

HAHNEMANN MONUMENT UPDATE*

By Sandra M. Chase, MD, DHt, Chairman,
American Institute of Homeopathy
Hahnemann Monument Preservation Committee

We did it! As of October 2003, we attained our established goal of amassing thirty thousand dollars, \$30,000.00, for the purpose of underwriting the renovation of the exquisite bronze and granite monument to Homeopathy's founder Dr. C. F. Samuel Hahnemann at Scott Circle in Washington, DC. All who contributed to the Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project, spearheaded by the American Institute of Homeopathy, whether a small or a large amount, should congratulate himself or herself. You have brought us to a successful conclusion in the acquisition of the necessary funds to move forward with the very necessary restoration and preservation of our beautiful memorial, originally also conceived, purchased, and constructed by the homeopathic community under the auspices of the American Institute of Homeopathy and dedicated 21 June 1900. The public Rededication Ceremony held 21 June 2000 highlighted the need to restore and preserve this unique statuary in our Nation's Capital.

On reaching our fundraising goal, we were able to set up meetings with the representatives of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. AIH Hahnemann Monument Preservation Committee Chairman Dr. Sandra M. Chase met with Mr. Glen DeMarr, Project Manager, Lands, Resources and Planning, National Capital Region, National Park Service, in her office 29 October 2003. On that occasion, we discussed the donation process, the monument renovation, and the park improvements, and scheduled an on site meeting at the monument with Senior Conservator Judith Jacobs on the morning of Thursday, 13 November 2003. The donation process involves our entering into a contractual agreement with the National Park Foundation in order to maintain control over the use of the funds and avoid their being swallowed up in the NPS general funds. Senior Conservator Ms. Jacobs, out of New York City, under contract with the NPS, will be performing the actual repair of the monument, with particular regard to the mosaic in the arch above Hahnemann's head. The additional challenge to her repair of that mosaic is that it is actually fashioned of pieces of colored glass, rather than of ceramic tiles. Mr. DeMarr also provided us with a copy of an archival plat of the triangular park, designated Reservation 73, on which the monument sits. That shows the loss of an oak tree to the right of the monument. It is also known that the hedges need attention and that further lighting of the memorial would be desirable.

On the morning of 13 November 2003, Chairman Dr. Chase traveled to Scott Circle in Washington, DC, for the on site meeting. On that occasion, in addition to Mr. DeMarr, she met Senior Conservator Judith Jacobs, Cultural Resource Manager Steve Lorenzetti, Stone Mason Cary A. Huffman, and Resource

Manager Jesse Mallard. The result of that meeting is the understanding that the renovations will take place in stages, the first of which is to be the research regarding the history of the construction of the monument and the types of materials used therein. The penultimate stage will be the consideration of the currently inactivated fountain at the rear of the memorial.

Items to be addressed in the restoration include the following:

- the arch mosaic,
- the bronze entablatures,
- the bronze statue,
- the granite structure,
- the brick paving,
- the granite paving,
- the tree replacement,
- the grounds improvement.

The arch mosaic is to be repaired with pieces of colored glass matching those there, obtained, hopefully, from a suitable source. Failing that, such will have to be custom manufactured at a significantly greater cost, as it is our wish that the restoration be as close as is possible to the original appearance. The bronze entablatures and the bronze statue, as well as the granite structure, will be cleaned in an environmentally safe manner, the former, then, to be covered with a protective coating against the vicissitudes of weather and the latter to have mortar replaced where necessary. It has been made clear that the granite structure, even after cleaning, will not be of a uniformly gray color. The brick and granite paving, particularly at the right front of the memorial will be repositioned and/or re-laid with removal of the invading grass.

An arborist will be consulted regarding the trees and shrubs, including the replacement of the missing oak to the right of the monument, shown on the archival plat. A pole and chain boundary will be run from along either side of the entering sidewalk at the Corregidor Street side of the memorial to discourage the use of twin dirt paths worn diagonally across either side of the triangular grounds. Additional lighting for the memorial and its grounds will be investigated.

Lastly, the status of the inactivated fountain will be explored. The National Park Service is moving away from the practice of having operating fountains that merely pour water into the sewer system, as opposed to fountains with internal re-circulating pumps. The feasibility of installing the latter will be investigated. At the very least, the current circular concrete cover over the fountain basin will be replaced with something less distracting from the beauty of the monument.

In an effort further to assist with this project, on 10 December 2003, I provided Ms. Jacobs with such supportive historical data as I possessed, as Chairman of the American Institute of Homeopathy Hahnemann Monument Preservation Committee and author of a comprehensive paper on the history of the monument. As we enter the New Year, we eagerly await her report.

**This is the 7th Report regarding the Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project. The previous six reports had to do with the acquisition of the donations to achieve our funding goal.*