

TREASURY HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
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# NEWSLETTER

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## **THA Lecture Series Update**

The next speaker for the THA Noontime Lecture series will be Treasury Assistant Curator Guy Munsch on Wednesday, June 21. He will speak on the five different locations of the Secretary's Office in Main Treasury. The talk is in connection with current exhibits in Main Treasury on "The Offices of the Secretary".

Former Treasury employees and others interested are welcome to attend these lectures. However, if they do not possess a Treasury Building pass, they need to arrange clearance into Main Treasury about one week in advance. Notices are sent several weeks in advance to THA members.

### **Treasury Building's Mills Wing 175 Years Old**

The Treasury Building's Mills Wing, comprising the East and Center wings and originally known as the "New Treasury Building," is 175 years old this year. Designed as a fire-proof building by Robert Mills, the building replaced the earlier Treasury Office building that was totally destroyed by arsonists in 1833.

Construction began in 1836, taking 6 years to complete, a very long time even in that era. Three challenges faced Mills in the design and construction management, causing great delay. First was his argument with President Jackson: Mills wanted the building to be farther from 15<sup>th</sup> Street's planned curblin in order to have a grand staircase entry (as later provided for the other wings of the Treasury Building). But, Jackson directed the building was to be sited immediately adjacent to the public sidewalk. The second challenge was the need for Mills to train construction crews in old-world architecture, such as the arched hallways and the cantilevered staircases. Third, there was a lengthy Executive branch debate with the Congress: legislators believed that the Parthenon-like building was too grandiose for the Executive branch and they cut off funding. They also attacked Mill's professionalism and design by having other contemporary architects decry the building as being unstable. Finally, by mere minimum of votes, funding was restored by the Congress and by 1842 the building was completed.

Absent the ability to have a grand staircase entry, Mills designed lateral stairs against the building's façade. These were removed in 1909-1910.



*The New Treasury Building, 1842*

The "New Treasury Building" abutted the original State Department building which was very similar to the second Treasury Office building destroyed by arsonists. Two virtually identical buildings were also on the other side of the President's house, for the Navy and War departments. "Old State" was demolished 25 years later, replaced by Treasury's North wing.

### **Treasury Library Celebrates 200 Years**

The Treasury Library celebrated its bicentennial this year with events during April's National Library Week.

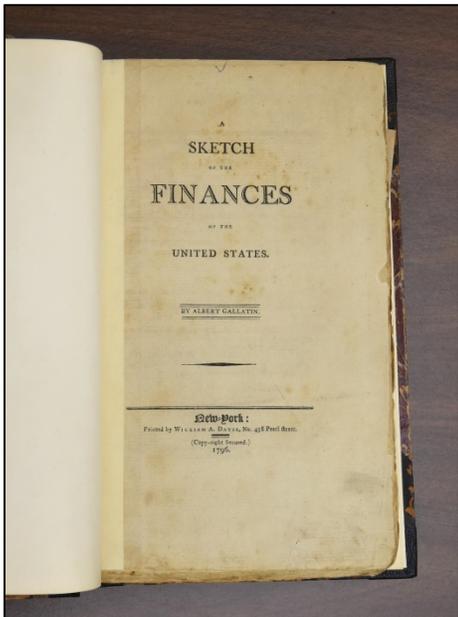
The establishment of the Treasury Library did not occur in a specific moment. It is likely that components of what would become the library existed in some form prior to 1817, the first year of a verifiable budget. Treasury Secretary William H. Crawford submitted a report to Congress in 1823 that detailed the average annual funds for book purchases. It showed that between 1817 and 1822 Treasury purchased approximately 172 books a year at a cost of \$406. In 1850, Congress directed the Library of Congress to set aside \$1,000 for the Treasury Library. With the Printing Act of 1895, the Treasury Library became a federal depository library.

In addition to its holdings, the growth of the Treasury Library is measured by its significance in the lives of Treasury employees. In 1865, 136 Treasury clerks petitioned Treasury Secretary Hugh McCulloch to open up the library to all Treasury employees. The clerk in charge of the library at the time, Samuel Yorke Atlee, did not approve of letting employees borrow books; he thought only the Secretary should be allowed to take books out of the room. Secretary McCulloch disagreed with Atlee, and issued an order allowing employees to use the library and check out books. Between January 1867 and October 1869, Treasury employees borrowed over 22,000 volumes from the library. Clerks from throughout the organization were detailed to the library to help run it until June 4, 1897 when Congress directed the Treasury Secretary to appoint a salaried librarian. Today, the Treasury Library continues to support the information needs of employees and Treasury's many missions at Departmental Offices and Treasury's bureaus with three librarians. As a federal depository library

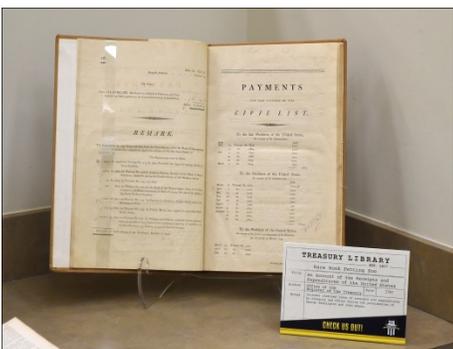
and *Federal Register*-designated reading room, the Treasury Library's collection is also available, by appointment, to the public.

The library seeks to maintain its unique and historic collection for researchers in perpetuity. As part of its bicentennial celebration, the library hosted the Treasury History Rare Book Petting Zoo to showcase some of the collection's historic gems. This event allowed employees and special guests to view and to touch (with gloved hands) a few of the significant books in the collection. The books included in the Petting Zoo span three centuries and represent unique aspects of Treasury history. Items made available in the Petting Zoo included:

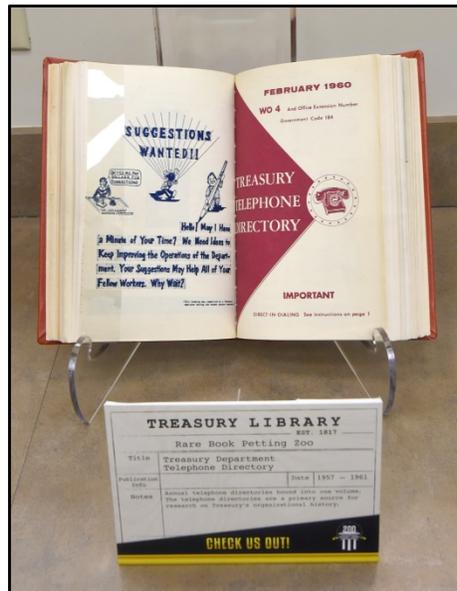
- A Sketch of the Finances of the United States (1796) is a first edition that Treasury Secretary Albert Gallatin gifted to his predecessor, Alexander Hamilton. Gallatin wrote the book while a member of the House.



- An Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of the United States (1797) includes itemized lists of receipts and expenditures by category and office during the presidencies of George Washington and John Adams.



- Specimens of Book and Job types in the Treasury Division (1899) includes approved typefaces and layouts for Treasury publication.
- The Bretton Woods Transcripts (1944) is Harry Dexter White's set of the Bretton Woods Transcripts.
- Treasury Department Telephone Directory (1957 – 1961) is one of the annual directories that were digitized — a project made possible in part to seed money provided by THA. The telephone directories are a primary source for research on Treasury's organizational history as well as when and where people worked at Treasury.



*Petting Zoo photos are by Chris Taylor*

A column in an upcoming issue of this newsletter will focus on the Treasury Library's digitization efforts. The library welcomes your research questions. Ask a librarian at (202) 622-0990 or [libraryreference@treasury.gov](mailto:libraryreference@treasury.gov).

## ***THA's Educational Film Continues to Progress***

THA's major project to create a one-hour educational documentary on the Treasury Building and significant historical events that occurred in it continues to make great progress. This past January, the very respected and experienced local educational film production company, Kaiman Bros. Media, spent several hours filming outside footage of the Treasury Building for the video, and about six hours of interior filming.

Continuing our efforts to have two past Treasury Secretaries in the film, we were able to schedule Secretary Robert E. Rubin to be filmed on January 10. His

commentary will go along with that of Secretary James A. Baker III, Treasury Curator Richard Cote and THA President Franklin Noll throughout the film.



*Secretary Robert Rubin and the Film Crew after filming the interview on January 10.*

Prior to the full one-hour film being produced, a "trailer" is being made to serve as an exhibit to THA's fundraising requests to members, other donors and grant-giving foundations. This fundraising effort will be quite significant, since it will represent the largest target outreach that THA has undertaken in its 43-year history.

Kaiman Bros. is currently in the process of editing footage of film and merging interviews into scenic views of the Treasury Building. THA expects to initiate its fundraising efforts with this seven-minute "trailer" in early summer.

## **New THA Treasury History Paper Prize for Students**

To encourage research on Treasury history, the THA Board has established a new article prize for the best paper on the history of the Treasury Building and/or the Treasury Department by a graduate student currently enrolled in an accredited program

To be called the "1500 Penn Prize" in honor of the Treasury Building's historic location address, the prize will include a \$250 cash award, a travel allowance, and the opportunity for the awardee to present the winning paper at a THA lecture in the Cash Room.

This academic prize program will help accomplish one of the THA's primary goals by cultivating and rewarding new research on the significance of the Treasury Department to American history. It will also allow THA to connect with the next generation of scholars and identify possible partners for future THA-sponsored academic outreach efforts. The author would retain paper ownership, so as to be able to publish it in a scholarly publication. The prize will be publicly announced later in 2017.

## Welcome and Goodbye to Treasury Secretaries at the Bell Entrance

On January 19, Treasury employees gathered on the steps of the Bell Entrance for the official departure of Secretary Jack Lew. He shook hands with staff and many pictures were taken as he walked down the steps. He waved goodbye before getting into a Treasury van to take his leave.



January 19 Secretary Lew waves goodbye

On February 14, the newly sworn-in Secretary Stephen Mnuchin was greeted by Treasury employees when he arrived.



February 14 Secretary Mnuchin arrives

These events seem to be a establishing a new Treasury tradition, although Secretary Lew received this greeting February 28, 2013 when he took office. Perhaps some of you recall similar events on previous occasions.

## Rare Treasury Seal Found on eBay Site

THA's Chairman Tom O'Malley checks the eBay site frequently for unusual Treasury Department items, both for his own collection and for THA's consideration to purchase and give to Treasury. Recently, he found a rare Treasury seal medallion on a man's jewelry box

As presented in a number of previous THA newsletter articles, the Treasury seal was changed in 1968 from a very intricate artistic form with Latin inscription to the modern version with English text that is used today on the Department's stationery as well as on all currency notes. The earlier version bore the inscription "Thesaur. Amer. Septent. Sigil." which was the abbreviation for "the seal of the Treasury of North America."

The recent eBay item that O'Malley discovered had similar intricate artistic form, but with the full Latin text of the Department's name: "Sigillum Thesauri Americae Septentrionalis," a full-text version that has not been found in THA's research over the years.



The eBay site has proven to be an outstanding source of historic Treasury items over the years, including vintage photographs that were given by THA to Treasury and proved important to the Department's research and restoration efforts in the Treasury Building.

## Reaching Your Maximum Age for MRDs? Please Remember THA

If you have reached the maximum age (70-1/2) – or are soon approaching this age – to draw the Minimum Required Distribution (MRD) from your deferred IRA retirement account, you can make contributions (disbursed by your IRA account administrator directly) to THA any time of the year.

Such contributions, called Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), were authorized by Congress in December 2015. A QCD must be a direct transfer from the IRA administrator to a non-profit organization, without you receiving the amount from the account. A QCD can reduce or eliminate the income tax on the MRD by an adjustment on page 1 of the tax form 1040. This, in turn, reduces Adjusted Gross Income, which can have a

beneficial effect on other provisions in the tax return. To initiate a QCD to THA, it is as easy as A-B-C:

(A) Identify the non-profit organization by its full legal name, as registered with the Internal Revenue Service, its postal mailing address and the Employer Identification Number (EIN). **Please consider THA for a QCD** [the Treasury Historical Association's EIN is 23-7389186].

(B) Contact the administrator of your IRA account and request in writing that a QCD contribution of a stated amount to be issued by check payable and mailed to the nonprofit organization, providing the full organization name, address and EIN. Do not have the check sent to you. This process should be able to be completed within two weeks.

(C) Alert the nonprofit organization that a check in a stated amount will be sent in your name by the institution that administers your IRA. The nonprofit organization must provide a written confirmation to you after receiving the QCD donation.

Please see IRS Publication 590-B, your tax advisor or your IRA administrator for more detailed guidance on QCDs.

## THA President's Message

THA continues working on projects to preserve the Treasury Building and celebrate and expand knowledge of Treasury's past.

THA has made important progress on producing an educational documentary film on the Treasury Building's history by completing the filming of interviews with former Treasury Secretaries. The next step is to raise funds to pay for editing of the film.

We are excited about our new plan to offer a prize for the best paper on some aspect of Treasury history for graduate students. We hope this will help stimulate additional research on Treasury history as well as establish better ties with the historical research community.

THA could use additional support for the film project, the lecture series and other THA initiatives. We hope you will consider renewing at a higher membership level or making an additional contribution for one of these projects or general support of THA activities.

We always welcome members' input and interests. Please contact me by email at nollhc@msn.com or any Board member if you have ideas on THA matters. Thank you for your membership and service to the Treasury.

Franklin Noll, President

*A Message from THA's Chairman:*

## **THA Director Passes – William L. Murphy**

**May 11, 1946 – December 8, 2016**

THA and many throughout Treasury organizations – particularly the Office of the General Counsel and Office of Management – were saddened to learn that a member of our Board, William L. Murphy, passed away on December 8, 2016, after two years' battle with cancer. Bill was a long-time Treasury employee who advised and befriended many. His counsel was sought often and his opinions were well-respected.

Bill was elected to THA's Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 terms. Previously, he had been a long-time member of THA and strongly supported the Association's missions for a number of decades both during his years at Treasury and after his retirement in 2007.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, obtaining a law degree from the Catholic University of America and working in a DC law firm, Bill served as an attorney-advisor for several years in the Office of the Chief Counsel of IRS before transferring to the Office of the

General Counsel in the Treasury Building in 1980. Bill's specific assignments during his 27 years in the Office of the General Counsel included Alternate Designated Ethics Officer, managing Treasury's ethics program on a day-to-day basis, later Senior Counsel for Procurement, and finally Senior Counsel for Technology.

Bill's post-Treasury years were spent as a consultant on procurement and Government compliance requirements matters for Kelly, Anderson & Associates, Inc. and B3 Solutions, LLC, both in Alexandria, VA.

THA has been fortunate to have had Bill's support as a member for many years and his help as a director for too short a time, unfortunately.

Those of us who had the opportunity to work with Bill, either on the Board or in our Treasury employment years, certainly appreciate his service to THA, to the Treasury Department, and to the American public. We value greatly the example he set as a very dedicated Government attorney and public servant, consistently displaying strong character, great courage in his affliction, high energy, superior ethical standards, and a wonderful Irish sense of humor, even in times of difficulty.

*Thomas P. O'Malley,  
Chairman, Board of Directors*

## **From the Editor**

Our thanks go to Tom O'Malley, Kim Carter and Andy Young for contributing articles for this issue. In addition, we thank Treasury photographer Chris Taylor for his photographs of the Library's Petting Zoo.

In future issues, we would also like to include short articles and photos about other subjects relating to Treasury history. These could include, for example, articles about members' collections of Treasury memorabilia or anniversary articles about Treasury bureaus or major events. We would be interested in hearing your suggestions for such articles and from members willing to contribute items of interest to THA members and friends of the Treasury.

*Jerry Auten, editor*

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