

Adolf Alexander Weinmann (1870 - 1952) A boy from Durmersheim writes US coin history

Adolf Weinmann was the youngest of six children. He was born on 11 December 1870 in Durmersheim.

His father Gustav was a shoemaker and came from Schmitzingen near Waldshut. His mother was Catharina Weinmann, née Weingärtner, from Durmersheim. In 1877 the family moved to Karlsruhe, from where he emigrated to the United States with his mother at the age of 14. They lived with a relative who ran a grocery store. After a few years, they changed their German family name to Weinman.

Adolf went to school in New York, where his artistic talent was recognized early on. Through the famous artist Frederick Kaldenberg he came to the Cooper-Union-College where he studied sculpture with Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Philip Martiny for five years.

Later he worked as an assistant to Charles Henry Niehaus, Olin Warner and Daniel Chester French.

Although Weinmann resisted this representation, his name is closely linked to US numismatics. For the half dollar minted between 1916 and 1947 he designed the motif of the "Walking Liberty", which was later also used for the Silver Eagle coin.

In addition to the half-dollar, Weinmann designed the motif for the 10-US cent piece (dime) and various medals for the military.

In addition to numismatic works, Weinmann also created various sculptures, which today fetch top prices at the world's largest auction houses.

Works by Weinmann can be found on the capitals of the US states of Wisconsin, Missouri and Louisiana.

Especially the architecture firm McKim, Mead and White commissioned Weinmann to decorate or decorate various buildings in New York City.

He created a frieze for the "Elks National Shrine" in Chicago, and was also involved in the design of the "Jefferson Memorial" and the "Supreme Court" building in Washington DC.

In Hodgenville/Kentucky he created a famous Abraham Lincoln monument.

In 1911 Adolph Alexander Weinman was elected a member of the National Academy of Design (N.A.) in New York.

Adolph Weinman died on August 7, 1952 in Port Chester/NY.

See also <http://historicdetroit.org/architect/adolph-alexander-weinman/>