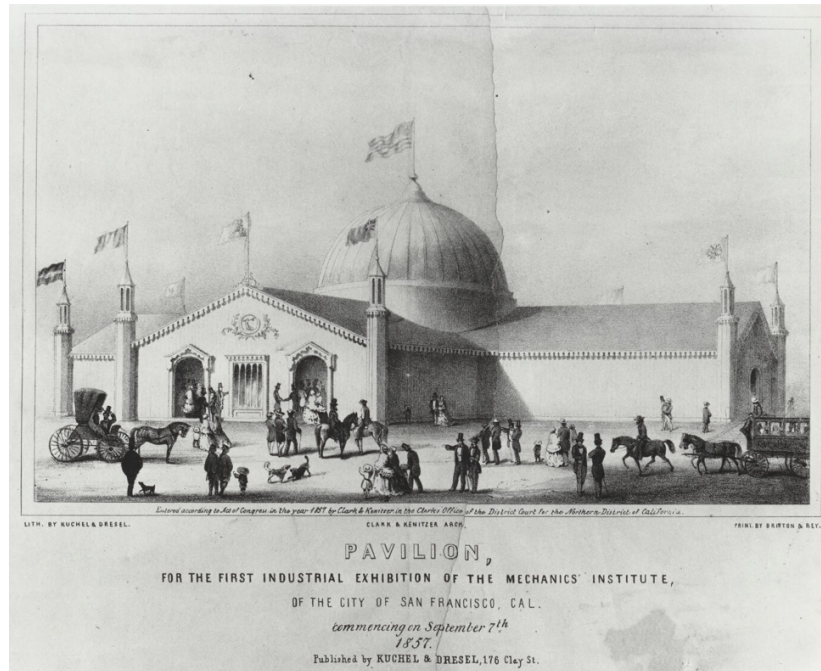


The Medals of the San Francisco Mechanics' Institute Industrial Expositions

by Michael Wehner



The Pavilion of the 1st and 2nd Industrial Exhibition by the Mechanics' Institute.

As the California gold rush unfolded, many miners would eventually leave the rugged hills for the comforts of civilization. Some of them returned rich. Many did not. While the sleepy village of Yerba Buena had been transformed into the city of San Francisco, many services typically found in a city had yet to be developed in the 1850s. As miners settled back into San Francisco, they found a city whose main industry was the export of gold with limited employment opportunities for unskilled labor. It was clear that something must be done.

By the 1850s, Mechanics' Institutes had been established in many American cities. These educational establishments, originating in the early 1820s in Great Britain, offered vocational instruction to working class men, i.e. mechanics. Note that in the 19th century, the term “mechanic” had a more general meaning than it does today, encompassing skilled laborers who used tools in a wide variety of activities. Mechanics' Institutes, however, were more than just technical schools, as many offered libraries, lectures and other social activities.

Recognizing the need to serve these mostly unemployable former miners now living in the City, a group of citizens met in December 1854 to plan the San Francisco Mechanics' Institute. In 1857, partly to raise funds, the Institute organized an Industrial Exposition to showcase California's industrial and agricultural opportunities. Exhibitors could participate for free with admission ticket prices providing the bulk of the funding. This event would be the first in a series of 31 fairs over the latter part of the 19th century, sometimes at irregular intervals. Many, but not all, of these fairs awarded premiums and medals to those exhibitors of outstanding merit. This paper describes and catalogs those medals.

Type 1: The first medal (1857, 1858, 1865, 1868)

Promotional materials for the first fair in 1857 encouraged exhibitors by promising “Special premiums and diplomas will be awarded for articles of superior merit.” Judging committees were formed and promised to be fair and impartial. The awards criteria in the 1857 and 1858 fairs were awarded as follows:

1. A Silver Medal. This is presented only for new inventions, or for important improvements upon old ones.
2. A Diploma. This is given for the best specimen of its class, produced or manufactured within the State of California.
3. A Bronze Medal. This is awarded for the article second in merit in its class, produced or manufactured within the State of California.
4. A Certificate of Merit. This is presented for all such articles, whether of domestic or foreign growth or manufacture, as, from their peculiar excellence, seem to deserve especial notice.

For the 1865 fair, the awards criteria were changed to add gold medals and remove bronze medals:

1. The Executive Committee have provided gold medals, which will be given as special premiums, to be awarded to such inventions and manufactures of the Pacific Coast as shall prove of great practical value to the mining, agricultural and manufacturing interests thereof.
2. Silver medals have been provided, which will be awarded as special premiums for domestic inventions and manufactures of superior merit.
3. The Diploma will be awarded as first premium for superior skill in workmanship and finish of articles exhibited.
4. The Certificate of Merit will be awarded as second premiums to such articles as show merit.

These award criteria were often modified and much discretion was left to the committees formed to judge the various exhibit categories. These first medals depict a mechanic and scholar shaking hands surrounded by symbols of industry, agriculture and labor and were designed by Charles Nahl, a German artist operating a studio with his half-brother Hugo on Broadway Street. The Nahl Brothers were prolific San Francisco artists. Not only did they design the Certificate of Merit, they also exhibited frequently at the Industrial Exhibitions themselves. Charles also served on some of the judging panels. The Nahl Brothers designed the 1858 award medals of the California State Agricultural Society Fair and the Membership certificate for the 1856 Committee of Vigilance among other important works. Charles, the senior partner, was known for his painting, especially of early California scenes, while Hugo was known as a photographer and an engraver.

The dies were executed by Albrecht Kuner, the well-known diesinker responsible for numerous California private gold coins and many San Francisco and California medals. Kuner signed the dies at the lower right on the obverse. It is likely that Kuner produced the medals in 1857 and 1858 although detailed accounting is missing in the Institute’s reports for those years. The medals produced for the 1865 and 1868 fairs were produced by the San Francisco jeweler R.B. Gray and Company at 616 Merchant Street from the same dies.

These medals would be awarded in the 1857, 1858, 1865 and 1868 fairs in the amounts shown below in table 1. No medals were awarded at the 1864 fair because of financial difficulties. It is also not clear if medals were awarded at the 1860 fair as that year's report was lost. However, newspaper accounts do mention a single gold medal. These type 1 medals are extremely rare with only 2 gold medals, 4 silver medals and no bronze medals known to the author. The diplomas and Certificates of Merit are also exceedingly rare.



Type 1

Obverse: PROGRESS, GENIUS, INVENTIO. / (Mechanic, representing labor, shaking hands with a scholar, representing invention, surrounded by tools on the left and scholarly symbols on the right) / (Beehive on pedestal labeled LABOR) / A. KUNER FEC. (in exergue on right)

Reverse: AWARDED / BY THE / MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, / TO / (space for engraved awardee information) / SAN FRANCISCO / (engraved award date)

42mm

Gold: ?

Silver: 32 grams

Bronze: ?

Notes: Some examples have CAL. or the month engraved before the date. Also note that INVENTIO is a diesinker error. The Mechanics' Institute reports states that it should be INVENTION.

Type 2a: The second medal (1869, 1871, 1875)

The Type 1 dies broke when striking the medals for the 1868 fair and a Mr. A.W. Stott, was commissioned to produce a new pair of dies for the 1869 fair. Alfred W. Stott is listed in the 1869 city directory as a "card engraver" at 121 Montgomery Street in San Francisco.

Unfortunately, the first set of dies broke when being heat treated despite "being placed in the hands of the most skillful die temperer on this coast". Stott had to produce another set, which bears his name at the bottom of the obverse. This very different design, featuring female allegorical figures representing industry and agriculture on either side of the Mechanics' Institute's building, was used for the 1869, 1871 and 1875 expositions. The medals were

produced in 1869 and 1871 by Joseph Hubash and Gabriel Kutz, a large jewelry manufacturing firm in San Francisco at 519 Montgomery Street and by the successor firm of Edward Wenzel, Baruch Rothschild and Charles Hadenfeldt in 1875 also at this address. Their company would be used many times by the Mechanics' Institute over the years.

Only silver and gold medals appear in the accounting for all three expositions but bronze medals appear in the report of the 1871 fair, mostly for school and apprentice exhibits. As an experiment, no medals or premiums were awarded at the 1874 fair, but it was found that most exhibitors preferred a competitive display system hence awards were made again in 1875. The report for the 11th fair in 1876 states "no premiums were awarded this year" but also notes costs incurred for the engraving of medals, an apparent contradiction. No auction records of medals from the 11th fair are known.



Type 2a

Obverse: MECHANICS' INSTITUTE / (seal of the City and County of San Francisco with allegorical industry on left and agriculture on right, surrounded by symbols of the mechanical arts below and the Mechanics' Institute building above) / SAN FRANCISCO / A.W. STOTT (in exergue)

Reverse: PREMIUM / AWARDED TO / (space for awardee information and date surrounded by wreath of laurel and oak)

42 mm

Gold: ?

Silver: 38 grams

Bronze: 34 grams

Note: in 1869, the date was in the die. In 1871, the 1869 date was removed by the engraver and the proper date engraved.

Type 3: The third (grand) medal (1877, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1893)

For the 12th fair in 1877, a significant change in the awards was made to recognize only those exhibits of "first degree of merit". Noting the larger medals of the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, the Institute commissioned an entirely new 3-inch bronze medal design. The

design, die engraving and manufacture were awarded to the San Francisco jewelry firm of Henry Mayers and Alfred W. Stott (again) at 205 Montgomery Street. The *Pacific Rural Press* describes the medal as

“Trade and commerce, art and science are effectively symbolized on the obverse. A female figure, crowned by accessories indicative of the Golden State, is represented as bestowing a laurel wreath on a kneeling mechanic. Her left arm rests on a shield, bearing the arms of the city, and in her left hand is the Caduceus of Mercury. Her head-dress is that of a Bacchante, and at her feet are the offerings of Pomona. A manufactory with smoking chimneys, a locomotive, a Corinthian column, an anvil, an atlas, a plow, a toothed wheel, a sheaf of grain, and a few open books fill up the space around the figures. In the background is the Golden Gate, through which a merchantman, indicative of commerce, is passing. Above is the Star of Empire, and a bear's head is introduced beneath the general design, to typify the State of California. The reverse of the medal contains a wreath with suitable lettering.”

“Bacchante” refers to the ivy wreath worn by followers of Bacchus, the Roman god of wine and Pomona was the goddess of fruit trees, gardens, and orchards.

The signature “A. DEMAREST SC. / NEW YORK” at the bottom is that of Abraham Demarest Sr., a prolific New York City engraver and die sinker (SC.= “sculpted”). Details of the 1877 manufacturer are not given in that year’s report, but as there were no presses in San Francisco powerful enough to make a medal this large, the medals were most likely also struck in New York City, perhaps under contract to Mayers and Stott.

Despite the change in rules to recognize only those awards of the “first degree”, more medals were awarded at the 12th fair than any previous fair. However, summaries in the 1877 report differ with one passage stating “a classified and enumerated list of 709 premiums, of which 620 were medals, and 89 cash, the latter amounting to \$1,652” and another stating “The total number of premiums awarded was: Medals, 300; Diplomas, 68; Cash premiums, 66, the latter amounting to \$1,372.”. The latter number of 300 medals is more consistent with the detailed list of awards in both the report and the *Pacific Rural Press* as well as the cash accounted for in the report. All known 1877 awarded medals are bronze and without any information engraved about the awardee.

Premiums were again not awarded at either the 1878 nor the 1879 fairs except for cash awards in the horticultural categories. The 1880 fair returned to a modified smaller format award medal as described below. However, in the 1884 report, the Rules, Regulations and Awards committee proposed that the 3-inch dies of Mayers and Stott be used to make bronze medals for the general awards and a few silver and gold examples for special merit. Rather than take up this particular suggestion, two new special award medal categories, “Grand Silver” and “Grand Bronze” were created instead using these dies and awarded at 6 of the 7 fairs from 1885 to 1893. These awards were in addition to the regular sized gold, silver and bronze medals. The criteria for awarding these larger medals was left up to the awards committees for each of the 45+ exhibit categories. The regular sized gold medal remained the top award with the Grand Silver medal a higher award than regular silver medal. Considerably fewer of these larger medals were awarded than the regular sized silver and bronze medals as shown in table 1. Usually only one Grand Silver and Grand Bronze medal was awarded per exhibit category and unlike the 1877 medals, the awardee information was often engraved around the rim of these thick medals or sometimes at the bottom on the reverse. In 1885 and 1886, the medals were struck by the New York jewelry firm of Monroe B. Bryant & John H. Bentley. Later they were struck by the successor firm of M.B. Bryant & Company in 1887, 1890, 1891 and 1893. In 1889, the Institute was pleased to

report that the large medals were struck in San Francisco by Robert Schaezlin & Benjamin Burridge. However, in 1890, it was reported that they had failed, hence the return to a New York manufacturer.



Type 3:

Obverse: (mechanic received laurel wreath from seated Greek goddess Nike with the seal of the City and County of San Francisco at her side) / (star above) / (Golden Gate, ship and lighthouse in the far background) / (factory and train on left) / agricultural bounty on right) / (bear head below) / A. DEMAREST SC. / NEW YORK

Reverse: INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITION // (within laurel wreath) / AWARDED / BY THE / MECHANICS' / INSTITUTE / (date) // SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA

3 inches. Harkness Ca-94

Silver: 191 grams, 5mm thick

Bronze: 228 grams, 7mm thick

White metal: 183 grams, 7mm thick

Notes: An unengraved white metal specimen remains a mystery.

Notes: Placement of the date varies. In 1877, it was stamped below INSTITUTE. In later years, it may also be below the wreath and stamped or engraved. Awardee information is not on any known 1877 awards but often on later awards and engraved on the edge or below INSTITUTE.

Undated, no awardee information examples in both metals are also known. Some silver awards are stamped STERLING.

Type 2b: The second medal is reintroduced (1880)

As evident by the failure of his first set of dies during heat treatment, Alfred W. Stott was not an experienced diesinker. The reverse die intended for the reintroduction of the small format medals failed and a new die was commissioned of Albrecht Kuner. This new die contained more information than the previous reverse, explicitly stating "MECHANICS' INSTITUTE" and "INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION" and was only paired with Stott's obverse die for 1880 fair. However, overall mintages for this second type are considerably larger than for the first type.

Manufacture of the 1880 medals was by the California Jewelry Company owned by Edward Wenzel, Louisa Rothchild (widow of Baruch) and Charles Hadenfeldt.



Type 2b:

Obverse: MECHANICS' INSTITUTE / (seal of the City and County of San Francisco with allegorical industry on left and agriculture on right, surrounded by symbols of the mechanical arts below and the Mechanics' Institute building above) / SAN FRANCISCO / A.W. STOTT (in exergue)

Reverse: MECHANICS' INSTITUTE / AWARDED TO / (engraved awardee name) / FOR / (exhibit title) / 1880 / INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION. / (awardee details within a wreath of laurel and oak)

43 mm

Gold: ?

Silver: 45 grams

Bronze: 38 grams

Type 4: The fourth medal (1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1893)

The 16th Industrial Exposition in 1881 did not award general premiums, again likely due to financial constraints. This decision by the Board was not popular and various committees noted that the exhibits were fewer and of lesser quality when there was no official judging of quality. Hence the Rules, Regulation and Awards committee recommended that designs of a new medal be commissioned. They recognized that silver and gold examples of the large 1877 Type 3 medal would be prohibitively expensive (of course, as noted above silver ones would be introduced in 1885, albeit in smaller numbers). They also felt that Stott's design was "very insignificant in appearance" and that a new design would be desirable when awards were reinstituted. The design of Wenzel, Rothchild and Hadenfeldt was selected. Their jewelry company also manufactured the medals from 1882 through 1893. The exception was 1889 when financial records indicate these medals were made by their San Francisco neighbors, Schaezlin & Burridge, the same year they attempted to make the larger "Grand" medals. Albrecht Kuner, who

engraved the dies for the first Mechanic's Institute medal was selected to engrave the dies for this final Mechanic's Institute medal.

The central design features a female figure awarding laurel wreaths to female allegorical representations of industry and agriculture. The obverse is signed by the designers as W.R. & H. CO. and by the engraver as KUNER, F. (F.=Fecit, Latin for "made it"). This version is the most common Mechanics' Institute medal with about 2500 awarded over the 12-year period of 1882-1893. In fact, it is also the most common of the many numismatic items associated with the famous Albrecht Kuner.

In 1883, Kuner altered the reverse die replacing the 1882 date with a place holder where the dates of subsequent fairs could be stamped. Interestingly, there are some legitimate examples with the date 1880, prior to the actual manufacture of these dies. There are slight inconsistencies in the 1882 report between the number of medals actually made and the number of premiums awarded. It seems likely that some 1880 awardees received this type 4 medal several years later instead of a type 2b. It is possible, given the problems with Stott's dies, that the dies may have been damaged in 1880 before enough medals were manufactured and hence the need for the type 4 redesign.



Type 4:

Obverse: MECHANIC'S' INSTITUTE / (female figure on pedestal awarding wreaths to industry on left and agriculture on right, train and tools below on left; ship, Golden Gate, and Fort Point on right; agricultural bounty and artistic tools below on right) / San Francisco / W.R. & H. CO. KUNER, F.

Reverse: INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITION / AWARDED TO / (engraved awardee details with laurel wreath) / KUNER F. (date)

48mm mm Harkness Ca-92

Gold: 61 grams

Silver: 44 grams

Bronze: 44 grams

Notes: By 1883, the exergue portion of the obverse die deteriorated to obscure the signatures. By 1885, the reverse signature is nearly obliterated. Only in 1882 was the date struck. All other dates were stamped or engraved on a small plaque from a modified reverse die. Also MECHANIC'S' is a diesinker error. It should read MECHANICS'.

Type 5: 1913 San Francisco Mechanical, Industrial and Electrical Exposition.

The 31st and final Mechanics' Institute Industrial Exhibition was held in 1899. By this time, it was felt that the fairs had served their purpose of showcasing California's industry and agriculture. Additionally, the financial burden and volunteer efforts had been taking its toll on the Institute and its members. There were also other competing fairs, especially the California State Fair (which continues to this day as Cal Expo in Sacramento) that served similar purposes and was better financed and organized.

After the 1906 earthquake and fire, certain San Francisco business interests felt that the Mechanics' Fair should be revived and incorporated with \$50,000 to finance an annual revival. Newspaper accounts detail how important the earlier Mechanics' Institute fairs had been to San Francisco history and cultural scene. To establish a connection to the earlier fairs, two special silver loving cups were to be awarded. One was for the exhibitor with the largest number of Mechanics' Institute medals won, the other was for the earliest medal. The latter was taken by the Sonoma County winery Gundlach Bundschu with an 1882 medal. This winery still exists, but one might have thought that the winner would have been an earlier medal. Despite the attempt to exploit a historical connection to earlier fairs, this commercial event was not continued after 1913.

The medal depicts the Mechanics' Statue on Market Street in San Francisco near the current location of the Mechanics' Institute. Unveiled in 1901, the Mechanics' Statue is one of several public art works in San Francisco by Douglas Tilden, an important California sculptor. However, there is no connection between the 1913 fair or the statute and the Institute. The medal is unsigned. Specimens are known in gilt silver, silver and bronze. No records of how many medals were awarded could be found nor any information about the design or manufacture.



Type 5:

Obverse: (Tilden's Mechanics statue) / MECHANICS FAIR / SAN FRANCISCO / (ferry building clock tower in background)

Reverse: MECHANICAL INDUSTRIAL & ELECTRICAL EXPOSITION (around) / AWARDED TO / (awardee details within laurel wreath) / 1913

48mm, Harkness Ca-93

Gilt Silver: 47 grams

Silver 47 grams

Bronze 54 grams

There are several other numismatic items associated with the Mechanics' Institute in addition to the award medals.

The Institute and Inventors gold medals

In 1865, the Board of Managers of the Mechanics' Institute announced: "A Gold Medal, known as the Institute Medal, valued at \$200, which will be awarded to that invention, industrial product or manufacture, which, in the opinion of the Judges will be of the greatest benefit and value to the people of California."

Then in 1869, a second special award, the Inventors Medal, was introduced. The awards criteria were more clearly stated for later fairs as "the Institute Gold Medal for the best display of California-manufactured articles, and the Inventor's Gold Medal for the best and most useful recent Pacific Coast invention not heretofore receiving any award." By the last fairs, it appears that only the Institute Medal was awarded but using the Pacific Coast criteria.

Both of these awards were only sporadically presented and are, of course, extremely rare. Only the 1888 Inventors Medal is currently known and is part of the Alan Weinberg collection, pictured at the Newman Numismatic Portal. Shown below, it was awarded to Charles O Farciot for his Mariners' Automatic Registering Compass. The reverse, containing the awardee details, is completely engraved. The obverse appears at first glance almost generic but the presence of the seal of the City and County of San Francisco on the shield confirms a local connection. A report

in the *Mining Scientific Press* describes the central figure as California personified and indicates that the 1888 Institute Medal was of the same design. There were no other medals awarded in that year and the financial section of the report indicates that the California Jewelry Company received \$201 for “medals and engraving” suggesting that this firm manufactured them.

Information about these medals is very limited and the designs in other years might have been very different, or even just the regular medal design of that year. In 1897, the Institute Medal was made by the San Francisco jeweler Shreve & Co. perhaps suggesting a different design. From newspaper accounts and the Institute’s reports, the Inventors Medal was awarded in 1869, 1881 and 1888 while the Institute Medal was awarded in 1865, 1868, 1869, 1877, 1881, 1888, 1897, 1899. The list may be incomplete as some the reports of some years are uninformative.

In 1896, one special gold medal and six other gold medals, both of unknown design, were awarded. Herman J. Brand, a San Francisco jeweler was paid \$140 for “gold medals”. The Institute Medal is not mentioned in that year’s report.

The San Francisco Mechanics’ Institute eventually became the City’s premier Chess Club. Over the years, some of the tournaments awarded gold and silver medals. However, there is little detailed information about them.



Inventors medal

Obverse: (female allegorical figure offering a wreath in right hand, resting with left hand on a shield with the seal of the City and County of San Francisco on it, clock on left)

Reverse: MECHANIC’S (sic) INSTITUTE / INVENTORS MEDAL / AWARDED TO / CHAS. O. FARRIOT (sic) / FOR / MARINERS AUTOMATIC / REGISTERING COMPASS / 1888 / SAN FRANCISCO (all engraved)

63mm, gold

Note: Engraving is erroneous, it should be awarded to FARCIOT. It was presented November 1888.

Cornell Watch Company token

At the 10th Industrial Exhibition in 1875, the Cornell Watch Company paid the Institute \$210.25 for the privilege of exhibiting a miniature watch factory in full operation with at least twelve persons being actually at work. As part of this privilege they issued a white metal token that may have actually been made on site. The company had moved from Chicago to San Francisco in 1874 after the 1871 Chicago fire. However, their San Francisco location on Fourth Street was not ideal for watchmaking and shortly after the fair the Cornell Watch Company was reorganized as the California Watch Company and its facilities relocated from San Francisco to Berkeley.



Obverse: CORNELL WATCH CO. / SAN FRANCISCO / (watch face)

Reverse: TENTH INDUSTRIAL FAIR / SAN FRANCISCO / 1875 / THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE

White metal, 30mm

San Francisco City Hall So-Called dollar HK641

At the 30th Industrial Fair in 1897, the prolific San Francisco die sinker and token maker set up a press and struck an aluminum medal depicting the San Francisco City Hall on the obverse and technical details on the reverse. This building was later destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire and rebuilt with the current City Hall. The medal is listed by Hibler and Kappen in *So-Called Dollars* as HK641.



Obverse: CITY HALL / (city hall building) / SAN FRANCISCO / L.H. MOISE

Reverse: CITY HALL AND HISTORY ACT / AUTHORIZING / ERECTION / SIGNED BY HENRY H. HAIGHT, GOV. OF CAL / APRIL 4, 1870 / COMMISSIONERS P.H. CANAVAN / JOS. G. EASTLAND & CHAS. E. MCLANE / ROBT. GEORG SEC'Y, THOS. H. SHELBY, MAYOR / AUGUSTUS LAYER, OF ALBANY, N.Y. ARCH'T / EXCAVATION BEGAN MAR 28, 1871 & FOUND- / TION LAID May 20, AUG 28, SALE OF CITY HALL / LOTS REALIZED \$953,900, CORNERSTONE / LAID FEB 22, 1872 TOWER COMPLETED / MAY 28, 1897, JUNE 30, 1897 COST OF / BUILDING \$5,660,000 / STAMPED BY L.H. MOISE / MECHANICS FAIR / 1897.

Aluminum 45mm

(picture credit: pcgs.com)

Summary

Thirty-one San Francisco Mechanics' Institute Industrial Exhibitions from 1857 to 1899 showcased the industries of California and the Pacific Coast. By all accounts these events were popular, well attended and moderately financially successful. At least 20 of those fairs awarded significant numbers of medals and certificates recognizing excellence amongst the exhibitors in a wide variety of categories. Four distinct types of medals were issued throughout the years issued to varying degrees in gold, silver and bronze.

The two special gold medals, the Institute Medal and the Inventors Medal, appear to have been awarded sporadically and are exceedingly rare. Their design is only known for a single year, 1888 which it is very different from the regular award medals of that year. In several years when the general awards were suspended, only these special awards were made.

The paper Certificates of Merits and Diplomas are also very rare, despite having been awarded in fairly large numbers. No auction records could be located and only a single one found in online libraries.

A commercial revival of the Industrial Exhibition was attempted in 1913 and awarded an unknown but significant number of medals of a different design. Despite the intention to make it an annual event, no subsequent commercial fairs were held in San Francisco.



A diploma of the type of the 1857 and 1858 San Francisco Mechanics' Institute Industrial Expositions. By Charles Nahl, but unsigned. Picture credit: The Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley.

Fair #	year	Gold	Silver	Grand Silver	Bronze	Grand Bronze
1	1857	0	14	0	95	0
2	1858	0	8	0	59	0
3	1860	1?	1?	0	?	0
4	1864	0	0	0	0	0
5	1865	6	90	0	0	0
6	1868	17	56	0	0	0
7	1869	20	63	0	0	0
8	1871	16	50	0	18	0
9	1874	0	0	0	0	0
10	1875	23	56	0	0	0
11	1876	0	0	0	0	0
12	1877	0	0	0	0	300
13	1878	0	0	0	1	0
14	1879	0	0	0	0	0
15	1880	43	251	0	145	0
15	1880	36	187	0	100	0
16	1881	0	0	0	0	0
17	1882	29	136	0	82	0
18	1883	29	156	0	98	0
19	1884	32	159	0	114	0
20	1885	21	148	25	94	22
21	1886	18	136	24	99	13
22	1887	30	97	39	58	10
23	1888	0	0	0	0	0
24	1889	20	79	20	58	19
25	1890	13	96	31	71	8
26	1891	18	92	20	60	14
27	1893	18	116	37	24	24
28	1895	0	0	0	0	0
29	1896	7	0	0	0	0
30	1897	3	2	0	0	0
31	1899	?	?	?	?	
	1913	?	?	0	?	-

Table 1: Estimates of the number of medals awarded from the reports of the San Francisco Mechanics' Institute.

Sources:

Art and Architecture of San Francisco, <https://artandarchitecture-sf.com/market-street-san-francisco-december-8-2011.html>

Taryn Edwards, A short history of the Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco
<https://www.milibrary.org/about/history>

The Cornell Watch Company, <https://www.cornellwatchcompany.com/pages/history/history>

Mechanics' institute, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mechanics'_institute

Mechanics' Institute, San Francisco,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mechanics'_Institute,_San_Francisco

Charles Christian Nahl. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Christian_Nahl

Hugo Wilhelm Arthur Nahl. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Wilhelm_Arthur_Nahl

California Revealed: Mechanics Institute Library
<https://californiarevealed.org/partner/mechanics-institute-library>

Dick Johnson's Databank of American medalists and diesinkers. Abraham Demarest Sr.,
<http://www.medalartists.com/demarest-abraham-sr.html>

MONROE B. BRYANT DEAD.; Oldest Ringmaker in America and Head of Maiden Lane Firm.
New York Times August 27, 1907, Page 7.
<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1907/08/27/106761849.html?pageNumber=7>

Newspapers accessed via the California Digital Newspaper Resource, <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/>:
Daily Alta California, Volume 27, Number 9303, 21 September 1875 — The New Watch
Company
Pacific Rural Press, Volume 14, Number 1, 7 July 1877, <https://cdnc.ucr.edu>
San Francisco Call, Volume 113, Number 143, 22 April 1913 — Mechanic's Fair to Be
Revived Show, From Sept. 26 to Oct. 5
San Francisco Call, Volume 114, Number 8, 8 June 1913
Press Democrat, Volume XL, Number 247, 16 October 1913