

News For Members of  
PITTSBURGH HISTORY &  
LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

NUMBER 39--JANUARY 1973

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

10 The Old Post Office museum was aglow for an old fashioned Christmas exhibition. It consisted of a special lighting, a large Serbian Spruce Tree donated by John Eisler of Eislers Nurseries, Inc., old fashioned toys, and a special preview evening the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

The funds for the Christmas celebration were made available by one anonymous donor. The executive director wrote to the donor just after the preview party and described the evening. The donor has asked that we reprint this letter in the newsletter so that all our members who were unable to be present will at least be able to savor the wonderful evening that we had.

*I have to write to tell you how marvelous, splendid and, heart warming our Christmas celebration was at the Old Post Office. I am so sorry that you couldn't be here.*

*The building was spectacularly lighted with 5,000 Christmas lights streaming from the dome and another 500 lights on the 22 foot Serbian spruce tree.*

*Both Santa Claus and Mother Goose appeared and received the ornaments the children brought for the tree and Mother Goose told Christmas stories to the children and had them spellbound - adults as well.*

*Along with the 200 reservations over a hundred people came to the door and bought tickets which caused a strain on our refreshment supply but otherwise contributed to the festive nature of the evening. The adults devoured 50 dozen cookies before we could even snap some back to hold for the children!*

*The Allegheny Campus String Orchestra gave a nice concert in the main gallery, a member of our staff played the piano and we had a Christmas carol sing along, and the Swiss American choir from the Hilltop Community in Pittsburgh gave a really lovely concert from the first balcony.*

*It was a great evening and the compliments were profuse.*

We also thank the following donors who generously donated old toys for the show:

Stephen Blank  
Field Curry  
Fred E. Haller  
Miss Henrietta Helm

Mr. & Mrs. Frank C. Schroeder  
Mrs. C. H. Spencer, Jr.  
Mrs. Alan E. Wohleber

FASHION GROUP FUND RAISING BENEFIT  
FOR OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

A gala benefit for the Old Post Office Museum will be sponsored by the Fashion Group of Pittsburgh on the evening of March 2, 1973. Mrs. Anita Weber of The Fashion Group of Pittsburgh is chairwoman of the affair.

Called the "Great American Party", the event will include a buffet, fun games, door prizes as well as a glamorous fashion show.

The 350 tickets will be made available to members of the Fashion Group, and members of PHLF on a "first come, first served" basis due to space limitations. Tickets are \$8.50 each.

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*"COME LIVE WITH ME IN THE MEXICAN WAR STREETS" a talk with slides will be presented by Mrs. Marge Eichleay here at the Old Post Office on Wednesday, February 21, 1973 at 2:30 p.m. A tea will follow this most interesting presentation. PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!*

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COVERED BRIDGE TOUR SUCCESSFUL

The covered bridge tour of Washington and Greene Counties was a huge success. Our caravan of three buses drove through strikingly beautiful back country areas in spite of the challenge of narrow and winding country roads. We made several stops at covered bridges as well as other various places of interest. We lunched amid the colonial splendor of Century Inn and enjoyed the pleasant atmosphere which the Inn provided. The early autumn foilage was visible and rows of corn schocks were common sights in the fields. Most of us came back with pockets and purses stuffed with small momentos of this rural land ranging from "Indian corn" and "apple cider" to a nostalgia for our rural past.



*Above: Members of our "Covered Bridge Tour" viewing a truck stand at the entrance to "The Bailey Bridge". Provided by local Washington County residents, it featured Indian corn and fresh orchard apples.*



*Above: Interested members of the "Covered Bridge Tour" view the wooden structure of a bridge in Green County near Carmichael.*

ANNOUNCING  
1973 PERFORMING ARTS SERIES  
OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

*Don't let the "post-Christmas doldrums" keep you wishing for excitement! Plan now to join us at the Old Post Office when the Performing Arts Committee presents six lively, interesting and varied programs. They will be held on six Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Prices to members are \$8.00 for the series, and \$1.50 for individual performances. Prices to non-members are \$10. for the series and \$2.00 for individual performances. Get your tickets early; you won't want to miss any of these exciting events. A reception to meet the performers will be held after each event.*

January 14 - "Dance Happening at The Old Post Office"  
*Mrs. Jeanne Beaman of Pitt University will present a creative dance program related to the architecture of the Old Post Office.*

February 11- "An Evening with Robert Schmertz and Friends"  
*Featuring folk songs of Pittsburgh*

February 25- Recital of the winners of "The First Donald S. Steinfirst Memorial Competition"  
*1 vocalist and 1 instrumentalist chosen from competitors from colleges within a radius of 50 miles of Pittsburgh.*

March 11 - The Russian Orthodox Choir of St. Alexander Nevsky from the North Hills of Pittsburgh will sing liturgical music.

March 25 - The opera "Dido Aeneus"  
*The opera will be performed by the Tuesday Musical Club of Pittsburgh.*

April - The Gospel Choir of the University and City Ministries under the direction of Rev. Moses Stith will sing gospel and folk music.

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Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation  
The Old Post Office Allegheny Square West  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212

Please send me: I have enclosed stamped envelope: NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SEASON TICKETS for the series of concerts @ \$8.00 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SEASON TICKETS for non-members for the series @ \$10.00 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for "Dance Happening" 1/14/73 @ \$1.50 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for non-members @ \$2.00 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for "An Evening with Robert Schmertz" 2/11/73 @\$1.50 ea.\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for non-members @ \$2.00 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for "Song & Instrumental Recital" 2/25/73 @\$1.50 each...\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for non-members @\$2.00 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for "Russian Orthodox Choir" 3/11/73 @\$1.50 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for non-members @ \$2.00 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for "Dido Aeneus" 3/25/73 @ \$1.50 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for non-members @ \$2.00 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for "Gospel Choir" 4/15/73 @ \$1.50 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for non-members @ \$2.00 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

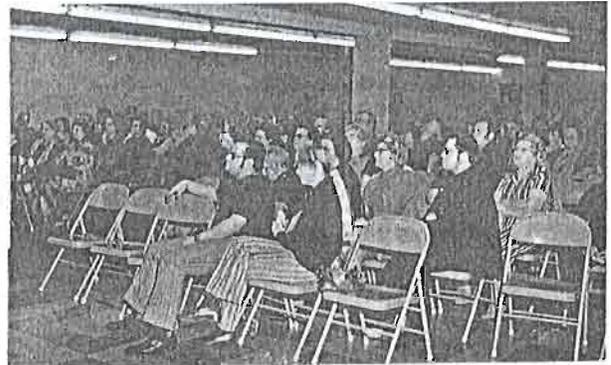
We are pleased to announce a contract from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission in the amount of \$2,800 on a matching basis to enable us to begin to complete state and federal register forms for the buildings that are in our county survey, Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County. We have been applying for the grant from federal funds which are channeled through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to enable us to complete the application so that the buildings in Allegheny County can be entered on the registers. Allegheny County was the first and remains the only county in the nation to have completed a county wide survey of historic buildings. Through efforts of Mrs. Florence Schwartz, Commissioner from Allegheny County on PHMC, and William Wewer, Director of the Commission, we were able to secure this contract on a matching grant basis. It will enable us to complete forms for 70 buildings. We hope to have the contract renewed each year until all the appropriate structures in Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County are on the registers.

SURVEY CONTRACT  
AWARDED TO PHLF

*A Victorian or Edwardian table lamp for the Old Post Office Museum is needed. We wish to place the lamp in our reception room in front of the window that looks into the main gallery. The lamp will therefore be on view from many vantage points. Also required is an Edwardian or Victorian table on which the lamp could be placed. If you could help us, please call Mr. Ziegler or Miss Zielinski at 322-1204.*

*Sheets and dust rags wanted:*

*Several months ago we put out a call requesting old sheets that members might donate to the Old Post Office Museum. We use them to cover artifacts and storage. A number of members generously responded and we collected more than 50 sheets but already we need more. If you can drop off or send to the Old Post Office any old sheets, we would appreciate it. Old materials that we can cut up to utilize for dust cloths would also be very welcome.*



We reported recently that the Hilltop Community of Warrington Avenue (above the Liberty Tunnels) had approached our organization about involvement in their neighborhood planning. They came to us because they had heard about our other neighborhood programs and because the community has a considerable amount of aging architecture. While many of the buildings of Warrington Avenue are not of great significance, the total neighborhood is quite an interesting one and has unique environmental qualities. The community has raised funds to enable our staff to devote time to study the problems of the area and to develop designs for the restoration of the business street. We presented some of our ideas and suggestions as well as our preliminary design studies to a community meeting of approximately 130 people in November and were greeted warmly. We expect business restoration to get underway in spring and we will have further reports on the development of this program for our members.

WARRINGTON AVENUE  
OFF TO GOOD START

We are pleased to report that Allied Repro-Graphics has reproduced eight or Norton Peterson's drawings of Pittsburgh buildings and neighborhoods that were shown in his one-man exhibition at the Old Post Office Museum this past summer.

RECOGNITION

Allegheny Center Association  
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Arch  
Robert Love Baker, M.D.  
Mrs. Gordon Benkley  
Mr. & Mrs. M. A. Benson  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter T. Berry  
Mrs. George H. Bishop  
Ms. Marjorie A. Blackstone  
Stephen Blank  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. Bush  
Miss Laura E. Cathon  
Ms. Betty Chorba  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew R. Cochrane  
Mrs. George H. Dahlin  
Robert H. Dietrich  
Jerome A. Earley  
Mrs. Charles T. Evans, Jr.  
William E. Fenstermaker  
Miss Charlotte Gay  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter R. Glaus  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Goettel  
Ms. Helen B. Gorman  
Miss Nancy Gray  
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Harris  
David M. Harrison  
Ms. Gladys L. Hoover  
Mr. & Mrs. S. Knox Hunter  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry T. Hutchinson  
Jefferson Memorial Park & Museum  
Miss Jean I. Keller

Mr. & Mrs. James A. Knight  
Miss Jean Lamb  
Miss Louise E. Lehman  
J. M. Lewis  
Mrs. W. J. Lofink  
Madison M. McKee, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Malakoff  
Miss Virginia Messner  
Mrs. Robert W. McAllister  
Paul C. McBeth, Sr.  
Robert P. Milligan, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Milligan  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Murrin  
Ms. Josephine Olson  
Robert T. Olson  
William E. Ralston, Jr.  
Ms. Dorothy M. Rasmussen  
Mrs. J. D. Rice  
Mr. & Mrs. William Y. Rosewald  
Nicholas C. Ruffin  
Mr. & Mrs. Carle H. Salley, Jr.  
C. H. Schulz, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard P. Schumann  
Miss LuCinda A. Smith  
VIEWPOINT  
Raphael Walton  
Mrs. Ralph D. Wyckoff  
Mr. & Mrs. William B. Wylie, Jr.

BACK IN PRINT!

At the request of numerous members we have, for the third time, reprinted our handsome booklet on the Union Trust Building. The booklet gives the history of the structure, shows many old photographs of the building including a photo of the arcade when it was several stories high, and is written in Mr. Van Trump's inimitable prose. It sells for \$1.00 plus \$.20 postage if ordered by mail.

WITH THANKS TO OUR MANY FRIENDS

Donations of various artifacts for our museum collection in November:

Mrs. Francis Miller.....Early 20th century seed catalogues  
Mrs. R. E. Philip.....Memorabilia of W.D. Berry  
Mrs. Gertrude M. Weiland.....Collection of children's records, early 20th c.  
Collection of late 19th century and early 20th  
century records  
Baby bottle warmer, 1904  
Ash tray  
Mr. & Mrs. M. Charles Dimock..Firkin, 1787  
English "pop-over" baking tray, 1780's  
"Corn stick" baking tray, 1760's  
English muffin baking tray, 1780's  
Mrs. Allderdice.....Set of French cups and saucers  
Robert A. Fiedler.....Book, Pittsburgh and Allegheny, 1889  
Dr. William S. Tacey.....Women's leather gloves, 1920's  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Leuba.....Collection of paper-mache figures  
Glass decorative plate, "1776-1876"  
Miss Louise E. Beckfield.....Early 20th century catalogue, Boggs & Buhl  
Ruth Miller.....Photos of schools from Old Allegheny  
Medals from Old Allegheny schools  
Mrs. Frank Schroeder, Jr.....Woven child's high chair  
Cloth doll, late 19th century  
Mrs. Elizabeth McFarland.....Milk glass vase  
Arthur G. Trimble.....Set, carved doll furniture  
Inlaid mahogany table  
Miss Henrietta Helm.....Doll house complete with furniture  
Felix Loeb.....Booklet, Schenley Farms  
John Kraftzig.....Booklet, Hotel Hershey and Community  
Mrs. J. B. Minor.....Straight saber

PHLF was pleased to participate in the National Association of Housing Re-development Officials Conference on "Housing, Modernization, and Preservation", on November 12-15 here in Pittsburgh. Mr. Ziegler gave a keynote luncheon address and joined with Tom Jones of Neighborhood Housing Services to lead a tour group through North Side and South Side. He and Ellis Schmidlapp of our staff held an evening discussion session also. The conference was a great success in that 350 people came from throughout the United States and Canada, but most important was the fact that historic preservation seemed to be foremost among the subjects that interested the attendees.

#### JAMES H. MATTHEWS COMPANY OPENING OF BRONZE EXHIBIT

We are grateful to the Matthews Company for their part in opening our fall season with the reception for the Western Art Exhibition as reported in the last news letter.



*Mrs. Dorothy Richardson and Mr. Emil Limbach discuss one of the Handsome bronzes in the exhibit.*

*Admiring a huge bronze eagle are Dr. & Mrs. John Baiz.*

*PHLF president Charles Covert Arensberg presided over the opening of the unique exhibit.*

*Mr. Frank V. Mazur, senior vice president of Jas. H. Matthews & Co., explains the casting of a bronze to Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Stuckeman.*

#### 1972 HISTORIC LANDMARK PLAQUE AWARDS

During the course of 1972 PHLF placed historic landmark plaques on the following buildings:

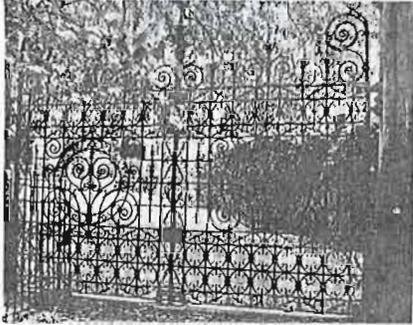
Rodef Shalom Temple	St. Peter's Episcopal Church
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church	Jenkins Arcade
Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church	Coltart House
Church of the Good Shepherd	William Penn Hotel
St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church	Guili's Landmark
St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church	Calvary United Methodist Church
Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Station	Bursztynowicz House
William Penn Snyder House	"Part of Springfield"

PHLF is grateful to the Alcoa Foundation for its 1963 grant which has enabled PHLF to award plaques to some of the most significant structures in Allegheny County.

## THE PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE

How do we compare Pittsburgh with Portugal? Should we compare Sintra with Sewickley or Fox Chapel -- the Alfama old quarter in Lisbon with Lawrenceville in Pittsburgh or the Mexican War Streets? Is it apples with oranges, lemons with apricots? Is there any fairness in comparing a country which was the richest in the world five centuries ago with a city which was the richest in the United States at the turn of the Century?

Three weeks in Portugal leaves one breathless with beauty -- beauty in architecture, grace and beauty in the loving care the Portuguese take in their land, their sea, their food, their wine. We remember the sweeping plains of the Alentejo with their olive and cork orchards, the rugged wilderness of the Sierra do Estrela with its soaring hawks; the beauty of the three strings of cherries bound together in a tight knot by the girl on the highway with the golden earrings, the arrogant cowboys tending their fighting bulls with the long lances to prod the wayward strays. Iron gates at Sintra dazzle our eyes and, surely, the doorway to the unfinished chapel at Batalha is the equal to any doorway in all of our planet. The marble tombs of Vasco da Gama and Prince Henry the Navigator, of Dom João and his queen Filipa of Lancaster holding hands forever in frozen silence, hold us still with the vastness of their historical and personal significance.



But each nation, each country must fashion its own homes, its own cities, its own ways of coming to grips with the meaning of life and the meaning of endeavor.

For example, what is it in American life that cleaves always to the simple, the utterly practical? If something is new and harsh and simple and can be sold as nothing to maintain, nothing to pay for, nothing to work for, bingo, let's have it regardless of how it looks, how we live with it, how it may displace the memory of things past, of value transcending the momentary change?



So we possess a fancy cornice. It is a survival of older, more leisurely days; days when the hand of man fashioned things by the piece, not individual pieces of art, surely but indeed things of design, indeed reflection. Along comes artificial stone or metal siding man -- off come the cornices. On go the utterly plain strips: gone the charm, the character of the house. This has literally happened in great areas of Lawrenceville, South Side, and the North Side. Shall we call it the "Defenestration of Pittsburgh"?

Why cannot we combine the common sense of the siding concept with the charm, the imagination-evoking beauty of cornice? Why not siding if it must be, cum cornice! In Portugal, yes; in Pittsburgh, no. Why? Why not?

Item two: The pictures show gates in Portugal and a gate in Pittsburgh. Compare the iron gate from a private house in Sintra with the gateway to a sophisticated, handsome modern development in Pittsburgh. Where is the design, where the sculpture, where the love, where the demand for respect? Where indeed the authority that such an entrance should employ?

What is there that requires such beauty, such dignity in a small country slightly larger than South Carolina, smaller than Pennsylvania?

Why on the other hand does a great world city such as Pittsburgh receive a gate so devoid of life, so empty of art, so absent of meaning?

On every hand in Portugal the artist has expressed the meaning of human struggle in painting, sculpture and architecture. We look in vain through most American cities for the sculptured fountain, the building allied with art, the deliberate attempt to please the eye with manmade artifacts. Take the fountain in Mellon Park, certainly a magnificent salute to an American city; and Pittsburgh with its beautiful topography is blessed as compared to St. Louis, Cleveland or Detroit, cities of vast flat deserts of American culture. Still the fountain's heart, its valves are ugly twisted mechanical artifacts. Could they not be styled, be imaginized into something figurative, something meaningful? Could not this vital pulsing heart of the city contain sculpture which will grow with the city and acquire meaning with the passing years?

These are small things. These may be minuscule things. And yet they may not be because every year literally millions of westerners long to see the others, and do. And they make the difference between Portugal and Pittsburgh.

*Charles Covert Arensberg*

DECOUPAGE LECTURE BY MRS. LAURA GOLDSMITH  
JANUARY 15, 1973

TICKET REQUEST FORM FOR DECOUPAGE LECTURE

Please send me:

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for Mrs. Laura Goldsmith's discussion on Decoupage on 1/15/73  
@ \$2.50 each for members.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

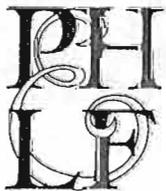
\_\_\_\_\_ tickets for non-members @ \$3.00 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed.

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



PITTSBURGH HISTORY  
& LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

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