

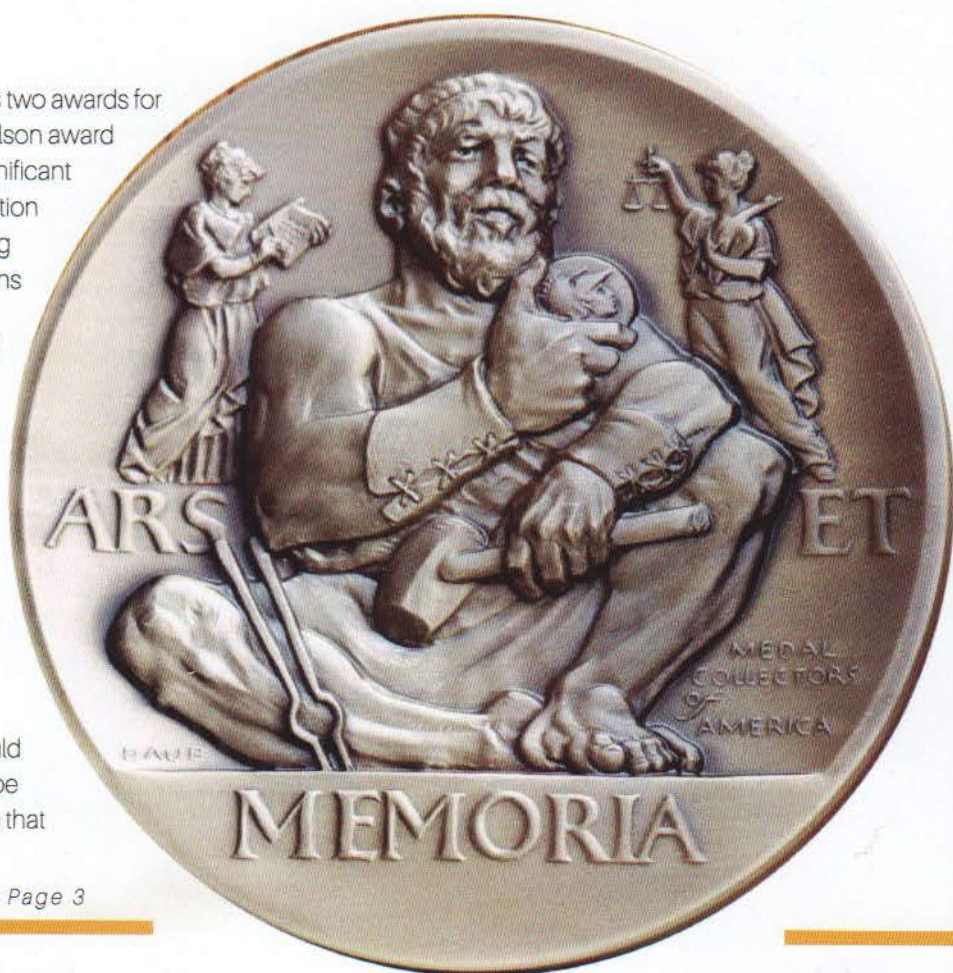


HEPHAESTUS MEDAL

NEW MEDAL FOR MEDAL COLLECTORS OF AMERICA

Every year the Medal Collectors of America presents two awards for scholarship in the field of medallic research. The Carlson award is given to an individual deemed to have made a significant and impactful contribution over time, and for publication of that research. It is named for Carl W. Carlson, a long time curator of the Garrett Collection at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, who went on to catalog for Paramount, NASCA and Stacks. His writing style and in-depth research on items that he cataloged paved the way for a generation of new research catalogers. The second award is named for Georgia Stamm Chamberlaine (1910-1961). Chamberlain was a prolific researcher and writer on American medals, medalists and die-sinkers. Her numerous articles appeared with regularity in *The Numismatist*. The MCA, Chamberlain award is given every year to a promising newcomer in the field of medallic research. In 2017, the Board of Directors of the Medal Collectors decided that it would be more appropriate for winners of these awards to be presented with an actual medal, rather than a plaque that had previously served this purpose.

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HEPHAESTUS MEDAL 'ISSUED BY MEDAL COLLECTORS OF AMERICA

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A committee was charged with designing a single concept that would be worthy of, and appropriate for both awards. Of primary concern was a desire to avoid using the typical, stylistic devices often associated with medals of this type, coin press, eagles etc. The medal shown here reflects the outcome of the work of that committee. The obverse depicts Hephaestus, the Greek god of artisans, craftsmen and sculptors, whose symbols typically include the hammer, anvil and tongs. In Roman mythology his equivalent was the god Vulcan. On this medal, he is shown contemplating his most recent creation, a medal of Athena, while Clio, the muse of history, stands over his right shoulder and Mnemosyne, the goddess of memory, stands over his left. The whole neatly reflects the newly adopted motto of the MCA, *Ars et Memoria* (Art and Memory). In Roman mythology, Mnemosyne is represented as both the goddess of memory, Juno, and the goddess of money, Juno Moneta. At the center of the reverse is a raised panel for engraving the name of the award, the name of the recipient and the year presented. Clio sits above the panel, recording all this to history. The obverse design is echoed at right in the face of Hephaestus, which is shown on a cornucopia containing the tools of his trade. The medal was designed by the distinguished artist Eugene Daub, whose signature appears in small letters below Hephaestus' right knee on the obverse. The 3" medal was struck in high relief with slightly concave fields by Medalcraft Mint, Inc. in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Chamberlain award will be issued in antique bronze, while the Carlson award will be finished in nickel silver.



In order to offset the costs of producing the medals, 100 extra bronze examples were struck and engraved on the reverse "Hephaestus 2018." These have been available to MCA members, at a cost of \$150 each plus \$5.00 shipping. At present, about 25 remain unsold. Anyone interested in supporting Medal Collectors of America by ordering this medal will receive a complimentary, one year, electronic membership. Orders can be placed by sending a check to club treasurer, Barry Tayman, 3115 Nestling Pine Court, Ellicott City, MD 21042, or online at medalcollectors.org, where there is a link to Paypal. Please note that you saw this in the AMSA "Member's Exchange".