

April 2005

Inside this Newsletter...

- Special Clearance Offer on 1994 Ornament. THA is offering its BEP ornament at its lowest price ever, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Bureau's first "home of its own."
- Treasury On-Line Exhibit. The Office of the Curator of the Treasury Building has launched a special exhibit on historic United States Mint buildings.
- Help Wanted. THA is seeking members who would like to work on committees.

Treasury Holiday Sale Event Is Successful for THA

THA has participated in the Treasury's Holiday Sale for the past several years. This past year's event was held in the Cash Room on December 9. In addition to selling THA's past-year commemorative ornaments and notecards, the Association was able to attract a number of new members as well as afford an opportunity for members to renew their memberships, several at higher levels of giving. THA had several of its appreciation gifts for higher level members to examine and make their selections from.

As an enticement for new members to join or existing members to renew at the Cash Room event, THA offered at cost crisp two-dollar bills, which were autographed by THA's vice president and former Treasurer of the United States Mary Ellen Withrow.

THA sales exceeded \$1,400, excluding membership fees. While THA no longer produces new commemorative products as fundraiser items, the Association introduced a special new item at the event — gourmet chocolate, with a hint of mint, in the shape of the historic Treasury Building, which proved to be quiet popular at the December event.

TBARR Briefing Given at THA Membership Meeting

THA's annual open membership meeting, which afforded an opportunity for members to learn about THA's past and planned activities, was held on December 8. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by James A. Thomas, Jr., Director of Treasury's Office of Facilities and Support Services. Mr. Thompson gave a slide lecture on the Treasury Building and Annex Renovation and Restoration (TBARR) effort. This multi-year project, which encompasses mechanical, electrical, telecommunication and fire protection upgrades, also includes the restoration of significant architectural features in the building. Mr. Thompson described what has been accomplished to date and some exciting discoveries made during the project.

A centerpiece to this project is the removal of elevators from the West wing's spiral staircases . THA members who have visited the Treasury Building no doubt remember this beautiful but sadly disfigured pair of staircases. Originally open like the other staircases in the building, its appearance was drastically altered by the installation of two elevator shafts around 1910. During World War II, the skylights over the staircase were filled with concrete.

Treasury has been committed to removing the elevators and restoring key aspects of the staircase and dome. To this end, a new elevator shaft has been created in previous office space adjacent to the staircases, and plans are underway to replicate the glass skylights. (Subsequent to Mr. Thompson's presentation, the old elevators and concrete infill were removed from the staircase.) Mr. Thompson also described the investigations which have been conducted to determine the historic paint and gilding scheme in the dome. Treasury will restore the several historic colors to the coffered dome as part of this current project.

(See page 2 for continuation and pictures related to this article.)



Former Treasurer of the United States and THA board member Mary Ellen Withrow autographed \$2 bills at the annual Holiday Sale held in December in the Cash Room. THA members also sold holiday ornaments, note cards and other commemorative items.

At the holiday sales event THA unveiled their newest item—chocolates in the shape of the Treasury Building.

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Special Offer for BEP First Building 125th Anniversary

The Bureau of Engraving & Printing moved from the Treasury Building into its own facility in 1880 — 125 years ago. Although no longer used

by BEP, This red brick building still stands with its imposing tower at 14th St. and Independence Avenue.



In 1994, THA pro-

duced a commemorative ornament to celebrate the BEP Centennial of producing postage stamps. The image on the ornament included the now-125 year old first BEP building.

To recognize the 125th Anniversary of the first BEP building, THA is offering to its members its lowest price ever on the 1994 ornament. To order, use a copy of the form below, and allow 2—3 weeks for delivery.

SPRING 2005 ORDER FORM

Name:
Address:
Telephone No
1994 BEP ornament(s) at \$5 each (a savings of \$7): \$
Shipping/handling (\$2 for 1; \$3 for 2; \$4 for 3 or more): \$
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$
Mail to:

THA Spring 2005 Offer P.O. Box 28118 Washington, DC 20038-8118

TBARR Continued

Changing Images of the Treasury Building

At right is the Treasury Building's West wing triple dome, with the elevator shaft, installed in 1910, and the World War II-era concrete which replaced the

skylights. Concrete was installed during the war to protect the White House and the Treasury Building from potential enemy air attack during the days of "black-outs." The concern was that office lighting from the building might aid enemy aircraft in locating the White House and the President of the United States.

Immediately below is the same triple-dome area as it is being prepared for installation of glass skylights as originally installed.



Below is a small section of the octagon medallions of the triple dome, with finishes and gilding mocked-up.





Website of Interest

There is a new on-line exhibit produced by the Office of the Curator, Treasury Building, titled "The Federal Presence: U.S. Mint Buildings Across the Nation." This exhibit explores the architectural symbolism of Mint buildings in Carson City, San Francisco, Denver, Philadelphia and New Orleans. Illustrated with historic photographs, architectural drawings, and other graphics, the text provides a fascinating interpretation of these prominent federal buildings. Visit www.ustreas.gov/ offices/management/curator/ exhibitions/mintbldgs/ to view this exhibit.

Help Wanted... The THA Board of Directors is seeking volunteers from its members in the DC area to serve on its committees: Capital Development, Commemorative Products, Finance, Membership, Programs, Publications, and Public Communications. Extent of participation and time requirements are flexible.

Please call THA (number below) for info.

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

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August 2005

Inside this Newsletter...

- Updated Report on Restoration. The triple-dome area of the West Wing has just been re-gilded, and new skylights installed.
- THA Annual Meeting and Lecture.
 Save the date of November 1 for the open meeting for all members and lecture by former Secretary of the Treasury James A. Baker III.
- Help Wanted. THA is seeking nominees to serve on the Board of Directors.

U.S. Treasurer Speaks at THA Noontime Lecture

THA's noontime lecture series continued with the June 6 presentation by the recently-appointed Treasurer of the United States Anna Escobedo Cabral. Ms. Cabral spoke of her own personal background and her unique higher educational opportunities that were made possible by a very dedicated and helpful high school teacher. Her challenging youthful years helped her prepare for some unusual challenging life experiences.

Ms. Cabral also shared with THA members her developing interests in the Federal Government, demonstrated by several successive and successful appointments. Immediately prior to taking this office, Ms. Cabral served as Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Latino Initiatives, previously served as President and CEO of the non-profit Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility, and in earlier years served as Deputy Staff Director for the United States Senate Judiciary Committee.



A historic event of its own: three U.S. Treasurers. Former Treasurer of the United States and THA Vice President Mary Ellen Withrow (term 1994 - 2001), with recently-appointed Treasurer Anna Escobedo Cabral and Former Treasury Katherine D. Ortega (term 1983—1989), at June 6 lecture.

Murder in Treasury Building Results in Not-Guilty Verdict

The following is a brief synopsis of an actual event, and not part of former First Daughter Margaret Truman's series of murder mysteries at various locales in Washington, DC.

Mary Harris was betrothed to Mr. A.J. Burroughs, a Treasury employee, after at least ten years of his pursuing her hand. Burroughs' attraction to Ms. Harris began when she was still a minor in Iowa. After a number of years that the two were corresponding with each other, Ms. Harris' father discovered the relationship, and forbade his daughter to see Burroughs again. Nevertheless, the two of them arranged a number of rendezvous occasions, and met secretly in Chicago.

Later in their relationship, Burroughs wrote letters to Ms. Harris under a pseudonym, J.P. Greenwood, and asked to meet her. Ms. Harris found that Greenwood's letters were written by Burroughs and, upon further information gathering, learned that Burroughs had married another woman.

Ms. Harris employed a Chicago attorney to sue Burroughs for breach of promise. Not able to find Burroughs in Illinois, the lawyer suggested that Ms. Harris compromise, but she refused. Instead, she urged the lawyer to accompany her to Washington where Burroughs had recently been employed by the Government, but he declined. Her initial intent was to go to Washington to register a suit there.

After arriving at the train station, Ms. Harris proceeded immediately to the Treasury Building. She learned from the officer at the Building's entrance where she could locate Mr. Burroughs' office. It was simply one floor above the Treasury entrance with its majestic granite staircase. Arriving at 4:00 pm, on a winter afternoon, she awaited in the public corridor for Mr. Burroughs to exit his office and leave for the day. As he emerged into the hallway, Ms. Harris fired two shots, at close range, killing Burroughs. She turned calmly and walked down the one flight of stairs and out the Building. However, she was chased and immediately arrested and brought back into the Treasury Building.

During her trial, there was extensive testimony from medical professionals regarding Ms. Harris' physical and mental health from both the defense and prosecution sides. Included in the line of witnesses at the trial were the officer who arrested her and brought her back into the Treasury Building for questioning, and the Secretary of the Treasury, himself, who had questioned her on the day of the shooting.

The conclusion of the jury was that Mary Harris was not guilty by reason of temporary insanity. The verdict was both hailed by Ms. Harris' supporters and denounced by many others throughout the US.

Continued on Page 2, Column 1, Harris

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Historic Research to Document Annex's Design and Changes

The Office of the Curator has begun a new research project this Summer, with the assistance of a University of Virginia graduate student in Architectural History. Alejandro Huerta is writing a Historic Structures Report (HSR) on the Treasury Annex.

Taking advantage of the archival collection on the Annex at the Office of the Curator, Alejandro is reconstructing the design and construction history of the building. Correspondences between the architect, Cass Gilbert, and the contractors, in addition to architectural drawings, are some of the primary sources that have provided a glimpse of the architectural profession during the Treasury Annex's construction, 1918-1919.

In addition to recording the original design and construction of the Annex, the HSR will chart the evolution of the Building, from its open space plan to its interior alterations and renovations over the past 85 years. Blueprints and on-site observation have uncovered the long history of the Annex's occupants. The HSR is an important document because it will provide the background information for any future renovation of the Treasury Annex.

Harris, Continued

Mary Harris' shooting of Burroughs occurred on January 30, 1865. The locale was in either the 3100 or 3400 corridor (details not precise) of the Treasury Building. The Secretary who testified at her trial in July 1865 was Hugh McCullough, who at the time of the murder was the Comptroller of the Currency.

Greater details of this case may be found in an article by Allen D. Spiegel, PhD, MPH, in the New York State Journal of Medicine, September 1988, and Washington's Most Famous Murders, Washingtonian books, 1976.

Members who wish to research this event further may contact THA if assistance is needed.

TBARR Update

Changing Images of the Treasury Building

In THA's April newsletter, readers saw pictures of the triple-dome area over the two spiral staircases in the West wing of the Treasury Building. After removal of the eleva-

tor shafts and the elimination of the concrete in-fill that replaced the glass skylights during the "black-out" drill years of World War II, the brilliance of daylight into the West wing now completely transforms the space.

At right is the Treasury Building's West wing triple dome, with the elevator shaft prior to the recent demolition and restoration work.

Below are two "after" views of the same space, with work on the gilding still in progress.





At left, the almost-completed gilded medal lions and braided plaster designs in the tripledome of the Treasury Building.

Below, detail view of restored gilding.



November 1 THA Meeting Will Include Lecture by Former Secretary Baker

Save the Date!! November 1 will be the date of the THA annual "open" meeting for all members and their guests. Usually held in December, the meeting will include members electing the THA Board of Directors for the 2006-07 term.

THA's guest speaker at this meeting will be former Secretary of the Treasury James A. Baker III, who will provide insights into his term of office.

The event will be held in the Cash Room. Further details on the event, including instructions for security clearance into the Treasury Building will be sent to all THA members in October. In Search of Nominees... The THA Board of Directors' current term expires this coming December 31. If you would like to help THA as a member of the Board or wish to nominate another person to serve on the Board, please send your nomination of either yourself or others to THA via email or voicemail at the contact points shown below. THA needs to receive all suggestions for the slate of directors by Monday, September 12. Elections will be

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December 2005

Inside this Newsletter...

- Treasury Annual Holiday Sale. THA will once again participate in the Annual Holiday Sale to be held in the Cash Room on December 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Help Wanted. THA is seeking volunteers to serve on the Association's various committees.

Board of Directors Elected for THA's 2006-2007 Term

At the November 1 Open Membership Meeting, the THA Nominating Committee presented a slate of 18 nominees for the forthcoming two-year term of THA's Board of Directors. THA members present at the meeting completed their ballots for election.

Departing the Board after December 31 are: THA's Vice President (and former Treasurer of the United Sates) Mary Ellen Withrow; THA's Secretary (and retired Deputy Fiscal Assistant Secretary) Marcus W. Page; and, Board member (and retired IRS analyst) Maggie Rindler.

At the September 14 quarterly Board meeting, the directors voted to increase the number of positions on the Board from 15 to 18, on a temporary two-year basis, to facilitate succession planning.

The six new directors are: Gary Grippo, Assistant Commissioner, Financial Management Service (FMS); Lori Santamorena, Executive Director, Government Securities Regulations, Bureau of the Public Debt (BPD); M. Elaine Rand, Performance Budgeting Program Analyst, Departmental Offices (DO); Lillian Wright, Special Events Coordinator, DO; Cora Beebe, former Assistant Secretary for Administration, DO; and, Gerald Murphy, retired Fiscal Assistant Secretary, DO.

Continuing directors are: Donald Alexander, former Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Suzanne Cosme, IRS; William Falls, retired, BPD; John Flood, retired, DO; Abby Gilbert, U.S. Mint; Paula Mohr, former, DO; David Monroe, DO; Clifford Northup, former, DO; Judith Ochs, DO; Thomas O'Malley, retired, DO; Charles Powers, former, DO; and, Michael Serlin, retired, FMS.

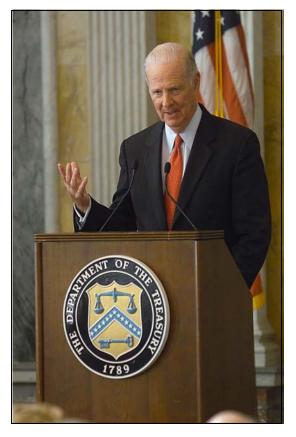
At the December 7 Board meeting, the outgoing Board will elect new officers for the 2006-2007 term.

Former Secretary Baker Spoke at Annual Open Membership Meeting

On November 1, THA held its annual open membership meeting, at which officers and committee chairs brought the audience up to date on the past year's activities, current financial status, and activities planned for next year. Following the annual business portion of the annual THA meeting, Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snow introduced our special guest for the event, former Secretary of the Treasury James A. Baker III. Mr. Baker provided an informative and entertaining view of his political career — not only his service as the 67th Treasury Secretary, but also as the Secretary of State and, for two separate terms of office, as White House Chief of Staff

The combined annual meeting and lecture by Secretary Baker was attended by approximately 85 THA members and their guests, many of whom were appointees at Treasury during Mr. Baker's term as Secretary.

Following Mr. Baker's remarks, THA hosted a brief reception for the former Secretary to meet many of those in attendance.



James A. Baker III, the 67th Secretary of the Treasury, at THA's November 1 Meeting

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THA's Gift toTreasury Will Provide Historic-Style Illumination

Following THA's financial assistance for the restoration of the triple-dome above the spiral staircases in the West wing (reported in our last two newsletters), THA found another opportunity to be of help to the Department's restoration efforts in the Treasury Building.

As the Department heads toward completion of the multi-year TBARR restoration project, efforts are being focused on the West lobby entrance. Designed to be a ceremonial entry by its original architect (due to its proximity to the White House), the West lobby will have restored gilded ceiling treatment and historically accurate paint selection. Complementing this will be an antique gas chandelier, converted to electric, that the Department recently acquired. While the chandelier is periodappropriate, its illumination level will not be sufficient for this large lobby space.

THA will help Treasury resolve this limited illumination level by our gift of four wall sconces that are being manufactured by a specialty lighting firm. Molds have been made to permit casting of sconces that will replicate the arms of the chandelier. Work is now in progress, with completion and installation targeted for February 2006.



The six-arm fixture, to be installed in the Treasury's West wing lobby, was manufactured in New York by Fellows, Hoffman & Co. An engraving of the fixture is in their 1857-1859 catalogue.

Are You Current on All Your Currency?

In recent years, much public attention has been directed to the redesigned U.S. currency notes. First starting in 1996, then starting again in 2004, all our Federal Reserve Notes — except the one-dollar bill — have been altered in design to protect our currency from being counterfeited, and all of us have learned many of the new anticounterfeit features. Yet, how many of us have focused on - or remember - the design on our one-dollar note, which is filled with significant imagery on the founding and growth of our country? Take a look at the two sides of the Great Seal of the United States on the back of a one-dollar note.

The pyramid, symbolic of strength, is incomplete, signifying that there is yet work to be done, and that the United States will continue to build and grow. The pyramid has 13 rows of stones a number that will be repeated several times here -- representing the 13 original colonies. Above the pyramid is the all-seeing eye (believed to have been suggested by Benjamin Franklin as the Eye of Providence) and the Latin words "Annuit Coeptis" (13, again, in letter-count), which means "He favors our undertakings" (or "enterprise"). In the base of the pyramid are the Roman numerals for 1776, the year of independence of the United States of America. Below the pyramid is a scroll with the Latin phrase "Novus Ordo Seclorum" which means "The New Order for the Ages," signifying the new life of independence and freedom for America that began in 1776.

The American bald eagle on the other side of the Seal became our National emblem in 1782 when it was chosen as a symbol of strength and victory. Above the eagle's head is a ring with 13 stars, and a scroll with the Latin phrase "E Pluribus Unum" meaning "One out of Many." The shield on the breast of the eagle contains 13 stripes, again for the 13 original colonies. In one claw, the eagle is holding 13 arrows symbolizing war; in the other, an olive branch with 13 leaves and 13 seeds, signifying peace. The

eagle's head is turned towards the claw with the peace leaves, as is the customary artistic representation of the Federal eagle. Only in time of declared war has the Federal eagle been depicted facing the claw with arrows (one example is the Civil War-era over-mantle mirror in the Treasury Building's restored office of Secretary Salmon P. Chase).

Centered on the reverse are the words "In God We Trust" which was approved by the Congress for use on all U.S. currency on July 11, 1955.

Annual Holiday Sale Event on Thursday, December 8

THA will again participate in the Treasury Holiday Sale event. The event will be held on Thursday, December 8 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Treasury Building's historic Cash Room.

In past years, other participants were the U.S. Mint, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Secret Service Uniformed Division Benefit Fund and Treasury Department Recreation Association — each offering their unique products for holiday gift giving.

Entry to the Treasury Building for this event requires a Treasury access pass.

In Search of Volunteers...

The THA By-Laws established several committees to carry out the day-to-day work of the Association. While the chairs of the committees must be appointed from the Board of Directors, committee membership is open to all current THA members.

If you would like to help THA as a member of one (or more) of the committees, please leave a message on our THA message line (see below), and we will have the committee chair contact you after the holidays. We appreciate all levels of volunteer help, regardless of the number of hours you can work on the committee(s) each month.

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