



Mural tells history of Justice through centuries

For those of you who work often in the Pima County Courthouse, but haven't had the time to read the legend about the murals in the main lobby, here it all is.

The artist, Charles Clement has a sister and brother-in-law here in Tucson who gave The Writ permission to reproduce the mural.

Panel 1. Depicts the Egyptian God-King Rameses with his Papyrus scroll, or contract with the Goddess Maat who wears the feathers of justice. Upon his death, if he kept his contract, his judges will weigh his heart against the feathers to decide his fate in the Underworld.

Panel 2. King Hammurabi receiving the Sword of Justice from the Sun God. Part of the Code of Hammurabi is Cuneiform, inscribed in the Stele beneath them is the first decreeing rules for social behavior with punishment if broken.

Panel 3. Moses receiving the Ten Commandments from the hand of God. These ten rules developed into the five scrolls of the Pentateuch of Jewish law and were written

in Greek before the true Hebrew language was formalized.

Panel 4. Upper: The Temple of the Goddess Nemesis, with their seats from which she and the Goddess Themis judged the Fate of Men.

Center: Democracy crowns Salon, representing the City of Athens, for inaugurating self-government and new strides in human justice.

Lower: Demodratia (in Greek) now permits each man to cast his "yea" or "nay" ballot.

Panel 5. Christian Emperor Justinian condensed the great Roman, Greek and Hebrew legal systems into the fifteen books of the Pandects. Five outstanding Roman Legalists are shown below.

Panel 6. King John of England under pressure from the nobles, signed the Magna Carta. The common man was then granted the right to "equal justice under law."

Panel 7. The French Revolution brought about "Equality, Liberty and Brotherhood" permitting Napoleon, crowned as a Roman Emperor to create his "Code Civil

Napoleon" or Napoleonic Code, which influenced most of Western Europe, all French possessions including the Louisiana Territory and parts of the United States. Justice is shown supported by a lion's strength and a rooster heralding a new day.

Panel 8. "Liberty" in America let the "people" write their own CONSTITUTION. Some of its creators were (clockwise from upper left) James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Governor Morris, Benjamin Franklin, James Wilson and our first president, George Washington.

The panels were designed and produced by Charles Clement—a fifteen year resident of Tucson. 21 gauge copper was used and the natural oxidation sealed in special laquer. The mural took 8 months to produce.

Clement was the First Chairman of the Tucson Craft Guild. He died in 1981. Other works include the main fountain in El Presidio Park, the ark at Reid Park and a mural at Tucson High School. The mural at the courthouse has been in place since 1975.