

# Paulanship

Artist and sculptor (1881–1966)



Paulanship designed this stamp of the Four Freedoms statue, created in 1940 by his former assistant Leo Friedlander. This is a First Day of Issue envelope (February 12, 1943).



Paulanship 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. Paulanship 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, Paulanship 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. Paulanship 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 *Paulanship 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 Paulanship and said, "Now, Paul, you will make us a bowl worthy of the Century." Paulanship was also father of artist and sculptor JOHN PAUL MANSHIP.

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