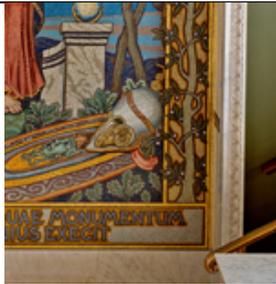


Mosaic of Minerva by Elihu Vedder

[Second Floor, East Corridor. Mosaic of **Minerva** by Elihu Vedder within central arched panel leading to the Visitor's Gallery. Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building, Washington, D.C.]

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/highsm.03129>

Section	Object	Symbolism and Mythology
 <p>All segments</p>	Vine (Laurel tree)	Victory
	Berries	
	Woman	Goddess of wisdom and of war Guardian of civilization and promoter of arts & sciences Minerva (Roman) Athena (Greek)
	Red clothing Blue clothing Gold edging on clothing	Discuss possible interpretations
 <p>Section #1</p>	Sun	Sun of prosperity, light, making things visible
	Rays	Prosperity reaches every corner of the land
	Serpent neckline	Medusa
	Clouds	Clouds of disaster and discouragement
	Staff/spear	Weapon for battle, war, power, knowledge
	Crown	Discuss possible interpretations (could include nobility, majesty, power)
 <p>Section #2</p>	Staff/spear	Weapon for battle, war, power, knowledge
	Trees	Olive tree: peace, mental strength, knowledge, victory, peace
	Breastplate	Armor for battle, protection The Gorgon Medusa's head at the center: divine powers, sometimes terrifying
	Breastplate decoration	Gorgon Medusa
	Blue sky Water	Discuss possible interpretations (could include blue as color of truth; water as life or eternity)
 <p>Section #3</p>	Owl	Wisdom, Knowledge; Minerva/Athena's symbol
	Elihu Vedder	Artist's name
	Corner of shield	
	Mountain Bare feet Spear Shrub Grass	Discuss possible interpretations (could include mountain as higher development with great labor; bare feet as close to the Earth, humility; green grass as life or freshness)

Section	Object	Symbolism and Mythology
 <p>Section #4 Entire Class example</p>	Dark clouds	Clouds of disaster and discouragement
	Sun rays	Prosperity reaches every corner of the land
	Vine leaves, berries	Discuss possible interpretations
 <p>Section #5</p>	Scroll listing	Fields of learning, science and art
	Winged figure	Success in battle Victory (Roman) Nike (Greek)
	Laurel wreath	Victory, triumph
	Palm	Victory, tree of life, light, peace, joy, the soul
	Trees	Olive tree symbolizing peace
 <p>Section #6</p>	Helmet	Battle protection on ground during time of peace, strength, invulnerability
	Helmet decoration	Ram's head: power and strength
	Shield	Battle protection rests on the ground nearby during a time of peace
	Shield decoration	Gorgon Medusa
	Globe Wall Bare foot	Discuss possible interpretations (could include globe as Earth cycle; bare feet as a sign of humility)
 <p>Quote: Not unwilling, Minerva raises a monument more lasting than bronze.</p>	Discuss possible interpretations	