circulated the following letter to award recipients:



Rand. Avery & Co.

Printers, Boston

Dear Sir,

Boston,
Nov. 1, 1876

The accompanying are facsimiles of the Medals awarded by the United States Centennial Commission made to the exact size of the originals.

We shall be pleased to incorporate them into any work you may have growing out of the result of your Exhibit and can guarantee you as elegant an outfit of advertising matter as you can obtain from any office in the Country. Priced low to suit the times. Trusting we may be favored with a valued order,

We remain your obt [obedient] servant,
Rand. Avery & Co.

Centennial Awards

The Rand Avery facsimiles discussed above are similar to the next two medals. Since they are replicas of actual medals, they are not given numbers in this catalog.

Commission Award Cast Copy



(~1.1x)



(~1.1x)

In white metal, in two known diameters, 75 mm. and 72.5 mm, though there might well be others. One should not expect high QA standards for objects that are marketed as copies. Compared to the original struck medals with a diameter of 76.2 mm., and keeping in mind that molten metal shrinks slightly after cooling in a casting mold, it appears that the 75 mm. was cast from an original medal; and that the 72.5 mm. copy might have been cast from one of the 75 mm. (or smaller) copies.

Both of the copies that I have examined have plain edges with signs of machining marks, including a uniformly straight mark indicating that the medals were cast in obverse and reverse halves, then joined (in metallurgy, referred to as lapping), and machined to smooth the edge. This machining could also account for some of the variability in diameter.

Below is a photo of a reverse half with flashing still attached. This example appears to be made of lead and then bronzed. Though I have not seen an example, it would be possible for a bronzed obverse and reverse to be joined with the edge then milled. In such a case, the diameter might vary from the Mint standard of 76.2, and the edge would most likely exhibit milling marks, especially at the joint line.



Diameter: 75.6mm (the round portion). **Edge:** Plain

Alloy Bronzed lead

Another common example of award medal advertising pieces is the uniface plaque. They can be found in both obverse and reverse examples, and the blank back side can be plain or fitted with some sort of attachment mechanism, such as the stud and the binder clip below.



Diameter: 76.1mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy Bronzed lead

Centennial Awards

Other Advertising Replica Awards



Diameter: 75.2 (the round portion)mm. **Edge:** Plain
Alloy Bronzed lead



Diameter: 75.6 (the round portion)mm. **Edge:** Plain
Alloy Bronzed lead

Another type of advertising award medal is a shell depicting either the obverse or the reverse, with the back consisting of a negative impression of the front. The shell illustrated below has four bendable tabs used for mounting. It is approximately the size of a silver dollar.



Diameter: 39.9 mm **Edge:** Plain

Alloy Brass

Framed Award Electroplate



Photo courtesy of Andy Kaufman, copyright 4th Dimension Collectibles, all rights reserved.

Obverse: An electroplate shell of the reverse that measures 1-5/8" in diameter mounted in a decorative frame with bottom and side tabs that, when bent backward, allow the frame to stand vertically. With the tabs removed or wrapping around a backing mount, the frame could be hung from the center hole.

Reverse: A negative of the obverse.

Overall Size: 6 1/2 inches wide x 2 1/2 inches high

Centennial Awards

Another company that offered facsimile award medals was Russell & Richardson, also of Boston. The composite reproduction (front and back) of their advertising broadside is reproduced below. Of course, the mere existence of a piece of advertising ephemera is evidence but not proof of the existence, past or present, of the items being advertised. I have not seen any of the advertised pieces, a complete collection of the advertised items would be interesting indeed. The set would consist of at least nine pieces, including representations of two separate uniface (obverse and reverse) as well as joined, all three available in three different diameters: four inches, two inches, and one inch. The broadside does not mention additional alloys in which the facsimiles might be available, but each additional alloy would add nine more possible facsimiles to the collection.



OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, PHILADELPHIA, 1876.

THE above engraving of the Medal awarded by the *United States Centennial Commission* is the exact size of the original.

It has been engraved by RUSSELL & RICHARDSON, of Boston, under the personal supervision of HENRY MITCHELL, ESQ., by whom the Design and Die were made, and is the *ONLY CORRECT* and *AUTHORIZED* representation.

To meet the wants of Exhibitors and Advertisers the cuts have been made of three sizes, viz :

No. 1,—FULL SIZE, OR FOUR INCHES DIAMETER.

No. 2,—HALF SIZE, OR TWO INCHES DIAMETER.

No. 3,—ONE-FOURTH, OR ONE INCH DIAMETER.

WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO FURNISH ELECTROTYPES AT THE FOLLOWING PRICES:

No. 1, {	Both sides lapped, as above,	\$5 00	No. 2, {	Both sides, lapped,.....	\$3 00	No. 3, {	Both sides, lapped,.....	\$2 00
	" " separate,.....	5 50		" " separate,.....	3 25		" " separate,.....	2 00
	One side,.....	3 00		One side,.....	2 00			

The Electros, securely packed and ready for the printer, will be sent free of expense, to any part of the United States, on receipt of price.

ADDRESS,

RUSSELL & RICHARDSON,
DESIGNERS AND ENGRAVERS,
194 WASHINGTON ST., BOSTON.

Be careful to designate the Size and Style desired.

620. Porcelain Commission Award Copy



(1.3x)



(1.3x)

Obverse: An excellent copy of the original medal, right down to the not quite legible but still decipherable "H. MITCHELL. SC." in exergue beneath America's feet! A side-by-side comparison leads me to suspect that a reducing jig of some sort was used to produce the mold from an original medal.

Reverse: Blank

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 64.6mm. **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Porcelain 620pn

This specimen has been framed in wood, as below:



Centennial Awards

630. Machinery Exhibitors Medal



(0.56 x)

(0.56 x)

Obverse: According to Holland: "In the gold field is 1776-CENTENNIAL-1876 surrounded by thirty-seven platina stars. Around it is AMERICA EUROPE ASIA AFRICA in relief, with engraved emblems of Agriculture, Science, Art, and Commerce between."

Reverse: According to Holland: "A wreath of laurel and oak clasped by an American shield in colored enamel; and within it PRESENTED TO F.S. PEASE BY EXHIBITORS OF MACHINERY MDCCCLXXVI. Outside is INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION PHILADELPHIA. And engraved Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. At top a globe, flags, and eagle in gold."

According to an article in the Boston Globe in 1876, Mr. Francis Stebbins Pease manufactured fine lubricating and heating oils. He not only exhibited his oils at the Philadelphia Exposition, but he provided the lubrication for all the machinery at the Exposition, including about three miles of shafting and 20,000 journals and bearings. He received three award medals for his exhibits, and his fellow exhibitors presented him with a special award and certificate for his exhibits as a matter of scientific value. The medal was manufactured by the jewelers and silversmiths Theodore Starr and Hermann Marcus of New York City. It is likely that this award is the medal cited by Holland as number 123 and that the medal is, therefore, one of a kind. I do not know whether it still exists.

Cross-refs: H-123.

Diameter: 136.5 mm. **Edge:** **Flip:** **Rim:**

Alloy **No.**

Enamel 630en

Cross-ref: Holland 123

640. National Butter and Egg Association Award



(x)

(x)

Obverse: Unknown

Reverse: Unknown

As reported in the October 25, 1876 issue of the New York Times, "The Centennial Judges on Dairy Products began their examination of the butter and cheese display in the Dairy Building yesterday. Upon their decision depends not only the award of the Centennial Commission, but also the solid gold medal for the best exhibits of butter voted by the National Butter and Egg Association." The Autumn Butter and Cheese Special Display at the Centennial Expo took place from October 17th to October 21st. On October 18, 1876, the NY Times reported that at a meeting of the National Butter and Eggs Association "a discussion was also held relative to a gold and silver medal which the association desires to award for the best display of butter and cheese, and it was decided to refer the matter to the Centennial Judges in Dairy Products." This was in keeping with the USCC requirement that non-USCC medals can be awarded during the Centennial, but only if they are provided to the Judges in advance and if the awards are based on the decision of the Centennial Judges. No other information is known to this author about these medals.

Cross-refs: Not Listed.

Diameter: ?. **Edge:** ?

Alloy	No.
Gold	640go
Silver	640si

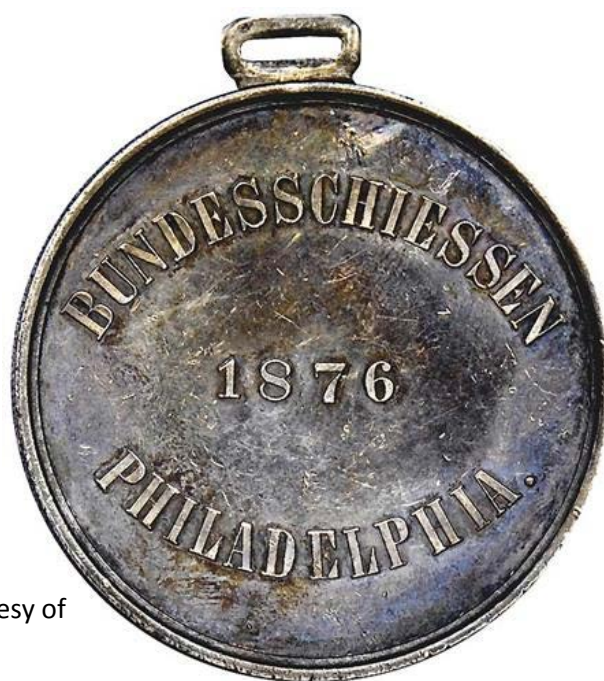
Centennial Awards

650. Philadelphia Bundesschiessen



(Photo courtesy of
Stack's)

(1.6 x)



(1.6 x)

Obverse: In the center, a spread eagle in glory perched on a marksman's target with two crossed muskets behind, the whole within crossed oak branch left and laurel branch right; emblazoned on a banner below the target and in front of the wreath stems: "CONCORD"; around, clockwise from 12:30 "schiesSEN" "SCHÜTZENBUND DER VEREINIGTEN STAATEN VON NORDAMERIKA" (Protective Federation of the United States of North America).

Reverse: In three lines, the top and bottom curved: "BUNDESSCHIESSEN / 1876 / PHILADELPHIA." (Federal Shooting Match, 1876, Philadelphia).

In the 22 March 1876 issue #12 of *Deutsche Schützen und Wehr Zeitung*, *Zeitschrift zur Besprechung von Schützen* (German Shooters and Defense Newspaper, a Magazine for Discussion among Shooters), there is an article announcing the "North American Federal Shooting Match on June 26 to July 3, 1876 in Philadelphia." It is likely that this medal came from that match. There were at least three national shooting matches in the U.S. held in honor of the Centennial. There was this one at Philadelphia, the NRA's Centennial Match held on the Creedmoor range in New York on September 13, 1876, and another on September 25 on Benning's range in Washington D.C. for which the Irish and Australian Centennial Shooting Medals (q.v.) were awarded.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 48.2 mm. **Edge:** ?

Alloy **No.**

White Metal 650wm

660. Washington Shooting Match Irish Award



(x)

(x)

Obverse: A five-pointed star in gold with a diamond embedded in each point; in the center, an engraving of the Capitol building; to the left: "1776"; to the right: "1876"; below, a black and white enameled target with a diamond as its bullseye; above, two crossed rifles joined together at the top and secured to the upper point of the star by a miniature laurel wreath in gold; hanging from a pin in the form of a solid gold eagle with outstretched wings with an American flag in one talon and an Irish flag in the other.

Reverse: Presumed to be blank.

The description of this medal is taken directly from an article in the NY Times dated September 25, 1876, describing the rifle matches held that day at Benning's range in Washington D.C. between the American team and challenging foreign teams. The Irish residents of the District of Columbia presented the Irish medal to the member of the Irish team with the highest score. The medal weighed sixty pennyweights (93.3 grams) and was valued at \$300 at the time of its award. The medal was won by Major Fenton, who scored 173 out of a possible 200 points. It is likely that this medal is unique, if it still exists.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: ? mm. **Edge:** ?

Alloy **No.**

Gold 660go

670. Washington Shooting Match Australian Award



(x)

(x)

Obverse: “A pin in the form of an eagle; the pendant is a six-pointed star. At the top of the star is a view of the Capitol in enamel, and a target with a diamond for the bull;s-eye. Beneath are two rifles crossed and the figures "1876". A golden ribbon runs through the six points of the star and encircles the whole.”

Reverse: Presumed to be blank.

The description of this medal is taken from an article in the 1 October 1876 issue of the NY Times. The Australian medal was won by a man named Slade, who scored 170 out of a possible 200 points. Like the Irish medal, it is likely that this medal is unique, if it still exists.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: ? mm. **Edge:** ?

Alloy **No.**

? 670go

680. New York Shooting Match Palma Medal



Artist's rendition of the Palma medal taken from a 1976 Bicentennial box of Winchester ammo.



The 1923 Palma medal, claimed to be the same design as the original 1876 medal.

Obverse: A replica of an ancient Roman Legion standard, consisting of a banner draped with a chain of nine rings, above which stands the Roman eagle displayed (wings outstretched) holding in its talons a palm wreath. In front of the wreath is a tablet on which is engraved "PALMA," representing victory. On the banner is the inscription: "IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE RIFLEMEN OF THE WORLD."

Reverse: Blank.

This International Long Range (1,000 yards) Rifle Match was sanctioned by the US Centennial Commission, sponsored by the National Rifle Association, and held at the NRA-operated Creedmoor Range on Long Island on September 13 and 14, 1876. The NRA awarded the winning team the American Centennial trophy, which was a full-sized replica of a Roman Legion standard seven and one half feet tall produced by Tiffany and Co. in gold, silver, and bronze at a cost of \$1,500. The original trophy was lost sometime after 1964, and a duplicate has since replaced it (at a cost of \$32,500!). The Palma Match is the longest continuously running international rifle match in history.

Four teams participated. America finished first, followed by Ireland, Scotland Australia, and Canada, in that order. Each of the eight members of the winning team received the Palma medal representing (and designed after) the trophy, as well as a Centennial Award Medal and a diploma from the United States Centennial Commission..

Cross-refs: Not listed.



The Centennial Trophy

690. International Rowing Regatta



(Photo courtesy of
an anonymous donor)

(x)

(x)

Obverse: A single male oarsman facing right rowing a one-man scull, bare-chested, wearing belted shorts and a bandana; above, a cartouche bearing the SN (for Schuylkill Navy) monogram with a five-pointed star beneath, a pair of crossed laurel branches and a large banner, the left and right end folds of which read: "1776" and "1876", respectively; below, a second pair of crossed laurel branches surmounted by a second cartouche with two swords; the whole enclosed by a band composed of eight concentric rods bound with fourteen double lashes separating the bundle into thirteen segments, each of which holds a five-pointed star.

Reverse: Inside the same decorative lashed 13-star border as on the obverse is inscribed, clockwise from 9:30: "INTERNATIONAL REGATTA" and counterclockwise from 8:00: "PHILADELPHIA . 1876 ."; two five-pointed stars separate the two inscriptions. The center is blank for engraving to the recipient.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

In 1876, the U.S. Centennial Commission sponsored international regattas as part of the official Centennial celebration, a yacht regatta in New York Harbor and a rowing regatta in Philadelphia. The Centennial Commission awarded their Commission medals and diplomas to the victors in both events. In addition, the Schuylkill Navy, which hosted the rowing regatta on the Schuylkill River, offered gold, silver, and bronze medals to winning participants.

The Schuylkill Navy is a group of rowing clubs in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It takes its name from the Schuylkill River (pronounced then as now by Philadelphians as Skoo-kull) along which the clubs' elegant Victorian boathouses are located. Founded in 1858, the Schuylkill Navy is the oldest governing body for amateur sporting clubs in the United States. To this day Philadelphia is one of the main centers of sport rowing in the United States, and the rowing clubs of the Schuylkill Navy are important institutions in the traditional social life of the Philadelphia gentry.

The regatta was sanctioned by the National Association for Amateur Oarsmen, which was the first national governing body for any sport in the United States. Founded in 1872, its name was changed in 1982 to the United States Rowing Association. The International Regatta of 1876 was the largest ever held in the United States up to that time. The races took place from August 20 to September 15, 1876.

The races were run over a 1-½-mile course on the Schuylkill River in view of the grounds of the International Exposition in Philadelphia.

Diameter: mm.		Edge:
Alloy	No.	
Gold	690go	} According to page 639 of Vol. VIII of the U.S. Commission's "Reports and Awards."
Silver	690si	
Bronze	690bz	

Centennial Awards

700. French Govt Participation



Photos of the gold medal courtesy of a private collector.

(1.6x)

(1.6x)

Obverse: Athena Pallas, Greek goddess of war (Minerva in Roman mythology) in helmet and gown, seated on a throne, holding a wreath in her extended right hand and another in her lap with her left hand; around, clockwise from 8:00: "EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILADELPHIE EN 1876"; in exergue in two lines: "PARTICIPATION DE LA / FRANCE".

Reverse: Near the rim, clockwise around from 8:00: "MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE ET DU COMMERCE" surrounding a closed wreath, tied at the bottom with a ribbon, on top of which is a button with a five-petaled floret; the central area is blank, intended for engraving.

According to Levine: “Although unsigned, this medal shows the workmanship associated with the Paris Mint. The seated figure of Minerva is an almost identical rendition of one done by Bertrand Andreau in 1810. The inscription in the exergue suggests that the medal was intended as the premier award for French exhibitors at the Centennial Exhibition. It is extremely rare in any metal. When we offered a silver example in our 1987 Whitehead Collection, we noted that the piece was unknown to Spangenberg and other 1876 specialists.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Diameter: 50.8 mm. **Edge:** Lettered.

Alloy	No.	Note
Gold	700go	Edgemarked "OR" with the hallmark of a bee.
Silver	700si	Edgemarked "ARGENT" with the hallmark of a bee.
Bronze	700bz	Edgemarked "CUIVRE" with the hallmark of a bee.

The French Participation medal was presented in leather cases with the name of the awardee embossed in gold on the cover.

Mr. M. GAUTIER BELLON exhibited silk velvets.

Mr. BITTERLIN FILS P. was Paul Bitterlin, Jr., a painter, engraver, and glassblower in Paris in 1876., who exhibited glassware at the Exhibition

Mr. BOUCHET GRAVET exhibited ornamental clocks in Group XI, Jewelry, silverware, watch cases, silver, bronzes, etc. (case pictured left).



Photo courtesy of
Gabriel Iliescu.

Photo courtesy of an
anonymous donor.

Centennial Awards

710. Westchester Scholarship Medal



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the approximate shape of a Polonais escutcheon with diamond-shaped devices left, right, above, and below; within a clover shaped sunken field, ornately engraved in six lines: "Centennial Medal / for / Scholarship / and / Good / Deportment."

Reverse: Within a similarly shaped area sunken field, in seven lines: "TO / Annie Stoddart / Dis^t / N^o 1 / Westchester, / N.Y. / July 4th 1876."

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Size 54 mm high x 38.1mm.wide **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.
Silver	700si

720. Morris Selz Academic Award, Type 1



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the shape of the Liberty Bell, in seven lines: SELZ / LIBERTY BELL MEDAL / 1776 / AWA5RDED FOR / PROFICIENCY IN / SCHOLARSHIP AND DEPORTMENT / SELZ. CHICAGO.” Suspended from a pin-backed bar inscribed: “AWARDED FOR / HIGHEST AVERAGE”.

Reverse: Suspended from the pin-backed bar, in two lines separated by a sunburst: “DONATED BY / SELZ,CHICAGO.”

Suspended from a pin inscribed: “AWARD FOR / “HIGHEST AVERAGE”. The pin and the medal are most likely interchangeable, depending on the awardee.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Size Medal: 38 mm high x 37.6 mm.wide Hanger: 32.4 mm wide x 8.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.
Bronze	720si

Centennial Awards

730. Morris Selz Academic Award, Type 2



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the shape of the Liberty Bell, in six lines: “FOR / PROFICIENCY / IN / SCHOLARSHIP / AND / DEPARTMENT”; below, the Selz logo: a parallelogram with “SELZ / CHICAGO” superimposed on a circle with a crown above and “U.S.A.” in a rectangle below. Suspended from a pin-backed bar inscribed “LIBERTY BELL / MEDAL”.

Reverse: Suspended from the pin-backed bar, in THREE lines: “DONATED / BY / MORRIS SELZ, / CHICAGO.”

Suspended from a pin inscribed: “LIBERTY BELL / MEDAL”. The pin and the medal are most likely interchangeable, depending on the awardee.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Size Medal: 38 mm high x 37.6 mm.wide Hanger: 32.4 mm wide x 8.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy	No.
Bronze	730si

740. Morris Selz Academic Award, Type 3



(2.1x)



(2.1x)

Obverse: In the shape of the Liberty Bell, in seven lines: MORRIS SELZ / LIBERTY BELL MEDAL / 1776 / AWASRDED FOR / PROFICIENCY IN / SCHOLARSHIP / AND DEPARTMENT". Suspended from a pin-backed bar inscribed: "AWARDED FOR / HIGHEST AVERAGE".

Reverse: Suspended from the pin-backed bar, the Selz logo: "SELZ / CHICAGO" a parallelogram superimposed on a circle with a crown above and "U.S.A." in a rectangle below.

Suspended from a pin inscribed: "AWARD FOR / GIGHEST AVERAGE". The pin and the medal are most likely interchangeable, depending on the awardee.

Cross-refs: Not listed.

Size Medal: 38 mm high x 37.6 mm.wide Hanger: 32.4 mm wide x 8.9 mm high **Edge:** Plain

Alloy **No.**

Bronze 740si