



June 1996

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter...

New Committee Chairs Named for 1996-97: "Help Wanted." THA's new or reappointed chairpersons are seeking volunteers to help with committee initiatives.

1996 Ornament Plans are Now Under Way. THA's holiday ornament will recognize the history of the United States Customs Service.

THA's Research Gift Uncovers Elegance. THA's gifts-in-kind of research work and art conservator's report defines *trompe l'oeil* painting in the Treasury's South Wing.

World Wars' Bond Poster Exhibit Opens. Treasury Bond posters from World War I and World War II years are on exhibit in Treasury.

Publications Offered to THA Members. A number of publications issued by THA in recent years remain available to members at no cost.

Work Begins on THA's '96 Ornament

The Board of Directors has agreed to the selection of the U.S. Customs Service as the next bureau whose history THA will recognize by its annual holiday ornament. Research work has begun, which will help us to identify a design theme illustrative of Customs' broad range of duties and to prepare the educational insert monograph card.

We hope to be ready to provide members ordering information by August, with a discount offer for early ordering and for bulk orders of 30 or more ornaments.

THA Committee Chairs Appointed

The President of THA has appointed the 1996-1997 chairpersons of the several committees that operate the daily activities of the Association. The Committee Chairpersons are Dorothy Roper Daly (Membership); Maria Goodwin (Publications and Communications); Dave Monroe (Finance); Tom O'Malley (Commemorative Products Marketing); and Jack Flood (Programs and Planning).

All committees need volunteer help. Assistance is needed to identify and attract potential new members, to research and write historical articles and monographs, as well as items for this newsletter, to help market via mail and over-the-counter sales our THA ornaments and other products, to help identify other fundraising opportunities, and to locate potential lecturers with topics of interest for THA members. If you are able to volunteer some time—as much or as little as you wish—, please call THA's information and message line, (202) 895-5250, and leave a brief message for the specific chairperson(s) you wish to call you to discuss their committee needs.

[Ed. Note: phone number was changed to (202) 298-0550 after publication date.]

WW I and WW II Bond Poster Exhibit

In the West and North wings of the Treasury Building's second floor is a special exhibit of World War I and World War II bond posters through October 31. Developed by the Office of the Curator, with the assistance of the U.S. Savings Bonds Marketing Office of the Bureau of the Public Debt, the exhibit contains a large number of art posters designed to evoke a sense of patriotism in American citizens and an incentive to purchase Victory Bonds, War Bonds, Savings Bonds — whatever the name, the mission was the same, to support the American military in winning the war and bringing peace to the world.

(Continued from First Page)

Poster Exhibit

Although the exhibit is not open to the general public, except those attending the Saturday tours of the Treasury Building, THA members may call the Office of the Curator at (202) 622-1250 at least one day in advance and, identifying themselves as THA members, make an appointment date/hour to visit the exhibit. The self-guided tour is enhanced by the descriptions on signage that was presented as gifts-in-kind by THA.

Treasury Building Tour Previews on Wide World Web

Now you can have a preview of the Saturday public tour of the Treasury Building while you "surf the Net." A number of full color photographs of the restored areas of the historic Treasury Building, and descriptive text, can be accessed at: <http://ustreas.gov/treasury/archives/archive.html> on the Internet system.

Other valuable information is also available through Treasury's World Wide Web home page, including IRS information and information for small and disadvantaged businesses desiring to bid on Treasury contracts.

=====

Treasury Historical Association
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Research Uncovers Rich Décor on Treasury's Walls

Through a gift-in-kind provided by THA, expert research has been conducted to uncover unique *trompe l'oeil* (French for "deceive the eye") paint treatment on the walls of the South wing of the Treasury Building. This type of décor was quite popular in the 19th century, and consisted of painting medallions or molding on flat wall surfaces in such a way, with shading and shadowing and in such detail that they appeared to be three-dimensional plaster work.

Following the removal of 130 years of additional coats of corridor paint, our contractor has been able to reach the first coat of paint applied around 1860 on which the decorative treatment was added and which you can observe adjacent to room 3312 and above the South-facing windows in the 4300 corridor.

The research is to be followed by a report of conservator Brian Powell on his findings, which will be added to the collection of the Office of the Curator. A potential long-range implementation plan to completely uncover one entire wall panel and replicate others identically to the original will be considered after receipt of the conservator's report.

THA Publications Available to Members

A number of THA publications are still available to members at no cost while supplies remain. To order, just return to us the panel containing your mailing label, with bold-face order codes entered to the left of the label to state your interests; return it by July 1 to THA, PO. Box 28118, Washington, DC 20038-8118.

Available are: **(BC)** 1989 Bicentennial Calendar, a keepsake of the Treasury Bicentennial, it will again be usable in 2000. **(AR)** THA's 1989 Annual Report, a record of events that celebrated Treasury's 200 years. **(PS)** "Portraits of the Secretaries," a collection of Secretaries' portraits through 1979. **(AG)** "Albert Gallatin," a 1992 lecture on the longest-term Secretary by former Secretary Joseph W. Barr. **(RT)** "Restoration of the Treasury Building," a lecture by Treasury's Curator, Paula A. Mohr.

These free Treasury publications are also available and THA will serve as an intermediary to obtain them for you, while supplies last: **(TB)** Tour Brochure of the Treasury Building, with full color photographs of restored rooms seen on Saturday public tours. **(TD)** "The Department of the Treasury," a 30-page booklet with brief histories of bureaus and descriptions of their official responsibilities.

Order Codes: _____

Member Mailing Label Here