



## IT'S A BALL FOR THE CASS GILBERT SOCIETY, MARCH 18, 2004

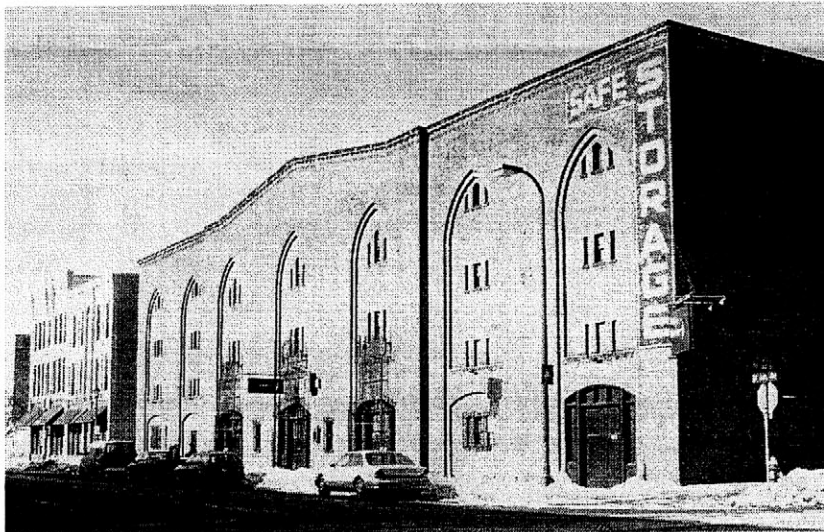
The Cass Gilbert Society has reserved a block of tickets for the March 18 performance of *The Ballroom* at the Theatre de la Jeune Lune. The production depicts a series of vignettes, set in a ballroom, that captures a slice of American life during different eras of the twentieth century.

The Jeune Lune company, now 25 years old, is celebrating its twelfth season in the historic red brick Gothic-inspired warehouse designed by Cass Gilbert in 1906 from a group of earlier warehouses. For the current production, the main performance space has been turned into a ballroom, complete with two bars where beverages are served.

During the intermission, Cass Gilbert Society members will be able to hear a brief presentation on the architecture of the building.

See the enclosed flyer for more details or call Marjorie Pearson at 612-338-1987 (days). Visit the Jeune Lune website, [www.jeunelune.org](http://www.jeunelune.org), for further information on the performance, location, and driving directions. Reserve your place by March 10.

This event is being held in lieu of a February lecture.



*Theatre de la Jeune Lune*

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### Mark Your Calendars

**April 20, 2004:**

*Lecture by Lance Neckar, University of Minnesota, on Cass Gilbert's design for the Mall.*

**May 9, 2004**

*Celebrate the end of Preservation Week with the fifth annual Mother's Day tour, location to be announced in the next newsletter.*

**September 14, 2004**

*Lecture by Patricia A. Murphy, Oberlin Heritage Center, on Cass Gilbert's early work in Saint Paul.*

# GILBERT & TAYLOR BUILDING REDISCOVERED IN SAINT CLOUD

By William Towner Morgan

Thanks to the recent removal of a downtown pigeon roost, a forgotten architectural masterpiece now graces downtown Saint Cloud, Minnesota. Hidden for over 40 years, the 1887 Victorian façade on the Masonic Temple, 518 St. Germain, can now be seen in its original splendor.

A victim of the era when business owners had tired of Victorian fussiness and had turned to modern slipcovers of metal, glass, or wood, the Masonic Temple was covered by a metal screen attached to the façade during the 1960s.

In the summer of 1887, Col. Charles Deal Kerr, a Saint Cloud attorney, hired Cass Gilbert and James Knox Taylor to design a three-story commercial building for downtown Saint Cloud. According to the *Saint Cloud Journal-Press*, Kerr promised to build "the handsomest building in Saint Cloud, no expense being spared in its construction."

After laying out \$7,500 for the lot, Kerr spent another \$25,000 to build a red, pressed-brick structure trimmed in local rough-faced pink granite. According to the *Journal-Press*, the Kerr Block was part of "a fine row of three-story buildings along the south side of the 500 block of St. Germain."

A June 30, 1887, *Journal-Press* item noted that James Knox Taylor was Kerr's architect. It is likely that Cass Gilbert had a hand in the design, since he and Taylor were partners in Saint Paul from 1884 until 1892.

Taylor later moved to Washington, D. C., where he became Supervising Architect of the Treasury, a job that entailed overseeing the design and construction of government buildings across the United States.

Over the years, the Kerr Block has served a number of businesses and organizations. In 1912, the Masonic Temple Association purchased the building and Masonic meetings have been held there since.



*Masonic Temple after removal of screen*

Dennis LacQuay, a Masonic member, said the screen removal was approved after members discovered it housed hundreds of pigeons -- a virtual "bird highway." When the screen was lifted off workers found 1000 pounds of nests, carcasses, and feces left by the pigeon population.

LacQuay is pleased with the aesthetic opportunities offered by the original façade. Present plans call for cleaning, re-tucking, and replacing broken brick, some of which was damaged when the metal screen was hung. All twelve sash windows will be replaced and the two third-story elliptical windows, presently hidden behind wooden boards, will be uncovered. The Masons "want a building to leave for future generations," LacQuay says.

*Bill Morgan's University of Minnesota dissertation, "The Politics of Business in the Career of an American Architect: Cass Gilbert, 1874-1905," was completed in 1972. He spoke to the Cass Gilbert Society in April 2001.*

## Membership Renewal Time

### Annual Memberships Expired December 31, 2003

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2004, now is the time. Our memberships are maintained on an annual basis from January 1 to December 31. If you have already renewed for 2004, your name should appear on the list in this Newsletter. If not, you will have a blue dot on your mailing label.

Please use the form below to renew, and mail it to the address so we can keep your name on the mailing list. You can also use the form to make an additional tax deductible contribution or give a gift membership.

In addition to the Newsletter, members received free admission to our lectures and reduced fees to our tours and other events.

If you have questions, please call Sheila Meyer, Membership Coordinator, 651-222-4364.

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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**

## Cass Gilbert Society Event

### IT'S A BALL CASS GILBERT SOCIETY AT THEATRE DE LA JEUNE LUNE

Thursday, March 18, 2004 – 8:00 P.M.

We will be attending the current production, *The Ballroom*, at the Theatre de la Jeune Lune, 105 North First Street at the corner of First Avenue North, Minneapolis. The theater company is housed in a historic Cass Gilbert-designed warehouse, built in 1906.

The theater is located in the Minneapolis Warehouse District, one block west of Hennepin Avenue and the Hennepin Avenue Bridge. There is some free on-street parking after 6 P.M., and two parking lots (\$3.00) are located across the street. For more detailed driving directions, consult the theater website, [www.jeunelune.org](http://www.jeunelune.org), or call Marjorie Pearson at 612-338-1987.

*The Ballroom*, depicts aspects of American life during the twentieth century in a series of vignettes incorporating music and dance. We will have the opportunity to observe the creative adaptive use of this historic building firsthand. During the intermission, there will be a brief presentation on the architecture of the building.

Please join us for an evening of unparalleled theater in Cass Gilbert architecture.

Register by March 10 to secure your tickets. Complete the form, attach your check, and mail to the address below. For additional information, contact: Marjorie Pearson, 612-338-1987.

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The cost of this event is \$12 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Make your check payable to the Cass Gilbert Society, Inc.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: The Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., P.O. Box 4066, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104



# CASS GILBERT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST

## Individual/Household Renewals for 2004

Donald H. Bergmann and Willie Meadows	Dewey and Ellen Berscheid
Tom Blanck and Linda Bjorklund	Richard and Catherine Black
Lock and Linda Bounds	Betsy and Tom Bradley
Frank Braun	Darlene Carroll
Sally Seabury Cole	Mary Sue Comfort
Mary Michael Connolly	Eva and John Cross
Mary Beth Cutting	Elayne Donohue
Peter Erickson	Mary Ann Finegan
Steven Flanders	Alice Freeman
Ellen and Tom Fridinger	David Fritz
Mark and Marsha Gorman	Jim and Debra Hirsh
Sharon Irish	Allen Klein and Harriet Lansing
Eric and Laurel Lein	David and Perrin Lilly
Patty McCartin and Paul Luttio	Mary Ann McCoy
Sheila and Ray Meyer	Donald Moe
William Towner Morgan	Ardis and Jim Noonan
Jesse Okie and Mary Harington	Don and Florence Ostrom
Marjorie Pearson	Nancy G. Peterson
Vincent Platt	Charlotte Prentice
Ken and Diane Skrien	Edith Thurber
Jean Velleu and Jim Law	Ken and Shirley Wahlborg
Wendy Weimer	Joan Wilkosz
Frank and Laurel Winsor	Mark Yudof

## New Members for 2004

Patricia L. Anderson	Jean Bonne
Brian Fogarty	Jane C. Hakensen
Orville Lindquist	F. Stewart Mitchell
Christopher Monkhouse	Kathy Paden
Betty and Dean Pearson	Stanley Turner

## Business/Corporate Renewals for 2004

Sarah Kinney	F. Alexandra Klas
Charlene K. Roise	

If your name is not listed, please renew your membership with the enclosed form.

Need more information about the Cass Gilbert Society?  
Visit our updated website, [www.cassgilbertsociety.org](http://www.cassgilbertsociety.org).

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



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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*  
Dewey Berscheid, *Vice President*  
Mary Michael Connolly, *Secretary*  
Troy Musel, *Treasurer*  
Betsy Bradley  
Eva Cross  
Jean Kyle  
Perrin Lilly  
John Lynden  
Jean Velleu, *President Emerita*  
Joan Wilkosz  
Lynda Bjorklund, *Fund Raising*  
Jim Hirsh, *Advisor*  
Lana Mahoney, *Programs*  
Sheila Meyer, *Membership Coordinator*

The  
**minnesota  
humanities**  
COMMISSION

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**CASS GILBERT SOCIETY EXHIBIT AT MN-AIA CONFERENCE**

Cass Gilbert Society members Tom Blanck and Herb Grika organized a portable exhibit for display at **Essential Architecture**, the Minnesota AIA conference, held between November 18 and 21, 2003, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The display depicted a wide variety of Gilbert's work, both in the Midwest and on the East Coast, throughout his career and generated much interest. We are exploring other venues where the panels can be displayed.



*Past President, Jean Velleu, in the Exhibit Hall to answer questions and provide information.*