





principle is the heritage of the American people. West Point received it from the founders of the Republic—Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Monroe—who were also the founders of the Academy. It has been tried in the fire of experience and found equal to the test."

Minor variations have been made in the shapes and proportions of the official Coat of Arms to fit it to the circular form of the medallion. The sixteen stars in the circumference represent the number of states in the Union at the time the Academy was founded.

The reverse of the medallion further represents the dual function of the United States Military Academy. Against the wreath of laurel the torch of learning is surmounted by the sword, the symbol

of the military. In touching the fire of knowledge it becomes the flaming sword.

The designer of the medallion, Laura Gardin (Mrs. James E.) Fraser is a member of the National Academy, the National Sculptors Society, and the National Institute of Arts and Letters. She has received many awards for her work in sculpture and medal design, and is represented in many museums, including the Brookgreen Gardens of South Carolina. Perhaps she is best known for the equestrian statue of Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson recently erected in Baltimore.

## THE SESQUICENTENNIAL MEDALLION

of

THE UNITED STATES  
MILITARY ACADEMY  
West Point, New York

1802

1952

IN 1952 WEST POINT celebrates its 150th anniversary. The commemorative medallion designed for this event carries on its obverse the official Coat of Arms of the United States Military Academy and on the reverse a symbolic interpretation of the Academy's twofold mission.

The Coat of Arms of the United States Military Academy was originally adopted on 13 October 1898. It was devised by a Board consisting of Colonel Charles W. Larned, Professor of Drawing; Colonel Edgar W. Bass, Professor of Mathematics; and Colonel Samuel E. Tillman, Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology. This Board was appointed to design a heraldic symbol that could be used on diplomas, invitations, publications, insignia, Corps of Cadets colors, buttons,

and sculptured decorations on public buildings of the Academy.

The first public display of the Coat of Arms was on the new Battalion Colors of the Corps of Cadets adopted in 1902. It first appeared as an architectural ornament on the buildings erected as a part of the construction program stimulated by the West Point Centennial in 1902.

Between 1902 and 1923, when the official Coat of Arms as it now appears was adopted, the design was variously delineated. However, each version contained the same elements and general arrangements as the present Coat of Arms, which consists of the emblem of the Military Academy, borne on a shield and surmounted by a crest. The crest is composed of an eagle displayed and a scroll bear-

ing the motto, "Duty, Honor, Country," with the words, "West Point, 1802, USMA." The emblem borne on the shield consists of the helmet of Pallas Athene, the ancient Goddess of wisdom and learning, over a Greek sword, representing the military profession. The two together symbolize the military and educational functions of the United States Military Academy.

The motto, "Duty, Honor, Country," was not used prior to 1898, when it was incorporated in the original Coat of Arms. However, in the writings of the early Superintendents of the Military Academy, the ideals set forth in these words constantly recurred. In the words of Major General Bryant E. Moore, the late Superintendent of the U.S.M.A., who died while serving in Korea, "This trinity of