

Learning Places Fall 2016

# **SITE REPORT #2**

## *Morgan Library and Museum*



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## INTRODUCTION

The Morgan Library & Museum is a museum and research library located at 225 Madison Avenue at East 36th Street in Manhattan, New York City. This private library was founded by J. P. Morgan in 1906, which included manuscripts and printed books, some of them in rare bindings, as well as his collection of prints and drawings. The building was designated a New York City landmark in 1966 and was declared a National Historic Landmark later that same year.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION



The entrance building was designed by Renzo Piano in 2006. The new main entrance, facing Madison Avenue is fifty-two-

foot-high glass roofed courtyard, inserted between the J.P. Morgan house, the original library building and its annex, from which all other museum and library activities.



This photo that shown above is a model of the façade of J.P Morgan library. In 1902, Pierpont Morgan commissioned Charles McKim to design a structure for his growing collection of his rare books and manuscripts. Charles McKim completed several rounds of plan for the new library by drawings from Italian Renaissance villas, before this model was constructed.





These 4 photos above are J.P Morgan study room in the west room. Pierpont Morgan spent so many time in his richly private study, away from the Wall Street offices of his banking firm. In this room among some of his favorite works of art, Morgan worked, relaxed, and met with art dealers and business associates. The low shelves are containing of rare printed volumes books in the study's walls. The red silk wall covering contains the insignia of the Chigi, a great Sieneese banking family, and much of the furniture was commissioned by Morgan in the Renaissance style. Above of the massive fireplace, there's a portrait of Pierpont Morgan's hangs over the fifteenth-century mantelpiece.



The 3 photos shown above is the Rotunda. The Rotunda were designed and executed by Harry Siddons Mowbray. The decorations of the Rotunda announce the building's role as a repository of the art and ideas of the past, from antiquity to the Renaissance. The decorations on the blue and white on the ceiling of the Rotunda's was tribute to Raphael based on his designs for the Villa Madama in Rome in 1516 for Cardinal Giulio de' Medici. Against a background of urns and acanthus foliage, the hexagons depict classical figures representing Wheat, Flowers, the goddess

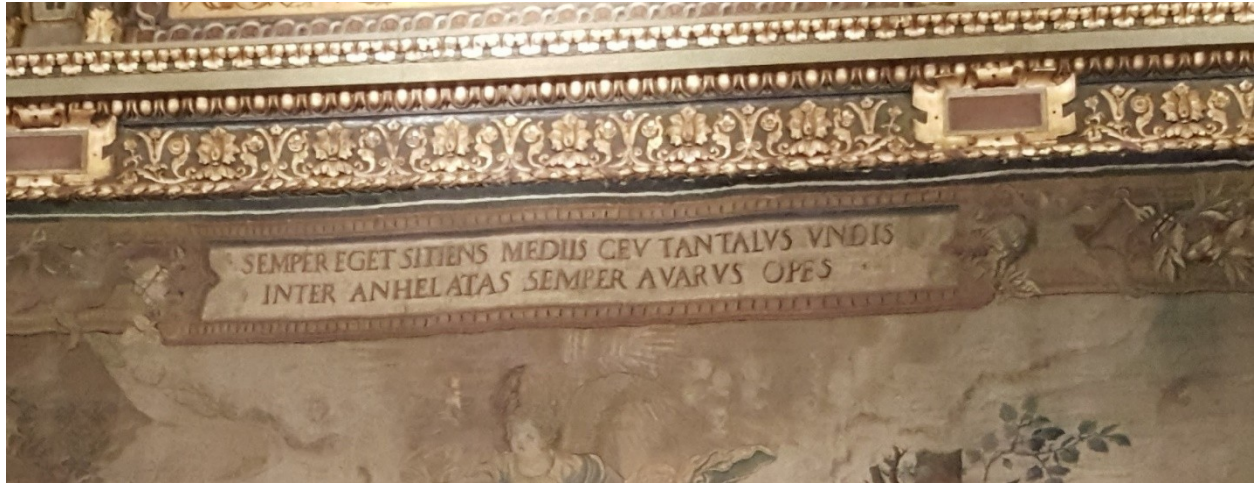
Ceres, the Vine, and Fruit. The Larger reliefs represent Venus and Cupid, Mercury and Proserpina, Diana and the Huntress, Cupid and Psyche, and Silenus with the young Bacchus. Mowbray modeled these reliefs in situ, to ensure proper lighting from the oculus.



These 2 photos above are Mr. Morgan library. The Library is by far the largest and grandest of the rooms in the building. The walls reaching to a height of thirty feet, are lined floor to ceiling with triple tiers of bookcases fashioned of bronze and inlaid Circassian walnut. Two staircases, concealed behind bookcases at the corners of the room, provide access to the balconies above.

## DISCOVERIES

During the site visit at the Morgan Library, I have discovered there's a secret hidden staircase behind the bookshelves in Morgan library where it leads to the balcony of upper level. I also discovered a painting place on top of the fireplace in Morgan library called "The Triumph of Avarice", there's a quote written in Latin that said "As Tantalus is ever thirsty in the midst of water, so is the miser always desirous of riches." Ironically, one the of the richest men of all time owns a tapestry depicting that greed is a fatal flaw.



## KEYWORDS

**Piazza-** a public square or marketplace, especially in an Italian town.

**Scientia-** knowledge is power.

**Studiolo-** A private study decorated with paintings and other works of art, popular in Italy from the 14th to the 16th centuries.