



# PRESS RELEASE

from

## THE FRICK COLLECTION

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### **THE FRICK ANNOUNCES THE DEFINITIVE PUBLICATION ON THE FINEST PRIVATE COLLECTION OF PORTRAIT MEDALS**

THE SCHER COLLECTION  
of Commemorative Medals



The Stephen K. and Janie Woo Scher Collection—a significant portion of which has recently gone to The Frick Collection as an initial and promised gift—has long been considered the world’s greatest private collection of portrait medals, rivalling holdings in many international museums. It was the subject of a critically acclaimed exhibition in 2017 at The Frick Collection, and is now the subject of a fully illustrated publication. Nearly nine hundred medals are catalogued with individual entries and color illustrations at actual size, providing scholars, students, collectors, and curators with a definitive resource on the collection’s medals from Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands, England, Russia and Scandinavia, and other regions. The volume, published with D Giles Limited, also features essays by leading scholars on the art of the medal in these geographic areas.

Portrait medals were invented during the Italian Renaissance and are central to the history of European portraiture, flourishing as an art form through the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. They were typically made of lead, bronze, silver and gold and were produced (sometimes in large numbers) to commemorate individuals, to acknowledge special events, and to disseminate the identity and power of their sitters.

Comments Ian Wardropper, Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Director of the Frick, “Stephen Scher’s rigorous scholarship over the years has done much to establish medals—traditionally considered closer to numismatics than to fine art—as small-scale sculptures deserving of a prominent place in the history of art. His passion and authority, evident at the many seminars and lectures he has given at the Frick, have inspired multitudes of amateurs and students to take a lively interest in these works of art.” Adds Scher, “With this volume, I hope we offer current and future admirers of this artform a substantial and inspiring resource. In building the collection over a span of sixty

years, I have had the pleasurable opportunity to examine thousands of medals of all periods in museums, private collections, dealers' stock, and auction houses, and I have applied strict standards for my collecting that I hope readers will find clearly expressed here through the contributions of my fellow authors and the excellence of the accompanying photography.”

The book (656 pages, 9 x 12 inches, 1842 illustrations; \$280.00, \$252.00, member price) is available in the Museum Shop or can be ordered through the Frick's Web site ([frick.org](http://frick.org)) or by phone at 212.547.6848.

## **AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES**

**Stephen K. Scher**, an established scholar of Medieval and Renaissance art history, began collecting portrait medals as a graduate student at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, where he earned his Master's degree. After completing his Ph.D. at Yale University in 1966, he went on to teach art history at Brown University, serving as chairman of the art department from 1972–73. He has organized two landmark exhibitions with The Frick Collection on the art of the portrait medal: *The Currency of Fame* (1994) and *The Proud Republic: Dutch Medals of the Golden Age* (1997). Additionally, he and Frick Curator Aimee Ng co-organized the aforementioned exhibition drawn from his collection *The Pursuit of Immortality: Masterpieces from the Scher Collection of Portrait Medals*.

**Walter Cupperi** Research Fellow, Università degli studi Federico II, Naples

**Alessandra Di Croce** Core Lecturer for Art Humanities, Columbia University, New York

**Christopher Eimer** British medal specialist

**Arne Flaten** Director of the School of Art and Professor of Art History, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

**Martin Hirsch** Chief Curator, Staatliche Münzsammlung München (State Coin Collection Munich), and Lecturer, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich

**Mark Jones** Chairman of the Pilgrim Trust, Hospitalfield and the Sarikhani Art Partnership; proprietor of the Golden Hare Bookshop; and one-time Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London

**Emma Merklng** Doctoral candidate, Courtauld Institute of Art, London

**Carolyn Miner** Independent art historian and curator of European sculpture, as well as President of Venetian Heritage

**Aimee Ng** Curator, The Frick Collection

**Jan Pelsdonk** Curator of the Coin and Medal Collection, Teylers Museum, Haarlem, and Editor in Chief of *De Beeldenaar*

**Marie-Astrid Pelsdonk** General Secretary, International Art Medal Federation, and former Curator, Royal Coin Cabinet, Stockholm

**Ulrich Pfisterer** Professor of Art History, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, and Director, Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich

**Davide Stefanacci** Art historian

## INTERACT

   /FrickCollection

## BASIC INFORMATION

**General Information Phone:** (212) 288-0700

**Web site:** [www.frick.org](http://www.frick.org)

**Building project:** [www.frickfuture.org](http://www.frickfuture.org)

**E-mail:** [info@frick.org](mailto:info@frick.org)

**App:** [frick.org/app](http://frick.org/app)

**Museum address:** 1 East 70th Street, near Fifth Avenue

**Hours:** Open six days a week: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays; 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Limited hours (11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) on Lincoln's Birthday, Election Day, and Veterans Day

**Admission:** \$22; senior citizens \$17; students \$12; Pay-what-you-wish hours on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE TO YOUR READERS:** Children under ten are not admitted to the museum

**First Fridays:** Museum admission and gallery programs are free from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the first Friday evening of the month (except January and September)

**Subway:** #6 local to 68th Street station; #Q to 72nd Street station; Bus: M1, M2, M3, and M4 southbound on Fifth Avenue to 72nd Street and northbound on Madison Avenue to 70th Street

**Tour Information:** Included in the price of museum admission is an Acoustiguide Audio Tour of the permanent collection. The tour is offered in six languages: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

**Shop:** The shop is open the same days as the museum, closing fifteen minutes before the institution.

**Group Museum Visits:** Please call (212) 288-0700 for details and to make reservations.

**Public Programs:** A calendar of events is available online

**Library address:** 10 East 71st Street, near Fifth Avenue

**Hours:** [www.frick.org/visit/library/hours](http://www.frick.org/visit/library/hours)

**Admission:** Open to the public free of charge

**#347, July 11, 2019**

For further press information, please contact Heidi Rosenau, Associate Director of Communications & Marketing; Phone: (212) 547-6866; E-mail: [rosenau@frick.org](mailto:rosenau@frick.org)