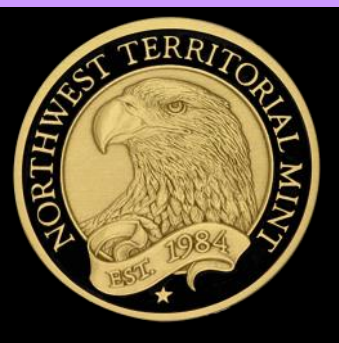


# THE MOST ARTISTIC & UTILITARIAN!



MEDALLION ART COMPANY



## The Most Artistic and Utilitarian!

*Plaque*: Smaller than 8 Inches. *Plaque*: Greater than 8 Inches.

The first plaque was created by artist Donatello, an Italian Renaissance sculptor (1386-1466).

These models were made in wax, a pattern was kept in lead, and the final piece was cast in bronze.

Plaques and Plaquettes were developed to their highest style in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Italy during the Renaissance. This form of glyptic art was an expression of relief sculpture that was small enough to be personal, but large enough for the Sculptor to express their artistic design. Hundreds of plaques and plaquettes were made and their popularity spread to France, Germany, Belgium and Russia. They were highly prized and one of the largest collections (Gustave Drefus of Paris 1837-1914) The Kress Collection is now at the National Art Gallery in Washington DC.

Plaquettes do not share the restrictions of a round medallion item. plaquettes are the most artistic and because they can be easily mounted, the most utilitarian form of medallion art.

**1928-011:** Plaquette (used as paperweight) was produced for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies in 1928. On this plaquette, iron from plating of ironclad Merrimac 1862 was used. The use of commemorative memorabilia made from pieces from historic sites gained popularity as the nineteenth century evolved into the twentieth.

USS Merrimack (Merrimac) was a frigate (first of six screw frigates ) with steam power and propeller (screw), best known as the hull upon which the ironclad warship CSS Virginia was constructed during the American Civil War. The CSS Virginia then took part in the Battle of Hampton Roads (also known as the "Battle of the Monitor and the Merrimack") in the first engagement between ironclad warships.



## Sculptor: Jonathon M. Swanson (1888-1963)



Swanson was born in Chicago. He studied at the Chicago Art Institute. His interest in the sculpted relief for medals was aroused while observing the operation of the reducing machine cutting steel dies from sculptors' models. For Medallion Art Company he made numerous medals, plaques and plaquettes, including portraits of presidents of the New York Numismatic Club, for many industrial, financial, commercial, social and religious organizations. His works are to be found all over the world.

*Medallion Art Company Die # 1919-005-008*