

# 1853 New York Crystal Palace

New York, New York

America's first foray into the promotion of the fruits of the industrial age followed the successful 1851 Great Exhibition in England. One can argue, as we do here, that the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations was a World's Fair in all but name as it showcased the industrial achievements of the world and demonstrated the nationalistic pride of a relatively young nation and all that America stood for.

The English influence led to the construction of an American version of the English Crystal Palace in iron and glass as the grand hall for the Exhibition. The structure was similar enough that Hibler and Kappen confused the English Crystal Palace medals they listed as HK-8 and 8A with representing the New York Crystal Palace. We have excluded them in this catalog.

The Exhibition opened on July 14, 1853, and over

one million visitors passed through the Great Hall before it closed on November 14, 1854. Despite the promotional leadership of P.T. Barnum, the Exhibition lost money even as it introduced the world to New York as the economic center of America.

Famous engravers of the time such as Charles Cushing Wright, Anthony Paquet, Charles Stubenrauch, and George H. Lovett created commemorative medals. A few copies of Lovett's Industry of All Nations medal, SH 1-2, had the lettering in the obverse fields smoothed off and engraved as presentation

pieces to police officers working the Exhibition. Some of these were then silver-plated. Defaced and engraved for a specific purpose, we do not consider them to be a different variety of a so-called dollar and have excluded them from our listing.



**New York Crystal Palace Official SCD  
SH 1-1 Gold-Plated**



SH 1-1 White Metal

New York Crystal Palace Official SCD



SH 1-2 White Metal

Crystal Palace Industry of All Nations SCD

## SH 1-1 New York Crystal Palace Official SCD

Struck for the first "International" Exposition held in the United States, hosted in New York City. A Crystal Palace, similar to London's 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition, was built to exhibit and house the industry of all nations for comparison, competition, instruction, and encouragement. Secretary of War Jefferson Davis attended the opening ceremonies. P.T. Barnum was elected president to help make it a success. The structure was destroyed by fire in 1858 and never rebuilt. Engraved and signed by Charles Stubenrauch.

SH#	Composition / Variety	Rarity	Wgt. gm	Size	Ref.
SH 1-1 CU	Copper	R-8	36.5-38.31	45.2	5
SH 1-1 WM	White Metal	R-6	28.6-34.6	45.11	6
SH 1-1 GP	Gold-Plated Copper	R-8	38.5	45	New

## SH 1-2 Crystal Palace Industry of All Nations SCD

Engraved by George Hampden Lovett, micro signature G.H. Lovett N.Y. below the palace. George Lovett was the son of engraver Robert Lovett and his brothers, John, and Robert, were also engravers.

SH#	Composition / Variety	Rarity	Wgt. gm	Size	Ref.
SH 1-2 WM	White Metal	R-8	17.11-19.23	39.35-39.41	7a