

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 Windows of the Twin Cities - Part I

Minneapolis and St. Paul, the twin cities of Minnesota, are rich in Connick Stained Glass. This newsletter's focus on Minneapolis' Connick windows is devoted to the Studio's first decade of work. Our next letter in October will focus on the early Connick stained glass of St. Paul.

(Nb. All quotes and information in this letter from the Connick archives, Fine Arts Department, Boston Public Library.)

In Minneapolis, **Hennipen Avenue Methodist Church** (Hewitt & Brown - Architects) has a long history of Connick Windows. We can trace the artistic development of the Studio from the Pre-Raphaelite quality of painting in the "Resurrection" and "Ascension" windows installed Easter 1918 through many variations to the more stylized and symbolic quality of design and color in the glass of the "Healing Miracles of Christ" window installed April, 1986.

Communication began when Connick wrote introduction letters telling of his work to Dr. Andrew Gillies of Hennipen Avenue and its architect, Mr. Hewitt, in 1914. In the Resurrection window Connick strove for a cool color scheme with warm accents, suggesting Spring and the glory of new birth. In contrast, the Ascension window has a warm color scheme with cool accents, "For here the element of Divine achievement is closely associated with the human qualities of the assembled eleven apostles". Mr. Perry Harrison, son of the donor Mrs. Elizabeth W. Harrison, writes May 14, 1918 "I am deeply impressed with both of the windows. The general effect being most harmonious, the rich tones in the window lending the needed warmth and enhancing the beautiful interior. It would seem that it would be almost necessary for you to see the windows in their permanent location, viewing them throughout the entire day to note the effect of the changing lights."

In addition to the above windows there is a series of aisle windows depicting commanding Old Testament characters, including Moses, Joseph, David and Samuel. "Through the foliated grisaille of the background occur symbols related in thought to each central theme." The image on the right tells the story of the boy Samuel, beginning with the bottom segment with his presentation to Eli, followed by his service in the Temple and the calling of Samuel.

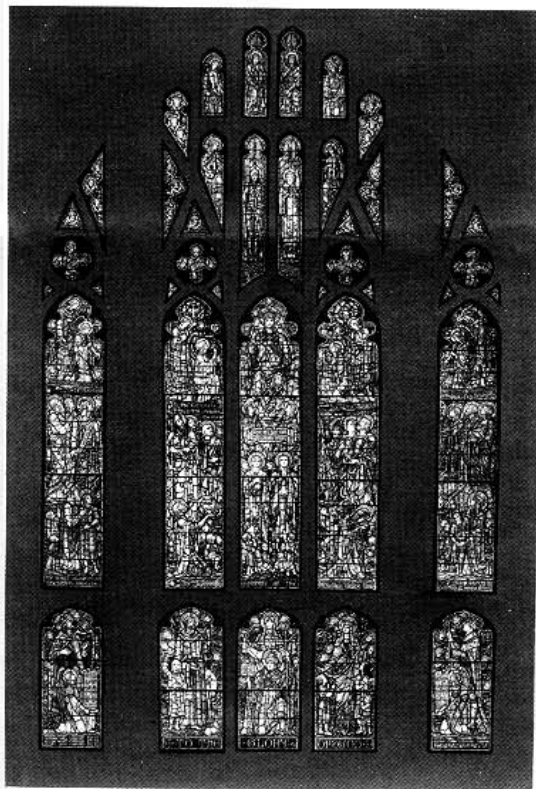
Also in Minneapolis we find early Connick windows in the **Cathedral Church of St. Mark**. The five lancet with tracery "Te Deum Laudamus" (below), created as a "truly triumphant composition" was installed in 1918. In a letter to Dr. James E. Freeman of St. Marks, Connick writes of difficulties in finishing the window on time. "After the loss of my four men, who have gone into war work, this recent influenza epidemic has proved a most trying handicap for me,

and has delayed this window several weeks already." Connick was especially pleased with the medallion windows in St. Mark's. "These are treated in a manner reminiscent of the splendid old medallion windows of France, but are sincerely drawn, and articulated with no thought of mere copying. The chief glory of a window of this type lies in its color"

In Minneapolis Connick stained glass windows can also be found in Westminster Presbyterian Church and in Plymouth Congregational Church.



Aisle window, Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church, Minneapolis telling the story of the boy Samuel.



"Te Deum Laudamus", the five lancet with tracery at the Cathedral Church of St. Mark, Minneapolis.

Connick News

- The eleventh annual Connick Foundation Board of Directors meeting was held in Boston, April 8th. The Board welcomed Robert G. Windsor as a new director. Mr. Windsor is the Rector of St. John's Church, Newtonville, Massachusetts, which is filled with Connick windows.
- "History and Practice of Stained Glass", Orin E. Skinner's slide lecture given in 1990 - when he was 97 years old - has been documented on film and is available on video cassette. Please contact The Connick Foundation for a copy (\$150 - \$100 tax deductible).
- The Connick Foundation's annual lecture in Orin E. Skinner's name is tentatively scheduled for November, 1996.
- A Twenty-five dollar contribution will help continue the Connick Foundation's educational projects including this newsletter.

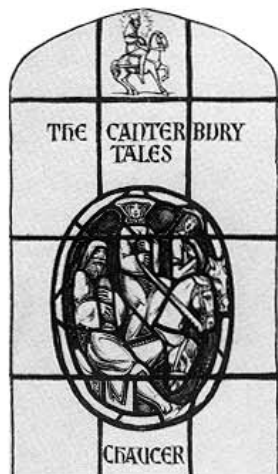
One definition of Window is "a means of obtaining information". Our newsletter will keep you informed of the Foundation's activities, the Connick Collection in the Fine Arts Department of Boston Public Library, and Connick news around the country.

Classics

In the little town of Gambier, Ohio, The Great Hall in Peirce Hall, at Kenyon College contains Connick medallion windows symbolizing our English speaking literary heritage. "Groups in the middle of the west wall symbolize our American authors, while the others represent significant English poets, novelists, and dramatists. Subjects have been chosen for their sustained influence toward wisdom and good nature with special reference to poets and their imaginative regions for they most clearly invite the glassman's accompaniment of stout lines and brilliant colored lights. The backgrounds in tinted whites, slightly subdued, serve to enhance the pure color of medallions that suggest the spirit of the subject defined and strengthened by sturdy design in leads and paint." For your summer holidays, keep in mind Walt Whitman's Song of the Open Road, "I think heroic deeds were all conceived in the open air."

Perhaps your path of adventure will lead you to The Great Hall to see the daylight work its magic through these sparkling, radiant medallions.

(All photographs in this letter courtesy of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library of the City of Boston).



The miller ... The clerk ...
The wife of Bath.



"Sloth makes all things difficult
... industry all easy."