

S. A. H. NOTICES

The Society's thanks go to General Chairman, Richard H. Howland and Local Chairman, Wilbur H. Hunter, Jr., for arranging one of our best annual meetings, in Baltimore, January 24-26, at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. The meeting, held in conjunction with the College Art Association, saw 223 members and friends of S.A.H. from all parts of the United States assemble to hear a fine series of papers, to see the treasures of local museums and historic buildings, and to enjoy the hospitality of Baltimore residents and institutions.



President J.P. Forbes presenting the Society's Alice Davis Hitchcock Medal for 1962 to George A. Kubler for his book, The Art and Architecture of Ancient America

Photo: Baltimore News - Post and Sunday American

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians was held on Friday, January 25, combined, as usual, with a luncheon. President Forbes called the meeting to order at 1 p.m., and welcomed those present. He then reported on the question of a joint meeting with the College Art Association in January, 1965 in Los Angeles. The membership present was asked for an expression of opinion on whether it wanted 1) to meet jointly with the C.A.A.; 2) meet part of the time with the C.A.A., but then proceed to San Francisco, which offer greater architectural attractions; or 3) meet separately in the eastern half of the country. A show of hands disclosed an overwhelming majority for proposal three.

President Forbes announced the formation of a Committee on Preservation, the members to be designated by the Executive Board.

Cordial welcomes to the meeting were extended to Frank I. Jenkins of S.A.H.-Great Britain (visiting the University of Florida), and Bunji Kobayashi of S.A.H.-Japan (visiting the University of Kentucky).

John M. Dickey read the Treasurer's Report which was accepted by the assembled membership. Mr. Dickey commented on the particularly favorable balance this year, and the growth of the Society. Our membership has continued its vigorous and remarkable growth, and, as of the close of 1962, there were 1,972 members, including 301 new members and 81 resignations and deaths during the year. It is interesting to recall that a decade ago there were but 475 members!

President Forbes announced that the 1963 August Tour will be held in York, Pennsylvania, and the next annual meeting will be in Philadelphia.

Thomas J. McCormick, as chairman of the book award committee announced the Society's Alice Davis Hitchcock Award for the most distinguished book on architectural history by an American or on an American subject published in 1962. The prize went to George A. Kubler of Yale University for his The Art and Architecture of Ancient America (Penguin Books), described as the "first complete account of ancient America." The traditional Wedgewood plaque was given to Professor Kubler by President Forbes.

Miss Barbara Wriston, as the chairman of the nominating committee, then presented the following nominations for officers and directors of the Society in 1963:

- President . . . . . J. D. Forbes, University of Virginia
- Vice President . . . . . Richard H. Howland, Smithsonian Institution
- Secretary . . . . . Adolf K. Placzek, Columbia University
- Treasurer . . . . . John M. Dickey, Price & Dickey, Architects

Directors to serve three years:

- Alan Gowans, University of Delaware
- Howard Hibbard, Columbia University
- William L. MacDonald, Yale University
- Henry A. Millon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Eduard F. Sekler, Harvard University
- George B. Tatum, University of Pennsylvania

Myron B. Smith then moved that one unanimous vote be cast by the secretary. The motion was approved by show of hands and the secretary so instructed.

Vice President Howland submitted five resolutions as recommendations of the Board of Directors:

- 1) of the Society's concern at the proposed acquisition of three blocks in the historic part of Annapolis by the Naval Academy
- 2) of thanks to the local committee, especially Wilbur H. Hunter, Jr., Mrs. Wendell Allen, and Mrs. Alan Hoblitzell
- 3) of thanks to Mrs. Roger Clapp for arranging publicity for the meeting
- 4) of appreciation to Wilbur H. Hunter, Jr., Denys P. Myers, Robert Kerr and Marvin Mayeux who served as slide operators
- 5) of thanks to the several Baltimoreans and Baltimore institutions for their kindness and hospitality.

These resolutions were accepted without dissent.

Following a report by Barbara Wriston on the Robie House (see Preservation Notes), President Forbes adjourned the meeting. (We are indebted to Secretary Adolf K. Placzek for much of this report on the annual business meeting.)

The first series of papers, given on Thursday morning, was arranged by Robert L. Alexander, of the State University of Iowa, and devoted to The Changing Role of the Monument. Papers included: J. Jefferson Miller, II (Smithsonian Institution), "Mills's Washington Monument in Baltimore"; Cyril Mango (Dumbarton Oaks), "Monuments in Mediaeval Constantinople"; James van Trump (Carnegie Institute of Technology), "The Skyscraper as Monument: A Field of Commemorative Buildings in Pittsburgh"; The Honorable David E. Finley (The Commission of Fine Arts, Washington), "Observations on Monuments."

Over the noon hour, Thursday, the Peale Museum was host to our meeting for openings of three special exhibits, "Historic Annapolis," arranged by Historic Annapolis, Inc. (to be circulated by the Smithsonian Institution), a display of maps illustrating the growth of Baltimore arranged by Peale Museum Director, Wilbur H. Hunter, Jr., and an exhibit prepared by the Historic American Buildings Survey, "HABS--The Nineteenth Century," emphasizing recent records of historic buildings from the still-controversial "Victorian" century, prepared by the National Park Service's Eastern Design Office in Philadelphia.

Thursday afternoon was devoted to The World of Islam, under the chairmanship of John D. Hoag of Yale University, and was, incidentally, the first S.A.H. session completely devoted to Islamic architecture. Included were the following papers: Dogan Kuban (University of Michigan and Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey), "A Non-Islamic Space Concept in Islamic Architecture"; Myron Bement Smith (Committee for Islamic Culture), "The Minaret: Unity and Divergence in Islamic Architecture"; Oleg Grabar (University of Michigan), "Domical Buildings in Islamic Architecture: a Reinterpretation."

Through the kindness of eleven Baltimore Institutions, the S.A.H. and C.A.A. were given a reception at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Thursday afternoon, and in the evening the Peabody Institute Library received us with a special exhibit of "Curious Prints in Architecture, Building, and Engineering."

Under the Chairmanship of Robert Branner of Columbia University, Friday morning was devoted to Mediaeval Architecture with papers by: Walter Horn (University of California, Berkeley), "The Hall of Leicester Castle, and a Recent Theory about the Development of Mediaeval Roof Construction"; Howard Saalman (Carnegie Institute of Technology), "San Miniato: 1014 or Later?"; Turpin C. Bannister (University of Florida), "The Constantinian Basilica of St. Peter"; Sybil Moholy-Nagy (Pratt Institute), "Qal'at Seman."

Under the Chairmanship of George B. Tatum, of the University of Pennsylvania, a General Session was presented Friday afternoon, with the following papers: Douglas Fraser (Columbia University), "Architectural Evidence of Trans-Pacific Contact Between Asia and Pre-Columbian America"; Ralph A. Gakenheimer (University of North Carolina), "16th Century Lima: A Study in the Control of Urban Form"; Milton J. Lewine (Columbia University), "Vignola and S. Anna dei Palafrenieri in Rome"; Henry A. Millon (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), "Bernini and Guarini: The Louvre and the Carignano"; F. Hamilton Hazlehurst (University of Georgia), "Some Newly Discovered Plans by André Le Nôtre"; and Robert A.M. Stern (Yale University), "Rationalism and Romanticism in the Domestic Architecture of George Howe."

On Friday evening, the Society and the College Art Association met for their annual banquet. The honored speaker of the evening was August Heckscher, Special Consultant on the Arts to the President, who discussed architecture and the remodelling of Washington.

Saturday morning was devoted to modern architecture under the direction of H. Allen Brooks, of the University of Toronto. Professor Brooks arranged a series of papers with the theme of "The Era of World War I and its Aftermath"; following the pattern of similar recent programs at the International Congress of The History of Art and the Modern Architecture Symposium held at Columbia University. Professor Brooks read a paper for Joshua C. Taylor, University of Chicago, who was unable to attend--"Futurism and the Dynamic Principle." Other speakers were: David Gebhard (University of California, Santa Barbara), "Neo-rationalism and the International Style in California"; Peter Serenyi (Amherst College), "The Effect of World War I on LeCorbusier, Mies, and Gropius"; William H. Jordy (Brown University), "The Symbolic Nature of the Architectural Revolution of the Twenties and its Continuing Consequence"; Peter Collins (McGill University), "Archaisms and Environment in Modern Architecture."

Two architectural tours were offered to those attending the meeting. Saturday, a tour of "Old and New Ecclesiastical Architecture in Baltimore" was arranged by Wilbur H. Hunter, Jr., and on Sunday, Historic Annapolis, Inc. prepared an all-day bus tour to see Annapolis and the city's historic buildings. Supplementing the bus tour of Baltimore churches, the Peale Museum has also prepared a pamphlet for two walking tours, Baltimore Churches Near Charles Center (8 pp., illustrated). Copies are available from the Peale Museum, 225 N. Holliday Street, Baltimore.

President Forbes has announced the membership of the Preservation Committee: Frederick D. Nichols, University of Virginia, is Chairman, assisted by George B. Tatum, University of Pennsylvania, and Charles van Ravenswaay, Old Sturbridge Village. The committee will serve as a coordinating group, will speak for the Society on preservation matters, and will advise local groups where to obtain technical help when they need it.

In order to assist the S.A.H. Board of Directors in long-range planning for future August tours, the members are invited to consider possible locations for tours and people to conduct them, and to send such suggestions to Mrs. Rosann S. Berry, Executive Secretary, S.A.H., Box 94, Media, Pennsylvania, by April twentieth.

#### CHAPTER NOTICES

Chicago Chapter Barbara Wriston, Art Institute of Chicago, addressed the Chicago Chapter on January 31st at the Ryerson Library of the Art Institute on "The Society of Architectural Historians," and gave a report on the annual meeting in Baltimore.

New York Chapter The winter meeting of the Chapter was held at Columbia University on January 14. Joseph M. Shelley, Visiting Professor at Columbia, spoke on "Some Heretical Views on Architectural History."

#### NEWS OF MEMBERS

Perry Borchers, Professor of Architecture at the Ohio State University, writes that he has been awarded a Science Faculty Fellowship by the National Science Foundation for 1963-4. In September, he will begin a year of study and research, particularly in the photogrammetric recording and measurement of structural movements at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden.

Richard G. Carrott writes that he is Vice Chairman, Division of Humanities, at the University of California, Riverside. His department is moving into a new building to be dedicated in April, and to inaugurate their new gallery, an exhibit of works of Thomas Moran, western landscape painter, is being prepared.

We are pleased to note that the American Institute of Architects has honored several of our members: Kenneth J. Conant and Walter L. Creese have been made honorary members for "distinguished service to the profession"; G. E. Kidder Smith has received the Institute's Architectural Photography medal; and R. Buckminster Fuller has received the Allied Professions Medal.

J. D. Forbes writes that he visited Egypt last December to view the ancient monuments before the flooding of the Nile, and says he finds himself in the "group that opposes the jacking up of the monuments, preferring to have the facades removed and reassembled."

The February number of Charette carries an article on the nineteenth-century Philadelphia architect, Frank Furness, by James C. Massey, entitled "Frank Furness in the 1870's--Some Lesser Known Buildings."

Lewis Mumford has been elected President of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Mr. Mumford--author, lecturer, critic and historian--was first elected to this honorary society of the arts in 1955.

Mrs. Margaret B. Munier has recently been named director of the Wenham Historical Association and Museum, Inc., of Wenham, Massachusetts.

Richard W.E. Perrin, Director of Development for the City of Milwaukee and historian of Wisconsin architecture, has written "Wisconsin's Victorian Houses: Architectural Reflections of Society in Transition" in the Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. 45, No. 4, Summer, 1962, pp. 290-5.

Architect Charles E. Peterson, recently retired from the National Park Service to start his own practice, is scheduled to give five widely-scattered lectures: Historic Mobile Preservation Society, Mobile, Alabama, February 13; Louisiana Landmarks Society, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 14; Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, February 15; Preservation Society of Charleston, Charleston, S.C., March 14; and the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, April 5.

Architect William J. Wagner, of Des Moines, Iowa, has shown us an attractive calendar he prepared for the Home Federal Savings and Loan Association, featuring his sketches of Iowa Landmarks, excellent drawings of historic and pioneer buildings in Iowa. Of particular note is the town of St. Donatus, on the Mississippi River south of Dubuque, that was founded in the 1850's by settlers from Luxembourg, and "Here they build a town very much like the village from which they had come."

The Federal Government's General Services Administration has appointed S.A.H. member Karel Yasko as Assistant Commissioner of Design and Construction. Mr. Yasko, the former Wisconsin State Architect, will direct the government's large building construction program in his new position.

#### ORGANIZATIONS

The American Institute of Architects will meet in Miami, Florida, May 5 to 9.

At the recent San Francisco meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Gordon Gray was elected Chairman of the Board, replacing David E. Finley, who had been Chairman since 1947. The 1963 meeting of the National Trust will be in Washington, October 17-21. Regional preservation conferences are being planned this Spring at Auburn, Alabama and Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The American Association of Architectural Bibliographers, School of Architecture, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, is preparing a census of English rooms to be found in American museums, and requests our assistance in its completion. If you are acquainted with any English rooms here, please pass the information--from what English building, room, present location, date and architect, and publications--on to the Association. We also understand that Frederick D. Nichols of the University of Virginia is at work on a bibliography on Virginia architecture, from the earliest background books to 1900. Your assistance is again invited.

#### COURSES AND GRANTS

The Heritage Foundation of Deerfield, Mass., announces its annual summer fellowship program in the study of early American history and fine arts, to be held July 2-August 28, 1963, at Deerfield. The purpose of the program is to provide an opportunity for male students who have not yet entered graduate school and who are potentially interested in a professional career in the preservation and interpretation of early American culture to explore that potential. Fellowship recipients work on individual research projects based on architectural, decorative art and historical material in the Deerfield area. They also act as guides in the local museum houses and take trips to various museums on the east coast. The program welcomes students in both history and fine arts. There are seven fellowships, each with a stipend of \$300

plus board, room and travel to and from Deerfield. Inquiries concerning the program should be addressed to Jere R. Daniell, Head Tutor, Heritage Foundation, 20 Gray Street, Cambridge 38, Mass.

At Williamsburg, Virginia, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, Colonial Williamsburg, the American Association for State and Local History, and the American Association of Museums will again hold a seminar for historical administrators. This program, designed to introduce selected graduate students to the field of historical agency administration, will be held June 17-July 26. Morning seminars, to be conducted by visiting authorities as well as personnel of the sponsoring groups, will be coordinated with afternoon laboratory training using Williamsburg facilities. Field trips are also planned. Twelve fellowships, each with a stipend of \$450, are available to students with one year of graduate training (or its equivalent) in American history, American studies, American art and architectural history, or allied fields. For application blanks and further information, write the Coordinator, Seminar for Historical Administrators, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 815 17th Street, N.W., Suite 240, Washington 6, D. C.

The Twelfth Annual English National Trust Summer School, to be run in association with Attingham Park, The Shropshire Adult College, for the study of The Historic Houses of England will be held from July 3 to 23, 1963.

The course is offered to those with a serious interest in architecture and the fine arts, and an early application is advised. For further information write: Mr. Hardinge Scholle, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000 K Street N.W., Washington 6, D. C., or Miss Edith Standen, Metropolitan Museum of art, New York 28.

#### RESEARCH

Charles E. Peterson, F.A.I.A., is completing a book-length history of Honolulu architecture--Building Honolulu--and would appreciate hearing from persons who have pertinent documentary material. (332-34 Spruce St., Philadelphia 6, Pa.)

#### POSITIONS OPEN

The National Park Service will have positions in 1963 for architectural students interested in early American architecture, as part of the Service's Student Summer Program, now in its twelfth year. Tentative locations include: Boston, Charleston, Chicago, New Orleans, and Philadelphia. Applicants must have completed at least two years of professional training and have the recommendation of their department chairman. Generally, only one student per school will be selected. There are also occasional openings for faculty and graduate-level history of architecture students holding a B. Architecture. Write Robert E. Smith, Chief Architect, National Park Service, 143 S. Third St., Phila. 6, Pa.

#### PUBLICATIONS

St. Louis architect John Albury Bryan has written and published an excellent booklet Lafayette Square, concerning this fine early St. Louis neighborhood and its historic houses. Copies may be obtained from Mr. Bryan for \$1.00 each at 21 Benton Place, St. Louis 4. Mr. Bryan--a long-time student of St. Louis architecture--is to be highly commended for preparing this booklet and publishing it at his own expense.

Harold D. Eberlein and Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard tell us that their book, prepared for the Delaware Public Archives Commission, Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware (Dover, 1962) was sold out before publication, and that a second edition is now in the works. It is a fine book, and we believe it represents the first serious consideration of the many historic buildings in the two lower Delaware counties--Kent and Sussex. In connection with their work on the book, the authors recorded a large group of these structures for the Historic American Buildings Survey.

The St. Augustine Historical Society (22 St. Francis St., St. Augustine, Fla.) has published a remarkable history of the varied architecture of that early settlement, The Houses of St. Augustine, 1565-1821, by Albert C. Manuy, of the National Park Service. It is a thorough examination of St. Augustine building through the Spanish, British, and second Spanish periods, up to the date of American occupation, and a detailed survey of materials, construction methods and design components. It is generously illustrated with pen-and-ink sketches, and has an extensive glossary of terms relating to St. Augustine architecture. Copies are available from the Society for \$2.50 plus \$.25 mailing.

Architect Henry H. Richardson's well-known Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy, Mass. is the subject of a new illustrated history, The Crane Library, by L. Draper Hill, Jr. Copies may be ordered from the Library, Box 379, Quincy 69, Massachusetts at \$3.00 for hard cover copies, or \$2.00 for paperbacks.

#### PRESERVATION NOTES

I would like to call your attention to an important article concerning the state of America's natural wonders and historic shrines that originally appeared in Changing Times (November, 1962) and has since been reprinted and distributed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, "America the Beautiful: Heritage or Honky-Tonk." It is a harsh but truthful report on the threats to our scenic and historic areas caused through carelessness and blatant commercialism. Copies may be obtained from the Changing Times Reprint Service, 1729 H St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., for \$.15.

Chicago At the Baltimore Meeting, Barbara Wriston reported on the progress of the Robie House Committee in raising a fund of \$250,000 to assure the preservation of this key monument of modern architecture. Title to the house has now been passed by Webb and Knapp to the University of Chicago as a gift. The University will maintain the house for educational purposes, possibly as the President's home, or as a residence for visiting scholars, with a portion of the house open to the public. Contributions to the fund to restore the house are solicited, and are tax-deductible. Checks should be made out to the Robie House Restoration Fund of the University of Chicago, and mailed to Ira J. Bach, Chairman, Robie House Committee, Room 1006, City Hall, Chicago 2, Illinois.

Chicago Marian C. Donnelly tells us of a worthwhile program to salvage architectural fragments from the Hyde Park-Kenwood area, similar to the work being done by New York's "Anonymous Arts Recovery Society." She writes: "We have been undergoing urban renewal with the accompanying demolition of older buildings, most of which certainly deserved to go. A few buildings are regretted, and in addition to those, there were details of decoration, interior and exterior, on other buildings which seemed worthy of some kind of record. With the permission of the Department of Urban Renewal a recording and salvage project was organized by the Committee on Community Appearance, a volunteer group under the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference. Several SAH members are on the committee, and they have done most of the work. . . . When the buildings we have chosen have been vacated, the DUR has given us permission to inspect them, make descriptive notes, take photographs, and remove woodwork, metalwork, tiles, stained and leaded glass, etc., usually with the help of DUR maintenance personnel and trucks, and the collection itself is housed in a warehouse of the DUR. The project was published in a booklet called "Segments of the Past," in 1962.

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