


UNITED STATES
SENATE
CATALOGUE OF GRAPHIC ART



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Foreword by
The Honorable William H. Frist, M.D.
and
The Honorable Harry Reid

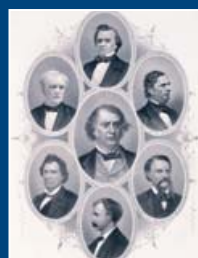
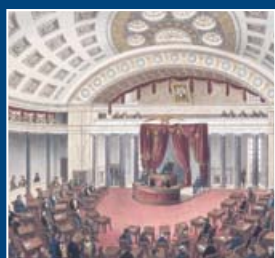
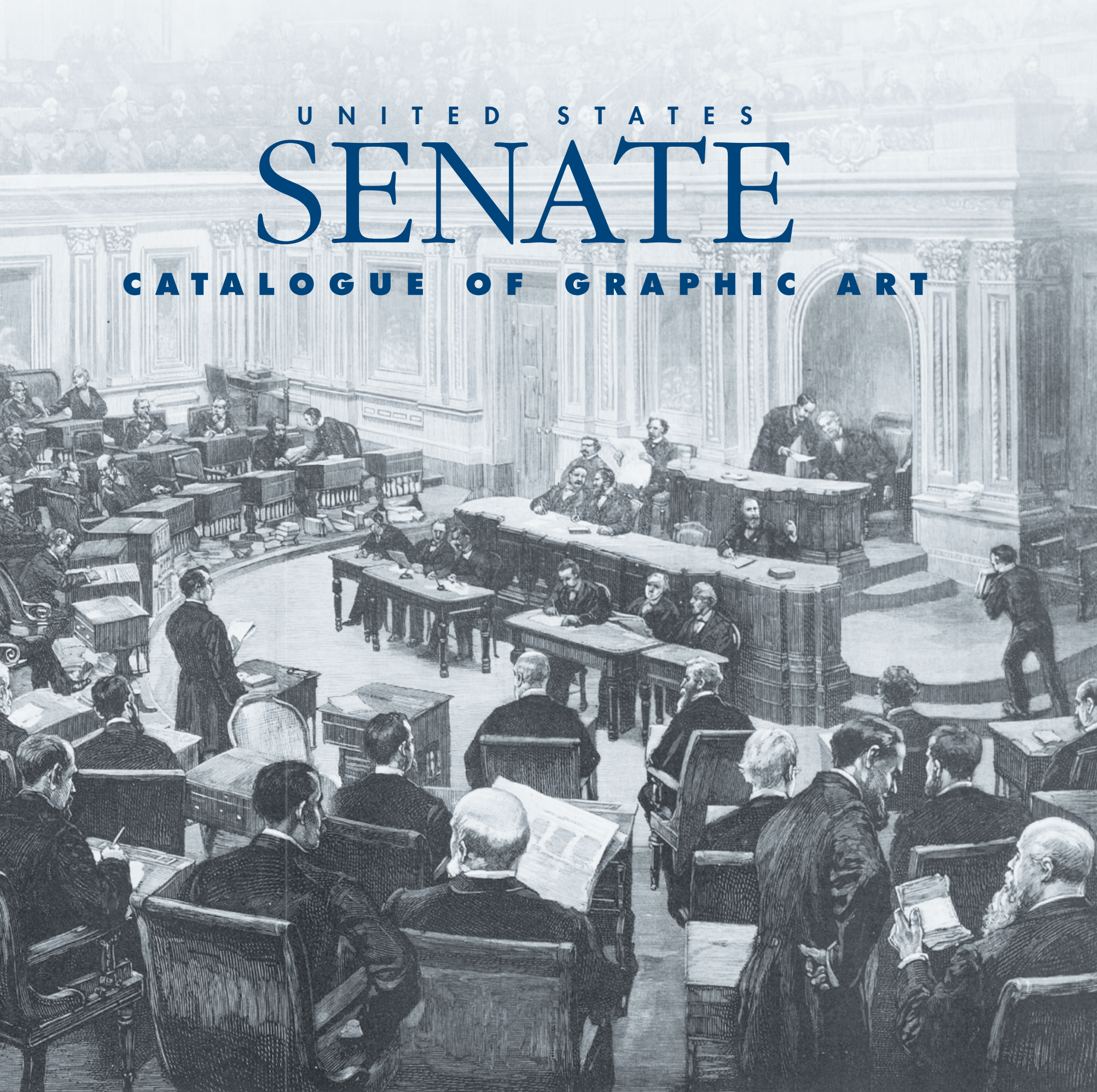
Preface by
The Honorable Emily J. Reynolds

Essays by
Diane K. Skvarla and Donald A. Ritchie

This volume is the first comprehensive publication of the almost one thousand prints in the holdings of the United States Senate. The collection represents a 30-year effort to document graphically the 19th and early 20th century history of the Senate, the Capitol, and American political history. The diverse illustrations range from inauguration ceremonies and impeachment trials to senatorial portraits and political cartoons. Represented in the Senate's graphic art collection are some of the most notable artists who worked in the printmaking medium: Augustus Köllner, Rembrandt Peale, Alexander Hay Ritchie, Thomas Nast, and Joseph Keppler.

While visually engaging, these prints also are important primary historical records. By carefully scrutinizing a print, in the same way a historian might analyze a journal or diary, one can extract the meaning of the artist and decode the historical subtext. Often, the elements omitted by the artist in an image are just as important as those that are included.

As a research tool, the graphic art collection has been invaluable to historians and scholars for many years. This publication seeks to broaden the appeal of the collection by making the information available to a wider audience. Essays by Senate Curator Diane K. Skvarla and Associate Senate Historian Donald A. Ritchie provide an overview of the collection, with selected prints highlighted throughout the book. This is the second volume dedicated to the Senate's art and historic collections. In 2002 the Senate published the *United States Senate Catalogue of Fine Art*, presenting the 160 paintings and sculptures in the Senate's fine art collection.



Diane K. Skvarla has been Senate curator since 1995, having begun her career in the office in 1979. She directs the museum and preservation programs for the United States Senate under the authority of the Senate Commission on Art. The Senate Curator's Office collects, preserves, and interprets the Senate's fine and decorative arts, historic objects, and specific architectural features. Through exhibitions, publications, and other programs, the office educates the public about the Senate and its collections. Skvarla coauthored the publication, *United States Senate Catalogue of Fine Art* (2002).

Donald A. Ritchie has served as associate historian in the Senate Historical Office since 1976. He holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland and has taught in the Cornell in Washington program. He conducts the Senate's oral history program and has prepared previously closed Senate documents for publication. His books include *Press Gallery: Congress and the Washington Correspondents* (1991), *The Oxford Guide to the United States Government* (2001), *Doing Oral History* (2003), and *Reporting from Washington: The History of the Washington Press Corps* (2005).

FRONT COVER: (*large image*) "The United States Senate" (1886); (*thumbnails, left to right*) "Allan G. Thurman" (1881); "The Electoral Contest—The United States Senators Entering the House of Representatives, with the Electoral Certificates" (1877); "Dixon Hall Lewis" (1845); "Senate Chamber" (1848); [U.S. Senators and Representatives] (ca. 1860); "View of the Capitol at Washington" (1837); "View of the Capitol, Showing Present State of the Dome" (1861); "Union" (1852).

BACK COVER; (*thumbnails, left to right*) "The Ugly Duckling" (1906); "Painting the Dome of the Capitol" (1882); "H[enry] Clay" (1856); "Daniel Webster Addressing the United States Senate" (1860); "A Harmless Explosion" (1881); "President Lincoln Taking the Oath at His Second Inauguration" (1865); "Opening the Senate of the United States with Prayer" (1905); "The Senator from Massachusetts Interrupts" (1897).

