

Connick Windows

Thoughts, news and comments concerning the art and craft of Connick stained glass, published periodically by....

The Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation, Ltd.

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Connick Archives at Boston Public Library

In the 1970's, Orin Skinner, President of the Connick Studio, on the advice of architectural historian Douglas Shand-Tucci, donated to the Boston Public Library job files, gouache studies, and photographs pertaining to completed Connick commissions. The Boston Public Library had already become an important repository for the major figures of the twentieth century Gothic Revival with their architectural drawing collections of Cram and Ferguson, and Maginnes and Walsh. It was fitting that the archival collections of Cram and Connick, who so often collaborated on projects, found a common home.

When the Connick Studio closed in 1986, the Connick Associates decided to give the rest of their archives to the Boston Public Library -- more gouaches and photographs, as well as correspondence and business files plus full-size cartoons, color transparencies, brass stencils, and the Connick Studio Library. Subsequently, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Coombs presented the BPL with volumes from the personal library of Charles J. and Mabel Coombs Connick, as well as the Connicks' postcards and Mrs. Connick's travel diaries.

The Fine Arts Department of the Boston Public Library has, since 1986, become the central service unit of the library's architectural collections, including the Connick Archives. Users of the Connick Archives have included stained glass artisans who are repairing Connick windows, students and other art historians, picture researchers, architects, and church archivists from across the country. The business files, which often contain correspondence, financial records, contracts, sketches, brief descriptions of the windows and their iconography, in-house notes and memos, have been the most heavily used components of the collection.

Improving access to these important materials is an ongoing goal of the department's staff. Currently, staff members are surveying the collection of the gouache studies. The organization of the photographs and business files and the inventory of the book collections are also continuing. A long-range goal of the department is to provide automated access to the collection by geographic location, project and window name, donor and/or client name, date, building type, designer type, designer name, job number, and by iconography.

Inquiries regarding the Connick archives at the BPL should be made to the Fine Arts Department, Boston Public Library, P.O. Box 286, Boston, MA 02117 (telephone 617-536-5400, ext. 275).

Janice H. Chadbourne
Curator of Fine Arts, Boston Public Library



Saint Gabriel, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Spokane, WA. Charles J. Connick Collection, Boston Public Library; reproduced courtesy of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library.

Connick News

The Sisters of St. Margaret moved from their home in Louisburg Square, Boston to a new home in Roxbury. They took with them to the new chapel their Connick stained glass windows.

The Stained Glass Association of America summer convention is in Los Angeles June 23-27. Some of the Connick stained glass windows in that area are in the following churches: Wilshire Methodist Church, the First Congregational Church (Shatto Chapel), Saint Paul's Church, the First Baptist Church (chapel), and

the All Saint's Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills.

At the Connick Foundation annual meeting on April 20th, the directors voted to establish The Orin E. Skinner annual stained glass lecture series to be given at the Boston Public Library. We will provide more details in the following newsletter.

Keep in mind Orin E. Skinner's lecture "History and Practice of Stained Glass", available from the Foundation for \$150 (\$100 is tax deductible).

One definition of Window is "a means of obtaining information". Our newsletter will keep you informed of the Foundation's activities, the Connick Collection in the Fine Arts Department of Boston Public Library, and Connick news around the country.

Sandwich Glass Medallions

"A friend told Connick about the old (Sandwich glass) factory (closed 1875). There were ditches around the factory where they dumped the broken pieces and pot cullet; what was left in the pot after they used what they could. We used clamming hoes to dig up the fragments". (Orin Skinner)

The pure colors of Deming Jarvis's early Sandwich Glass 'sing in lustrous splendor when arranged in medallions to hang in windows against changing light.' Connick made medallions to share with friends symbolizing themes from literature, poems, mythology, and the signs of the zodiac. A complete list of the different Sandwich glass medallions is available from the Foundation.

The Connick Sandwich glass medallions are primarily in private collections; however, medallions symbolizing the celtic cross, a waterfall and a star can be seen at the Sandwich Glass Museum, Sandwich on Cape Cod. A private collector is also selling a few treasured Sandwich glass medallions. Inquiries can be made to P.O. Box 606, Dover, MA 02030



"Pegasus", the theme of this Sandwich Glass medallion, was the personal symbol adopted by Charles Connick. Photograph by Ian Justice.