PATTY DEAN TO SPEAK ON CASS GILBERT IN MONTANA ON FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Patty Dean, formerly on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, and now a resident of Helena, Montana, where she grew up, will present “Unique and Handsome: Cass Gilbert's Designs for the Montana Club” on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, at 7:00 P.M. Ms. Dean was a participant in the recent Cass Gilbert Society tour to Montana. Dinner and a presentation at the Montana Club were among the tour's highlights. She will give us further information about Cass Gilbert’s work for the Montana Club and place it into the context of his other Montana designs.

Gilbert with his partner James Knox Taylor began to work in Montana early in his career. Geoffrey Blodgett vividly depicts Gilbert’s journey to Helena to meet with Albert J. Seligman: “Despite the westward momentum of the iron horse, getting across Montana to its capital could still be a frontier adventure. In March 1887 Cass headed for Helena by train toward the end of the hardest winter in anyone’s memory. Ice chunks in the flooded Missouri River blocked the tracks near Bismarck, North Dakota.

Cass and his fellow passengers crossed the river by boat to climb into a cluster of old stagecoaches on the other side. . . . Suddenly the driver lost control of his charging team. The coach spilled over, and Cass and the driver were thrown into the fresh snow . . . Cass got up unhurt and ran to help the other passengers . . . Survivors caught the next train west, and Cass met his appointments in Helena two days later. Territorial newspapers carried the dramatic tale.” (Cass Gilbert: The Early Years, p. 78)

We anticipate that we will be joined by members of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (MNSAH), who are planning their own tour to Montana in July.

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.

Detail of the Fuller Avenue elevation of the 1903 Montana Club in Helena, by Cass Gilbert. Courtesy of the Montana Historical Society
This, the first Newsletter of 2006, follows the celebration of the Minnesota State Capitol’s centennial year. The Cass Gilbert Society was an active participant in the celebration, from financial assistance with the installation of the portraits of Cass and Julia Gilbert outside the vestibule of the Supreme Court chamber, to coordination with the symposium on the Capitol held at the University of Minnesota School of Architecture in October, to fundraising for the documentary on Cass Gilbert produced by Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) for distribution to schools throughout the state. Please see our website www.cassgilbertsociety.org for a link to the TPT website and a copy of the teacher’s guide. A 30-minute version of the documentary was broadcast locally on January 9 and 15.


FROM THE PRESIDENT
By Marjorie Pearson


Courtesy of Twin Cities Public Television
Cover design by Denise Fick.

The Friends of the Capitol is organizing a campaign to encourage the state legislature to provide sufficient bonding funding to restore the building. See the insert for information on how you can help. The State Architect’s Office has awarded a contract to the team of Hamel Green Abrahamson (HGA), Minneapolis, and Schooley Caldwell Associates (SCA), Columbus, Ohio, to prepare a schematic design study for the restoration, but unless bonding funding is authorized, actual restoration work will not go forward. HGA has worked on many notable public buildings in Minnesota, while SCA has undertaken the restoration of several state capitols, including Ohio, Kansas, and Utah.
Several Cass Gilbert buildings in New York have been in the news. The Austin, Nichols and Company Warehouse was designated a New York City landmark on September 20, 2005. Such designations are subject to review by the New York City Council. In the face of strong owner opposition and active lobbying against the designation by the local council member, the City Council denied the designation by a vote of 43-6 with one abstention on November 20, 2005. Then Mayor Michael Bloomberg vetoed the City Council action stating that the members of the landmarks commission “are the experts charged with determining what buildings are worthy of landmarks designation.” Nonetheless, the City Council overrode the mayor’s veto.

On Friday, January 20, 2006, *New York Times* reporter David Dunlap authored a story on public access, or lack thereof, to various designated interior landmarks in lower Manhattan, including two Cass Gilbert-designed buildings. He could barely get in the door of the Woolworth Building, but he was able to visit the U.S. Custom House, now the home of the National Museum of the American Indian, after passing through a metal detector.

If you are reading this Newsletter and not yet a member of the Cass Gilbert Society, please join us. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2006, please do so using the enclosed form.

Thanks to the following members who have renewed for 2006:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patricia Anderson</th>
<th>Nick Marcucci and Ann Schroder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donald Bergmann</td>
<td>Nancy Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion K. Bjorklund</td>
<td>Christopher Monkhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Blank and Linda Bjorklund</td>
<td>Patricia Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betsy Bradley</td>
<td>Dick and Nancy Nicholson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlene Carroll</td>
<td>Jim and Ardis Noonan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Cole</td>
<td>Donald and Florence Ostrom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eva and John Cross</td>
<td>Dean and Betty Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Michael Connolly</td>
<td>Marjorie Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Curry</td>
<td>Julian Plante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gail Fenske</td>
<td>Vincent Platt and Carolyn Nayematsu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Flanders</td>
<td>Cathy Gilbert-Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Fridinger</td>
<td>Charlene Roise, Hess, Roise and Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsha and Mark Gorman</td>
<td>Charles Stander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim and Debra Hirsh</td>
<td>Cindy Stephani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Irish</td>
<td>Edith Thurber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen and Merle Johnson</td>
<td>Jean Velleu and Jim Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Alexandra Klas</td>
<td>Herb Vogel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allan Klein and Harriet Lansing</td>
<td>Wendy Weimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John and Colles Larkin</td>
<td>Joan Wilkosz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patty McCartin and Paul Latio</td>
<td>Laurel Winsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ann McCoy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia McDonald</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome to the following new members who have joined since the listing in the last Newsletter:

| Bonnie and Brian Alton   | Ginny Housum                   |
| Michael J. Bjornberg, Hamel Green and Abrahamson, Inc. | John McNeil               |
| Robert Fowler            | Jack and Gretchen Sjoholm       |
| Great Harvest Bread Company | Sheila Smith           |
| Jim Groskopf             | Lou Sudheimer                  |
| Peter Hall and Kathy McNay | Dr. Connie Vance           |
|                          |                                     |
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
Wendy Weimer, Vice President
Betsy H. Bradley, Secretary
Vincent Platt, Treasurer
Mary Michael Connolly, Member at Large
Bonnie J. Alton
James Groskopf
Cindy Stephani
Jean Velleu, President Emerita
Joan Wilkosz
Linda Bjorklund, Fundraising
Jim Hirsh, Legal Advisor
Lana Mahoney, Programs

Cass Gilbert Society member Herb Grika provided us with a photograph of a cast for a bronze bas relief plaque by sculptor Walter Russell. The plaque to honor Cass Gilbert was to be placed in the Woolworth Building in 1931. Last November, we were contacted by a New York resident who had found a version of the plaque in his mother’s possessions. She had been the proprietor of a millinery shop in the Woolworth Building in the 1930s. He did not know how she had come by the plaque, but he forwarded a photograph. Here are images of both for comparison.
MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

As citizens of Minnesota involved in our state's civic life, we value the State Capitol as a historic public building and as the symbolic heart of our state. The people of Minnesota want our legislature to take care of our state's Capitol.

Minnesota’s State Capitol is one of our state’s treasures, but it is threatened. Water is leaking through the roof, destroying paint, plaster, and who knows what else behind its walls. There are fire and safety issues to which attention must be given. Our Capitol is 100 years old this year, and while we celebrate its Centennial, it’s appropriate to examine whether or not we are caring for this great building in a way that will ensure that it is in good shape for our grandchildren and their children in 100 years to come.

Therefore,

Resolution

WHEREAS the Minnesota State Capitol Building celebrated its centennial birthday on January 2, 2005; and

WHEREAS the Minnesota State Capitol Building, at the time of its groundbreaking in 1898 and completion in 1905, marked and established a new trend in the civic architecture of our country's state capitol buildings; and

WHEREAS the Minnesota State Capitol Building has been found to be in great need of a comprehensive, holistic, and thorough restoration effort, as detailed in the legislatively mandated 2001 Pre-design Study for the State Capitol Building.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the Governor and the Legislature to respond favorably and with strong commitment to the full restoration of the Minnesota State Capitol Building, and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the Governor and the Legislature in including the full request for $26 million for renovations of Phase I, the East Wing, as submitted by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board for the 2006 Capital Budget.

Signed:

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Time is Short! Please Sign and Return ASAP! We are gathering individual and organization support for the Capitol’s renovation, so please feel free to submit a signed resolution both for yourself personally and for your organization if possible. Please mail or fax your signed copies to the Friends of the Minnesota State Capitol, c/o Eric P. Ewald, 1000 Westgate Drive, Suite 252, Saint Paul, MN 55114-1067, Ph. 651-290-6266, Fax 651-290-2266.
Membership Form – 2006

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

______ I would like to **renew** my membership for **2006**.

______ 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.

**My Name** ________________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________

City ______________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Telephone (_______)__________________________________________

Email_______________________________________________________

**Gift Recipient** __________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________

City ______________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Telephone (_______)__________________________________________

Email_______________________________________________________

* 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**