

INSIDE THE ASSEMBLY



MANITOBA
LEGISLATIVE
BUILDING



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THE MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

Visitors are always made welcome at our magnificent Legislative Building. When the Legislative Assembly is in session everyone is invited to watch the proceedings from the vantage point of the Public Gallery. Our tour guides will be happy to show you the rest of the building so you can share in its fascinating history and architecture.

Appointments for guided tours are required from September to June. From July 1 to Labour Day long weekend in September, tours are offered on an hourly basis from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm daily. The Legislative Building is wheelchair accessible, including the Public Gallery. To book an appointment, please call 204-945-5813.

HISTORY

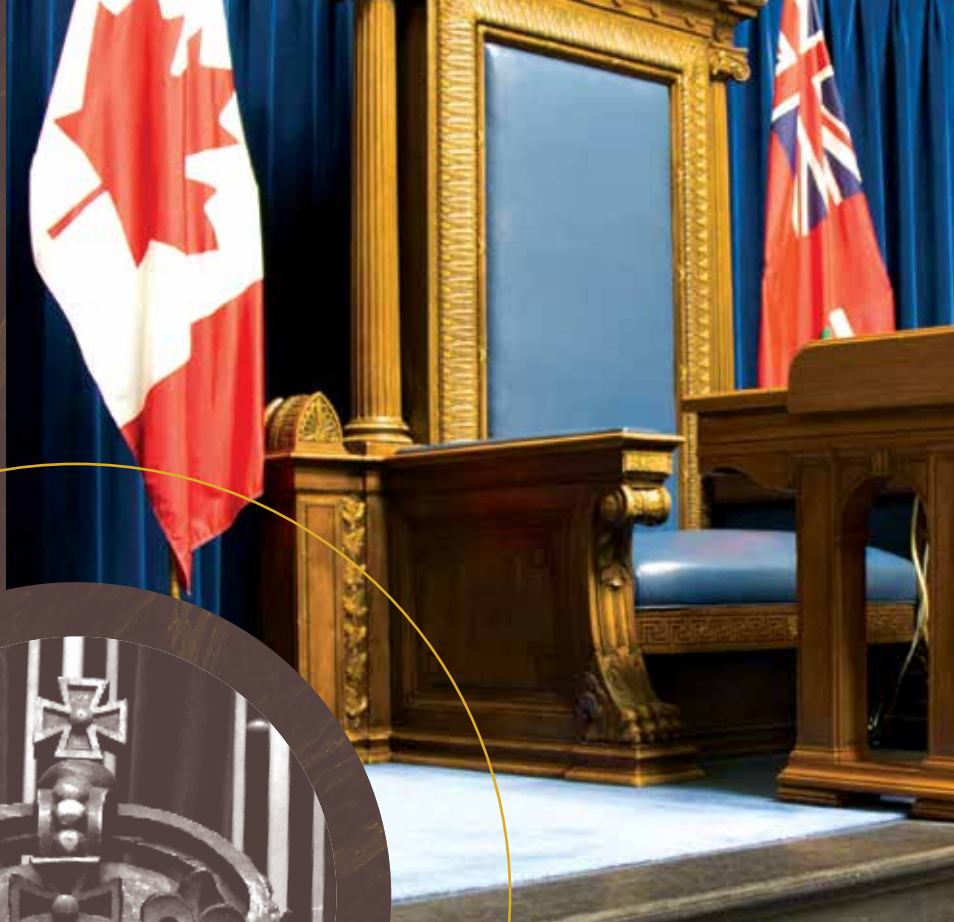
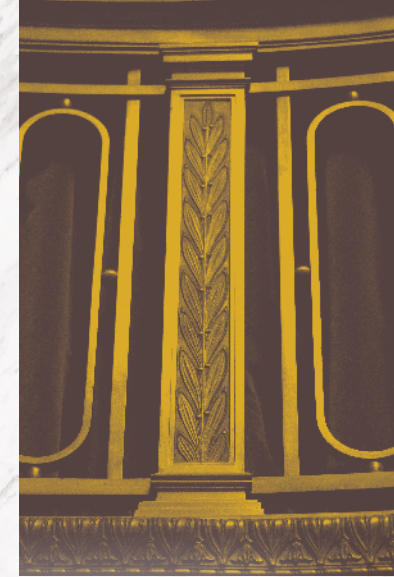
Manitoba's Legislative Building

Manitoba's Legislative Building is known to be one of the finest public buildings in North America. This building accommodates the Legislative Assembly, its committees and staff, as well as the offices of the Premier, the Lieutenant Governor, the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of government departments.

The current Legislative Building is the third edifice occupied by the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. Beginning in March of 1871, the

earliest Assemblies met in a house that had been previously owned by notable businessman, A. G. Bannatyne. This refurbished log structure burnt down only two years later. The second Legislative Building, which was situated on the northeast corner of the current Legislative grounds, was first occupied in 1884. This building was demolished in 1920 in order to facilitate the landscaping of the grounds for Manitoba's third Legislative Building.

Photos of the first two Legislative Buildings, as well as photos from the construction of the third Legislative Building including proposed landscaping are located in the northwest hallway on the main floor.



At the turn of the twentieth century, members of the provincial government were unanimous in their desire to construct a building that would serve as a symbol for the people of Manitoba. The government at the time of construction found that Victoria Era art critic John Ruskin's thoughts on ambition and architecture rang true. They envisioned a building designed "not for present delight nor use alone...but such as our descendants will thank us for."

These sentiments were embodied in the rules of the architectural competition that was announced by the Government of Manitoba in 1911. A prize of \$10,000 was offered for the best design and all architects in the British Empire were invited to participate. It was eventually determined that of the 67 original submissions, Frank Worthington Simon of Liverpool,

England, had produced the design most expressive of the concepts laid down for the competition.

Excavation began in 1913. By the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, walls were beginning to take shape above the foundation. However, a shortage of materials, labour, and funds delayed construction so much that the building did not become available for partial occupancy until 1919, well after the end of the Great War. On July 15, 1920, the 50th anniversary of Manitoba's entry into Confederation, Lieutenant Governor Sir James Aikins, officially opened the Legislative Building.

A PRICELESS MONUMENT

Symbolism and tributes are abundantly embedded in every detail of this priceless monument. It is quite unlikely that such a project could ever again be undertaken.

The base of this remarkable structure forms a letter "H," a shape that is repeated with each of the floors, creating an area excluding hallways measuring approximately 24,969 square meters (268,783 square feet). The imposing dome that crowns the structure reaches 68 meters (223 feet 7 inches) above the main floor.

The exterior walls and the majority of the building's interior are constructed of Tyndall limestone, quarried at Garson, 50 kilometers (31 miles) northeast of Winnipeg. This beautifully mottled stone contains embedded fossils of invertebrates, providing subtle reminders of the semi-tropical sea that 450 to 500 million years ago, extended over much of what is now Manitoba.

The Legislative Building is located immediately south of downtown Winnipeg in the center of 12 hectares (30 acres) of landscaped grounds. Formal flowerbeds and both native and imported shrubs and trees are planted in groups interspersed with shaded walkways and rolling lawns. Government House, the residence of the Lieutenant Governor, occupies the southeast corner of the grounds.

The Assiniboine River - once a highway for Aboriginal peoples, explorers, fur traders, and steamboats - traces the southern boundary of the grounds. Osborne Street, Kennedy Street, and Broadway (roadways for modern travelers) border the grounds on the three remaining sides.



THE GOLDEN BOY

One of Manitoba's best known symbols, the Golden Boy, is a magnificently gilded figure stretching 17.2 feet (5.25 meters) from toe to torch tip. He is made of bronze and was painted gold in 1948. In 1951 he was gilded with 23.5 karat gold leaf for the first time and then again in 2002 with 24 karat gold leaf. The 1,650 kilogram (3,640 pound), hollow figure reaches 242 feet (73 meters) above the Pool of the Black Star. Before the construction of the high-rise buildings that today form the city's skyline, the tip of the Golden Boy's torch was the highest point in Winnipeg.

Embodying the spirit of enterprise and eternal youth, the Golden Boy is captured mid-stride atop the building's dome. Similar to the messengers in Greek mythology, he bears a message - his message is of coming prosperity for all Manitobans.

FACING THE NORTH, HE SEES THE PROVINCE'S BRIGHT FUTURE AS LINKED TO MANITOBA'S BOUNTIFUL RESOURCES:

mining, fishing, forestry, fur and hydroelectricity. A sheaf of golden wheat representing the well-earned fruits of labour rests in his left arm while in his right hand he holds high a torch, representing a call to Manitoba's youth to join him in his eternal pursuit of a more prosperous future.

The Golden Boy was sculpted by Mr. Georges Gardet in the Barbedienne Foundry in France, 112 km (69.6 miles) northeast of Paris. The foundry was partially destroyed by bombs during the First World War, but from the ruins the statue emerged unscathed. The figure was then rushed to a seaport and placed aboard a French ship bound for the United States.

However, before the ship could go out to sea, it was commandeered for war purposes. For the remainder of the War, the Golden Boy lay in the hold of the ship, travelling thousands of kilometers in constant danger. The Golden Boy finally landed in North America at the conclusion of the War and was then shipped by rail to Winnipeg, where it was hoisted to the top of Manitoba's new Legislative Building on November 21, 1919.

A light was installed in the Golden Boy's torch to mark Canada's centenary in 1967 and Manitoba's entry into Confederation in 1870. The torch was lit for the first time at 3 pm on December 31, 1966. On February 9, 2002, the Golden Boy was removed from the top of the building for the first time since his installation in 1919. After extensive repairs, and the removal of the light, he returned to his home atop the Legislative Building on September 5th, 2002, where he stands as a reminder to all Manitobans of the potential of their province.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II officially rededicated the Golden Boy on October 8, 2002 during her visit to Manitoba to celebrate her Golden Jubilee.



GRAND STAIRCASE



It is impossible to step inside the Legislative Building for the first time without being struck by the majesty of the Grand Staircase. Composed of 39 steps in three sets of 13, the stairs are honed of Italian brown-veined Botticcino marble, considered to be the finest marble in the world.

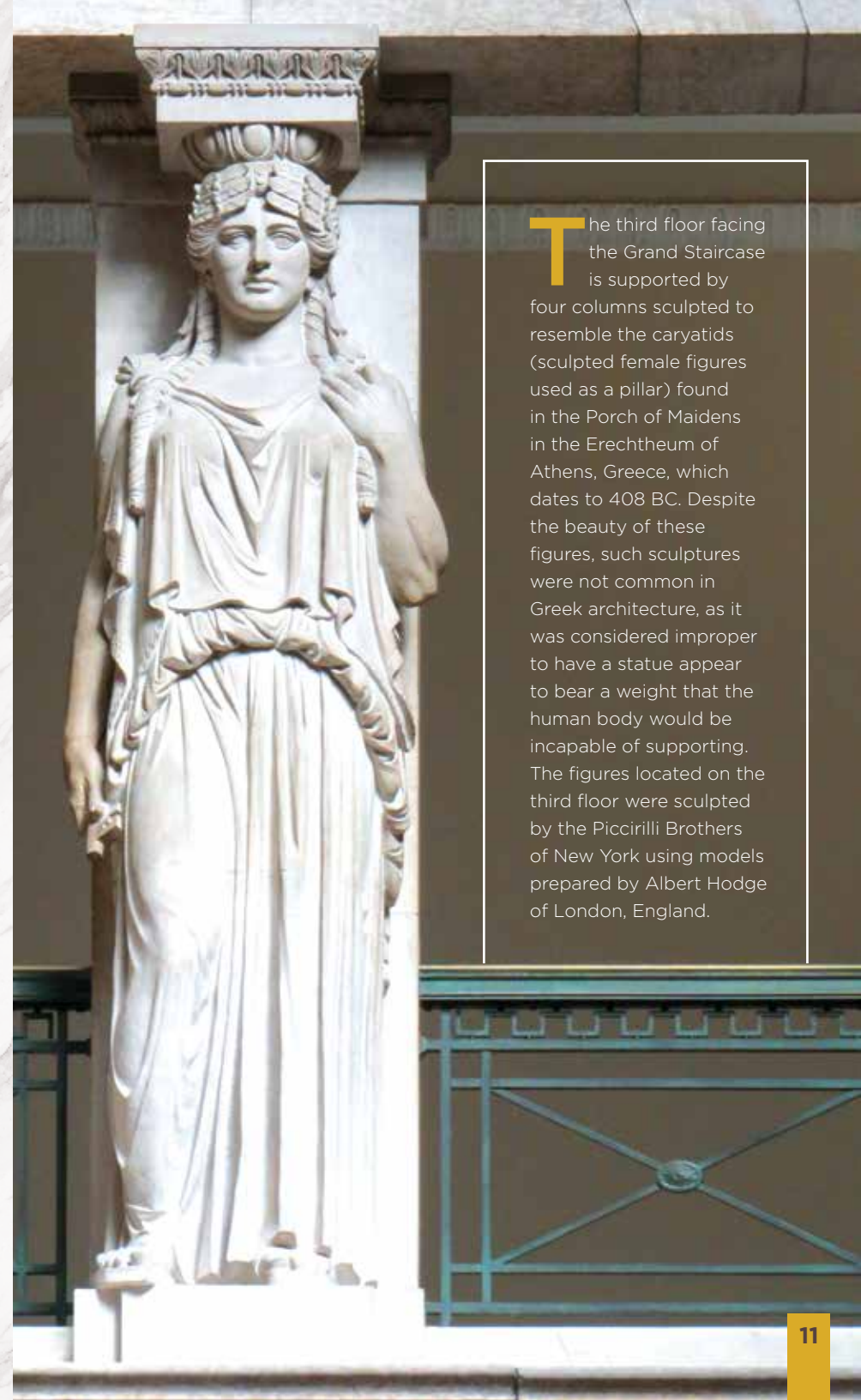




Two life-size North American Plains bison flank the base of the steps, representing the herds that once roamed the prairies.

They were designed by the creator of the Golden Boy, Georges Gardet of Paris, who also created the statues of Moses and Solon in the Legislative Assembly. The bison, each weighing 2,268 kilograms (5,000 pounds), were cast at Roman Bronze Works in New York City.

An intriguing story surrounds the installation of these bison. It is said that in order to diminish the risk of scratching the building's exquisite marble floors with these massive sculptures, both bison were placed on enormous slabs of ice cut from the Assiniboine River and then were safely slid into the building.



The third floor facing the Grand Staircase is supported by four columns sculpted to resemble the caryatids (sculpted female figures used as a pillar) found in the Porch of Maidens in the Erechtheum of Athens, Greece, which dates to 408 BC. Despite the beauty of these figures, such sculptures were not common in Greek architecture, as it was considered improper to have a statue appear to bear a weight that the human body would be incapable of supporting. The figures located on the third floor were sculpted by the Piccirilli Brothers of New York using models prepared by Albert Hodge of London, England.



THE ROTUNDA



ALSO REPEATED THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING IS THE NUMBER 13,

as seen, for instance, in the number of bulbs in the Roman standard lamps that help light the Rotunda.

An antechamber at the head of the Grand Staircase provides a formal approach to the Legislative Assembly. Four pairs of Corinthian columns rise from the floor to the cornice surrounding the base of the dome. This magnificently decorated dome represents only the second level in a five-stage progression to the top of the Legislative Building's tower.

The floor of Rotunda consists of marble from Tennessee and Vermont, as well as Verde Antique serpentine from the United States. The design around the floor is the continuous Grecian key, symbolic of the eternal quest for knowledge. The Grecian key, as well as other symbols of eternity such as the wave or running dog pattern (both variations of the Grecian key) and the circle motif, can be found throughout the interior and the exterior of the building.

The Ancient Romans and Ancient Greeks believed the number 13 was bad luck, and hoped that by honouring the number they could escape its curse. In Ancient Egypt, the number 13 was thought to be a good luck number. As demonstrated in the frequency of the number 13 in the Legislative Building, the architect, Frank Worthington Simon, took great care to imitate the techniques of the ancient builders that were his inspiration for this neoclassical building.

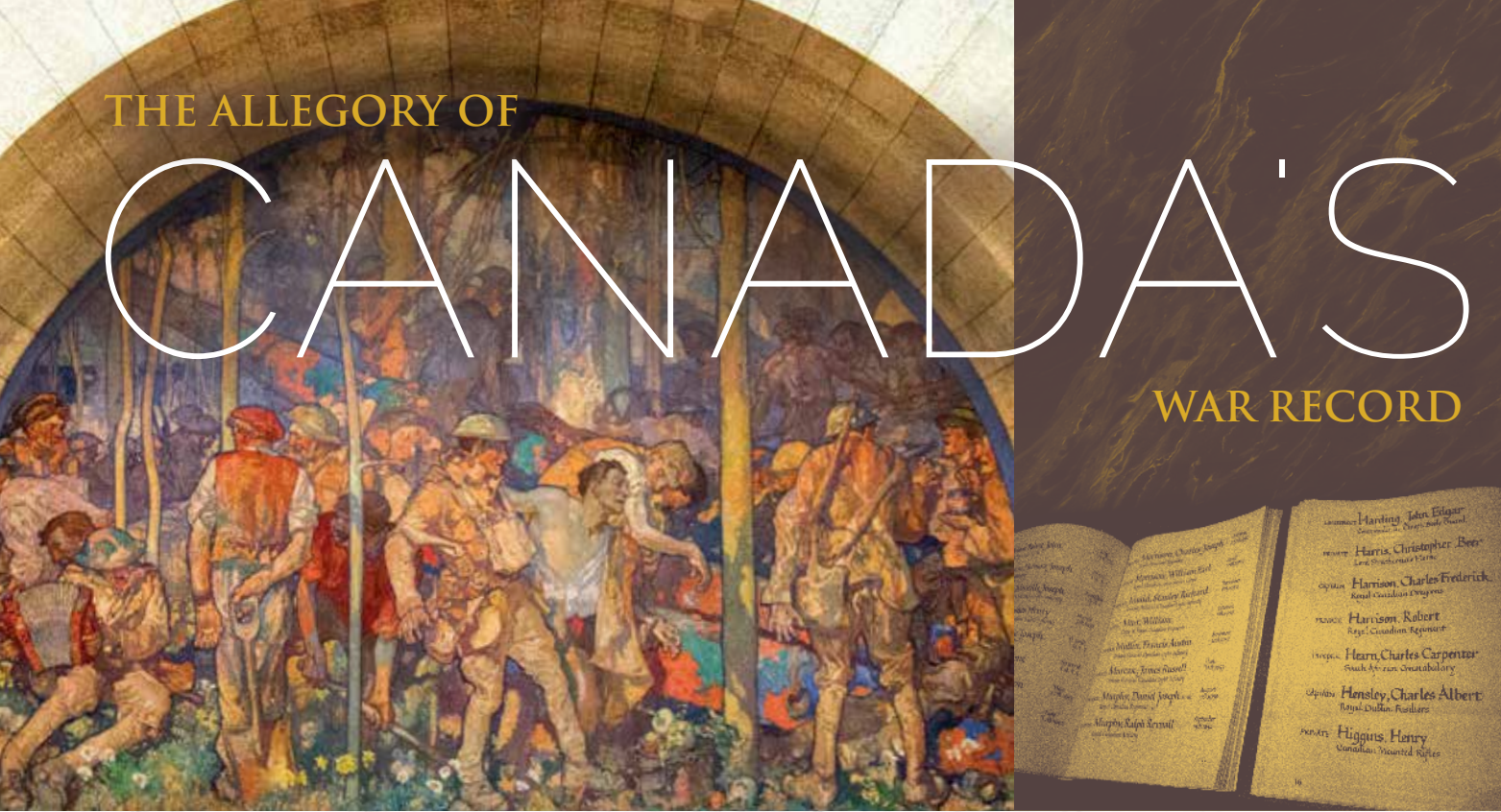
In the middle of the floor, an Italian marble balustrade, measuring 13 feet in diameter surrounds the Pool of the Black Star on the floor of the level below, an evocative symbolic rendering of the altars of the ancient Greeks.



THE ALLEGORY OF

CANADA'S

WAR RECORD



a building lying shattered in the background. Smoke rises from a shell that just exploded.

Through the smoke we can see the arches of a church and stripped trees with shattered limbs, signifying that nothing is sacred in war. A soldier kneels in front of a roadside shrine of the Madonna & Child to assert that faith is ever present, particularly during the worst of times.

This mural was installed above the entrance to the Legislative Assembly in March 1921. In 2014 it was restored to its original splendor through a mural restoration process - a touching remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.



A very significant element of the Rotunda is a mural called The Allegory of Canada's War Record, found just above the entrance to the Legislative Assembly. This mural was the work of Frank Brangwyn of London, England. Brangwyn (1867 - 1956), an official war artist during the First World War, was paid \$10,104.61 (considerably less than he usually charged for his work) for this mural which he painted in his studio in London, England.

The mural that he painted for the Manitoba Legislative Building depicts Canadian army life in France during WWI. It portrays the tragedy

and sacrifice of war, but there are bright flowers in the foreground to show the coming of peace.

TREES DIVIDE THE MURAL INTO THREE SECTIONS:

On the left are soldiers in the trenches, French peasants, and a soldier playing a concertina to maintain the cheerful spirit of the troops. There is also a train with smoke in the background.

On the right are men eating and drinking; sustenance building the strength to carry on while the helm of a ship is seen in the background. This depicts sacrifices made so that others might live in peace.

In the centre is a wounded man who is moving, with the help of his comrades, to the dressing station. This represents the tragedy of war and the suffering of humanity.

The devastation of war is literally presented by a great siege gun as it is loaded by its crew and by

BRIGHT SPRING FLOWERS AND BLADES OF GRASS ARE ALSO FOUND THROUGHOUT THE MURAL.

They demonstrate Nature's proclivity for healing, peace and harmony, meaning that only when man is following peaceful pursuits is he attuned with Nature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



PORTRAITS OF MANY OF MANITOBA'S FORMER SPEAKERS

can be seen in the Speakers' Gallery of Portraits, located on the second floor in the southwest corner of the building.

debated or voted upon unless the Mace is in its proper place, either resting on a royal blue cushion placed on a table in the House if the Speaker is presiding, or, on a floor rack under the table if the Speaker is absent.

The original desks and chairs of the Chamber are hand carved of walnut with inlaid ebony. They are arranged in three tiers rising from a sunken floor in the centre of the Chamber. Each desk is equipped with a microphone connected to a public address system as well as to a recording system used in the publication of Hansard, a verbatim report of the debates and proceedings in the House. All comments made in French during Oral Questions and other debates are immediately translated into English. Yet even as these changes have brought the House into the future, the original inkwells employed by an earlier generation of Manitoba politicians are still visible.

The Legislature of Manitoba is unicameral, a single legislative body elected by the people of Manitoba. There are 57 electoral divisions in Manitoba, thus, 57 Members in the Legislative Assembly. Originally in 1870, there were 24 Members in the Assembly, however, as the province grew both in population and in size, more electoral divisions were added. After an election, the political party having elected the most Members forms the Government. The leader of that party becomes the Premier. The party with the next largest number of elected Members forms the Official Opposition. As in most parliamentary systems based on the British model, the Government sits on the Speaker's right while the Official Opposition sits to the left.

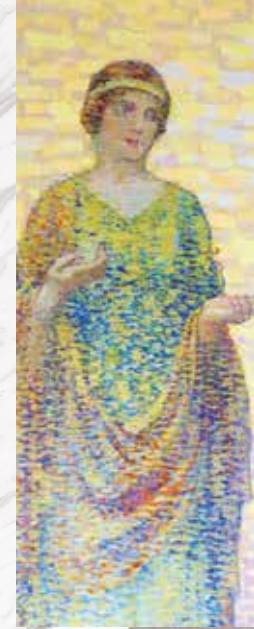
Manitoba's Chamber is unique among provincial legislatures in Canada in that the Members' benches form a horseshoe shape. The Speaker's Chair is located on the south wall below the Press Gallery. All debate is addressed to the Speaker, who rules on points of order and procedure, and has the responsibility of maintaining order and decorum.

When the House is in session, each day's opening is performed in accordance with procedures that date back to the beginnings of parliamentary rule. The Speaker enters the Legislative Assembly Chamber followed by the Clerks of the Legislative Assembly and preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms bearing the Mace. No piece of legislation may be

PHOTOS OF MANY FORMER MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

dating back to 1870 including Louis Riel's Provisional Government, are in the Members' Gallery, located on the first floor on the west side of the building.





THE TACK ALLEGORY

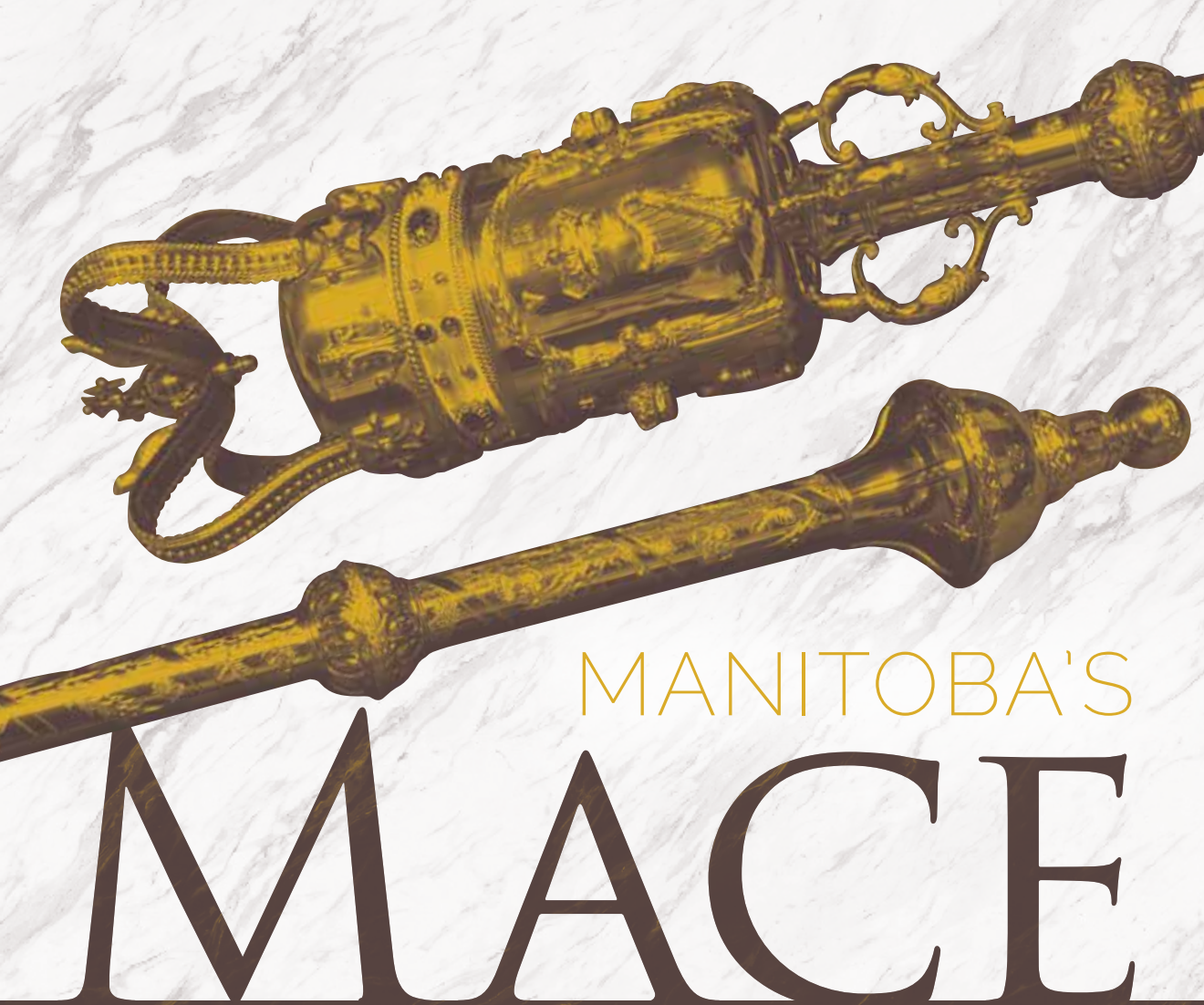


The Legislative Chamber is decorated with Augustus Vincent Tack's beautiful allegory. Tack envisioned Justice as an unveiled woman supported by figures representing Wisdom and Knowledge. The other figures in the mural represent various states of humanity, linked by the branches of the tree of life. Under the mural, five panels bear the name of great lawmakers: Confucius of China, Lycurgus of Greece, Alfred of England, Justinian of Rome and Manu of India.

On either side of the mural, two figures represent the spirit of sacrifice embodied by the youth of Canada in the First World War. Also fulfilling the role of spiritual guardians of the Chamber, the figure of the young man seated on the stones on the left represents courage and vigilance while the figure on the right represents sacrifice and loyalty.

Around the dome of the Chamber, the evolution of laws and legislation are represented through cherubic figures. Also, five great codes of law, those of Justinian, Napoleon, Gregorianus, Julius Caesar and Leviticus, are expressed in the apex of the arches. Between the arches, women representing cardinal virtues for all governments are incarnated in Tack's mosaic-like paintings: tolerance, fortitude, prudence, temperance, mercy, understanding, charity, faith, hope and magnanimity.

The niches on either side of the Speaker's chair hold two large bronze statues. To the left is Moses, the Hebrew prophet, teacher and leader. To the right is Solon, the Athenian politician and legislator. Sculpted by Georges Gardet, these statues continue Tack's decoration of the Legislative Chamber in a style intended to provide both inspiration and instruction for Manitoba's legislators.



MANITOBA'S

MACE

The Mace began as an actual weapon used by the monarch's bodyguards. It has now evolved into a highly symbolic ceremonial emblem of the authority delegated to the Speaker and the Legislative Assembly.

The Mace signifies that the Legislative Assembly draws its power from the people and its executive authority from the Crown.

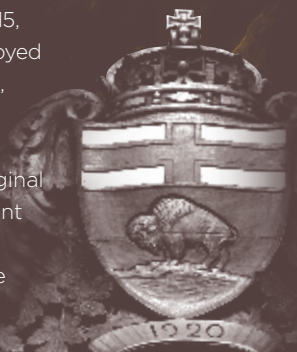


A beaded Mace runner and star blanket cushion were gifted to the Assembly by the Aboriginal peoples of Manitoba and are used in place of the blue cushion in the Chamber every Manitoba Day. These beautiful gifts are on display in the Speaker's Office all other days.

The Mace that is currently used both at the opening of and throughout the Legislative Session is Manitoba's second Mace. It is said that the head of the first was carved from the hub of a Red River cart by a soldier of the 1870 Red River Expeditionary Force under Colonel Garnet Wolseley, and that its staff was part of the force's flagstaff.

This Mace was used at the first session of the Legislature, held on March 15, 1871. In December, 1873, fire destroyed the Legislature's temporary home, but the Mace was saved.

After 13 years of service, the original Mace was replaced by the present Mace, a handsome gold-plated instrument emblazoned with the



floral emblems of four of Manitoba's principal founding ethnic groups: the English rose, the French fleur-de-lis, the Scottish thistle and the Irish shamrock. The head of this magnificent instrument is decorated with both the crown and the beaver, representing Canada's sovereignty even as it proclaims our ties to Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

Weighing 13 kilograms (28 pounds), it is one of the most beautiful Maces in Canada. When not in use, it is kept in the Speaker's office in the Legislative Building. No longer used in the Legislative Assembly but still of immeasurable historical value, the first Mace is stored alongside its replacement.



MANITOBA SPEAKERS' GALLERY

The role of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is to be the presiding officer of the House and to act as the arbitrator or voice of the Assembly. The Manitoba Speakers' Gallery features portraits of past Speakers to honour the leadership position that they have held in the Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker is an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly. Historically, Speakers were appointed by the Premier and were seconded in nomination by the Leader of the Official Opposition. For the first time in 1999, after a change in the rules, Speakers were elected by secret ballot. Now, in Manitoba all Members of the Assembly have the opportunity to cast an anonymous vote for the person they feel would best serve as an impartial leader for the Assembly.

While serving as Speaker, that individual is required to abandon all party affiliation, meaning the Speaker cannot attend party functions or conventions, cannot publicly show support for legislation and must maintain partisan neutrality for the duration of the House.



The Speaker does not vote on bills unless there is a tie, which can be infrequent as it is unusual to have a vote divided equally both ways.

Once a general election is called, the Speaker can resume partisan activities and campaigning. If re-elected to represent a constituency, this individual can stand for re-election as Speaker. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly there are no term limits and a Speaker may serve so long as the individual continues to be re-elected by the constituents and the Members of the Assembly. Tradition maintains that a portrait is hung in the Speakers' Gallery only when the Speaker is no longer a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

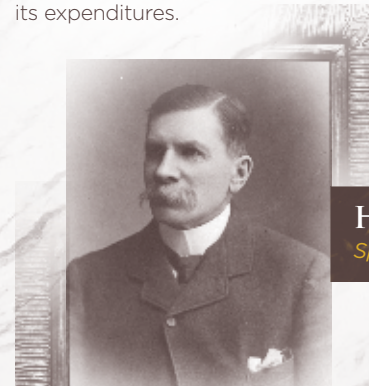
SPEAKERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF MANITOBA

From 1871-1876 the Manitoba Government operated with a bicameral legislature - an appointed Legislative Council of seven members, and the elected Legislative Assembly of 24 members.

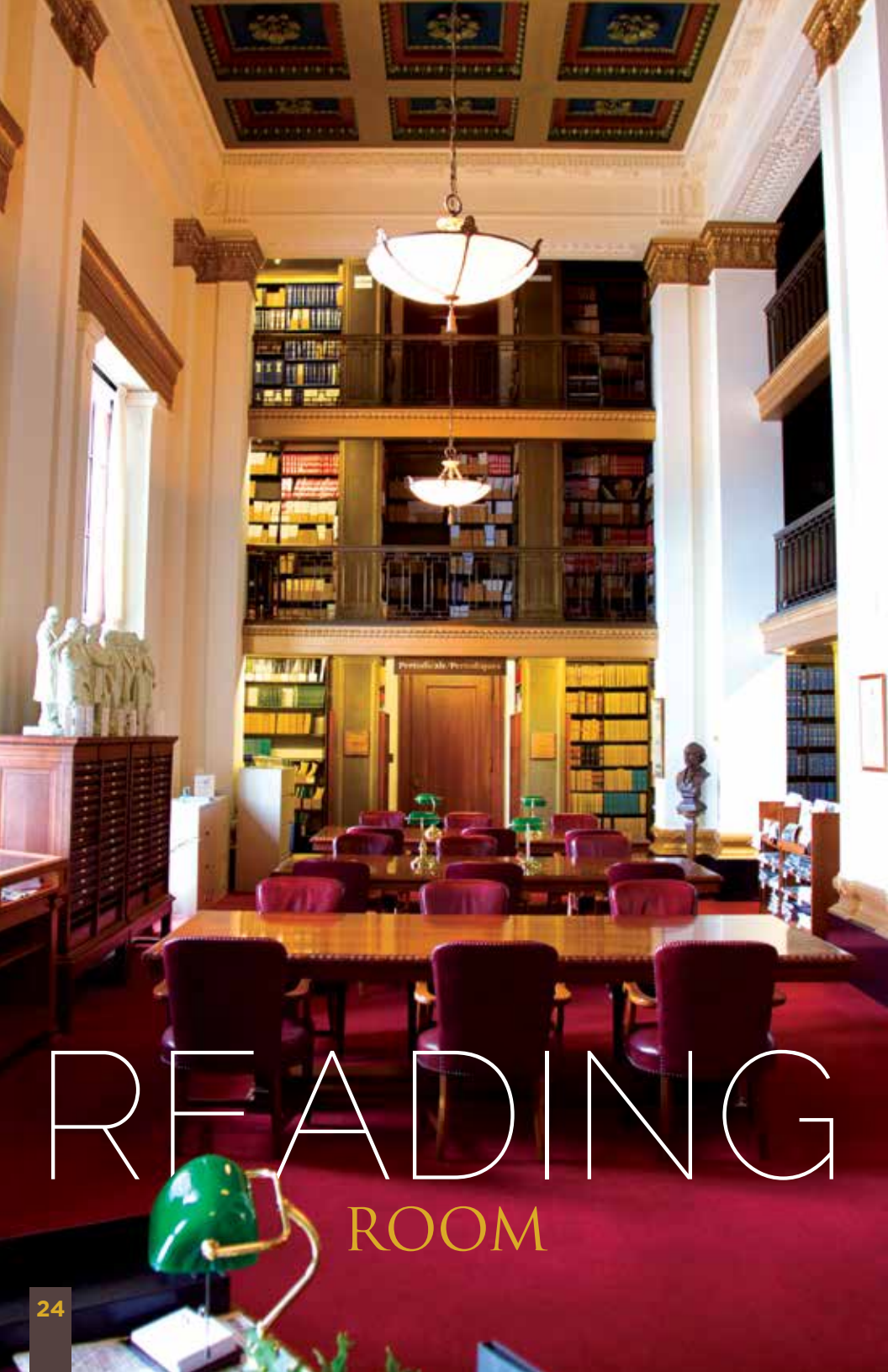
Although it is infrequent for a Speaker to cast a vote on a bill, the abolition of the Legislative Council in 1876 was ultimately decided by the vote of the Speaker. In early 1876 a bill arrived at the Legislative Council calling for its dissolution based on information relating to the population and revenues of the Province of Manitoba not being enough to justify its expenditures.

The people of Manitoba were displeased with the reluctance demonstrated by these appointed Councilors to vote in favor of transitioning to a unicameral system, and pressure was high for this bill to pass. In the end, votes were cast, and it was a tie of three for, and three against. The Speaker, Hon. Colin Inkster cast the deciding vote in favour of the bill. With this vote, the Legislative Council of Manitoba was prorogued, never to reconvene again.

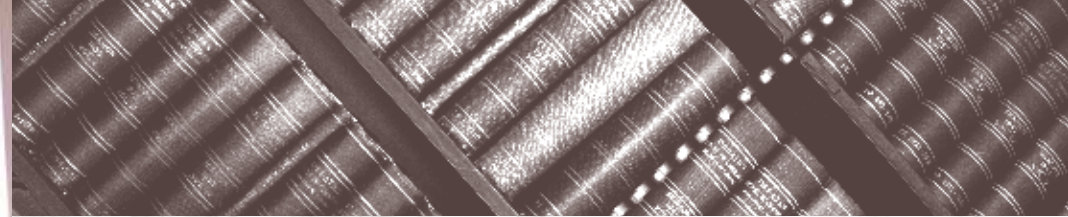
The portraits of the three Speakers who served in the Manitoba Legislative Council during its short existence hang in the Speakers' Gallery. They can be identified by title beneath their names: Speaker L.C.



HON. COLIN INKSTER
Speaker of the Legislative Council 1876



READING ROOM



As well as legislative material from the federal government and all the provinces, this room houses all of the Statutes & Debates of Manitoba. Today, it is the smaller of the two Legislative Library locations. The Library as a whole maintains an extensive collection of Manitoba publications, local newspapers and books. Collecting and preserving the published heritage of Manitoba for future generations is one of its important functions.

The Legislative Reading Room - with its three large windows facing South toward the fountain, the Louis Riel statue and the Assiniboine River - has, arguably, one of the finest views from the building.

The Library is the only room, apart from the Chamber, where colour has been employed in the design. The paneled and coffered ceiling is decorated in Pompeian colours of blue, brown and green while the faces of the galleries are painted dull gold accented with real gold dust. Three walnut tables are surrounded by crimson leather chairs.

The original three tiers of steel book stacks were meant to house 25,000 volumes. Access to the uppers balconies is provided by one of the oldest fully automated elevators in the province. There are two spiral staircases in the southeast and southwest corners of the room.

Some interesting plaster of Paris statues of John A. Macdonald and other early Canadian statesmen are displayed in the Legislative Reading Room. This collection is by the prominent sculptor Louis-Philippe Hebert and dates back to 1887.

A more recent addition to the room's historical décor is the Speaker's Chair used by MLA James Johnson who served as Speaker from 1904 to 1915. The chair is from the 2nd Legislative Building and originally cost \$165. Next to the Chair are the robes worn by former Speaker George Hickes who served as Speaker from 1999 to 2011.



HALL OF HONOUR

THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD,
AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM,
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN. AT THE
GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE
MORNING WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

-Laurence Binyon, "Act of Remembrance"



The Hall of Honour is where the Legislative Building honours Manitoba's proud military history. Featured in the Hall are the *Books of Remembrance* and plaques commemorating Manitoban military regiments and divisions.

The regimental plaques on the wall commemorate many different military groups in Manitoba. The Fort Garry Horse and Royal Canadian Dragoons are both armoured regiments. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and Royal Winnipeg Rifles are reserve infantry regiments and the Winnipeg Grenadiers are an infantry regiment whose plaque commemorates their involvement in the Battle of Hong Kong during the Second World War.

These books are replicas of the originals housed in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Canada's Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. The four books in the larger case have the names of all of the Canadian soldiers who lost their lives in five wars in which Canada was officially involved. The Boer War (October 1899- May 1902); and the Nile Expedition (March 1884-85); World War I (June 28 1914 - November 11, 1918); World War II (September 1, 1939 - May 8, 1945 [in Europe] and September 16, 1945 [in Japan]; and the Korean War (June 25, 1950 - July 27, 1953). The total number of names listed in these four books is 114,710.

The book in the case on its own is called the *Merchant Navy Book of Remembrance*, which was dedicated on November 6, 1995. It lists the names of all of the Canadians that lost their lives while serving on the seas with the Merchant Navy during World Wars I and II, and the Korean War. There are approximately 1,500 names listed in this book.

