

SOUVENIR BUILDING COLLECTOR

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JOURNAL OF THE SOUVENIR BUILDING COLLECTORS SOCIETY

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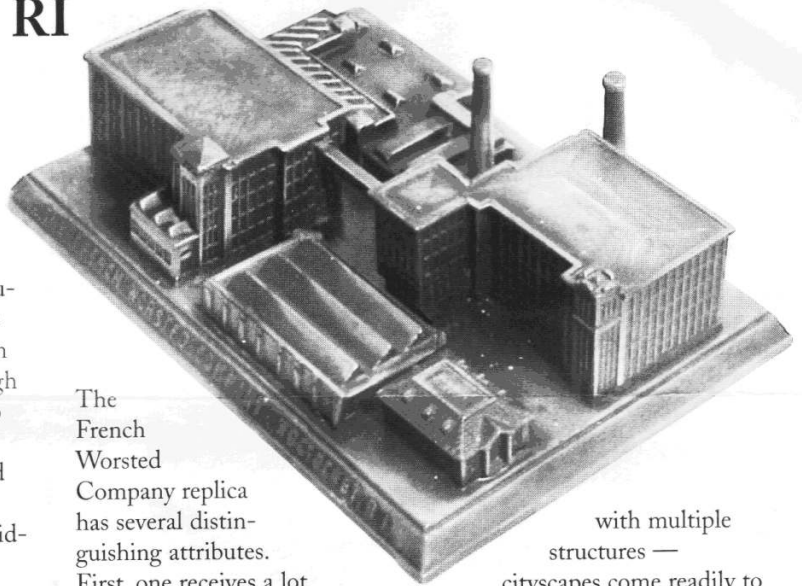
Mark your calendars: June 13 and 14, 2003 are the dates for the next SBCS convention in Gettysburg, PA! See President's Letter (p. 1) and Website Update (p. 6) for more details!

AN AMERICAN FACTORY IN MINIATURE

The French Worsted Company Woonsocket, RI

BY BILL TRAINER
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One of the joys of collecting souvenir buildings is that while traveling one has the opportunity to seek out and view the real thing. With an afternoon to kill on a recent trip through New England, we decided to visit Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Some spade work had been done in advance with Woonsocket folk, since we didn't want to drop by the site that housed the French Worsteds factory, only to find that it now contained Mall America II. Our visit, which included a stop at the City's Museum of Work and Culture, revealed much about Woonsocket and its French Connection.



The French Worsteds Company replica has several distinguishing attributes. First, one receives a lot with one piece. It is not just another building, but a diorama including seven structures — five very well detailed buildings (two of which are connected by an enclosed, overhead passage) and two smokestacks. There are other items in our collections

with multiple structures — cityscapes come readily to mind — but those examples from, say, New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington, DC and Paris, while fine to view, don't have the exactness of scale that is incorporated in this gem.

continued on page 7 ▶

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello again from Seattle!

BY PAUL CROWTHER
PRESIDENT, SBCS

Between all the hob-nobbing, collection-hopping, food-gobbling, and replica-oogling in San Francisco, we actually squeezed in a business meeting. We must have, or Art Ratner would be writing this President's message instead of

me. At that meeting two wonderful options were offered up as potential sites for future hobnobbing, etc. in 2003. Each possibility required a bit more investigating, so we closed the meeting with the "where next" still to be determined.

I now have the pleasure of inviting all to gather next year June 13 & 14 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Gettysburg promises a chance to meet in

a history-laden — and antique mall laden — locale. Our headquarters for the event will be on the town square at the Gettysburg Hotel, a member of the National Trust's Historic Hotels of America.

Carol Detweiler, our local host, has worked very hard organizing interesting venues and a range of activities including a town walking tour

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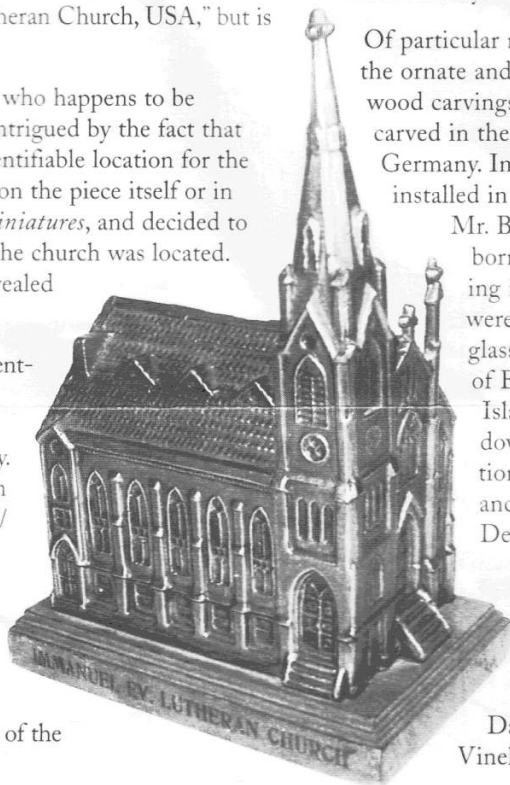
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gothic Church Replica From New York City

About six months ago, I purchased the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church bank at a local auction. This beautiful bank is approximately 4-1/2" x 3" x 6-1/2" high and sits on a wood base on which is inscribed "1863-Diamond Jubilee-1938" on one side and "Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church" on the opposite side. The building itself is a beautifully detailed Gothic church and is plated with what appears to be a brass finish. The building is listed in the index of David and Margaret's book, *Monumental Miniatures*, as "Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, USA," but is not pictured.

My wife Karen, who happens to be Lutheran, was intrigued by the fact that there was no identifiable location for the building, either on the piece itself or in *Monumental Miniatures*, and decided to research where the church was located. Her research revealed the following:

The church presently stands at 122 East 88th Street in New York City. Their website can be visited at <http://www.elca.org/syn/cong/NY/10128/>, and carries the following description of the building, as well as a drawing of the structure.

**Immanuel's History and Heritage**

This beautiful place of worship was erected by German immigrants in 1886. The interior is 100 ft. x 60 ft. and 75 ft. high to the rafters. The bell tower rises 200 ft. and houses three bells inscribed Glaube, Hoffnung, and Liebe (Faith, Hope, and Charity). They were a gift to the new congregation from the Empress of Germany in the late 1800s. The church was constructed in a Gothic style reminiscent of church architecture prevalent in northern Europe in the latter years of the 19th century.

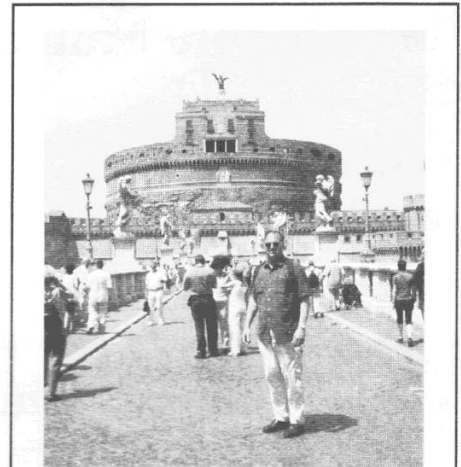
Of particular note in the interior are the ornate and irreplaceable chancel wood carvings, which were hand-carved in the Black Forest of

Germany. Immanuel's nave windows, installed in 1973, were designed by

Mr. Benoit Gilsoul, a Belgian-born artist living and working in New York City. They were fabricated of faceted glass by Mr. Helmut Schardt of East Northport, Long Island. The various windows are a visual meditation on the verses of the ancient Christian hymn *Te Deum Laudamus*.

Thought this information might be of interest to our fellow members.

David Manders
Vineland, New Jersey



Randy Rea of San Luis Obispo, CA is shown here "visiting his collection", this time the original Castel san'Angelo in Rome. An enthusiastic and dedicated collector of souvenir buildings, Randy says the original is faithfully rendered in the miniature he has on his shelves. If you'd like to share your visits to your collection, please send photo and description to the editor, SBCS, PO Box 70, Nellysford, VA 22958.

STARDOM FOR SOUVENIRS**TV Feature SBCS Members And Their Collections**

In the current mania for all things collectible, several TV shows are featuring segments showing SBCS Members and their collections.

In February, 2003, watch out for HGTV's new show "Ultimate Collector," which airs on Wednesday nights at 10:30 p.m. A segment featuring Bill and Dixie Trainer and their collection of souvenir buildings will be shown. As we go to press, the actual date has not been determined. It will be posted on the new and updated SBCS website, www.SBCollectors.org.

Airline passengers and E! Television viewers may still catch the show that featured Steve Schwartz, SBCS member from California, and his collection of little buildings. Says Steve, "My place was shot by E! Television about 18 months ago, and aired endlessly for months. Some people even saw it on their airline flights. Too funny."

With all this notoriety, it's hard to remember the days when antique dealers sniffed at requests for souvenir buildings. SBC

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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The *Souvenir Building Collector* is published four times a year, with additional notices as applicable. The subscription rate is \$25 a year. The rate includes one-year membership in the Souvenir Building Collectors Society, three free 50-word ads in the Classified Section, access to the Marketplace on the SBCS website, and invitations to all conventions and members-only events. Make check payable to: **Souvenir Building Collectors Society**. Mail to: Marty Gutierrez, Treasurer, the SBCS, P.O. Box 560635, Orlando, FL 32856.

www.SBCollectors.org

The Harford Mutual Insurance Co., Souvenir Building Bank Bel Air, MD

BY LANCE G. OLDHAM © 2001
POULSBO, WA

There is confusion among collectors of building banks and souvenir buildings about The Harford Mutual Insurance Company souvenir building coin bank. The confusion stems from similarities of the name of the Maryland company with another large insurance company, The Hartford Insurance Company of Connecticut. Both companies exist, but there is no connection between the two other than the similarity of their products and names.

Confusion over the name of the company led Banthrico bank catalogers, including myself, to presume that there may have been a misspelling of the name on the coin bank. So far, very few of the banks have reached the collector market. It was my original belief that the coin bank was a prototype that was never made for production and somehow during the development, there was a misspelling of the company name on the base and the "T" inadvertently left out. With this article, I am now pleased to correct this misconception.

The Harford Mutual Insurance Company commissioned 1,000 of the coin banks in 1992 to help celebrate of the company's 150th anniversary. The coin banks were given to employees, agents, and friends of the company. Additionally, the company distributed commemorative silver coins to a similar group of recipients.

The coin bank was manufactured by Toystalgia Inc., now known as the Valley Casting Company of Golden Valley, MN,



Don't let the snow fool you — the Harford Mutual Insurance Co. Headquarters is in Maryland, not Connecticut.

which is successor to the Banthrico Company. The coin bank is made of white metal and has a dull pewter finish with black antique highlighting. The trap is a plastic plug, typical of those used on all of the more recent Banthrico, Toystalgia, and Valley Casting coin banks. The inscription "Banthrico ©1974" is stamped on the metal base plate. The bank measures 6d" x 3•" x 3•". The 1,000 issued quantity would equate to a "D" rarity rating using the system that I developed in my Banthrico building bank catalog.

Over the years, Harford Mutual has had four different locations within Bel Air, Maryland. The company moved to its current location at 200 North Main Street in 1952. The building is of the American colonial style and appears to have been inspired by Independence Hall. The building was remodeled in 1987 and now shares fewer similarities with the icon. The remodeled building is the one depicted by the souvenir.

The name "Harford" derives from the name of the county in which the business is located. The county and the company were named for Henry Harford, a son of Lord Calvert, both early pioneers of this region.

The Harford Mutual Insurance Company was founded on November 23, 1842 by a group of local citizens who met at the Harford County Courthouse. The company was originally incorporated as the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The initial policies were executed in 1843. The primary insurance coverage was for fire and lightning coverage, which was sold mainly to cover dwellings and farm properties.

Despite economic ups and downs, natural disasters, a civil war, and two world wars, the company survived and prospered. By the middle of the twentieth century, the company had expanded into additional



Is "Harford" a typographical error or the real name? You'll find out here.

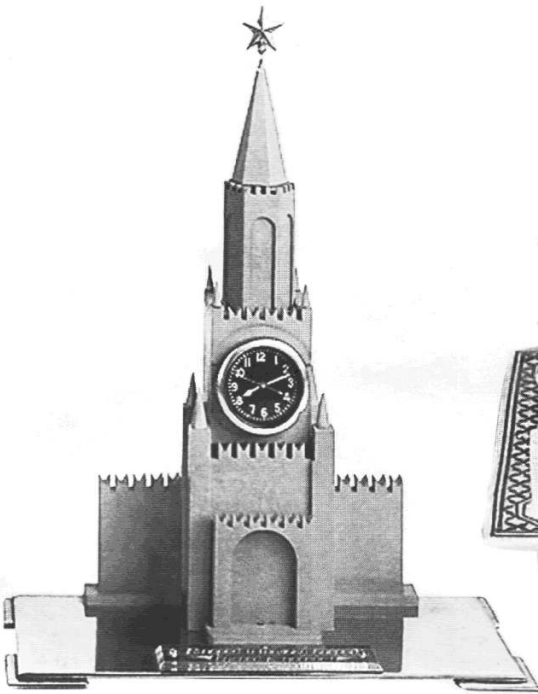
states. The company converted to its current name, The Harford Mutual Insurance Company, in 1947. Later, the company absorbed three other mutual insurers: Planters Mutual Insurance Company of Washington County in 1966, Kent County Mutual Insurance Company in 1969, and the Mutual Insurance Company of Berks County in 1973.

In 1988, the company formed a holding company, Harford Group, Inc., and a wholly-owned stock insurance company, Firstline National Insurance Company. Firstline National is used to write special program insurance business and to provide alternative pricing on other insurance business subject to underwriting guidelines.

Today Harford Mutual and Firstline National write more than \$93 million in direct premium in seven states plus the District of Columbia. Policyholders' surplus reached \$87.3 million as of December 31, 2000. The company is represented by nearly 300 independent agencies and employs 115 people.

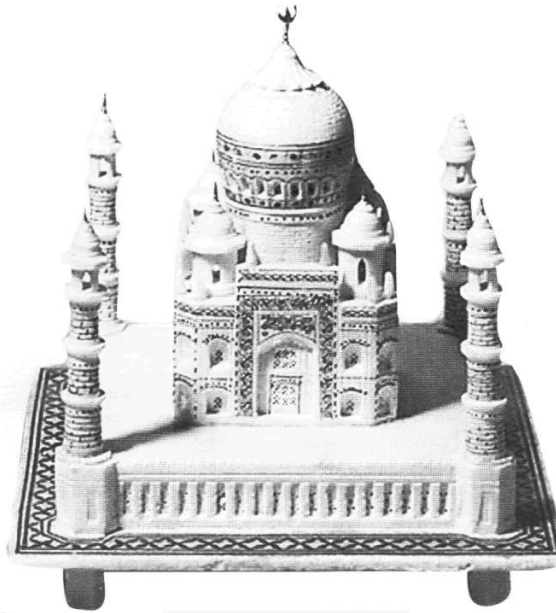
One of the things that now distinguishes the Harford Insurance Company in the minds of building bank and souvenir building collectors, from the larger insurance company with a similar name is that this company has a souvenir building coin bank while the other one doesn't! The Harford Insurance Company will therefore make a more lasting and indelible impression on collectors than its competitor. SBC

GERMAN GIFT BUILDINGS



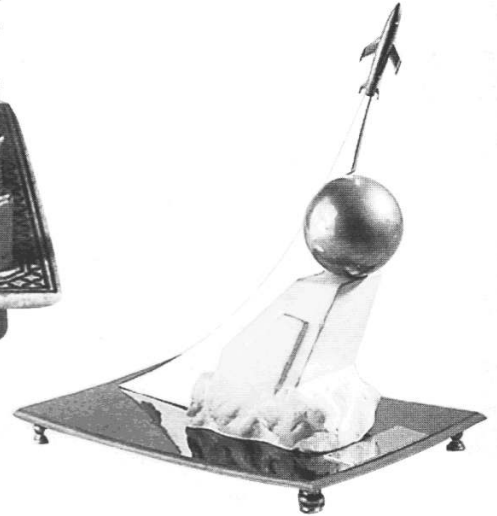
OFFICIAL GIFT
Model of the Spassky Tower with Clock.
USSR 1949.

A Gift from the 1st State Clock Factory in Moscow to Fred Oelssner, who was a GDR Party executive and also held a variety of state offices. The present belongs in the category of gifts to members of the government. The Russian inscription reads "Onward, ever onward, onward to victory." The Oelssner family donated it to the GDR Museum in 1972.



OFFICIAL GIFT
Taj Mahal.

India, 1976.
A gift from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the occasion of her visit to the German Democratic Republic in 1976.
Marble.



BIRTHDAY PRESENT
Cosmos Monument.

USSR 1962
Gift from the Soviet armed forces in Germany to Walter Ulbricht, party Boss as first Secretary of the Committee of the SED.
Brass, marble and plastic.

GERMAN HEADS OF STATE EXCHANGE MINIATURE GIFTS

German History Museum Displays Souvenir Buildings

BY DIXIE TRAINER
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The souvenir buildings shown on these pages are part of a collection of objects from the former German Democratic Republic that represent 40 years of East German history. The GDR, a child of the Cold War, was created after 1945 as a satellite state of the former Soviet Union and competitor to West Germany. On October 3, 1990, when the two Germanys were unified, the German Democratic Republic disappeared from the political map.

Under the GDR, the Museum of German History had developed a collection whose function was to present a Marxist-Leninist interpretation of German

History. After unification, these collections passed to the German History Museum, established in Berlin in 1989. The Museum found itself with holdings, which, both by their constituent character and origin, were quite new to western museum staff. This was the "Special Inventory."

This was a remarkable collection of unfamiliar, odd, or commonplace objects, ranging from an elephant's foot waste-basket to bags of sand from the beach of the Bay of Pigs in Cuba to miniature versions of famous buildings and monuments. Many of these objects, including the buildings, were gifts exchanged on the occasion of state visits to or from East Germany. Others were personal birthday or anniversary presents given to

state and Party leaders during the 40-year history of the GDR.

They amazed, amused or appalled the staff who found them on their hands. But they soon realized that the "special inventory" afforded a unique glimpse of GDR history, and in some ways provided a more instructive mirror than any other items in the museum's collections.

Some of these items appear in our own collections; others are just to die for. In either case, it's always nice to know that our little buildings are deemed museum-worthy.

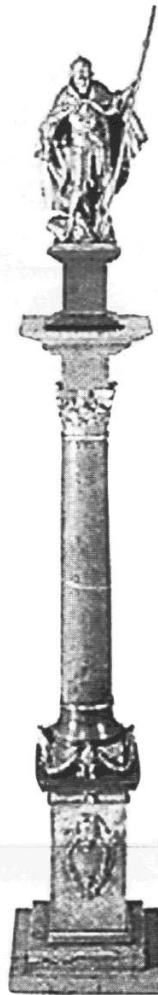
To see the museum's "Special Inventory" with wonderful pictures and text, go to www.dhm.de/ausstellungen/souvenirs/1e.htm

GERMAN GIFT BUILDINGS



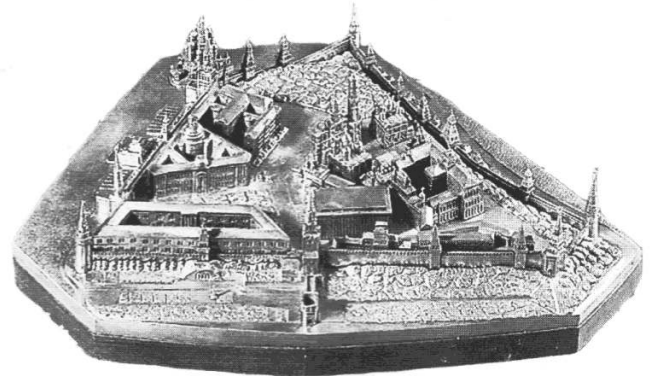
BIRTHDAY PRESENT
Brandenburg Gate

GDR 1951
Gift from the Free German Youth group to former GDR President Wilhelm Pieck on his 75th birthday.
Steel, wood and brass.



OFFICIAL GIFT • **King Sigismund** • Poland, 1951

Gift from Polish President Boleslaw Bierut to Wilhelm Pieck president of the GDR on the occasion of Bierut's visit to the GDR in April 1951. The bronze statue of King Sigismund III Wasa of Poland (1587-163) and Sweden (1592-1603) is mounted on a solid marble plinth, and is a miniature of the monument in Warsaw. It weighs in at a full 200 pounds.



OFFICIAL GIFT
Kremlin in Moscow

USSR, c. 1980
A Gift from the USSR to representatives of the GDR, occasion unknown. Brass and wood. It measures 10 cm x 38 cm x 27 cm. An identical piece was given to President Reagan, and is now in the Ronald Reagan museum in Simi Valley.

The East German Republic's Treasure House

ADAPTED FROM THE WEBSITE: WWW.DHM.DE/AUSSTELLUNGEN/SOUVENIRS/1E.HTM

Museums are the places where we now keep our relics of times past. Generally they tended to originate in the treasuries and curiosity chambers of kings and emperors, in the bright assortment of gifts that were presented in homage to great rulers: silver sets and medallions, ivory and precious stones, ostrich eggs and adder's tongues, Baltic amber and Indian spices. Gifts were intended to win a prince's favor. And the ruler himself could see from the presents how mighty and revered he was. . . .

The present (collection) might well be viewed as a sacred book recording the former power of socialism, now a faded thing. It records the symbols and icons of socialist holy days. There are gifts made by other states of the socialist brotherhood, in mutual respects and all good will. There are conversation pieces featuring the Kremlin, tanks and rockets, or a globe, symbolizing the universal sovereignty of Communism, surrounded by the writings of Marx, Engels and Lenin. These objects served to reinforce confidence that all the brotherhood were

following the same star — the red star of Soviet Communism. Relics, symbols and souvenirs, from the homemade present to the heraldic bombastic official gift are all in this *Iconographica socialistica*.

This collection, representing 40 years of East German history, was fortunately spared the rage of iconoclasts from East and West alike. Now this entire socialist universe is in the good, methodical hands of the German History Museum—preserved from ruin, a curious collection of surviving relics in a democratic world with few symbols of its own.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Subscribers may place a free 50-word classified ad in each issue. Ads will appear in three consecutive issues. Any changes to the first insertion must be made in writing by the advertiser. All items are subject to prior sale. Interested persons should contact the advertiser directly. This publisher disclaims any responsibility or liability. Send to SBC, PO Box 70, Nellysford, VA 22958 or Email: souvenirbu@aol.com

FOR SALE

Bantrico building catalog/price guide 2002 color edition. The most comprehensive, up-to-date book available. \$18.95 plus postage (\$3.95 priority or \$1.42 book rate) and applicable tax (\$1.61 for WA state residents). Lance G. Oldham, 1533 N.E. Tagholm Rd., Poulsbo, WA 98370-8014.

Be sure and visit DOWN-STAIRS AT FELTON ST.

ANTIQUES. 100b Felton St., Waltham, MA. Near Boston. Always a good selection of desirable souvenir buildings, statues and monuments on hand at cheap prices. Constantly adding stock. Usual Group shop hours. Closed Tues and Wed. For directions and information call (781) 894-2223. Barry Hoffman.

Coin Banks by Bantrico now available from the author, who will personalize and autograph your copy. This book is in hardback, full color, 15 chapters, 256 pages, 900 different banks, 160 architectural banks, index, 1135 photos, price and rarity guide. Published by Schiffer publishing Ltd. US\$49.95 plus \$3.95 S&H. Write or call Jim Redwine, 6940 Lake Valley Dr., Florissant, MO 63033. (314) 741-6940.

Souvenir Metal Buildings as seen on Ebay. AT&T, Chase, US Steel, Standard Oil, John Hancock, Farmers Trust, Bankers Trust, Pru Tower. www.infocustech.com/skyscrapers

New Souvenir Building Arrivals!

Vintage style St. Peter's Cathedral, Rome. Copper, 1-3/4"H x 3"x 3". \$35. Alamo, San Antonio, Texas. Large Pencil sharpener. Copper. 1-3/4"H x 3-1/4"L x 2"D. \$18. Air Force Chapel, Colorado Springs, CO. Pewter. 1-1/4"H x 2-1/8"L x 1-1/4"W. \$25. S&H up to \$50 add \$6; over \$51 add \$8.25. Souvenir Building Network. Toll free 888-650-7999 or online at www.souvenirbuildings.com

Tin cookie cutters, original designs of historical buildings, including buildings in South Beach, Miami, FL. Send for free catalog. 6109 Balboa Circle, # 102, Boca Raton, FL 33433

or tel: (561) 394-5082. fax: (561)-394-5082. Eileen Phillips.

New Souvenir Metal Buildings for sale, available on our website: www.infocustech.com/skyscrapers TEL (610)-797-9444. EMAIL merv73@fast.net

WANTED TO BUY

I am looking for Ellis Island and Pentagon buildings. Please contact Stephen della Camera, 1663 Musso View, Cheshire, CT 06410. tel: (203) 574-1230.

Worldwide Plaza Souvenir Building (Manhattan). I understand about 100 of these were made, so someone must have one for sale! Also interested in "skyscrapers" and unusual NYC buildings, but most interested in this one. Please reply to hcg66@aol.com

L@@K! SBCS Website Gets an Update

BY LARA GOEKE
ELLCOTT CITY, MD
LGOEKE@YAHOO.COM

Chances are that you have not checked the SBCS website at www.SBCollectors.org for some time. After taking over the long vacant duty of Webmaster last month, I made the grim discovery that our site had remained in a suspended state of animation since July, 2001.

That is the case no longer. Everything — from our new officers to old links — has finally been brought up to the present tense. Better yet, many exciting new additions and features are in the works as well.

The most immediate reason to go back online to check the site is the great information posted regarding next summer's convention in Gettysburg, PA. There are tons of links, travel tips, list of attractions and photos



to get you acquainted this marvelous destination. All of these resources can help you get a jumpstart planning your trip. You can even become a battlefield monument expert!

And the best is yet to come. The Website is by far the best untapped resource for our SBCS community. It is a way to regularly bring us together between conventions, introduce new members, and keep our collections growing.

The next priority on the agenda is getting the newsletter online, with the bonus incentive of having many photos not in the print edition. To help get us started, perhaps many of you have photos from the San Francisco convention that you could share with the group?

We have many more great ideas and proposals rolling in, and would love to hear more! I can be reached directly at lgoeke@yahoo.com for feedback and suggestions. One of the great recommendations I have already received is featuring an unusual item from Ebay or from a member's collection every month. Then we'll see who can identify it or give some background information.

I also think it would be nice to have photos of different members' collections and/or regular spotlights on a member of the group and their collection or favorite building. Stay tuned for more information. SBC

Be sure to check out our new website today at www.SBCollectors.org

FRENCH WORSTED CO.

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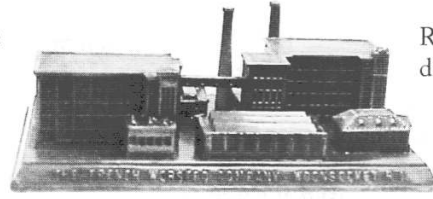
This piece, moreover, is the only metal miniature from Rhode Island. Newport, with all of its architectural triumphs, hasn't provided any metal replica of its mansions, nor has Providence with its Capitol and Biltmore Hotel.

Noteworthy also for this piece is that it appears to have been the only miniature building model produced by The Robbins Co., of Attleboro, MA. Our checks with Robbins, which is headquartered less than 20 miles from Woonsocket and now distributes jewelry and awards, revealed zilch about the manufacture of this piece, or other buildings, or the whereabouts of the production molds. Our educated guess, based on what we know about the French Worsted Company's history, is that the model was produced in the 1920's.

Now for the French Connection. Europeans first settled the Woonsocket area in the mid-17th century. In the early 1800's, industrial development was underway, keyed by water power provided by the Blackstone

River. The first textile mill was established in 1810 and by 1842, twenty textile mills dotted the river valley. More labor was needed to man the mills than could be provided by the immediate area, so French-Canadians from Quebec were recruited, the first arriving in 1840. The migration from Quebec farms to New England mill towns continued for decades. By 1900, French-Canadians accounted for 60% of Woonsocket's population, making it the most French city in the United States.

One of the migrants was Aram Pothier, who arrived in 1872 at the age of 18. Pothier became not only a successful businessman (achieving presidency of two



Front view of the French Worsted Mills little building. The small building on the right is now an Italian restaurant.

Rhode Island banks), but a distinguished politician, serving successively as a General Assembly delegate, Mayor of Woonsocket, Lieutenant Governor, and finally Governor of Rhode Island for several terms.

Significantly, in 1889 President Taft appointed Pothier as Rhode Island's delegate to the Paris Trade Exposition, a post to which he was again named a decade later. His trips to France were instrumental to the establishment of worsted spinning mills in Woonsocket by French interests.

The first large scale facility — Guerin Mills — was opened in 1895 by Joseph Guerin who had migrated from Europe in 1892. Next, the Lafayette Worsted Mill was opened in 1899 as the US outpost of August LePoutre et Cie of Roubaix, France. This complex is also still standing across the street on Hamlet Avenue from the French Worsted Company buildings. These were completed in 1906 and owned by Charles Tiberghiem and Sons of Tourcoing, France. One more major plant producing yarns spun using the so-called French Process and owned by a French textile company opened in 1907.

continued on page 8 ▶

This one piece is not just another building, but a diorama including seven structures; other cityscapes don't have the exactness of scale that is incorporated in this gem. It is the only metal miniature from Rhode Island, and possibly the only miniature produced by The Robbins Company of Attleboro, MA.

◀ continued from cover

and a special guided tour of battlefield monuments, with an emphasis on those with miniature cousins. Gettysburg and Civil War monuments in miniature form a fascinating and rich sub-collection. More on that later!

Many other sites of interest are nearby, including the Eisenhower National Historic Site and the Cyclorama, one of the few surviving panoramic paintings from the late 1800s. You'll soon be able to use our website at www.SBCollectors.org to help plan your own "must see" list. And did I mention all the antique malls in the surrounding area?

Be prepared to see double when we visit Carol's home for dinner Saturday night: Carol's passion is souvenir salt & peppers, and her collection of little building S & P's

is nothing short of amazing. Bill & Dixie Trainer will open their collection for a Sunday post-convention Open House in Stoney Creek at Wintergreen in Nellysford, VA, about a 3 hour drive south. Wintergreen is a leading four-season golf-tennis-ski resort in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. If you'd like to add a post-convention vacation there, you can contact Wintergreen at www.wintergreen.com or telephone 434-325-2200.

The dates selected allow us to slide in after the Spring bus tour season, but before the battle anniversary events July 1-3 kick in. For our members on the Eastern Seaboard, driving is an option. For those of us flying in, Gettysburg is an easy 1-1/2 hour drive from the Baltimore airport, where airfares tend to be more reasonable than other hubs.

And what of Miami, the other option considered? No one looks forward to a Miami convention more than a sun-starved Pacific Northwesterner; to see buildings and the sun on the same adventure would be a treat. But given the short planning period and the popularity of South Florida as a meeting place, our local team there will need a bit more time to work out the logistics of getting the rest of us to their doorstep. So after heading west to Seattle in 2004, we may well be heading to the opposite corner of the country for 2005.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Gettysburg. Please e-mail me (pwcsea@aol.com) with any thoughts you care to share along the way. SBC

Paul Crowther
Seattle, WA
pwcsea@aol.com

FRENCH WORSTED CO.

◀ continued from page 7

By 1910, these four facilities employed more than 1500 workers producing wool yarns by the French Process, as opposed to the Bradford or English system of production. Because of superior quality, French process yarns became the yarn of choice for U.S.-produced worsted cloth. All four of these facilities were started by French industrialists, staffed primarily with French-speaking workers (men and women from Quebec) and produced yarns made by the French process exclusively.

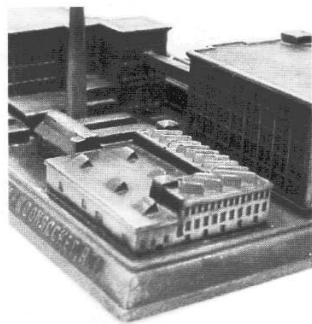
These mills flourished through the 1920's, fared much better than did the cotton textile mills in the Depression years, and continued production into the postwar years. The French Worsted Mill closed its

doors in 1950, and by the early 1970's, each of the other mills had ceased production. They were among the last survivors in the textile industry's southern migration for cheaper power and labor costs.

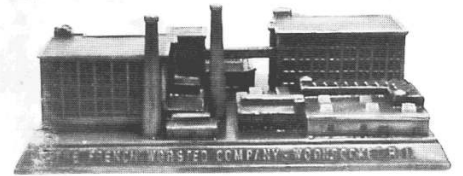
Today, the French Worsted complex on Hamlet Avenue looks much as it did at its inception. The four major buildings are now leased to multiple tenants

engaged in light manufacturing and other operations. The smallest building (in the lower right hand corner of the photo on page 1), which reportedly housed workers in the glory years, is now operated as an Italian restaurant called Gian Carlo's Ristorante.

The French Worsted Company replica is assigned a "III" rarity rating in *Monumental*



Painstaking detail elevate this mundane factory into a superb miniature. The original functions of the various buildings shown here is unknown.



Rear view of the French Worsted Mills little building. The entire complex still stands, and houses a handful of light manufacturing and processing firms.

Miniatures by David Weingarten and Margaret Majua. Based on my eBay observations (zero sightings), the rating would appear to be at least a little light. True, the miniature does show up in a number of collections, but that is due in some measure to the success of one enterprising collecting team that acquired about a dozen replicas which were traded into other collections.

Oh, for the good old trading days! SBC



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