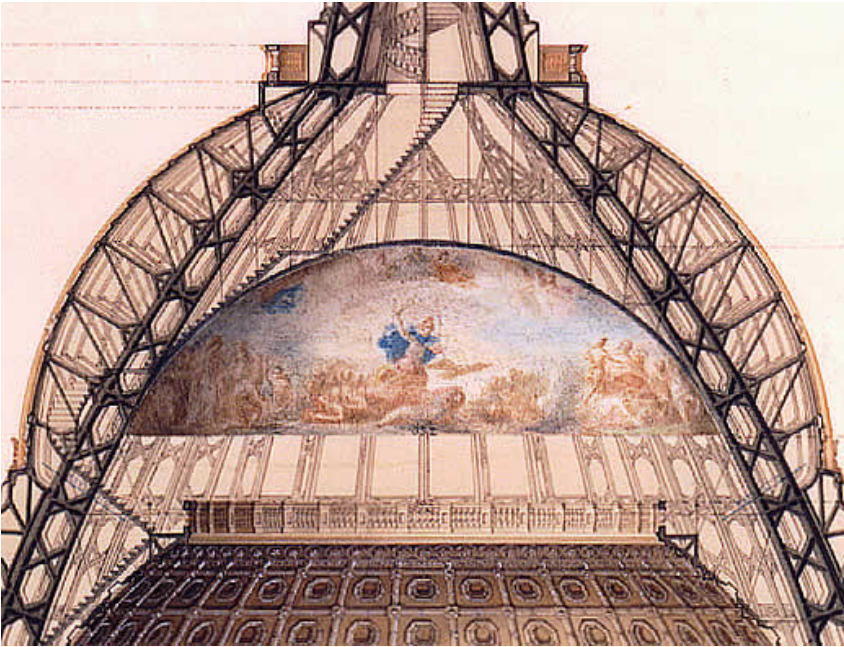


Apotheosis of George Washington, US Capitol Building dome, Constantino Brumidi, 1865



OGCMA1067NOTZeus_Brumidi

Constantino Brumidi, 1865, “War” vignette from the Apotheosis of Washington

- Surrounded by other Olympian deities — Neptune (Marine), Hermes (Commerce), Minerva (Science), Ceres (Agriculture), Vulcan (Mechanics) — Liberty seems wholly out of place.
- Conventional classical mythological iconography would likely have Mars in this place, or Minerva busily warring down the proud. Cf. Rubens’ Minerva protecting Pax from Mars (1629: OGCMA0203AresAthena_Rubens)
- Liberty, an iconographic creation of the 18th and 19th centuries, plays a major role in the message of the Capitol.



Apotheosis of George Washington, Capitol Building dome, Constantino Brumidi, 1865

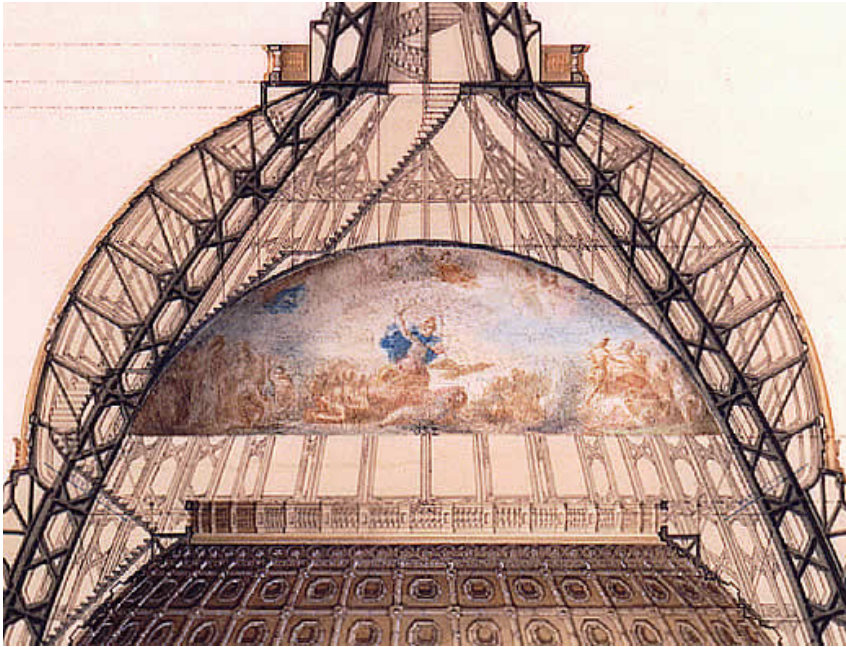
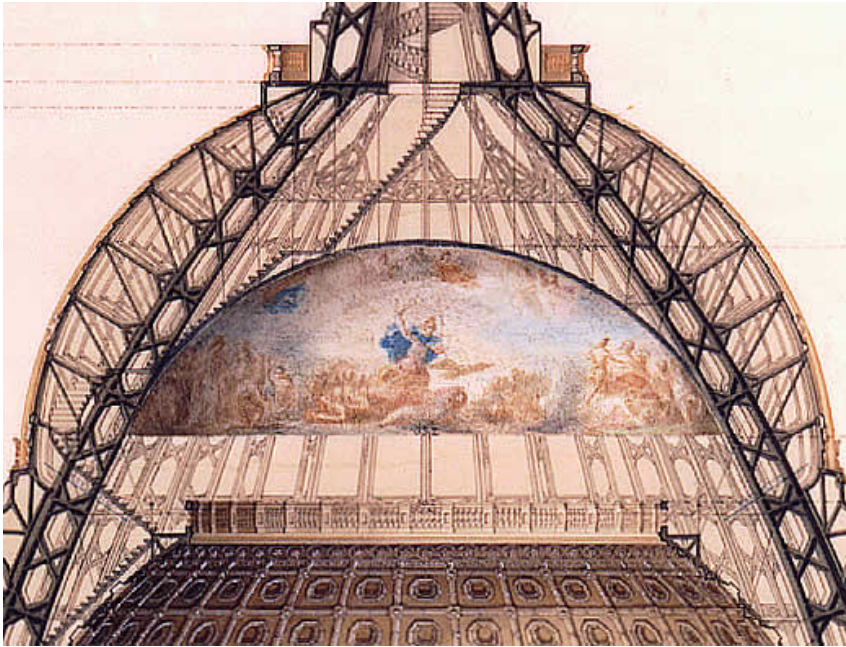


Photo courtesy of Sarah Dickson



Apotheosis of George Washington, Capitol Building dome, Constantino Brumidi, 1865



C. Brumidi's canopy over the Capitol Dome, "Apotheosis of George Washington" with Minerva, Neptune, other gods



**Constantino Brumidi, 1865,
“Commerce” vignette from the
Apotheosis of Washington**

Brumidi’s canopy in the Capitol dome features George Washington in the center, but various gods surround the scene.

Here Mercury (Hermes) — discernible from his winged sandals, winged hat, caduceus, and money bag — instructs the nations fathers regarding the best practices of commerce. The smokestacks of the industrial revolution are in the background, Vulcan is clockwise and Neptune to the right. Brumidi’s name and date are on the crate at Mercury’s feet.

