



JUST STRUCK BY THE SOCIETY OF MEDALISTS for its 86th Issue, this fine art medal is a nearly 3-inch bronze tribute to the Chilkat Indians, members of the Tlingit tribe of Southeastern Alaska. A free illustrated brochure and

Society membership information are available by writing to Mrs. Mary Louise Cram, Executive Secretary, The Society of Medalists, 35 West Branch Road, Weston, Connecticut 06880.

Medal Singles Out Chilkat Indians— In Medal Just Struck by Society of Medalists

One of America's least known but most sophisticated Indian tribes is the subject of the 86th consecutive art medal just struck by The Society of Medalists. The nearly 3-inch high-relief bronze medal commemorates the Chilkat Indians, members of the Tlingit tribe of Southeastern Alaska.

With a culture that flourished between 1850 and 1900, the Chilkats were noted for being warlike and roamed as far south

as Vancouver Island for trade and slaves.

They became affluent through fur trading with the Russians, Europeans, and Indians in the interior of Alaska and lived in an area of abundance which allowed them the leisure to develop a highly sophisticated culture.

The medal is the work of John Edward Svenson, a sculptor who lives and works in Green Valley Lake, high in the

San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California.

He is the 86th American sculptor to have his design selected by The Society of Medalists since the nonprofit organization first began to issue fine art medals biannually in 1930.

The Society's bronze issues represent the largest and most diversified collection of medallie art available to the collector

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Chilkat Indians . .

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today.

Brochures illustrating Svenson's medal and the entire Society Collection can be ob-



SCULPTOR JOHN EDWARD SVENSON of Green Valley Lake, California, is the 86th American artist since 1930 to have his original bas-relief sculpture issued as a high-relief art medal in bronze by The Society of Medalists.

tained free of charge by writing Mrs. Mary Louise Cram, Executive Secretary, The Society of Medalists, 35 West Branch Road, Weston, Connecticut 06880.

The obverse of the Chilkat Indian designs show the chieftain in ceremonial headdress with a carved wooden frontispiece overlaid with ermine pelts. The reverse shows the famous Klukwan house post depicting the Strong Boy legend.

To the left is the Cannibal Mask and on the right the Bear Dance Mask. In the background the tribe's intricate and rare dance blanket can be seen. The unique medal was struck by the Medallic Art Company of Danbury, Connecticut.

John Svenson was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1923. After serving in World War II in Africa and Italy, he studied sculpture under Albert Stewart at the Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, California, and became personal assistant to Mr. Stewart.

He is a Fellow in the National Sculpture Society, on the Board of Trustees for Alaskan Indian Arts in Port Chilkoot, Alaska, and Art Consultant to the Los Angeles County Fair Association. He has taught sculpture in California and Alaska.

In both 1957 and 1961, Mr. Svenson received the American Institute of Architecture Award for Excellence in Sculpture. In addition, he has been awarded numerous prizes in shows over the past twenty years. His work has been shown in galleries throughout the United States.

He has been commissioned to create more than fifty architectural sculptures for major businesses, parks, malls and churches, and has several hundred smaller sculptures in private collections.

Annual membership dues for The Society are \$16, which entitles the member to receive at no extra charge the two art medals issued in 1972. Dues paying members may acquire past issues for \$8.50 each.