

February 1960

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SAH NOTICES - The 13th Annual Meeting of the Society in New York City, Jan. 28-31, had a stimulating program prepared by Harley J. McKee, Syracuse, Chairman, and smooth-running presentation owing to the work of the local committee under the chairmanship of Robert Branner, Columbia, and now one of the newly elected directors of SAH. Over 200 members registered. Three bus loads went on the Brooklyn tour, chaired by Marvin Schwartz, Curator of Decorative Arts, Brooklyn Museum, who is putting on a show of Victorian furniture in April. Another group went for a walking tour of Brooklyn Heights on Sunday afternoon, guided by Clay Lancaster, who is once more a resident of Brooklyn at 30 Monroe Place and whose book, Architectural Follies, is to be published in April. Both tours ended at the Long Island Historical Society where we were welcomed by the officers, refreshed by punch and could study the excellent display of drawings, prints and photographs of Brooklyn architecture prepared by Maud Dilliard, Rosalie Bailey, Mary B. Cowdrey, D. M. C. Hopping and L. Livingston.

Eduard F. Seckler, Harvard, was Chairman of the first session on renaissance and baroque architecture. The first three papers made an especially stimulating unit as each was concerned with an Italian design of the 1560's. Each made good use of documents and was clearly presented. They were "Michelangelo and The Porta Pia" by Elizabeth B. MacDougall, Harvard; "Vignola and The Palazzo Borghese" by Howard Hibbard, Columbia; "Pratolino, a Florentine Villa of the late 16th c." by Webster Smith, Cornell. With John Harris, R.I.B.A. London, we crossed to England for a discussion of "William and John Talman's Schemes for a 'Trianon' at Hampton Court" and then across the Atlantic for the splendid presentation by S. D. Markham, Duke, of "Las Capuchinas: an 18th c. Convent in Antigua, Guatemala, Central America" completed in 1736 and which included a circular building for the novices.

The second or general session was chaired by Harley McKee as his colleague Harry H. Hillberry, Syracuse, Chairman, was on a grounded plane. Speakers: Howard Saalman, Pittsburgh, "The 'Crypt' under San Pier Scheraggio in Florence"; Herman G. Fundt, a student at the University of Illinois, the excellence of whose paper on "Karl Friederich Von Schinkel, Functionalist" makes one hope for many more student papers in the future. The last two, "Ruins, Their Meaning as Architecture" by Paul Zucker, whose handsome study of the Piazza has just been published by Columbia, and "Imaginary Architecture in Art" by John Maass interrelated as the same artists painted ruins and imaginary architecture in some instances and were selected by both speakers. The evening program of the first day was a joint with CAA and the American Studies Association and the topic, "The American Frontier as Image and Reality in the 19th c.: A Problem in Interdisciplinary Approaches" under the efficient chairmanship of Joseph J. Kwiat, Minnesota. The discipline of architectural history was presented by Robert W. Winter, UCLA, "Architecture on the Frontier; An Essay in Backwoods Sophistication"; the session was well coordinated and well received.

Friday's sessions began with "History of City Planning", Chairman, Christopher Tunnard, Yale and spanned 6,000 years but concentrated on the century 1750-1850: Alexander Badawy, Kansas, "The Modular System of Egyptian Town Plans"; Robert J. Kerr, III, The Preservation Society of Newport County, "The Early Plans of Newport, R. I."; Wilbur H. Hunter, The Peale Museum, Baltimore, Md., "The Public Square Movement in Baltimore, 1839-1860"; William J. Murtagh, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D. C., "The Planning of Moravian Settlements in the United States"; and the concluding brilliant philosophical and personal interpretation of "Brazilia: A new Capitol City" by Sybil Moholy-Nagy, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn.

At the Annual Business Meeting, Prof. Kenneth John Conant, received the SAH book award for his volume in the Pelican series: Carolingian and Romanesque Architecture: 800-1200. For the afternoon session, SAH had the honor of being the first to use the Auditorium of the Guggenheim Museum, which is circular and seats 272. Our host, Director James Johnson Sweeney began the session on modern architecture, Chairman, James M. Fitch, Columbia, by a penetrating analysis of the problems and advantages offered the viewer and arranger of exhibits by the architectural design of the Guggenheim Museum. The following speakers were: H. Allen Brooks, Jr. Toronto, "Frank Lloyd Wright: Two Projects for the Luxfer Building"; Walter L. Creese, University of Illinois, "Some Early Work of Parker and Unwin", George R. Collins, Columbia, "Modernismo, The Art Nouveau of Spain"; William H. Jordy, Brown, "The PSFS Building; Synthesis and Prophecy." At the joint banquet, SAH Director Richard H. Howland, President of The National Trust for Historic Preservation was the speaker. The CAA book award went to SAH Director Henry-Russell Hitchcock for his volume in the Pelican series, ARCHITECTURE: NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES.

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The last session, Saturday morning was on preservation and urban renewal with G. Holmes Perkins of the University of Pennsylvania, Chairman. The problems of Philadelphia were discussed by Melford O. Anderson, Independence National Historical Park; Edmund M. Bacon, Philadelphia City Planning Commission; Frederick H. Levis, Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks; C. Preston Andrade, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. These talks aroused a lively discussion. Eight members contributed to the photographic show: Columnar Architecture. They were G. E. Kidder Smith, John Maass, Douglas Kent, Donald Perry, Maria Loeb, Glory Morris, Sibyl Maholy-Nagy and Richard Harrington. Many thanks to them for their cooperation and for the excellence of their photographs. Anyone wishing to show these photographs or the previous group, please write our new President, Barbara Wriston, Extension Study, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston 15, Mass.

SAH CHAPTERS CHICAGO, Earl Rosenthal, Pres.; Nov. 2, Walter L. Creese, "Early Industrial Villages"; Dec. 7, Benj. Franklin Olson, AIA, "17th Century Temples in Japan."

HOUSTON, Edward Dezurko, Pres., Oct. 23, Stanton Nunn, S.R., "The Nave in the Americas"; Dec. 10, "Palladio and His Influence", Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Owen reported on the Dublin tour; Dr. Dezurko on Palladio in England and Howard Barnstone: "A Peek at Palladio Today"; The next speaker is to be Richard Lilliott.

NEW YORK CITY, Wayne Andrews, Pres., Dec. 7, Dr. Mark L. Peisch, Columbia, "Wright did not Work Alone: Walter Burley Griffen and the Chicago School, 1893-1914"; Note for the future, Monday, April 25, 5:30 P.M., NYU Institute of Fine Arts, Prof. Eduard Seckler, Harvard, "Stoclet Mansion in Brussels."

SUMMER COURSES Dutch Institute of History of Art, Korte Vijverberg 7, The Hague. Eighth summer course, July 12 - Aug. 1 Cost F. 350 (c. \$100.) Ninth Annual National Trust Summer School, Attingham, England, July 6-27, for information write Edith Standen, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York 28, N. Y. Second seminar for historical administrators, Williamsburg, Va. June 13 - July 22; apply National Trust, 2000 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, by March 1. Seventh Annual Summer Institute on Historical and Archival Management, Radcliffe College, June 27 - August 5. Tuition \$200. Write Archival Institute, 10 Garden St., Cambridge 38, Mass.

RESEARCH Our knowledge of painted brick progresses. Worth Bailey, National Park Service, quotes from the vestrybook of Pohick Church built 1769-1774, an entry for July 8, 1771, when the vestry, "being of the opinion that the stone coins are coarse grained and rather too soft they desire the same may be painted with white lead and oyle, which they think will make them sufficient. The vestry are also of the opinion that the rub'd bricks at the return of all the windows ought to be painted as near as possible the same colour with the arches, and the undertaker is desired to do the same accordingly." R. Roth, 3332 Prospect St., N.W., Washington, cites Paul Svinin (1811-1813) that "the greater half of all houses in the United States is built of brick painted with oil paint and outlined in white." Avrahm Yarmolinsky, Picturesque United States of America, 1811, 1812, 1813, being a memoir of Paul Svinin ...N.Y., 1930, P. 4. Winslow Ames, Curator of the Huntington Hartford Museum writes of slating on walls in Westphalia, especially near Munster and sometimes with fancy patterns.

PEOPLE AND PLACES Lawton M. Patten, Professor of Architecture, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, writes that a conference on the preservation of historic buildings is to be held in Ames during the third week of October in cooperation with the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks. Anyone interested as auditor or as speaker please write to him. Practical preservation goes on in East Haddam, Conn. where the Goodspeed Opera House Foundation, Inc. is raising funds to restore the Opera House, built 1876, and make it once more a cultural center on the Connecticut River. Queries or donations may be sent to Frederic Palmer, Box 91, E. Haddam, Conn. The Smithsonian Institution owing to SAH Director Anthony Garvan, has bought a room from the demolished Harral-Wheeler House in Bridgeport. The Bridgeport Historical Society, Inc. is planning a series of lenten tours of historic churches in its area. ---David Gebhard, Director of the Roswell Museum, N.M., has just been made a member of the New Mexico Chapter of A.I.A. and Editor of the new monthly magazine New Mexico Architect which will have articles of interest to SAH members.

PUBLICATIONS Our Dutch member, Prof. Ozinga of the University of Utrecht, has had published a well documented and well illustrated volume of the architecture of Curacao, an important addition to the growing bibliography on Caribbean architecture. ---The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences published in 1957, a superb book on the Rila Monastery by Christov, Stoikov and Mijtev. ---The Kunstakademiet's Bibliotek, Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark has just published a selection of early photographs of architecture and views. Hendrik Bramsen, the Librarian would like to hear from SAH members who have collections of early photographs of architecture who might like to exchange duplicates. ---Harold Kirker, a new SAH member

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has an article "Eldorado Gothic: Gold Rush Architects and Architecture" in the March No. of the California Historical Society Quarterly, reprinted as number 40 in the publications in the humanities by the Technology Press. Free copies may be had from the Secretary, Department of Humanities, M.I.T., Cambridge 39, Mass.

--- SAH member, Margot Gayle is editor of the Newsletter of the Municipal Art Society of N. Y., first issue in Dec. Copies of the new edition of New York Landmark s, \$2.50, may be had from the Society, 15 Gramercy Park, S., N.Y. 13.

Edward Carter, former librarian at the R. I. BA, writes of a particularly good new venture, that of architecturally satisfying postcards made by topnotch photographers for architects and students of architecture. The samples seen are excellent For more information write Mr. Carter, The Gordon Fraser Gallery Ltd., Fitzroy Yard, Kingstown St., London, N.W. 1, England.

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