

Introduction

I am pleased to introduce this new book about Constantino Brumidi, the artist whose accomplishments in the United States Capitol are unparalleled.

Since taking office as Architect of the Capitol in February 1997, my appreciation of the history and beauty of this national landmark and this painter's contributions to it has grown.

I am conscious that my writing this introduction is symbolically apt. This book was begun under the direction of my predecessor, George M. White, FAIA, and was completed during the first year of my tenure. This continuity is central to the very nature of the Architect's responsibilities—individuals may come and go, but the Capitol and its art endure. Projects such as the ongoing conservation in the Brumidi Corridors epitomize the importance of the stewardship with which the Congress has entrusted this office. Similarly, the publication of this book is an important contribution to our educational mission, informing the people of America and the world about the Capitol and its significance. With the continued support and interest of the Congress, I am confident that our work will enrich the understanding of our nation's architectural and artistic heritage.

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Architect of the Capitol