Paul Manship
Artist and sculptor (1881–1966)

Manship was a prominent American sculptor who began his studies at the St. Paul School of Art. From there he went to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, before enrolling in the Art Students League of New York. From 1905 to 1907 he served as an assistant to sculptor Solon Borglum. In 1909, he won the highly sought-after Prix de Rome and attended the American Academy in Rome for three years. Manship was one of the first artists to become aware of the vast scope of art history being newly excavated and became intensely interested in Egyptian and pre-classical Greek sculpture.

When he returned to America from his European sojourn, Manship found that his refined style of simplified line and detail was attractive to both modernists and conservatives. He produced over 700 works in his career including creating statues and busts of THEODORE ROOSEVELT, SAMUEL OSGOOD, JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, GIFFORD BEAL and HENRY L. STIMSON. Manship was very adept at low relief and used these skills to produce a large number of coins and medals, one being the John F. Kennedy inaugural medal. He was chosen by the American Battle Monuments Commission to create monuments following both World Wars. Probably his most well-known work is the Prometheus statue in Rockefeller Center, though for Centurions, his most famous creation is the Manship Bowl. This came about one New Year’s Eve in the 20’s when INGALLS KIMBALL raised up an ugly ceramic bowl and smashed it on the Art Gallery floor. He then turned to Manship and said, “Now, Paul, you will make us a bowl worthy of the Century.” Manship was also father of artist and sculptor JOHN PAUL MANSHIP.

Manship served on the board of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and chaired the board. In 2004 the Smithsonian mounted a retrospective of his career.