

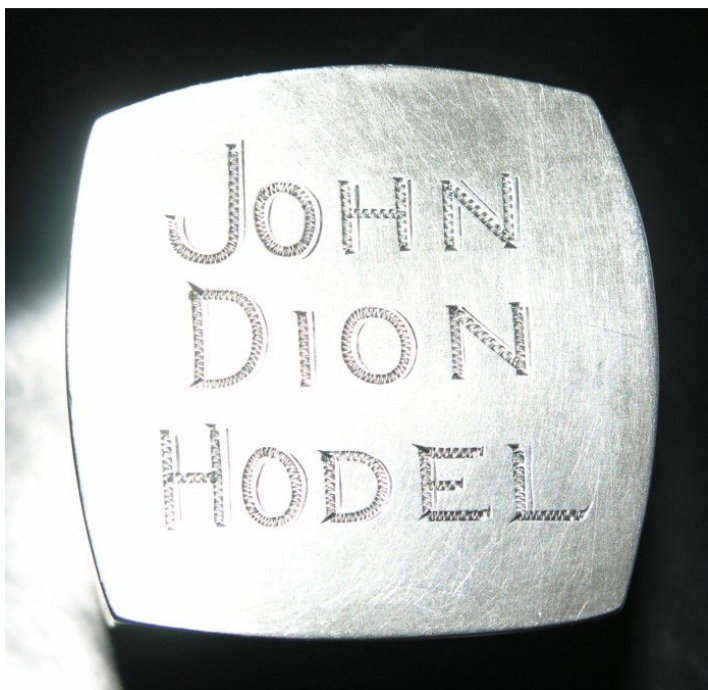
FAQ 65
(December 21, 2007)

65.1

Q: I understand you are a twin. What is your brother's name and what does he think of your book?

Yes, my brother's name was JOHN DION and he preceded me into the world by some 20 minutes. We were born in Los Angeles, in 1941, at Queen of Angels Hospital, just a month before the start of WW II. We were "preemies" (8 month babies) with low birth weights of 3 pounds each, and were immediately placed and remained in incubators for several weeks. John died at the hospital in his third week, due to "failure to thrive."

My father commissioned Allan Adler, a young Silversmith of the day, to design a silver urn to hold my brother's ashes. (Shown below) During a 1996 visit with me, father gave me the urn containing John's ashes, which he had kept close to him, for some 55-years.





Allan Adler is to be found daily in his Sunset Blvd. shop where film folk come to select, admire or try a hand at making fine silver.

ALLAN ADLER
CALIFORNIA SILVERSMITH

STERLING SILVER FOR EASTER GIFTS

Baby's three-piece "Fidgit" set created by Allan Adler, California's master silversmith.
Three-piece set, \$13.50 Individual pieces, 4.50 each
Plus Federal Tax

Check or money order should accompany mail orders.
Sent C. O. D. upon request.

8626 SUNSET BLVD. HOLLYWOOD 46, CALIF.
ALSO AVAILABLE AT LEADING STORES

Los Angeles Times Display Ad for Adler from 1940s

I did a little research of Silversmith Allan Adler, and discovered that from his modest beginnings with a small shop on the Sunset Strip in Hollywood, he quickly became known as, "Silversmith to the Stars." (See bio below)

Because of the historical interest, I will post a few of Adler's other works of art along with a tribute to him written by SILVER MAGAZINE, and published in the Society of American Silversmiths-Artisan Memorial. Adler died in Los Angeles in December, 2002.

ALLAN ADLER “ART’S & CRAFTS” SILVERWORKS DESIGNS



Allan Adler

Studio City, California

Born in Missoula, Montana

May 8, 1916 - December 3, 2002

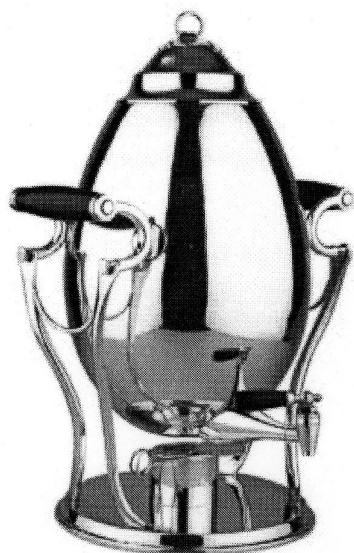
Following article courtesy of *Silver Magazine*®: Celebrated **silversmith** Allan Adler died after suffering a stroke. He was 86.

Adler began his career as an apprentice in 1938, learning the trade from famed seventh-generation **silversmith** Porter Blanchard, who was his father-in-law. In 1940 he went into business for himself and soon began attracting celebrity clients such as Errol Flynn, Orson Welles, and Montgomery Clift. He became known as "**silversmith** to the stars" because of his association with Hollywood luminaries, a relationship that continued throughout his life. In more recent years his customers included Steven Spielberg, Cher, Julie Andrews, Paul Newman, Candice Bergen, and Michael Jackson, who commissioned an elaborate silver belt for a concert tour.

Born in Missoula, Montana, Adler moved to Burbank as a child. In 1938 he married Rebecca Blanchard and two years later opened his first shop on Sunset Boulevard. In 1980 a fire destroyed the shop and Adler built a new workshop in the San Fernando Valley. He also opened shops in La Jolla, Corona del Mar, and San Francisco.

Adler designed flatware and hollowware in plain, geometric shapes with clean lines. A teardrop-shaped teapot and a coffee urn looking like an oversized egg were two of his favorite pieces. "I strive for simplicity and believe that simplicity is beauty and that a thing of beauty lives forever," he once said.

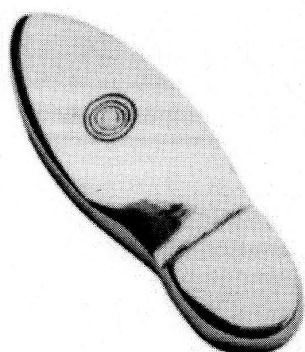
One of his many special commissions was a silver coffee urn (below), which he made for a John F. Kennedy presidential campaign fund-raising event. He also designed flatware for California Governor Pat Brown and a silver hairbrush for Winston Churchill. Photo courtesy of the private collection of Mr. and Mrs. William Hughes Jr. Photo by Larry Larry Stanley.



With the advent of World War II, Adler added jewelry to his repertoire. It exhibits the same clean lines typical of his hollowware and flatware. It also gave him an opportunity to incorporate pre-Columbian iconography, which he particularly loved, into his work.

Adler was one of the few remaining master silversmiths in the country and considered himself a member of an endangered species. "Once I had twenty-four craftsmen working for me. Now I have seven," he told the **Los Angeles Times** in 1990. "More recently that number dropped to four. I do not exaggerate when I say silversmithing is a lost art. It died in my lifetime."

Adler received numerous awards, including a "Living Treasure" proclamation from the state of California legislature and the Good Design Award from the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In 1953 he was asked to design crowns for Miss Universe and Miss U.S.A. He also designed the famous silver "shoe" campaign pin (Fig. 2) for Adlai Stevenson's presidential race in 1959 as well as pins for the first seven American astronauts in space.



Adlai Stevenson shoe pin. Photo by Larry Larry Stanley.

In his spare time Adler loved to sail. He owned a seventy-six-foot yacht, Shawnee, built the same year he was born, which he bought in 1954 and painstakingly restored to its original condition.

Adler is survived by his wife of sixty-three years, his daughters Linda Adler Hughes and Cynthia Adler Larson, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Articles about Allan Adler appeared in Silver Magazine in November/December 1998, January/February 1999, and September/October 2001.