



March 2001

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

## Inside this Newsletter...

- **Annual Ornament Sale.** THA is once again offering its past year ornaments at half price during its yearly inventory clearance sale. The offer is extended through May 31, 2001 and subject to supply in stock.
- **Plans for History Book Continue.** THA's long-standing goal to develop a book on the Department of the Treasury's history is getting closer to realization as the Association submits grant request applications to a number of foundations.

## Walk Day 2001 Tour for Set for Saturday, June 2

"Walk Day 2001" will be held on June 2 in the Lafayette Square Neighborhood, sponsored in part by the Neighbors to the President Museum Consortium, of which the Department of the Treasury is a member. This is part of the larger "Beyond the Monuments, Neighborhood Walk Day" of the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition. The President's Neighborhood Walk Day Welcome Center will be on the South side of New York Ave., NW, between 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets (look for a Red Cross vehicle that will serve as a starting marker).

Walking tours and exhibits will be available at several nearby sites, including the Octagon House, the Kiplinger Collection Center and the Department of the Interior Museum, as well as the Corcoran and Renwick Galleries. Current plans are for the Treasury tour to be an exterior walk around the Building, with the history of each of the four phases of construction provided to participants. Detailed information will be available at the Welcome Center.

## Annual Commemorative Ornament Clearance Sale

THA, once again, is conducting an annual ornament clearance sale. Each year's ornament is now priced 50% below standard non-member price plus shipping and handling. Enclosed is a special sale flyer that lists the items available in this sale through May 31, 2001, subject to supplies in stock.

## Treasury Seal Predates Constitution, Department

Treasury's seal is older than the United States Government and the Department itself. The next time you take money out of your billfold, note the Treasury seal on the front right side of each bill. While this modern version of seal was developed in 1968, the design is from 1780, almost a decade before the Constitution was ratified and the Department of the Treasury was established by the Congress.

The seal's design includes a shield, with a chevron of 13 stars for the original 13 states. The surrounding text reads "The Department of the Treasury 1789." The balanced scales above the chevron represent justice and equity in managing the Federal funds and the key below signifies official authority of and trust in the Department's safekeeping of the Nation's funds.

Prior to the 1968 modernization of the seal, these same elements were present in the earlier Treasury seal, with additional designs of a decorative bow above the shield and wreaths between the shield and the surrounding border, which had the abbreviated Latin inscription "Thesaur. Amer. Septent. Sigil." (which translates to "the Seal of the Treasury of North America").

In 1778, the Continental Congress named John Witherspoon, Gouverneur Morris and Richard Henry Lee to design seals for the Treasury and the Navy. The actual designer of the seal is believed to have been Francis Hopkinson who is documented as submitting bills to the Congress in 1780 authorizing seals, including one for the Board of Treasury. The earliest example of the use of the Treasury seal was found on papers dated 1782. When the United States Government and the Department of the Treasury were established seven years later, the Continental Treasury seal was continued to be used.

Images of both the current version and earlier version of the official Treasury seal may be viewed on the Internet at [www.treas.gov/opc/opc0043.html](http://www.treas.gov/opc/opc0043.html).

Treasury's seal, as are all other Federal agency seals, are protected from unofficial use and duplication by the criminal code at 18 USC 701.

## Commemorative Calendar *Treasures of the U.S. Treasury* Available Below THA's Cost

Although 2000 is now past, THA's *Treasures of the U.S. Treasury* calendar remains a collector memento of the end of the millennium. The calendar has fine-art photographic images of the unique architectural features and the priceless antiques of the National Historic Landmark Treasury Building. The calendar's exclusive original full-color photography is complemented by over 50 archival images and narratives about the building.

THA has a number of "remainder copies" of the 2000 calendar, which was originally sold for \$18 (\$15 to THA members). The Association is now making these available at \$3 each (including postage) which is below THA's cost. This special inventory clearance pricing will permit anyone who wishes to do so to have additional copies of this beautiful photographic essay on the National Historic Landmark Treasury Building as collector items for themselves, children, grandchildren and others and as mementos of the year 2000.

To order, complete and cut out the remainder of this column or photocopy it, including your name and address, and mail it with your check to THA (address to right).

----- C u t -----

**Order for 2000 Keepsake Calendar**  
***Treasures of the U.S. Treasury***  
\_\_\_ Calendars @ \$3            \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Treasury Money Facts:

## ***A Money Factory in the Treasury Building***

The first paper currency of the United States was issued in 1861 due to the shortage of coins that is believed to be attributable to the need for metal for cannon and ammunition for Union troops of the Civil War. Some notes were issued below the \$1 amount; these were called "fractional notes," and went down to as small as five cents.

Green ink was selected for the backs of the new U.S. notes, primarily due its availability in volume, giving the notes the nickname "greenbacks." Initially, they were produced by private banknote companies, but authenticated by Treasury employees who signed them.

During the following two years, the Department of the Treasury geared up to produce currency notes. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing's operations were conducted in the basement and attic of the Treasury Building next to the White House. Production of currency notes continued in the Treasury Building until 1880, when the Bureau moved to its first "Home of its Own" at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Avenue, SW. This new building afforded a more efficient production operation for manufacturing currency, and served the Bureau well until a newer building was constructed immediately to the south of it in 1914.

Today all currency notes are "Federal Reserve Notes," produced by the Bureau and delivered to the Federal Reserve Banks at 12 locations throughout the country. Since 1913, the Federal Reserve has had responsibility for distributing currency to banks and, ultimately, the public, a function that previously had been performed by the Office of the Treasurer of the U.S. through its Assistant Treasurers and Sub-Treasuries throughout the Nation.

## **Coffee-Table Treasury History Book Plans Continue to Develop**

THA has for many years been sequestering funding to develop a book on the history of the Department of the Treasury. As time progressed, it was decided that the book would be a "coffee-table" style book with a great number of photographs, but with more text than just captions for the photos.

One of the two themes of the book will be the history of the Treasury Building next to the White House; the second will be the organizational history of the Department and its bureaus presented in the appropriate timeframes in the history of the Building. All current bureaus of the Department or their predecessors were at one time located in the Treasury Building, so there will be a logical connection between the book's two themes.

THA has accumulated about two-thirds of the funding needed to engage a historian to begin the two-year research and writing tasks. In the past three months, THA submitted grant applications to about a dozen foundations to seek the remaining funding through grants and contributions. Members who have suggestions of foundations to be contacted for grant consideration are asked to send referrals to THA.

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

**Information and Message Line:**  
**(202) 298-0550**

**Website Address:**  
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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>.

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

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

## 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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September 2001

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

## Inside this Newsletter...

- **Special savings to members on THA holiday cards.** THA is offering its members special savings on the purchase of its snow scene holiday greeting cards, through October 31, subject to stock on hand.
- **New THA web pages.** Thanks to the support of a team of website experts, THA's website has undergone major changes, including the addition of on-line posting of this newsletter.

## Treasury Building Placed on Washington, DC's New "Heritage Trail"

Last July, the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition and the Downtown Business Improvement District unveiled the new Downtown Heritage Trail. This trail leads visitors to historically-significant buildings and sites that were important in the history of the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. Each of the 21 locations on the DC Heritage Trail is marked with a permanent interpretative panel that reproduces historic photographs, engravings and text.

The Heritage Trail includes the back alley down which John Wilkes Booth escaped after having assassinated President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre in 1865 and the Willard Hotel where, in August 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. finished writing his forever-remembered "I Have a Dream" speech.

The panel for the Treasury Building has been placed on 15<sup>th</sup> Street, and it discusses Treasury's significant Civil War history, including such items as Secretary Salmon P. Chase's efforts to raise funds to support the Union army. Also included in the Treasury panel is information on Blanche K. Bruce, who was the first African-American to serve as the Register of the Treasury.

A companion book to the tour route, titled *Civil War to Civil Rights: Downtown Heritage Trail*, is available for \$4.95 plus tax and shipping, from Olsson's Book and Record Stores ((202) 347-3686) and at the National Building Museum gift shop ((202) 272-7706).

## First Secret Service Chief and Treasury Guard Flag Recent News Headliners

Treasury's history has been in the news lately. In May, the *New York Times* ran a feature article (5/29/01, page A12) about the headstone recently erected to mark the grave of William P. Wood, the first chief of the U.S. Secret Service. Wood, who is buried in Washington's Congressional Cemetery, died in 1903 nearly penniless. Until recently, his grave was marked with only a small stone engraved with his last name. The Association of Former Agents of the U.S. Secret Service raised funds for a larger stone which is inscribed with his birth and death dates, as well as dates of tenure with Secret Service. The headstone was dedicated this past Memorial Day.

Chief Wood, who was appointed in July of 1865, served for four years and is credited with organizing the operation responsible for catching counterfeiters. In the *Times* article, Mike Sampson, current archivist of the Secret Service, remarked, "I don't know if he would cut it as director today. He was kind of gruff .... But when they were starting out, they wanted a no-nonsense guy."

Another recent *New York Times* article (7/5/01, page A17) reported on the discovery of a Treasury Guard flag in a storage room at the Connecticut Historical Society. One of the five flags on display in President Lincoln's theater box at Ford's Theatre the night he was assassinated, this hand-painted flag was found in a box on top of a storage room shelf. The flag is stitched with the inscription, "Presented to the Treasury Guard Regt. by the Ladies of the Treasury Dept. 1864." The Treasury Guard Regiment was composed of male Treasury employees who formed a militia that could spring into action and protect the Treasury Building in the event of a Confederate attack on Washington, DC.

This flag took a circuitous route following Lincoln's assassination. It was stored at Treasury until the 1870s when it was taken by Henry Cobaugh, captain of the watch who, in turn, gave it to Edgar Yeargason and, in 1922, the Yeargason family donated the flag to the Connecticut Historical Society where it was forgotten for more than 75 years. A second Treasury Guard flag is on display at Ford's Theater.

## Special Offer on THA Holiday Cards for Members Only

THA is offering its members a special savings on holiday cards of the Treasury Building through October 31, subject to stock on hand. The cards show the Treasury Building from a Southwest view, in a full color snow setting, with the Treasury Annex Building in the distance. This image, from a watercolor by noted local artist Ken Frye, may be viewed on THA's website.

The THA holiday cards are packed 10 to a box, and come in a choice of inside printing (see below). To order, cut out or photocopy this column, including your name and address, and mail it with your check to the address in the right column before October 31.

Special pricing is a \$1 discount (\$7 instead of the usual \$8 per box), plus a free box for every two purchased. Inside printing types may be mixed.

### Order for Treasury Building Cards

**SPECIAL MEMBER-ONLY OFFER  
EXPIRES OCTOBER 31, 2001**

\_\_ Box(es) Holiday Cards @ \$7, with inside inscription as follows:

- ( ) "Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year"
- ( ) "Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year"
- ( ) Blank inside for your own note

**TOTAL OF ORDER: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Plus Free Boxes of cards, 1 box free for every 2 boxes purchased:**

- ( ) *Merry Christmas;*
- ( ) *Seasons Greetings;*
- ( ) *Blank*

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

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

## Lafayette Square Day Slated for October 6

Ten sites surrounding the President's Park will celebrate their two hundred years of rich history at the seventh annual Lafayette Square Day Open House. There will be museum and exhibit tours, gallery talks, walking tours, family workshops, children's programs, artist demonstrations and much more.

The open house, running from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., will include the Corcoran Gallery, Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, Decatur House Museum, the Hay-Adams Hotel, the Octagon, Riggs Bank, the Renwick Gallery, St. John's Church, the White House Historical Association and the White House Visitor's Center. For further information, call (202) 842-0915 or visit [www.decatourhouse.org](http://www.decatourhouse.org).

## THA Holiday Ornament Series Now Concluded

THA's commemorative holiday ornament for the year 2000 was the last in the series of the commemoratives that celebrated the histories of each current Treasury bureau. The series, which began with the ornament that commemorated the bicentennial of the Department of the Treasury in 1989, extended 12 years, concluding with the ornament that honored the bicentennials of the first Treasury Building in Washington, DC and of Washington, DC as the Nation's Capital in 2000.

Past years' ornaments remain available for sale, subject to stock on hand. Member prices are \$11 each for 1990 through 1999 ornaments and \$15 each for the 2000 ornament. To order ornaments, members may either use the form that is on THA's website, contact THA and request a product brochure, or simply send THA a note, specifying the year(s) and number(s) of ornaments wanted. All prices included shipping and handling charges.

## THA Posts New and Improved Web Pages

In late August, THA posted its new, updated web pages, developed without charge to the Association by a group of website experts who wanted to apply their talents to help THA in its missions of supporting the Department in historic preservation and of providing education relating to the history of the Department of the Treasury.

The THA website address remains: [www.treasuryhistoricalassn.org](http://www.treasuryhistoricalassn.org) but the appearance of the website is dramatically different than THA's past Internet website pages. Now added to the website are narrative descriptions of each of THA's commemorative products, as well as an order form that can be printed and completed by purchasers.

Other changes to the website include current posting of a number of past THA Newsletters and the first of several new Internet links to other Treasury-related history sites. Future plans are to add other THA publications for on-line access.

THA wishes to thank Eric White and Erin Weinman, who initiated the planning for the new website content, Lisa Balcazar, who was the principal website designer, and Rene Smeraglia, who reviewed content and design, all under the direction of Glenn Hall who recently retired from the United States Mint.

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December 2001

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

## Inside this Newsletter...

- **Special savings to members on THA Springtime note cards.** THA is offering its members special savings on the purchase of its note cards, through the first day of Spring—March 21, 2002, subject to stock on hand.
- **Treasury's Past Role in Life Saving.** In years when the Federal government was much smaller than today, Treasury had been assigned unique responsibilities for public safety on the high seas and our shorelines.

## Newsletter News

**Frequency Change:** Beginning next year, THA's Newsletter will change in frequency from four issues a year to three, April, August and December

**Back Issues:** Members who wish certain back issues of this 2-page Newsletter that contain informative historical articles may submit requests by e-mail, voicemail or U.S. mail. Please tell us issue(s) wanted and your mailing address, your FAX number and your e-mail address, so we can respond in the most efficient manner.

Past issue historical articles and topics:

### **Treasury Building -**

- Construction history (12/96, 3/97, 6/97, 12/97, 3/98, 6/98, 9/98, 12/98, 3/99, 6/99, 9/99)
- Currency Production in, (3/01)
- Fire of 1996, damage and repair (9/96, 12/96, 9/98)
- Fires, previous, historic (3/97, 9/97)
- Renovation, TBARR (12/99, 6/00)
- Restoration, Committee for Cash Room Ceiling (12/97, 6/98, 12/98, 3/99, 6/99, 9/99, 12/99, 3/00, 6/00, 9/00, 12/00)

### **Treasury Department -**

- Guard Flag (9/01)
- Law Enforcement Insignia (6/01)
- Maritime Duties (6/01)
- Music (6/01)
- Official Seal (3/01)
- Parent to Other Agencies (3/00)
- Staff List of 1875 (6/00)
- Telephone History (6/01)
- Time Capsule (6/01)

## Treasury Official Flags Reflect Past Maritime Duties

Treasury's official flags continue to reflect the important role of its former duties on the high seas. As an ever-lasting link to Treasury's earlier Coast Guard responsibilities (succeeding the duties of the Revenue Cutter Service, the U.S. Life Saving Service and the Lighthouse Establishment — see article on page 2), as well as Treasury's Maritime Hospital Service (now the U.S. Public Health Service, part of the Department of Health and Human Services), the Department continues to display the nautical anchor in its official flags.

The Department's official flag, approved by Treasury Secretary C. Douglas Dillon in 1963, contains a variation of the official Treasury seal's shield, with its chevron containing 13 stars for the original 13 states, the key and the scales (THA's March 2001 Newsletter contained an article on the history of the seal). In the center of the green Treasury flag, this seal is resting on an eagle, which carries a banner in its beak with the words "The Department of the Treasury," and another banner in its claws with the date "1789." The eagle is centered between a cluster of oak leaves representing strength and olive leaves signifying peace. However, the shield differs from the one in the seal of the Department in that the scales are pivoting on an anchor. The flag was designed just four years before the U.S. Coast Guard was transferred from Treasury to the newly-created U.S. Department of Transportation.

The green Treasury flag is authorized for display in the offices of a number of senior Department and bureau officials, as well as on the exterior of Treasury— and bureau-occupied buildings, and is recognized by many Treasury employees and the public. However, there are also additional Treasury flags that are not as prevalently observed and recognized. These are Treasury's "flags of rank" for the highest officials of the Department — the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries. These flags are all identical in design, but have a distinctive color combination for each of these four Secretarial levels. The design of these flags, also contains the traditional shield portion of the Treasury seal. However, the shield is set amid two very large crossed anchors.

## Special Offer on Springtime Cards for THA Members Only

THA is offering its members a special savings on its Springtime note cards of the Treasury Building until March 21, 2002, subject to stock on hand. The cards show the Treasury Building from a Southeast view, in a full color setting, with the neighboring banks to the north in the distance. This image, from a watercolor by noted local artist Ken Frye, may be viewed on THA's website.

The THA Springtime note cards are packed 10 to a box, and are blank inside for your personal message. To order, cut out or photocopy this column, including your name and address, and mail it with your check to the address in the right column before March 21, 2002.

Special pricing is a \$1 discount (\$7 instead of the usual \$8 per box), plus a free box for every two purchased.

### Order for Treasury Building Springtime Note Cards

**SPECIAL MEMBER-ONLY OFFER  
EXPIRES MARCH 21, 2002**

**Subject to Stock on Hand**

\_\_\_ Box(es) of Note cards @ \$7,

**TOTAL OF ORDER:**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Plus \_\_\_ Free Boxes of cards, 1 box free for every 2 boxes purchased:**

**Mail your order and check to the Treasury Historical Association - Commemorative Products at the address shown in the box in the right-hand column of this page.**

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

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

## Treasury Has Historic Role in Saving Lives

Did you know that Treasury was the first federal government agency in the field of search and rescue? In honor of the September 11 efforts by countless courageous rescue workers at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon and in western Pennsylvania, the Treasury Library has mounted an historic exhibit on Treasury's life saving activities.

Treasury's historic rescue mission was carried out by three bureaus:  
1 – The Lighthouse Establishment, created on August 7, 1789  
2 – The Revenue Cutter Service, established on August 4, 1790  
3 – The U.S. Life Saving Service, authorized in 1831; codified on December 22, 1837.

In 1831, Revenue Cutters were ordered by the Secretary of the Treasury to cruise the Atlantic coast to provide assistance to distressed mariners. In 1847, Congress authorized the Treasury to equip lighthouses for shore-based rescues. The Department built a network of life saving stations down the coast.

Lighthouse keepers were cited many times for heroic rescues. Ida Lewis (1841-1911), a lighthouse keeper on the coast of Rhode Island in the mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century, was a national celebrity for her many rescues. In 1881, she became the only woman to be awarded Treasury's Gold Life Saving Medal.

The Revenue Cutter Service became well-known for its expertise and daring in aiding ships and seamen in distress. The U.S. Life Saving Service, which saved lives and property by maintaining patrols, operating surfboats, transporting the rescued to shore and giving care and shelter, was the focus of Treasury's life saving efforts. The rescues by the men of the Life Saving Service captured the attention of 19<sup>th</sup>-century America. The men performed heroic rescues and came to

## Treasury Lifesaving, Continued

be called "soldiers of the surf" and "storm warriors." The Life Saving Service acquired modern technology of the day – the telegraph, telephone, radio, and motorboats. Treasury's Annual Reports contain the tales of many heroic rescues.

Each of these bureaus was initially supervised by local Customs Collectors. In 1852, the Lighthouses came under the Lighthouse Board. Joseph Henry, first Secretary of the Smithsonian, served on the Board (1852-1878) and was a member of its committee on experiments. He carried out important work on different illuminating oils and the curious regions of the inaudibility of fog horns.

In January 1915, the Revenue Cutter Service and Life Saving Service were combined into the U.S. Coast Guard. The Lighthouses were later added in July 1939. The Coast Guard was a Treasury bureau until April 1967 when it was transferred to the newly created Department of Transportation. When it left Treasury, the Coast Guard was saving 3,000 lives a year.

The Treasury Library display on Treasury's Historic Rescue Mission is in the large 19<sup>th</sup>-century display case outside the Library, 1428 MT, and is based on THA's research on former Treasury bureaus. For more on Treasury's maritime history, see THA's June 2001 Newsletter.

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