



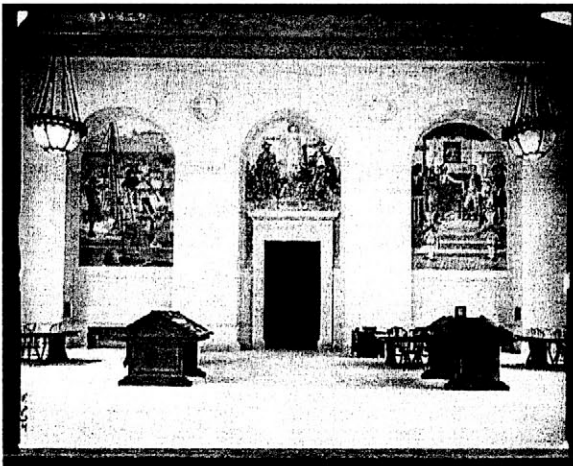
## C. FORD PEATROSS TO SPEAK ON NOVEMBER 18 AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

Many Cass Gilbert aficionados know about the materials pertaining to his Minnesota work in the Minnesota Historical Society and the records from Gilbert's New York office in the New-York Historical Society. C. Ford Peatross, Curator of Architecture, Design, and Engineering Collections at the Library of Congress, will give an illustrated talk to the Cass Gilbert Society on **Cass Gilbert papers, drawings, and photographs in the Library of Congress**. Many of Gilbert's personal papers, including correspondence with family members and contemporary architects and artists, were presented to the Library of Congress by a grandniece. These also included drawings and sketches from Gilbert's first European trip. Gilbert's work is also represented in the Prints and Photographs Division through the Historic American Buildings Survey and the work of the Detroit Publishing Company whose images were widely published in early twentieth-century periodicals. The Library of Congress has recently added a number of items to its collections that pertain to Gilbert's work in Minnesota.

C. Ford Peatross joined the staff of the Library of Congress in the 1970s. During his tenure, he has

overseen the digitization of many items in the collection. Much of this material is now available online through the American Memory website of the Library of Congress, [memory.loc.gov](http://memory.loc.gov). He has also been instrumental in establishing the *Norton/Library of Congress Visual Sourcebooks in Architecture, Design, and Engineering* series. The books in this series will introduce researchers to the illustrations selected by their authors and will provide pathways to millions of photographs, drawings, prints, views, maps, rare publications, and written information in the collections of the Library of Congress. Support for this lecture is provided in part by the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

Join us at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, on Tuesday, November 18, 2003, at 7:00 P.M. Admission is free to Society members. There is a nominal charge for nonmembers. Refreshments will be served after the lecture with a special commemoration of Cass Gilbert's 144th birthday.



*Detroit Public Library Reading Room as photographed by the Detroit Publishing Company, Library of Congress*



*U.S. Custom House in New York from American Landscape and Architectural Design Collection, Library of Congress*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

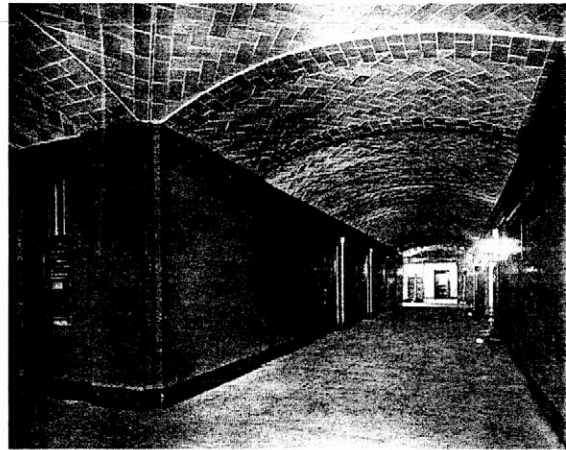
By Marjorie Pearson

All who attended Sally Webster's talk at the Commodore Hotel on October 14, 2003, heard an excellent presentation on Cass Gilbert's role in creating the artistic program for the Minnesota State Capitol as a vehicle for projecting a concept of civilization. Dr. Webster set the State Capitol within the broader context of the American Renaissance movement. Her discussion of national precedents for the Capitol's sculpture and murals, particularly the Library of Congress, gave us a greater appreciation of what Gilbert was able to accomplish in Minnesota. Among the muralists whose work is seen in the Capitol are Edwin Blashfield, Francis Millet, Edward Simmons, Kenyon Cox, and John LaFarge. All of these East Coast artists had worked in the Library of Congress and continued to work with Gilbert on other projects.

One of the unexpected treats of the October 25 tour was the discovery of some of the fine points of the structure of the Roselawn Cemetery chapel. Designed by Gilbert and Thomas Holyoke, the longtime head of Gilbert's Saint Paul office, the building was completed in 1904. The entrance hall between the chapel space and the crypt space (now converted to a meeting room and parlor) is spanned by a Guastavino tile vault.

Gilbert had used Guastavino tile vaults in the basement level corridors of the Minnesota State Capitol, but this structural system is rarely seen in Minnesota. The inventor of the

system, Rafael Guastavino (1842-1908), had immigrated to the United States from Barcelona in 1881. There he had been an architect and builder and had revived an ancient building system that uses layers of thin tile bedded in layers of mortar to create curved horizontal surfaces. Used to form floors, roofs, ceilings, and stairs, the tile structure is strong, fireproof, and attractive. Guastavino patented the system in the United States and worked with many of the country's leading architects, especially in New York City and Boston. Guastavino's work was continued by his son Rafael II. Records of the firm's work are now in the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University.



*Minnesota State Capitol basement corridor with Guastavino tile ceiling vaults. (Edmund A. Brush, Minnesota Historical Society)*

## **CASS GILBERT SOCIETY TO EXHIBIT AT AIA MINNESOTA ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The Cass Gilbert Society will display information about Cass Gilbert buildings in Minnesota at ESSENTIAL ARCHITECTURE, the 69th Annual Convention and Exposition of Minnesota AIA to be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, November 18-20, 2003. Admission to the Exhibit Hall is free and features industry products, technology, services, and other information of interest to architects and related professionals. For more information and a detailed schedule, check the website [www.aia-mn.org](http://www.aia-mn.org).

### **JOIN A CASS GILBERT SOCIETY COMMITTEE**

In a volunteer organization like ours, we welcome the participation of members on various committees. Would you be interested in working on membership, programming, or special events? Contact Marjorie Pearson at 612-338-1987 (daytime) for more information.

### **IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004**

#### **Members who have Renewed for 2004**

**(Including Those who Paid Twice in 2003)**

##### **Individual**

Tom Blanck and Linda Bjorklund  
Frank Braun  
Elayne Donohue  
Ellen and Tom Fridinger  
Allen Klein and Harriet Lansing  
Sheila and Ray Meyer  
Marjorie Pearson  
Charlotte Prentice

Lock and Linda Bounds  
Mary Beth Cutting  
Peter Erickson  
Mark and Marsha Gorman  
David and Perrin Lilly  
William Towner Morgan  
Nancy Peterson  
Jean Velleu and Jim Law

##### **Business**

Sarah Kinney

##### **New Members**

Jean Bonne  
Betty and Dean Pearson

Christopher Monkhouse  
Stanley Turner

Please see the membership/renewal form on the last page.

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. Box 4066  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4066  
[www.cassgilbertsociety.org](http://www.cassgilbertsociety.org)

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**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

- Linda Bjorklund, Fund Raising
- Lana Mahoney, Programs
- Sheila Meyer, Membership Coordinator

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**Membership Form – 2004**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to become a **new member** of the Cass Gilbert Society \*

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to **renew** my membership for **2004**.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 / 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**