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# Preface

In both my roles as executive secretary of the United States Senate Commission on Art and as secretary of the Senate, it is my privilege to present the *United States Senate Catalogue of Fine Art*. This catalogue highlights 160 works of fine art in the Senate. Representing the Senate's first comprehensive effort to publish the complete history of these paintings and sculptures, it follows in the century-old tradition of Glenn Brown's *History of the United States Capitol*, an exhaustive 1900 study of the building's art and architecture, and Charles Fairman's 1927 publication, *Art and Artists of the Capitol of the United States of America*.

The *United States Senate Catalogue of Fine Art* builds on these and other publications, and provides extensive new documentation, vintage photographs, and color images of each work of art. The volume presents detailed information on both the subject and the artist, as well as acquisition data and curatorial critique. It is a significant resource for those interested in the history of the Senate and the heritage of its art.

Many individuals were involved in the project, and they are all to be commended for their tireless efforts. The curator's acknowledgments provides an extensive list of individuals and institutions whose work is appreciated and, beyond that, whose dedication has created a treasure.

The Senate Commission on Art's jurisdiction encompasses paintings and frescoes, sculpture, historic furnishings, architectural features of historic importance, and memorabilia. The Commission is composed of the Senate leadership: the majority and minority leader, president pro tempore, and chair and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. Working together, they have placed a high priority on conservation and preservation, along with the acquisition of Senate-related artifacts, and the commissioning of appropriate works of art for display in the Capitol. Each of them has helped make this book possible. We thank them.

I have been privileged, as have other secretaries of the Senate, to serve the Commission as executive secretary. And in my role as secretary, I know that this catalogue is a collaborative work of the Senate Commission on Art and the Senate's Office of the Curator. The curator is responsible for the day-to-day care and protection of the Senate's collections and implementation of the Commission on Art's authority and direction. The professionals in the Curator's Office have a challenging task—to provide the high standards of museum care in a building that



**Second floor corridor, Senate wing.**  
(Maroon Photography, Inc. 1993)

serves as the working seat of the legislative branch of government, a building that receives millions of visitors each year.

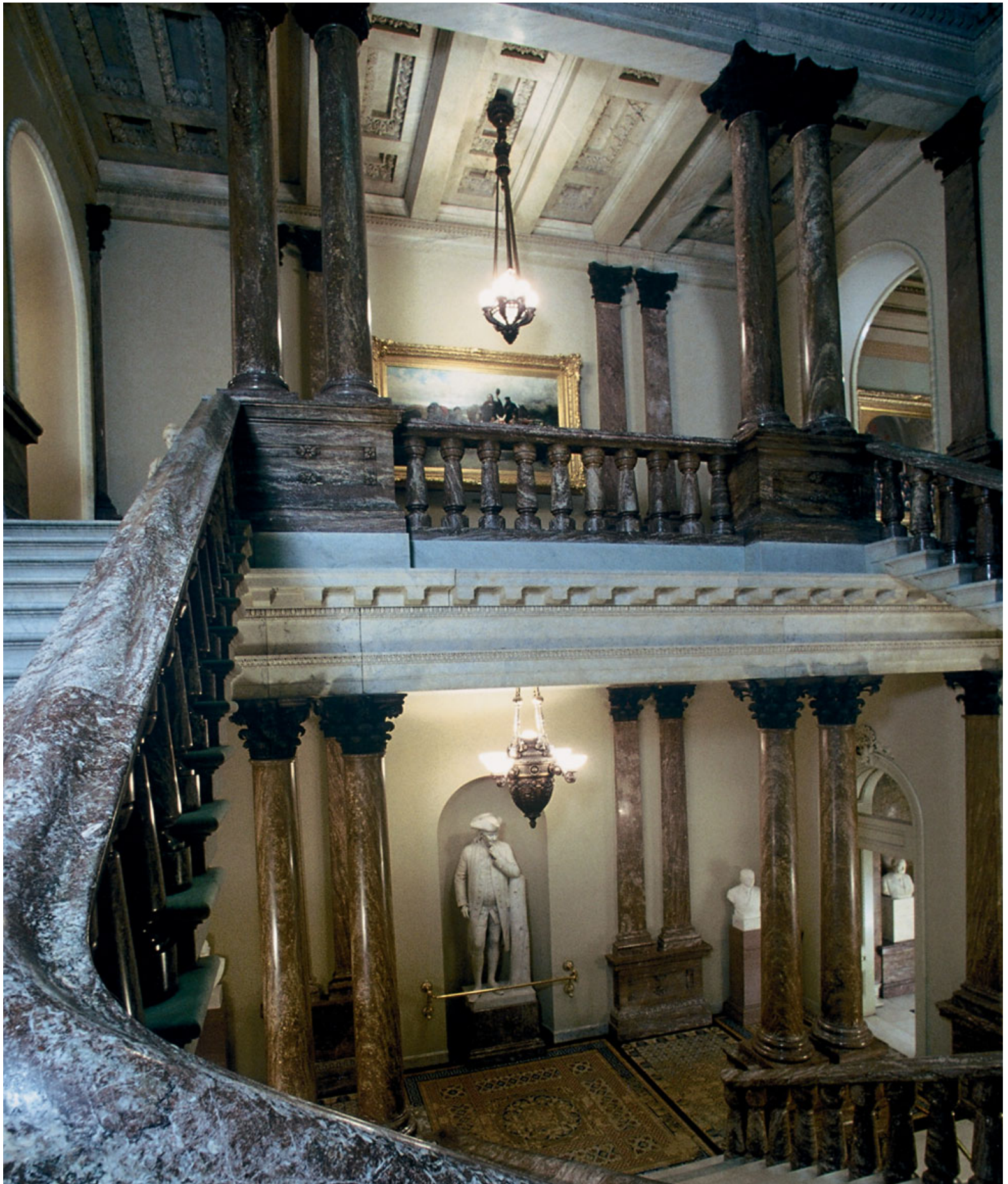
Senate Curator James R. Ketchum made great strides during his quarter-century tenure, including the restoration of the Old Senate and Old Supreme Court Chambers. The present curator, Diane K. Skvarla, directs a curatorial staff that continues an extremely professional program, focusing on the care, preservation, and interpretation of the collections.

Special appreciation must be extended to the Government Printing Office, our printing partner once again. The GPO shared many of the long days and nights that the curator's staff spent to bring this catalogue to the citizens of the United States. I recommend that each reader of this volume spend time with the curator's acknowledgments. The list is long, but this book could not have been completed without the collaboration of all.

In March 1965, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield addressed the Senate on a matter that he considered most disturbing. In firm, strong tones, he warned his colleagues that "the priceless benchmarks of our society and its history which have been entrusted to us for safekeeping" stood in danger of loss through neglect and indifference. Asserting that "Congress has a responsibility to see to it that they are passed along unscathed and undiminished," he reminded members: "These paintings, books, furniture, statues and other historic items belong to all generations of Americans, past, present, and future. Their preservation is a responsibility which cannot be taken lightly, for once marred, lost, or destroyed they can never be replaced."

In 1968 the Senate established the Senate Commission on Art and gave it the responsibility to "supervise, hold, place, protect, and make known" all works of art and historic objects in the Senate wing of the U.S. Capitol and Senate office buildings. I am ever mindful of this directive, and I seek to ensure that the Senate's works of art are, in the words of Senator Mike Mansfield, "passed along unscathed and undiminished" for future generations to enjoy. To the senators, officers, and staff who have helped preserve this unique collection, I owe special thanks and gratitude.

The Honorable Jeri Thomson  
*Secretary of the Senate and Executive Secretary  
to the Senate Commission on Art*



**East grand stairway, Senate wing**  
(Maroon Photography, Inc. 1993)