



December 1996

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

## **Inside this Newsletter...**

**Update on Treasury Fire Damage Repairs.** Repairs have continued from day one following the disastrous Treasury Building fire, but many more repairs are needed.

**1996 Ornament Sales Exceed Expectation.** Sales of THA's new ornament have exceeded our initial production estimates, thanks to USCS field office support.

**THA's Cat's Meow Buildings Special.** THA has made arrangements for members and other customers to purchase special custom editions of popular collectibles that are replicas of Main Treasury and IRS National Office Buildings.

*Treasury Building Notes —*

## **First Treasury Building in D.C., Really "the first"**

Did you know...??? When plans to move the Federal capital from Philadelphia to the District of Columbia were established, the deadline of December 1800 was set for completion of construction of all government buildings. While the White House and Capitol Building were far from completed by the due date, the Treasury Building was completed six months ahead of schedule.

The Building was later joined by its symmetrical twin on the West side of the White House, and eventually by two more similar buildings. The two East of the Executive mansion housed the State Department (where Treasury's current North Wing sits), and the Treasury Department (where Treasury's current South Wing is); those West of the Executive mansion housed the War Department and the Navy Department.

## **Repairs in Progress to Treasury Roof Fire Damage**

With some 200 employees still displaced by the June 28 rooftop fire, repair work continues on the North Wing of the Treasury Building. In early November, several original 1869 cast iron roof trusses were replaced, after having been twisted by the effects of the four-hour blaze.

Following the fire, a large section of the roof remains open to the elements and "bathtub" reservoirs were created to capture the rainfall and route it to temporary piping that carries the water to the ground sewers. Also window fans were installed in the North Wing windows to create a negative air-flow and draw moisture and odors to the outside.

Several additional months will be needed for repairing all the damage resulting from the fire. Many items in the Treasury fine art collection are being restored by specialized art conservators, and several pieces of nineteenth century furniture are also being restored from the damage.

***The major conference facilities of the Treasury Building, located in the North Wing, are not usable until all the repairs have been made. Therefore, as noted in flyers on our noontime lectures, THA had to schedule its November 6 and December 5 lectures in another building, the Office of Thrift Supervision at 1700 G Street, NW. Please make note of the future locations of lectures, as cited in the respective lecture flyers we will mail.***

Although the Treasury Department requested and has obtained funds from the Congress to repair the damages, THA has offered to help the Department in the extensive fire-repair efforts through technical advisory and financial assistance, to the extent our technical and financial resources permit.

## 1996 Ornament Sales Doing Well

Each year, THA attempts to project its sales of holiday ornaments in a manner that will be responsive to our customers' orders, yet not result in high inventories not sold, which of course are costly to the Association. This year, sales of the Customs ornament have exceeded our expectation for initial production, and we increased the first run by 1,000 units due to orders received thus far. We are grateful particularly to the customers in the U.S. Customs Service field offices who have responded so favorably to our advertisements for the commemorative holiday ornament.

Additional production runs will be available to us, if customer orders so require; however, delivery by the holidays will depend upon the time of additional orders we place with the factory. THA urges members and customers to order as early as possible in order to ensure delivery by the holidays.

If you missed reading our last newsletter, which contained an order form for the 1996 commemorative holiday ornament, you may order by sending your name and address, with a check for \$10 per ornament to the address shown in the last column of this page

There are other Treasury-related holiday ornaments available for purchase from : the United States Mint, 800-USA-MINT; the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division Benefit Fund, 202-395-4199; the United States Customs Service Credit Union Scholarship Fund, 202-927-1650; and there may be others we are not aware of.

### Speaker Suggestions ?

*If you have speakers to recommend for our noontime lecture series on topics that are related to Treasury history, general Federal history, economics and other Treasury-pertinent topics, please let us know.*

## Limited Time Offer for Custom Editions of Cat's Meow Buildings

THA has made arrangements for its members and its other customers to purchase custom editions of the popular series of *Cat's Meow* historic buildings that are replicas of the Main Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service National Office Buildings.

The *Cat's Meow* series consists of wood-block replicas of many historic buildings throughout the nation, featuring a trademark black cat, that are favorites of thousands of collectors. Our two buildings are 8 inches wide by about 4 inches high and 3/4 inch thick., with silk-screened features of the two buildings; South facades.

THA is accepting orders now through April 15, 1997. The price is \$20 (\$25 for non-members) for each building with delivery to U.S. or APO/FPO addresses; delivery will be approximately 6 weeks, starting mid-January 1997. The first 300 IRS Buildings will be special numbered, with the first 150 of these reserved for THA customers. These *Cat's Meow* buildings are special order items, not stocked by THA. See the last column of this page for ordering information.

## End-of-Year Donation Time is Now Here

As the end of the year approaches, many people consider contributions to their favorite non-profit organizations. We hope that you will keep THA in mind at this time of the year.

If you are still a 1995 member (see first digits on your mailing label), please renew with a 1996 contribution to THA to assist in our educational and historic preservation missions. If you are a current member, please consider extending your membership at this time through 1997 or later year. In either case, we hope you will contemplate a donation at one of the higher categories of giving. Members above the General level of giving receive a special appreciation gift.

## Order Form for THA's Cat's Meow Buildings and Membership

Please assist us in filling your order promptly by sending separate checks for *Cat's Meow* purchases and for membership renewal or extension. Cut out this column and mail it with your check(s) to the following address:

**Treasury Historical Association  
P.O. Box 28118  
Washington, DC 20038-8118**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Order for Cat's Meow Buildings

\_\_\_\_ *Cat's Meow* Treasury Building  
@ \$20 each: \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ *Cat's Meow* IRS National Office  
Building @ \$20 each: \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total of Order:** \$\_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Renewal

\_\_\_ Renewal for 1996

\_\_\_ Extension to 1997 or 19\_\_\_

Please indicate category of Renewal:

\_\_\_ General (\$12)

- \_\_\_ Supporting (\$50)
- \_\_\_ Patron (\$100)
- \_\_\_ Sustaining (\$250)
- \_\_\_ Life Sponsor (\$500)
- \_\_\_ Life Donor (\$1,000 +)

Membership categories contained within the box are recognized by a special THA appreciation gift. Please select : \_\_\_ silver finished pen with the Treasury seal in cap; \_\_\_ gold-finished business card holder, hand, key and eagle design from the Treasury Building's column capitals; \_\_\_ Note-pad folio with Treasury Building on green cover,

**Membership Donation:** \$\_\_\_\_\_