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Bulletin

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Front Cover: The restored Circulation and Exhibit Room of the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building. Located on the third floor, the photograph shows the newly opened light well highlighting the bronze statue of *Wisdom*. Photograph by Vincent Beiderbecke.

Back Cover: Vincent Beiderbecke's photograph beautifully captures the granite and terra cotta north façade of the Library and Courts Building with its pediment, inscription "Into the Highlands of the Mind Let Me Go," and the portico with its granite columns and polychrome starbursts.

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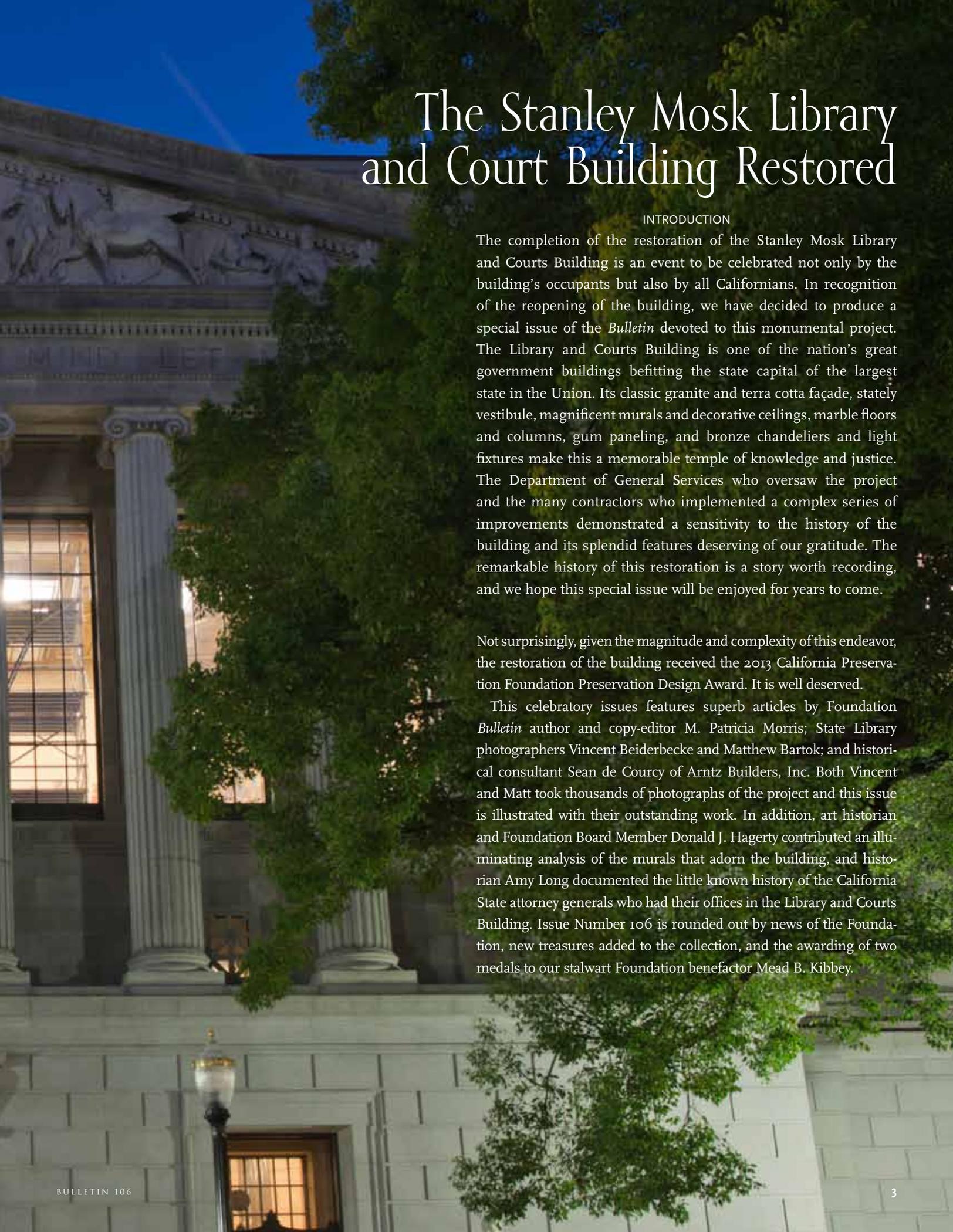
California State Library Foundation

1225 8th Street, Suite 345, Sacramento, CA 95814

tel: 916.447.6331 | web: www.cslibdn.org | email: info@cslibdn.org

The singular beauty of the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building is brought out by this striking night photograph. Behind the windows scaffolding in Gillis Hall may be seen. Photography by Matthew Bartok





The Stanley Mosk Library and Court Building Restored

INTRODUCTION

The completion of the restoration of the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building is an event to be celebrated not only by the building's occupants but also by all Californians. In recognition of the reopening of the building, we have decided to produce a special issue of the *Bulletin* devoted to this monumental project. The Library and Courts Building is one of the nation's great government buildings befitting the state capital of the largest state in the Union. Its classic granite and terra cotta façade, stately vestibule, magnificent murals and decorative ceilings, marble floors and columns, gum paneling, and bronze chandeliers and light fixtures make this a memorable temple of knowledge and justice. The Department of General Services who oversaw the project and the many contractors who implemented a complex series of improvements demonstrated a sensitivity to the history of the building and its splendid features deserving of our gratitude. The remarkable history of this restoration is a story worth recording, and we hope this special issue will be enjoyed for years to come.

Not surprisingly, given the magnitude and complexity of this endeavor, the restoration of the building received the 2013 California Preservation Foundation Preservation Design Award. It is well deserved.

This celebratory issue features superb articles by Foundation *Bulletin* author and copy-editor M. Patricia Morris; State Library photographers Vincent Beiderbecke and Matthew Bartok; and historical consultant Sean de Courcy of Arntz Builders, Inc. Both Vincent and Matt took thousands of photographs of the project and this issue is illustrated with their outstanding work. In addition, art historian and Foundation Board Member Donald J. Hagerty contributed an illuminating analysis of the murals that adorn the building, and historian Amy Long documented the little known history of the California State attorney generals who had their offices in the Library and Courts Building. Issue Number 106 is rounded out by news of the Foundation, new treasures added to the collection, and the awarding of two medals to our stalwart Foundation benefactor Mead B. Kibbey.



Project Director Pella McCormick of the Department of General Services holds one of the generation's old whiskey bottles excavated during the early stages of the restoration.

The Transformers:

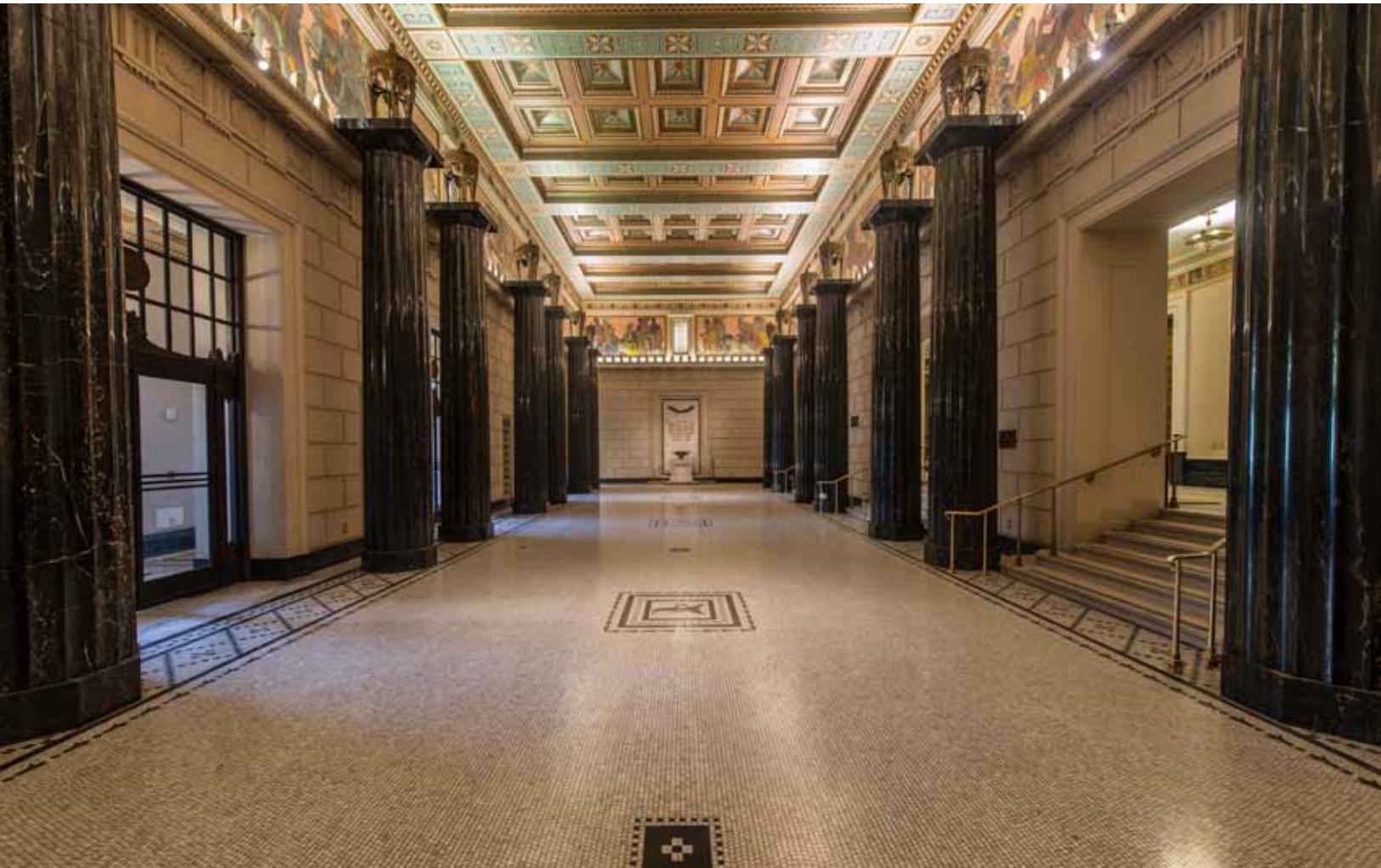
A Conversation with Pella McCormick and Arthur Iwasa

By M. Patricia Morris

The handsome Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building is located directly across the street from California's State Capitol in Sacramento. If you happened to pass by it in recent years, you would have seen a brown construction trailer parked on the lawn, scaffolding scaling the walls, chain-link fences surrounding the structure, and

crews in hardhats at work. The sight represented a grand undertaking — the renovation of the eighty-five-year old structure, which has been called “one of the finest buildings owned by state government.”

Under the management of the California Department of General Services (DGS) with Arntz Buildings, Inc. as the general contractor, the \$65 million renovation was



The completed Memorial Vestibule. Everything in this historic room was carefully protected and cleaned. Shown here are the striking black and gold Italian marble columns, bronze Grecian urns, Frank Van Sloun mural paintings, decorative ceiling, and terrazzo floor. *Photography by Matthew Bartok*

brought in under budget and close to the time estimated for completion. Literally hundreds of people were involved, from the legislators who approved the 2005-2006 Budget Bill appropriating funds to begin the project, to the planners, architects, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, art historians, and others who carried out the work.

On May 20, 2013, Gary Kurutz and I had the privilege of meeting with Pella McCormick and Arthur Iwasa. Both are employed by the California Department of General Services Real Estate Services Division, Project Management Branch. Both have had extensive experience in building renovation. Ms. McCormick was the project director for the restoration and Mr. Iwasa served as the number two building owner's representative.

During the hour-long interview, these two project team members spoke about the challenges and surprises they encountered in the renovation of this historic building. The following is a report on that conversation.

THE TENANTS

When asked how the project started, Pella McCormick explained, "The first thing that comes up is an identified need, and in our older buildings it usually means that things are breaking and that maintaining building operations is becoming more and more challenging." According to a study conducted in June 2000, that is what was happening with the Library and Courts Building.

"A building built in the 1920s," McCormick said, "is no longer going to be in compliance with contemporary fire, and life safety standards." Not only were changes needed for out-of-date or nonexistent fire suppression systems, but work was also



Documented in this photograph is an example of the extraordinary protection given to the decorative elements in the Memorial Vestibule. Photography by Vincent Beiderbecke

essential to update antiquated plumbing, mechanical, electrical, and air conditioning systems. With the advent of computer and Internet usage, the installation of wiring for communication systems became an important addition to this list.

It also was becoming more and more challenging for Library and Courts staff to function in the building. The Attorney General's Office was an early occupant, but for most of its history the California State Library, the Third District Court of Appeal, and the State Supreme Court, which holds sessions in Sacramento six days a year, have been the building's principal occupants. Much of the office space no longer worked for the tenants. Both sides desired changes. Former State Librarian Susan Hildreth and former Presiding Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal Arthur G. Scotland negotiated an exchange of some spaces.

The DGS project team faced another tenant-related problem. "The original scheme," McCormick said, "was to have us work at night and work around people, but this was not a useful plan." Eventually the crews had to enter every single room and punch holes in the walls to thread piping, wiring, and ventilating ducts. Iwasa added, "At some point, too, each one of these floors was partitioned off and put under hazardous material containment for asbestos and lead abatement.

It became increasingly evident that both the Library and Courts staff were going to have to vacate the building together with books and furnishings. McCormick said, "Neither was happy about the decision at the time." For one, the State Library faced the daunting task of moving thirty-five miles of volumes to a rental facility. Both tenants, though, made the necessary adjustments for the duration of construction. No Library or Courts staff remained in the building, although public services continued from the 9th and N Annex and rented space.

McCormick reported happily, "The one decision that really made the project successful was both the Library and the Courts

EDITOR'S NOTE

M. Patricia Morris is a frequent contributor to the Bulletin and has served as the Foundation's invaluable copy editor since the early 1980s. Retired from the California State Department of Parks, Pat enjoys such varied activities as yoga, singing, traveling, and perfecting her French language skills. She is also active in the Capital Communicators Toast Masters and recently was awarded Advanced Communicator Gold.