SAH NOTICES

Annual Business Meeting. A business meeting for the purpose of electing officers and seven members of the Board of Directors and transacting other Society business will be held following the SAH luncheon at the Harvard Club of New York City (27 West 44th Street) on Saturday, January 27, 1973.

1973 Annual Meeting—Foreign Tour, Cambridge University and London (August 15-27). A listing of sessions, chairmen and speakers for the joint sessions at Cambridge University, August 16–19, as well as tours to be planned for the Cambridge vicinity, will be sent to all registrants in January 1973. (For a partial listing of sessions, see October 1972 Newsletter. However, the correct title of Professor Evenson’s session is “Architecture and Urbanism: Civic Design Since 1920,” and persons interested in presenting a paper in this session should write her at 27 Quai d’Anjou, 75004, Paris, France.)


1974 Annual Tour—Utica, New York and Vicinity. Stephen S. Olney (Herkimer Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program) will serve as Chairman for the tour, which will be held August 28–31.

Attention Student Members. At the last annual meeting in San Francisco, a graduate student, Charles McClendon of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, was elected to the Board of Directors. Mr. McClendon has tried to contact all student members by mail. However, for those who have not received notification and to remind those who have, your comments and suggestions are heartily invited. Through close communication, the student members can better participate in the activities and policy making of the SAH. Write to: 234 East 81st St., Apt. 4C, New York, N.Y. 10028. When writing, it would be helpful for future reference to mention the institution with which you are affiliated.

ORGANIZATIONS

Art Libraries Society—North America. ARLIS/NA has been founded and will be holding its first Annual Conference in New York on Tuesday, January 23, 1973 at Columbia University. The organization is to be a forum for the exchange of information and materials on the visual arts. The intent is to issue a bimonthly newsletter to all members, the first of which was issued on November 15, 1972. In addition, a publishing program is foreseen with a Directory of Art Librarians in North America, a Manual of Art Librarianship to be issued on an international basis every two years, as well as an exchange program of serials. ARLIS/NA will be based on regional chapters which will hold several meetings in the course of each year, culminating in an Annual Conference to be held in January. All those working in art libraries are invited to join, as well as those in public libraries, museums, galleries, art institutes, art academies, and universities and colleges. Affiliation with ARLIS in the United Kingdom is imminent, and will provide a sharing of newsletters, exchange lists, information, and a bond of professional friendship. Please contact Judy Hoffberg, SAH, Brand Library, 1601 W. Mountain St., Glendale, Ca. 91201 for further information.

ACLS Travel Grant Program. The American Council of Learned Societies administers two travel grant programs to enable American scholars to participate in international meetings abroad: Regular ACLS Travel Grant Program to support travel of scholars invited to participate in international scholarly conferences abroad (open to citizens and permanent residents of the United States and Canada, but only for those taking an active part, such as reading a paper or chairing a session); and ACLS-NEH Travel Grant Program to assist humanists to participate actively in international scholarly meetings abroad (primary aim to enable American scholars holding policy-making positions in international associations to attend meetings essential to their office or role; open only to citizens and permanent residents of the United States). Applicants for both programs must have the Ph.D. or its equivalent. The deadline for applications for summer/fall 1973 meetings is February 15. All SAH members interested in the programs should write the central office of SAH, 1700 Walnut Street, Room 716, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103.

Victorian Society—Great Britain. The 1973 Study Tour (“The Picturesque Movement in the Lake District”) will be held June 22–July 2, and will be directed by Jane Fawcett, Helen Lowenthal and Hermione Hobhouse. The tour will be based at Windermere, Westmorland, June 22–24; Carlisle, Cumberland, June 25–28; and near Penrith, Cumberland, June 29–July 1. Wordsworth and Ruskin are central to the theme, and their houses at Grasmere and Coniston will be visited. Among others, work by the Websters, Salvin, Paley and Austin, and contributions by their contemporaries, Philip Wyatt and Smirke will be included. The tour will visit many places not generally open to the public. Inquiries concerning the tour should be sent to Helen Hamilton, Corresponding Secretary, Victorian Society in America, The Athenaeum, East Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106; in the United Kingdom write Jane Fawcett, The Victorian Society, 29 Exhibition Road, London S.W. 7.

Columbia University. This fall’s Mathews Lectures, presented annually by Columbia University at the Metropolitan Museum, concerned “Gothic vs Classic: Architectural Projects in Seventeenth Century Italy.” These lectures, prepared originally by the late Professor Rudolf Wittkower for the 1971 Mathews series, were given in their entirety for the first time this year. Professor Wittkower’s colleagues and former students gave the lectures as follows: October 21, The Cathedral of Milan: Prelude, read by George R. Collins, SAH, Columbia University; October 28, The Facade of Milan Cathedral I: Classic Solutions and Gothic Volte-face, read by C. Douglas Lewis, Jr., SAH, National Gallery of Art, Washington; November 4, The Facade of Milan Cathedral II: Gothic Designs, read by Henry A. Millon, SAH, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; November 11, S. Petronio at Bologna and Florence Cathedral, read by
Craig Hugh Smyth, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University; November 18, Theory and Practice: Borromini and Guarini; Their Forerunners and Successors, read by James S. Ackerman, SAH, Harvard University.

Dumbarton Oaks. The Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection has established a Center for Studies in Landscape Architecture.

The purpose of the center is to promote research in the history of landscape architecture and the related fields of garden design and garden ornament, and in the history of horticulture.

The library of the center contains a collection of rare books in the fields of landscape architecture, garden ornament and the architecture for gardens and villas, horticulture and botany. The library of the center is open to qualified scholars and students on application for permission from the director.

Fellowships are available for research at the center. Projects dealing with any aspect of garden and landscape architecture, including decorations such as sculpture and fountains, and buildings, are appropriate. Those dealing with the history of horticulture and related topics, as well as projects for the development of landscape designs, will also be considered.

For the year 1973–74 the following fellowships are offered:

Senior Fellowship: Awarded to distinguished scholars in the fields of landscape architecture, history of art and history of science. It carries a stipend of $10,000.

Junior Fellowship: One or two fellowships will be awarded to graduate students or young scholars with graduate degrees. Graduate students must have completed all requirements for the degree and be preparing or completing a doctoral dissertation. The stipend is $5,000.

Conditions and requirements: It is normally expected that the fellow will spend the academic year (October to June) in residence at Dumbarton Oaks. In 1973–74, while the library is still in process of reorganization, projects which entail research elsewhere for part of the academic year will also be considered.

Applicants are asked to submit a curriculum vitae, listing date of birth, present position, education and academic degrees, and any past career experience, publications, and grants and honors. Applicants should also present a condensed statement of the proposed project, approximately 500 words in length, including an explanation of the role the resources of the Dumbarton Oaks Library would fulfill in the completion of the project. The names of three references should be supplied from whom letters of recommendation will be solicited independently by Dumbarton Oaks.

Applications are due by February 1, 1973 and awards will be announced by March 1, 1973. The application should be addressed to: Professor Elisabeth B. MacDougall, Director, Center for Studies in Landscape Architecture, Dumbarton Oaks, 1703 32nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

MARCIA ALLENTUCK, City College of the City University of New York, has been awarded the Senior Research Fellowship in Landscape Architecture at Dumbarton Oaks by Harvard University. In the summer of 1972 she was the Paul Mellon Fellow at the Centre for British Art in London to work on her book, Sir Uvedale Price and the Picturesque... ALFONZ LAYGELY, now Director of the School of Art History and Archaeology Program of the Northern Kentucky State College at Highland Heights, Ky. ... SAH members recently elected as Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation are H. ROLL McLoughlin and ROBERT C. GIEBNER. Also at the National Trust, H. ROLL McLoughlin, JOHN M. Dickey and ANTOINETTE DOWNEY have been appointed members of the Historic Properties Committee ... ROBERT MARK, Princeton University, has received a NEH Senior Fellowship to study the evolution of French and English Gothic structure during 1973–4 ... LEWIS MUMFORD has been named the recipient of the 1972 National Medal for Literature, conferred annually by the National Book Committee. According to the Committee Chairman, Roger L. Stevens, the award is given to a living American writer for excellence in terms of his total contribution to letters. CHRISTOPHER OWENS is now an historian with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Silver Spring, Md. ... The Bucks County Historical Society has appointed GARY D. SCHUMAN as Executive Director ... J. DANIEL SELIG has been appointed Curator and Assistant to the Director of the Wichita Art Museum. As of January 1973 he will be Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art History at Wichita State University ... ANATOLE SENKEVITCH, JR., has been appointed Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Maryland School of Architecture ... THOMAS M. SLADE has joined the National Trust for Historic Preservation as Architectural Historian in the Department of Historic Properties. He was formerly Assistant Professor at Notre Dame University ... DOUGLAS DEAN TELFER has been named to the newly created post of Campus Architect of Columbia University. Born in Britain, Mr. Telfer received his M.Arch. from Columbia in 1963, and more recently was architect for the University Grants Committee of London ... JAMES T. WOLLLON, JR., has opened his office for the practice of architecture at Craig's Cornor Road, Havre de Grace, Md. 21078. He will specialize in the restoration of historic buildings ... Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton has appointed SAH members BARBARA WIRSTON, Art Institute of Chicago, and JOHN HENDERSON, San Diego architect, to the Advisory Board of the Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service.

OBITUARIES

We regret to note the deaths of PAUL S. DULANEY, Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Virginia, MARY CHURCHILL HUMPHREY, Louisville, Ky., a Patron member of SAH, DANA B. JOHANNES, Architect, Clearwater, Fla., FREDERIC R. KING, New York, N.Y. and ROWLAND RATHBUN, Chicago, Ill.

PUBLICATIONS

The Architecture of Books
by John Maass

Architecture and Books have been closely linked for 500 years. The link goes back even further because the type faces in which most of our books are printed derive from the letters incised on Ancient Roman buildings. In the 17th and 18th Centuries book title pages were frequently composed with architectural elements, and book design has always paralleled the design of buildings.

As I happen to be a writer, reader, designer and collector of books I make unusually high demands on architectural books. Nothing below the top standards of design and printing is acceptable for a book on architectural history. American books leave much to be desired in this respect. Routine formats, dull layouts, mediocre typography, and poor reproduction are all too common. It is always difficult to convey the three-dimensional reality of architecture on the two-dimensional pages of a book; therefore, the utmost care should be taken to provide the best possible illustrations. Pictures should not be scrounged from local chambers of commerce to save the extra cost and trouble of securing first-class illustrations. It is evident that some architectural historians are content to turn over a manuscript and a bunch of snapshots to the publisher, leaving everything else to the tender mercies of cost-conscious production managers and economy-minded purchasing agents. In some cases, a kind of reverse snobbery may be at work which brands any handsome volume as "a coffee table book." Any architectural historian who is insensitive to the visual and spatial aspects of architecture and of books should enlist the help of a professional photographer and a professional designer to make a professional book.
Yet, books on Architectural History are far above the average standard of design.

For half a century, the American Institute of Graphic Arts has selected "The Fifty Books of the Year" for excellence in design and printing. Every year a distinguished jury chooses the AIGA’s Fifty Books; they are exhibited and published in a special volume. All books on all subjects published during the previous year are eligible. In looking over the three most recent AIGA Catalogs of the Fifty Books of the Year, I find that books on Architecture and Architectural History have done very well. Here is the honor roll:

1968
Julius G. Fabos, Gorton T. Milde, V. Michael Weinmayer, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.: Founder of Landscape Architecture in America, University of Massachusetts Press, $12.00.
Charles Schorre, Architecture at Rice, No. 24, Rice University, $4.00.

1969
Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780, MIT Press, $7.95.
Harold M. Mayer and Richard C. Wade, Chicago: Growth of a Metropolis, University of Chicago Press, $32.00.
Arthur Siegel, Chicago’s Famous Buildings, University of Chicago Press, $4.50.
V. B. Blake and Ralph Greenhill, Rural Ontario, University of Toronto Press, $15.00.

1970

Eleven books on Architectural History and two books on Architecture—a total of 13 out of 150. This is a remarkable record in view of the fact that there were only a few dozen books on Architectural History among the approximately 40,000 titles on all topics published during these three years. It is also good to see that there are several modestly priced books among this select group.

The designers’ comments on one of these chosen books should be of interest to us: “The main problem centered around trying to visually explain a text that was written in the technical jargon of the architecture historian.”

BOOKS

NOTE: All books with an asterisk will be available on the SAH spring 1973 booklist, to be distributed with the February Newsletter.


**BOOKLETS AND CATALOGUES**


**REPRINTS AND NEW EDITIONS**


*Constance Greiff, SAH. Lost America: From the Mississippi River to the Pacific*. Princeton: Pyne Press, 1972. $17.95. Second volume of *Lost America*, covering the lost architectural treasures of the western United States. A sad but thorough commentary on how we have mistreated our nation's early buildings and communities. (See also the companion volume, *Lost America: From the Atlantic to the Mississippi*, Princeton: Pyne Press, 1971—presently available on SAH booklist.)


JOURNALS AND ANNUALS


ARTICLES


SAH BOOKLIST . . . 1973

An expanded booklist is now being prepared, and will be sent to all SAH members with the February 1973 Newsletter. As in the past, a 25% discount will be offered on most of the books listed.

Several new publishing houses will be represented, including HARRY N. ABRAMS, INC., BENJAMIN BLOM, INC., DOUBLEDAY & COMPANY, INC., HASTINGS HOUSE PUBLISHERS, INC., OBER PARK ASSOCIATES, INC., and UNIVERSE BOOKS.

We would like to call to your attention the fact that, in the future, all book orders must be prepaid. If a selected title is out of stock, a refund will be made promptly.
single projects, including the west grounds of the screen 31 feet in diameter and Synagogue focusing on Olmsted's work in and around New York. Another, and the introduction to the crowded industrial cities some of nature's graphs and memorabilia covering more than most romantic and picturesque forms. Park systems, residential communities, staged an exhibit, served as a model for numerous other countries. His foundation of the national park system, which in turn has shaped large portions of 17th-century timber synagogue of Zabliudow, Poland, with its picturesque roofs and outside gallery. The eight models included the synagogue at Newport, R.I., 1763, the oldest preserved in the USA. The models were made for the Jesselson Museum, Yeshiva University, New York City, where they will be permanently installed.

The Gallery's exhibition included original plans, photographs and memorabilia covering more than 30 Olmsted projects. Its climax was an unusual panoramic presentation of Olmsted's work as it appears today. Projected on a cylindrical screen 31 feet in diameter and 10 feet in height was a series of over fifty 360° color panoramas of his urban parks, regional park systems, residential communities, campuses and major single projects, including the west grounds of the U.S. Capitol and the Columbian Exposition of 1893.

The National Gallery's exhibition ran concurrently with an exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art focusing on Olmsted's work in and around New York. Another, on Buffalo's park system, opened this month at the Birchfield Center in Buffalo. Earlier, the New York Public Library staged an exhibit, "Frederick Law Olmsted: Sylvan Artist."

Synagogue Models. Metropolitan Museum, September 20—November 6, 1972. The synagogues reproduced to scale range from 245 AD to 1803. The synagogue of Dura-Europos, Syria, excavated by Yale University, was shown with its frescoed interior, the synagogue at Beth Alpha, Galilee, with its mosaic floors. The M.A. were illustrated by the extant synagogues at Toledo, Spain, and Prague, Czechoslovakia. Notable was the 17th century timber synagogue of Zabliudow, Poland, with its picturesque roofs and outside gallery. The eight models included the synagogue at Newport, R.I., 1763, the oldest preserved in the USA. The models were made for the Jesselson Museum, Yeshiva University, New York City, where they will be permanently installed.

JAPAN — ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY REPORT

The most important event during the first half of 1972 was the annual presentation of prizes by the Architectural Institute of Japan.

The grand prize was awarded to Togo Murano for his creative activities during many years as an architect, which represent the best Japanese modern architecture since the nineteen thirties. The city hall of Ube (Yamaguchi Prefecture), for example, which was built in 1937, embodied romantic design at a time when vulgar functionalism was in full swing in this country. The Memorial Cathedral for World Peace in Hiroshima (1954), the main office of Chiyoda Life Insurance Company in Tokyo (1966) and the Nissei Theater in Tokyo (1968) also gave much inspiration to Japanese architects. One of his latest works, the restaurant of Hakone Arboaretum (Kanagawa Prefecture), of 1971, shows the highest refinement of his skill and the delicacy of his sensibility. These and many other works embody a profound and quiet romanticism, in spite of his occasional adoption of the fashionable elements of each period. The award of this prize to Murano has great meaning for the history of Japanese architecture.

Two of the annual prizes were related to architectural history. One was awarded to Yataro It6 for his study of "Shomei," Shomei (5 vols.) is one of the oldest architectural books in Japan written by the head carpenters of Heinouchi family, which belonged to the Tokugawa shogunate, during Keicho years (1596-1615). According to It6's study, Shomei's method of architectural design, called "Kikudaki," adopted a numerical system of module, based on the span of the central bay of a temple, or on the thickness of the square pillar of a residence. The "Kikudaki" system had, afterwards, been refined and standardized and developed into "Kiwari" system, which had survived the Yedo era. The fact that these Japanese systems of architectural design are somewhat similar to Vitruvian system of modulus, is very interesting, although the latter is older than the former by about sixteen centuries.
Another normal prize was awarded to the commerce, industry and sightseeing section of the Nagiso town office (Nagano Prefecture) for the reconstruction and preservation of the Tsumago stage, one of the sixty-nine stages on the old mountainous highway Nakasendō. Even after the Meiji Restoration, this stage was not much changed, thanks to its location away from the modern route of traffic. The residents of Tsumago and the authorities of Nagiso town and Nagano Prefecture resolved to preserve the traditional look of the houses along the old highway. During the years 1968-1971, several houses which had old forms were overhauled and repaired, several modernized ones were reconstructed and modern ones were dressed in some traditional details. Professor H. Ohta from the Tokyo University gave adequate advice on these projects. Now, as a result, we can see the scenery of an old stage, one of the few remaining. Low, shingled lines line the street, and the wide sheathing board on the eaves and the hollowed wooden gutters beneath the eaves notably attract our attention. Many Japanese and foreigners visit the stage everyday. (See the photograph, courtesy of the commerce, industry and sightseeing section of the Nagiso town office.)

POSITIONS OPEN

Fairfax Co., Va. The Fairfax County Park Authority is searching for an Historian I, $11,476 to $16,572, and a Superintendent of History, $12,599 to $18,153, for its Division of Historic Preservation. For further information about these positions in the Washington suburbs contact James O. Bell, F.C.P.A., P.O. Box 236, Annandale, Va. 22003. Telephone: 703-941-5000.

QUERY

Marcus Fayette Cummings. Information on this Victorian American architect is requested by Mrs. Diana Steck Waite, 1920 Fifth Ave., Troy, N.Y. 12180.

CHAPTERS

Chicago. On November 4 the Chicago Chapter arranged two tours of historic buildings in the Lincoln Park area, and on December 4 presented a lecture by Marcel Franciscosono, "Walter Gropius: A Summing Up," along with a photographic exhibit of Gropius' work.

Latrobe Chapter of Washington. On December 2 the Chapter sponsored a bus tour to St. Mary's Place, which included walking tours of the city's historic areas. On November 3 the Chapter sponsored a bus tour to St. Mary's Place by the Washington Society for Historic Preservation.

Missouri Valley. On December 14 the Chapter invited Paul E. Wilson, University of Kansas, to lecture on the legal aspects of historic preservation.

New York. Paul Thompson, Visiting Professor, Johns Hopkins University, spoke on "William Butterfield: A Reappraisal!" November 15, 1972 at The Institute of Fine Arts. The meeting was jointly sponsored by the Chapter and the New York Chapter, Victorian Society in America.

Northern Pacific Coast. Regional architecture was the dominant topic of papers read during the fall meeting of the Chapter held at the University of Washington College of Architecture and Urban Planning in Seattle on October 14. Chapter President Wallace Kay Huntington, ASLA, Portland, presided over the session. Abraham Rogatnick, SAH, University of British Columbia, traced the functions of paving patterns in the Piazza San Marco, Venice, as they developed from the 12th century. Arthur A. Hart, SAH, Director of the Idaho State Historical Society Museum, detailed the career of John C. Paulson, a prominent eclectic architect of the late 19th century in Montana and Idaho. Norman J. Johnston, SAH, Associate Dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Washington, discussed Frederick Law Olmsted's 1873 Plan for the City of Tacoma. John C. Freeman, SAH, University of Victoria, described the relationship of public buildings in the British Columbia capital city designed by Francis Mawnson Rattenbury. George A. McMath, SAH, AIA, Portland, discussed the work of A.E. Doyle, leading Portland architect of the early 20th century. The papers were followed by a report on historic preservation activities in Seattle's Pioneer Square Historic District and Pike Place Market by Chapter Vice-President Earl D. Layman. Mr. Layman, Executive Secretary of Seattle's Pioneer Square Historic District Preservation Board, headed local arrangements for the meeting, which included walking tours of the city's historic areas.

Southern California. New President of the Southern California Chapter is Mrs. Helen Park, 932 Ocean Front, Santa Monica, Ca. 90404. On November 4-5 the Chapter sponsored a tour by train from San Diego and Los Angeles to visit Hearst Castle, William Randolph Hearst's exotic mansion near San Luis Obispo, and other sites in the area. The tour was arranged by Carleton Winslow, SAH, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo, who also spoke on Julia Morgan and William Randolph Hearst to the tour group.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

National Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks. Newest additions to the list of great historic works of civil engineering designated by the American Society of Civil Engineers are Miami Conservation District, Ohio (first regional flood control district, 1922); Gurnison Tunnel, Colo. (1909); Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct, Pa. (oldest original suspension bridge in the world); Chesbrough's Chicago Water Supply System, Ill.; Cabin John Aqueduct, Maryland (1857-64, largest stone arch in Western Hemisphere); and the Brooklyn Bridge, N.Y. (1883). A complete list of the 30 landmarks is available from Public Information Services, ASCE, 345 E. 47th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.


"Moderne" Record. Twenty-two commercial buildings in the Los Angeles area characteristic of the late 1920s to 1942 are being recorded under a grant from the Historic American Buildings Survey. Photography is being done by Marvin Rand, SAH, and data is being assembled by David Gebhard, SAH, and John Beach. Upon completion of the project, slides of the fast-disappearing "Moderne" movie houses, supermarkets and retail stores will be available from The Art Galleries, University of California, Santa Barbara, California 93106.

Federal Surplus Property Act. Public Law 92-362 was signed by President Nixon on August 4. It amends the 1949 Federal Property and Administrative Services Act by permitting free transfer of surplus historic federal buildings to states and cities for revenue-producing purposes. Under the amendment, federal surplus property can be leased by local governments to private developers. On signing the bill, the President stated the measure was "one of the key initiatives for historic preservation" presented to Congress in his February 1971 Message on the Environment.

The Old Post Office (1873) in St. Louis, Missouri, a widely-known landmark of the Second Empire Baroque style erected during the term of Supervising Architect of the Treasury Alfred B. Mullett, is regarded a major stimulus to the new provisions. Proponents of retention of the Old Post Office, helped by Congressmen and officials of the General Services Administration, were among those who worked hardest for passage of the bill. Possibly, the building which has been inactive for several years is expected to be one of the first properties transferred to local units of government for commercial adaptive use. Development plans are being pursued.
Bill to Protect Nantucket. S-3485, a bill to establish a Nantucket Sound Islands Trust for conservation of open spaces of the Massachusetts islands, has been introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.). The bill would provide federal funding for land acquisition and joint federal-local commissions to exercise controls over development in wild, scenic and town-planned areas. Provisions of the bill would enhance preservation of the unique environment of Nantucket Island, on which buildings date from the earliest days of the American whaling industry (c. 1700–1874). The bill has been referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, where action is pending the next session of Congress.

National Trust. One of California’s oldest structures, the Cooper-MoleraAdobe in Monterey, in August became the twelfth property acquired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is located near Casa Amesti, a slightly older adobe structure long owned by the National Trust. The new acquisition was built in 1829 by Yankee Trader Juan Batista Rogers Cooper. It is a two-story complex with overhanging galleries and is one of the largest and most important houses in the vicinity. It is to be restored over the next two to five years to the Mexican-American period, 1829–1850. The property has been leased to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for restoration and administration as part of Monterey State Historic Park.

Organizations. Historical Jonesboro, Inc., organized by citizens who helped to establish an historic district in the Georgia community, is restoring Jonesboro’s granite railroad station of 1867, one of the oldest stations surviving in the state. It is to be operated as an information center and Civil War battlefield museum.

Saved. The “Grecian” First National Bank Building (1916) by the Boston architectural firm of Coolidge and Shattuck, is one of the prime examples of Period commercial architecture remaining in Portland, Oregon. Made obsolete to its owners upon completion of a new office skyscraper, the marble-faced bank suffered a precarious future. The matter was favorably resolved in July when the Portland landmark was purchased by the Oregon Pioneer Savings and Loan Association for use as a home office.

Moved. The 12th Street Friends Meeting House (1812) in Philadelphia has been dismantled in the course of a land use conflict. Building materials, including bricks and eight 40-ton poplar roof trusses measuring 60 by 20 feet which were fabricated in 1755 for an earlier meeting house, are being stored until they can be reassembled next spring on the grounds of the George School in suburban Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It was originally planned to demolish this historic building.

Toll of Fire. During recent months fires have taken a toll of historic and architectural landmarks in various parts of the country. One such disaster occurred at the Hotel Vendôme (1871–1882) in Boston, Massachusetts, designed by William G. Preston in the style of the French Second Empire. It was undergoing renovation for apartment and office use when struck by a fire which destroyed the mansard tower and caused one-third of the oldest section to collapse. Studies were quickly put underway to determine the feasibility of reconstructing the lost and damaged portions.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION IN VALLE D’AOSTA

The political administration of Valle d’Aosta exists on an independent basis according to a “regione autonoma” principle guaranteed since 1948. Thus the “Sovrintendenza ai monumenti, antichità e belle arti,” which is responsible for architectural restoration is financially supported by the Giunta, i.e. the local government, and not by the central Italian state. This local government support is a special case in Italy. The “sauvegarde” of local culture is an essential preoccupation in stressing the identity of the Region. Together they account for effective results in architectural preservation.

The historical and artistic situation of Aosta (originally the Augustean castrum Augusta Pretoria) can be understood as a typical center of the “Alpine culture,” since the Valley contains important testimonies of Roman and medieval civil and religious architecture. The best known epiphanies in Valle d’Aosta’s art history are St. Orso’s cycle of ottonian wall-paintings, and the romanesque sculpture in St. Orso’s cloister, both at Aosta; Master James of St. Georges’ military constructions in the second half of the 13th c.; and residential castelli architecture of the Challant family, in particular at Aymaville, Fénis, Ussel, Vertès, Issogne.

These castles offer an interesting insight in the modern history of architectural restoration of which three main epochs are represented. The first period (turn of the century) is characterized by the activity of Alfredo d’Andrade, a painter, architect and archeologist. His work and method are to be situated in Viollet-le-Duc’s school of restoration, which values the personal, systematic and “creative” interpretation of the architect. During the second period (Mussolini’s twenties and thirties), when the Carta del Restauro tried to settle for Italy a “rational” and academic code, Valle d’Aosta shows on the contrary picturesque, additive and “disneylike” interventions, as at Fénis. In the postwar period, the administrative re-organisation on a regional basis has established a rigorous modus operandi for “major” and “anonymous” architecture.

Since 1970, the “sovrintendente,” architetto Domenico Prola, has inaugurated a policy of consultation on the principle of the “tavola rotonda,” a meeting of international specialists in complementary disciplines: classical and medieval archeology, art history, history, techniques of construction and restoration, pictorial restoration. From this multiplier scientific analysis, the architect will elaborate the methodology and planning of the restoration in conformity with the complexity of the problem. One should mention here the case of St. Vincent’s parochial church at St. Vincent, where Roman thermes found under a romanesque three nave structure with 17th century vaulting and a 1890 westward extension, have been restored. Presently, the main concern lies within the planning of St. Orso’s restoration, the first and relatively uncomplex step being the design of a platform above the gothic vault and under the saddleback roof of the “An Mil” nave. The walls of the nave which pass over the vaulting offer the museographic display of an important cycle in ottonian painting. As a result of a first international “tavola rotonda” on St. Orso, the different problems tied to the presence on paleochristian ground of a 11th e. construction with later adjunctions and transformations have been discussed. It has been decided to organise future meetings when new evidence has been discovered through archeological procedure.

Contributed by Jacques Gabler and Andrea Zanotto