



April 2004

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter...

- **Treasury History On-Line.** We have discovered many websites where you can find a vast wealth of information about former Treasury Secretaries.
- **Treasury Guards.** The Department armed its male employees during the Civil War to help protect the Building and the Department's operations.

New Donor Gift for 2004

General membership in THA is only \$12 a year. Members who join or renew with a donation of \$50 or more receive a gift that expresses THA's thanks and lets the member display his or her support for the Association. Membership at any level is fully tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Your dues and donations support THA's work of preserving Treasury history and making it accessible to members and the public.

For 2004, THA is offering donors a paperweight of fine white Carrara marble, the material used for the Cash Room floor. The paperweight is 3" square by 1" thick, bearing the THA logo. Each paperweight is mounted with a stone with a historic view of the Treasury Building, ca. 1867.

Donors at this level may also choose any of the 1990's series of THA ornaments that remain in stock. The 2003 donor gift, a travel alarm clock and calculator, is also available, but very few remain. THA will not reorder the ornaments and clocks, so if you request one of these items please indicate a second and third choice.

For an easy way to renew your membership, visit www.treasuryhistoricalassn.org.

New Board of Directors and Officers Elected

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of 15 nominees for the 2004-2005 Board of Directors of the Association at the Annual Open Meeting on December 10. Votes were tendered at this meeting by all members of THA who were present.

From the newly-elected Board members, officers were elected by a separate ballot. Officers for 2004-2005 are: Michael D. Serlin, President; Mary Ellen Withrow, Vice President; Marcus W. Page, Secretary; David J. Monroe, Treasurer; and, Thomas P. O'Malley, Board Chairman.

Besides the officers, the other directors on the Board include several continuing members and two new members. They are: Donald C. Alexander; Suzanne Cosme (new); William F. Falls; John F. Flood, Jr.; Abby L. Gilbert; Paula A. Mohr; Clifford R. Northup; Judith S. Ochs (new); Charles H. Powers; and, Maggie K. Rindler.

The Board of Directors meets quarterly to develop new initiatives as well as policy and program decisions, with intervening voting conducted by e-mail. The day-to-day operations of THA are managed by the officers and seven committees. The committees and chairs are: Executive Committee, Mr. Serlin; Membership Committee, Mr. Falls; Commemorative Products Committee, Mr. O'Malley; Finance Committee, Mr. Monroe; Programs Committee, Ms. Withrow; Publications Committee, Ms. Mohr; and, Public Communications Committee, Mr. Powers.



Matthew Brady Photo of the U.S. Treasury Guards, 1865.

See next page for article on this photograph.

Personalities from Treasury's Past —

Vast Wealth of Treasury History Available On-Line

Historical information about former Treasury secretaries is accessible on the Internet in ways that most of these men could not have imagined. Below is a sampling of some of the websites which offer a wide variety of historical facts, images and ideas for further reading about the men who have held this important office.

- www.ustreas.gov/education/history/secretaries/index.html
Interested in what President Tyler's treasury secretary looked like? Want to know when Andrew Mellon served as secretary? Go to the Treasury curator's website for portraits and answers.

- www.americanpresident.org/history/h_home.shtml
This website focusing on the American presidency was developed by The Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia. Cabinet members and their biographies are listed for each presidential administration. For example, did you know that Daniel Manning, who served as Grover Cleveland's treasury secretary from 1885 to 1887, dropped out of school at age 11?

- www.nps.gov/frhi/home.htm
The website for Friendship Hill National Historic Site presents information about Albert Gallatin's home in western Pennsylvania, biographical details about the man who was the fourth secretary in history (and the longest-serving Treasury secretary), and a discussion of his role in the Whiskey Rebellion.

- www.law.emory.edu/FEDERAL/federalist/
Interested in learning more about what Alexander Hamilton was up to before he became Treasury's first secretary? The Federalist Papers, in which Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison argued for the ratification of the Constitution, can be accessed online.

(This article is the first of an occasional series on web sources dealing with Treasury's history.)

Treasury's First "Homeland Security" Unit Provided Protection in the Civil War

The Treasury Guards was a regiment of male employees of the Department, formed into a militia during the Civil War, to be available to assist in the defense of Washington. The Treasury Guards, with other departmental units, were called up to protect Federal buildings in July 1864 when Confederate General Jubal Early threatened to invade Washington. Their ongoing responsibilities undoubtedly included the protection of Treasury's Building, employees, stock of currency and coin, and currency manufacturing operations from attack.

Despite their "national defense" mission, the armed Treasury Guards did not become a part of any military organization. All male Treasury employees, 18-45, except those exempted for health reasons, were required to join the Treasury Guards. Although it was a common practice for a gentleman to be allowed to pay another person to serve in his place when he was drafted into the Union Army, such exemption from service in the Treasury Guards was not provided to Treasury's male employees.

The Treasury Guards, numbering about 1,000, drilled at least two days each week for several hours after the regular business hours. The exact location of their drills does not appear to have been documented. Through rigorous drills and training, the group was brought to a high state of discipline and efficiency for service in the event of an emergency. Contrary to the views of many, there are no records that indicate that the Treasury Guards had responsibilities for delivering payroll to Union troops in the field.

The women clerks of Treasury bought a flag for the Treasury Guards. It was 6 by 6 ½ feet, of a navy blue field, with a large spread-wing American eagle in the center holding a sheaf of arrows in the right claw and an olive branch in the left. Below the eagle, "U.S. TREASURY GUARDS" was inscribed in a white ribbon. This flag was loaned to Ford's Theater on Tenth Street on April 14, 1865, as part of the decoration of the President's box. It was this flag that assassin John Wilkes Booth caught the spur of his boot, as he leaped from the

box onto the stage, after firing the mortal shots into President Abraham Lincoln, causing a 3 ½ inch tear in the upper right edge of the flag, and a fracture in Booth's leg. The original of this flag is now on exhibit in the Lincoln Museum in the lower level of Ford's Theater, and duplicates of the flag have been placed on the restored Presidential box in the main theatre area, just as it had been displayed on the day that Lincoln was shot, as well as in the Andrew Johnson suite in the Treasury Building.

Through research by the Treasury Historical Association, identification has been made of the Treasury Guard officers of 1865. However, no source reveals which name is associated with each man in the Matthew Brady photograph. The Regimental officers (men in round, brimmed hats and belt across their chests) are believed to be Lt. Col. G. B. Kenniston and Major David R. B. Nevin. Each of the 10 companies of the Treasury Guard was led by a captain: Company A, Capt. Green Adams; Company B, Capt. Frank Jones; Company C, Capt. William G. Moore (from the War Department); Company D, Capt. Samuel B. Morse; Company E, Capt. F.A. Howard; Company F, Capt. Levi Beardsley; Company G, Capt. Albert S. White; Company H, Capt. Myron A. Tappan; Company I, Capt. Isaac Hackett; and Company K, Capt. A. Jordan Swartz.

On September 27, 1865, Treasury Secretary Hugh McCulloch requested that the Treasury Guards be disbanded. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton disbanded the unit by Special Order 548 on October 16, 1865. This was one more step in the process by which the Nation reunited its states of the North and the South to build a strong union.

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August 2004

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter...

- **Alexander Hamilton Exhibition.** The New York Historical Society opens a six-month exhibition on the first Treasury Secretary on August 28.
- **Accused Treasury Spy (?).** THA's guest lecturer for June was historian-author R. Bruce Craig, whose book *Treasonable Doubt: the Harry Dexter White Spy Case* examines the case of the accused Assistant Secretary of the Treasury during the FDR Administration.

Dumbarton House, Home of America's "First Civil Servant"

Dumbarton House, the residence of Joseph Nourse, is a Federal house museum administered by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America. Built around 1800, the house has been open for public tours for over 70 years, and contains extensive collections of Federal period furniture, silver, glass, paintings, textiles and historic manuscripts. Included in the collections are various Nourse family artifacts, including Joseph Nourse's appointment document as first Register of the United States Treasury.

The house has been restored to show it as it might have appeared during the time of its first resident, Joseph Nourse, and presents an unusual opportunity to catch a glimpse of what life was like in Washington in the early 1800s.

On July 10, 2004, the 250th Anniversary of Nourse's birth was celebrated in a special commemoration at the House.

Located at 2715 Q Street, NW, in the Georgetown section of Washington, DC, Dumbarton House is open for docent-led public tours on Tuesdays through Saturdays at 10:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 1:15 p.m. A nominal admission fee is requested. However, by special arrangement between Dumbarton House and the Treasury Historical Association, each THA member may enjoy a complimentary tour for one person by presenting a copy of this article upon entry to the house museum.

Personalities from Treasury's Past —

Joseph Nourse, Register, A Life-Long Treasury Career

In recent times, Treasury employees usually retire after 25, 30 or 40 years, with portions of their service spent in other departments and agencies. Rare is the case for a public servant to spend half a century at Treasury; but, at the beginning of our national government, one of America's first public servants holds such a distinctive record -- Joseph Nourse.

Nourse, born in London in 1754, moved to America with his family in 1769. In 1776, Nourse was appointed as secretary to Continental Army General Charles Lee. Finding military life not to be suitable for him, the following year Nourse resigned and sought another position, subsequently being appointed as assistant clerk and then deputy secretary to the Colonial Board of War. This latter role was the most responsible position available to someone who was not a member of the Continental Congress. In 1778, he was elected secretary of ordnance and paymaster to the Board of War and Ordnance, but resigned seven months later to move to Philadelphia.

In 1779, Nourse became the Assistant Auditor General for the Board of Treasury, and two years later was elected Register of the Treasury, a position he held both in the Colonial Board of Treasury and, following the Constitution, in the Department of the Treasury. When President George Washington sought Senate confirmation of his nominated Treasury officials on September 11, 1789, the nominees included Alexander Hamilton of New York and several other men, with references to their home state; the nomination of Joseph Nourse to serve as Register of the Treasury did not cite his home state, but merely recorded his status as being "in office." The Senate promptly confirmed these nominations.

The duties of Register of the Treasury were to keep all accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the public money and of all debts due to or from the U.S. Government...duties of today's Financial Management Service.

Nourse left Treasury in 1829, after serving under seven Presidents and nine Treasury Secretaries, with a career at the Treasury Department and the predecessor Treasury Board spanning 50 years -- a tenure rarely found in public service.

(This is the sixth in a series of articles on the people who have shaped Treasury's history.)

June Lecture Examines Accused Treasury Spy

On June 16, THA sponsored a lecture by historian R. Bruce Craig on an important Cold War espionage case with a Treasury Department connection. In 1948, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Harry Dexter White was accused, along with Alger Hiss, of colluding with the Soviets. White, an important member of the Treasury "brain trust" during the Roosevelt and Truman administrations, was responsible for the creation of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank after World War II. The fact that White died shortly after testifying before the House Un-American Activities Committee only fueled speculation that he was indeed a Soviet spy and that his death was the result of foul play. However, Dr. Craig argues that, while White was involved in a "species of espionage," his actions fell short of "policy subversion."

Bruce Craig's lecture for THA was drawn from his recently published book *Treasonable Doubt: The Harry Dexter White Spy Case* (University Press of Kansas, 2004).

This study is based on ten years of research, which included examination of FBI and Treasury Department records, as well as oral interviews with Alger Hiss, former Attorney General Herbert Brownell, FBI agent Robert Lamphere, and KGB officer General Vitalii G. Pavlov. In 1996, the National Security Agency released the VENONA decrypts—a collection of cable transmissions between Soviet agents based in the United States and their Soviet superiors in Moscow.

These transmissions shed light on White's relationship with the Soviets. Dr. Craig also was successful in getting the records of White's grand jury testimony and materials related to the Alger Hiss grand jury unsealed. While this made invaluable historical records

available his research, this court case also established an important precedent for unsealing grand jury records for their historical value alone.

R. Bruce Craig is the director of the National Coalition for History (NCH), a Washington, D.C. based advocacy organization that represents the historical and archival community on Capitol Hill. He also is an adjunct faculty member at the American University in Washington, D.C., where he teaches policy history. He holds a Ph.D. from American University, and is currently researching his next book, a biography of Alger Hiss.

Treasury Building Notes —

Check Your Knowledge of the Treasury Building

(Continuing the article begun in December 2003 edition, which contains facts on East and South Wings of the Treasury Building. The North Wing will be covered in the future.)

West Wing...

- Designed by Isaiah Rogers, with construction beginning in 1855, the same year as the South Wing.
- Construction slowed due to shortage of labor and materials, resulting in completion four years after the South Wing (in 1864).
- Grand design included a triple-dome and skylight in the center, over the two spiral stair wells (currently obstructed by elevator shafts and mechanism).
- Secretary's office moved South Wing to directly over the West Wing's foyer immediately after completion.
- Secretary's outer office served as temporary White House office for President Andrew Johnson immediately after Abraham Lincoln's assassination.
- Wing included portions of what is now considered the North Wing, i.e. inclusive of northwest staircase and vaults in offices that face Pennsylvania Avenue and the Treasury Annex Building.

Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America

If you are planning on visiting New York City this fall, you will want to see the new exhibition "Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America" at the New York Historical Society. Drawing from the collections of the Museum of the City of New York, the Library of Congress, the New York Historical Society, and other institutions, this exhibit promises to showcase a rich collection of objects and manuscripts to tell the story how this American hero "shaped our world - modern America - perhaps more than any of his contemporaries."

Hamilton's long-lasting contributions and paradoxical life continue to fascinate historians and the public. As Richard Brookhiser, one of the curators of this exhibition, has written, "as first Treasury secretary, planner of the Federalist Papers, and adviser to George Washington, Hamilton had a career fit for Mount Rushmore. Born poor and illegitimate in the Caribbean, hated by Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, loved by women - including his wife - and killed in a duel by the Vice President of the United States, Hamilton had a life fit for the tabloids."

The exhibition will be on view from August 28, 2004 through February 28, 2005. The New York Historical Society is located at 2 West 77th Street in New York City. For more information, visit www.nyhistory.org, www.gilderlehrman.org/index.html or call (212) 873-3400.

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December 2004

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter...

- **Annual Open Membership Meeting.** The annual meeting of members will be at noon on Wednesday, December 8, in the Cash Room. Join us and bring a potential new member with you.
- **Annual Holiday Sale in the Cash Room.** This traditional holiday Cash Room sale event will be held on Thursday, December 9.
- **Special Product Offer for Members.** THA members are offered special pricing on the former Treasury bureaus now in the Department of Homeland Security, and on Treasury Building magnet sets.

Annual THA Membership Meeting, December 8

THA's annual open membership meeting, which affords an opportunity for current and new members to learn about THA's past and planned activities, will be held at noon on Wednesday, December 8, in the Cash Room. James A. Thomas, Jr., Director, Office of Facilities & Support Services, will provide an update, with slides, regarding progress and some interesting historical surprises in the major restoration project of the Treasury Building, scheduled for completion in about a year.

After the event, THA will have refreshments for attendees and will provide an opportunity for members who renew or new members who join THA at the event to receive Former Treasurer of the U.S. Mary Ellen Withrow's personally autographed \$2 bills at their face value cost.

Members who do not have a Treasury Building pass must call THA at (202) 298-0550 by December 3 if they wish to request entry to this December 8 event.

Annual Holiday Sale to be Held on December 9

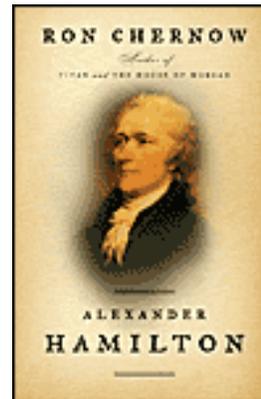
Once again, THA will be participating in the Treasury Building's Holiday Sale Event in the Cash Room. This will be held on Thursday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each year, this event includes the U.S. Mint, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division Benefit Fund and Treasury Department Recreation Association, as well as THA, each with their unique inventory of potential holiday gifts.

Members who do not have a Treasury Building pass must call THA at (202) 298-0550 by December 6 if they wish to request entry to this December 9 event, indicating a specific hour for entry.

Biographer Provides Insight to First Treasury Secretary

At the invitation of Secretary of the Treasury, John W. Snow, on September 13th historian Ron Chernow addressed a packed Cash Room to talk about his new biography of Treasury's first secretary, Alexander Hamilton. Chernow's book, published this year by Penguin Press, has been described by *The New York Times* as "by far the best biography ever written about the man."

Mr. Chernow introduced Hamilton by describing his tragic childhood in the West Indies. Although he was abandoned by his father and orphaned at the age of twelve when his mother died, Hamilton soon overcame these obstacles of his youth. Immigrating to New York, he attended King's College in Manhattan—the first step in his meteoric rise to



power. He became Washington's aide-de-camp and the following decade authored the majority of *The Federalist Papers*.

The author noted that, throughout his career, Hamilton made surprising choices including his decision to provide the legal defense for Tories who had cooperated with Brit-

ain. In another surprising move, as Treasury secretary, Hamilton successfully argued that the federal government should assume the debts of individual states—a move which historians see as critical in ensuring a stable and cohesive young nation.

Mr. Chernow also effectively compared Hamilton to his contemporaries, most of whom were closely identified with their home states. Jefferson was seen as a Virginian. Adams was closely connected with Massachusetts. Hamilton, on the other hand, took a continental view and was not wed to the interests of a particular state. It was this mindset—perhaps developed from his chaotic childhood—that enabled him to make broad, sweeping and lasting contributions to the country's political and financial systems.

Following this talk, the author signed copies of *Alexander Hamilton* for attendees. THA was pleased to assist the Department by providing refreshments for this event.

Treasury Building Magnets Available

THA's ceramic Treasury Building magnets are available to its members for \$3 a set, which includes shipping and handling. These contain the same images that appear on THA's 2000 commemorative ornament. Ideal for posting small notes on refrigerators or file cabinets, the magnets are in a set of 2, consisting of images of the first Treasury Building in Washington (1800-1833) and if the current Treasury Building, from a painting circa. 1880s.



To order, use a copy of the form below, and allow 2 weeks for delivery.

DECEMBER 2004 ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No. _____

____ Set(s) of 2 Treasury Building Magnets @ \$3.00 per set \$ _____

____ Set(s) of 3 Homeland Security Bureau Ornaments, plus 1 pair of above Treasury Building Magnets @ \$24.00 per set.....\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____
Payable to: Treasury Historical Association

Mail to:

THA December 2004 Offer
P.O. Box 28118
Washington, DC 20038-8118

Homeland Security Ornament Set Now at Lowest Member Price

Gone, but not forgotten... A year and a half ago, three Treasury bureaus were transferred to the new Department of Homeland Security. These were the U.S. Customs Service, the oldest Treasury bureau, in fact, older than the Department itself by several weeks; the U.S. Secret Service, whose establishment was approved by President Abraham Lincoln on the morning of the day he was assassinated and created on July 5, 1865, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, although a young bureau, one that continued Treasury's law enforcement training that was begun in 1917.

THA commemorated the histories of these bureaus, as well as all other Treasury bureaus, in its series of commemorative ornaments. THA is now offering to its members at an unprecedented low price ornaments of all three of these bureaus in a set for \$24, including shipping and handling. This is a substantial savings from THA's member price of \$12.44 each plus \$5.95 s&h. As an additional bonus, each order for this 3-ornament set will include a pair of Treasury Building magnets. This offer is available through December 31, 2004, subject to supply on hand.

To order, use a copy of the form at left, and allow 2 weeks for delivery.



Further descriptions of these ornaments, are on our website's commemorative products page.

Treasury Building Notes — Check Your Knowledge of the Treasury Building

(Continuing the article begun in December 2003 edition, which contained facts on East and South Wings of the Treasury Building and in August 2004 edition, which provided information on the West Wing.)

North Wing...

- Designed by Alfred B. Mullett, with construction beginning in 1867 and completed in 1869.
- The Old State Department Building, almost identical to first Treasury Building, was on the site of North Wing and had to be demolished before the North extension could be built.
- The North Wing was intentionally made elegant to show to the public that the Union was not broke from the Civil War.
- The grand design included corridor treatments of gilding, stenciling and detailed molding not used elsewhere in the Building.
- The Cash Room, designed to be a banker's bank, is 2-stories tall, with seven types of marble.
- Andrew Johnson's Inaugural Reception was held in the almost-finished Cash Room on March 4, 1869, the most elegant room in Washington city.
- Treasury tellers continued to provide check-cashing, currency-exchange, and securities transaction services to the public through mid-1976. Afterwards, the Cash Room became the principal ceremonial room in the Treasury Building.
- The 1927 renovation of the Cash Room added the bronze doors, to replace original wood doors.

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