



June 2001

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

## Inside this Newsletter...

- **Research on Treasury Badges.** THA is hoping to assist one of its members in research on Treasury law enforcement badges of the past. Help Wanted!
- **Treasury-maritime history found on Internet websites.** THA has come across several informative websites about former Treasury organizations that were merged to become the U.S. Coast Guard, a Treasury bureau until it was transferred to the Department of Transportation.

## Time Capsule a Mystery to Many Who View It Daily

On the first floor of the East Wing corridor of the Treasury Building stands a concrete block with "2076" and the official seal of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. As imposing as this block is (36 inches square at the base and 30 inches at the top, at a height of 40 inches), few employees in the Treasury Building, and fewer visitors, have a realization of the significance of this item.

During the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Year, 1976, as one portion of the Department's celebration of that special year, it prepared a Time Capsule to be opened 100 years later by the Secretary of the Treasury in the Tricentennial Year 2076. The Capsule, which is of 3-inch reinforced concrete, contains within its air-tight chamber letters from the Secretary of the Treasury to his successor 100 years later and from heads of the various Treasury bureaus to their successors. These letters convey to the National leaders of generations yet to come a variety of information about Treasury officials' key issues of 1976, so that future Americans might have a clearer perspective on the times of late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Treasury Department. Also, the Capsule contains a message to U.S. citizens from President Gerald Ford, along with various Bicentennial medals, coins and currency.

This Time Capsule was dedicated at a ceremony by Secretary William E. Simon, along with Francine I. Neff, Treasurer of the United States, and Richard R. Albrecht, General Counsel of the Treasury and President of THA.

## U.S. Treasury Programs Preserved in Tune and Verse

All who have served in the United States armed forces certainly recognize the music and verse of their particular branch of service of the Department of Defense. However, few realize that the Department of the Treasury has been memorialized by the sound of music as well.

In 1941, as a contribution to the national defense effort, renowned composer Irving Berlin created *Any Bonds Today?* as the theme song of Treasury's National Defense Savings Program. Many copies of the sheet music were distributed to help Treasury make the public aware of the savings bonds and savings stamps program, which was so essential in financing America's World War II defense efforts. In publishing this song, Mr. Berlin copyrighted it in the name of "Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, DC." Among other performers, the famous Andrews Sisters were the primary performers known for this historic piece of music.

The following year, Mr. Berlin wrote the words and music for another Treasury-related tune, *I Paid My Income Tax Today*. Again, he presented the copyright to the Secretary of the Treasury. Research in the National Archives has revealed documents from Treasury to radio stations throughout the country, sending them copies of the recording and encouraging them to broadcast it as often as possible. Also, letters were sent to local officials, encouraging performance of this piece by American Legion bands and others.

The creation of this song resulted from Mr. Berlin's having learned about Treasury's intensive preparations for unprecedented income tax collections in the Spring of 1942; and, so, he agreed to do a popular tune on the subject to generate a sense of patriotism on the part of taxpayers.

A generation later, in 1971, the *United States Treasury March* was written by Ray John Heindorf and William Lava, and published by Shamley Music Corporation. Although THA has a copy of orchestration sheet music for this march, there appears to be no records available as to the performance of this piece or the reason for which it was written.

## Internet Helps in Research on Treasury's Maritime History

While most THA members are aware that the United States Coast Guard had been a Treasury bureau until its transfer to the Department of Transportation in the 1960s, few know of the other Treasury maritime organizations that created the Coast Guard.

In 1790, the Revenue Cutter Service was created in Treasury, with authorization for 10 vessels to collect duties in American seaports. In 1852, the U.S. Lighthouse Board was created and Treasury was designated to manage these facilities initially, and then the Commerce Department managed them later. In 1871, the U.S. Life-Saving Service was established in the Treasury to manage life-saving stations along the coastlines of the Nation. These life-savings stations in many locations are the subjects of restoration efforts undertaken by several historic preservation groups.

In 1915, the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Life-Saving Service were combined and renamed U.S. Coast Guard. In 1939, Congress merged the U.S. Lighthouse Service with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Extensive on-line information is available from several historical groups, including the U.S. Life-Saving Service Heritage Association's Internet site at [www.uslife-savingservice.org](http://www.uslife-savingservice.org) and several lighthouse preservation groups that are indexed on links page [www.maine.com/lights/orgs.htm](http://www.maine.com/lights/orgs.htm). The U.S. Coast Guard's history may be researched at its historian's website <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/collect.html>.

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## THA Member Preparing Book on Treasury Law Enforcement Insignia

Longstanding member of THA and retired IRS special agent Raymond Sherrard, who is the author of five publications on law enforcement insignia, is now preparing a manuscript for his new book on badges and insignia of the United States Treasury Department. Thus far, he has accumulated a vast collection of thousands of photographs, some dating back to the Civil War, to illustrate the book.

Mr. Sherrard's past publications include *Badges of the United States Marshals*, a book on the history of the Los Angeles Police Department, and *the Encyclopedia of Federal Law Enforcement Patches*.

Mr. Sherrard is seeking assistance from THA and any members who might have pertinent historical materials relating to Treasury bureau law enforcement badges and insignia. Such materials might include illustrations of any kind, documentation of authorization and description of designs of badges and insignia and similar items. If you believe you might have something of historical interest to Mr. Sherrard, please contact him directly as soon as possible at RHS Enterprises, Federal Insignia Books, P.O. Box 5779, Garden Grove, CA 92846-0779, or by phone/FAX at (714) 892-9012.

Mr. Sherrard will share with THA the results of his research and will reimburse any out-of-pocket duplicating and mailing expenses of THA members who assist him by furnishing information or illustrations for his book. He will also provide credit to contributors in the Acknowledgement section of his book.

THA will apprise members of the progress on this compilation of Treasury history and on the availability of the book when published.

## Treasury's First Phone Linked to White House

Today, the Treasury Department is a recognized leader in modern technology. However, historical records have indicated that Treasury did not enjoy this leadership status only recently in the computer cyberage, but that 125 years ago, Treasury enjoyed a technology leadership status as well.

In 1877, Treasury Secretary John Sherman, who served under President Rutherford B. Hayes, had installed in his office a strange wooden box. This novelty of Secretary Sherman's permitted him to speak into it and be heard by the President across the street at the White House. This was the first private telephone line between the Treasury and the White House, which afforded a direct line of communications that no other Cabinet officer enjoyed. While other Secretaries had to rely upon written word dispatched by messengers or to attempt to personally visit the President, Secretary Sherman was able to capture the President's attention with ease and clarity.

The telephones within the Treasury were used not only to communicate important economic matters, but also to permit Secretary Sherman to enjoy listening to one of his bookkeepers' extraordinary bass singing voice over the line.

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