

The Statue of Liberty Club Newsletter



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www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com Summer 2017 Volume 27, Issue No. 2

About Iris November

When it comes to feeling passionate about personal pursuits, Iris November's emotions run deep. In fact, she was brought to tears twice when discussing two primary interests in which she invests substantial amounts of her time, energy and money. The vivacious 83-year-old resident says she has found the secret to fulfillment, and it involves two separate activities: philanthropy and collecting Statue of Liberty memorabilia.

The Statue of Liberty collection is no small thing. She says she amassed 1,700 pieces, composed of pictures, dishes, boxer shorts, t-shirts, Christmas ornaments, posters, books, glass globes, fans and salt and pepper shakers, along with many others conventional kitchen implements, and of course, statues. Another way to categorize the contents, according to November: any imaginable object. They can all be crafted with a Statue of Liberty motif. The collection, formerly on display in a house in Chautauqua, NY, is now featured in the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum of Play in Rochester, NY.

The fabric of this attraction is threaded with a passion for freedom, particularly because she had relatives who were denied this right, having perished in the Holocaust. "Liberty is so much a part of my DNA," she says. Essentially, the statue is symbolic. Her surviving relatives came to America to live in an environment that upholds the principles that she (the statue) represents, November explains.

She also considers herself a first generation American, since her mother migrated here from Odessa in 1905. And that arrival on these shores brought her mother

into New York Harbor where she beheld the statue, offering another connection for November.

In the absence of any sort of club for Statue of Liberty collectors, November founded one herself in 1991. Its membership includes 200 avid collectors worldwide. One of its activities is a biennial visit to the Statue.

The philanthropic dimension of November's life began shortly after she married Mort November (deceased in 2015) 35 years ago. They were both widowed, and Mort also had suffered the premature death of his daughter, Debra Ann, age 24. In her memory, the couple devoted tremendous creativity and thought to community projects that would benefit children in need throughout Cleveland.

More than 40 projects have been completed, ranging from the construction of buildings that house child-centric services to outdoor art installations, primarily created by local artist Hector Vega.

Their prevailing belief was "to give while you are alive." They valued the joy they witnessed in others who were served by their work. In many ways, the Novembers considered their philanthropy a gift to themselves, as well.

In memory and honor of Mort, this year celebrates "the 12 months of November" during which organizations that she and Mort supported over the past 33 years will recognize Mort for his generosity, participation and support.

Another avenue for charity in November's life lies with Women-4-Women, Knitting-4-Peace which has "peace pods" in all 50 states, including one that November started in Beachwood nine years ago. This grass-roots organization dedicated to crafting hope, healing and peace one stitch at a time, helps women, children and families in developing countries. Knitters and crocheters meet monthly at the Beachwood Library, the first Friday of each month at 10 am, to create baby hats, blankets, socks, shawls, mittens and dolls, which children who are in need absolutely love. For more information, contact November at lbertyclub@gmail.com.

"To help one child is like a ripple in a pond. You get more joy out of the doing than from anyone giving you anything. It's the giving that's so important. It's magic," she said.

Overall, philanthropy offered a way to channel the Novembers' interest in children and families. "We were always so happy to see the results and the difference it made in others' lives," she says. For more information about their fund, visit www.novemberphilanthropy.org.



To help one child is like a ripple in a pond.

Iris November, philanthropist

Mask, by "Liberty" George Duchov, was created with *New York Times'* photos of 343 first-responder firemen who perished on 9/11. This will eventually will be donated to the 9/11 Memorial Museum in NYC.

Reprint from Beachwood Buzz Magazine, February 2017; photo by Scott Morrison.

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In The Shadow Of Liberty: A Native American Colossus

By Jeffrey S. Dosik



Would you believe that the Statue of Liberty almost had a Native American companion in New York? Had the dream of Rodman Wanamaker become a reality, the first sight to greet immigrants arriving in New York after 1913 would not have been Auguste

Bartholdi's graceful torch bearing "Liberty Enlightening The World". It would have been a colossal statue of an Indian chief. At the entrance to New York Harbor overlooking the Narrows which separate the borough of Staten Island from Brooklyn, a 165-foot-tall statue of an Indian chief would have been erected on top

of a seven-story pedestal on the front portion of Fort Tompkins on Staten Island. His right hand raised with two fingers extended in the universal peace sign of the North American Indian. Underneath him would have been a museum, a library and formal gardens in a park setting.

[ED: The concept drawing of the colossus, pedestal and surrounding grounds is on the back page of this newsletter]

This dream was the idea of Rodman Wanamaker of Philadelphia, the son of department store millionaire John Wanamaker. A patron of the arts, aviation enthusiast and an American Indian artifact collector; he was convinced, as were other Victorian gentlemen of his age, that the American Indian was approaching extinction. At a dinner party at New York City's fashionable Sherry's restaurant in 1909 (with such American notables as Buffalo Bill Cody in attendance) he proposed the construction of a great monument to the American Indian in New York Harbor. The idea was met with great enthusiasm (similar to Edouard Rene Lefebvre de Laboulaye proposal at a dinner party at his home at Gitigny near Paris in 1865 to build a monument to celebrate America's centennial in 1876 and 100 years of Franco-American friendship).

Mr. Wanamaker next turned to Congress for approval and for federal land on which to build his monument. On December 8, 1911 Congress brought forth an act similar to the act of May 1877 which authorized the use of Fort Wood on Bedloe's Island as the site of Bartholdi's "Liberty Enlightening The World":

"Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That there may be erected, without expense to the United States Government, by Mr. Rodman Wanamaker, of New York City and others, on a United States reservation a suitable memorial to the memory of the North American Indian."

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The team of Thomas Hastings, architect, and Daniel Chester French, sculptor, was chosen to build the monument. The site selected for the monument was the front portion of Fort Tompkins within the confines of Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island. Today this is part of Gateway National Recreation Area under the National Park Service. On George Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1913 President William Howard Taft took part in a dedication ceremony at Fort Tompkins to break ground for the Native American monument. At the dedication ceremony was a group of politicians, military officers, academics, journalists, cameramen and a delegation of 32 Native American chiefs.

Following a speech by Dr. Joseph Kossuth Dixon, the head of the education department at Wanamaker's Department store. President Taft expressed the nation's gratitude to Mr. Wanamaker for this "noble endeavor" and proclaimed that the monument would: "tell the story of the march of empire and the progress of Christian civilization to the uttermost limits." President Taft then broke ground with a shovel and the thighbone of a buffalo and the Indian delegation raised the American flag and signed a document called the: "*Declaration of Allegiance to the United States.*" Dr. George F. Kunz of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society passed out a bag of newly minted Indian head nickels to honor the occasion and a bronze tablet was set in the ground to commemorate the ceremony.

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As a result of the success of the dedication ceremony Mr. Wanamaker and Dr. Dixon embarked on a 22,000 mile journey around the United States visiting 189 tribes on 66 reservations to gather support for the Native American monument. Known as the "Rodman Wanamaker Expedition of Citizenship to the North American Indian" at each stop, the Fort Wadsworth-Tompkins flag-raising ceremony was re-enacted with Indians signing the *Declaration of Allegiance to the United States* and then listened to an Edison phonograph to hear a message from President Woodrow Wilson:

"Because you have shown in your education and in your settled way of life, staunch, manly, and worthy qualities of sound character, the nation is about to give you distinguished recognition through the erection of a monument in honor of the Indian people, in the harbor of New York."

However, Rodman Wanamaker's monument to the Native American never got beyond the drawing board. The outbreak of World War I and America's entry into that war turned America's attention toward Europe and international affairs. After the war, the "Roaring Twenties" and the Great Depression of the 1930's occupied America's attention. The 1913 bronze dedication tablet mysteriously disappeared never to be seen again.

The idea of building a Native American monument on Staten Island was briefly revived in 1936 as a Work Progress Administration (WPA) program to put unemployed Americans back to work but was never carried out.

In 1946, a proposal to build a memorial to World War II veterans from Staten Island at Fort Tompkins was shifted to another location because of the Indian monument's legal claim to the site.

To this day, the Congressional Act of 1911 still legally authorizes the use of Fort Tompkins as the location for a Native American monument. Maybe one day the building of this monument will come to pass; a colossal monument building in any form can embody the spirit of liberty which is for all mankind.

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[ED: Map showing the 6.1 straight-line miles between Liberty Island and Fort Tompkins]



**From the Vice President
Club Meeting Las Vegas 2017**

The Statue of Liberty Club will be meeting at the Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas Nevada for 2017! This is similar to our meetings in New York, just in a very different location. Las Vegas, home of non-stop entertainment, casinos, shows,

concerts, the largest version of the Statue of Liberty on the west coast, endless bars & restaurants, and the Statue of Liberty Club's visit October 26-28, 2017. Being together on the 28th to celebrate her anniversary is always a treat.

If you wish to attend, it's not to late! Fill out the enclosed registration form so we know your intentions.

We will offer an optional group event on Friday to a local museum, Saturday will be a group dinner followed by our club gathering and meeting. Friday evening is open as well as Saturday morning. Sunday is a departure day for most and an opportunity to meet one last time over breakfast or sleep in.

The hotel is named after the city of Luxor (ancient Thebes) in Egypt. Luxor (111m) is the sixth-largest hotel in Las Vegas and the ninth-largest in the world. From 1855 to 1856, Bartholdi embarked on a life-changing trip throughout Europe and the Middle East with some fellow artists. When they visited the Sphinx and Pyramids of Giza (138.8m) in Egypt, Bartholdi discovered his passion for large-scale public monuments and colossal sculptures. In 1869, the Egyptian government expressed interest in designing a lighthouse for the Suez Canal. Eager and excited, Bartholdi designed a colossal statue of a robed woman holding a torch, which he called Egypt (or Progress) Brings Light to Asia. When he attended the canal's inauguration, however, Bartholdi was informed that he would not be able to proceed with the lighthouse.

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[ED: Luxor exterior; picture from Oyster.com]

The Luxor is a mid-priced resort on the famous Vegas Strip just south of the New York New York Hotel and Casino. The Luxor's rates, **see registration form for example rate**, are very affordable. You are not required to stay at the Luxor to participate. However, it's easier to meet up with the group when everyone stays at the same location. We don't want anyone getting left behind.

Las Vegas has a lot to offer, including an international airport, thousands of casino games, some of the best restaurants and shopping, concerts, shows, outdoor entertainment, and a Statue of Liberty (Eiffel Tower just down the street). All that's missing is you.

Support levels vary from \$18.86 to \$1,000 and if you want to go beyond that upper level, I am sure the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation will welcome your donation! For more information on this wonderful project, visit: www.LibertyEllisFoundation.org/liberty



**From the Treasurer
New Liberty Island Museum**

YOU RESPONDED! STATUE OF LIBERTY CLUB MEMBERS HONOR THE LADY WITH A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING DRIVE!

In the last newsletter, we reached out to the members of the Statue of Liberty Club to encourage donations to help fund the new museum on Liberty Island. And members have responded!!! **14 IN FACT!** And **\$1,819.86 was raised** which will be matched by \$500 from the Club and \$500 from the Newman's as well!

A total of \$2,1819.86 will be sent, in July, to the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation to add to the new museum's development funds – amazing and CONGRATULATIONS!

The fund drive was so successful, the Statue of Liberty Club's Officers have decided to keep the club's fundraising efforts open until OCTOBER 31st, 2017 for more to participate in the effort! See the form enclosed in this newsletter if you would still like to join our efforts of honoring the club as well as the Lady.

In order of their receipt by the Treasurer, the following members donated:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dorothy Shearn | Laura Cortner |
| Paul Wendt | Dr. Robert R. Hieronimus |
| James Zemancik | Carol Oakes |
| Asher Hetrick, Jr. | Virginia Plys |
| Kevin MacCarthy | Vince Swift |
| Iris November | Louisa French |
| Kim & Brian Snyder | |
| Lebo and Merrill Newman – Match | |
| Statue of Liberty Club – Match | |

Marianne Carpenter donated, as did many members, early on when they first saw the SOLEIF request.

If you already donated but want to make one to honor the Club or someone else, please feel free to send it in now. We will add it to the ongoing efforts.



**From the President
Cover Page Article**

Iris November, our club founder has been contributing newsletter articles since the beginning of the club in 1991.

I thought it would be an interesting departure to replace the "From Iris November" - for one newsletter only - and switch it with a well written

article "About Iris November".

You will recall that the photo of Iris holding the Liberty George 9/11 mask was also on the cover page of the Spring (March) 2017 newsletter. We received permission to reprint the Beachwood Buzz Magazine article that has information about Iris and Mort November that many members may not remember. I hope all club members will enjoy reading and, for many, refreshing the interesting information about a beautiful person who is one part of a wonderful couple.

Upcoming Club Meeting(s)

Our next newsletter will report on the activities and fun club members had during the October 26 – 28 biennial club meeting ... this year in Las Vegas, so one could say "What happens in Vegas will be shared!" This will be the third Las Vegas meeting – my second.

Our club has a wonderful history of interesting meetings and trips. According to the history of **Club Meetings** on the club's website, since the inaugural meeting in 1993, so far, we've held:

- 12 meetings in New York City,
- 2 meetings in Las Vegas
- 5 meetings/trips in France, and
- 1 meeting in Rochester, NY

20 meetings in our 26 club years!

We have memorable times and, generally, great weather in all locations. The conclusion I come to is ... we are an informed and fun organization that likes to get together. In Las Vegas, we will begin discussions on the 2019 New York City meeting and another trip to France that should take place in the next 4-6 years.

New York City and France will happen, so make a mental note and begin saving now. Details for these meetings/trips will develop over the next 18 months and be reported to you in newsletters.

Cherish Our Liberty.

Vince Swift

Marketplace Ad Titles on June 26, 2017
Liberty Greeting Card by Peter B. Kaplan
Handmade & Unique Greeting Cards
Bartholdi Signature "For Autograph"
4 Liberty Prints ~ Reverse Paint
Book: Liberty Enlightening the World
Book: New York World's Fair Medals 1939-1940
Book: Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World
Book: The Story of the Statue of Liberty
Booklet: 2-Image Statue of Liberty Booklet
Booklet: Around The World
Book: Book of New York City sites in 1936
Liberty Lawn Sprinkler
ROCK6 ComicCon Poster
DVD: We Put Her There (English & French included on DVD)
Wanted: Book – Images of Liberty
Members are expected to use the contact information within the ads to contact the seller/buyer.
http://www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com/marketplace/

Liberty Sightings ... in Las Vegas
(Submitted by Lebo Newman)



Red Licorice
Liberty



Two photos of a Hershey's Chocolate Liberty

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Jelly Bean Liberty

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New York, New York Hotel & Casino Entrance

14 Renewing Members ... Thank You!

- Joan Adelman
- Susan Costa
- John & Judith Deming
- Judy Edwards
- Francine Grillo
- Merrill & Lebo Newman
- Carol Oakes
- Robert S Romero
- Lolly Sample
- Annette Schabowski
- Joanna Sieberg
- Eugene Stilp
- Erica & Aaron Weisinger
- Leo Willems

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 Treasurer@StatueOfLibertyClub.com

Editor: position open
 For now, Vince & Brian will work as co-editors
 Editor@StatueOfLibertyClub.com

Founders: Iris & Mort November
 Statue of Liberty Collectors' Club (1991)
 Iris November

~~_____~~ libertyclub@gmail.com



A different view of the Hershey's Chocolate Liberty

Join the Club or Renew Your Membership Online!

\$23 Annual Membership Dues (U.S.)

\$25 Annual Membership Dues (International)

SLC members can renew their annual memberships, or new members can join, using a credit card or PayPal account from the club's web site at

www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com/join

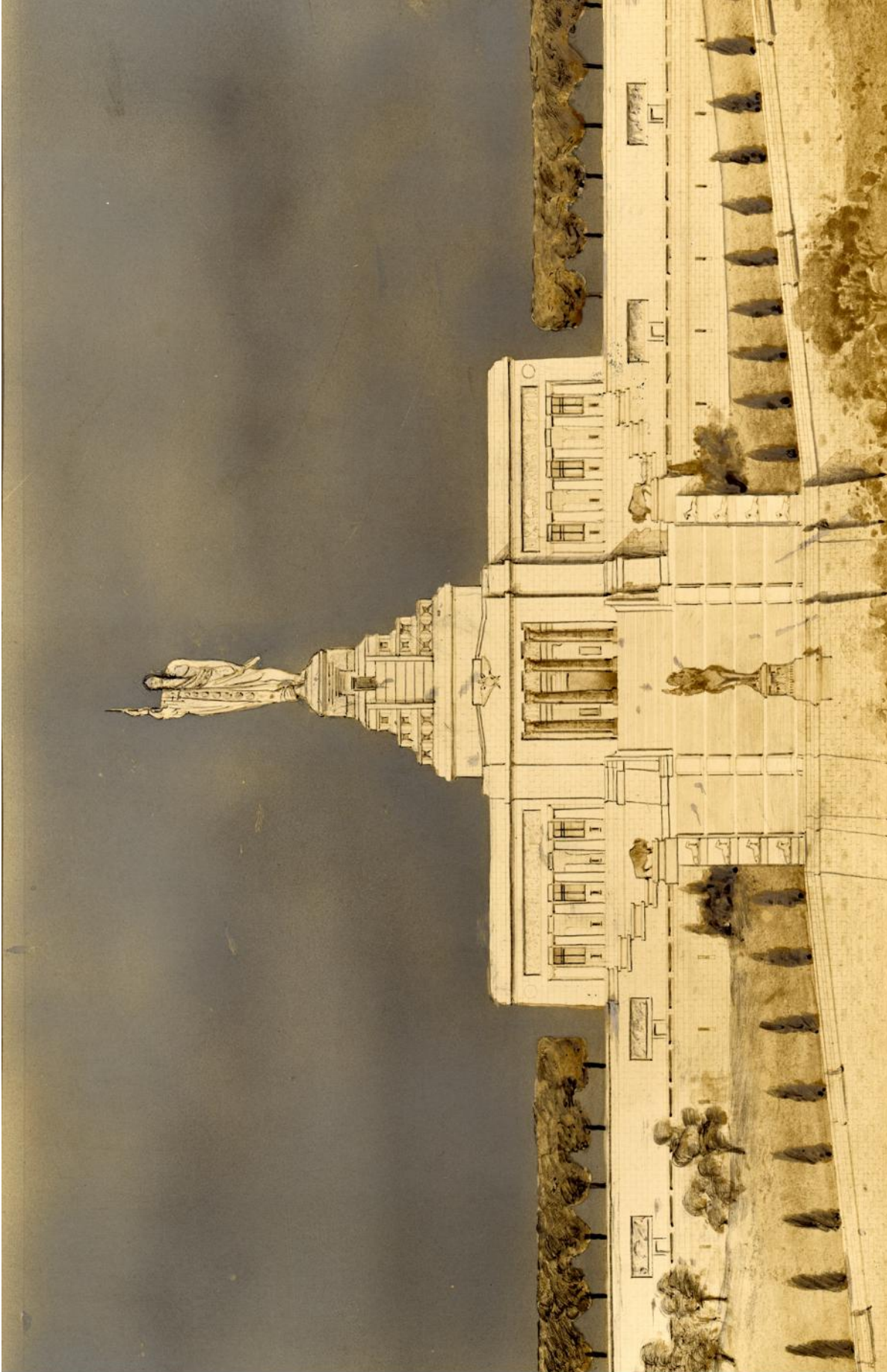
Using online renewal will send your payment electronically to the SLC credit union account. Members, new and renewing, will receive an electronic confirmation of their payment transaction. A paper application can be found on the above webpage. The application contains a mailing address.

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The club's annual **Membership Directory** will be updated and **mailed with the November 2017 newsletter**. Please email or mail all changes to any club officer ... Thank You.

Buy or Sell on the club's Marketplace at: <http://www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com/marketplace/>
 Members are expected to **use the contact information within the ads** to contact the seller/buyer.

URL#	Internet Address	Our Club's Website Address is: www.StatueOfLibertyClub.com
1	http://LibertyEllisFoundation.org/Liberty	New Liberty Island Museum Online Donation
	www.TheStatueOfLibertyMuseumStoreOnline.com	Museum store (Gift Shop) on Liberty Island
	Barry Moreno ~ Statue Of Liberty: Wonder of the World ~ Museum Store Item # 3335	
	Yasmin Khan ~ Enlightening the World: The Creation of the Statue of Liberty ISBN-13: 978-0801448515	
	www.SecretLifeOfLadyLiberty.com	Book website by Club members Bob Hieronimus and Laura Cortner



Color image of Rodman Wanamaker's proposed American Indian Memorial from 1913
Image and usage permission provided by Mathers Museum of World Cultures, Indiana University