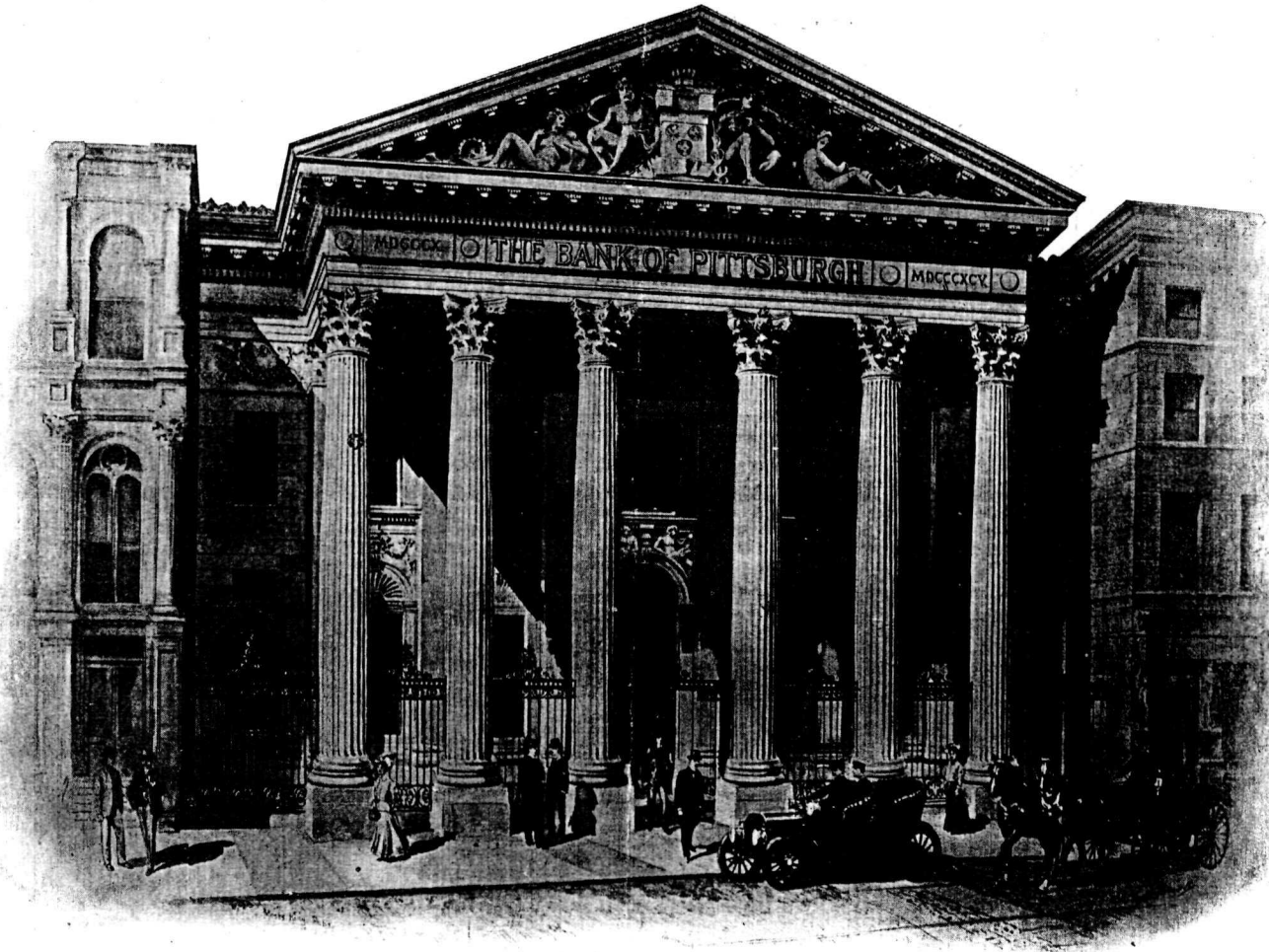


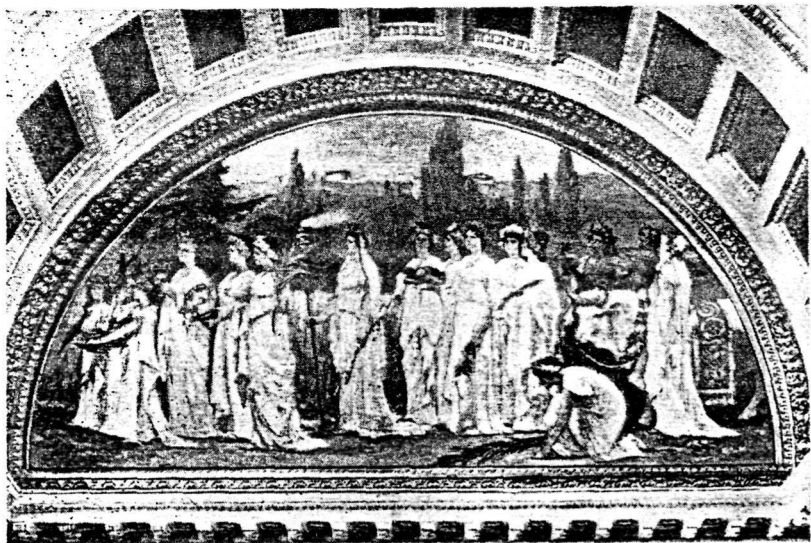
The Christmas Index

Dec 11, 1910

The Oldest Bank in Pittsburgh



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD, FEBRUARY, 1910



AS BUILDING wreckers this week began moving with more speed in the demolition of the old Bank of Pittsburgh Building on Fourth Ave., art lovers were saddened to learn that when the walls of the structure fall, crumbling with them would come one of Pittsburgh's most famous murals. The mural, painted in London by the great American artist, Francis Davis Millet (not to be confused with France's Jean Francois Millet), could not be saved because it has been mounted in white lead. Wreckers intended, however, to attempt to salvage some parts of it. The mural, titled "Thesmophoria," was drawn from the Feast of Ceres, of Greek mythology. It was considered one of the best murals painted by Millet, was said to have cost the old Bank of Pittsburgh in excess of \$30,000 to pay Millet, to transport it here from London and to mount it. Millet was drowned in the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912. Site of the bank building when it has been demolished will be used as another automobile parking lot.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

REFERENCE AND READING LISTS

DATE.....November 20, 1930.

SUBJECT.....Murals in the Bank of Pittsburgh.

Since the time of the Columbian Exposition, ¹⁸⁹³ Francis D. Millet has not been heard of in connection with any public enterprise and there is only one painting from his brush to record, Thesmophoria, a companion to Mr. Blashfield's tympanum in the Bank of Pittsburgh. [Entitled "Pittsburgh offering its steel and iron to the world."]

The Thesmophoria, or harvest festival, shows a procession of maidens with wreaths of leaves and flowers upon their hair, and light, trailing, classic draperies, marching along a road. They bear platters of fruit, bouquets of flowers, and palm branches; one holds a lighted torch, another, stooping to her sandal, has laid her palm upon the ground. Men carrying grain, and playing upon the flute, follow; and a beautiful bull decked with flowers, brings up the rear. Above the roadside wall, which is about breast-high, rise tall poplar and ever-green trees, between which are seen stretches of hills, their summits crowned by Grecian dwellings. The bankers seem to be very proud of their two decorations; for reproductions of them are printed at the head of the yearly reports, and a foot-note informs the public that Mr. Millet's procession includes portraits drawn from life of Mrs. de Navarro, Mrs. Alma Tadema, and other notable ladies.

King's American mural painting. 1901. p.352, 355.