

### 100th Anniversary Celebration

## Restoring the U.S. Library of Congress

**I**t was called "America's most beautiful public building" when it first opened. Now, 100 years later, the U.S. Library of Congress

Thomas Jefferson Building has been restored to live up to its original acclaim.

A true treasure chest of U.S. history, the Library contains everything from the original drafts of the Declaration of Independence to the earliest copyrighted silent film. Fueled by copyright deposit and acquisitions, the Library collection grows at a rate of 7,000 items daily.

Amassing, organizing and maintaining the world's largest library is difficult at best, and the Library has had its fair share of trials in its 200-year existence.

to assist them in their legislative duties.

When the British invaded in August 1814, most of the 3,000 volumes - housed at that time in the basement of the partially constructed Capitol building - were burned.

Upon his retirement from the presidency, Thomas Jefferson sold his private collection of 6,487 books to the U.S. Government for \$23,950. This changed the role of the Library of Congress from a specialized political library to a generalized library. Further enhancing the diversity of the collection was the introduction of a law in 1870 that stipulated a copy of every copyrighted item be included in the library's growing inventory.

Disaster struck again when a fire in 1851 destroyed 20,000 books, including two-thirds of the original Jefferson collection. The library reopened a year later with 25,000 volumes and quickly outgrew its space in the Capitol building. By 1886, Congress began constructing a separate building just east of the Capitol.

Upon completion in November 1897, the Library moved in with its 750,000 books, 18,000 volumes of newspapers and magazines, 200,000 musical scores and songs, 250,000 engravings, etchings and photos and 40,000 charts and maps.

(continued on page 2)



photo by Carol M. Highsmith Photography

Above: Interior of the Library of Congress' Great Hall. White Italian Carrara marble was used throughout the entryway.

### In this issue...

Bye Bye, Birdie

Why try BMC®?

Spring at Jacob's Field

### Trial by Fire

It all began April 24, 1800, when President John Adams approved a \$5,000 book allowance for Congress' new home in Washington D.C. The original intent of the library was to supply members of Congress with books

## Library (cont.)

### A Great National Library

The Library of Congress flourished in the 20th century as one of the world's great national libraries. Constantly growing through purchases and donations, the Library had to acquire more space. Beginning with the original Library building (the Thomas Jefferson Building), two additional structures have been added: the 5-story John Adams Building opened in 1939 and the James Madison Memorial Building was completed in 1980.

Designed in the Italian Renaissance style with a 125-ft. high octagonal reading room and a gold-leaf dome, the original Thomas Jefferson Library building was subjected to repeated attempts at "modernization" during its 100 year history. By the 1980's, suspended ceilings and office partitions had obscured elaborate marble mosaics and other decorative elements which had originally set the Jefferson apart from any other building - public or private - in North America. Staff and public spaces had become so crowded that entering the building was likened to entering a maze of "rabbit warrens".

As a result, the Architect of the

Capitol launched a two-phase restoration program to revive the two older Library buildings. Phase 1 focused on the southern part of the Jefferson Building, which included the Reading Room. Phase 2 turned to the northern half of the building and included the Great Hall.

While the planning stages began in 1981, actual work didn't start until 1985. Careful planning was critical as the Library continued to function under high security.

### Restoring the Great Hall

Located in the northern part of the building, the Great Hall is an elaborate white Italian marble entryway. Marble adorns the stairway, statuary, columns, wainscots and flooring. Years of accumulated smoke and pollutants from the building's original heating system had darkened the marble. Beeswax, used to polish the marble, had accumulated and yellowed in high traffic areas.

The challenge was to remove these layers of grime without damaging the marble itself. Pagliaro Brothers of Upper Marlboro, MD, the marble restoration contractor for the Library of Congress project,

used Sure Klean® Liquid Marble Cleaner to clean the white Italian marble.

Cleaning the Great Hall began in 1990 and took approximately four years to complete. In addition to cleaning, technological improvements were incorporated throughout the building to ready it for the 21st century.

### Grand Reopening

To celebrate the grand reopening, the Library, with a grant from the Xerox Foundation, is displaying "American Treasures of the Library of Congress" -- a permanent exhibition of the rarest and most significant items relating to America's past. Items within the display include the contents of Abraham Lincoln's pockets the night of his assassination and a hand signed memo from Joseph Stalin to Franklin D. Roosevelt's representative that foreshadows the tensions of the Cold War.

Restored to its original luster, the Jefferson building is once again an impressive and beautiful repository for "America's Memory".



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## BMC®: Not "just a coat of paint"

Whether you've finished building a new office complex or restoring a historic building, "a new coat of paint" adds the finishing touch. Slapping an ordinary coat of paint on masonry, however, could be its undoing.

The perfect color match, smooth coverage and attractive finish is pointless if the coating doesn't stay on the wall.

BMC® (Breathable Masonry Coating) is unique because of its breathability. Clear epoxy, urethane and acrylic paints are film-

formers -- they create a water-resistant film over the surface. But because the film is dense enough to keep the water from penetrating the substrate, it also blocks the moisture from evaporating.

Imagine applying a clear but impervious membrane to all six sides of a damp brick. The membrane prevents any additional water from entering the brick, but also prevents moisture present in the brick from escaping.

Place that brick in the sun and moisture begins to condense at the interface of the brick surface and the

# New Product Offering is "for the Birds"

Large flocks of birds sailing through the blue sky evoke a tranquil feeling. In an urban world of concrete and steel, birds seem to link us with nature.

Although the general public attitude towards birds is one of high tolerance, birds actually pose a serious threat to our built environment -- they soil and deteriorate building materials and endanger human health.

In the past, ProSoCo promoted Conservare® Pigeon Control Netting to help control this menace. Though our netting now prevents pigeons from roosting on many U.S. buildings, additional barrier devices were often needed to augment the netting. It is for this reason that ProSoCo has united with Bird Barrier America, Inc. to offer the most complete line of bird deterrent products on the market.

Why should you get your feathers ruffled over a few birds?

## Problems posed by birds

The most obvious threat birds pose is the deposit of their waste on buildings. The message this conveys to the public is neglect and uncleanness. Think of the times you, as a

customer, have avoided a restaurant with droppings on their outdoor chairs and tables, or the businesses you refused to park near for fear of your car being targeted by the flock hovering above.

Not only are these droppings unsightly, their acidic content actually eats away at surfaces. Without constant cleanup, accumulation of bird droppings will cut the life of many roofing materials in half, and damage air handling equipment and other machinery mounted in areas vulnerable to airborne attacks. Open belfries of church towers have been known to house piles of bird droppings up to 4 feet deep! In such situations, the sheer weight of accumulated waste jeopardizes the structural integrity of the building and the safety of its occupants.

Nests also are a hazard. The nests of common pest birds are constructed of highly flammable materials and have been cited as the cause of many electrical fires. Because birds like enclosed warm areas, heating and ventilation ducts are also prime nesting targets. The nests block air flow and cause rainwater to back up.

In addition to damaging masonry and other building materials, bird droppings are hazardous to human health. The droppings contain parasites that can find their way into public water supplies. Fecal dust -- dried microscopic particles of feces -- become airborne and can contaminate air handling systems and air ducts. When inhaled, the dormant fungi and/or bacteria breeds inside the lung and causes flu-like symptoms.

## Get inside the Bird brain

Clearly birds pose a serious risk to the urban environment. To be truly effective in deterring birds, you need to recognize their characteristics. Birds have established behaviors. Different techniques of deterring pest birds work with different species.

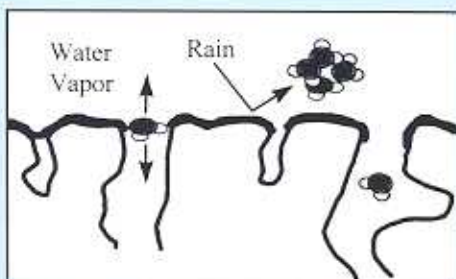
The most common pest bird is the Feral Pigeon. This species has adapted to the cityscape with its simple nests, diverse diet and tolerance of close contact with humans. The Starling, by contrast, eats insects and seeds, flocks by the thousands and builds enclosed nests. Knowing the habits of your target bird provides insight into their eradication.

One of the first things to look at is the

applied membrane. Ultimately, the membrane will blush and then peel away. Many fragments of the brick surface peel away with it.

BMC® coatings do not produce a continuous film. Instead, the microporous coatings have tiny holes, large enough to allow moisture vapor to escape, small enough to prevent water from entering. Surfaces treated with BMC® "breathe" preventing the accumulation of moisture that causes most coating failure and surface deterioration.

BMC® 55 is a high-quality acrylic coating formulated to retain an



unusually high water vapor transmission rate of 55%. This economical, general-purpose coating is designed for highly porous masonry surfaces exposed to normal temperature variations.

BMC® 90 is a silicone-based coating designed to withstand extreme exposure conditions (i.e. salt spray, high altitude, high humidity, severe tem-

peratures, pollution). At 90%, it has the highest water vapor transmission on the market. BMC® 90 is most effective when primed with Weather Seal Siloxane WB or -- on highly porous surfaces -- Blok-It® Sealer & Filler.

Weather Seal Blok-Guard® Stain combines characteristics of the silicone and acrylic technologies to form a transparent film. BG Stain is designed for customers wishing to weatherproof, as well as change the color of a substrate while retaining its natural texture.

For especially porous masonry such as concrete block, Blok-It® Sealer & Filler fills large voids and pro-

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# Jacobs Field

**Cleveland, OH**

**Project: Cleaning**

**Contractor: M-A Building & Maintenance Company**

**Product: 766 Limestone & Masonry Prewash, Limestone & Masonry Afterwash and Limestone Restorer**

Yards in Baltimore, Jacobs Field incorporates several aspects of the old-time ballpark intimacy and today's state-of-the-art technology.

Jacobs Field opened in time for the 1994 season, selling an unprecedented 1.9 million tickets.

Given all the changes the team has

dry," Wamelink said. "It was such a smooth finish that the water wouldn't evaporate when you pressure washed."

"Quarry sap" is a rusty/brown or gray-colored stain which appears on limestone subjected to high concentrations of moisture. Soluble alkalis – inherent to the stone or contributed by adjacent building material – migrate to the exposed surface of the limestone as the moisture evaporates.

The phenomenon is similar to white efflorescence on new brick work. The stain, however, is much more difficult to remove.

"ProSoCo has several specialized stain removers that we thought would do the trick," Priver said. For brown staining on limestone, 1260 Poultice normally does the job... but it didn't produce the improvement we were looking for."

"Several other stain removers improved the situation, but the staining came back. Finally, the combination of cleaners that worked was pretty straight forward. We used 766 Limestone and Masonry Prewash, followed by Limestone and Masonry Afterwash followed by Limestone Restorer."

The stains were completely removed by the summer of 1996 – just in time for the Indians 1997 season.

Play ball!



## Profiles

If you had asked any major league baseball fan five years ago which team they would expect to see vying for the Pennant, chances are you would hear every team name, except the Cleveland Indians.

Along with the Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox, the Cleveland Indians have had a reputation of being one of the worst teams in professional baseball. Playing losing games in front of small crowds in the gargantuan Cleveland Stadium, the Indians had been struggling to rejuvenate its image.

In the last few years, there has been a surprising turnaround, including a trip to the World Series in 1995. Dick Jacobs, owner of the Cleveland Indians since 1986, managed to resurrect the franchise by simple strategic maneuvers. First, he focused on developing his players rather than trading or hiring free agents. Secondly, he pushed for a new ballpark that would be better suited for the game of baseball – players and fans alike.

In addition to private funds, the county approved a sin tax on liquor and cigarettes to raise money for the new ballpark.

Designed by HOK, the Kansas-City based architectural firm that designed Oriole Park at Camden

made to improve their image with the public, it was ironic to discover brown quarry sap stains on the exterior limestone.

M-A Building & Maintenance Company from Cleveland and Priver & Associates were called in to remove the stains.

"Quarry sap is a common stain in limestone, but in all my years I've never seen such a severe and difficult stain to remove from such a dense limestone," Wil Priver, of Priver & Associates, said.

Pete Wamelink, president of M-A, said in determining the most effective way to remove the stains, they were literally up against the wall.

"What was so strange about the limestone was that it would never



# Fax Back Form

If you would like more information about anything mentioned in this newsletter, fill out the form below and fax back to **1-800-877-2700** or **913-281-2593**.

## **Sure Klean® Restoration Products**

- ☐ Sure Klean® Liquid Marble Cleaner
- ☐ Sure Klean® 766 Limestone & Masonry Prewash
- ☐ Sure Klean® Limestone & Masonry Afterwash
- ☐ Sure Klean® Limestone Restorer

## **BMC® Products**

- ☐ BMC® 55
- ☐ BMC® 90
- ☐ BMC® Blok-It Sealer & Filler
- ☐ Weather Seal Blok-Guard Stain

- ☐ Bird Barrier™ products

## **Other Comments**

Name and Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

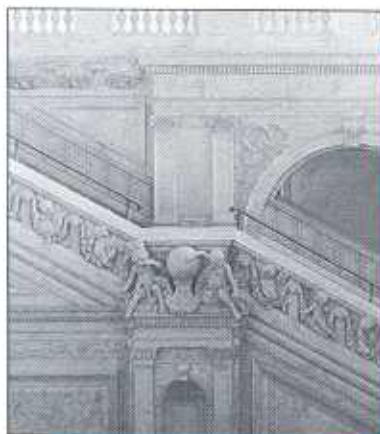
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*Celebrating "America's Memory"  
see cover story*