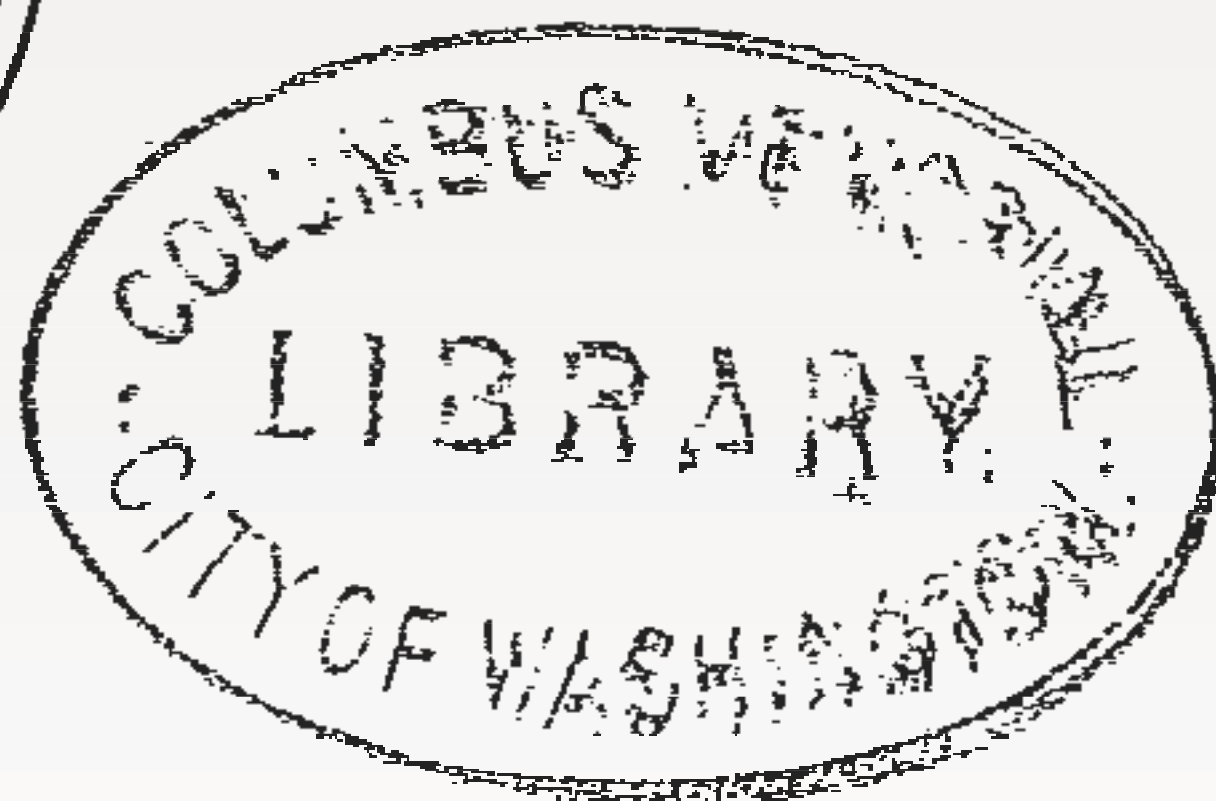


BULLETIN
OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE
AMERICAN
REPUBLICS

VOL. XXX

JANUARY-JUNE

1910



JOHN BARRETT, DIRECTOR
FRANCISCO J. YÁNES, SECRETARY

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

MAILING ADDRESS for BUREAU and BULLETIN: "IBAR," WASHINGTON

Mr. KELSEY, of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.
of ALBERT KELSEY and PAUL P. CRÉT,
associate architects, next made the following statement:

Mr. PRESIDENT, Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: On behalf of my partner, Mr. CRÉT, and for myself, I wish first of all to acknowledge our deep sense of obligation to Director BARRETT and Senator ROOT for their uniform courtesy and generous cooperation, since it is largely because of their generous cooperation and patient courtesy that we can truthfully say that this building has been designed and executed under absolutely ideal conditions.

They appreciated the advisability of giving us plenty of time in which to develop our design. They did not insist upon the employment of the lowest bidder, but accepted our recommendation, whereby Messrs. NORCROSS BROTHERS, of Worcester, Massachusetts, were employed as the contractors (whose honest work we take much pleasure in now testifying has since fully justified our faith in them); and lastly, Mr. BARRETT and Mr. ROOT have been patient and sympathetic clients.



738 INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

In support of this assertion, I wish to repeat one of Senator Root's comments, and it can not be too often repeated, far and wide, for the advancement of architecture. I went to Director BARRETT and Senator ROOT apologetically for that abomination of abominations, an extra; but before I had completely clinched my argument Senator Root interrupted me and said: "Mr. KELSEY, an architect who does not change and improve his work as it progresses, and who does not ask for extras for such changes and improvements, must be dead." It has been in this spirit that we have been encouraged and helped from start to finish.

Now, just a few words about the building itself. After the general disposition of parts had been settled, and after the proportions of the exterior and the interior had been determined, we set about to try and give expression to the building, to make it significant and interesting.

The front elevation was to interpret the two grand geographical divisions of the Pan-American Union, and in the carrying out of this thought we have been ably seconded by Mr. GUTZON BORGLUM and Mr. ISIDORE KONTI, who have depicted in their colossal groups the spirit of modern progress now animating North and South America, respectively; then, wherever we could find a chance we have tried to recall the Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English origins of the people constituting this Union, while in the patio, pavement, and fountain we have attempted to recall something of the mystery of that strange twilight time in American history which still baffles the savants of the world. I refer to the advanced civilizations of the early Peruvians, the Mayans, the Zapotecans, the Toltecs, and the Aztecs. And even here, in this spacious Hall of the Republics, up between the metopes, we have reproduced the feathered serpent of Uxmal—a symbol as familiar to archæologists as the scarab of Egypt. But over and above all significant ornament and detail, on the front elevation, are the birds of North and South America regarding one another with expressions of mutual admiration, confidence, and respect.