

February 12, 1963

Miss Frances Kimmerle
Secretary-Treasurer
Medallic Art Company
325 East 45th St., N.Y. 17

Dear Miss Kimmerle:

I have in my file a letter written by you to Miss Charlotte Muzar (who was then secretary to the Yugoslav Ambassador to the United States), dated April 30, 1953, concerning the preparation of a replica of the Edison Medal that had been awarded to Nikola Tesla. The original had been lost after Tesla's death.

Could you tell me if the prices quoted in that letter have since changed, and if so what the cost of replicas in both gold and bronze would be today?

I notice in recent literature of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers that a small gold medal now accompanies the large one. Does the small gold one substitute for the bronze? At what year was the change made?

There is no immediate prospect of having the medal duplicated, but one may turn up at any time, and for that reason I should like to have the data on hand.

Sincerely,

Herbert M. Sney

Tesla Edison Medal

memor from Steve Kennedy

Lost Property Bureau, Police Dept
Lt. John P. O'Brien, CA 6-2067

License Dept

~~137 Center St~~

~~WO 6-5400~~

80 Lafayette St

WO 4-5656

Geo E. Mayakis
real estate

11 N. Pearl St

Residence

Albany 62-4345

Sch. Dir. Ctr

" 77-2144

KENNETH M. SWEZEY

163 MILTON STREET BROOKLYN 22, NEW YORK

February 12, 1963

Department of Licenses
New York City
80 Lafayette Street
New York 13, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

My friend, former Police Commissioner Stephen Kennedy, has suggested that perhaps you might be able to provide me with a name that would help me in solving a matter of local history.

Do you have the full name and address of the last proprietor of H. Stern, Inc., pawnbrokers, which, I believe, went out of business in 1955, at 872 Sixth Avenue, New York City?

I believe that up until this time, the business had been run by three brothers, but that two died, causing the remaining one finally to give up.

Thank you very much for any help you may be able to give.

Yours very truly,

Kenneth M. Swezey

899

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

\$... 1.00 ...

DEPARTMENT OF

2-28 1963

Received from

Address

The Sum of

Dollars

For

By

Title

FILL OUT IN DUPLICATE
AND RETURN BOTH COPIES

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES
80 Lafayette Street
New York 13, N.Y.

It is requested that the following information be furnished, payment for which the sum of \$ 1.00 is attached. (\$1.00 fee for each search requested.)

home
Do you have the full name and address of the last proprietor of H. Stern, Inc., pawnbrokers, which, I believe, went out of business in 1955? The business address was 872 Sixth Ave., N.Y.C. Originally it was run by three brothers. Two died.

It is the name of the remaining one that I want.

Name and address of person requesting information:

Kenneth M. Swezey

163 Milton Street, Brooklyn 22, N.Y.

In reply to your request for information concerning a record of this Department, the following information is submitted:

June 4, 1963

A search of this department's records indicates that H. Stern, Inc., of 872 Sixth Avenue, New York, NY, made application for Pawnbroker's License #6443 about 1915.

The records were destroyed in 1962.

Cashier's receipt Number

899

Issued

2-28

HARRY HARLEM
SECRETARY
608 EIGHTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
TEL. PENNSYLVANIA 6-1680

61 DAVID F. COHEN
PRESIDENT
X35 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 4, N. Y.
TEL. DIGBY 4-3070

Pawnbrokers' Association
City of New York

February 11th, 1963

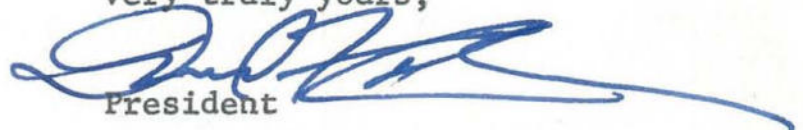
Mr. Kenneth M. Swezey
163 Milton Street
Brooklyn 22, New York

Dear Mr. Swezey:

In reply to yours of January 26th, I regret
that we are unable to supply the desired information.

According to our records, the firm of H. Stern,
Inc. at 872 Sixth Avenue, New York City, has been out
of business since 1955, after the death of two of the
three brothers who operated the business.

Very truly yours,


President

DFC/ts



MEDALLIC ART COMPANY
325 EAST 45TH STREET · NEW YORK

FRANCES K. TREES
VICE PRESIDENT-TREASURER

March 13, 1963

Mr. Kenneth M. Swezey
163 Milton Street
Brooklyn 22, New York

Dear Mr. Swezey:

This is in reply to your letter of February 12 making inquiry about a replica of the Edison medal. Thank you for sending us a copy of your article on Nikola Tesla which is most interesting. I often wish we knew more about many of the recipients of the fine awards we prepare for various scientific organizations.

A replica of the Edison medal today would cost \$435 which includes a case, but any engraving would be extra at the rate of 20¢ a letter. In addition, a 10% federal excise tax would apply on the charge for the gold medal.

The charge for a bronze replica of the large size Edison medal would be \$35 including a case with the engraving additional at 20¢ a letter.

The American Institute of Electrical Engineers has been giving the small gold replica of the Edison medal to the recipient since 1956. I imagine it does substitute for the bronze medal as we are no longer making bronze replicas for them.

We trust this is the information you need at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Clyde C. Trees
Vice President-Treasurer

tb

January 26, 1963

Mr. George E. Mayakis
11 North Pearl Street
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Mayakis:

Several years ago, Dr. Veljko Korac, Director of the Nikola Tesla Museum in Belgrade, wrote me that you had offered to sell to the Museum the Edison Medal that had been awarded to Tesla by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in 1917 (the 1916 award).

As a personal friend of Tesla, who has written a great deal about him and who finally helped settle his estate, I was glad to know that the medal had been found. Some of Tesla's belongings may still be scattered, with their whereabouts unknown.

It would be splendid if the medal could be exhibited in the Nikola Tesla Museum. But Dr. Korac felt, as I do, that the real honor and value in a case such as this is in the awarding of the medal rather than in the medal itself. That is the chief reason the Museum has never attempted, thus far, even to have the medal duplicated-----a matter that could be arranged at nominal cost.

Because of sentiment attached to it, the original would naturally be more desirable than a duplicate. But this brings up the question: are you sure that medal in your possession actually is the original? Are you able to trace its history ever since it left Tesla's hands?

If you can definitely establish the medal's genuineness, and are willing to sell it at a price more in keeping with its actual value, there may be the possibility that the Museum would reconsider it for its collection. I don't know at the moment where the money would come from, but I feel that it might be raised by engineering friends who have a high esteem for Tesla's memory.

Yours very truly,

Robert A. May

January 26, 1963

Pawnbrokers Assoc. of the City of New York
608 8th Avenue, New York 18, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Do you know if any of the members of the firm of H. Stern, Inc., formerly at 872 Sixth Avenue, or any employee who might have been with it in 1941, are still living, and, if so, where I might get in touch with them?

I am writing some biographical material about one of their former clients and feel that one of these gentlemen, if available, might be able to give me a word of needed information.

Thank you for any help you may be able to give.

Yours very truly,

Herbert A. Sargy



MUZEJ NIKOLE TESLE

BEOGRAD, Proleterskih brigada 51



Beograd, December 1950

Mr.

George E. Mayakis
11.No.Pearl Street
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Mayakis

We are very grateful for your prompt reply to our letter.

As your offer exceeds all our expectancies and possibilities we suggest you to present Tesla's Edison Medal to the Nikola Tesla Museum. We would appreciate this gift very much.

Awaiting your decision, we remain

Sincerely yours
Radmila Bakalović
Archivist
Nikola Tesla Museum



MUZEJ NIKOLE TESLE

BEOGRAD, Proleterskih brigada 51

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Mr.
George Mayakis
11 No. Pearl Street

Albany, New York

Dear Sir,

We have pleasure to advise you that we received, through the Yugoslav Embassy in Washington, the copy of your letter, informing us that you would be prepared to sell over Edison medal awarded to Nikola Tesla which was lost in the hotel New Yorker after the death of Nikola Tesla.

We are very happy to learn that this medal was found and we would like to have it in our possession.

We would, therefore, appreciate it very much if you would let us know as soon as convenient the amount which you would like ask to reimburse for this medal.

This medal should be presented to our Embassy in Washington.
Awaiting your early reply, we remain

Sincerely yours,

11 No. Pearl Street
Albany, New York
August 7, 1958

Mr. Joseph DeFranceski, Press Counselor
Embassy of the F.P.R. of Yugoslavia
1520 16th Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. DeFranceski:

In a recent letter written to your embassy by Mr. Benjamin Wolman, attorney of this city, reference is made to the Nikola Tesla Medal awarded by the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS to Mr. Tesla in 1916.

I am the proud possessor of this medal which, pursuant to your request in your letter of August 4th, addressed to Mr. Wolman, I describe as follows:
2 1/2 inches and 3/4 in diameter and 1/8 inch in thickness.
Approximately 125 p.w. of 24 Karat gold.
In perfect condition in original presentation case.
Inscribed to NIKOLA TESLA 1916.

Of course, the proper repository of such a beautiful and unique memento of your country's most illustrious and famous scientist, a benefactor to all humanity for ages to come, is the NIKOLA TESLA MUSEUM in Belgrade.

I, who am neither a member of the proud Yugoslav nationality nor possessor of the resources of a great government made a great personal financial sacrifice to rescue this beautiful medal from the oblivion of a coin dealer's shop. Naturally and morally your country is entitled to this honor and I shall be happy to consider an offer from your government for it.

Sincerely yours,

George E. Mayakis
George E. Mayakis

*P.S. Photos of obverse and reverse
of coin are being sent under
separate cover. GEM*

BENJAMIN S. WOLMAN
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
150 STATE STREET
ALBANY, N. Y.
TELEPHONE 3-5856

July 30, 1958

Hon. Yugoslav Ambassador to United States
Yugoslav Embassy
Washington, D. C.

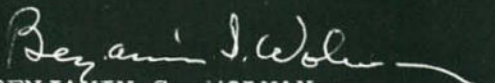
Dear Sir:

In the current issue of True Magazine there is an interesting article by George Scullin on your great countryman, Nikola Tesla, titled "The Man Who Invented the Twentieth Century". Mr. Scullin in his article refers to a medal presented to Mr. Tesla in 1916 by the Edison Foundation in recognition of his achievements in electricity. By coincidence I have a client who is in possession of that very medal. What makes this medal more significant is the fact that Mr. Tesla turned down a Nobel prize.

I understand that there is a State Museum in Belgrade dedicated to the memory of Mr. Tesla and his achievements. It seems to me that the proper place for this medal should be in this Museum.

If your Government is interested in its acquisition, I shall be pleased to negotiate with its present owner.

Respectfully Yours,


BENJAMIN S. WOLMAN

BSW/b

11 No. Pearl Street
Albany, New York
United States of America
November 12, 1958

Dr. Veljko Korać, Director
Nikola Tesla Museum
Beograd, Proleterskih brigada 51
Yugoslavia

Dear Dr. Korac:

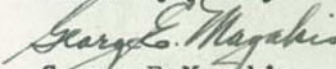
Your kind letter of recent date indicating to me that you would like to acquire the "NIKOLA TESLA MEDAL" has been duly received.

I have noted your request that the medal be presented to the Yugoslav Embassy in Washington.

I shall be very happy to make this presentation to your embassy upon your agreement to purchase this medal from me for the sum of thirty thousand dollars(\$30,000), U.S.A. currency.

Upon learning from you that you are willing to make this purchase, I will proceed to your embassy in Washington to consummate the transfer.

Sincerely yours,


George E. Mayakis



March 4, 1955

Dallas S. Townsend, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Townsend:

Back in 1943, the local Alien Property Custodian searched through the property of the late electrical inventor, Nikola Tesla, stored at that time in the Manhattan Storage Warehouse in New York City. Tesla had been a naturalized American for more than fifty years, but I believe that the search was made on the grounds that the property was to be sent to Yugoslavia, through Tesla's nephew and heir, Mr. Sava Kosanovich (Mr. Kosanovich had been a Minister in the Royal Yugoslav Government, later became the Yugoslav Ambassador to the United States from the present government, and is now a Minister serving in Belgrade). According to the attorney who handled the Tesla estate, Mr. Philip Wittenberg, the Alien Property Custodian assured him that nothing of interest to the A.P.C. had been found and nothing had been withheld.

In gathering background material to help in a nation-wide celebration of Tesla's hundredth birthday next year---which will be participated in by leading scientific and engineering societies, museums, and universities---I have just discovered that Tesla's solid gold Edison Medal (probably the only thing of pecuniary value in Tesla's belongings) is missing.

As a friend who had known Tesla well during his last twenty years, I was with Mr. Kosanovich in Tesla's room in the Hotel New Yorker on the day Tesla died. A safe expert was called in to unlock Tesla's safe. Among its contents, I remember well, were several honorary degrees, a volume of greetings which I had gathered for him on his seventy-fifth birthday, a bunch of keys, and the Edison Medal. We kept out the book of greetings (I mentioned this at the time to the assistant manager of the hotel and later to the Alien Property Custodian), but everything else, including the medal and the keys, was replaced and the safe was locked.

Except when it was opened by the Alien Property Custodian, the safe was never reopened

until it arrived in Belgrade (where Tesla's property was to be installed in a special Tesla Museum) and was there opened by Mr. Kosanovich. According to his former secretary, both the bunch of keys and the medal were missing. The keys were later found in a tin box outside the safe; the medal was never found.

Evidently the medal was either stolen by someone during the time the search was being made by the Alien Property Custodian, or else it may have deliberately been withheld by that agency. Do you know if the latter could have been the case?

Mr. Kosanovich has been granted permission by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (who gave Tesla the medal) to have the medal duplicated---but the cost, it turns out, will be nearly four hundred dollars! Mr. Kosanovich had intended to have this duplicate made at the expense of the Tesla Museum, and to say nothing about it. To me, however, it seems outrageous---that the United States, Tesla's adopted country, to which he had given billions of dollars' worth of inventive genius, should treat him so shabbily, even in death. If the medal doesn't turn up, I want to try to get fellow-Americans at least to pay for a duplicate.

I realize that a long time has elapsed since the medal disappeared, and that therefore you may have no records whatever that might concern it. But I'm just taking the chance that you may have some clue.

With thanks and best regards,

Sincerely,

W. R. ...

WITTENBERG, CARRINGTON & FARNSWORTH

70 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK
NO. 18, N.Y.

LACKAWANNA 4-5121

PHILIP WITTENBERG

SIDNEY KRAMER

IRVING LIKE

February 16th, 1955.

Mr. Kenneth M. Swezey,
163 Milton Street,
Brooklyn 22, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Swezey:

I have your letter of February 12th. I
do remember you.

It is indeed regretful that the Edison
medal should have disappeared. I would suggest that you
write the office of Alien Property, which is now ad-
ministered by the Assistant Attorney General in the
Department of Justice, Constitution Avenue and 10th Street
N.W., Washington, D. C. The man in charge, unless there
has been a very recent change, is Dallas S. Townsend.

May I make this suggestion that if the
medal were to be duplicated it might be possible to use
the obverse side of the medal as an anniversary medal
and to sell it to the public, in this way not only
honoring Tesla but also raising funds for the anniversary.

With kind regards,

Cordially yours,



PW:MM

February 12, 1955

Philip Wittenberg, Esq.
70 West 40th Street
New York 18, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wittenberg:

Perhaps you remember me as the friend of the late Nikola Tesla, who, on several occasions, visited you with Tesla's nephew, Sava Kosanovich, and talked with you over the telephone about the disposition of the Tesla estate.

Right now I am helping organize an international celebration of the centennial of Tesla's birth, which will take place in July of next year. Leading engineering and scientific societies of this country, as well as the press and a number of industrial organizations, are expected to participate.

In gathering data for this centennial, I have just discovered something which, even at this late date, I think should be investigated. Miss Charlotte Muzar, formerly secretary to Mr. Kosanovich, and now secretary to the present Ambassador from Yugoslavia, tells me that Tesla's solid gold Edison Medal (probably the only thing of pecuniary value in all his belongings) was not in the safe or elsewhere among his things when they were opened in Belgrade, to be installed in the Tesla Museum there.

I was with Mr. Kosanovich and Miss Muzar in Tesla's room in the New Yorker on the day Tesla died. A safe expert unlocked Tesla's safe. Among its contents, I remember well, were several honorary degrees, a volume of greetings from pioneer scientists which I had gathered for him on his seventy-fifth birthday, a bunch of keys, and the Edison Medal. We kept out the book of greetings, but everything else, including the medal and the keys, was replaced and the safe was locked. Except when it was opened by the Alien Property Custodian, the safe was never reopened until it arrived in Belgrade and was there opened by Mr. Kosanovich. According to Miss Muzar, both the bunch of keys and the medal were missing. The keys were later found in a tin box outside the safe; the medal was never found.

Evidently the medal was either stolen by someone during the search by the Alien Property Custodian, or else it was deliberately confiscated by that agency. In clearing the Tesla belongings, did this agency claim to have kept anything? Do you know if there is anyone now connected with the Government to which you or I could make inquiry?

Mr. Kosanovich, through Miss Muzar, has been granted permission by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (who gave Tesla the medal) to have the medal duplicated---but the cost, it turns out, will be nearly four hundred dollars! Kosanovich had intended to have this duplicate made, at the expense of the Tesla Museum, and to say nothing more about it. But, to me, the idea seems outrageous---that the United States, the country to which Tesla had given billions of dollars worth of inventive genius, should treat him so shabbily, even in death. If inquiry doesn't turn up the medal, I want to try to get fellow-Americans at least to pay for a duplicate.

I realize that a long time has elapsed since the medal disappeared, and that therefore you may not have a thing to suggest concerning it. But I'm just taking the chance.

With thanks and best regards,

Sincerely,