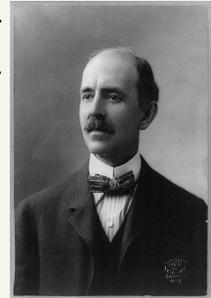


SYMBOLS OF DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH



W A T E R H O U S E S Y M B O L I S M N E W S L E T T E R # 9 6

SPECIAL SYMBOLS

- Sphinx conveys intellect, power, enigma and triumph over matter
- Hourglass conveys passage of time
- Oak leaves convey calm courage
- Tree conveys immortality, the life of the cosmos and the link between the three worlds (heaven, earth and underworld)

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LIFE OF DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH

I do not know how many of you follow my blog but on April 20, I spotlighted the birthday of Daniel Chester French (April 20, 1850 – October 7, 1931), one of the most prolific and acclaimed American sculptors of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

I thought it would be fun to do a newsletter spotlighting his cemetery memorial sculpture.

The sculpture to the left is *Death and the Sculptor*, a memorial for the grave of the sculptor Martin Milmore and his brothers, in the Forest Hills cemetery, Boston; This monument received a medal of honor at Paris, in 1900.

Symbols related to this incredible sculpture which was highlighted in my Waterhouse Symbolism Newsletter 78 include: cloaked angel of death which

conveys protection and guidance; roses which convey innocence and beauty; youth which conveys innocence and creativity; and the sphinx which conveys intellect, power, enigma and triumph over matter.



Death and Sculpture (1893)
Forest hills Cemetery, Boston.

SLOCUM MEMORIAL

Another wonderful French attributed sculpture in Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston is this angel to the right.

It is believed to have been executed by French's assistant, Evelyn Longman (1874-1954), who was the only woman French allowed to do his

work. Several symbols in this monument include: the cloak which conveys the outer bounds of the wearer's covering and righteousness; wings which convey spirituality; and the bowl which conveys charity.



Photo by Douglas Yeo (2003) (yeodoug.com)

KINGSLEY MEMORIAL (1911)

The angel is a symbol of protecting or guarding. She is sitting on a casket which is a symbol of mourning and grief. Notice that to the left of her wing is an hourglass which converts the passage of time. Also, we see a wreath, which conveys eternity.

The sculpture is made out of Tennessee marble.

Other works known by Daniel Chester French include the Lincoln Memorial, the Concord Minute Man, and the

Marshal Field Memorial which we will see later in this newsletter.

In 1912, author Harry Bliss wrote about the Kinsley Memorial, " while it is ancient in its suggestion, it is modern in treatment; especially in the character of the figure which sits gazing into the distance with an expression of expectancy that suggests hope and Resurrection." It is interesting how the angel is looking away from the viewer, but in the Thurman Angel, below, she is looking directly at the

viewer. This sculpture has been spotlighted in Waterhouse Symbolism Newsletters 10 and 22.

Woodlawn Cemetery was begun in 1843 and is the final resting place for Irving Berlin, George M. Cohan, Duke Ellington and Lionel Hampton just to name a few.

Daniel Chester French did over 9 cemetery monuments throughout the country.



Kingsley Memorial, Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY

MARY GLOVER THURMAN ANGEL (C. 1916)

The Great Way is not difficult for those not attached to preferences. When love and hate are both absent everything becomes clear and undistinguished

Seng-Ts'an

This particular monument is based on Daniel Chester French's Kingsley Memorial. Oakland's Thurman Angel is sculpted by James Novelli (see his information below).

A longtime resident of Oakland Cemetery is the Thurman Angel. This particular one was named after Mary Glover Thurman. She and her husband, a wealthy dentist, owned a very large antebellum house where the Biltmore Hotel is today.

They had no children so her nephew decided to have the sculpture made in memory of her. The story is that her nephew saw her several times take flowers from her beautiful gardens to terminally ill patients in hospitals throughout the city. The nephew was touched by this act of love and dubbed her "the angel".



Thurman Monument, Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta

JAMES SALVATORE JOHN NOVELLI (1885 - 1940)

James Salvatore John Novelli was born October 15, 1885 in Sulmona, Italy (Central Italy).

When he was five, his family migrated to the United States and settled in New York. His interest in art was fueled by his studies at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Rome when he was 18. After

he returned to the states, he worked with a marble cutter.

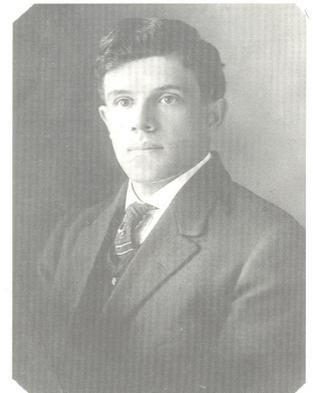
He began to receive many commissions including America Triumphant, in Pershing Field, Jersey City, New Jersey, commemorating the 147 neighborhood soldiers who died in World War I.

He also did a couple of cemetery memorial commissions

in Durham, North Carolina including Motherhood Group and Rock of Ages.

He continued to receive commissions and accolades until the mid 1930's. On May 31, 1940, Novelli committed suicide apparently despondent over the lack of commissions and the impending war in Europe.

The sculpture above is a legacy to his work.

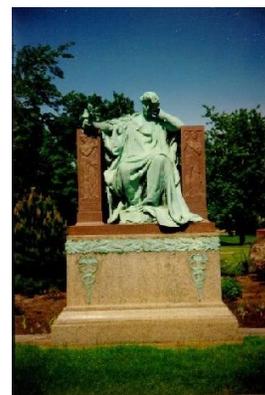


MARSHALL FIELD MEMORIAL (1906)

French's sculpture, the sad-faced woman titled "Memory," holds oak leaves, a symbol of calm courage. The caduceus on the base, the staff of Mercury, is used today mostly to represent medicine. But we are told that here, it stands for commerce. Mercury was the classical god of commerce – as well as of skill, eloquence, cleverness, travel and thievery.

Marshall Field (1835-1906) was the wealthiest man in Chicago of his time, worth an estimated \$100 million when

he died. Originally working as a clerk for Potter Palmer, he saved half of his \$400/year salary, and in 1865 with his partner Levi Leiter bought Palmer's dry-goods store. Field and Leiter eventually became "Marshall Field and Company", which was one of the most successful and widespread department-store chains in the world. Field donated \$8 million to establish the Field Museum of Natural History. His Prairie Avenue mansion was the first home in Chicago to be wired for electric lighting.



Graceland Cemetery, Chicago
Photo by Matt Hucke

DODGE MEMORIAL (1918)

Locally known as "The Black Angel," this statue honors Ruth Anne Dodge, the wife of General Dodge. Sculpted by Daniel Chester French, creator of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the Black Angel commemorates Ruth Anne Dodge's 1916 death.

Council Bluffs began its fine military record during the Civil War when, in 1861, the attack on Fort Sumter brought four companies of

the town's volunteers to the famed Fourth Iowa Infantry. In command was Captain Grenville M. Dodge, later promoted to Colonel, then General.

As the War ended, Dodge returned to the Bluffs, built an impressive home on Third Street for his wife, Ruth Anne, and family, and took a job as surveyor and chief engineer for the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad.



Fairview Cemetery, Council Bluffs, Iowa

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

Henry David Thoreau

UNKNOWN SYMBOL

Luann Sewell Waters, State Coordinator, Oklahoma Leopold Education Project, Conservation & History Educator, Dutch Oven Cooking Instructor sent me the image to the right. It is unusual grave marker from Duluth, MN. Other than knowing the language is Swedish, Luann is still unsure what the shape means. Any ideas?

It could be the tree of life which conveys old age.

The tree itself conveys immortality, the life of the cosmos, the link between the three worlds (heaven, earth and underworld), longevity, mythic ascension, wisdom, universe, eternal life, divine wisdom, the Cross, the Church, life, the home of spirits and life, the feminine and earths' fecundity.



What are your ideas
for future newsletters?



WATERHOUSE
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The mission of Waterhouse Symbolism is to research and document symbols locally, regionally, nationally and internationally and to share that knowledge through this newsletter, blogs and other avenues.



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

I enjoyed concentrating on one sculptor who did many works for cemeteries. These sculptures in cemeteries clearly make them outdoor museums like Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta and Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston. If you come across any French sculptures in cemeteries, please let me know about them.

Take care,
Richard Waterhouse

A MEMORY

This is the grave of Daniel Chester French who is buried in the elegantly famous Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts. Other famous burials there include Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry David Thoreau just to name a few.

On his grave is a wreath and folks have left coins in the middle of the wreath. A wreath conveys eternity, celebration, mourning, victory, valor, resurrection and memory which is appropriate in the case of Daniel Chester French. Coins convey the unfavorable aspects of money, avarice, bribery and trade. It is the attribute of Vanity personified.



Grave of Daniel Chester French

Photo by Barbara Poole. Check out Barbara's blog on French: <http://lifefromtheroots.blogspot.com/2013/12/daniel-chester-french.html>