

Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project Twelfth Report

April 20, 2006

by Sandra M. Chase, MD, DHT

On Monday, 20 March 2006, I received an email from Jennifer Talken-Spaulding, Cultural Resource Specialist, National Mall and Memorial Parks. It included an invitation to a 2-day conference sponsored by the National Park Service, National Capital Region, *Spotlight on National Park Resources*, to be held at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, 29-30 March 2006, in which Senior Conservator Judy Jacob would be making a 10 minute presentation about her completed work on the repair of the mosaic arch of the Hahnemann Monument.



Photo taken from left 04/02/06



Photo taken from right, Sunday, 04/02/06

Monument.

That email also provided me with an update on the progress of the Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project. Ms. Jacob would be bringing a copy of the patina analysis of the bronze sculpture by Art Conservation Scientist John Twilley with her on her trip to Washington on 27 March 2006. While the analysis did not find evidence of the original patina, it did provide knowledge useful for decisions for any future work to repatinate the sculpture.



At Judy Jacob's presentation at the NPS Conference at GMU Thursday 30 March 2006, I learned that the original tesserae were thick and they have gold leaf between the layers of glass. The pieces are not uniformly set in a plane and the grout deliberately does not come up to the upper surface of the glass.

This artifice allows the mosaic arch to reflect the rays of the sun from the glass pieces and from the gold leaf exposed at the edges. With the sun in the west, the arch glows as if it were a stained glass window although solid

granite sits behind it.



These photographs, taken on my trip in to the Hahnemann Monument on Sunday, 02 April 2006, allow one to see that effect in their original color version. I urge anyone who can to travel to see the monument as soon as is possible. This is a monument of which to be proud.

In 1898, J.Q.A. Ward of the National Sculptor Society wrote,

The National Sculptor Society examined and reported favorably upon the artistic merits of the bronze statue of Hahnemann and the reliefs, last Tuesday. Personally, I congratulate your Committee upon having secured a work of exceptional merit - all of the sculptors, so far as I have heard, are enthusiastic about it. You should be



gratified at the result of your work as a Committee. I sincerely hope that the authorities in Washington will give you a site worthy of the monument.

From the President of the Society of American Artists: "You certainly have the work of art of the period."

1913: Art Critic, Charles Coffin: "...finest work...equaled by few others in the country."

The seated statue of Hahnemann sculpted by Charles Henry Niehaus is described in the *The National*

Cyclopedia of American Biography "...the most effective seated statue ever produced."

Note that sculptor Charles Henry Niehaus elected to depict Hahnemann in the robes of a scholar, making his likeness, the head of which was fashioned after a bust made in life, timeless.

As a part of the renovation of the memorial, the bronze statue has been thoroughly cleaned and waxed by Tim Boyd with the assistance of Jessie Mallard. The bronze entablatures have been cleaned and waxed by them, as well.



This left entablature represents the nightly vigils of the student (1775-1777) and the investigations of the chemist (1779-1789)

The right bronze entablature represents the self-experimentation and teaching (1790: *Cinchona*) and successful treatment of the typhus patients at Leipsic (1813).



It is of note that in Report of the Committee on Hahnemann Monument to the Fifty-Third Session of the American Institute of Homeopathy, held in Buffalo, NY, in June of 1899, James H. McClelland, MD, commented,

Finally, the attention of the members is called to the points of the statue and entablatures on exhibition, which give a fair idea of the impressive character of the work. It will be observed that likenesses have been introduced of many distinguished followers of Hahnemann. Among these are Gross, Staph, Hartman, Hering, and Dunham.

The lift brought in to enable the insertion of the lead T's to prevent water damage in the joints at the top of the monument was still in place on Sunday, 02 April 2006. The area remained cordoned off to public approach, as well.



Another trip into the Hahnemann Monument on Wednesday, 12 April 2006, allowed me to monitor the details of the restoration of the granite edifice and to discuss the plans for the restoration of the plaza.



On that occasion, I met first with Raymond Wooden, Jr., Mason Worker, and Binh Nguyen, Mason, Historic Preservation, who explained to me their work in inserting the lead T's across the top of the monument and their restoration of the mortar. The photo at the left shows the lead T that has been inserted into the cleaned joint between the granite blocks across the top of the monument, but with the mortar not yet inserted. The photograph to the right shows the completed job with the lead T in place and the mortar repair completed. The insertion of the lead T's protects the monument from water erosion, which would lead to further damage.



On the left, one can see evidence of the repair of the mortar in the granite edifice below the left bronze entablature at the front of the monument. The mortar joints requiring repair were cut out in Fall, 2005, but difficulties in acquiring the appropriate sand for the mortar delayed the completion of that part of the restoration until March and April 2006. On the right, one can see an area at the right rear of the monument where the mortar repair is still in progress on 12 April 2006.



With the arrival of Park Historical Architect Tony Donald and Cultural Resource Specialist Jennifer Talken-Spaulling that afternoon, we had further discussion about the phases of the completion of the restoration of the monument and of the park grounds on which it sits. Some consideration will be given to the control of traffic across two diagonal beaten dirt paths through the triangular park. Currently, the memorial is cordoned off for the repairs, which has discouraged its use by the homeless. It is unclear, despite the addition of new lighting to the rear of the monument, how long this will continue once the renovation is complete and the monument is again open to the public. It was not an inconsiderable part of the renovation project to clean and deodorize the memorial from its tragic misuse.

Park Historical Architect Tony Donald discussed with the mason workers the possibility of bringing a truck bed onto the site so that the pattern of the brick plaza could be maintained as it is lifted to enable repairs to be performed underneath to correct the subsidence that has been occurring in the right front area of the monument. Some of the granite steps will have to be realigned, as well.



The Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project is in the process of renovating a monument that won the Gold Medal at the Pan American Exposition and was shown at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1903).

All who have contributed to this worthy project should feel proud of their contribution, no matter the size. It was our fund drive to repair the mosaic arch which gave the impetus to the National Park



Service to undertake this extensive renovation. It is of note that they had no one in house that could have performed the repair of the tesserae of the arch. Our privately raised funds enabled them to contract with Senior Conservator Judy Jacob of New York City to plan and to repair the arch and to offer advice to the NPS about the overall restoration of the Hahnemann Monument. The remainder of the renovation has proceeded from that.

The park still has a \$78,000 funding request in their NPS project management system to develop and implement a historic structures report for the memorial (which could include design repairs to the plaza). At the close of the current phase of the project, Ms. Talken-Spaulding will update this PMIS request, which is unfunded in the system. Our Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project fund balance, as of April 5, 2006, is \$12,471.95.

AIH Hahnemann Monument Preservation Committee Chairman Dr. Chase will continue to monitor the progress of the project.

About the Author

Sandra M. Chase, MD, DHT, who led the fundraising drive on behalf of the American Institute of Homeopathy Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project, is the chairman of the AIH Hahnemann Monument Preservation Committee. Dr. Chase has been in the private practice of classical homeopathic family medicine for over 30 years in Fairfax, Virginia. Secretary of the American Board of Homeotherapeutics and of the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Convention of the United States, she continues to serve also on the Executive Committee of the Liga Medicorum Homeopathica Internationalis and the Board of the American Institute of Homeopathy. In the spring of 2004 she was the recipient of the NCH Henry N. Williams Professional Service Award and in the fall of 2004 she was the recipient of the prestigious Liga President of Honor, only bestowed six times in the 80-year history of the Liga.