



March 1996

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter...

New Board and Officers Named for 1996-1997. The THA biennial election concluded on December 14, and a new Board of Directors and offices were named for the next two-year term of office.

Second 1995 Ornament Now Available. A special edition ornament on the 75th Anniversary of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division was developed late last year. A limited number are available to THA members.

Treasury Building Tour Provides A View of 150 Years Ago. The free 90-minute Treasury Building tour takes visitors back to the high Victorian days, while learning the historical and architectural significance of the third Treasury Building on this site.

New THA Board, Officers Elected

The 15 nominees proposed by the THA Nominating Committee in its November letter to all THA members received majority votes from the members' return ballots; only a few write-in nominations were received. With the ballot, each THA member had received biographical data on these now-elected Board members. (New THA members who wish a copy of the bio sheet on the 15 Board members may write to or call THA.)

From the new Board were elected the new THA Officers for the 1996-1997 term. They are: Marcus W. Page, President; Maria R. Goodwin, vice President; Shelley L. Davis, Secretary; and David J. Monroe, Treasurer. The post of Chairman of the Board remains unfilled.

THA's Second 1995 Ornament—Created “at the Last Minute”

After announcing THA's 1995 commemorative ornament on the U.S. Secret Service and distributing our product catalog to our members, we were contacted by staff of the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) of the Internal Revenue Service, who asked if we would participate in their 75th Anniversary celebration by marketing a special edition commemorative ornament that they designed. The THA Board on November 15 approved the project, and our CID contact person circulated sales information about the ornament among the CID staff. Deliveries began on December 15.

This special edition ornament is a reproduction of the CID's first special agent badge, which dates back to 1923, and measures about 2-3/4 inches in diameter. As a special edition item, we do not expect to retain stock in future years. The ornament is priced the same as other THA ornaments, \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.

If you wish to order THA's special edition CID 75th Anniversary ornament, please use the form on the reverse of this newsletter. Stock is very limited and orders will be filled in the sequence in which we receive them. Delivery will be within three weeks after we receive your order, while current supplies remain.

To Reach THA...

Questions about THA's programs or products, suggestions, or comments that you might wish to submit to the Association can be conveyed to the Board of Directors and Officers either by writing to us or calling us. Our address is P.O. Box 28118, Washington, DC 20038-8118; our information and message line is (202) 895-5250.

[Ed. Note: phone number was changed to (202) 298-0550 after publication date.]

Treasury Building Tour Takes You Back 150 Years

THA members who haven't taken the Saturday morning public tour of the historic Treasury Building are missing an opportunity to step back into history 150 years. Even for employees in the Treasury Building, the tour opens new insights into the architectural and historic significance of this majestic structure and instills a greater appreciation of the building.

Volunteer docents lead each of the Saturday morning tours: explaining the history of the Department; providing information on earlier Treasury buildings on the same site; describing architectural differences in each wing; and providing the background on various uses of the building over the past 150 years, including the use by President Andrew Johnson as a temporary White House office.

The 90-minute tours start at 10:00, 10:20, 10:40 and 11:00 a.m., by appointment only, and are limited to approximately 25 attendees per group. This permits a meaningful learning experience and opportunity to exchange comments and questions about the history of the building and the restoration work that has been done in the authentic high Victorian décor.

For further details on the Treasury Building tour, call (202) 622-0896

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*Treasury Historical Association
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220*

THA Appreciation Gift for Membership Upgrade for 1996

If you joined THA late last year, you may not be aware of the fact that THA provides appreciation gifts to donors at the Supporting level and above. We are continuing to offer a selection between two gifts: one is a silver pen with the seal of the Department of the Treasury on the cap, accompanied by a brief history of that seal; the other is a business card holder, designed after the eagle-and-key capitals of the Treasury Building's interior columns.

Members at the General category who wish to change to a higher category of membership may do so by sending the marginal (tax deductible) amount between the two membership levels. The form in the right column may be used for this purpose.

Are You Current ?

Please notice the mailing label on this newsletter. The prefix indicates the year in which your membership is current. If yours is prior to 96, please renew at this time by using the form at the right, and help us reduce our future renewal notice mailing expenses. If you're renewing above the General level, indicate your choice of appreciation gift on your check.

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Order Form

Send this form to:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

1. Special Edition CID Ornament
at \$10. Quantity: ___ Total: \$_____

2. Membership Renewal for 1996

- General (\$12)
- Supporting (\$50)
- Patron (\$100)
- Sustaining (\$250)
- Life Sponsor (\$500)
- Life Donor (\$1,000)

Membership Donation: \$_____

3. Membership Upgrade for 1996

To convert from a 1996 General Member to a higher category, enter marginal amount between the \$12 General category and the higher category selected: \$_____ and indicate the appreciation gift preferred: ___ Pen with Treasury seal; ___ Business card holder with design of Treasury Building column capital.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

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Member Mailing Label Here



June 1996

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter...

New Committee Chairs Named for 1996-97: "Help Wanted." THA's new or reappointed chairpersons are seeking volunteers to help with committee initiatives.

1996 Ornament Plans are Now Under Way. THA's holiday ornament will recognize the history of the United States Customs Service.

THA's Research Gift Uncovers Elegance. THA's gifts-in-kind of research work and art conservator's report defines *trompe l'oeil* painting in the Treasury's South Wing.

World Wars' Bond Poster Exhibit Opens. Treasury Bond posters from World War I and World War II years are on exhibit in Treasury.

Publications Offered to THA Members. A number of publications issued by THA in recent years remain available to members at no cost.

Work Begins on THA's '96 Ornament

The Board of Directors has agreed to the selection of the U.S. Customs Service as the next bureau whose history THA will recognize by its annual holiday ornament. Research work has begun, which will help us to identify a design theme illustrative of Customs' broad range of duties and to prepare the educational insert monograph card.

We hope to be ready to provide members ordering information by August, with a discount offer for early ordering and for bulk orders of 30 or more ornaments.

THA Committee Chairs Appointed

The President of THA has appointed the 1996-1997 chairpersons of the several committees that operate the daily activities of the Association. The Committee Chairpersons are Dorothy Roper Daly (Membership); Maria Goodwin (Publications and Communications); Dave Monroe (Finance); Tom O'Malley (Commemorative Products Marketing); and Jack Flood (Programs and Planning).

All committees need volunteer help. Assistance is needed to identify and attract potential new members, to research and write historical articles and monographs, as well as items for this newsletter, to help market via mail and over-the-counter sales our THA ornaments and other products, to help identify other fundraising opportunities, and to locate potential lecturers with topics of interest for THA members. If you are able to volunteer some time—as much or as little as you wish—, please call THA's information and message line, (202) 895-5250, and leave a brief message for the specific chairperson(s) you wish to call you to discuss their committee needs.

[Ed. Note: phone number was changed to (202) 298-0550 after publication date.]

WW I and WW II Bond Poster Exhibit

In the West and North wings of the Treasury Building's second floor is a special exhibit of World War I and World War II bond posters through October 31. Developed by the Office of the Curator, with the assistance of the U.S. Savings Bonds Marketing Office of the Bureau of the Public Debt, the exhibit contains a large number of art posters designed to evoke a sense of patriotism in American citizens and an incentive to purchase Victory Bonds, War Bonds, Savings Bonds — whatever the name, the mission was the same, to support the American military in winning the war and bringing peace to the world.

(Continued from First Page)

Poster Exhibit

Although the exhibit is not open to the general public, except those attending the Saturday tours of the Treasury Building, THA members may call the Office of the Curator at (202) 622-1250 at least one day in advance and, identifying themselves as THA members, make an appointment date/hour to visit the exhibit. The self-guided tour is enhanced by the descriptions on signage that was presented as gifts-in-kind by THA.

Treasury Building Tour Previews on Wide World Web

Now you can have a preview of the Saturday public tour of the Treasury Building while you "surf the Net." A number of full color photographs of the restored areas of the historic Treasury Building, and descriptive text, can be accessed at: <http://ustreas.gov/treasury/archives/archive.html> on the Internet system.

Other valuable information is also available through Treasury's World Wide Web home page, including IRS information and information for small and disadvantaged businesses desiring to bid on Treasury contracts.

Treasury Historical Association
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Order Codes: _____

Research Uncovers Rich Décor on Treasury's Walls

Through a gift-in-kind provided by THA, expert research has been conducted to uncover unique *trompe l'oeil* (French for "deceive the eye") paint treatment on the walls of the South wing of the Treasury Building. This type of décor was quite popular in the 19th century, and consisted of painting medallions or molding on flat wall surfaces in such a way, with shading and shadowing and in such detail that they appeared to be three-dimensional plaster work.

Following the removal of 130 years of additional coats of corridor paint, our contractor has been able to reach the first coat of paint applied around 1860 on which the decorative treatment was added and which you can observe adjacent to room 3312 and above the South-facing windows in the 4300 corridor.

The research is to be followed by a report of conservator Brian Powell on his findings, which will be added to the collection of the Office of the Curator. A potential long-range implementation plan to completely uncover one entire wall panel and replicate others identically to the original will be considered after receipt of the conservator's report.

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THA Publications Available to Members

A number of THA publications are still available to members at no cost while supplies remain. To order, just return to us the panel containing your mailing label, with bold-face order codes entered to the left of the label to state your interests; return it by July 1 to THA, PO. Box 28118, Washington, DC 20038-8118.

Available are: **(BC)** 1989 Bicentennial Calendar, a keepsake of the Treasury Bicentennial, it will again be usable in 2000. **(AR)** THA's 1989 Annual Report, a record of events that celebrated Treasury's 200 years. **(PS)** "Portraits of the Secretaries," a collection of Secretaries' portraits through 1979. **(AG)** "Albert Gallatin," a 1992 lecture on the longest-term Secretary by former Secretary Joseph W. Barr. **(RT)** "Restoration of the Treasury Building," a lecture by Treasury's Curator, Paula A. Mohr.

These free Treasury publications are also available and THA will serve as an intermediary to obtain them for you, while supplies last: **(TB)** Tour Brochure of the Treasury Building, with full color photographs of restored rooms seen on Saturday public tours. **(TD)** "The Department of the Treasury," a 30-page booklet with brief histories of bureaus and descriptions of their official responsibilities.

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Member Mailing Label Here



September 1996

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter...

Disastrous Fire Closes Treasury Building. A rooftop fire has closed portions of the North wing, as extensive repairs are conducted.

1996 Ornament Notes U.S. Customs History. Treasury's oldest bureau is the subject of THA's commemorative holiday ornament. Order yours today for early order discount and ensured delivery by the holidays.

You Can Help in THA's Search for MT Pix. THA's gifts-in-kind to the Treasury Department of historic 19th century Main Treasury pictures are expanding and we can use your help in our searches.

Open House on Lafayette Square. After a tremendous success in 1995's "Salute the Square" event, the organizations surrounding the President's Park will open their doors to the public once again in a neighborhood event.

Second Annual "Salute the Square" Set for October 12

Mark your calendar for the tours of the neighbors of Lafayette Square, including the White House, the Decatur House, Department of Veteran Affairs, the Grange, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, St. John's Church, the Treasury Building and several others. Also, the Park Service will conduct "living history" activities in the park itself. The free October 12 Open House event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; for further information, call the Decatur House at (202) 842-0918.

Treasury Roof Fire Evacuates Building

On June 28, a rooftop fire began from what investigative reports later attributed to an accident caused by a torch used in a re-roofing project over the North wing of the Building, above the Cash Room. The fire was out of control for 4 hours as Treasury staff watched 75 firefighters struggle with the fire atop the 127-year old wing.

Extensive damage was caused throughout the North wing's interior by water used to control the fire, as well as by ashes, soot, and other debris resulting from the fire. At one point, 8 inches of water was standing on the floor of the Cash Room, where marble walls and floors as well as ceiling plaster suffered significant staining. Immediately after the fire was extinguished, Treasury staff removed from the premises a great number of fine art and 19th century furnishings, to protect the priceless collection of artifacts that are significant to the history of the second oldest cabinet department.

The Building was closed to employees through July 3, while clean-up work was in progress. Approximately 200 employees remain displaced in alternate work locations while repair work to the North wing continues. Treasury has requested funds from Congress to repair the damages.

ISO: 19th Century Pictures of Treasury

THA is always in search of original pictures of the Treasury Building, including photographs, etchings, and stereopticon pictures (especially 1860-1900 era) to purchase as gifts to the Treasury Department, to assist in enhancing its archives. If you are an antique hunter and you locate any pictures of the Treasury Building when visiting your local antique shops, please let us know by calling our message and information line, (202) 895-5250, with details.

[Ed. Note: phone number was changed to (202) 298-0550 after publication date.]

1996 Ornament Commemorates Customs' History

THA's 1996 commemorative ornament, the eighth in our bureau series, commemorates the rich history of the U.S. Customs Service, the oldest bureau of Treasury, older than the Department itself. The ornament, which measures about 2-3/4 by 3 inches, is produced in 24-karat gold finish with color enamel. It depicts the second Revenue Cutter **Eagle**, launched in 1798 and under the command of customs collectors to enforce tariff laws on the territorial waters of the United States. The ornament's frame includes the Customs flag or ensign. Preliminary design is illustrated below. The ornament is provided with a hanging ribbon and gift box and is accompanied by an educational card.

Current THA members may order the ornament at \$10 each, with discounts offered for early orders and bulk orders. Please check your mailing label on this newsletter to determine if you are a current 1996 member or a 1995 member. You may use the form in the last column of this newsletter to order and to renew your membership if you are still a 1995 member. Deliveries will begin in November.

Treasury Historical Association
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220



Coming Soon: THA's Second Cat's Meow Collectible

THA will have available for both members and non-members its second *Cat's Meow* collectible building in December. This will be the IRS National Office Building, which like all *Cat's Meow* buildings will feature the trademark black cat.

The *Cat's Meow* historic buildings are collectibles produced by FJ Designs, Inc., of Wooster, Ohio, and collected by thousands. THA previously offered the Treasury Building to members only for a limited time, with the first three hundred sold being numbered by the manufacturer. We will again be offering the Treasury Building, but to both members and non-members.

The price will be \$20 each building for members and \$25 each building for non-members. Our next newsletter will have details for ordering these collectibles.

See your Mailing Label

Please review the mailing label below and advise us of any errors. We recently established a new database for membership records and want to assure that all is correct. Thanks.

Order Form for 1996 Ornament

Please use the following form to order your 1996 THA commemorative ornament. No other ornament flyer will be sent to THA members.

Cut out this column, including the pane with your mailing label. Mail your order with your check to us at:

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

Order for 1996 Ornament

___ 1996 Ornaments, U.S. Customs Service @ \$10 each: \$_____

Less early order discount for orders postmarked by 10/7/96 @ \$1 each - \$_____

Less bulk order discount for orders of 30 or more (1 check, 1 destination) @ \$1 each - \$_____

Total of Order: \$_____

Membership Renewal

Please check category for 1996 membership renewal donation:

___ General (\$12); ___ Supporting (\$50);
___ Patron (\$100); ___ Sustaining (\$250);
___ Life Sponsor (\$500); ___ Life Donor (\$1,000 or more).

Membership Donation: \$_____

Member Mailing Label Here



December 1996

TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Inside this Newsletter...

Update on Treasury Fire Damage Repairs. Repairs have continued from day one following the disastrous Treasury Building fire, but many more repairs are needed.

1996 Ornament Sales Exceed Expectation. Sales of THA's new ornament have exceeded our initial production estimates, thanks to USCS field office support.

THA's Cat's Meow Buildings Special. THA has made arrangements for members and other customers to purchase special custom editions of popular collectibles that are replicas of Main Treasury and IRS National Office Buildings.

Treasury Building Notes —

First Treasury Building in D.C., Really "the first"

Did you know...??? When plans to move the Federal capital from Philadelphia to the District of Columbia were established, the deadline of December 1800 was set for completion of construction of all government buildings. While the White House and Capitol Building were far from completed by the due date, the Treasury Building was completed six months ahead of schedule.

The Building was later joined by its symmetrical twin on the West side of the White House, and eventually by two more similar buildings. The two East of the Executive mansion housed the State Department (where Treasury's current North Wing sits), and the Treasury Department (where Treasury's current South Wing is); those West of the Executive mansion housed the War Department and the Navy Department.

Repairs in Progress to Treasury Roof Fire Damage

With some 200 employees still displaced by the June 28 rooftop fire, repair work continues on the North Wing of the Treasury Building. In early November, several original 1869 cast iron roof trusses were replaced, after having been twisted by the effects of the four-hour blaze.

Following the fire, a large section of the roof remains open to the elements and "bathtub" reservoirs were created to capture the rainfall and route it to temporary piping that carries the water to the ground sewers. Also window fans were installed in the North Wing windows to create a negative air-flow and draw moisture and odors to the outside.

Several additional months will be needed for repairing all the damage resulting from the fire. Many items in the Treasury fine art collection are being restored by specialized art conservators, and several pieces of nineteenth century furniture are also being restored from the damage.

The major conference facilities of the Treasury Building, located in the North Wing, are not usable until all the repairs have been made. Therefore, as noted in flyers on our noontime lectures, THA had to schedule its November 6 and December 5 lectures in another building, the Office of Thrift Supervision at 1700 G Street, NW. Please make note of the future locations of lectures, as cited in the respective lecture flyers we will mail.

Although the Treasury Department requested and has obtained funds from the Congress to repair the damages, THA has offered to help the Department in the extensive fire-repair efforts through technical advisory and financial assistance, to the extent our technical and financial resources permit.

1996 Ornament Sales Doing Well

Each year, THA attempts to project its sales of holiday ornaments in a manner that will be responsive to our customers' orders, yet not result in high inventories not sold, which of course are costly to the Association. This year, sales of the Customs ornament have exceeded our expectation for initial production, and we increased the first run by 1,000 units due to orders received thus far. We are grateful particularly to the customers in the U.S. Customs Service field offices who have responded so favorably to our advertisements for the commemorative holiday ornament.

Additional production runs will be available to us, if customer orders so require; however, delivery by the holidays will depend upon the time of additional orders we place with the factory. THA urges members and customers to order as early as possible in order to ensure delivery by the holidays.

If you missed reading our last newsletter, which contained an order form for the 1996 commemorative holiday ornament, you may order by sending your name and address, with a check for \$10 per ornament to the address shown in the last column of this page

There are other Treasury-related holiday ornaments available for purchase from : the United States Mint, 800-USA-MINT; the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division Benefit Fund, 202-395-4199; the United States Customs Service Credit Union Scholarship Fund, 202-927-1650; and there may be others we are not aware of.

Speaker Suggestions ?

If you have speakers to recommend for our noontime lecture series on topics that are related to Treasury history, general Federal history, economics and other Treasury-pertinent topics, please let us know.

Limited Time Offer for Custom Editions of Cat's Meow Buildings

THA has made arrangements for its members and its other customers to purchase custom editions of the popular series of *Cat's Meow* historic buildings that are replicas of the Main Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service National Office Buildings.

The *Cat's Meow* series consists of wood-block replicas of many historic buildings throughout the nation, featuring a trademark black cat, that are favorites of thousands of collectors. Our two buildings are 8 inches wide by about 4 inches high and 3/4 inch thick., with silk-screened features of the two buildings; South facades.

THA is accepting orders now through April 15, 1997. The price is \$20 (\$25 for non-members) for each building with delivery to U.S. or APO/FPO addresses; delivery will be approximately 6 weeks, starting mid-January 1997. The first 300 IRS Buildings will be special numbered, with the first 150 of these reserved for THA customers. These *Cat's Meow* buildings are special order items, not stocked by THA. See the last column of this page for ordering information.

End-of-Year Donation Time is Now Here

As the end of the year approaches, many people consider contributions to their favorite non-profit organizations. We hope that you will keep THA in mind at this time of the year.

If you are still a 1995 member (see first digits on your mailing label), please renew with a 1996 contribution to THA to assist in our educational and historic preservation missions. If you are a current member, please consider extending your membership at this time through 1997 or later year. In either case, we hope you will contemplate a donation at one of the higher categories of giving. Members above the General level of giving receive a special appreciation gift.

Order Form for THA's Cat's Meow Buildings and Membership

Please assist us in filling your order promptly by sending separate checks for *Cat's Meow* purchases and for membership renewal or extension. Cut out this column and mail it with your check(s) to the following address:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Order for Cat's Meow Buildings

____ *Cat's Meow* Treasury Building
@ \$20 each: \$_____

____ *Cat's Meow* IRS National Office
Building @ \$20 each: \$_____

Total of Order: \$_____

Membership Renewal

___ Renewal for 1996

___ Extension to 1997 or 19___

Please indicate category of Renewal:

___ General (\$12)

- ___ Supporting (\$50)
- ___ Patron (\$100)
- ___ Sustaining (\$250)
- ___ Life Sponsor (\$500)
- ___ Life Donor (\$1,000 +)

Membership categories contained within the box are recognized by a special THA appreciation gift. Please select : ___ silver finished pen with the Treasury seal in cap; ___ gold-finished business card holder, hand, key and eagle design from the Treasury Building's column capitals; ___ Note-pad folio with Treasury Building on green cover,

Membership Donation:\$_____