

Souvenir Building Collectors Society 25th Silver Anniversary Commemorative Souvenir Building

By Carolyn Curtiss

What was your first building that started your collection? Bet the Statue of Liberty was one of the first. Steadfast in the Harbor, hard to believe there was a time she wasn't standing watch.

Did you know average people played a crucial role in her history? The French gave "Liberty Enlightening the World" to the people of the United States to mark our Centennial in 1876 but it was up to America to provide the base. Frederic Auguste-Bartholdi, the designer, selected the site on what we now know as Liberty Island. Alas, there was no significant support for raising the money for the base so the 'Colossal Hand and Torch' was completed and sent to the US for the Centennial exhibit/fair in Philadelphia. Its base was an information booth.

After the Centennial fair the Hand and Torch went to New York City where it 'lived' in Madison Square for six years - neglected. Seems politicians and big businesses weren't willing to foot the bill for the pedestal. Various crowd funding campaigns happened but none were able to raise all the funds needed to build the base. In 1885 The American Committee, tasked with raising the base funds, was helped by Joseph Pulitzer who ran advertisements for the purchase of a replica that could be purchased in American Department stores or from subscriptions to the American Committee and, of course, from the souvenir stand at the base of the Colossal Hand and Torch in Madison Square.

\$1 bought a 6" replica and a 12" version was given for a \$5 donation. It is estimated that over 50,000 of the 6" models were sold. This campaign raised over \$100,000,

A NEW JOINT VENTURE
from MICROCOSMS & IN FOCUS TECH

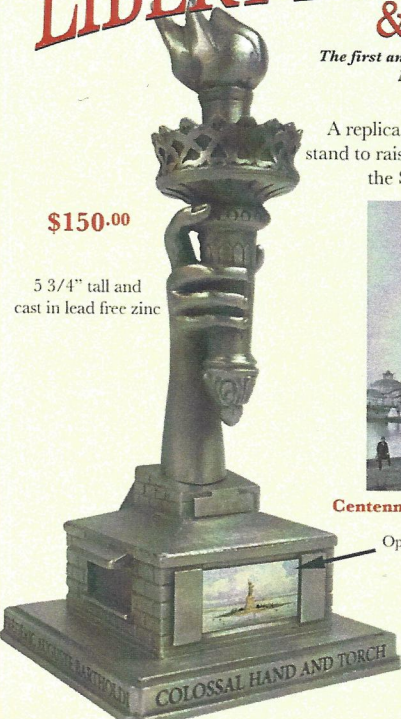
LIBERTY HAND & TORCH

The first and only Replica of a Souvenir Monument stand!

A replica of the original fund raising stand to raise funds for the construction of the Statue of Liberty base.

\$150.00

5 3/4" tall and
cast in lead free zinc



Centennial Fair, Philadelphia 1876

Optional decal of completed conceptual art included.

Made to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Souvenir Building Collectors Society.

AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY TO SBCS MEMBERS

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Commemorative Souvenir Building

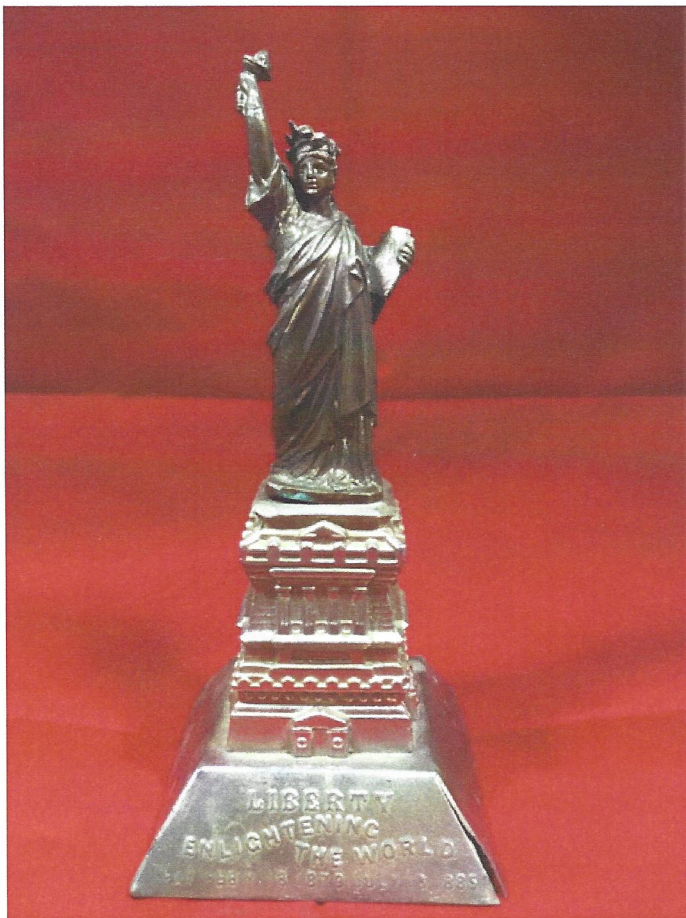
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enough to build the base. Some of us are lucky enough to have these original Statue of Liberty's with its two part base.

I am happy that when I approached Anton Trembley, of Microcosm's, to consider making a special building to commemorate the SBCS 25th anniversary, one of his ideas was the Statue of Liberty Souvenir stand. It is an appropriate homage to souvenir building collecting and a fitting reminder of the first SBCS national convention in NYC in 1995.

Seeing the idea for the SBCS 25th Commemorative come to fruition was humbling and educational for me. It became obvious to partner with Mike Merwine of InFocus for the casting and to round out this collaboration.

Be part of SBCS history, support the Society and buy this unique legacy piece.



The American Committee 1885 Statue of Liberty



Two pieces of the 1885 Statue of Liberty



SOUVENIR BUILDING COLLECTOR

THE SOUVENIR BUILDING COLLECTORS SOCIETY

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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The Souvenir Building Collector is published three times a year, with additional notices as applicable. The subscription rate is \$35 a year. The rate includes a 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 Katharine Isbell, Treasurer, the SBCS, 809 Jackson St., Rockwall, TX 75087.

www.sbcscociety.com

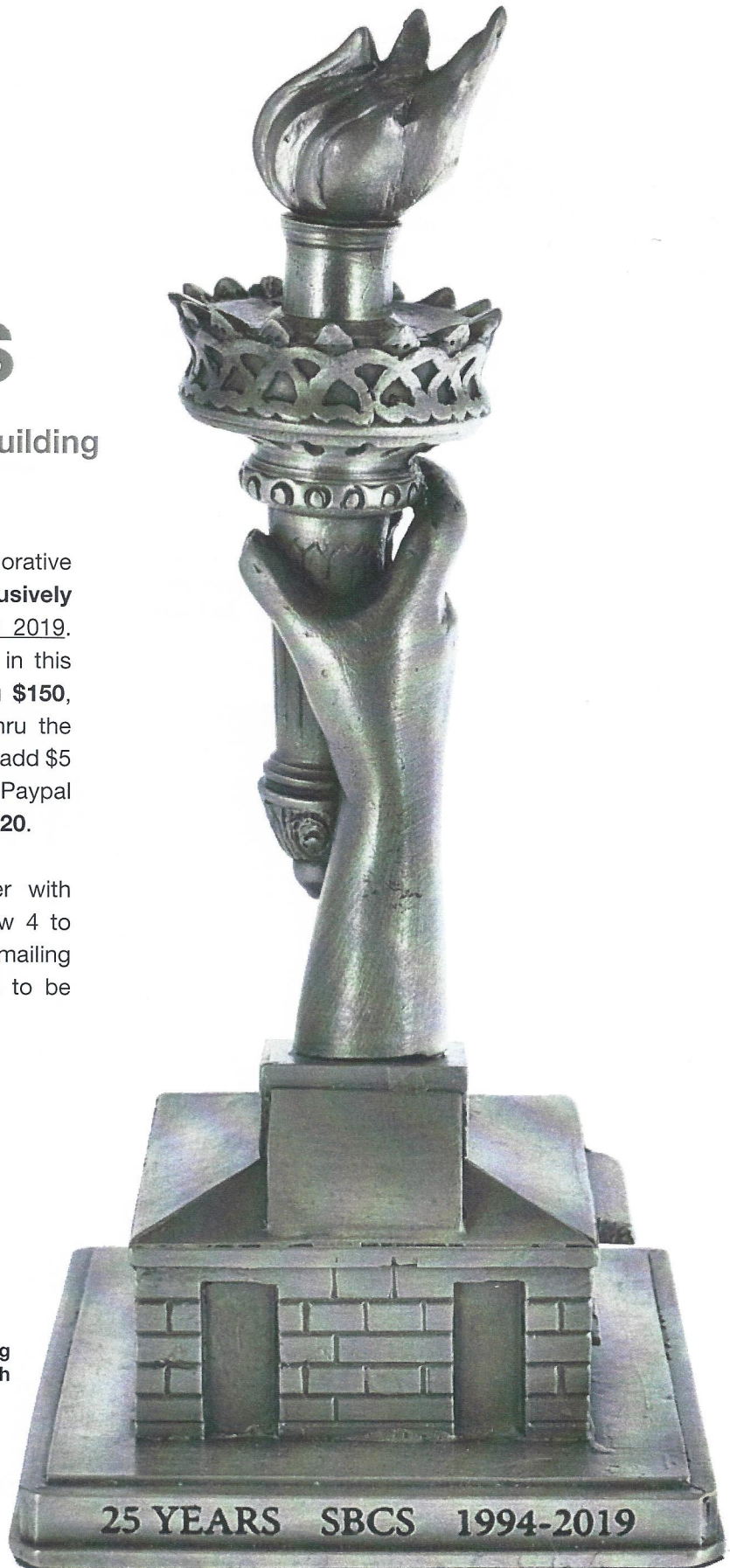
SBCS

25th Silver Anniversary
Commemorative Souvenir Building

Our SBCS 25th anniversary commemorative souvenir building is available **exclusively** to **ALL SBCS members paid up thru 2019**. A special ORDER FORM is included in this newsletter with instructions for paying **\$150**, either by check or money order or thru the SBCS Paypal account (where you must add \$5 for the service fee). **ALL** order forms, or Paypal orders, must be sent by **31 January 2020**.

The SBCS will then place the order with InFocusTech for the first casting. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery. Please put the mailing address where the commemorative is to be sent on your order form.

SBCS 25th Anniversary Commemorative Building
by Microcosm's and InFocusTech



President's Message

By Carolyn Curtiss



Believe it or not I have a collecting rule. If I have seen it as a tourist, I can collect it. In fact, once I see it in person I have a compulsion to find it in souvenir form. I will walk for hours and scour every shelf in this quest.

In October, with hopeful space in my luggage, my parents and I arrived in Tokyo. (So did the second largest typhoon in history). Our only excursion before the storm hit was to visit the SkyTree Tower. By the time the observation deck opened it was enshrouded in fog. Silver lining - more money to spend on the replicas in the gift shop!

I flew to Shanghai for the selfish reason to see the Oriental Pearl Tower in person. I paid extra to visit the Tower's transparent deck. I had assumed this meant open windows. Nope, it just meant entirely glass floors. As I was

taking a few seconds to acclimate to the sensory overload, a terrified elderly man in a suit crawled by me. The Tower's gift shops did not disappoint. Watching the Bund skyline lit up at night was also mesmerizing! At a nearby street stall I buy a rolling luggage and continue to shop.

Returning to Japan, I added the experiences of visiting the Tsutenkaku Tower in Osaka and the Peace Park in Nagasaki while adding even more treasures. My packing challenge was that almost all of the replicas came with an elaborate presentation box. The good news is that everything returned home unscathed.

And since this is the decorating season, many of my new acquisitions, seen below, now shimmer in my Holiday displays.

Wishing you all a magical Holiday season and Happy Hunting!



Letter from the Editor

WOW! For 25 years the Souvenir Building Collectors Society has been 'in business'! A quarter of a century of traveling and visiting fellow members collections, of 'swapping' at our annual conventions, of haunting any and all antique and flea markets, and of watching our collections GROW!

We now have an amazing opportunity to ADD to our collections with a very special souvenir building to commemorate these past 25 years. This special building is entirely due to the foresight, persistence, and diligence of our SBCS President, Carolyn Curtiss. At least two years ago, before this auspicious 25th anniversary date was in the picture, she began talking about how to celebrate this milestone.

Carolyn immediately thought of doing a special souvenir building and – more importantly – one that would be available to ALL SBCS members. Unlike the SBCS convention commemoratives where one had to attend the convention to get the building, this 25th commemorative

would not be associated with a convention. The only caveat for purchase of the 25th commemorative is to be an SBCS paid up member for 2019. Fortunately, this applies to over 100 members!

The obvious, and desired, choice to design the commemorative was Anton Tremblay of Microcosm's. Anton approached Mike Merwine of InfocusTech for the casting and – voila – the SBCS has a unique and terrific 25th anniversary commemorative souvenir building.

Because of this, the SBCS was able to have a joint convention with the Still Bank Collectors Club of America in 2019 whereby the SBCCA provided the convention commemorative.

All of us SBCS members owe a **HUGE** Shoutout to Carolyn for giving us this unique collecting opportunity. Thank you Thank you Carolyn!

SBCS 2020

Jackson

M I S S I S S I P P I

August 23-25

Blimey!

By Elizabeth Lawson

Like the SBCS, 2019 was a big year for me. To celebrate there was a lot of travelling, culminating in a 24 day trip to England. The itinerary was a big counter clockwise ring around London, which was not included on places to go. Most of the 'stops' were at National Trust properties (12), gardens, and other properties open to the public – a modified 'Grand Tour' of the great country houses (the real meaning of an oxymoron). Another objective was to visit, or eat and stay, in places for which I have a souvenir building, a great way to embellish an itinerary!

Unlike many SBCSers who seek out and find souvenir buildings on their travels, I have 'retired' from collecting at this point in my life. But, I still check out all of the gift shops for souvenir buildings, just in case I have a break down in my resolve. Alas for collectors, my itinerary did not go to places noted for possible souvenir buildings, in fact, I found very few that I could even photograph.

But – on the visiting places for which I have a replica, I did well. Among the National Trust properties visited were The Old Clergy House, in Alfriston, East Sussex - the very first property of the National Trust (1896), Wimpole Hall and Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire, and Oliver Cromwell's House in Ely.



Top L-R: Old Clergy House, Anglesey Abbey;
Bottom: Wimpole Hall
All by Tey Pottery

During our stay in Alfriston we visited the 'smallest' church in England – Lullington Church and had dinner at the 13th C Star Inn. After 5 glorious days in East Sussex the next stop was Cambridge and Ely. We saw the Round Church (1130) in Cambridge and Cromwell's House in Ely.



TOP L-R Cromwell's House, the Round Church;
Bottom L-R Lullington Church, Star Inn
All by Tey Pottery

In Oxford we visited the Bodleian Library where I saw a very, big, heavy, and expensive coldcast of the Radcliffe Camera. Because I was swathed in layers of raingear I was unable to get my phone out for a subtle picture. In another earlier time I would definitely have purchased it. We then made a day trip to Stone Henge, which neither of us had ever seen. It is all that I imagined, and then some.

Best of all there was a terrific METAL replica of Stone Henge in the gift shop, in addition to the matchbox size one that most of us have. There was also a coldcast version for those aficionados of coldcast.



Large (4"D) metal Stone Henge replica



Coldcast replica of Stone Henge

One of our last stops was Stratford-Upon-Avon where we stayed at the Alveston Manor, a Tudor-era inn with many additions and now a large hotel. We spent a day 'doing Shakespeare'. We started by riding the hop-on-off bus on its entire route. We then rode it again and disembarked at Anne Hathaway's Cottage. Our next stop was back in Stratford where we visited Holy Trinity Church and the grave of the Bard. From there, on a very rainy day, we made our way thru Stratford seeing other Shakespeare sites, passed the Garrick Inn and Harvard House, culminating on Henley Street at Shakespeare's Birthplace. We had saved the best for last and it did not disappoint.



**Top Alveston Manor
Bottom Harvard House**

In 2007, I visited Stratford, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Shakespeare's Birthplace. I bought every replica, large and small, of these iconic buildings that I could find. I also combed all of the many souvenir shops on Henley street for additional replicas and was so successful that I had to mail my cache home before continuing my travels.

On this 2019 trip I planned to break my no shopping resolve and to buy any and all Shakespeare and Hathaway replicas that I could find to add to my Shakespeare collection of almost 200 buildings. My first disappointment was in the Hathaway Cottage gift shop: not a single replica to



2007 Shakespeare Birthplace gift shop 'goodies'



2007 Henley Street souvenir shop 'goodies'

be seen! When we ended our Shakespeare day in the Birthplace gift shop, I was horrified. Again, not a single replica to be seen.

Then, to add insult to injury. I went in and out the many souvenir shops on Henley Street and saw only one so called Birthplace replica. It was completely out of scale and so cheaply done that I refused to spend the 6£ to purchase it. My own explanation for this situation is that the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust has 'branded' everything Shakespeare.

While they probably cannot brand the name, they can brand everything else that it may appear on. And, like their counterpart National Trust gift shops, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust has gone upscale and left the 'tackiness' of souvenir buildings in the dust. This is an English cautionary tale.

My disappointment and anguish was palpable, so much so that Michael consoled me with "Look at it this way; this makes your Shakespeare collection more valuable"! Well, if truth be known, I would have preferred to have been able to buy lots of new and different versions of Shakespeare's Birthplace.

Blimey!

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