

APPENDIX D**BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF ARCHITECTS, MCKIM, MEAD AND WHITE**

Charles Follen McKim (1847-1909) was born at Isabella Furnace, Chester County, Pennsylvania and was the anchor of the practice and the partner who enshrined the commitment to Beaux-Arts ideals. McKim studied Mining Engineering briefly at Harvard and in the summer of 1867 apprenticed under the noted architect, Russell Sturgis (1836-1909) in New York.¹ From 1867-1870 McKim attended the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris returning to the United States in 1870. He brought with him the teachings of the École that combined ideals of beauty and clear planning to produce monumental architecture, and added Ruskinian precepts he had absorbed during this brief stay in Sturgis' office – expressive massing, solid and straight forward construction and symbolic meaning enhanced by mural painting and decorative sculpture.²

Before McKim entered into a partnership with William B. Bigelow and William Mead in 1872 in New York City, he worked for a short time in the office of Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886), and became Richardson's principal assistant working in the Spring of 1872 on the early studies for Trinity Church in Boston.

William Rutherford Mead (1846-1928) was born in Brattleboro, Vermont and graduated from Amherst College in 1867. He worked for an engineer for a short time before entering the New York architectural office of Russell Sturgis as a paying student for instruction in architecture in 1867. Mead left New York for one and a half years and

¹ Leland Roth, *The Architecture of McKim, Mead & White 1890-1920: A Building List* (New York and London: Garland Publishing, 1978), xvii.

² *Ibid.*, xviii.

traveled to Florence, Italy, where his brother Larkin Goldsmith Mead had established a sculpture studio. While in Florence he studied at the Academia delle Belle Arti. He returned to New York in 1872 and that same year Mead joined McKim and Bigelow to form a partnership that was the precursor to McKim, Mead and White established in 1879.³

Stanford White (1853-1906) was the creative energy behind the firm. He was a native of New York City and the son of Richard Grant White, a prominent writer and critic of music and literature in New York. After attending private schools in New York City, White studied briefly at New York University. Although he wished to become a painter, he was directed to the architectural profession by his father at the age of nineteen.⁴ White joined the firm Gambrills and Richardson in 1872, and studied under Henry Hobson Richardson for four years. Excelling in drawing and exhibiting a quick rendering style, he displayed a talent for the decorative elements of a building. In 1878 he embarked on a self-guided tour of Europe and traveled for fifteen months with American sculptor August Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907), who would collaborate on many McKim, Mead and White's design projects.

White joined McKim's firm replacing William Bigelow on his return to New York City in 1879 creating the partnership of McKim, Mead and White. He also graduated from New York University in 1881. In 1906 White was shot and killed in the roof garden of the Madison Square Garden building, which he had designed in 1890 by

³ Placzek, 140.

⁴ Ibid., 140.

Henry Kendall Thaw, the son of a wealthy Pittsburg railway tycoon, who believed that White had grievously wronged his wife, Evelyn Nesbit and himself.⁵

⁵ William Dudley Hunt Jr., *Encyclopedia of American Architecture* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, c 1980), 342-343.