

American Penny Scales 1891–1991 • Christopher K. Steele Collection

## Exhibition History

1979 to 2013

National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum

The Ohio State University Urban Arts Space

Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

Toledo Art Museum

San Francisco International Airport Museum

Riffe Gallery, Columbus, Ohio

Center of Science and Industry, Columbus, Ohio

Columbus Museum of Art

Taft Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio

The Ohio State University Gallery of Fine Art

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**Museum of Modern Art's** Director of Design, the late Arthur Drexler, stated the following about the collection. "This is exactly what museums need to be showing to attract people in larger numbers to their institutions."

These words certainly hold true today. In 2010, 55 American Penny Scales from the top 100 went on exhibit to test media interest and potential for a national tour in Columbus, Ohio, a well known test market . The results were highly encouraging.

*The American Weigh* attracted local, national and international media. Circulation numbers for print reached over a million.

Currently, circulation numbers for print have reached 11 million.

*Exercising Ingenuity: Inventions in Health and Fitness* at the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum, Alexandria, VA has been extended to January 1, 2014.

In 2010, *The American Weigh* shattered all previous attendance records at The Ohio State University's Urban Arts Space. Over a 5 fold increase in traffic was recorded at the door during the snowiest February in 100 years.

“ The exhibition is still frequently being discussed by visitors, and has earned the Urban Arts Space a plethora of regulars”.

Click on “Media” tab to read samples of the media coverage.

<http://www.theamericanweigh.com/media.html>



***Exercising Ingenuity: Inventions in Health and Fitness***

National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum, Alexandria, VA

October 14, 2011 – January 1, 2014



This exhibition is a tribute to the importance the health, fitness, and the role nutrition industries have played in American lives over the years.





Popeye and Olive Oil on Watling Fortune and Weight Scale during the Patent and Trademark Office Expo 2011



Pink Panther and Collector Christopher Steele with Peerless Aristocrat DeLuxe Penny Scale at the 2011 Trademark Expo at the USPTO. Exhibitions highlights: <http://www.theamericanweigh.com/exhibitions.html>

## ***The American Weigh: Christopher Steele Collection***



**The Ohio State University Urban Arts Space**  
February 2–March 7, 2010



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Enlargements of Hollywood Tickets from Peerless Scales

## ***The American Weigh: Christopher Steele Collection***



Peerless Ticket Scales dispensed Hollywood Movie Star Pictures.



## ***The American Weigh: Christopher Steele Collection***



**The Ohio State University Urban Arts Space**  
February 2–March 7, 2010

## **Smithsonian National Museum of American History**

Carl H. Scheele, former curator for the Division of Community Life, explained after visiting the collection, “There is nothing like seeing a collection in person. Aside from the splendid condition of [the] examples, I was very impressed with the variety in terms of dates represented and the different types and manufacturers. The most intriguing to me, in terms of technology, was the one with the phonograph record. I had never seen such a sound recording before. The overall impression was spectacular.”

Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Washington DC



A Material World · Exhibition dates: 2/17/1988 to 3/1/2003

A Material World · Smithsonian National Museum of American History



Mills New Modern Scale, blue and cream porcelain enamel, on loan 15 years

*The Alliance of Art and Industry Toledo Designs for a Modern America*  
Toledo Art Museum · March 24-June 16, 2002

The exhibition capped the Museum's 16 month long Centennial Celebration that began March 1, 2001

Four Coin-operated Toledo Scales from the collection of Christopher K. Steele were prominently displayed  
In the exhibition and the show catalogue

Exhibition at the Toledo Art Museum was 10,000 square feet  
The much smaller traveling show included the four penny scales and went on to the San Francisco International Airport Museum and then to the Riffe Gallery in Columbus, Ohio.



*The Alliance of Art and Industry Toledo Designs for a Modern America*



Toledo Art Museum, Toledo, Ohio March 24-June 16, 2002



Toledo Art Museum, Toledo, Ohio

*The Alliance of Art and Industry Toledo Designs for a Modern America*  
July, 2002



San Francisco International Airport Museum

*The Alliance of Art and Industry Toledo Designs for a Modern America*  
August 8-October 19, 2002



Riffe Gallery, Columbus, Ohio

Center of Science and Industry - Columbus, Ohio  
Main Street USA Exhibit



Peerless Aristocrat Deluxe Scale loaned for daily use for 20 years  
3/1/1979 to 1999



Design Collective Inc. - Columbus, Ohio May 1986



10 scales exhibited in corporate setting

Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio  
*Selected Architectural Penny Scales from the Collection of Christopher Steele*



9 scales loaned to exhibit May 29 - June 22, 1984

Presented with The End of the Road: Vanishing Highway Architecture in America



Photography of John Margolies

# Columbus Museum of Art



## The Taft Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio

“The penny weighing scale is now a museum piece of considerable interest....A material cultural artifact and a symbol of the universal quest for a healthy, trim appearance, the penny scale is worth a pound of study...The acquisition of Christopher Steele’s collection of Vintage American Penny Scales was pursued with passion and knowledge.”

Above excerpts from the Taft exhibition catalogue *The American Weigh*, with text written by Ruth K. Meyer, the former director of the Taft Museum. Steele extends a heartfelt thank you to the museum for the ongoing use of the title.



Taft Museum · *The American Weigh*



November 18, 1983 · January 8, 1984 Cincinnati, Ohio

## *The American Weigh*



Exhibition catalogue written by Ruth K. Meyer, Director

## *The American Weigh*



26 scales exhibited in the 1060 square foot Garden Gallery

*The American Weigh*



Taft Museum 1983-4

# Ohio State University Gallery of Fine Art



29 scales shown in 3000 square foot gallery



The Ohio State University Gallery of Fine Art, Columbus, Ohio  
Penny Scales 1890-1950



July 31, 1979 - August 29, 1979