

The Colorado Springs School
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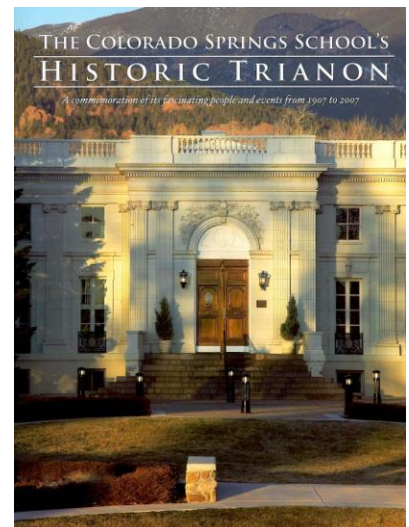
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DATE: June 26, 2009
For Release: Upon Receipt

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THE COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL PUBLISHES BOOK COMMEMORATING CENTENARY OF HISTORIC TRIANON BUILDING

Colorado Springs, Colo. – The Colorado Springs School (CSS) is pleased to announce the publication and sale of the book commemorating the 100 year old Trianon building located at the center of the Colorado Springs School campus. *The Colorado Springs School's Historic Trianon: A commemoration of its fascinating people and events from 1907 to 2007* includes the intriguing account of the Trianon's builders and first owners, the millionaires Charles and Virginia Baldwin, up until its present function as a school. Written by J. Michael Frease, a former librarian of The Colorado Springs School, the publication boasts several chapters covering each era of the Trianon as well as photographs and copies of newspaper articles from throughout the past century. Copies of the book are available for \$20 and can be purchased online at css.org or by phone at 719-434-3501.



Built in 1907, the Trianon in Colorado Springs was modeled after the Grand Trianon in Versailles, France as the second home of Charles and Virginia Baldwin of San Francisco, CA, and was originally called "Claremont" or simply "Broadmoor". It was filled with the collections and impressive accessories the Baldwins acquired on their extensive travels around the globe, including a fabulous array of books – now housed in the Colorado State University- Fort Collins Special Collections library. After Charles passed away, Virginia sold Claremont to Blevins Davis, the president of the American Ballet Theater in New York and widower of a fantastically wealthy woman, in 1949 for \$250,000. He then renovated the interior décor and furniture, as it was, by then, 42 years old. He improved the mansion greatly by updating electricity and plumbing, as well as cleaning up the exterior and the grounds. In 1952 after years of legal wrangling, the trustees of his wife's estate forced him to give the Trianon to the Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph of the Perpetual Adoration. The Sisters used the Trianon as a retreat center for eight years before selling it to the newly-formed

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Trianon Foundation organized by their attorney, John Metzger, which aimed to save the building and turn it into a museum using a number of artifacts and furniture pieces from the Baldwin and Davis eras. However, the Foundation did not have enough money to continue renovations and upkeep. It was feared that the estate would be put up for auction, the building leveled, and the land turned into a parking lot or subdivision. Thus began the efforts of three separate committees in Colorado to save the Trianon building by raising funds and petitioning the state government. The Foundation proposed moving the Trianon up to 88 miles away and continuing the plan of a museum. One hundred seventy-five thousand dollars was raised from schools and private donors all over the state to transport the building, but it was nowhere near enough. The money was returned and the building and estate sold to the growing Colorado Springs School for Girls, later to become The Colorado Springs School, in 1967 for \$430,000. The building was slightly altered to admit schoolchildren, including the addition of fire escapes and the remodeling of bathrooms. Much effort was put forth to keep the history and integrity of the building, which was eventually added to the National Registry of Historic Places on April 13th, 1977. The Trianon has been looked after with great care and now inspires a new generation at The Colorado Springs School, where it houses the administration, Middle School, and library facilities.

A fascinating and detailed compilation of the building's history and the lives of the people who inhabited it, *The Colorado Springs School's Historic Trianon* is an incredible and absorbing publication. A century of millionaires, Poor Sisters, and schoolchildren create an intriguing story and a proper tribute to a building that has influenced Colorado history. If you are interested in a copy, please contact Theresa Fitts, Assistant Director of Advancement Services, at 719-434-3501 or tfitts@css.org, or visit www.css.org. The book is available at \$20 a copy and \$3 for shipping and handling services, if required.

For more information about The Colorado Springs School, please contact Jessica James, Director of Communications, at jjames@css.org or 719-434-3506.

About the Colorado Springs School (CSS)

CSS offers an experiential educational curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten – 12th graders. Through superior academics and mentoring, The Colorado Springs School prepares students to think independently and to meet the needs of a dynamic world with leadership, ingenuity, problem-solving skills, and personal integrity.

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