

NEWS & NOTES *continued*

HONORING HEROES

Recovered Art

The World War II “Monuments Men” received the Congressional Gold Medal.

➤ THE MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS and Archives section of the Allies, commonly known as the Monuments Men, was a small group of mostly men and a few women who found and recovered countless works of art stolen by the Nazis during World War II. The group



PHOTOS: U.S. MINT (MEDAL) & ARCHIVES.GOV



▲ Monuments Men discover a painting by the French Impressionist Edouard Manet titled “Wintergarden” in a secret Nazi vault at a salt mine in Merkerse, Germany.

Actual Size: 76.2mm

comprised American and British historians, architects, museum curators and professors who interrupted their careers to save many important artistic and cultural treasures. The Congressional Gold Medal was recently awarded collectively to the Monuments Men Foundation in honor of their role in preserving, protecting and rescuing priceless artifacts during and following the war. The Monuments Men saved some of the world’s most famous works of art, including pieces created by Michelangelo, Vermeer, Jan van Eyck, Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Leonardo da Vinci and other renowned artists.

The obverse of the Monuments Men Congressional Gold Medal features soldiers in the act of removing objects from a cave or mine where the artwork had been hidden by the Nazis and includes the inscription MONUMENTS MEN. The reverse depicts some of the thousands of masterpieces that were in danger of being destroyed, damaged or stolen. The inscription in the center of the piece reads IT IS OUR PRIVILEGE TO PASS ON TO THE COMING CENTURIES TREASURES OF PAST AGES/GEN. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER.

In addition to the gold medal, the U.S. Mint struck bronze reproductions in two sizes. The bronze 76.2mm medal is \$39.95, and a smaller 25.4mm version is priced at \$6.95.

ART SAVIORS

- Struck at the Philadelphia Mint.
- Obverse designed by Joel Iskowitz and engraved by Phebe Hemphill.
- Reverse designed by Donna Weaver and engraved by Joseph Menna.
- For more information or to place an order, visit www.usmint.gov.