

Exhibition History

1979 • 2010

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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

The late Arthur Drexler, curator and director of the Department of Architecture and Design at the **Museum of Modern Art** stated the following about this 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 a well known test-market. The results for the exhibition, *The American Weigh: Christopher Steele Collection*, were highly encouraging.

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

The American Weigh far surpassed all previous attendance records at The Ohio State University's Urban Arts Space in downtown Columbus. 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”.

See samples of the media coverage here.

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

The American Weigh: Christopher Steele Collection



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

The American Weigh: Christopher Steele Collection



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The American Weigh: Christopher Steele Collection



Peerless Hollywood Ticket Dispensing Scales

The American Weigh: Christopher Steele Collection



Enlarged Tickets for Peerless Ticket Scales

The American Weigh: Christopher Steele Collection



Horoscope Dispensing Scales

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.”

A Material World - Smithsonian National Museum of American History exhibition ran from 2/17/1988 to 3/1/2003.



A Mills New Modern Scale in blue and cream porcelain enamel was on loan years from the collection for 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

4 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



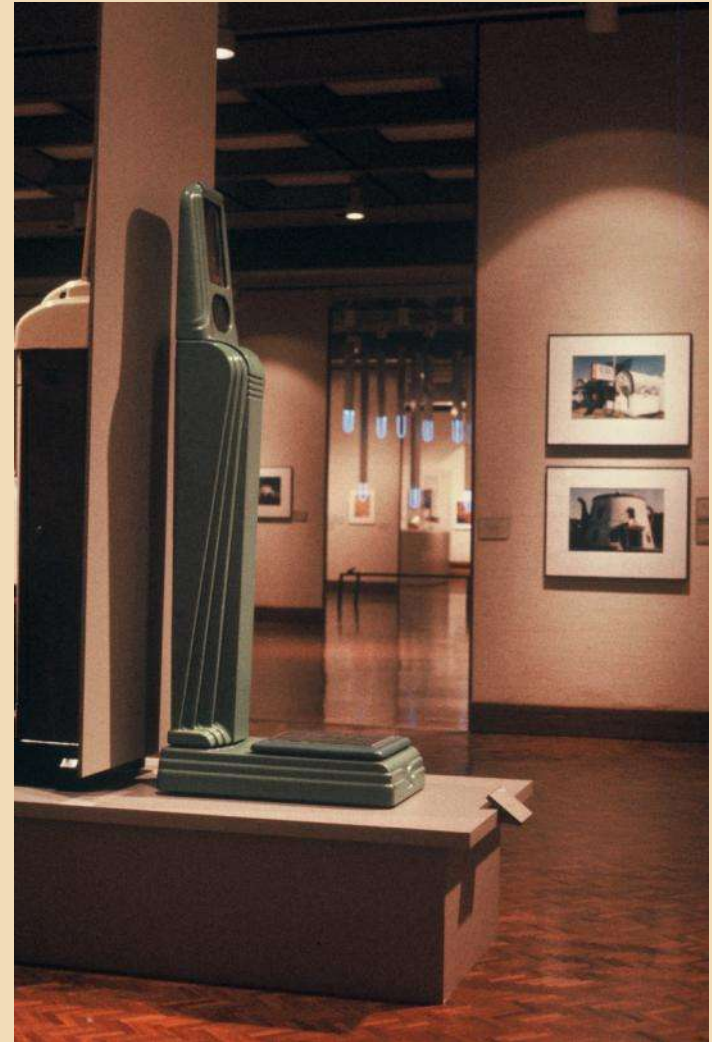
9 scales loaned to exhibit May 29 - June 22, 1984

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