

BULLETIN

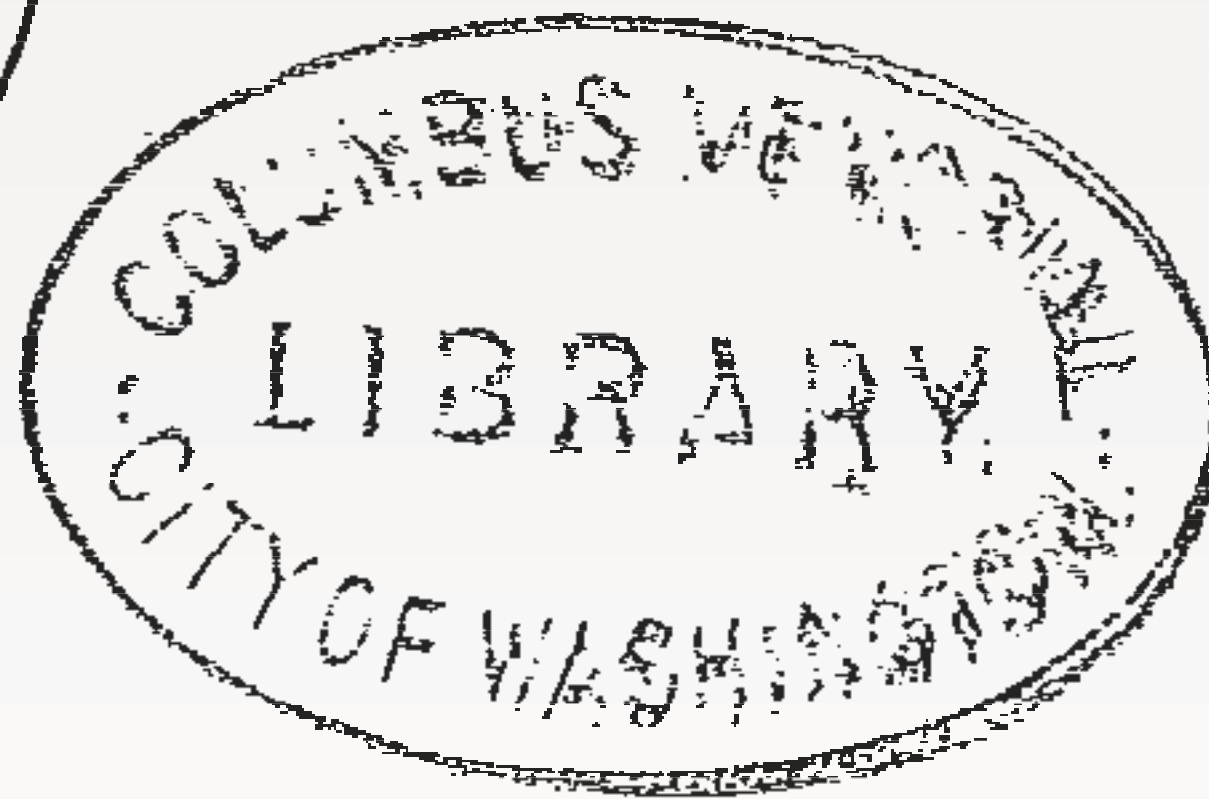
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JOHN BARRETT, DIRECTOR
FRANCISCO J. YÁNES, SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A. : : : : :

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SPA Secretariat For Political Affairs

Department of Democratic Sustainability and Special Missions



Organization of
American States



Mr. PRESIDENT, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN: I am sure that this beautiful building must produce a lively sense of grateful appreciation from all who care for the growth of friendship among Americans; to Mr. CARNEGIE, not merely for his generous gift but for the large sympathy and far vision that prompted it; and to the associate architects, Mr. ALBERT KELSEY and Mr. PAUL P. CRÉT, who, not content with making this structure express their sense of artistic form and proportion, have entered with the devotion and self-absorption of true art into the spirit of the design for which their bricks and marble are to stand. They have brought into happy companionship architectural suggestions of the North and of the South; and have wrought into construction and ornament in a hundred ways the art, the symbolism, the traditions, and the history of all the American Republics; and they have made the building a true expression of the Pan-Americanism of open mind and open heart for all that is true and noble and worthy of respect from whatever race or religion or language or custom in the western continents.

Nor should we forget the fine enthusiasm and understanding with which Mr. GUTZON BORGLUM and Mr. ISIDORE KONTI, and Mrs. SALLY JAMES FARNHAM, and Mrs. GERTRUDE VANDERBILT WHITNEY have brought sculpture to aid the architects' expression; nor the honest and faithful work of Mr. O. W. NORCROSS, the builder; nor the kind help of Mr. WILLIAM R. SMITH, of the Botanical Garden, who has filled the patio with tropical plants rare and strange to northern eyes, but familiar friends to the Latin American; nor the energy and unwearying labors of Mr. JOHN BARRETT, the Director of the Bureau.

The active interest of President TAFT and Secretary KNOX are evidence that the policy of Pan-American friendship reinaugurated by the sympathetic genius of Secretary BLAINE is continuous and permanent in the United States; and the harmony in

which the members of the Governing Board have worked to this end is a good omen for the future.

This building is to be in its most manifest utilitarian service a convenient instrument for association and growth of mutual knowledge among the people of the different Republics. The library maintained here, the books and journals accessible here, the useful and interesting publications of the Bureau, the enormous correspondence carried on with seekers for knowledge about American countries, the opportunities now afforded for further growth in all these activities, justify the pains and the expense.

The building is more important, however, as the symbol, the ever-present reminder, the perpetual assertion of unity of common interest and purpose and hope among all the Republics. This building is a confession of faith, a covenant of fraternal duty; a declaration of allegiance to an ideal. The members of The Hague Conference of 1907 described the Conference in the preamble of its great Arbitration Convention as—

“Animated by the sincere desire to work for the maintenance of general peace.

“Resolved to promote by all the efforts in their power the friendly settlement of international disputes.

“Recognizing the solidarity uniting the members of the society of civilized nations.

“Desirous of extending the empire of law and of strengthening the appreciation of international justice.”

That is the meaning of this building for the Republics of America. That sentiment which all the best in modern civilization is trying to live up to we have written here in marble for the people of the American continents.

The process of civilization is by association. In isolation, men, communities, nations, tend back toward savagery. Repellant differences and dislikes separate them from mankind. In association, similarities and attractions are felt and differences are forgotten. There is so much more good than evil in men that liking comes by knowing. We have here the product of mutual knowledge, cooperation, harmony, friendship. Here is an evidence of what these can accomplish. Here is an earnest of what may be done in the future. From these windows the Governing Board of the International Union will look down upon the noble river that flows by the home of WASHINGTON. They will sit beneath the shadow of the simple and majestic monument which illustrates our conception of his character, the character that, beyond all others in human history, rises above jealousy and envy and ignoble strife. All the nations acknowledge his preeminent influence. He belongs to them all. No man lives in freedom anywhere on earth that is not his debtor and his follower. We dedicate this place to the service of the political faith in which he lived and wrought. Long may this structure stand, while within its walls and under the influence of the benign purpose from which it sprang the habit and the power of self-control, of mutual consideration, and kindly judgment more and more exclude the narrowness and selfishness and prejudice of ignorance and the hasty impulses of supersensitive *amour-propre*. May men hereafter come to see that here is set a milestone in the path of American civilization toward the reign of that universal public opinion which shall condemn all who through contentious spirit or greed or selfish ambition or lust for power disturb the public peace, as enemies of the general good of the American Republic.

One voice that should have spoken here to-day is silent, but many of us can not forget or cease to mourn and to honor our dear and noble friend, JOAQUIM NABUCO. Ambassador from Brazil, Dean of the American Diplomatic Corps, respected, admired, trusted, loved, and followed by all of us, he was a commanding figure in the International movement of which the erection of this building is a part. The breadth of his political philosophy, the nobility of his idealism, the prophetic vision of his poetic imagination, were joined to wisdom, to the practical sagacity of statesmanship, to a sympathetic knowledge of men, and to a heart as sensitive and tender as a woman's. He followed the design and construction of this building with the deepest interest.

THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW BUILDING.

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His beneficent influence impressed itself upon all of our actions. No benison can be pronounced upon this great institution so rich in promise for its future as the wish that his ennobling memory may endure and his civilizing spirit may control in the councils of the International Union of American Republics.