

PRESENTING

A BEAUTIFUL BEACON:

CHARLES LANG FREER AND THE BICENTENNIAL MONUMENT FOR DETROIT

A LECTURE BY THE REVEREND DR. GEOFFREY DRUTCHAS

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2008

CHARLES LANG FREER HOUSE

71 EAST FERRY

3:00 PM

Lecture & Light Reception/Tours of the Freer House

Space is Limited

RSVP required (313) 872-1790

Complimentary Admission for Friends of Freer Members

Suggested Donation for Non-Members \$5.00

In 1900 Detroiters poised themselves to celebrate the bicentennial of their city's founding by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac. From the proposals made to commemorate the event emerged a plan to construct a towering white marble Doric column and colonnade at the foot of Belle Isle designed by the leading American architect Stanford White. The prime backer of the monument was Detroit industrialist Charles Lang Freer. The subsequent failure of the million dollar civic project was not only an embarrassment to the City of Detroit, it was also a deep personal disappointment to Freer, who, to the chagrin of his fellow citizens, later donated his private collection of American and Asian art to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In his lecture, Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas examines Freer's intimate role in the campaign on behalf of the Stanford White monument, as well as the impact which Detroit's failure to build the white marble column had on Freer's perceptions of his own hometown.

About the Speaker: A past lecturer at the Freer House, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas has written extensively on Charles Lang Freer and his business partner Senator James McMillan for Michigan History magazine and the Michigan Historical Review. Over the past decade Drutchas also successfully authenticated the Italian artist responsible for the eight monumental muses which crown the Michigan Capitol dome. In 2004-2005 Dr. Drutchas chaired the Juglaris Exhibition Commission and served as guest curator for "The Mystery of the Muses," the first international exhibition ever held at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. Additionally, Dr. Drutchas is the author of *Is Life Sacred?*, a comprehensive history of the sanctity of life concept in Western culture, and co-author of *Tommaso Juglaris: An Artist Between Europe and America*. He is currently at work on a new book, *Speak, Muse: Public Art and Politics in Michigan's Gilded Age*. A graduate of Michigan State and Harvard Universities and the Lancaster Seminary, Dr. Drutchas has served for the past two decades as senior pastor for a Detroit area congregation.