



August 2011

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

## THA's Book *Fortress of Finance* Wins Independent Publishers Award

The Treasury Historical Association was pleased to learn in May that the book it published last September, ***Fortress of Finance: The United States Treasury Building***, written by Pamela Scott, was selected for second place award in the Independent Publishers' Mid-Atlantic Non-Fiction category of books published in 2010. THA's book was among 346 first, second and third place winners in a variety of genres and geographic categories for the "IPPY" Award. Almost 4,000 books were evaluated by the selection committee. Independent publishers who won awards were from 45 of the states plus the District of Columbia, seven Canadian provinces and seven overseas countries.



The award sponsors hosted an elegant ceremony and reception in late May. THA asked author Pamela Scott to attend the gala award event in New York City, where she accepted the silver award medallion on behalf of THA and herself. Ms. Scott and THA each have a medallion and certificate as mementos of this special honor, acknowledging their respective roles in publishing this book.

The book may be ordered from THA (see page 4) or purchased by Treasury employees from the Treasury Department Recreation Association in Room B-61 MT. It is also available at the National Building Museum, the White House Historical Association and the White House Visitors Center.

### *Treasury's Restoration Continued on C-SPAN*

Following the April 17 30-minute tour of the Treasury Building's restored spaces, C-SPAN Television, the official television network of the U.S. Congress, continued coverage with a second installment aired on May 15.

In the second half-hour segment, Treasury Curator Richard Cote took the television audience to the "living museum" of original portraits of all Secretaries of the Treasury. Also, viewers were treated to views of the current private office of the Secretary, the Secretary's large conference room and the monumental triple-skylight dome of the West wing of the Treasury Building.

Members who were not able to view the two programs when first aired, may view one or both at [www.cspan.org](http://www.cspan.org). In the Search box, enter Treasury Building Restoration, and the results will show program summary pages, each with an "additional information" line to click on, which will bring viewers to the options to select for each of the two parts either the full 30-minute program or a 5-minute YouTube preview. Included in both programs was acknowledgment of THA's role in the restorations.

### Treasury Building Bookmark to be Added to THA Product List

Prior to the beginning of the THA project to develop its ***Fortress of Finance*** book, the Association offered a gold-finished bookmark-ornament that featured the image of the South wing of the Treasury Building. THA marketed this product with the byline "Buy a Bookmark, Build a Book," with the intent to raise funding for the initial "seed money" for the research and writing project.

Following the South wing's 150th Anniversary last year, THA decided to re-manufacture the bookmark as a continuing commemorative product for its members and other purchasers. See page 4 for interim ordering details, pending the revision of our product catalog and website.

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## *Ornate Chandeliers of South Wing Presented American West Theme*

One of the lost “Treasures of the U. S. Treasury” is the collection of elegant gas-light chandeliers that were installed in the Building in the pre-electric light era. The chandeliers were designed by Treasury’s architectural draftsman J. Goldsborough Bruff specifically for Treasury’s South Wing (completed in 1860). Although the original fixtures are lost forever, the Department fortunately located at the National Archives many of the design drawings for the ornate chandeliers. THA has identified the reproduction of these gas-light units as one of the goals in its Capital Development Campaign.

When Treasury’s South Wing was approaching completion 150 years ago, a decision was made that the gas lighting fixtures would be sculptural works of art rather than simple utilitarian fixtures. In this regard, Bruff was commissioned to design fixtures for the South wing, “appropriately and characteristically ornamented.” During the next several years, Bruff produced a multitude of lighting fixture designs, several based on a theme of the American West, where the Treasury draftsman had traveled and done exten-

sive drawings and sketches. The fixtures were manufactured by the Philadelphia firm of Cornelius & Baker which also produced fixtures for the Capitol.

As was the case with all Treasury’s gas fixtures, the Bruff designed fixtures were removed when electricity was installed in the Building and promptly disposed of. Only one photograph has been located through extensive research that shows a Bruff-designed fixture installed in a Treasury Building workroom. That fixture is clearly based on Bruff’s drawing and features a Western theme.

For several of the restored rooms, Treasury has previously reproduced documented lighting fixtures. The Andrew Johnson suite has exact prototypes of its original 1864 fixtures and the Cash Room features three monumental chandeliers that are copies of the room’s 1869 gaslight fixtures. Both reproduction designs not only enhance the period integrity of the restored spaces, but also serve a utilitarian function as well in the chandeliers providing

lighting for the rooms’ respective functions.

The Treasury Building’s neighbor beyond the White House, the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB), is currently undergoing a major restoration program in which there is an element for reproducing their original gas fixtures through a lighting specialist in Lynchburg, Virginia. Working from period drawings, the fixtures for EEOB are being fabricated for the principal restored spaces, the actual working drawings, models, casting and finishing all done by the Lynchburg firm. THA’s goal for this Capital Development Campaign initiative is estimated at \$330,000 for the fabrication of reproduction of Bruff’s fixtures for the Salmon P. Chase Suite where they were once prominently displayed... only this time the chandeliers would be electrified at installation and would remain a permanent fixture within the Treasury Building.

***Bruff reproduction chandelier drawing on next page courtesy of Jefferson Lightsmith, Lynchburg, VA.***

## **Treasury West Staircase Project Progresses, But Funding Still Needed**

When the Treasury Building was under its major modernization in 2004, it was decided to remove the elevators in the West Wing staircase area, install new elevators in former office space and restore the monumental triple-skylight dome above the staircase. The dome was designed by Supervising Architect Alfred B. Mullett, who at the same time added the double stairway which led up to his gilded dome, considered in its day a prime architectural space in Washington. Two elevator shafts were installed in the openings of the two spiral staircases in 1910, and surrounding stonework and a portion of the ornate railing were damaged or discarded.

With the recent removal of the elevators, the dome was restored and “temporary” railing was installed. However, no funding was available to restore the original stair during the building renovation.

THA adopted this space as one of the targeted restoration projects of its Capital Development Campaign, and as a result of funds donated by generous contributors, in late 2009 THA gave Treasury \$50,000 as “seed money” to complement

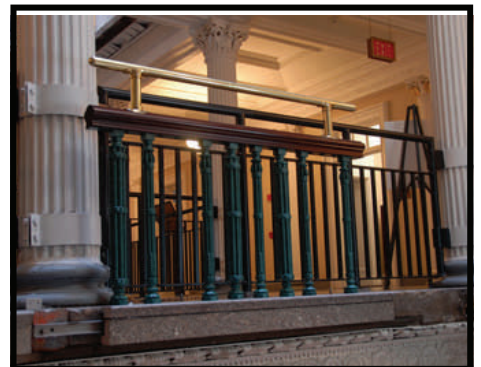
any funding that Treasury might be able to direct to this initiative. Subsequently, a limited amount of Government funding was made available, and a phased project was begun. Contracts were issued by Treasury for the restoration of the space through installation of replacement stonework pieces and matching railings.

There is now the first sign of progress leading to the removal of the “temporary” railing. A six-foot mock up has been staged with the proposed architectural elements that will replace the temporary railing. This consists of the granite replacement flooring, the cast iron balusters, the mahogany handrail and the brass safety rail. Each of the parts of the balustrade represents a careful attempt to reproduce as accurately as possible.

The granite flooring is from a Maine quarry that is located very close to the original Deer Island quarry that provided the original granite for the Building and that has since been closed. The balusters are constructed of cast iron and are molded after the original. The handrail

is constructed from a dense, dark mahogany that matches the original. The brass safety rail is modeled after the original.

The second and third floor balustrade is expected to be completed by the end of September, marking the end of this phase of the project. The next phase, covering the fourth and fifth floors, is presently awaiting funding. THA is continuing its efforts to raise contributions to assist in this important restoration project.

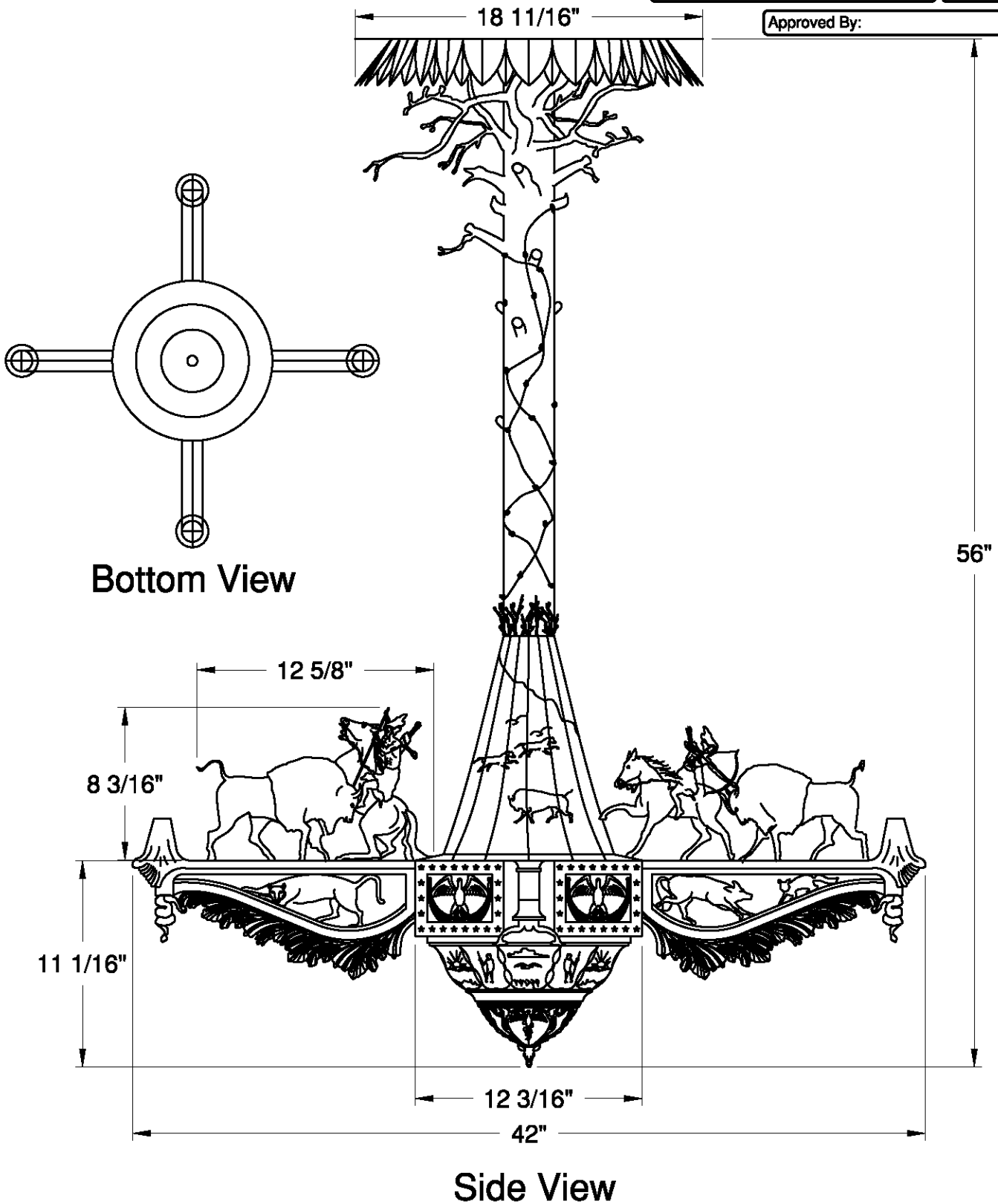



***Photo of prototype railing and stonework courtesy of Michael Romeo.***

Job: U S Treasury

Type: BR1

Approved By:

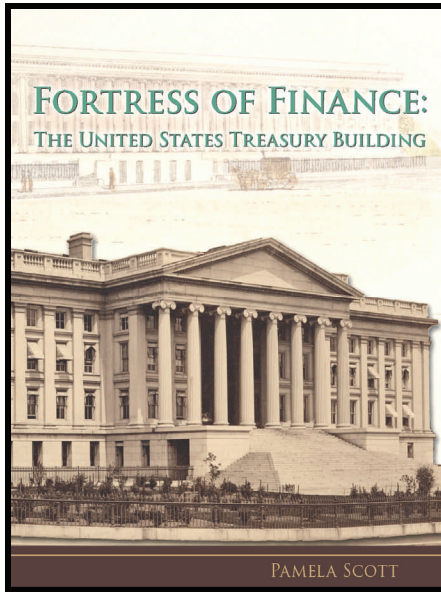


Fixture Specifications:		018311N1	NA	SBB	120/277V	CMT	LED	
		FIXTURE NUMBER	DIFFUSER	METAL FINISH	VOLTAGE	SUSPENSION	OPTIONS	MODIFICATIONS
 <b>Lightsmith</b> Manufacturers of Fine Custom Lighting	Fixture #	018311N1		Diffuser:	Not Applicable			
	Dimensions:	W:42" H:56"		Finish:	Satin Brass on Brass			
	Lamping:	(4) Arms (To Be Determined)		Voltage:	120.277v			
	UL Type:	Dry Location		Suspension:	Ceiling Mount to 3/8" IP Fixture Stud (350 lbs max)			
	Scale:	N.T.S.		Options:	LED center flood uprights possible			
Date:	8/3/2011		Modifications:	None				

# THE FIRST COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE TREASURY BUILDING

Written by Pamela Scott

Published by the Treasury Historical Association



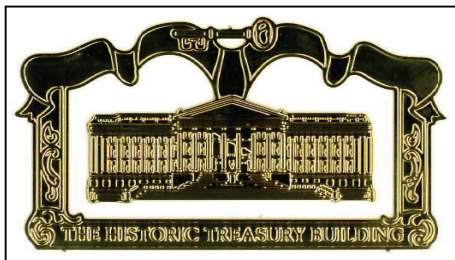
**Fortress of Finance: The United States Treasury Building**, the THA's book on the history of the National Historic Landmark Treasury Building next to the White House and the predecessor Treasury Office is the result of over eight years of research by architectural historian Pamela Scott, author of *Temple of Liberty*, a history of the U.S. Capitol Building, and co-author of *Buildings of the District of Columbia*. She has developed a captivating account of the construction of the Building and its unique architectural features that have made it one of Washington, DC's most magnificent structures. The book includes an appendix with a summary of histories of the Treasury's current bureaus and those now in other departments and agencies.

The retail price for **Fortress of Finance** is \$55.00, plus shipping and handling.

### Fortress of Finance:

- Is a substantial hardback book, over 3 pounds, about 8-1/2 by 11 inches, with 336 pages, printed on high-quality matte coated paper, with wrap-around illustrated heavy paper dustcover.
- Contains 185 images of historic drawings, blueprints, etchings, paintings and photo-graphs, ranging from sepia, black-and-white and color-tinted to 21<sup>st</sup>-century full-color digital images.
- Has an elegant "leather-effect" case wrap, gold-stamp title on front and spine, and "signatures" (i.e., sections of the book) stitched to the binding, not glued, for long lasting quality of the book.

## TREASURY BUILDING BOOKMARK-ORNAMENT



- Is crafted in gold finish, measuring 1-1/2 by 3 inches, etched.
- Can be used as ornament by adding ribbon/string to loop at top.
- Is accompanied by a card with brief history of the Building and the Department.
- Discount priced for current THA members at \$12, inclusive of s&h

### To Order Fortress of Finance and/or Treasury Building Bookmark:

Please complete the form below and return it or a copy of this page, along with your check (payable to the Treasury Historical Association) to: **Treasury Historical Association, P.O. Box 28118, Washington, DC 20038-8118.**

#### ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone, Day: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone, Eve: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. of books: \_\_\_ at \$55.00 per book = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ plus \$ \_\_\_\_\_ s&h (see below) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping and Handling: 1 book, \$5.00; 2 books, \$7.50; 3 books, \$9.00; 4 or more books, \$10.00**

No. of bookmarks: \_\_\_ at \$12.00 (includes s&h) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total payment enclosed by check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**