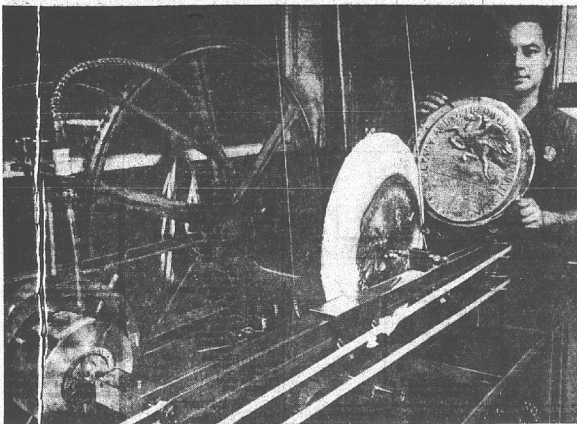


Stamping Out the Vintage



Robert Hernandez holds a plaster cast of a sculptor's work as the copper impression which was made from it is traced by a re-

duction duplicating machine onto a steel die block (left). The tracing point moves 1/1,000th of an inch for each revolution.



Louis Santiago places a bronze 1965 Inaugural Medal between dies on a 1,000-ton press at Medallic Art Company in New York. At right, after four strikes, a medal is examined for detail of impression.

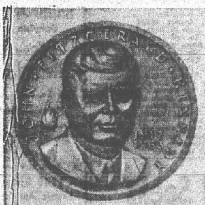
Inaugural Medal Ranks High Among Distinguished Art Works

THE POWER OF THE PRESS is acknowledged in Washington, but one aspect of President Johnson's inauguration involved a press of some 500 tons. That is the pressure used on each of the 1964 Inaugural Medals.

Collectors of medallic art have a valuable addition in the medal, which has the President's profile on one side and the

Presidential seal superimposed on the United States on the other. Produced by the Medallic Art Company of New York, one gold striking of the medal was made for presentation to Johnson on Inauguration Day. The first ten of 10,000 silver striking, each serially numbered, go to Cabinet members. The rest are sold to the public at \$38.50 apiece. Bronze medals

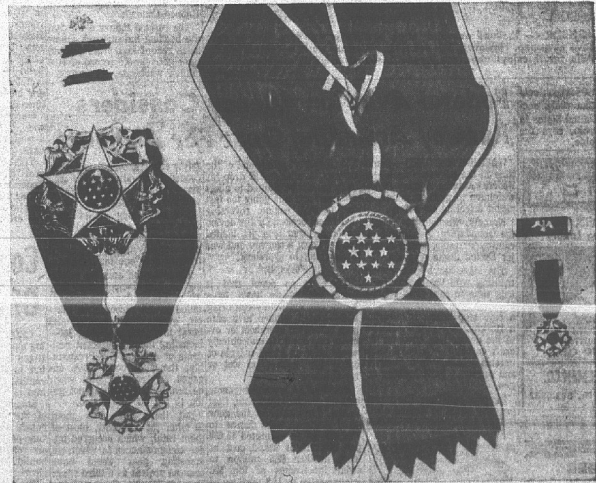
cost \$5, and are produced to meet demand. Turning out a medal begins with transferring the original onto steel dies, which meet at 500 to 1,000 tons four times. Between each strike the medal is heated to 1,200 degrees and bathed in sulphuric acid, a process called annealing, to soften the compressed metal. A trimming on a lathe finishes another medallic art work.



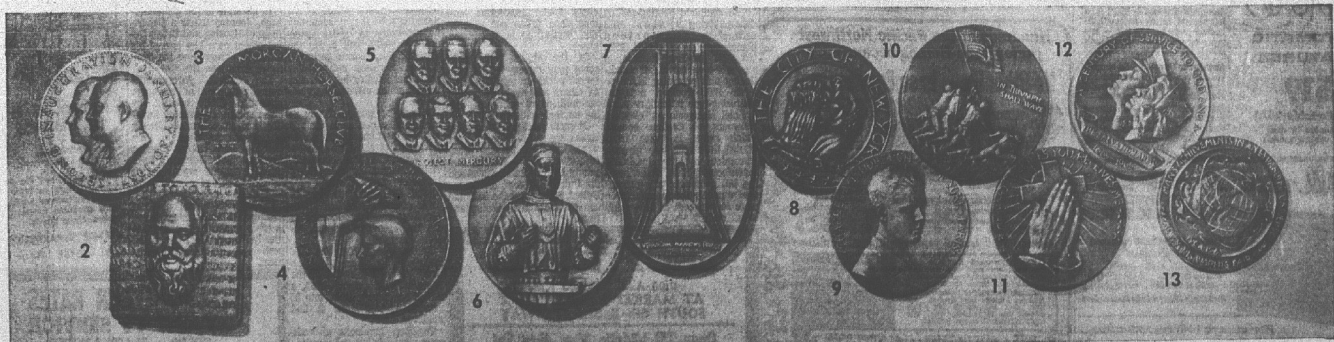
Kennedy Inaugural Medal (top) with two sides of the intended campaign medal which became a memorial.



High honors are U.S. Air Force Cross (top, left) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration awards for outstanding leadership (torch), exceptional bravery (star), scientific achievement.



Presidential Medal of Freedom ranks with Britain's Order of Merit and France's Legion of Honor. President Kennedy took personal interest in design of three degrees (large star, smaller star and sash). The first 31 persons received award after assassination.



Commemorative medallions: 1. Second Eisenhower Inaugural; 2. Societies on a Society of Medalists issue; 3. Morgan Horse Club; 4. National Collegiate Athletic Assoc.; 5. Project Mercury; 6. American College of Surgeons; 7. Verrazano-Narrows Bridge; 8. City of New York; 9. Charles A. Lindbergh; 10. Two Jims; 11. Brooklyn Catholic Interracial Council; 12. Salvation Army; 13. New York World's Fair.

Photos by Eric Holland, King Features Syndicate