

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., Orin E. Skinner, Founder

June, 1998

Directors & Officers: Theresa D. Cederholm Jonathan L. Fairbanks Elizabeth B. Johnson Robert G. Windsor Marilyn B. Justice, President

Connick Stained Glass in Yakima and Walla Walla



Charles J. Connick was introduced to Walla Walla, Washington in 1919 when the Seattle architects Beezer Brothers asked him to design and make two windows for *Jensen's Department Store* - "the handsomest store in the Northwest insofar as good art and correct architecture are concerned ...".

Concerning the design of these windows, Connick wrote Beezer, "you will note that my idea has been to carry out the scale of a large store building [Jensen's had 90 employees] by use of heavy leads and large pieces of glass, while keeping the character of the ornament exquisite in drawing and detail in harmony with the Adams type of the Georgian period." A.M. Jensen called his department store "The Modern Daylight Store".

In designing several windows for *St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church* Connick heeded the following caution of Mr. Beezer: "During the winter months there is in Walla Walla much cloudy weather along with considerable fog. We are very fond of the rich red and blues but want to impress upon you the fact that you had better not go too strong on the heavy colors, as they might be criticized for disclosing the light." Connick achieved the right balance of light and color using grisaille fields with colorful medallions of New Testament figures.

Founded in 1868 *St. Paul's Episcopal Church* in Walla Walla installed its first Connick windows in 1948. St. Paul's, a wood and stone Gothic structure with high vaulted ceilings and dark wood interior, required a delicate balance of color and adequate admission of light. The north transept windows presented the challenge of an upper portion exposed to direct light and a lower portion shaded by a porch roof. Colorful symbols of the four evangelists are featured in the upper portion while the lower part uses lighter glass with textures that catch and reflect as much illumination as possible. The Reverend Gilbert wrote of St. Paul's windows: "We love the windows and they have done an unbelievable amount of good for our church."

Built in the late 1940's in Yakima, Washington, *St. Michael's Episcopal Church* is filled with Connick stained glass. These windows are designed to symbolize significant aspects and incidents of the Bible from the Creation to the Ascension of Jesus the Christ. The fields are in light tints of glass to admit an abundance of illumination. They are enriched with foliated patterns and accented with rich color medallions and symbols. Variations of tones from cool to warm colors and interposing of ruby and blue add interesting contrasts without disturbing the overall color harmony.

Yakima's *Bethlehem Lutheran Church* has several fine Connick windows including a splendid rose window rich in color and symbolism. The center of the rose depicts the Lamb of God with the surrounding petals symbolizing the four evangelists and stars representing heavenly steadfastness.

St. Joseph's Academy Chapel has six small but brilliant west wall Connick windows with 'liturgical motifs'.

For *St. Timothy's Episcopal Church*, built in the mid 1950's, the Connick Studio created windows with figure compositions of rich color set in comparatively light fields enriched with delicate foliated patterns. These windows actively encourage the light conditions of the Northwest.



Illustrations

Upper left - Winged Ox - From the North transept window in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Walla Walla.

Upper right - Cartoon of St. John the Baptist aisle window in St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Walla Walla.

Lower left - Three Kings aisle window in St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Yakima.

(All photographs in this letter from the Connick archives, Fine Arts Department, courtesy of Trustees, Boston Public Library.)



Connick News

- The annual summer conference of the Stained Glass Association of America will be held in Houston, Texas July 7th - 10th. Connick stained glass in Houston can be found in Annunciation Church (Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel) and in St. Anne's Church.
- Joan Eldredge, coordinator of the Art and Architecture Tours of the Boston Public Library, hosted a 'Connick' evening at the BPL for the tour guides. Slides and talk of Connick, his associates and their Adventures in Light and Color were presented by Marilyn Justice.
- The Connick Foundation's thirteenth annual meeting was held April 6th in Boston.

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.

Connick & Cram in Louisville, Kentucky

December 19, 1928, Carl A. Eberhard, pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church wrote the following to Ralph Adams Cram: "After seeing your work I wished that we might have a good church in Louisville, too. (I haven't found any yet) ..." (Letter found in Concordia Lutheran Church archives). Cram designed a small English Gothic church of stone with a lofty interior and Connick stained glass windows throughout (made from 1944 to 1974).

Entering Concordia Lutheran one is greeted by two small vestibule windows: Angels of Prayer (on the west) and Praise (on the east side). Connick wrote regarding these windows: "[Small windows] can hardly be considered in terms of square feet, but rather ... individual works of art in which size is the least important factor". Upon entering the nave, one cannot help but be overwhelmed by the evident loving devotion and care of the members, past and present, of this congregation. A great deal of wood was carved by Pastor Eberhard and an art teacher member, Dorothea Kurk. Large transept windows devoted to Old and New Testaments and side aisle windows depicting parables and miracles continue the worshipful spirit.

Concordia Lutheran Church has no clerestory, but in the balcony (over the front door) a magnificent Te Deum window radiates full color splendor. In the east and west walls exquisite quatrefoils of Archangel Gabriel and Archangel Michael complete the balcony stained glass. Concordia Lutheran Church is the only place in Louisville with Connick windows.

(Singing member of Angelic Choir, Concordia Lutheran Church, Louisville, by Charles J. Connick Associates.)

