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SPECIAL ISSUE

REMEMBERING WORLD WAR I



Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, Missouri, November 11, 1926.

Designed by New York architect H. Van Buren Magonigle, Kansas City's magnificent Liberty Memorial was dedicated on Armistice Day 1926. President Calvin Coolidge presided and told the assembled throng that "the magnitude of this memorial, and the broad base of popular support on which it rests, can scarcely fail to excite national wonder and admiration." Eighty years later the memorial remains a unique reminder of an earlier generation's sacrifice, and as museum director Eli Paul writes in the introduction to this special issue of *Kansas History*, "The year 2006 sees the completion of a massive physical expansion of the museum's exhibition, educational, and research spaces, a bi-state cultural asset with national aspirations."

The Liberty Memorial was unique in that it combined the grand monument with a functional type of memorialization, "a concept that . . . skyrocketed in popularity after 1918." It "offered functional space as well as war-related statuary," explains Steven Trout in "Forgotten Reminders: Kansas World War I Memorials." And unlike most First World War memorials across Kansas and the nation that "have long ceased to play a role in our living culture," the National World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial has been revived for the twenty-first century as "a thriving museum and research center." Perhaps this issue of *Kansas History* will revive some interest in that often neglected early twentieth-century "war to end all wars."

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Special thanks to Eli Paul and the staff of the National World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, Mo., for their contributions to and assistance with this special issue.

COVER: WWI recruiting poster by American artist I.B. Hazelton. BACK COVER: Cover of the 1921 history of the 353d Infantry "All Kansas" Regiment. An article on this regiment's activities during the war appears in this issue.

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