



THE HERITAGE

The Library Restoration Story Continues

As a continuation of its efforts to revitalize and restore the “Gilded Age” interiors of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion, the Board of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund has completed the restoration of the magnificent Baroque Library. Designed by architect, John Russell Pope, 1874-1937, in the English Baronial Style in 1905, the Library reflected the high level of refined taste and social standing of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Barton Jacobs so necessary in the society in which the Jacobs traveled.

Pope was the logical successor to McKim, Mead and White in the on-going alterations and additions to the Mansion begun in 1884 with Stanford White’s conversion of Nos. 9-11 West Mt. Vernon Place into one of the most lavish residences in Baltimore. Working with both McKim and White early in his career, Pope developed his signature sense of classical style and detailing that defines the memorable architecture qualities of the Library.

Darkened by over a hundred years of accumulated dirt and aging varnish, the original honey color of the walnut paneling has been restored. Now visible again is the beautiful grain of the wood which enhances and warms Pope’s faultless



classical detailing. Adding additional interest to the paneling, Pope called for the architectural elements over the fireplace and doors as well as the column capitals to be highlighted. In Pope’s design for the room, bronze gilded wall sconces, now restored, provided lighting for the Library.

Restorations efforts also centered on the restoration of the plaster cornice above the walnut paneling. Originally grained to match the color and graining of the wood, the plaster cornice began to show signs of peeling and flaking paint as well as damage from poor repair work. Work entailed the careful restoration of the plaster, removal of all damaged paint, and re-graining of the cornice to match the existing wood.

The plaster ceiling, another hallmark of Pope’s restrained architectural style, *continued on page 3*

The Fire Ball on February 16

“Mrs. Garrett would have been very proud of this black-tie, first-class event”

*Chris McCarthy,
Fire Ball Chairman*

Fire Ball was a “nice night to show off the Mansion,” commented Chris McCarthy. Nice, eh! The Ball **netted \$57,000**. The 11-piece band, Onyx entertained 471 ticket holders. The gentlemen in tuxedos and the ladies in ball gowns dined on the following delectable choices: shrimp casino, sweet potato puff, assorted baked bries, Koven’s seafood dip with



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"Heritage" is distributed to members and friends of The Garrett-Jacob Mansion Endowment on a quarterly basis.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund is to preserve and restore the Mansion as a National Historic Landmark and to share the history, architectural and civic legacy of the Mansion for the benefit and education of the public.

The Fire Ball, February 16 from page 1



Chris McCarthy

French bread toast, New York strip steak, salmon tureen, mushroom ravioli with fresh tomato basil sauce, Caesar salad, assorted French pastries, and chocolate delicacies including chocolate-covered strawberries—18 food choices in all from hors d'oeuvres to desserts.

A bit of concern, relief, and humor happened when the Fire Department Chief, Jim Clack arrived in an Engine Company #2 truck that had the Mt. Vernon residents wondering if the Mansion was indeed on fire. The Lt. Colonel of the Police Department arranged for the parking by blocking off

the street between Charles and Chase. And, so the evening went full, formal, festive, and fun.

This Ball, in a private club, was open to a lot of public access. Chris McCarthy said that 90% of the guests were not members of the Engineers Club. He added the Fire Ball has **raised \$285,000** of net profit for the Mansion's Endowment Fund in the last five years. A nice night? Spectacular, me thinks. ■

Calendar of Events

Georges Bizet's
Carmen

Friday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m.

Tickets \$25/\$35/\$45/\$65

Pre-Concert Dining is available.

The Baltimore Concert Opera closes its fourth season with one of the most popular and well-known works of the operatic repertoire. Sing along with the Toreador Song as BCO transports you to Seville for Bizet's perennial classic about gypsies, smugglers, and bullfighters. A



beloved classic among opera audiences and chockfull of recognizable tunes, Carmen is also the perfect production for someone trying opera for the first time. **For reservations, call Patti @ 410-539-6914 or e-mail patti@esb.org** ■

The Library Restoration Story Continues

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is highlighted with only decorative elements on its four corners and a simple band outlining the broad field of the ceiling. Pope's scheme never provided for any lighting fixtures hanging from the ceiling so the ceiling, as now repaired and repainted, reflects Pope's vision of the room.

In planning for the restoration of the Library, Matthew Mosca prepared a detailed paint analysis for the room which provided the basis for the scope of work to be done. Tom Moore of Thomas Moore Studios assembled the expert team of restoration specialists who implemented the scope of work with a high degree of craftsmanship and artistry matching the quality of the original construction. Both Matthew and Tom have been instrumental in the successful restoration of the Drawing Room and the Ballroom. ■

Special Thanks for this article to David Gleason, FAIA, GJMEF Trustee and Project Lead.

About the Library's Lighting and more

On Thursday March 14, Henry Johnson of Johnson Berman and John O'Donohoe of O'Donohoe & Rose Lighting Consultants talked to the Trustees about their plans for the Library. Because there was never a chandelier in the Library, Henry Johnson

demonstrated techniques on how light would actually get into the room. He showed the Trustees how LED lights could be used inside the cabinets. The first three bookshelves in each cabinet would hold the books "that looked the best." The top shelves reserved possibly for Chinese porcelains that Mrs. Garrett might have owned, relevant and historic artifacts, family heirlooms, special books, and other items of special consideration to the Engineering Society.

Mrs. Garrett's Library had lots of lamps. Mr. Johnson wants to return the Library to that ambiance by placing floor lamps in each corner creating a wall of light throughout the room, light sconces, and a 48" x 48" mirror over the fireplace reflecting light. Mr. O'Donohoe addressed how the lighting would be repaired, installed, and controlled. At the three windows, green damask curtains were recommended with jabot and closing side panels and tie backs. In summary, the Library will be a "return to the days of charm with modern technology." ■

The follow-up to...

The "Garretts Palace" on Mt. Vernon: The Genesis of Art Collecting in Baltimore

This year's lecture series at the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion celebrated Baltimore's great fortune in being the home to several early art collectors, not least of whom was Mary Garrett Jacobs. The series began with **Lance Humphries'** description of Robert Gilmor (1774-1848), a merchant and collector of 14th century old masters and 17th century Dutch masterpieces. Gilmor was also a patron of American artists Francis Guy, Thomas Cole, Gilbert Stuart, and Thomas Sully, to name a few. The intention of each of the collectors described in the series, beginning with Gilmor, was to raise the level of aesthetics in America. **Elizabeth Schaff** recounted George Peabody's remarkable gift to Baltimore of the Peabody Institute which incorporated room for art works; several trustees of the collection added sculpture. The Walters, chronicled by

William Johnston, was a family of merchants who patronized American artists as well as collecting broadly. **Oliver Shell**, curator of European painting and sculpture at the Baltimore Museum of Art, described Mary Garrett Jacobs as discerning and highly selective.

Mrs. Jacobs collected primarily 17th and 18th century works and, as she'd intended for some years before her death, provided for her collection to enhance the Baltimore Museum of Art. Like those of the other collectors, her treasures have enriched her fellow citizens and raised the aesthetic of Baltimore.



Oliver Shell, Speaker

Look for next year's lecture series in which we hope to describe the personalities of the inhabitants of 9, 11, and 13 West Mount Vernon Place. ■

A Special Thanks to Judith Proffitt, GJMEF Trustee for this article and her continued lead in the yearly Lecture Series programs.



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Annual Golf Outing Monday, August 19th

The Engineers Club and the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund will hold their Seventh Annual Joint Board of Directors' Golf Tournament at The Country Club of Maryland.

Contact **J Bitner** at **410-539-6914** for sponsorships, costs, and details.



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Your support can help the trustees in their on-going effort to restore and preserve this landmark property, listed in the National Register as part of the Mount Vernon Place Historic District and documented in the Library of Congress as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Benefits include a subscription to the Heritage Quarterly and advance notice of public events at the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion.

Complete this coupon and mail check to:
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