



The Franklin Mint History Of The United States, 1776-1973

Date

No Date

Primary Maker

The Franklin Mint

Medium

Silver

Description

One of collection of 200 silver medals. The 1812 medal:
The "Constitution" Defeats the "Guerriere" While the land

campaigns of the Americans during 1812 were pallid with failure, their naval victories were rouged with glory. The British navy was so much larger that the London Times was led to ask, "What is wrong with British sea power?" The quality of American seamanship and ships was demonstrated on August 19, 1812 when the 'Constitution' under Captain Isaac Hull met the 'Guerriere' under Captain James Dacres. The Constitution was called "Old Ironsides" because her live oak planks had been bent into place without first being weakened. The British called her "a bundle of pine boards sailing under a bit of striped bunting." They were to learn differently. The two ships met in the North Atlantic. Both commanders maneuvered skillfully without gaining an advantage. Suddenly Hull set extra sail and came within 50 feet of the Guerriere. The double-shotted guns of the 'Constitution' raked the British ship; in fifteen minutes the 'Guerriere' was a cripple. Her masts were shot away, her decks were covered with blood. The British lost 78 men killed or wounded to 14 for the Americans. The British ship was so battered that Hull had to burn his prize. But there was a greater prize - news of the victory boosted American confidence while shaking British faith in their supremacy of the seas.

Dimensions

Overall: 1 3/4 in. (45 mm.)