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## **Tiffany's Stained Glass Angels to Visit Texas for First Time** *Historic Waco Foundation to Host "In Company with Angels" Exhibit*

WACO, TX – APRIL 8, 2013 -- The Historic Waco Foundation today announced that a collection of stained glass windows created by Louis Comfort Tiffany at the beginning of the 20th century will be on display for the first time in Texas. The exhibit entitled "In Company with Angels" depicts seven angels symbolizing early Christian churches in Asia Minor as described in the book of Revelation. The windows will be available for public viewing at Waco's Lee Lockwood Library and Museum starting this November through January 2014.

Originally installed in 1903 at the Swedenborgian Church of the New Jerusalem in Ohio, the windows survived the demolition of the church in 1964 that cleared the way for an Interstate. The eight-foot-tall lancet windows were rediscovered in 2001, restored in 2004 and have toured the nation since 2007 with a portion of the proceeds funding their care and maintenance.

"We are pleased to be the first to bring these exquisite works of art to Texas for the entire state to see", said Don Davis, executive director of the Historic Waco Foundation. "The Tiffany Studio in New York was no doubt the most innovative glass maker of the time whose designers created hundreds of new textures and colors of glass in his workshop. Religious historians, artists and stained glass enthusiasts alike will come away inspired." <http://www.historicwaco.org/angels/>

Each window is dedicated to a single angel who stands stolidly on a block with the name of the church associated with it. Verses from the book of Revelation praises each church for its strengths, but also warns of faults to overcome. A star radiating light at the apex of each window represents the union of love and wisdom and symbolizes a guide through darkness. The seven early churches of Asia Minor that are represented are:

**Ephesus** - Though angels are sometimes regarded as genderless, Tiffany portrayed the Ephesian angel as the most feminine among the seven.

**Smyrna** - Angels are often illustrated preternaturally young. Tiffany depicted this figure's face captured an eternal beauty, immortal in its perfection.

**Thyatira** - The Thyatiran angel holds the morning star, the pledged gift Jesus will give to His faithful.

**Sardis** - The Sardis angel's face is one of absolute beauty and conveys a resolute strength within.

**Philadelphia** - As one of only two angels with frontal orientation, the Philadelphia angel embodies the qualities asked of the Christian community; strength, dignity, and grace.

**Laodicea** - The Laodicean angel holds a scepter in his left hand as a reminder that those who overcome their sins, will reign with God in glory.

**Pergamos** - Where Ephesus is the most feminine of the seven windows, Pergamos, like Laodicea, is the more masculine and reinforces the imagery of a celestial warrior angel in full Roman soldier's garb.

### **About the Historic Waco Foundation**

Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Historic Waco Foundation is a volunteer organization dedicated to the collection, maintenance, preservation, publishing and interpretation of the heritage and history of Waco, McLennan County and Texas. The Foundation was formed in 1967 through the merger and incorporation of three common interest groups: the Heritage Society, the Society for Historic Preservation, and the Duncan Foundation. The primary function of the organization is education and preservation of local and state history. Exhibits, educational programs and lecture series are also available throughout the year to HWF members and the general public. To learn more visit: [www.historicwaco.org](http://www.historicwaco.org) \*\*Artwork available upon request.

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