



December 2004

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

## Inside this Newsletter...

- **Annual Open Membership Meeting.** The annual meeting of members will be at noon on Wednesday, December 8, in the Cash Room. Join us and bring a potential new member with you.
- **Annual Holiday Sale in the Cash Room.** This traditional holiday Cash Room sale event will be held on Thursday, December 9.
- **Special Product Offer for Members.** THA members are offered special pricing on the former Treasury bureaus now in the Department of Homeland Security, and on Treasury Building magnet sets.

## Annual THA Membership Meeting, December 8

THA's annual open membership meeting, which affords an opportunity for current and new members to learn about THA's past and planned activities, will be held at noon on Wednesday, December 8, in the Cash Room. James A. Thomas, Jr., Director, Office of Facilities & Support Services, will provide an update, with slides, regarding progress and some interesting historical surprises in the major restoration project of the Treasury Building, scheduled for completion in about a year.

After the event, THA will have refreshments for attendees and will provide an opportunity for members who renew or new members who join THA at the event to receive Former Treasurer of the U.S. Mary Ellen Withrow's personally autographed \$2 bills at their face value cost.

Members who do not have a Treasury Building pass must call THA at (202) 298-0550 by December 3 if they wish to request entry to this December 8 event.

## Annual Holiday Sale to be Held on December 9

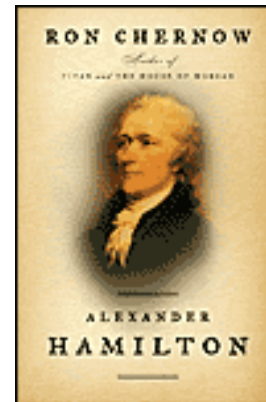
Once again, THA will be participating in the Treasury Building's Holiday Sale Event in the Cash Room. This will be held on Thursday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each year, this event includes the U.S. Mint, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division Benefit Fund and Treasury Department Recreation Association, as well as THA, each with their unique inventory of potential holiday gifts.

Members who do not have a Treasury Building pass must call THA at (202) 298-0550 by December 6 if they wish to request entry to this December 9 event, indicating a specific hour for entry.

## Biographer Provides Insight to First Treasury Secretary

At the invitation of Secretary of the Treasury, John W. Snow, on September 13<sup>th</sup> historian Ron Chernow addressed a packed Cash Room to talk about his new biography of Treasury's first secretary, Alexander Hamilton. Chernow's book, published this year by Penguin Press, has been described by *The New York Times* as "by far the best biography ever written about the man."

Mr. Chernow introduced Hamilton by describing his tragic childhood in the West Indies. Although he was abandoned by his father and orphaned at the age of twelve when his mother died, Hamilton soon overcame these obstacles of his youth. Immigrating to New York, he attended King's College in Manhattan—the first step in his meteoric rise to



power. He became Washington's aide-de-camp and the following decade authored the majority of *The Federalist Papers*.

The author noted that, throughout his career, Hamilton made surprising choices including his decision to provide the legal defense for Tories who had cooperated with Brit-

ain. In another surprising move, as Treasury secretary, Hamilton successfully argued that the federal government should assume the debts of individual states—a move which historians see as critical in ensuring a stable and cohesive young nation.

Mr. Chernow also effectively compared Hamilton to his contemporaries, most of whom were closely identified with their home states. Jefferson was seen as a Virginian. Adams was closely connected with Massachusetts. Hamilton, on the other hand, took a continental view and was not wed to the interests of a particular state. It was this mindset—perhaps developed from his chaotic childhood—that enabled him to make broad, sweeping and lasting contributions to the country's political and financial systems.

Following this talk, the author signed copies of *Alexander Hamilton* for attendees. THA was pleased to assist the Department by providing refreshments for this event.

## Treasury Building Magnets Available

THA's ceramic Treasury Building magnets are available to its members for \$3 a set, which includes shipping and handling. These contain the same images that appear on THA's 2000 commemorative ornament. Ideal for posting small notes on refrigerators or file cabinets, the magnets are in a set of 2, consisting of images of the first Treasury Building in Washington (1800-1833) and if the current Treasury Building, from a painting circa. 1880s.



To order, use a copy of the form below, and allow 2 weeks for delivery.

### DECEMBER 2004 ORDER FORM

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

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

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Set(s) of 2 Treasury Building Magnets @ \$3.00 per set \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Set(s) of 3 Homeland Security Bureau Ornaments, plus 1 pair of above Treasury Building Magnets @ \$24.00 per set.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Payable to: Treasury Historical Association

Mail to:

**THA December 2004 Offer**  
**P.O. Box 28118**  
**Washington, DC 20038-8118**

## Homeland Security Ornament Set Now at Lowest Member Price

Gone, but not forgotten... A year and a half ago, three Treasury bureaus were transferred to the new Department of Homeland Security. These were the U.S. Customs Service, the oldest Treasury bureau, in fact, older than the Department itself by several weeks; the U.S. Secret Service, whose establishment was approved by President Abraham Lincoln on the morning of the day he was assassinated and created on July 5, 1865, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, although a young bureau, one that continued Treasury's law enforcement training that was begun in 1917.

THA commemorated the histories of these bureaus, as well as all other Treasury bureaus, in its series of commemorative ornaments. THA is now offering to its members at an unprecedented low price ornaments of all three of these bureaus in a set for \$24, including shipping and handling. This is a substantial savings from THA's member price of \$12.44 each plus \$5.95 s&h. As an additional bonus, each order for this 3-ornament set will include a pair of Treasury Building magnets. This offer is available through December 31, 2004, subject to supply on hand.

To order, use a copy of the form at left, and allow 2 weeks for delivery.



Further descriptions of these ornaments, are on our website's commemorative products page.

## Treasury Building Notes — Check Your Knowledge of the Treasury Building

*(Continuing the article begun in December 2003 edition, which contained facts on East and South Wings of the Treasury Building and in August 2004 edition, which provided information on the West Wing.)*

North Wing...

- Designed by Alfred B. Mullett, with construction beginning in 1867 and completed in 1869.
- The Old State Department Building, almost identical to first Treasury Building, was on the site of North Wing and had to be demolished before the North extension could be built.
- The North Wing was intentionally made elegant to show to the public that the Union was not broke from the Civil War.
- The grand design included corridor treatments of gilding, stenciling and detailed molding not used elsewhere in the Building.
- The Cash Room, designed to be a banker's bank, is 2-stories tall, with seven types of marble.
- Andrew Johnson's Inaugural Reception was held in the almost-finished Cash Room on March 4, 1869, the most elegant room in Washington city.
- Treasury tellers continued to provide check-cashing, currency-exchange, and securities transaction services to the public through mid-1976. Afterwards, the Cash Room became the principal ceremonial room in the Treasury Building.
- The 1927 renovation of the Cash Room added the bronze doors, to replace original wood doors.

**Treasury Historical Association**  
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