

KILENYI, Julio, sculptor, was born in Arad, Hungary, Feb. 21, 1885, son of Joseph and Rosa (Pecsi) Kilenyi. His father was a businessman. After receiving his preliminary education in his native country, Julio Kilenyi attended the Royal Art School, Budapest, Hungary, during 1900-02 and studied at other art academies in Germany and France during 1902-07. From 1907 to 1916 he worked as a sculptor in Buenos Aires, Argentina, designing a number of monuments, busts, and plaques. In the latter year he came to the United States and settled in New York city, where he was active as a sculptor until the close of his life. From 1949 to 1955 he was art director for the L. G. Balfour Co., a jewelry-manufacturing firm of Attleboro, Mass. Kilenyi was particularly known for his execution of commemorative medals, including the inauguration medals for Calvin Coolidge (q.v.) and Herbert Hoover, a medal commissioned by Glenn H. Curtiss (q.v.) to commemorate the first trans-Atlantic flight in 1919 by the U.S. Navy airplane, "N.C.4," and medals to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill for the City of Boston, Mass., and the Battle of Lexington for the City of Lexington, Mass. He also executed a bas-relief of John J. Pershing (q.v.) as a testimonial of the American Legion (1924), a medal of Thomas A. Edison (q.v.), endorsed by Edison (1924), medals to commemorate the flight of Charles A. Lindbergh in "The Spirit of St. Louis" (1927) and the polar flights of Richard E. Byrd (1926 and 1930), a plaque and medal marking the 50th anniversary of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (1930), and a plaque commemorating the round-the-world flight of Wiley Post and Harold Gatty (1931). In addition, Kilenyi was commissioned by the Port of New York Authority to execute a series of medals commemorating many of the authority's projects, including the Lincoln Tunnel, the George Washington Bridge, and the Bayonne (N.J.) Bridge. He was represented by medallions and plaques on permanent exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New York Historical Museum in New York city, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Cleveland (Ohio) Art Museum, Newark (N.J.) Art Museum, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park, N.Y., the British Museum and Victoria-Albert Museum in London, England, and the Vatican Museum in Rome, Italy, among others. His work was also exhibited at other galleries,

including the National Academy of Design, New York city, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, and the Buffalo (N.Y.) Fine Arts Academy. He was awarded a bronze medal from the 10th Olympic Committee, Los Angeles, Calif., for his execution of the official poster and medal for the Olympic Games held in that city in 1932. He was also the recipient in 1937 of the Lindsey Morris Memorial Prize of the Allied Artists of America for a collection of bas-reliefs. Kilenyi was a life member of the American International Academy and a member of the Allied Artists of America, Audubon Artists, Inc., American Numismatic Society, National Sculpture Society, Architectural League of New York, and the Academy of Political Science. He became a naturalized citizen of this country in 1924. Music was his principal avocation, and he served at one time as vice-president of the Bruckner Society of America. Julio Kilenyi was unmarried. His death occurred in New York city, Jan. 29, 1959.



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