



December 1997

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter...

THA Board Election Time is Here.

THA's Board of Directors will complete its term shortly. This December newsletter is being issued early to permit members the opportunity to vote prior to the December 1 deadline.

Annual Meeting to be Held on

December 3. THA's annual business meeting and lecture will be held on December 3, at noon, at a Treasury leased office site. RSVPs are requested if you plan to attend.

THA Board Election, Member Votes Invited

The Treasury Historical Association Board of Directors will be completing its current term of office at the end of the year. By December 31, a new Board will be elected for the next two-year period. Officers will be elected by the outgoing Board members from among the new Board's members, and THA's president for the new term will appoint committee chairs shortly.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a ballot for members who wish to cast their votes for the 1998 - 1999 Board of Directors. Each current (i.e., 1997) THA member is entitled to a vote in this election. The enclosed ballot lists the slate of candidates, and provides space for you to add your own nominees for consideration if you wish.

Please return your ballots immediately upon receipt of this newsletter to assure that THA has them by the December 1 deadline to permit consideration by the December 3 THA business meeting and lecture.

Treasury Building Notes —

Shortage of Office Space Has Been Long-Standing Issue

Did you know...??? Within a dozen years following the completion of the new Treasury Building in 1842, it was already too small for the growing Department, and the Congress funded the first of three "extensions" to the building. Mills' T-shaped building (today's 15th Street wing and center wing) was the largest Executive Branch building in Washington, but it could no longer accommodate all the staff in its 36 rooms per floor.

Since Mills' appointment at Treasury had expired, his successor was given responsibility for the overall design or master plan for all three extensions. Thomas Walter, the architect who designed the new dome of the Capitol Building, designed the three extensions' exteriors in such a manner as to completely assimilate Mills' wing. The first extension was the South wing, begun in 1855 and completed in late 1860. The interior design was developed by architect Ammi Young.

Young, unlike Mills, made extensive use of cast iron beams and ironwork decorative treatment. Young supervised a talented metal-artist J. Goldsborough Bruff, who designed for the corridors cornices of fruit and vegetables, signifying the wealth of the nation in the agrarian economy. Included in the iconography was a unique column capital of an eagle and a hand holding a key, symbolic of the public trust given to the Treasury Department in safeguarding the nation's money. This design element was continued in all later extensions of the Treasury Building by the two successor architects.

Completion of the South wing in 1860 brought only temporary relief to the crowded working conditions in the Treasury. Fortunately, the second extension had already been approved by the Congress and construction of the West wing had already begun.

THA Member Survey Brings Many Ideas

Thanks to all of you who responded to the survey we enclosed with the September newsletter. We received over a 40% response rate. If you have not responded as yet, and wish to do so, please send us your completed survey form right away.

At first perusal, we noted that many responses contained excellent suggestions for committee chairs to consider and for the Board to vote on. Many of the suggestions, if adopted, could help improve THA's operations. We will provide further details of the results of the survey as various suggestions are adopted. Thanks, again, to all who took the time to respond! And a special thanks for those of you who offered your volunteer services to help THA; we will be in touch with you shortly.

Special Committee Set to Raise Funds for Gilding of Ceilings.

As noted in the last THA newsletter, a special committee of THA Board members was established and is now developing plans for a Spring 1998 program to raise \$200,000 from both individuals and businesses. This funding drive will permit THA to give the Department funds for gold leafing the design elements of the ceilings of the 1869 Cash Room and the two North wing corner domes. Chaired by retired FMS Assistant Commissioner Michael Serlin, this committee consists of former IRS Commissioner Donald Alexander, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Cynthia Beerbower, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Charles Powers.

Send Renewal to THA, P.O. Box 28118, Washington, DC 20038-8118

[_____]
 [Member Address Label Here]
 [_____]

End-of-Year Giving Helps in Planning

An end-of-year renewal of your membership for next calendar year will be of great assistance to THA in our financial planning for 1998, as well as in reducing our postage costs we incur with renewal notice(s) in the new year. Also, of course, your tax deductible membership contribution could help in your own tax planning efforts for tax year 1997. Please consider not only an early renewal of your THA membership but also a renewal at a higher level of giving than the current year.

Next year will mark the 25th Anniversary of THA's service to the Department and to its members in the areas of historic preservation and education relating to the Treasury Department. Particularly over the past ten years, we have been very fortunate to be able to assist the Department substantially in its efforts to restore the historic Treasury Building. This was able to be done only through the generosity of our members.

In addition to the special project described in the column to the left, THA is aware of a number of restoration projects that need to be undertaken in the building, many of which might not be eligible for funding through the Government's appropriation process. Therefore, private funding is critical to the completion of these historic restoration projects.

To submit your early renewal for next year, please cut out the form below, along with your address label that appears in the first column (please note that the first two digits on the address label indicate the calendar year in which your membership expires).

Many thanks, in advance,

Renewal: Enclosed is my contribution check for membership renewal for 1998 at the following level:

General (\$12) Supporting (\$50)
 Patron (\$100) Sustaining (\$250)
 Life Sponsor (\$500) Life Donor (\$1,000)

Annual Business Meeting and Lecture, December 3

The annual business meeting of THA will be held on December 3, 1997, at noon, at a Treasury leased office site: 740 15th Street, NW, Suite 400—Conference Room 4414. Due to the damage caused by last year's fire, the Main Treasury rooms that have previously been available to THA for meetings have not been completely repaired and returned to service.

Included in the meeting will be an informative lecture by Treasury Curator Paula Mohr, who will provide details of the Treasury Building's 1996 fire and the repair activities completed to date and planned for the near future.

Space is limited: therefore, if you wish to attend this meeting, please call in your name and daytime telephone number to THA's information and message line, 202-895-5250 by December 1 at noon. Messages may be left prior to the completion of the announcement about our commemorative products, by pressing the * button on your telephone.

THA Funding Helped With Historic Cataloging Project

THA was pleased to be able to provide funding for a very important project to capture the rich history of the Treasury Department through its related documents. The THA-funded research project created a database and an annotated bibliography of significant historic books and documents dating from the 1700s to 1945 that were found in the Treasury Library and in the Office of the Curator.

This database is now available for use by the public in the Treasury Library, where copies of the published inventory are also available. For further information, call the Library at 202-622-0990 or write to the Main Treasury Library, Room 5310, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20220.