



## CASS GILBERT SOCIETY TAKES MANHATTAN

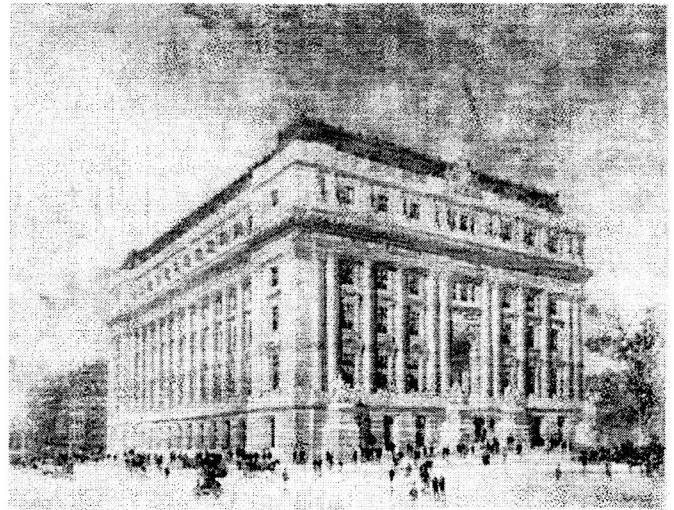
### *with a Brooklyn Side Trip*

**J**oin participants of the October 2002 tour as they provide a firsthand account of their experiences from the tip of Manhattan to the Upper West Side.

You know about the Woolworth Building, but learn about its antecedents in the West Street Building and its successors in the New York Life Building and United States Courthouse. Compare Gilbert's first two New York commissions—the U.S. Custom House at Bowling Green and the Broadway Chambers Building.

See Gilbert's approach to modernism in the 130 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street Building and the Brooklyn Army Terminal. Presenters include Tom Blanck and Linda Bjorklund, Darlene Carroll, Herb and Heidi Grika, Troy Musel and Sheila Terryll, Marjorie Pearson, Judy Pfannkuch, and Jean Velleu and Jim Law.

Bring your friends and join us at the University Club of St. Paul, 420 Summit Avenue, on Tuesday, February 25, 2003, at 7:00 P.M. Admission is free to Society members. There is a nominal charge for nonmembers.



U.S. Custom House, Bowling Green

*If then a tower 1100 feet high should be erected in Rome, a great and glorious thing as it might be itself, it would inevitably be detrimental to the city from an aesthetic point of view. It is well that we preserve our respect for the great ancients and it is not fitting that we should attempt to outstrip them merely because we have the mechanical means now at hand.*

—letter from Cass Gilbert to Benito Mussolini, October 16, 1924, on Mussolini's proposed skyscraper.

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### Mark Your Calendars

#### **February 8, 2003:**

*Minnesota State Capitol tour featuring Civil War Artifacts and memorabilia, sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society. 1:30 P.M.*

#### **May 11, 2003:**

*Cass Gilbert Society Mother's Day Stroll featuring Cass Gilbert Buildings in Lowertown. Details will follow.*

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Marjorie Pearson

As I begin my tenure as president of the Cass Gilbert Society, I must express my deepest appreciation to Jean Velleu, President Emerita, who shepherded the organization through its first four years, and to James C. Noonan, attorney-at-law, who helped establish the society as a non-profit corporation. Jim has recently tendered his resignation as the society's attorney. Without Jean and Jim, the Cass Gilbert Society would not be what it is today.

I am pleased that the Minnesota Humanities Commission has affirmed its support by renewing our grant. This allows us to continue our educational and outreach efforts through lectures, the Newsletter, and tours.

The Society has been asked to participate in the Mississippi River Excursion celebration in 2004. This event commemorates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first

passenger steamboat up the Mississippi River to St. Paul. Visitors to Minnesota will be encouraged to tour cities and towns along the river. We are still exploring ways to participate in the celebration of the Minnesota State Capitol centennial in 2005.

Finally, the Twin Cities will be the focus of national historic preservation attention when the National Trust for Historic Preservation holds its annual conference in Saint Paul in the fall of 2007. Tours and events at architecturally notable sites are always an important part of the conference, and we will make sure that Cass Gilbert's work reaches this national audience.

We continue to seek ways to broaden our outreach and membership base. If you would be interest in joining one of our committees or volunteering in other ways, please call me at 612-338-1987. This is my office number; leave a message if I am not available, and I will get back to you.

## **Cass Gilbert Society – Household Members Renewed as of 1/27/03**

Bergmann, Donald H. & Willie J. Meadows  
Bjorklund, Marion  
Blanck, Tom & Bjorklund, Linda  
Bostelmann, Margaret & Allan  
Bounds, Lock & Linda  
Braun, Frank R.  
Butler, Peter  
Cole, Sally Seabury  
Comfort, Mary Sue  
Connolly, Mary Michael  
Cutting, Mary Beth  
Dean, Judith Neren  
Dickson, Maxine  
Donahue, Elayne M.  
Dvergsten, Ruby & Irvin  
Engquist, Sandra S.  
Finegan, Mary Ann  
Freeman, Alice L.  
Fridinger, Ellen & Tom  
Grika, Heidi & Herb  
Highsmith, Carol M.  
Hirsh, James & Debra  
Holt, Dr. Glenn  
Johnson, Merle & Ellen  
Joseph, Holly & Earl  
Klas, F. Alexandra  
Klein, Allan W. & Lansing, Harriet

Larson, Christine B.  
Lein, Laurel & Eric  
Lilly, Perrin & David  
Mahoney, Lana  
Marvy, James  
McCoy, Mary Ann  
Meyer, Sheila & Ray  
Morgan, William  
Neiswander, Judy & Gleason, Bill  
Noonan, James C. & Niemann Noonan, Ardis  
Okie, Jesse Shuman & Harington, Mary  
Oliver, John & Suzanne  
Ostrom, Don & Florence  
Pearson, Marjorie  
Peterson, Nancy G.  
Plante, Julian G.  
Schnasse, Eva  
Skaggs, Mary Jo  
Stark, Nancy  
Thurber, Delbert & Edith  
Velleu, Jean & Law, Jim  
Velleu, Dave & Verner, Danene  
Velleu, Rick & Jacobson, Joy  
Wahlborg, Ken & Shirley  
Weimer, Wendy  
Wilkosz, Joan  
Winsor, Laurel & Frank

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# Membership Renewal Time!

## Annual Memberships Expired December 31, 2002

If you haven't done it yet, it is time to renew your membership for 2003. Our membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st of each year. How can you tell if you have renewed or not? It's easy. *If there is a blue dot on your mailing label, you have not renewed and this will be your LAST newsletter.* Make the newsletter editor happy and renew today so that you continue to receive our quarterly newsletter.

Please use the form below to renew, and mail it ASAP to the address on the form so that your name remains on our mailing list. You will notice that not only can you renew using this form, but you can also become a new member, make an additional tax deductible contribution, or give a gift membership. Remember: members attend our lectures for free.

If you have membership questions call 612-338-1987.

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### Membership Renewal Form—2003

- I would like to become a **new member** of the Cass Gilbert Society \*
- I would like to **renew** my membership
- I would like to make a **tax deductible contribution** of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- I am a member but would like a **gift membership** for a friend, listed below

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 / Household or \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 / Business made out to Cass Gilbert Society, Inc.

Member's Name _____	Gift Recipient _____
Address _____	Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (_____) _____	Telephone (_____) _____

\* CGS is a non-profit tax exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Send Check and form to: Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., P.O. Box 4066, St. Paul, MN 55104-4066**

# MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL FORUM

By Jean Velleu

In preparation for the centennial celebration of the state capitol, the Minnesota Historical Society held a forum on the capitol's history and its construction on January 11, 2003. Professor David Lanegran of Macalester College served as moderator. Thomas O'Sullivan, former curator at the Minnesota History Center and now curator of library art and exhibitions at Carleton College, spoke specifically on the construction of the capitol and its artistic program.

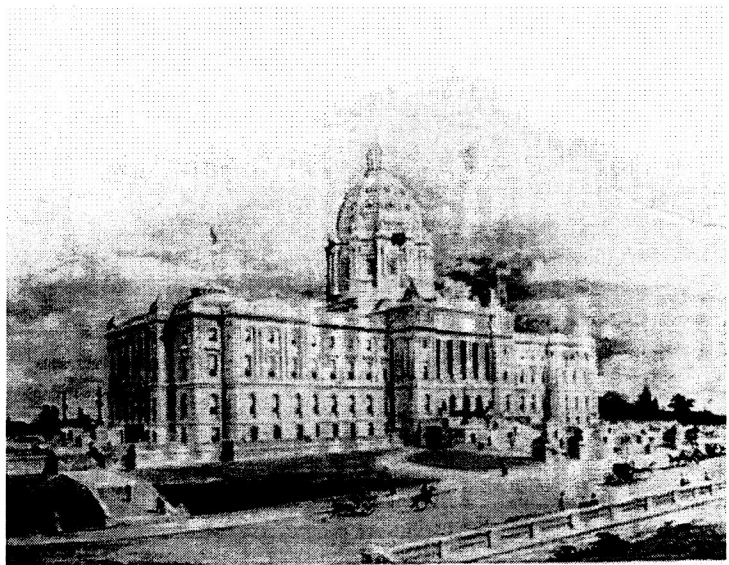
Cass Gilbert won the competition for its design in 1895. Not only did he design the building, but he also chose many of the artists and worked with them to devise appropriate expressions of Minnesota's heritage and pride. Daniel Chester French's golden quadriga represented progress, prosperity, and plenty, with adjacent figures symbolizing courage, integrity, and prudence. On the interior, the numerous murals provided instruction in history, while demonstrating patriotism and symbols of the state.

In the Supreme Court chamber, muralist John La Farge depicted such historic lawgivers and philosophers as Socrates, Confucius, and Moses. In the House of Representatives, the ceiling has floral motifs with Minnesota wild flowers. Allegorical paintings in the Senate portrayed freedom, courage, justice, and equality. Minnesota's history was specifically evoked in the Governor's Reception Room with paintings of Father Hennepin at the Falls of St. Anthony in 1680 and Minnesota's First Regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Patricia Burnham, senior lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin, provided broader context for the Minnesota State Capitol in speaking about state capitols and public art. She pointed out that numerous state capitols were constructed between 1895 and 1910. Many were designed in a grand Neo-Classic/American Renaissance style that visually affirmed the prosperity and innovation of the states. Artists who decorated the spaces of

these grand buildings reinforced state's pride and prosperity.

In Burnham's judgment, Minnesota's capitol approached perfection in the combination of allegory and history in its decoration. James Moore, president of the Capitol Art Foundation of the State of New Mexico, spoke about the New Mexico Capitol and contemporary art. He reminded the audience that the union of architecture and art in state capitols did not end at the beginning of the last century. New Mexico has an ongoing program to acquire work of the finest state artists and to represent the state's Indian, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures.



STATE CAPITOL, ST. PAUL, MINN.

## CASS GILBERT PUBLICATIONS

In the Winter 2002-03 issue of *Minnesota History*, Jane King Hession reviewed *Cass Gilbert: The Early Years* by Geoffrey Blodgett and *Cass Gilbert Life and Work: Architect of the Public Domain* edited by Barbara S. Christen and Steven Flanders.

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CASS GILBERT SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. Box 4066  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4066

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**Our Mission**

To preserve our cultural heritage through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's influence on American architecture.

The Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., is a non-profit tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Officers and Board**

Marjorie Pearson, *President*  
Mary Michael Connolly, *Secretary*  
Troy Musel, *Treasurer*  
Dewey Berscheid  
Perrin Lilly  
John Lynden  
Eva Schnasse  
Jean Velleu, *President Emerita*  
Don Woods

Lynda Bjorklund, Fund Raising  
Lana Mahoney, Programs  
Sheila Meyer, Membership Coordinator

**Cass Gilbert Society – Corporate Members Renewed as of 1/27/03**

Hess, Roise and Company  
Charlene Roise  
Nicholason Family Foundation  
Richard & Nancy Nicholson  
Sanders-Wacker-Bergley, Inc.  
William D. Sanders  
University Club  
John Rupp

*Note: If your name is not on one of the above lists, your 2003 membership has not been renewed, and this will be your last newsletter. Please use the form enclosed in the newsletter to renew. If you have questions, please call Sheila Meyer, Membership Coordinator, 651-222-4364. Thank you.*

*(continued from page 3)*

To quote Hession: "Gilbert remains relatively unknown to the American public...yet, every day, tens of thousands of Americans live and work in his residential, religious, civic commercial, and governmental structures... Gilbert's buildings speak for themselves. They continue to serve their communities and inhabitants well—the most meaningful and lasting measure of an architect's achievement." Hession praises Blodgett for providing "the reader the necessary insight to understand the mature Gilbert, particularly the determined and skillful way in which he secured some of the twentieth century's most

important architectural commissions." *Cass Gilbert Life and Work*, a collection of essays, is characterized as a "fascinating book that places Gilbert's work in the larger contexts of planning, American civic architecture, and the public domain."

Paul Clifford Larson, author of the recently published *Cass Gilbert Abroad, The Young Architect's European Tour*, was interviewed by Minnesota Public Radio on January 20, 2003. He spoke about European influences on Gilbert's design of the Minnesota state Capitol, particularly the precedent of the dome of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.