

April 24, 1952

Hon. George H. Moore, President
Missouri Historical Society
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Judge Moore:

At the meeting of the Society yesterday it was pointed out that for the sesqui-centennial celebration approximately \$10,000 would be needed to defray the cost. I have discussed with Charles my suggestion and he recommends that I advise you of it.

Congress has been accustomed, in the past few years, to authorize the issuance of a commemorative half dollar with respect to certain events. These half dollars are coined by the government mints and are placed in the hands of a committee to sell at a premium. The premium is used for some proper public purpose.

You will recall that commemorative gold dollars were issued in 1904 with respect to the World's Fair in St. Louis commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the Louisiana purchase. I, therefore, believe it would be appropriate for efforts to be made to have a commemorative half dollar issued in connection with the sesqui-centennial. This requires the interest of a congressman to present a bill and carry it through Congress. This has been done over 50 times in the last 20 years.

I will be glad to discuss this matter further with you if you feel it has merit but I will be out of town during the month of May. I think the whole amount of the \$10,000 can be raised from this source and in that way the Society's general activities would get the benefit of the additional funds being put to permanent memberships.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

September 19, 1952

Mr. Tom Curtis
Security Building
St. Louis 1, Missouri

Dear Tom:

At your convenience I would like to learn what you were able to find out from Mr. Boggs concerning the proposed bill authorizing a coin commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase so that I can make a report to our next meeting of the Board of Trustees.

I sincerely appreciated your interest in the project and will be glad to cooperate with you in any manner I can.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

THOMAS B. CURTIS
12TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.

SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
EXPENDITURES IN THE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

September 23, 1952

7903 Forsyth Boulevard
Clayton 5, Missouri.

Mr. Eric P. Newman, Secretary
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thanks very much for your letter of September 19th, regarding what information I had been able to procure from Mr. Boggs concerning H.R. 7657, the proposed bill authorizing a coin commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase.

I received a letter from Mr. Boggs's secretary last week, telling me that he was expected back in Washington this week and that the matter would be brought to his attention immediately. As soon as I hear from him, you may be sure that I will contact you immediately.

Sincerely,


Thomas B. Curtis

TC:ms

THOMAS B. CURTIS
12TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.

SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
EXPENDITURES IN THE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

October 1, 1952

7903 Forsyth Boulevard
Clayton 5, Missouri.

Mr. Eric F. Newman, Secretary
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Referring further to our previous correspondence concerning the proposed bill commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, I have now received a response from Congressman Boggs, from which I quote.

"I did not succeed in obtaining action on this measure before adjournment of the 82nd Congress, but I plan to re-introduce the bill immediately upon the convening of the 83rd Congress and I would appreciate your cooperation very much indeed. I think that this event is of such significance throughout the Louisiana Purchase States that it justifies a commemorative coin."

You may be assured that I shall be glad to cooperate with Congressman Boggs in every way possible to bring about the desired results.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis

TC:ms

October 3, 1952

Hon. Thomas B. Curtis
7903 Forsyth Boulevard
Clayton 5, Missouri

Dear Tom:

Thank you for advising me of Congressman Boggs' position with respect to the Louisiana Purchase commemorative coin.

I think it would be wise, at this time, to ask Boggs on whose behalf he is submitting this bill and whether they would be willing to share equally the net proceeds from the sale of the coins with the Missouri Historical Society. As I indicated to you, the primary purpose of the Missouri Historical Society was to raise money in this way to spend on a celebration in this area, and, without the participation in the distribution of the coins I would not feel justified in asking you to devote your efforts to the passage of this bill. I, therefore, feel that if you could straighten this matter out with Congressman Boggs it would be very desirable.

Incidentally, I heard you made an excellent presentation last night speaking at the invitation of the World Federalists.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

THOMAS B. CURTIS
12TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.

SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
EXPENDITURES IN THE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

October 6, 1952

7903 Forsyth Boulevard
Clayton 5, Missouri.

Mr. Eric P. Newman, Secretary
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thanks very much for your letter of October 3rd
with further reference to the Louisiana Purchase commem-
orative coin.

I shall be very glad to take this matter up fur-
ther with Congressman Boggs along the line you suggest,
and will contact you just as soon as any information what-
ever is available.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis

TC:ms

LAW OFFICES
GREEN, HENNINGS, HENRY & EVANS
BOATMEN'S BANK BUILDING
ST. LOUIS 2, MO.

November 7, 1952

Mr. Wm. W. Crowds, President
Jefferson National Expansion
Memorial Association
The Old Court House
St. Louis 2, Missouri.

Dear Bill:

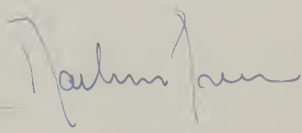
I have a copy of the preliminary draft of your letter to Mr. Gale F. Johnston in regard to our participation in the Louisiana Purchase Sesquicentennial Celebration.

I wholly agree with what you say, and have only one suggestion, or rather query to make: Since you are including the issuance of a commemorative stamp in the program outlined, perhaps you may wish to include also the issuance of a commemorative half dollar, with the proceeds, \$15,000.00 or \$20,000.00, possibly as much as \$100,000.00, to go to either the Government House Replica or the Sculptured Wagon Train. Mr. Eric Newman brought up the commemorative half dollar project at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Historical Society last summer. He has done a good deal of work upon it. The project was then designed to make the Missouri Historical Society the beneficiary of the proceeds, for the purpose of the Louisiana Purchase Celebration, but probably an arrangement for joint use could be made. You may wish to talk with Mr. Newman and possibly to include in your letter to Mr. Johnston something with regard to this.

Sincerely yours,

JRG MH

Cc- Messrs. Joseph E. Vollmar
Bernard F. Dickmann
Carl F. G. Meyer, III
Wm. S. Semsrott
Eric Newman



82^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7657

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 1952

Mr. BOGGS of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency

A BILL

To authorize the coinage of special 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the one hundredth and fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France by President Jefferson in 1803.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed
4 to coin special 50-cent pieces of standard size, weight,
5 and composition in commemoration of the one hundred and
6 fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Ter-
7 ritory from France by President Jefferson in 1803. Such
8 coins shall be coined in such numbers and in such design
9 as the Secretary of the Treasury may deem appropri-

82^d CONGRESS
2^d SESSION

H. R. 7657

A BILL

To authorize the coinage of special 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France by President Jefferson in 1803.

By Mr. Boggs of Louisiana

APRIL 30, 1952

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency

THOMAS B. CURTIS
12TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.

SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
EXPENDITURES IN THE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

November 10, 1952

7903 Forsyth Boulevard
Clayton 5, Missouri.


Mr. Eric P. Newman, Secretary
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thanks very much for your congratulatory note
and for the kind sentiments expressed therein. I
certainly appreciate your taking the time to write.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,


Thomas B. Curtis

TC:ms

January 9, 1953

Hon. Thomas B. Curtis
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tom:

I have been informed that Congressman Boggs has filed a Bill for a Louisiana Purchase Sesquicentennial half dollar and I hope that you will be able to file a similar Bill promptly as you indicated previously. Would you be kind enough to take care of this at your earliest convenience and if I can be of any help to you please let me know.

The Missouri Historical Society will arrange for publicity with respect to the Bill after you have filed it in an effort to create interest in and support for it.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

THOMAS B. CURTIS
12TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.

SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEES
EXPENDITURES IN THE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

January 21, 1953.

Mr. Eric P. Newman, Secretary,
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,
315 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri.

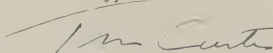
Dear Eric:

Thank you for writing me on January 9th with reference to the bill introduced by Congressman Boggs relating to a Louisiana Purchase Sesquicentennial half dollar.

I am having a bill drafted to be introduced by me on this matter and am due to have a conference with Congressman Boggs. I think we can work out something during the conference.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis.

TC:mb

THOMAS B. CURTIS
12TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.

SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
EXPENDITURES IN THE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

February 4, 1953.

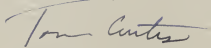
Mr. Eric P. Newman, Secretary,
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,
315 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Eric:

With further reference to your letter of January 9th, I am enclosing a copy of H. R. 2523, which is the bill I introduced on February 3rd for the coinage of a special 50-cent piece for the Louisiana Purchase Sesquicentennial.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis.

TC:mb

From
Tom Curtis
Congressman
Missouri 2nd District

83^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2523

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 1953

Mr. CURTIS of Missouri introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency

A BILL

To authorize the coinage of special 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France by President Jefferson in 1803.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed
4 to coin special 50-cent pieces of standard size, weight, and
5 composition in commemoration of the one hundred and
6 fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory
7 from France by President Jefferson in 1803. Such coins
8 shall be coined in such numbers and in such design as the
9 Secretary of the Treasury may deem appropriate, and shall
10 be legal tender to the amount of their face value.

1 SEC. 2. All laws in force on the date of the enactment
2 of this Act, whether penal or otherwise, relating to the
3 subsidiary silver coins of the United States and the coining
4 or striking thereof, regulating and guarding the process of
5 coinage, providing for the purchase of material and for the
6 transportation, distribution, and redemption of coins, pro-
7 viding for the prevention of debasement or counterfeiting and
8 for the security of the coin, or otherwise relating to coinage,
9 shall, insofar as they are applicable, apply to the coinage
10 herein authorized.

83^d CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 2523

A BILL

To authorize the coinage of special 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France by President Jefferson in 1803.

By Mr. CURTIS of Missouri

FEBRUARY 3, 1953

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency

February 9, 1953

Hon. Thomas B. Curtis
122 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tom:

Thank you very much for introducing House Bill
2523 with respect to the Louisiana Purchase
Sesquicentennial half dollar.

If there is anything which I, or any member
of the Missouri Historical Society Directorate
can do with respect to assisting you in this
matter please do not hesitate to call upon us.

I will be interested to learn how you work
things out with Representative Boggs, of
Louisiana.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

THOMAS B. CURTIS
12TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.

SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEES:
EXPENDITURES IN THE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

February 12, 1953.

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
c/o Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,
315 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Newman:

On behalf of Congressman Curtis, who is away from Washington for a few days, I want to acknowledge your letter of February 9th concerning H. R. 2523.

Your letter will be brought to Mr. Curtis' attention immediately upon his return to Washington and you will doubtless hear from him at that time.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Ballinger
Secretary.

mb

THOMAS B. CURTIS
2d DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS

DISTRICT SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF
110 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON 5, MISSOURI
VOLUNTEER 3-7500

WASHINGTON SECRETARY
MRS. MARILYN BALLENGER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

February 19, 1953.

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
c/o Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,
315 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Eric:

I had a long talk with Hale Boggs yesterday and he is just as anxious to work with us, I believe, as we are with him. ~~He~~ made this suggestion -- that we furnish to him the names of our interested people in St. Louis so that he can forward them on to the interested parties in New Orleans. Then these two groups could get together direct and work between each other. I believe this is somewhat along the lines I suggested to you. I am sending to Hale a few names that I know but would appreciate it if you would supply me with more names. Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Hale.

One suggestion that Boggs made was that inasmuch as St. Louis had celebrated the centennial in 1904 and there was a question of the dates 1803 and 1804 with St. Louis picking the 1804 date as the date of transfer and Louisiana 1803, that perhaps the sale of the coin could be set up so that the Louisiana group would have the 1803 date and St. Louis take the 1804 and so sell their coins in 1954. This may be just a good Louisiana trick and they might take over the original market in 1953. On the other hand, we might find that inasmuch as they sold theirs in 1952, with the impetus given by the Louisiana people, it would be very good.

I would appreciate your comments but, above all, please have your group contact the Louisiana group.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis.

TBC:mb

COPY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Hale Boggs,
House Office Building,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Hale:

In confirmation of our conversation, I am setting forth below the names and addresses of the parties interested in the Louisiana Purchase Sesqui-centennial memorial coin:

Mr. Edward Everett Swain, Kirksville, Mo.
Mr. Floyd Calvin Shoemaker, Columbia, Mo.
Mr. Eric P. Newman, 515 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri.

The primary group is the Missouri Historical Society and Mr. Swain is President and Mr. Shoemaker is Secretary of that Society.

I have written to my people to get further names for you.

I would appreciate it if you would forward to me the names and addresses of your key personnel which I can forward to my St. Louis group although, as I told you, I believe they are already in touch with each other.

I am also checking with my group as to your suggestion that they use the year 1954.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Curtis.

TBC:ab

THOMAS B. CURTIS
2d District, Missouri

122 OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS

DISTRICT SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF
110 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON 5, MISSOURI
VOLUNTEER 3-7500

WASHINGTON SECRETARY
MRS. MARILYN BALLENGER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

February 25, 1953.

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Referring further to my letter of the 19th, I am herewith enclosing the name of Mr. E. V. Richards, Jr., who is the Chairman of the Louisiana Sesquicentennial Commission, whose address is 609 International Building, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Wale Boggs advises that he has written to Mr. Richards, giving him the names of Mr. Swain and the others included in my letter to him of February 19th.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis

TC:MS

February 26, 1953

Hon. Thomas B. Curtis
122 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tom:

I am very pleased that you had the opportunity to speak to Congressman Boggs about the proposed Louisiana Purchase commemorative coin.

I believe that if we are to cooperate with the Louisiana group in getting this bill through Congress that we should share the benefits of the Louisiana Purchase half dollar equally and that any assignment of one year for one group and another year for another group will operate unfairly to one of the parties. There is no reason why the coin could not be put out in succeeding years if it becomes a popular souvenir. We celebrate the year 1803 just as Louisiana does. The reason why the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis was not celebrated in 1903 was merely because of the delays caused by a flood on the river and principally due to the fact that the foreign exhibitors needed more time to prepare their exhibits.

I do want to clarify the fact that the Missouri Historical Society which, among other things, operates the Jefferson Memorial in St. Louis is entirely separate from the State Historical Society of Missouri at Columbia. The Missouri Historical Society's President is Judge George Moore and the Secretary is John Francis McDermott. Men on the Board of the Missouri Historical Society who are interested in the authorization of the commemorative coin include James Douglas, John Rayburn Green, Isaac A. Long, William G. B. Carson, Thomas B. Hennings, Jr., Wesley McAfee and the writer.

I am sending this letter in duplicate to you so that you can give a copy to Congressman Boggs.

Thank you, again, for your continued interest.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

For hearing on -

① Carter asks that he try to settle with the La Groups how they & how short for want to withdraw the sponsorship - and then each group to let their man know - not to let Carter know, because in leaving the question was asked Bogg of he & Carter were together Bogg said - I think so, but am not sure. Therefore by Carter - we should get the principal together on who gets the coin first, when, where & under what circumstances.

② Com members of the hearing, B will be later in the day

asked Curtis if he would amend
his bill to prevent a coin dealer or
dealers from getting Kellogg's right
to sell a whole set (that is,
prevent the organization from getting
an exclusive right to offer
to sell a set of pieces - to offer
the whole set) - another approach
is to own the things & let public
get them through regular channels

Curtis is chairman of the
& Kellogg's dealer idea - he thinks
the book protection - but still
keeps it that he should
get it proper. He won't

suggest on sponsorship and
Committee of Congressmen re the
dealer end.

Senju'centennial Commission of the State of Louisiana
and

Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary Association

600 International Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Alvin Thomas John Ryan (Ret.)

Admiral Howard, 2000 miles of
the coast

Page 31 - I understand
the low land has not
been successful in
land raises - and in fact
for the city of Philadelphia
has had trouble despoiling of
the 30,000" property
for L.P. 1903

(COPY)

THOMAS B. CURTIS
2d District, Missouri

122 Old House Office Building

Committee
Ways and Means

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

February 27, 1953

District Secretary
George R. Wolf
110 South Central Avenue
Clayton 5, Mo.
Volunteer 3-7500

Washington Secretary
Mrs. Marilyn Hallenger

Mr. Charles van Ravenswaay, Director
Missouri Historical Society,
Jefferson Memorial Building,
St. Louis 12, Mo.

Dear Mr. van Ravenswaay:

Thank you for your very kind letter of February 24th. I am taking the liberty of sending the brochure which you enclosed to Congressman Boggs. I would very much appreciate it if you could send me two more copies of the brochure. I would like to have one for my use and I am sure Congressman Boggs would like to have one to send to his people in New Orleans.

I have just been advised by the House Banking and Currency Committee that the Committee expects to hold hearings on this matter on March 3rd, which is next Tuesday. I would very much appreciate being advised if you or any other interested persons would care to appear before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Tom Curtis

Thomas B. Curtis

TC:mb

February 27, 1953

Mr. Clay Shaw, Manager
International Trade Mart,
New Orleans, La.

Dear Mr. Shaw:

As you probably know, bills are pending in Congress calling for the minting of a half dollar to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. The Missouri Historical Society is working with Representative Curtis, of Missouri, on the latter's bill and we understand that an organization in New Orleans has been cooperating with Congressman Boggs on the latter's bill.

Can you give me the name of the New Orleans organization interested in the commemorative half dollar and the name and address of its president?

Sincerely,

Cc Mr. Eric P. Newman



CvR:mc

March 2, 1953

Mr. A. T. Leimbach, Vice-President
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Leimbach:

Attached is a memorandum of your annual corporate gift to the Missouri Historical Society.

There is something in these times of world tension that seems to move many Americans to look back on the road we have traveled.

Were there other periods that seemed as stormy? What struggles and sacrifices brought us here? What is the inherent difference between the lot of the common man here and abroad? Why the remarkable stimulus to science, invention, development of resources, manufacture and distribution?

These are a few of the questions that we are helping to answer, and our ability to meet the demands of the public is today measured largely by the staunch assistance of far-sighted business leaders like yourself.

Your contribution is greatly appreciated, and we believe that it is an investment, not only in a great civic asset, but in the future of America.

Should you desire to become a corporate member, a schedule of dues is enclosed. The names of corporate members are displayed on handsome plaques hung in the entrance to the Museum, and appear on the cover of each issue of the BULLETIN.

Cordially,

George H. Moore,
President

P.S. Many firms are drawing on us for assistance in anniversary celebrations, house organ material, advertising, copyright data, and so on. We will be happy to serve you in any way.

G.H.M.

D. Carlos Dehau [REDACTED] sus en calidad de Teniente
 de Gobernador de ella. p. de su requerimiento que debida
 mente se me hizo por el citado Amos Stoddart, acor-
 te y comisionado de la Respublica Francesa le entrego
 la plena posesion Soberania, y Politico de la mencionada
 Luisiana alta con todos los Puertos Militares
 Puertos, y Fortificaciones que dependen, y por el
 referido Amos Stoddart como tal Comisionado
 reconozco haber recibido la dicha posesion en los
 mismos terminos que queda presente de que me
 doy por satisfecho y conforme a este dia en cargo
 de mi alma el susodicho D. Carlos Teniente de Goberna-
 dor y yo hemos firmado respectivamente
 con nuestros sellos con el dicho de memoria
 y hemos asistido de los testigos - los firmados
 de las quales se sacaron seis copias para tres de
 ellas en Villanova Espinosa y las otras tres en el dicho
 Dado en la Villa de S. Luis de Montevideo y
 de Marco de 1763

Amos Stoddart



D. Carlos Dehau
 Teniente de Gobernador
 de Luisiana



Amos Stoddart



D. Carlos Dehau
 Teniente de Gobernador

Both of them

of public business to be
made side by side in

— cut off what was

of work

of work

of work

to be done

En consecuencia de carta expedida en Nueva Orleans en 12 de Diciembre del año último de 1763 por los Señores Marques de Casa Coburg y Marquis de Salcedo Comandantes de los M^{tes} Ex^{tos} y Comisionados por S. M. C. para la entrega de la Provincia de la Luisiana a la Republica Francesa dirigida al Señor D. Carlos Dehaute Delorme Comandante de los mismos M^{tes} Ex^{tos} Teniente de Gobernador de la Luisiana alta y Comisionado por dichos Señores para la entrega de ella segun el contenido de dicha carta que previene de poner en amplia y entera posesion de la expresada Luisiana y de comprehendidos los Puertos Militares de S. Luis y sus dependencias al Sr. Pedro Clemente Laussat Comisionado por la enuncada Republica Francesa para tomar posesion de la insinuada Colonia y Provincia de la Luisiana o qualquiera otra que este exprese y nombre para el efecto, y arreglo al ultimo Tratado de Transaccion.

Como por carta expedida en la misma Ciudad de Orleans en 12 de Enero de este año el Comisario de la Republica Francesa, establece, constituye y nombra por unico agente, y Comisario de parte de su Nacion a Amos Stoddart, Capitan de Artilleria de los Estados Unidos de America para pedir y recibir la expresada Luisiana y de comprehendidos los denominados Puertos Militares de S. Luis y sus dependencias, en virtud de los Poderes respectivos que quedan explicados. Separe por esta presentes como yo el referido

Dear Sir

Washington. U.S. of America. July 4. 1803.

In the journey which you are about to undertake for the discovery of the course and source of the Mississippi, and of the most convenient water communication from thence to the Pacific ocean, your party being small, it is to be expected that you will encounter considerable dangers from the Indian inhabitants. should you escape those dangers and reach the Pacific ocean, you may find it imprudent to hazard a return the same way, and be forced to seek a passage round by sea, in such vessels as you may find on the Western coast. but you will be without money, without clothes & other necessaries; as a sufficient supply cannot be carried with you from hence. your resource in that case can only be in the credit of the U.S. for such purpose I hereby authorize you to draw on the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of War & of the Navy of the U.S. according as you may find your draughts will be most negotiable, for the purpose of obtaining money or necessaries for yourself & your men: and I solemnly pledge the faith of the United States that these draughts shall be paid punctually at the date they are made payable. I also ask of the Consuls, agents, merchants & citizens of any nation with which we have intercourse or amity, to furnish you with those supplies which your necessities may call for, assuring them of honorable and prompt retaliation. and our own Consuls in foreign parts where you may happen to be, are hereby instructed & required to be aiding & assisting to you in whatsoever may be necessary for procuring your return back to the United States. And to give more entire satisfaction & confidence to those who may be disposed to aid you, I Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America, have written this letter of general credit ^{for you} with my own hand, and signed it with my name.

Th. Jefferson

To

Capt. Meriwether Lewis.

By virtue of an Order issued at New Orleans on the 31st of December of last year 1803 by Senores the Marquis of Casa-Calvo and Don Juan Manuel Salcedo, Brigadiers of the Royal Armies and Commissioners of His Catholic Majesty for the delivery of the Colony and Province of Upper Louisiana to the French Republic, and directed to Senor Lon Carlos Dehault Delassus, Colonel of the said Royal Armies, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Louisiana and commissioned by the said Senores to make said Delivery, according to the tenor of said Order, which directs him to deliver full and entire possession of said Province of Upper Louisiana, including the Military Posts of Saint Louis and its Dependencies, to Sr. Pedro Clemente Laussat, Commissioner of said French Republic to take possession of the said Colony and Province of Louisiana, or to whatever other person whom he may designate and appoint for that purpose, in conformity to the late Treaty of Retrocession;

And whereas by an order issued at the said New Orleans on the 12th January of this year, the said Commissioner of the French Republic designates, constitutes and appoints as the sole Agent and Commissioner on behalf of his Nation, Amos Stoddard, Captain of Artillery of the United States of America, to demand and receive the said Upper Louisiana, including the Military Posts of Saint Louis and its Dependencies; by virtue of the respective powers aforesaid.

BE IT KNOWN BY THESE PRESENTS that I the aforesaid Don Carlos Dehault Delassus, acting as Lieutenant Governor thereof, and in pursuance of the demand duly made upon me by the said Amos Stoddard, Agent and Commissioner of the French Republic, do deliver to him the full possession, Sovereignty and Government of the said Upper Louisiana, with all the Military Posts, Barracks and Fortifications therunto pertaining; and I the said Amos Stoddard, as such Commissioner, acknowledge to have received the said possession in the same terms aforesaid to my full satisfaction on this day; in testimony of which the aforesaid Senor Lieutenant Governor and I have respectively signed these presents, sealed with the Seals of our Arms, in the presence of the witnesses undersigned; whereof six copies have been made, three of them in the Spanish language and the other three in English.

Given at the Village of Saint Louis of Illinois, 9 March 1804.

Meriwether Lewis,
Capt. 1st U. S. Regt. Inftry.

Amos Stoddard
(Seal)

Antonio Soulard
As Adjutant of Lt. Gov.

Carlos Dehault Delassus
(Seal)

Ch. Gratiot.

At the Government House, March 9th, 1804, Carlos Dehault Delassus, the Spanish Commandant in St. Louis, transferred possession of Upper Louisiana to Captain Amos Stoddard of the United States Artillery Service, who had been delegated by France as its representative. From mid-afternoon until the following morning the French Flag flew for the last time. On the morning of March 10th, Captain Stoddard, as the agent of the United States, took formal possession and raised the American Flag

The enclosed document represents the transfer from Spain to France

Formal transfer of the Territory of Louisiana from France to the United States was made at New Orleans, Dec. 20, 1803, but President Jefferson required that a separate surrender of Upper Louisiana should be made at St. Louis. After the transfer at New Orleans there was no Governor acting for Upper Louisiana. It was necessary to appoint an agent to act for France and the United States to make the surrender and to receive the transfer. Accordingly Captain Amos Stoddard of the U. S. Artillery was appointed Commissioner for the United States, and Laussat named him to act for the French Republic also.



...a vital,
aggressive,
imaginative
source of ideas
and information

THE MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

...for service
and use in
modern living,
business,
and education

On August 11, 1866, when St. Louis was returning to peace after the tragic years of the Civil War, when the significance of its frontier period was first becoming apparent, a group of pioneers and sons of pioneers met together in Circuit Court Room No. 1 of the historic St. Louis Court House to organize the Missouri Historical Society.

They met on the invitation of Professor Elihu Hotchkiss Shepard, a native of Vermont, a veteran of three wars, and an educator. Others in the group included Judge Edward Bates, attorney-general in President Lincoln's cabinet; Peter E.

Blow, whose family had been involved in the famous Dred Scott case; the Rev. William Greenleaf Eliot, founder of Washington University; the distinguished German-born physicians and scientists, Drs. George Engelmann and A. Wislizenus; James E. Yeatman, philanthropist; Henry Kayser, the engineer who had assisted Robert E. Lee in clearing the St. Louis harbor; George Knapp, editor of the *St. Louis Republican*; Henry Shaw, who had come from England to make a fortune as a merchant and was now engaged in developing his great botanical garden; Robert Campbell, the fur trader; Charles P. and Gabriel S. Chouteau, and others.

All were convinced of the public need for preserving the history of the region. A constitution was drawn and officers elected, with James H. Lucas, the distinguished civic leader, as the first president.

The purposes of the Society were given in 1866 as being "to discover, procure and preserve whatever of interest may relate to the natural, civil, literary, and ecclesiastical history of St. Louis and Missouri." In 1876, it had become so obvious that the history of Missouri was interwoven with the westward expansion of the nation that the scope of the Society was broadened to include the collection and preservation of historical objects and data within the Louisiana Purchase Territory.

Founded 1866

The Missouri Historical Society is housed in the Jefferson Memorial Building, located on the north side of Forest Park in St. Louis at what was the main entrance to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904. It was in the rooms of the Society that the first plans for this great world's fair were made, and, at its close, it was the decision of the directors to build the Memorial as a permanent monument to Thomas Jefferson and to house the activities of the Society. The building was designed by Isaac S. Taylor and dedicated on April 30, 1913.



. . . but even more important than the collection and preservation of historical materials . . . of St. Louis, the state of Missouri, and the Louisiana Purchase Territory . . . has been the continued belief of the Society in making this material useful. The Society has always believed that the experiences of the past can serve to broaden and enrich the lives and economy of each succeeding generation. Its collections and facilities are dedicated to that purpose.



View of the Society's well-known "Steamboat Room" seen through the spokes of a giant pilot wheel. The big wheel originally was mounted in the pilot house of the famous steamboat, "Susie Hazard."

The Society's free public Museum (open from 9:30 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily) traces the history of St. Louis and the Louisiana Purchase area from the prehistoric Indian period to the present day.

It is the only museum in this region to specialize in the arts and crafts of the early Middle West. Its collections of furniture, silver, costumes, prints, and portraits of historic personalities are of particular significance. The collection of paintings represents most of the artists working in this area during the 19th century and includes examples by George Caleb Bingham, Carl Wimar, Chester Harding, Sarah Peale, J. R. Meeker, Ferdinand T. L. Boyle, as well as portraits by Samuel F. B. Morse, St. Memin, and others.

In the Franklin W. Olin Galleries are displayed impressive collections of early American firearms and war trophies, the largest group of which relate to the Mexican and Civil Wars.

The "Port of St. Louis" Gallery recalls the steamboat era of this city by prints and portraits, and exhibits of steamboat models, and equipment used on historic boats.

The Charles A. Lindbergh collection of trophies, memorializing his famous flights, is world famous and has drawn approximately 25,000,000 visitors since its installation in 1927.

Other galleries contain special exhibits of volunteer fire department apparatus, old costumes and accessories, and the many other items that provide a resume of the business, political, and cultural history of this region.

Of special interest to visitors is the Martin Lammert Gallery—where displays are created, from Museum and Library archives, to give background and historic meaning to present day events *as they are occurring* in St. Louis.

The Museum serves many uses.

For more than 250,000 visitors each year, it is the only visual means by which they are introduced to this nation's past.

Its collections form the basis of a formal educational program for school children.

It is in constant use as a source of ideas and data by alert individuals, civic institutions, and corporations . . . by designers, architects, creators of modern merchandise . . . by historians and antiquarians.

Its comprehensive collection of early prints, photographs, and original sketches is widely used as a source of illustrations for books, newspapers, and magazines.

Museum

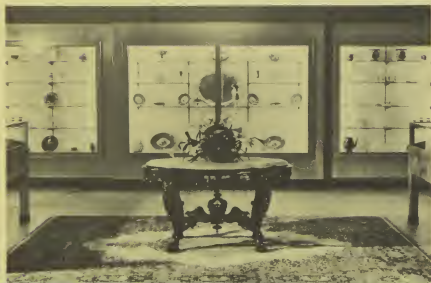


The guns, tools and equipment displayed here are from the historic Hawken-Gemmer gun shop in St. Louis and are now included in the popular firearms exhibit in the Franklin W. Olin Galleries, second floor of the Society's building.

These brass breastplates, the helmet, lance-heads, and skull-and-crossbones flag were captured by an American soldier during the War with Mexico (1846-1848). The bronze cannon were originally used to defend Texas missions. This display is featured in the Society's Franklin W. Olin Galleries.



A crowd of visitors tours the Museum.



Crystal, china and furnishings from the past were featured in this special exhibit in the Martin Lammert Gallery, east wing of the Society's building.



More than a million manuscripts are on file in the Society's Manuscript room. Here, Mrs. Frances R. Biese, archivist, discusses a document with Ernst C. Krohn, musicologist.

Library

The Society's historical reference library is one of national importance.

It serves an ever-expanding use throughout the United States by authors and historians, by magazines, newspapers, radio and television.

It is being used increasingly by modern business which finds its collection of business history—including early records, posters, catalogs, and prints—of particular value in supplying ideas and information for everything from dramatizing anniversaries to defending trademarks to creating modern merchandise.

The Library's books and pamphlets number more than 80,000, many of them unique and valuable. Its newspaper collection includes more than 2,000 bound volumes of newspapers, not only relating to Missouri but also files of other rare early American journals. The Manuscript Room contains about 1,000,000 documents—large collections of early letters, diaries, account books and other records of significant personalities and events. These include 1,000 original letters of Thomas Jefferson; some of the original journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition, as well as many letters written by those explorers; important collections of documents relating to Aaron Burr, Andrew Jackson, George Rogers Clark, William Greenleaf Eliot, William Torrey Harris, J. B. C. Lucas; large collections of Mexican and Civil War documents, and the Spanish colonial archives of the Missouri area. The Society's collection of fur trade documents is considered the most notable in existence.

Obviously, such a collection is beyond price, representing vital sources of information not duplicated anywhere else. It is one of the proudest possessions of St. Louis.

The Library, of necessity, with its rare and fragile items, cannot be opened to public use. Its facilities are available to the individual and corporate members of the Society and for the specialized use of authors, historians, journalists, civic and business leaders.

Miss Barbara Kell, reference librarian, takes one of the hundreds of rare books from its place in an antique bookcase.

Several old bookcases, dating from the period of the Society's founding, are in use in the library reading room.



Mrs. Harvey H. Gieseher, librarian, checks an old St. Louis song included in the Society's large collection of Midwestern sheet music and musical data.

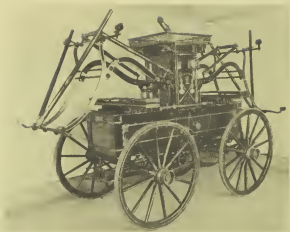


The Missouri Historical Society preserves the publications of today . . . magazines which are the historical relics of tomorrow. Mrs. Robert E. Hermann, librarian, studies incoming industrial publications produced in this area.



Miss Esther Mueller, staff assistant, carefully mounts one of the valuable old prints contained in the Society's extensive collection.





This old pumper wagon was built in Philadelphia in 1836, restored by the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Historical Society of St. Louis in 1898. Now, the wagon is part of the Missouri Historical Society's popular Volunteer Fire Department exhibit.

“ . . . to make the past serve each succeeding generation for the better understanding of their common heritage . . . ”

The major public service of the Society is its responsibility for preserving the records and objects of history for their present and future use. Without the Society's work, much concerning significant events of the past would have been permanently lost, and the memory of distinguished personalities who contributed to the growth of this area and of the nation, very largely forgotten.

Of equal importance, in any period of change and propaganda, the Society's collection—together with those of similar organizations throughout the country—serves to hamper those who would distort the facts of our history.

This public service is a continuing one . . . the history of today, as well as yesterday, must be preserved for tomorrow.

The Society's collections serve education in many different ways.

An educational project for school children, sponsored by the Famous-Barr Company, explains local and national history in terms of the facts and objects which helped shape our past. Daniel Boone becomes understandable when a youngster is shown the rifle he used. They finger a pilot wheel, look at steamboat models, see the souvenirs of the race of the *Natchez* and the *Robert E. Lee*, and the steamboat era comes alive in a way which textbooks can never effect. The shabby, faded homespun uniform of a private in the Confederate Army blasts any legendary glamour about that tragic conflict.

Under the Famous-Barr grant, classes of school children engage in a fascinating Museum tour and instructional program directed by two Society staff members. During the year 1951-52, more than 14,000 children from 187 public, private and parochial schools and scout groups participated.

The adult public finds the Museum equally exciting. Never before has the man on the street been more interested in exploring the whole panorama of our past, and the Museum serves to bring that past alive. New Americans seek here the explanation of how this nation, their new home, grew, and in learning of the many races and many cultures which helped shape its growth, find that America is not quite as strange as they first thought it.

Public
Services



History becomes a living subject to the school children participating in the Famous-Barr Education Project. Here, the children thoughtfully inspect a model of the old river boat, the "Howard W. Alt," on display in the Steamboat Room. Project Supervisor Mary Jane Waldemer looks on from the right.



A group of youngsters takes a personal interest in this special exhibit of Indian relics in the Martin Lammert Gallery. Mrs. Franklin Nugent, formerly assistant supervisor of the Famous-Barr Education Project, discusses Indian lore with the children.



A group of grade school youngsters have a folk song-fest as part of the Famous-Barr Education Project. These children are just a few of the thousands who visit the Society each year under the Famous-Barr project. Miss Mary Jane Waldemer, supervisor of the project, plays the organ and Miss Elizabeth Jean Wass, assistant supervisor, leads the singing.



Guests relax during a recent monthly meeting of the Society held in the Lindbergh Trophy Gallery.

“ . . . to share in the pleasure and pride of participating in the support and development of an important civic institution . . . ”

The specialized services of the Society, as outlined on previous pages, are directed primarily to its members, both individual and corporate.

They are privileged to use the library and reference facilities . . . to attend the programs and meetings scheduled from October through April . . . and to receive the Society's illustrated historical quarterly magazine, *THE BULLETIN*.

THE BULLETIN is sent to every state in the Union and to many foreign countries.

In addition, the Society seeks the cooperation of its members in maintaining complete and accurate genealogical and biographical files, both for current as well as future reference use, acting as the single agency for the permanent preservation of such data. It also serves as the custodian of significant family and corporate documents, portraits and memorabilia, thus preserving for individual as well as public use, material which would otherwise be destroyed.

Services
to Members

BULLETIN

JULY 1950



MISSOURI
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

*All Society members receive copies of the organization's illustrated historical quarterly magazine, **THE BULLETIN**.*

Throughout its many years of service, the Missouri Historical Society derived its entire support from private contributions.

... from its individual and corporate membership dues.

... from gifts.

... and income from bequests.

By their financial support, St. Louisans and St. Louis business and industry have given recognition to the vital importance of the Society's purpose and progress. *And they are giving increasing recognition to the great work in this field that is still to be done.*

Privately supported for the public good

NOTE:

Although the Society has never received any funds from the City of St. Louis or the State of Missouri, the city maintains the exterior of the Jefferson Memorial Building, provides heat, light and water, and maintains guards in the Lindbergh trophy exhibit. Title to the building is vested in the city.

For additional information
 on Society membership, gifts,
 or bequests, please contact
 the Director or Trustees or write to
 the Secretary of the Society, Jefferson
 Memorial Building, St. Louis 12, Mo.

Individual Memberships

Active.....	\$ 10.00 annually.
Sustaining.....	25.00 "
Life Endowment.....	500.00

Corporate Memberships

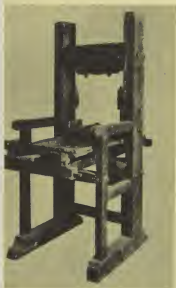
Under 250 employees.....	\$100.00 annually.
251 to 500 employees.....	200.00 "
501 to 750 employees.....	300.00 "
751 to 1000 employees.....	400.00 "
Over 1000 employees.....	500.00

Gifts and Bequests

Gifts and bequests to the Society serve a twofold purpose . . . as continuing memorials to the donor, and of lasting benefit to the community in preserving our American heritage, in enlarging the Society's historical resources and services.

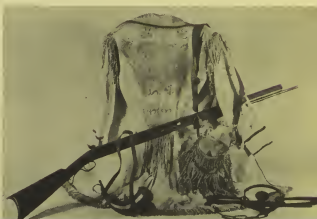
These gifts and bequests—including membership dues and the market valuation of gift objects—are all deductible for income tax purposes.

Among the bequests made to the Society in the past have been the Bixby, Waterhouse, McMillan and Hammond funds, established as book purchasing or publication funds for the Library and serving as continuing memorials for their donors.



The second newspaper west of the Mississippi, established in 1819, came off this small and well-worn printing press. Today, the press is on display in the Society's downstairs gallery.

A look at this fur trapper's outfit takes the viewer back to the frontier days. The display includes a buckskin coat, beaver trap and Daniel Boone's rifle.



Other valuable assistance has come in the form of special gifts from corporations for the purpose of developing Museum exhibition space. The Martin Lammert Gallery and the Franklin W. Olin Gallery are outstanding examples.

From time to time, the special gifts of friends make it possible to purchase valuable Museum items, to restore portraits, or for other special uses.

but . . . much remains to be done!

In recent years, the generous support given the Society by individuals and by the outstanding business concerns of St. Louis have enabled it to carry on and to even increase its services despite higher costs in every direction.

But . . . much remains to be done . . . if the Society's treasures are to be preserved as they should be preserved, if its staff and services and facilities are to be properly maintained and intelligently expanded, if it is to fully accomplish its vital purpose in the community and region it serves.

In addition to the continuing need for general funds—through memberships, gifts and bequests—there are numerous special projects which require special assistance. As examples . . .

- The complete refurbishing of the Museum.
- The development of a St. Louis Museum of Fashion.
- The establishment of a Print and Photograph Room.
- The development of a Newspaper Library.
- The creation of a Museum Purchase Fund.

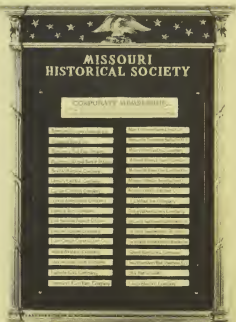
The Society knows that all this and more will be accomplished . . . for no other historical society in the nation has such a record of such diversified and active participation by business and individuals.



Museum Curator Marjory Douglas, right, and Miss Katherine C. Klauber, Museum assistant, prepare a special display from the Society's extensive costume collection.

SUGGESTED FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri, the sum of (insert amount of money or describe property) which shall be held by the Society as an endowment and shall be known as the (state name) Fund to honor the memory of (state full name), the income from said endowment to be used for such of the Society's purposes as its Board of Trustees in their discretion may determine.



One of the two plaques listing the Society's corporate members.

Adams Dairy, Inc.
 American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Company
 Anheuser-Busch, Inc.
 Bank of St. Louis
 Blackmer & Post Pipe Company
 Boatmen's National Bank of St. Louis
 Boyd-Richardson Company
 Century Electric Company
 Coca-Cola Bottling Company of St. Louis
 Continental Grain Company
 Cook's Imperial Champagne
 Curlee Clothing Company
 D'Arcy Advertising Company
 H. B. Deal & Company
 John Deere Plow Company
 Famous-Barr Company
 First National Bank in St. Louis
 Fleishel Lumber Company
 Fleishman, Hillard & Associates
 Frazier-Davis Construction Company
 Fruin-Colnon Contracting Company
 International Shoe Company
 Keeler-Morris Printing Company
 Laclede Gas Company
 Laclede Steel Company
 Lammert Furniture Company
 Lewis-Howe Company
 Manufacturers Bank & Trust Company
 Mercantile Trust Company
 Meyer Brothers Drug Company
 Midwest Piping & Supply Company
 Mississippi River Fuel Corporation
 Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Company
 Missouri Pacific Railroad Company
 T. J. Moss Tie Company
 Nooter Corporation
 Olin Industries
 Orchard Paper Company
 Pevely Dairy Company
 Potosi Tie & Lumber Company
 Price, Waterhouse & Company
 St. Louis Globe-Democrat
 St. Louis Post-Dispatch
 St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company
 St. Louis Southwestern Railway Lines
 St. Louis Union Trust Company
 Scruggs-Vandervoort-Barney, Inc.
 Sears Roebuck & Company
 Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
 Stix, Baer & Fuller
 John S. Swift Company, Inc.
 Tools and Supplies, Inc.
 Union Electric Company
 Wabash Railroad Company
 D. P. Williams & Company

CORPORATE
 MEMBERS . . .

& SUBSCRIBERS

A. S. Aloe Company
 American Automobile Insurance Company
 Harland Bartholomew & Associates
 Blackwell Wielandy Company
 Central Hardware Company
 Edison Bros. Stores, Inc.
 Ely & Walker Dry Goods Company
 Thomas W. Garland, Inc.
 General American Life Insurance Company
 Griesedieck Western Brewery Company
 Kline's, Inc.
 Krey Packing Company
 McDonnell Aircraft Corporation
 Mavrakos Candy Company
 The Medart Company
 Mississippi Valley Barge Line Company
 Monsanto Chemical Company
 Renard Linoleum & Rue Company
 St. Louis Public Service Company
 S. C. Sachs Company, Inc.
 Swope Shoe Company
 Charles F. Welek & Company, Inc.
 F. W. Woolworth Company

Two visitors view the plaque listing major attractions on the second floor of the Society's building.



OFFICERS

The Hon. George H. Moore
President

Isaac A. Long
1st Vice-President

Warren B. Lammert
2nd Vice-President

William B. Ewald
Treasurer

William H. Semsrott
Assistant Treasurer

John Francis McDermott
Secretary

Eric P. Newman
Assistant Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Daniel Bartlett

Ralph F. Bixby

W. G. B. Carson

Edward G. Cherbonnier

The Hon. James M. Douglas

L. Busch Faust

Dudley French

Fred A. Gerber

McCune Gill

C. W. Godefroy

John Raeburn Green

Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr.

Robert E. Hillard

Arthur C. Hoskins

Harold T. Jolley

Wilbur B. Jones

Ernest Kirschten

Richard J. Lockwood

Frank M. Mayfield

J. Wesley McAfee

C. F. G. Meyer III

Stratford Lee Morton

Robert Otto

John H. Porter

Dr. Robert J. Terry

Collins Thompson

STAFF

Charles van Ravenswaay
Director

Mrs. Dana O. Jensen
Editor of the BULLETIN

Miss Nanky Cole
Secretary to the Director

MUSEUM

Miss Marjory Douglas
Curator

Miss Katherine C. Klauber
Museum Assistant

Miss Esther B. Mueller
Staff Assistant in Charge of Lindbergh Collection

LIBRARY

Miss Barbara Kell
Reference Librarian

Mrs. Brenda R. Gieseke
Librarian

Mrs. Frances R. Biese
Archivist

Mrs. Robert Hermann
Assistant Librarian

FAMOUS-BARR EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

Miss Mary Jane Waldemer
Supervisor

Miss Elizabeth Jean Wass
Assistant

MAINTENANCE

Charles Pavletich
Joseph Wilkins

layout • H. W. Collins, Jr.

MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL BUILDING



Privately supported for the public good

AT THE DEBALIVIERE AVENUE ENTRANCE TO FOREST PARK • ROSEDALE 3722 • ST. LOUIS 12, MISSOURI

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a full rate telegram	
FULL RATE TELEGRAM	SERIAL
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

WESTERN UNION

1206

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	DEFERRED
CODE	NIGHT LETTER

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED
			Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

St. Louis, Missouri

March 2, 1953

Hon. Thomas B. Curtis

House Office Building

Washington, D. C.

William Semsrott, Trustee of Missouri Historical Society and
President of Associated Retailers will appear Tuesday morning
at commemorative coin hearing if train not delayed.

1:25 P. M.

Eric P. Newman

WESTERN
UNION

WESTERN
UNION

WESTERN
UNION

WESTERN
UNION

WT 1236 DL RD

WASHINGTON DC MAR 3 150P

ERIC NEWMAN

EDISON BROS

BOGGS AND ADMIRAL RYAN, RETIRED, APPROVED THEIR BILL 1917.

CURTIS AND I FOR 2523. WE JOINED FORCES WITH CURTIS APPROVING.

COMMITTEE ATMOSPHERE CORDIAL AND WE MAY HAVE LUCK, BUT

OPPOSITION FROM TREASURY AND MINT WAS VERY STRONG WHICH IN ITSELF

MAY DEFEAT US. MY ADDRESS STATLER TILL THURSDAY NIGHT

SEMSROTT.

110P.



THOMAS B. CURTIS
2d DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

COMMITTEE
WAYS AND MEANS

DISTRICT SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF
110 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON 3, MISSOURI
VOLUNTEER 3-7500

WASHINGTON SECRETARY
MRS. MARILYN BALLENGER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

March 3, 1953.

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thanks very much for your letter of February 26th, and for the additional list of those interested in the commemorative coin. I have forwarded the copy of your letter on to Congressman Boggs.

It certainly was a pleasure to have Mr. Semsrott here for the hearings this morning.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis

TC:ms

THOMAS B. CURTIS
2d DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

March 3, 1953

DISTRICT SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF
110 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON 8, MISSOURI
VOLUNTEER 3-7500

WASHINGTON SECRETARY
MRS. MARILYN BALLENGER

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. ^{Eric} Newman:

This is just a note to thank you for your telegram and to advise you that Mr. Semsrott arrived in Washington in good time and I escorted him to the Committee hearing.

As matters progress, I will be of any further possible assistance.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. CURTIS.

TBC/tbs

From
Tom Curtis
Congressman
Missouri 2nd District

83^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2523

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 1953

Mr. CURTIS of Missouri introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency

A BILL

To authorize the coinage of special 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France by President Jefferson in 1803.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed
4 to coin special 50-cent pieces of standard size, weight, and
5 composition in commemoration of the one hundred and
6 fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory
7 from France by President Jefferson in 1803. Such coins
8 shall be coined in such numbers and in such design as the
9 Secretary of the Treasury may deem appropriate, and shall
10 be legal tender to the amount of their face value.

83d CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 2523

A BILL

To authorize the coinage of special 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France by President Jefferson in 1803.

By Mr. CURTIS of Missouri

FEBRUARY 3, 1953

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency

83^d CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 2523

A BILL

To authorize the coinage of special 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France by President Jefferson in 1803.

By Mr. CURTIS of Missouri

FEBRUARY 3, 1933

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency

House Office Bldg
House Banking + Currency Committee
10³⁰ P.M., Tues. Mar 3

Send statement ~~to~~ —

Tom B. Curtis Clayton Office (George Waef^R)
VO 3-7500 476 Ridge Tul 4-1147W
Webster

Home telephone

Mr Robinson of School of Fine Arts at Washington Univ
Kearl Bost
Just
Map Background

Wm Somerset RE. 9145

Beas

Brochure
Fac Simile of letter
Transfer Document

Largest voluntary transfer of land
by peaceful negotiation ever to have
place

Levin & Clark US Sponsored

15,000 school children
1,000,000

Appropriate exhibits to comment on

April 30, 1803 Act Dec 1803 in N.O.

March 1804 ✓

Major collections of Miss Vallen & Far West

Jefferson

Levin & Clark Geo Rogers Clark

Western Fur Trade

#50,000 1050 members

Spain to France & France to U.S.

Σ. V. Richards, Jr
Chairman of Louisiana Sesqui-
Com.

609 Intl Bldg
New Orleans

COPY

FLAG
OF Louisiana Territory
1803 - 1953

LOUISIANA PURCHASE
150th ANNIVERSARY

America's Best Buy

609 International Building
New Orleans

March 4, 1953

Mr. Charles van Ravenswaay, Director
Missouri Historical Society
Jefferson Memorial Building
St. Louis 12, Missouri

Dear Mr. van Ravenswaay:

This is in reply to your letter of February 27th to me as
Managing Director of the International Trade Mart.

It happens that I have been granted leave of absence by
the International Trade Mart to assume the duties as Manag-
er-Director of the Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary Com-
mittee which is the organization you are inquiring about.
The President of the Committee is Mr. E. V. Richards, Jr.,
608 Canal Street, New Orleans and you may write either to
him or to me, if you wish, for any information you would
like to have.

Sincerely,

/s/ Clay Shaw
Managing Director

bdc

March 13, 1953

Hon. Thomas B. Curtis
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tom:

Just a note to tell you how much I appreciate the way in which the hearing on the Commemorative half dollar went off.

We are glad to cooperate with your suggestion that no exclusive rights of distribution be given to any one engaged in business for profit and that no arrangement will be entered into whereby any other than a non-profit organization will control the price at which the coins are sold. I think this is an excellent suggestion by the Treasury Department.

We are endeavoring, promptly, to work out an arrangement with the Louisiana group and we see no reason why they would not be willing to share this promotion.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

March 13, 1953

Sesquicentennial Commission of the State of Louisiana
The Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary Association
609 International Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Gentlemen:

I am writing you on behalf of the Missouri Historical Society in connection with the pending bills for the Louisiana Purchase Commemorative half dollar.

At the House Banking Committee hearing there was an inquiry as to whether the two groups who are interested in the passage of this Bill had gotten together on the details of handling a joint sponsorship. We are, therefore, writing you for that purpose.

It is not clear to us as to which of your two organizations is interested in the sponsorship of the half dollar and we would like to know with whom we should work out the details as to the sale and distribution of the coins.

We have endeavored to make it clear that we feel that the proceeds from the sale of these coins should be equally shared between the Missouri Historical Society and one of your organizations. Any other arrangement might result in unfairness.

The sale to coin collectors, as you realize, should be handled carefully and without any commitments to third parties interested in making a profit, as the Treasury Department seems to be opposed to coin dealers participating in any such transactions. The sale to the public can be very large if enthusiasm for souvenirs is stimulated.

Our Society feels that this commemorative coin will be very worthwhile and realizes that support for the bill will be withdrawn unless the sponsors make prompt and fair arrangements for the financial benefit.

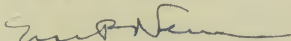
Page 2

March 13, 1953

Sesquicentennial Commission of the State of Louisiana
The Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary Association

Will you be kind enough to let us know with whom we should work out this arrangement and we hope that you can select some one who is familiar with the Commemorative half dollar procedures and with what has taken place in the past sales of such coins.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL BUILDING • ST. LOUIS 12, MISSOURI

CHARLES VAN RAVENSWAAY, Director

March 18, 1953

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
315 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis 2, Mo.

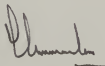
Dear Eric:

Thanks a lot for sending me
copy of your letters to Curtis and the New Orleans
group. These are clear and precise and you have
covered every point I can think of.

You may want some of the
Society's stationery to use in this project and
I have asked Miss Cole to send you some. Please
let me know if this is not sufficient.

Sincerely,

CvR:nc



1 SEC. 2. The coins herein authorized shall be issued at
2 par, and only upon the request of the Louisiana Purchase
3 One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Association.

4 SEC. 3. Such coins may be disposed of at par or at a
5 premium by banks or trust companies selected by the Louisi-
6 ana Purchase One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Asso-
7 ciation, and all proceeds therefrom shall be used for the
8 purposes of such association.

9 SEC. 4. All laws now in force relating to the subsidiary
10 silver coins of the United States and the coining or striking
11 of the same; regulating and guarding the process of coinage;
12 providing for the purchase of material, and for the trans-
13 portation, distribution, and redemption of the coins; for the
14 prevention of debasement or counterfeiting; for security of
15 the coin; or for any other purposes, whether said laws are
16 penal or otherwise, shall, so far as applicable, apply to the
17 coinage herein directed.

18 SEC. 5. The coins authorized herein shall be issued in
19 such numbers, and at such times as shall be requested by the
20 Louisiana Purchase One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary
21 Association and upon payment to the United States of the
22 face value of such coins: *Provided*, That none of such coins
23 shall be issued after the expiration of the five-year period
24 immediately following the enactment of this Act.

83^d CONGRESS
1st Session

S. 1378

A BILL

To authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces to
commemorate the sesquicentennial of the
Louisiana Purchase.

By Mr. LONG and Mr. ELLENDER

MARCH 18, 1953

Read twice and referred to the Committee on
Banking and Currency



LOUISIANA PURCHASE 150th ANNIVERSARY

609 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING
NEW ORLEANS

America's Best Buy

March 20, 1953

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

The organization who will be handling the Commemorative Coin is the Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary Association of which I am Managing Director. The House Bill spells out that this organization and the Missouri Historical Society shall be the agencies to whom coins may be issued at par. As you know, the House Bill has received favorable committee report and is now awaiting action in the House. I understand that plans are going forward in Washington to have a similar bill introduced in the Senate. The bill specifies that the first minting shall be not less than two hundred thousand pieces and that the total shall be not more than two and one-half million. It also specifies that historical societies of other states formed wholly or partly from the Louisiana Purchase Territory may have the right to draw down coins from either the Missouri Historical Society or the Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary Association.

To work out the details of this matter, I am passing a copy of your letter and this reply to Mr. Seymour Weiss, President of the Roosevelt Hotel who is a member of our committee and has been handling the matter. Mr. Weiss will be in touch with you concerning further negotiations, at an early date.

Sincerely,

CLAY SHAW
Managing Director.

bdc

cc: Mr. Seymour Weiss
The Roosevelt Hotel.

March 27, 1953

Mr. Seymour Weiss
Roosevelt Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I have received a letter from Mr. Clay Shaw indicating that you are in charge of the commemorative half dollar matter for the Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary Association. A copy of my letter to your organization has been referred to you.

We feel that in order to continue to push this legislation and complete it, we must have certain arrangements worked out between us, as indicated in my letter, and I would appreciate it if you could give this matter your prompt attention.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
LOUISIANA PURCHASE SESQUICENTENNIAL HALF DOLLAR

The committee secured the interest and support of Congressman Thomas B. Curtis in the sponsorship of a half dollar commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. He introduced a bill in the House of Representatives as was also done by Congressman Boggs, of Louisiana.

At a hearing before the Banking and Currency Committee, Mr. Semsrott represented the Society and testified with respect to the historical background and the desirability of commemorating the Louisiana Purchase. He discussed the advantages to the Society of being permitted to be a joint sponsor of the distribution of the coins. The matter was favorably reported out of committee.

Negotiations are now under way with the Louisiana group as to methods of handling the proposed sale of the coins.

Introduction of a bill in the Senate is now being sought.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric P. Newman

Chairman

4/3/53



America's Best Buy

LOUISIANA PURCHASE 130th ANNIVERSARY

609 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING
NEW ORLEANS

April 8, 1953

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Missouri Historical Society
Jefferson Memorial Building
St. Louis 12, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

Many thanks for your letter of March 27th. This is the way matters stand at present. We have been in touch with Congressman Boggs who introduced the House Bill and he has told us that just as soon as the House Bill has passed, he will introduce the same, or similar, bill in the Senate. We have asked Congressman Boggs if there is anything we can do from here to help and he has indicated that, at this stage of the game, there is no assistance that we can give him. If you have any concrete suggestions along this line, please let me know about them.

I don't see how we can make any definite plans for issuance until the thing is actually cleared but, again, I am receptive to any ideas you may have on this score. Would you write me more fully as to what you have in mind.

Sincerely,

Seymour Weiss
SEYMOUR WEISS

bdc

April 10, 1953

Hon. Thomas Curtis
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tom:

Would you be kind enough to have your Secretary send to me copies of the bill which passed the House and copies of the bill which is now in the Senate covering the Commemorative Half Dollar.

I telephoned the New Orleans group today and they indicated that they did not want to make any arrangement as to how distribution of the coin was to be handled until after the bill had been passed. I told them certain facts which made them indicate they would go into the matter promptly and I will keep you advised.

In any event, I would like to check with you before the matter is brought up in the Senate.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

Mr. Weiss. Clats

April 13, 1953

Mr. Seymour Weiss
Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary
609 International Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I received your letter of April 8, 1953 shortly after I telephoned you with respect to the Louisiana Purchase half dollar.

As I explained to you over the 'phone, we cannot have any enthusiasm for trying to raise money for our respective organizations if other Historical Societies can withdraw half dollars from either of us at par or face, as Mr. Clay Shaw indicated. It is also pointless for us to compete with one another.

My feeling is that we should agree to divide the net proceeds of the sale of the coins equally - that we should make a specific price for the coin in small quantities and a specific price for the coin in quantities of 25 or more. This will enable coin clubs, dealers or speculators to purchase larger quantities. This wholesale margin should not be very large. We should cooperate with respect to placing advertisements in the various coin magazines and also arrange for joint approval of expenditures.

As I expressed to you, over the telephone, I do not see how it is possible to sell 200,000 coins of one mint. If 10,000 coins are sold to coin collectors the rest of the sales are purely speculative and the general public are usually apathetic to such

-2-

Mr. Seymour Weiss

April 13, 1953

purchases; however, enthusiasm for souvenirs can always be developed and the coins can sell on that basis.

I sincerely hope that the coins can be made at all three mints but if not the price would have to be high in order to be issued at an adequate profit.

The Treasury Department specifically objected to any exclusive arrangements being made with dealers and I told our congressman that I agreed.

What we want from your organization is an understanding that we will share the net profits equally, that the price and other arrangements as to issuance will be determined with the consent of both of our organizations. I wish you would take this up with your organization so that we might have an understanding along these lines.

Very truly yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

The
ROOSEVELT
NEW ORLEANS 9, LA.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
SEYMOUR WEISS
PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
THE ROOSEVELT - HOTEL NEW ORLEANS

April 14, 1953

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Missouri Historical Society
Jefferson Memorial Bldg.
St. Louis, Missouri (12)

Dear Mr. Newman:


I enjoyed very much speaking with you over long distance last week.

Friday, I attended an executive committee meeting of the Sesquicentennial Group, at which time, I was authorized to work out a satisfactory arrangement with you and your committee on the coin which I hope will be authorized by the Senate and signed by the President.

I was very happy to learn that you get to New Orleans frequently and I look forward with pleasure to seeing you on the occasion of your next visit.

With assurance of my desire to cooperate with you in every possible manner, and my kindest personal regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,


Seymour Weiss.

SW:E

April 20, 1953

Mr. Seymour Weiss
The Roosevelt Hotel
New Orleans 9, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Weiss:

Thank you for your letter of April 14, 1953 indicating that you are authorized to work out a satisfactory arrangement with the Missouri Historical Society.

I received new copies of the bill passed by the House, H.B. 1917, as amended, and also copies of the pending bill in the Senate, S.1378. The House bill designates both your organization and ours as the recipient of the coins and does permit the Governor or Legislature of other States to authorize the Historical Society of their State to withdraw coins at par. It also provides that we pay all expenses in connection with the design and plaster model and, therefore, we would be in a position of having to pay the expense of the design and model, get the bill through Congress, and have other organizations withdraw the coins at par.

In addition, we note that the Senate bill excludes the Missouri Historical Society and makes your organization the sole agent for the distribution. The Senate bill, however, omits the right of Historical Societies of other States to withdraw the coins at par. I believe that if our organization was added to the Senate bill the legislation would be in a more desirable form and would have to be resubmitted to the House.

Would you be kind enough to let me know your thinking on this matter immediately and see what you can do to straighten it out.

Sincerely yours,

EPNewman/atb

Sent to Mr. Newman

The
ROOSEVELT
NEW ORLEANS 9, LA.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
SEYMOUR WEISS
PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
THE ROOSEVELT - HOTEL NEW ORLEANS

April 17, 1953

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Missouri Historical Society
Jefferson Memorial Building
St. Louis, Missouri (12)

Dear Mr. Newman:

I appreciated your letter dated April 13th which crossed my letter to you.

I hope that the contents of my letter were satisfactory and I look forward with pleasure to the opportunity of discussing the matter more thoroughly with you.

With assurance of my desire to cooperate with you in every possible manner, and with my kindest personal regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Seymour Weiss
Seymour Weiss.

SW:E

THOMAS B. CURTIS
2d DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

COMMITTEE
WAYS AND MEANS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

DISTRICT SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF
110 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON 5, MISSOURI
VOLUNTEER 3-7500

WASHINGTON SECRETARY
MRS. MARILYN BALLENGER

April 17, 1953

Mr. Eric P. Newman, Secretary
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Eric:

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of April 10th, I am enclosing a copy of H. R. 1917, to authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, (which has passed the House) and a copy of S. 1378, the companion bill in the Senate.

I have discussed the legislation with Charlie Halleck and the Senators from Missouri and asked their assistance.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. CURTIS.

TBC/tbs

Union Calendar No. 31

83^d CONGRESS
1st SESSION

H. R. 1917

[Report No. 154]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1953

Mr. Boggs introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency

MARCH 10, 1953

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 *That, to commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anni-*
4 *versary of the Louisiana Purchase, there shall be coined by*
5 *the Director of the Mint not to exceed five million silver*
6 *50-cent pieces of standard size, weight, and fineness and of*
7 *a special appropriate design to be fixed by the Director of*
8 *the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury;*
9 *but the United States shall not be subject to the expense*

1 of making the models for master dies or other preparations
2 for this coinage.

3 SEC. 2. The coins herein authorized shall be issued at
4 par, and only upon the request of the Louisiana Purchase
5 One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Association.

6 SEC. 3. Such coins may be disposed of at par or at a
7 premium by banks or trust companies selected by the Loui-
8 siana Purchase One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Asso-
9 ciation; and all proceeds therefrom shall be used for the
10 purposes of such association.

11 SEC. 4. All laws now in force relating to the subsidiary
12 silver coins of the United States and the coining or striking
13 of the same; regulating and guarding the process of coinage;
14 providing for the purchase of material, and for the transporta-
15 tion; distribution; and redemption of the coins; for the
16 prevention of debasement or counterfeiting; for security of
17 the coin; or for any other purposes, whether said laws are
18 penal or otherwise, shall, so far as applicable, apply to the
19 coinage herein directed.

20 SEC. 5. The coins authorized herein shall be issued in
21 such numbers, and at such times as shall be requested by
22 the Louisiana Purchase One Hundred and Fiftieth Amni-
23 versary Association and upon payment to the United States
24 of the face value of such coins: *Provided*, That none of such

1 coins shall be issued after the expiration of the five-year
2 period immediately following the enactment of this Act.

3 *That, to commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anni-*
4 *versary of the Louisiana Purchase, there shall be coined by*
5 *the Secretary of the Treasury in the mint of the United*
6 *States at Philadelphia not to exceed two and one-half million*
7 *silver 50-cent pieces of standard size, weight, and fineness*
8 *and of a special appropriate design to be fixed by the Secre-*
9 *tary of the Treasury: Provided, That the initial number of*
10 *such pieces coined shall not be less than two hundred thou-*
11 *sand: And provided further, That the United States shall not*
12 *be subject to the expense of making the models for master dies*
13 *or other preparations for this coinage.*

14 *SEC. 2. The coins herein authorized shall be issued at*
15 *par, and only upon the request of the Louisiana Purchase*
16 *One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Association or the*
17 *Missouri Historical Society.*

18 *SEC. 3. Such coins may be disposed of at par or at a*
19 *premium by banks or trust companies selected by the Louisiana*
20 *Purchase One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Associa-*
21 *tion, or the Missouri Historical Society, and the net proceeds*
22 *therefrom shall be used by such association or society for the*
23 *observation of the sesquicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.*

24 *SEC. 4. All laws now in force relating to the subsidiary*

1 *silver coins of the United States and the coining or striking*
2 *of the same; regulating and guarding the process of coinage;*
3 *providing for the purchase of material, and for the transporta-*
4 *tion, distribution, and redemption of the coins; for the pre-*
5 *vention of debasement or counterfeiting; for security of the*
6 *coin; or for any other purposes, whether said laws are penal*
7 *or otherwise, shall, so far as applicable, apply to the coinage*
8 *herein directed.*

9 *SEC. 5. The coins authorized herein shall be issued only*
10 *during the calendar year 1953, in such numbers and at such*
11 *times as shall be requested by the Louisiana Purchase One*
12 *Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Association or the*
13 *Missouri Historical Society and upon payment to the United*
14 *States of the face value of such coins.*

15 *SEC. 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act*
16 *a nonprofit historical society of each of the several States*
17 *that were included in whole or in part within the territory*
18 *of the Louisiana Purchase when designated by the Governor*
19 *or legislature of the respective States as an organization to*
20 *participate in the observation of the sesquicentennial anni-*
21 *versary of the Louisiana Purchase shall be authorized to*
22 *request, through the Louisiana Purchase One Hundredth*
23 *and Fiftieth Anniversary Society or the Missouri Historical*
24 *Society, the issuance of said coins. Coins requested in this*

1 manner shall be made available to the organization requesting
2 them at par, and such organization shall be entitled to dispose
3 of them in the manner provided in section 3 hereof: Provided,
4 That the net proceeds therefrom shall be used solely for the
5 observation of the Louisiana Purchase sesquicentennial.

Union Calendar No. 31

83^d CONGRESS
1st SESSION

H. R. 1917

[Report No. 154]

A BILL

To authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces to
commemorate the sesquicentennial of the
Louisiana Purchase.

By Mr. Boggs

JANUARY 19, 1953

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency

MARCH 10, 1953

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Com-
mittee of the Whole House on the State of the
Union, and ordered to be printed

April 20, 1953

Hon. Thomas B. Curtis
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tom:

Thank you for sending me the copies of the pending legislation with reference to the Louisiana Purchase commemorative half dollar.

I hasten to call your attention to the fact that the Senate bill, 1378, specifies the Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary Association as the organization entitled to distribute the coins and omits any reference to the Missouri Historical Society. This bill was introduced in the Senate on March 18, 1953, which is after the bill in the House had been amended to include both organizations. In its present form the Senate bill would not be satisfactory to the Missouri Historical Society and should be amended to conform with the House bill.

I have a letter from the Louisiana group indicating that they are ready to work out a satisfactory arrangement with the Missouri Historical Society and I will advise them to take action with respect to making proper changes in the Senate bill.

I will keep you advised of my progress.

Sincerely yours,

EPNewman/atb

April 20, 1953

Mr. Seymour Weiss
The Roosevelt Hotel
New Orleans 9, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Weiss:

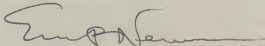
Thank you for your letter of April 14, 1953 indicating that you are authorized to work out a satisfactory arrangement with the Missouri Historical Society.

I received new copies of the bill passed by the House, H.B. 1917, as amended, and also copies of the pending bill in the Senate, S.1378. The House bill designates both your organization and ours as the recipient of the coins and does permit the Governor or Legislature of other States to authorize the Historical Society of their State to withdraw coins at par. It also provides that we pay all expenses in connection with the design and plaster model and, therefore, we would be in a position of having to pay the expense of the design and model, get the bill through Congress, and have other organizations withdraw the coins at par.

In addition, we note that the Senate bill excludes the Missouri Historical Society and makes your organization the sole agent for the distribution. The Senate bill, however, omits the right of Historical Societies of other States to withdraw the coins at par. I believe that if our organization was added to the Senate bill the legislation would be in a more desirable form and would have to be resubmitted to the House.

Would you be kind enough to let me know your thinking on this matter immediately and see what you can do to straighten it out.

Sincerely yours,



EPNewman/atb

April 27, 1953

Congressman Hale Boggs
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Hale:

The Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary Association has delegated me to handle all arrangements for the commemorative coin which was approved by your House Bill #1917. I have been in correspondence with Mr. E. P. Newman of the Missouri Historical Society about certain features of the bill and we are working together on the matter. Mr. Newman points out that the Senate Bill #1378 does not mention the Missouri Historical Society as one of the agents which may draw the coin leaving the sole right of distribution to our committee. It also omits the right of historical societies of other states formed from the purchase to withdraw coins at par. I assume that if the Senate bill passes in its present form there will be conferences between Senate and House to work out the differences in the two bills. Mr. Newman feels that the completed bill should make the Missouri Historical Society agents with us for the withdrawal of the coin at par and I agree with him.

He also feels that, since the costs of dies, etc. must be borne by his society and ours, we should, if at all possible, eliminate the provision that historical societies of other states may draw coins from us at par. With these two points I am in agreement if it can be managed. I would appreciate your advice on this.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

SEYMOUR WEISS.

bdc



America's Best Buy

LOUISIANA PURCHASE 150th ANNIVERSARY

609 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING
NEW ORLEANS

April 28, 1953

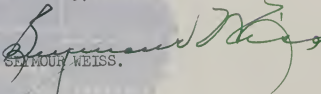
Mr. E. P. Newman
Missouri Historical Society
Jefferson Memorial Building
St. Louis 12, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

With regard to your letter of April 20th, I am enclosing a copy of a letter I sent to our congressman Hale Boggs who has been shepherding the matter through the Congress for us. As you can see from this letter I am giving him your ideas, with which I am in agreement, for shaping the matter for final legislation and I suggest that you write along the same lines to your congressman so that there will be no confusion on the matter.

I will let you know what Congressman Boggs' thinking is on the matter as soon as I hear from him, and I will appreciate your doing the same.

Sincerely,


SEYMOUR WEISS.

bdc
Encl.

June 4, 1953

Mr. Seymour Weiss
Louisiana Purchase 150th Anniversary
609 International Building
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I would like to be brought up to date on the question of whether the Senate bill has been amended to conform to the suggestions which I made in my letter of April 20th so that I can report the matter to the Missouri Historical Society.

I cannot give this matter the proper political support until it is in the form which is acceptable to our group.

Would you be kind enough to let me know what the status of the matter is so far as you know it.

Sincerely yours,

EPW/atb



LOUISIANA PURCHASE 130th ANNIVERSARY

609 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING
NEW ORLEANS

America's Best Buy

June 16, 1953

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

I have delayed answering your letter of June 4th, trying to get some authoritative picture of what is happening in Washington. This I have now obtained, and, I am sorry to say, the news is not good. Our Congressman, Hale Boggs, has sent me a copy of the Daily Digest of the Senate for Tuesday, June 9th, and I quote from this, "The committee announced its agreement that no commemorative coin issues would receive its approval in this session of Congress." We have had both our senators working on the matter and have also written Senators Robertson and Symington. They have all written most pessimistic replies. While Senators Long and Ellender have agreed to continue to do what they can, they do not seem to be very hopeful.

With reference to your question as to the Missouri Historical Society being an issuing agency, it is our understanding that the Senate bill is a duplicate of the House bill, which would make your organization an issuing agency, in cooperation with our own. However, this seems academic unless you have any suggestions that would assist in the passage of the bill. Apparently, the Treasury Department opposition is fixed and most powerful. We will welcome any suggestions you may have to offer.

Sincerely,


SEYMOUR WEISS

bdc

September 23, 1953

Hon. Thomas B. Curtis
110 South Central Avenue
Clayton 5, Missouri

Dear Tom:

I want to express my appreciation for the effort and enthusiasm which you put into the legislation for the half dollar to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase Sesquicentennial.

I realize you lost your mainstay in the Senate and, for that reason, I did not follow up on the matter; however, if you think there is a chance of getting legislation of this sort through Congress I will be glad to discuss this with you as the Historical Society is most anxious to obtain some opportunity of this sort.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

THOMAS B. CURTIS
2d DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

110 South Central Avenue
Clayton 5, Missouri.

September 28, 1953

DISTRICT SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF
110 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON 5, MISSOURI
VOLUNTEER 3-7900

WASHINGTON SECRETARY
MRS. MARILYN BALLENGER

Mr. Eric P. Newman, Secretary
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

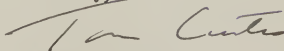
Dear Eric:

Thanks very much for your letter of September 28th.

I almost had the bill through the Senate, strangely enough, through Senator Long, but at the last minute it got sidetracked.

Kindest personal regards.


Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis

TC:ms

P.S. The loss of Sen. Taft prevented our rapid study for being implemented.



THOMAS B. CURTIS
2d DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS

DISTRICT SECRETARY
GEORGE F. WOLF
110 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON 5, MISSOURI
VOLUNTEER 3-7500

WASHINGTON SECRETARY
MRS. MARILYN BALLENGER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

January 13, 1954

Mr. Eric P. Newman
c/o Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
315 Washington Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Eric:

This is just a note to advise you that H.R. 1917 to authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase passed the senate on yesterday with some minor modifications. It will be referred back to the House but the differences in the bill are minor and the bill should become law.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. CURTIS.

TBC/tbs

COPY

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

January 13, 1954

Mr. Charles Van Ravenswaay, Director
Missouri Historical Society
Jefferson Memorial Building
St. Louis 12, Missouri

Dear Mr. Van Ravenswaay:

This is just a note to advise you that H. R. 1917 to authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase passed the Senate on yesterday with some minor modifications. It will be referred back to the House but the differences in the bill are minor and the bill should become law.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tom Curtis

THOMAS B. CURTIS

TBC/tbs

MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL BUILDING • ST. LOUIS 12, MISSOURI

CHARLES VAN RAVENSWAAY, Director

January 18, 1954

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
315 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Eric:

I am sending you copy of a note
I have just received from Tom Curtis. This is a
nice surprise. And where do we go from there?

Sincerely,



CvR:nc

January 19, 1954

Hon. Thomas B. Curtis
122 Old House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tom:

I appreciate your advising me that the Louisiana Purchase commemorative half dollar bill has been passed by the Senate. I have ordered a copy of the revised bill and will endeavor to offer certain suggestions to you in connection with ironing out the differences in the House and Senate draft.

One of my thoughts is to revise the commemoration to include the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The reason for that is that the Louisiana Purchase was actually concluded in 1803 although the transfer of upper Louisiana, at St. Louis, took place in 1804. The Lewis and Clark Expedition left St. Louis in 1804.

You will hear from me very promptly so that you can give the bill its few finishing touches.

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

EFN/atb

THOMAS B. CURTIS
2D DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

COMMITTEE:
WAYS AND MEANS

DISTRICT SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF
110 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON 5, MISSOURI
VOLUNTEER 3-7500

WASHINGTON SECRETARY
MRS. MARILYN BALLENGER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

February 10, 1954.

Mr. Eric P. Newman, Secretary,
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,
315 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Eric:

I thought you might be interested in seeing a copy of President Eisenhower's message to the House returning, without his approval, H. R. 1917.

I regret that the action taken was not favorable but do want to assure you of my continued interest in the celebration of the Louisiana Purchase.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis.

TC:mb

February 3, 1954

CONFIDENTIAL: To be held in STRICT CONFIDENCE and no portion, synopsis or intimation to be given out or published until the President's Message has been delivered to the House of Representatives. Extreme care must therefore be exercised to avoid premature publication.

JAMES C. HAGERTY, PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, H. R. 1917, "To authorize the coinage of 50-cent pieces to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase."

The proposed legislation would authorize the coinage of not to exceed two and one-half million silver 50-cent pieces in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase.

The principal objection to commemorative coins is that they detract from the fundamental function of the coinage as a medium of exchange. Multiplicity of designs on United States coins would tend to create confusion among the public, and to facilitate counterfeiting. The Congress recognized the necessity for limiting the designs of coins by section 3510 of the Revised Statutes which provides that:

"*** no change in the design or die of any coin shall be made oftener than once in twenty-five years from and including the year of the first adoption of the design, model, die, or hub for the same coin: ***"

I am further advised by the Treasury Department that in the past in many instances the public interest in these special coins has been so short-lived that their sales for the purposes intended have lagged with the result that large quantities have remained unsold and have been returned to the mints for melting.

I fully recognize the importance to the country of the event which this coin would commemorate. I recognize, too, that the authorization of one or two or three of such issues of coins would not do major harm. However, experience has demonstrated that the authorization of even a single commemorative issue brings forth a flood of other authorizations to commemorate events or anniversaries of local or national importance. In the administration of President Hoover, these authorizations multiplied to the point where he felt compelled to exercise his veto. The same pattern recurred in the administrations of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman. In view of this historical pattern, which by now has become so clear, I think that it is both wiser and fairer to make known my views on this subject at the outset. I therefore regretfully withhold my approval of H. R. 1917.

As has been suggested in the past, it seems to me wholly appropriate that anniversaries like this one, which the Congress deems it desirable to commemorate, should be recognized by bills authorizing the Treasury to provide suitable commemorative medals at cost.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

THE WHITE HOUSE

February 3, 1954.

THOMAS B. CURTIS
2d DISTRICT, MISSOURI

122 OLD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

COMMITTEE
WAYS AND MEANS

DISTRICT SECRETARY
GEORGE R. WOLF
110 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON 3, MISSOURI
VOLUNTEER 3-7500

WASHINGTON SECRETARY
MRS. MARILYN BALLENGER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

February 19, 1954.

Mr. Eric P. Newman, Secretary,
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.,
315 Washington Avenue,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Eric:

Thanks for your letter of February 15th
in regard to the commemorative coin bill. I, too,
am sorry that it did not go through.

I regret that I did not make myself clear
in regard to the President's veto of the bill. The
only thing I have is a mimeographed statement, a copy
of which was sent to you with my last letter.

*sent to the
White House*

Regards,

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis.

TC:mio

February 15, 1954

Hon. Thomas B. Curtis
122 Old House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tom:

After all of our hard work for a good cause President Eisenhower put our Commemorative Coin Bill to sleep. He probably was under the impression that these coins circulated and did not realize that they end up as souvenirs.

You indicated that you had a note in the President's handwriting with respect to his veto and if you don't want that for yourself I would very much enjoy having it.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb