



**Commemorative Medallions To Be Minted for
New Orleans Meeting**



When Mardi Gras rolls around each year, Orleanians and tourists alike go into a frenzy over the souvenir trinkets tossed to the viewers from the floats. The most sought after of these are the doubloons (coins or medallions, depending on who names them) minted by each year's Carnival organization.

Although the Spanish who colonized New Orleans 200 years ago used doubloons as money, and Mardi Gras medallions, or medals, have been around at least since 1884, the current craze didn't begin until the REX parade in 1960 when REX threw several thousand souvenir "doubloons" from the floats. Today these original aluminum doubloons are worth from \$15 to \$80. More than 1.5 million are thrown annually from the floats on Mardi Gras and within weeks are valued at \$.50 to \$2, depending on the type. The national demand for these medallions has become so great because of their limited issues that the values are rising. These are perfect souvenirs: they are easy to store, easy to handle, don't deteriorate, and are commemorative of a historically interesting event.

Because the 1976 Annual Spring Meeting will be held in New Orleans, the Mardi Gras city, the local committee is having a limited number produced of a specially designed medallion commemorating the Bicentennial Year and meeting of the AOCS in New Orleans. Both sides of the medallion are pictured above. A set of three — a red, a white, and a blue — will be on sale at the meeting for \$1.00 per set. A single aluminum medallion will be included free in each registration packet.

Since only 2,000 of the tri-color sets are planned, persons who want to reserve one or more sets may do so by sending a check covering the total amount to General Chairman Nestor B. Knoepfler (Southern Regional Research Center, P.O. Box 19687, New Orleans, LA 70179), with checks payable to the New Orleans Convention Committee, American Oil Chemists' Society. They can be picked up at the meeting or sent by mail. For mail orders, please include \$.50 per set for postage and handling.