



September 1999

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter...

Restoration Campaign Met Dillon Challenge.

THA met the qualification requirements for the second Dillon Fund \$10,000 "Challenge Grant" by passing the total \$100,000 mark by June 30.

Noontime Tour of Lafayette Park.

Revisit the Civil War years history of the President's Park, with a tour by a THA member and DC licensed tour guide.

2000 Calendar Now Immediately Available.

THA's commemorative calendar for the Millennium contains exquisite photographs of the beauty of the Treasury Building. Order your *Treasures of the U.S. Treasury* today!

***Treasures of the U.S. Treasury* 2000 Calendar Now Available**

Early orders for THA's collectible millennium calendar have been delivered to THA members and other customers. This photographic fine-art wall-hanging calendar measures 12 by 24 inches, and contains 13 large photographs of unique architectural features and antiques from the priceless collection in the Treasury Building. Over 35 additional "thumbnail" photographs or vignettes are also included, each relating to its respective month's principal photo.

The calendar also provides a preview of and ordering information for THA's 2000 commemorative ornament, the twelfth, the most exquisite, and the final holiday ornament in this series.

A *Treasures of the U.S. Treasury* flyer is enclosed with this newsletter. THA has purchased only a limited number of copies, so please order early in order to avoid being disappointed at the end of this year.

Treasury Building Notes —

Completed Treasury Building Still Too Small

Did you know...??? With the completion of the Treasury's North Wing in 1869, forming an enormous figure-eight structure, the Department still had insufficient space for its growing staff and to function in its continually expanding responsibilities.

Perhaps the first satellite building created was for the Department's photographic office, constructed directly across from the South Wing (on the site of Sherman Park); see the inside back cover of the 1998 THA Annual report for this building.

Later, in the late 1800s, a temporary sixth floor addition was built over the center wing of the Mills Wing (above the 5200 corridor), to create a penthouse studio for Treasury draftsmen. At the time of the Spanish-American War, a free-standing wood structure was inserted into the South courtyard of the Treasury Building to serve as a more functional drafting studio with a glass roof to maximize the natural daylight inside the Building. This temporary structure remains today.

After the turn of the century, it was evident that the ever-growing Department of the Treasury needed more space than was available in its Main Building, and a number of Annex buildings were planned.

Today's Treasury Annex Building, originally called Annex 1, was begun in 1917, designed by Cass Gilbert, who also designed the U.S. Supreme Court Building. As it stands today, the Annex is less than on-third its intended size and design. The current building was to have a mirror-image twin at the north end of the same block, with the two connected by a wing with an extensive colonnade very similar to the Mills Wing's colonnade. For several reasons, the rest of Annex 1 was never built.

Two other Treasury Annex buildings were built in the block that became the site of the Commerce Department, but razed for the Federal Triangle in the 1930s.

Restoration Campaign Targets Year End Goal

As it passed the one-year anniversary of its fundraising campaign to restore the gilding in the Cash Room ceiling and North Wing domes, THA was very grateful to receive the second generous \$10,000 grant from The Dillon Fund (the first grant was received in December 1998). The criterion for the second grant was for THA to raise \$100,000 by June 30.

As of August 15, THA has received donations towards this campaign amounting to \$136,000 of the project goal of \$200,000. With \$64,000 still needed for this project, THA is targeting the end of 1999 to meet this goal.

THA is pleased to announce that former Secretary Robert E. Rubin has agreed to serve as a Sponsoring Member of THA's Special Restoration Committee, joining nine other former Secretaries of the Treasury.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the campaign brochure and donation envelope, along with the latest listing of major donors, i.e. those contributing over \$100. If you have not already done so, please consider taking part in this largest project undertaken by THA to assist the Department of the Treasury to return the majestic Cash Room to its original splendor. Your personal tax-deductible contribution will give you a "piece of the action" in THA's role of assisting the Treasury. Member donations below the \$100 level cited in the brochure will be gratefully accepted by THA — every donation to this campaign is important to meeting the project goal.

NTHP/GSA 1999 Preservation Conference to be in October

Final reminder — for our members who are interested and/or involved in restoration of historic sites, the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) and the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) will hold their joint program of the 1999 National Preservation Conference in Washington from October 19 to 24, 1999.

For further program information, call (202) 588-6444 or (800) 944-6847.

Noontime Lafayette Park Tour Set for October 13

A noontime tour of Lafayette Park is being offered to THA members on a first-come, first served basis, at noon on Wednesday, October 13.

The tour will be led by THA member Carol Bisette, a licensed DC tour guide. She will explain the significance of Lafayette Square/Park during the Civil War era, pointing out the buildings that existed at that time, and will share some exciting spy stories relating to that area of town.

Attendee spaces will be limited, so please register immediately by calling THA at (202) 298-0550. You may press the pound sign (#) on your touch-tone telephone to skip our three-minute announcement. Please leave your name and both home and office telephone numbers. THA will confirm reservations by telephone and advise tour attendees where to meet. If required, a rain date will be announced to members holding confirmed reservations for the tour of Lafayette Park.

Treasury Building Tours for THA's Out-of-Town Members

As a service to its members who do not live or work in the Washington, DC area and therefore cannot attend one of the 90-minute public tours of the Treasury Building on Saturday mornings, THA is initiating a special scheduling arrangement.

Out-of-town THA members who plan to be in the Washington, DC area for business or pleasure trips during the workweek may request a tour on a weekday at noon or at 6 p.m.. These tours will be conducted by docents who are THA members.

To request a weekday tour, please call or e-mail THA at least two weeks in advance. Please leave both your home and office telephone numbers, so we may contact you to confirm that a docent is available for your tour on a weekday.

This arrangement for THA out-of-town members is offered on a pilot basis through the end of 1999.

Treasury History Book Authors Sought by THA

Long-planned, THA's coffee-table format history book of the Treasury Building and of the bureaus of the Department has moved one step closer to being produced. The Publications Committee has issued its Request for Proposals and Statement of Work document to a number of historian-authors, and to organizations that might forward the document to qualified professionals.

THA is seeking primarily an architectural historian, who would be expected to obtain contributing text from one or more organizational historians and social historians. Proposals are due on November 1.

THA hopes to publish this book in 2002 and to obtain national retailing through a commercial publisher.

"Salute the Square" Set for October 9

Once again, many of the historic buildings that surround Lafayette Park and that are in the White House neighborhood will have "open house" for guests. This year's event will be held on Saturday, October 9.

The Treasury Building will welcome visitors for this fifth annual event and the public will have an opportunity to visit one of the restored spaces in the Building. THA will again participate in this event for the fifth year, giving the Association some greater visibility to the public.

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