



December 2005

# TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Inside this Newsletter...

- **Treasury Annual Holiday Sale.** THA will once again participate in the Annual Holiday Sale to be held in the Cash Room on December 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Help Wanted.** THA is seeking volunteers to serve on the Association's various committees.

## Board of Directors Elected for THA's 2006-2007 Term

At the November 1 Open Membership Meeting, the THA Nominating Committee presented a slate of 18 nominees for the forthcoming two-year term of THA's Board of Directors. THA members present at the meeting completed their ballots for election.

Departing the Board after December 31 are: THA's Vice President (and former Treasurer of the United States) Mary Ellen Withrow; THA's Secretary (and retired Deputy Fiscal Assistant Secretary) Marcus W. Page; and, Board member (and retired IRS analyst) Maggie Rindler.

At the September 14 quarterly Board meeting, the directors voted to increase the number of positions on the Board from 15 to 18, on a temporary two-year basis, to facilitate succession planning.

The six new directors are: Gary Grippo, Assistant Commissioner, Financial Management Service (FMS); Lori Santamarena, Executive Director, Government Securities Regulations, Bureau of the Public Debt (BPD); M. Elaine Rand, Performance Budgeting Program Analyst, Departmental Offices (DO); Lillian Wright, Special Events Coordinator, DO; Cora Beebe, former Assistant Secretary for Administration, DO; and, Gerald Murphy, retired Fiscal Assistant Secretary, DO.

Continuing directors are: Donald Alexander, former Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Suzanne Cosme, IRS; William Falls, retired, BPD; John Flood, retired, DO; Abby Gilbert, U.S. Mint; Paula Mohr, former, DO; David Monroe, DO; Clifford Northup, former, DO; Judith Ochs, DO; Thomas O'Malley, retired, DO; Charles Powers, former, DO; and, Michael Serlin, retired, FMS.

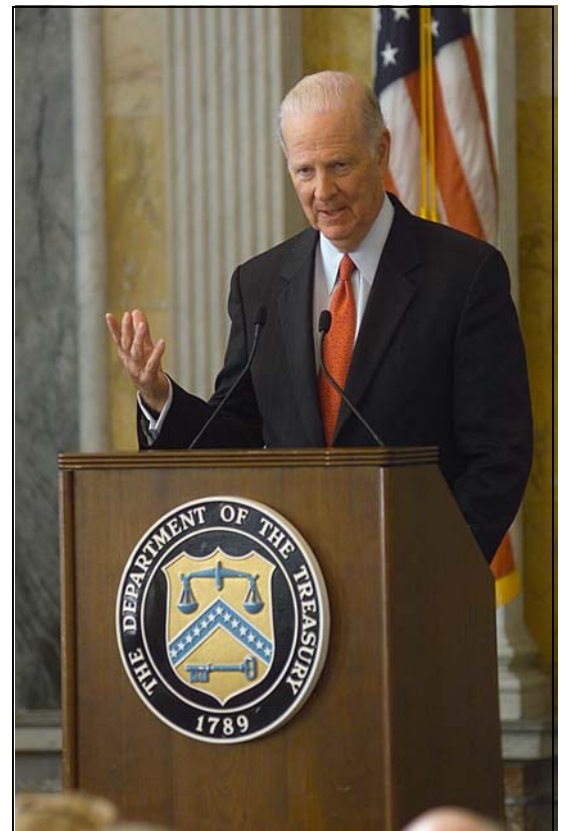
At the December 7 Board meeting, the outgoing Board will elect new officers for the 2006-2007 term.

## Former Secretary Baker Spoke at Annual Open Membership Meeting

On November 1, THA held its annual open membership meeting, at which officers and committee chairs brought the audience up to date on the past year's activities, current financial status, and activities planned for next year. Following the annual business portion of the annual THA meeting, Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snow introduced our special guest for the event, former Secretary of the Treasury James A. Baker III. Mr. Baker provided an informative and entertaining view of his political career — not only his service as the 67th Treasury Secretary, but also as the Secretary of State and, for two separate terms of office, as White House Chief of Staff.

The combined annual meeting and lecture by Secretary Baker was attended by approximately 85 THA members and their guests, many of whom were appointees at Treasury during Mr. Baker's term as Secretary.

Following Mr. Baker's remarks, THA hosted a brief reception for the former Secretary to meet many of those in attendance.



**James A. Baker III, the 67th Secretary of the Treasury, at THA's November 1 Meeting**

## THA's Gift to Treasury Will Provide Historic-Style Illumination

Following THA's financial assistance for the restoration of the triple-dome above the spiral staircases in the West wing (reported in our last two newsletters), THA found another opportunity to be of help to the Department's restoration efforts in the Treasury Building.

As the Department heads toward completion of the multi-year TBARR restoration project, efforts are being focused on the West lobby entrance. Designed to be a ceremonial entry by its original architect (due to its proximity to the White House), the West lobby will have restored gilded ceiling treatment and historically accurate paint selection. Complementing this will be an antique gas chandelier, converted to electric, that the Department recently acquired. While the chandelier is period-appropriate, its illumination level will not be sufficient for this large lobby space.

THA will help Treasury resolve this limited illumination level by our gift of four wall sconces that are being manufactured by a specialty lighting firm. Molds have been made to permit casting of sconces that will replicate the arms of the chandelier. Work is now in progress, with completion and installation targeted for February 2006.



**The six-arm fixture, to be installed in the Treasury's West wing lobby, was manufactured in New York by Fellows, Hoffman & Co. An engraving of the fixture is in their 1857-1859 catalogue.**

## Are You Current on All Your Currency?

In recent years, much public attention has been directed to the redesigned U.S. currency notes. First starting in 1996, then starting again in 2004, all our Federal Reserve Notes — except the one-dollar bill — have been altered in design to protect our currency from being counterfeited, and all of us have learned many of the new anti-counterfeit features. Yet, how many of us have focused on — or remember — the design on our one-dollar note, which is filled with significant imagery on the founding and growth of our country? Take a look at the two sides of the Great Seal of the United States on the back of a one-dollar note.

The pyramid, symbolic of strength, is incomplete, signifying that there is yet work to be done, and that the United States will continue to build and grow. The pyramid has 13 rows of stones — a number that will be repeated several times here -- representing the 13 original colonies. Above the pyramid is the all-seeing eye (believed to have been suggested by Benjamin Franklin as the Eye of Providence) and the Latin words "Annuit Coeptis" (13, again, in letter-count), which means "He favors our undertakings" (or "enterprise"). In the base of the pyramid are the Roman numerals for 1776, the year of independence of the United States of America. Below the pyramid is a scroll with the Latin phrase "Novus Ordo Seclorum" which means "The New Order for the Ages," signifying the new life of independence and freedom for America that began in 1776.

The American bald eagle on the other side of the Seal became our National emblem in 1782 when it was chosen as a symbol of strength and victory. Above the eagle's head is a ring with 13 stars, and a scroll with the Latin phrase "E Pluribus Unum" meaning "One out of Many." The shield on the breast of the eagle contains 13 stripes, again for the 13 original colonies. In one claw, the eagle is holding 13 arrows symbolizing war; in the other, an olive branch with 13 leaves and 13 seeds, signifying peace. The

eagle's head is turned towards the claw with the peace leaves, as is the customary artistic representation of the Federal eagle. Only in time of declared war has the Federal eagle been depicted facing the claw with arrows (one example is the Civil War-era over-mantle mirror in the Treasury Building's restored office of Secretary Salmon P. Chase).

Centered on the reverse are the words "In God We Trust" which was approved by the Congress for use on all U.S. currency on July 11, 1955.

### ***Annual Holiday Sale Event on Thursday, December 8***

THA will again participate in the Treasury Holiday Sale event. The event will be held on Thursday, December 8 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Treasury Building's historic Cash Room.

In past years, other participants were the U.S. Mint, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Secret Service Uniformed Division Benefit Fund and Treasury Department Recreation Association — each offering their unique products for holiday gift giving.

Entry to the Treasury Building for this event requires a Treasury access pass.

### ***In Search of Volunteers...***

The THA By-Laws established several committees to carry out the day-to-day work of the Association. While the chairs of the committees must be appointed from the Board of Directors, committee membership is open to all current THA members.

If you would like to help THA as a member of one (or more) of the committees, please leave a message on our THA message line (see below), and we will have the committee chair contact you after the holidays. We appreciate all levels of volunteer help, regardless of the number of hours you can work on the committee(s) each month.

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

*Message Line: (202) 298-0550*

*Website Address:  
[www.treasuryhistoricalassn.org](http://www.treasuryhistoricalassn.org)*

*E-mail Address:  
[info@treasuryhistoricalassn.org](mailto:info@treasuryhistoricalassn.org)*