Thomas Gilbert White (1877-1939) was born in Grand Haven, Michigan, and died in Paris. He studied at the Académie Julian and the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris with James McNeil Whistler. White was considered a leading portraitist and muralist during his time, and exhibited his work internationally. His work graces the state capitols of Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Utah; the County Courthouse in New Haven, Connecticut; and the Pan-American Building in Washington, D.C. He received numerous awards, among them the Commander de la Legion d’Honneur, the Officier de l’Academie, and the Order of the Purple Heart.

This mural, installed in the United States Courthouse at Gadsen, Alabama, in 1914, represents Nemesis, the Greek goddess personifying retributive justice, a relentless avenger. With a sword in her hand symbolizing the protection of individuals’ rights, she is depicted stopping two men brutally robbing a third. The artist’s wife served as the model for the figure of Nemesis, and Eugene Sandow, the international strongman and first body builder, posed for the central figure of the thief.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF EUGENE SANDOW