

SHEILA SMITH, "STATE CAPITOL COLLECTOR," TO SPEAK ON FEBRUARY 15

Join the Cass Gilbert Society when Sheila Smith presents the **State Capitol Collection**. Sheila, along with Cass Gilbert Society members Tom Blanck and Herb Grika, has recently founded the "State Capitol Collectors of Minnesota." They share a love of the Minnesota State Capitol and a collection of tourist souvenirs that display images of the Capitol. A selection of their collections are now on display in the Capitol as part of the centennial festivities. Sheila will be bringing items from her collection and will discuss how souvenirs of the Minnesota State Capitol have changed over time.

Sheila M. Smith has been Executive Director of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts (MCA) since 1996. She also recently served as a Public Policy Consultant for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) and is part of MCN's Public Policy Cabinet. Before joining MCA and MCN, Smith served as staff at the Minnesota State Senate and lobbied local governments for Continental Airlines in Houston, Texas. Appointed by the Governor in 2002 to the Capitol Area Architectural Planning Board, she volunteers for the Capitol 2005 Commission, which is organizing the 100th birthday celebration for the Minnesota State Capitol. Smith serves on the Executive Committee of the State Arts Action League, part of Americans for the Arts. She received a Master's degree in Arts Administration from St. Mary's University and has a B.A. in Shakespeare from St. Olaf College. She also teaches and lectures, both statewide and nationally, about the arts, grassroots advocacy, and other issues.

Join us at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, on Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at 7:00 P.M. in the second-floor Overlook Room. Admission is free to Society members. There is a nominal charge for nonmembers. Refreshments will be served after the lecture. Support for Cass Gilbert Society lectures is provided in part by the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

Mark Your Calendars

February 22, 2005      Unveiling of the portraits of Cass and Julia Gilbert. See page 3.  
May 8, 2005            Mother's Day Tea at Cedarhurst, Cottage Grove, Minnesota. Details to be announced.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Marjorie Pearson

The year 2005 has begun with a bang for Cass Gilbert. The opening of the Minnesota State Capitol centennial celebration was a great success, with over 6,400 people in attendance on Sunday afternoon, January 2. All parts of the building were open for viewing and touring. Members of the House of Representatives, State Senate, and State Supreme Court all welcomed visitors. Costumed actors portrayed Cass Gilbert; John Johnson, the first governor in the new Capitol; Channing Seabury, chairman of the Board of Capitol Commissioners; and Elizabeth Seabury, who selected the quotations that appear throughout the Capitol. A wide variety of musicians performed in the Rotunda throughout the afternoon. Later that week, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, with the choral group, Kantorei, premiered *The People's Room*, a musical depiction of the Rotunda by Minnesota composer Carol Barnett.

Not to be outdone, on January 5, the Frank Cerra, senior vice president for health sciences at University of Minnesota, opened a time capsule found in Jackson Hall (built as the Institute of Anatomy) during building renovations and discovered photographs and architectural renderings of Cass Gilbert's plans for the University of Minnesota campus.

On December 29, 2004, the Essex County Courthouse, in Newark, New Jersey, designed by Cass Gilbert and built between 1904 and 1907, was rededicated by Essex County Executive Joseph DeVincenzo, Jr., after a ten-year closure. Anne Weber, AIA, of the Princeton, New Jersey firm of Ford Farewell Mills & Gatsch was the preservation architect. The interior murals by Kenyon Cox, Edwin Blashfield, Will Low, and Charles Yardley Turner, woodwork, and furnishings were restored under the direction of Jeff Greene and Gillian Randell of EverGreene Painting Studios in New York City. EverGreene restored the quadriga of the Minnesota State Capitol in 1994.

Restoration work is continuing on the Cass Gilbert's West Street Building in New York. Restoration architect Peter Levenson will be speaking at the Center for Architecture in New York on January 24 on the challenges and progress of restoring this Cass Gilbert masterpiece.

The Cass Gilbert Society has received a \$30,000 grant to match contributions for the creation of an interactive media project for distribution to schools for use with students in upper elementary grades. We expect to have the project material ready for schools and other educational institutions by September 2005, so we can coordinate with the centennial of the State Capitol. We envision an interactive media project that is aligned with state academic standards in history and art, while providing a creative, instructional tool that furthers the mission of the Society. As an incentive for those who contribute at least \$200, we are offering a wonderful new book on the Minnesota Capitol. *Minnesota's Capitol: A Centennial Story* by Leigh Roethke is being published by Afton Press; the book will be released in May 2005. You will be receiving a separate letter with more information. Please join in contributing to this exciting project.

## GILBERT PORTRAIT UNVEILING ON FEBRUARY 22

The Smithsonian Institution Museum of American Art has approved the loan of the portraits of Cass Gilbert and Julia Finch Gilbert to the Minnesota Historical Society. The portraits will be installed by the entrance to the Minnesota Supreme Court chambers in the Capitol. The official unveiling program is scheduled for 12 noon on February 22, to be followed by a reception. The Capitol Historic Site staff will offer a public tour to highlight the Gilbert portraits and the Architecture of the Capitol on Friday, February 25 at 7:00 P.M.

## RAMSEY HILL ASSOC AND CASS GILBERT SOCIETY TO JOIN FORCES ON FALL HOUSE TOUR SEPT 11, 2005

Volunteers are needed for this exciting venture. The tour will be held on Sunday afternoon, September 11, and will honor Cass Gilbert. Homes toured will be those designed by Cass Gilbert and his associates located in the historic area. Call Jean Velleu (651-298-1127) for more information.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships for 2005. If you have not yet done so, please return the form in this *Newsletter* along with your check.

The following members have renewed or are current for 2005.

Dorothea and Gordon Anderson  
Donald H. Bergmann  
Linda Bjorklund and Tom Blanck  
Lock and Linda Bound  
Betsy and Tom Bradley  
Peter Butler  
Darlene Carroll  
Mary Sue Comfort  
Mary and James R. Councilman  
Mary Beth Cutting  
I. J. Dvergsten  
Sandra Engquist  
Gail Fenske  
Stephen Gangstead  
Steven Flanders  
Joan Freese Grant  
Herb and Heidi Grika  
Jane C. Hakensen  
Jim and Debra Hirsh  
Sharon Irish  
Roger and Peggy Johnson  
Patricia Johnson  
Tom and Victoria Keller

Allan W. Klein  
Mary Alice Kopf  
Mark Larson and Mary Kennedy  
Eric and Laurel Lein  
Lana Mahoney  
Nick Marcucci and Ann Schroder  
Jim Marvy  
Patty McCartin and Paul Luttio  
Mary Ann McCoy  
Sheila and Ray Meyer  
Donald Moe  
William Towner Morgan  
Don Ostrom  
Betty and Dean Pearson  
Marjorie Pearson  
Charlotte Prentice  
Ken and Diane Skrien  
Katherine Solomonson  
Nancy Stark  
Cindy Stephani  
Edith Thurber  
Dave Velleu and Darene Obitz  
Jean Velleu and Jim Law  
Rick Velleu and Joy Jacobson  
Herb and Marilyn Vogel  
Dan Wagers  
Joan R. Wilkosz  
Laurel Winsor  
Mark Yudof

Business Renewals

John Mannillo  
Charlene Roise

Cass Gilbert Society Board for 2005

Marjorie Pearson, President

Betsy Bradley, Secretary

Troy Musel, Treasurer

Mary Michael Connolly, Member at Large

Jean Kyle

Cindy Stephani

Jean Velleu, President Emerita

Wendy Weimers

Joan Wilkosz

Linda Bjorklund, Fundraising

Jim Hirsh, Legal Advisor

Lana Mahoney, Programs

Sheila Meyer, Membership