

NEWSLETTER

THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

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SAH NOTICES

1976 Bicentennial Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (May 19-24). Marian C. Donnelly, general chairman; Charles E. Peterson, FAIA, honorary local chairman; and R. Damon Childs, local chairman.

The program will be devoted to building in America after the Revolutionary period. (For a listing of sessions, see the April 1975 *Newsletter*.) In addition to the sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning, a full schedule of tours is planned. On Saturday afternoon, there will be walking tours of Society Hill, Greek Revival Philadelphia, the Broad Street area, University City, and the Art Museum area, to be led by local authorities. All-day bus tours will be held on Sunday and Monday (May 23 and 24). On Sunday, one tour will be to the Philadelphia Main Line and Chester County; the other will be south of Philadelphia to Newcastle, Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. On Monday, a tour will go to Cape May, New Jersey, visiting small towns *en route*, and the second tour will be to Fairmount Park, Germantown, Bryn Athyn, and will end at "Andalusia".

The preliminary announcement (containing full information on sessions and tours), the pre-registration form and hotel reservation cards will reach the membership by January 15, 1976.

1977 Annual Meeting, Los Angeles (with College Art Association)—February 2-7. Adolf K. Placzek, Columbia University, is general chairman of the meeting. David S. Gebhard, University of California, Santa Barbara, will act as local chairman. The call for papers appeared in the June *Newsletter*.

1976 Foreign Tour—Malta (May 31-June 16). Richard England will act as chairman of the tour.

1976 Annual Tour—Lexington, Kentucky (and vicinity)—October 6-10. Eric S. McCready, Director, Elvehjem Art Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Professor James P. Noffsinger, College of Architecture, University of Kentucky, will serve as co-chairmen.

1977 Special Tour—Newfoundland (July 24-30). Douglas S. Richardson will act as chairman; he will be assisted by Shane O'Dea and George T. Kapelos. (See preliminary announcement in this issue of the *Newsletter*.)

SAH Placement Service Bulletin (No. 4, October 1975) is enclosed with this issue of the *Newsletter*. The next *Bulletin* will appear with the February 1976 issue of the *Newsletter*; position-available and member-applicant listings for the *Bulletin* should reach the SAH central office no later than January 15, 1976. **Special Offer—Back Issues of the Journal.** Volumes 25 (1966) - 29 (1970) complete, \$75.00 (\$96.50, if purchased separately). To order, write the SAH central office, 1700 Walnut Street, Room 716, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103. The *Index* to volumes I-XX (1941-1961) of the *Journal* is also available through the central office (hardcover edition—\$35.00; softcover edition—\$30.00). Orders should be prepaid.

SAH 1975 FOREIGN TOUR TO DENMARK

The tour was led by our distinguished fellow member Steffen Fisker. His intimate knowledge of, apparently, every building of his native culture enabled him to prepare for us a rich and varied mosaic of Danish architecture and culture.

The first evening of our recovery from jet-lag we heard lectures in the Museum of Decorative Arts on the history of Danish architecture, housing and town planning. The next day, after a stop at Grundvig's landmark church, we were introduced to the Danish countryside by a visit to the glorious Deer Park with its 18th-century royal hunting lodge (the Ermitage). We saw the outstanding collections of modern art at Louisiana and went on to Kronborg Castle at Helsingør, with its spectacular site on the Øresund and its impressively restored public spaces. On the way home we had an all-too-brief glimpse of the beautiful Frederiksborg Castle. The next two days took us to historic and modern Copenhagen: a fragment of a 13th-century street, a splendid 17th-century mansion well adapted to commercial banking, the





charming Rosenborg Palace and the Square of the Amalienborg Palaces, the City Historical Museum, the Police Headquarters, a 19th-century flat in original condition, a bit of art nouveau and a fine university library with strong overtones of the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. By bus we went to recent housing and satellite towns. We were warmly received at a number of contemporary houses, including that of Bertel Udsen, which shows a strong influence of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Professor Tobias Faber, Rektor of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, gave an outstanding lecture on the development of Danish architecture through the ages, followed by a reception at which we had an opportunity to meet the faculty and some students. Mr. Hakon Lund, of the Academy library, showed us the collection of architectural drawings.

We crossed the Øresund to Malmo and Lund in Sweden since this area, historically, had been part of Denmark and the structures we visited were very much elements of Danish culture. These included the Romanesque cathedral and open air museum at Lund, the church at Dalby and Ovedskloster, a splendid manor house which we were shown by the owner. The day's mosaic was climaxed with a visit to the grim 15th-century Glimmingehus Castle and finally by a visit to "Vikingstones" on a promontory high above the sea.

At Roskilde we visited the Vikingship Museum, housing the resurrected remains of five different types of ships, and saw a film on the methods of recovering these relics. The cathedral at Roskilde, the Danish equivalent of Westminster Abbey or St. Denis, historically speaking, proved to be a very worthwhile experience. Later in the day visits were made to several more manor houses at which the group was received with exceptional hospitality and it was interesting to learn here and elsewhere throughout the country that the majority of the manors are still operating farms, in contrast to the châteaux of France, or many of the great houses of England which no longer function in this capacity. This is all the more interesting in view of the relative degree of socialization in Denmark.

Two days in Southern Sjaelland were filled with rich experiences. We picnicked at the charming little summer palace of Liselund, crawled into neolithic tombs on our hands and knees, climbed the ramparts of the Trelleborg Viking Camp to survey the remains, scrambled into the rafters of the round church at Bjernede, and visited many other medieval churches with "el secco'' decoration, of which Fanefjord was one fine example. It is reassuring that the frescoes have been uncovered and restored. Altar pieces and other works of art are still in evidence in spite of the Protestant reformation and "purifications".

Odense has a fine cathedral and more extensive walkingstreets than the Stroget in Copenhagen. In South Fyn we saw the roof trusses and murals of Hesselagergaard (home of the famous Mermaid), several large half-timbered farm complexes with thatched roofs, and more operating manors. We passed many pleasant rural landscapes, and probably no one will forget the fragrance and beauty of the ever-present lilac hedgerows of white, purple and red. From Odense we travelled to the manor of the Egeskov (with magnificent park and gardens) and a brief visit to Valdemar Slot. On to Aerøskøbing, a charming and unspoiled 17th-18th-century country town and former fishing port which is being preserved today and converted into a quiet summer resort.

The next day, the trip to Germany started on a tiny ferry barely able to accommodate our precious brand-new bus. We visited Broager church and then went into Schleswig which, like Western Sweden, was originally part of Denmark. In addition to the cathedral and Gottorp Castle, we visited the Danewerke (very early ramparts) and the location of the important ancient road which led from the Germanies up into the Danish peninsula.

In the medieval walled town of Ribe we lodged at a 16thcentury hotel behind the great cathedral. Well-conducted tours took us through the picturesque streets and beside the canals where we could have lingered longer. After visiting the Moravian settlement at Christiansfeld we stopped at the Museum of Vejen and then on to the great barrows and rune stones at Jelling.

From Aarhus we went to the Thorsager round church (12thcentury restored), a dolman of 2000 B.C., Draaby Church with good murals, picturesque Ebeltoft market of 1301, the Gammel Estrop mansion and the 19th-century Viborg Cathedral. Den Gamle By village museum showed us a great variety of buildings and trades of the past. At the Forhistorisk Museum were treasures of early ages from everywhere, brilliantly displayed. Kay Fisker's beautifully scaled Aarhus University campus with its modest buildings of similar color and texture informally sited over a rolling landscape was a perfect example of Danish sense and sensitiveness for us to take home.

Our final dinner took place at Clausholm Castle, in the candlelit banqueting hall, after a trip by bus in the mellow twilight. Gifts were presented to Steffen Fisker, and an heroic ode was read by President Spiro Kostof.

We are greatly indebted to Steffen Fisker for the mosaic he so skillfully designed for us and for his patience in leading us through it. The whole group is very grateful to him, as well as to the many Danes who extended us such warm hospitality. Our thanks also to Marian Donnelly whose notes were a valuable addition to the trip.

Contributed by Earl D. Layman

NEWS OF MEMBERS

MARCIA ALLENTUCK has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts of Great Britain . . . "Public Policy and the Built Environment" was the subject of a conference sponsored by the Harvard Graduate School of Design which included JON-ATHAN BARNETT and CHLOETHIEL SMITH as participants . . . ROBERT W. BERGER has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Fine Arts, Brandeis University . . . A Canada Council Fellowship has been awarded to H. ALLEN BROOKS for the academic year to conduct research in France and Switzerland on the early career of Le Corbusier . . . ER-NEST ALLEN CONNALLY, National Park Service Associate Director for Professional Services, has been elected to a threeyear term as Secretary-General of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). A non-governmental agency,

ICOMOS is an international preservation organization formed under the auspices of UNESCO of the United Nations. ANN WEBSTER SMITH has been assigned to Paris to assist him full-time at the headquarters of ICOMOS. Her duties will include arranging symposia, stimulating the development of programs, encouraging the exchange of information at the professional level and promoting interests and concerns at the government level . . . BETTY LOU CUSTER recently assisted in organizing the St. Louis AIA Chapter's French Heritage Tour on October 25 . . . MARK R. EDWARDS, a graduate student in Historic Preservation at Columbia University, has begun teaching with STEVEN ELMETS a course to high school students entitled "An Introduction to Historic Preservation and Recycling of the Built Environment." The course is being offered at the Elizabeth Seeger School in Greenwich Village . . . Architect JOSEPH ESHERICK has recently been appointed for three years as a special consultant on architectural design matters for the Department of State's Foreign Buildings Operations . . . ANNE FARNAM has been appointed Associate Curator at the Essex Institute . . . RONALD LEE FLEMING and PHOEBE B. STANTON will participate at the forthcoming Fifth Annual Historic Preservation Conference of the Maryland Historical Trust to be held November 8 and 9. Professor Stanton will address the conference on "Historical Influences on American Architecture" . . . LESLIE MANDELSON FREUDENHEIM is currently engaged in writing architectural criticism for The Evening Sun, Baltimore, Maryland ... PETER L. GOSS, Graduate

NEWFOUNDLAND IN 1977 (JULY 24-30) . . .

In addition to the annual domestic and foreign tours in 1977, a special tour of Newfoundland will visit the capital city, St. John's, before touring some of the most characteristic "outports" to the north and west in Conception, Trinity and Bonavista Bays. Major buildings to be visited in St. John's include Government House (the vice-regal mansion) of 1825-28 and Sir George Gilbert Scott's



Anglican Cathedral, begun immediately after the Great Fire of 1846. The colorful vernacular architecture in wood of this old seaport is of several different periods, but predominantly of the '90s, following another Great Fire in 1892.

The tour will also include visits to the communities of Brigus, Harbour Grace and Trinity, with an outing by fishing schooner or motor vessel to Greenspond Island. The unique regional architectural types and settlement patterns that developed out of the fisheries will be of special interest.

The tour, arranged by Douglas Richardson, Shane O'Dea and George Kapelos, is scheduled to begin on the evening of Sunday, July 24 in St. John's and end on Saturday morning, July 30 in Gander. Some participants may wish to extend their stay through side visits, *e.g.* to the French Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon or the south coast of Newfoundland. Suggested itineraries will be available. The membership will receive an announcement of the tour by the middle of September 1976.

School of Architecture, University of Utah, has been appointed to the Governor's Historic and Cultural Sites Review Committee of Utah and to the Board of Trustees of the Utah Heritage Foundation . . . JOHN C. HAGGARD has been promoted to Associate Professor of Architecture at Syracuse University . . . JOHN F. A. HERZAN was recently appointed survey specialist with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission . . . WILLIAM H. JORDY, one of the "advisory editors" of the Johns Hopkins Studies in Nineteenth-Century Architecture, has reported that the series edited by Phoebe B. Stanton is coming to an end with its forthcoming publication on prefabricated building . . . ROBERT B. RETTIG has been appointed Assistant to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places . . . JACK WASSERMAN has been appointed Dean of the Tyler School of Art, Temple University.

QUERY

Any members having information on the New York firm of architects and interior designers Herter Brothers (active in the latter part of the 19th century), or the firm's employees, including Alexander Sandier, Charles A. Atwood, William B. Bigelow and Thomas Hastings, are asked to write Edna E. Kimbro, Apt. D-6 UCSC, Koshland Way, Santa Cruz, Ca. 95064.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Preservation Committee. The SAH Committee on Architectural Preservation met to conduct business during the annual meeting in Boston last April 24. Chairman Stephen W. Jacobs opened the meeting by noting Article VIII, Section 3, from the *Bylaws* of the Society, which describes the function of the Standing Committee.

This committee shall take the lead in helping their countrymen to understand and appreciate their architectural heritage, both in America and abroad, and in encouraging the membership of the Society to initiate and join in appropriate local, national, and international campaigns to conserve it.

To deal with specific proposals and areas of concern, the chairman will continue the practice of appointing *ad hoc* subcommittees. The permanent archives of the committee will be maintained at the Philadelphia office. Therefore, all correspondence pertaining to the preservation activities and business of the committee should be sent to SAH, 1700 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103. A short questionnaire will be circulated in a regular mailing of the Society which will help determine specifically what kind of assistance the committee should provide in preservation matters. The committee reaffirmed a twice-yearly meeting schedule concurrent with annual meetings of the SAH and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Among resolutions adopted by the committee were the following in support of 1) Mayor Abraham Beame's intention to appeal recent New York court decisions unfavorable to Grand Central Station and the New York City Landmarks Law, 2) legislation before Congress which would require the Federal Government to first investigate and consider adaptation or rental of historic buildings before constructing new facilities in any area (see below), and 3) a request that Missouri Governor Christopher Bond encourage revision of plans for the Wainwright-Missouri State Office complex to permit retention and appropriate use of the De Menil Building.

Membership of the committee as formally reconstituted in 1975 is as follows. Vice chairmen, or regional representatives:

Hyman Myers, U.S.A., Northeast; Robert E. Stipe, Southeast; Walter E. Langsam, North Central; M. Wayne Bell, South Central; John D. Hoag, Mountain Area; David Gebhard, West Coast-south; Earl D. Layman, West Coast-north; Harold Kalman, Canada: Jürgen Paul, Overseas, Members-at-large: Richard M. Candee, Ada Louise Huxtable, F. Blair Reeves, Robert B. Rettig, Carroll W. Westfall. Ex officio members: James C. Massey, National Trust for Historic Preservation; John C. Poppeliers, National Park Service; Stephen W. Jacobs, American Institute of Architects; Thomas M. Slade, Editor, SAH Newsletter. Chapter preservation officers: Mary Ellen Sigmond, Chicago; William Seale, Latrobe-Washington, D.C.; Basil Filonowich, Minnesota; Jacqueline R. Seligson, Missouri Valley; Leslie Larson, New England; Constance M. Greiff, New Jersey; James M. Fitch, New York City; Wallace K. Huntington, Northern Pacific Coast; Hugh J. McCauley, Philadelphia; Robert W. Winter, Southern California; Blake Alexander, Texas; Margaret Stephenson, University of Virginia; John Randall, Western New York; Edward A. Reich, Western Reserve. Secretary: Carolyn Toft.

The next meeting of the committee will be held in Boston during the annual meeting of the National Trust, October 8-12, 1975.

Public Building Cooperative Use Act of 1975. S. 865, introduced to the U.S. Senate last February by Senator James Buckley (New York), would authorize the General Services Administration to lease or purchase and convert historic structures for Federal office space. Moreover, the bill would, for the first time, permit the mixed or cooperative use of any Federal building through the lease of floor space for commercial, cultural, educational, and recreational or residential purposes. Thus, the bill not only provides the benefits of conservation and savings in construction costs, it would also have the effect of enlivening the buildings and their neighborhoods with multi-purpose activity. The bill directs the GSA to contract with the National Trust for Historic Preservation for an inventory of possible local renovation alternatives whenever GSA makes a survey of buildingspace needs.

Publications. A Guide to Federal Programs: Programs and Activities Related to Historic Preservation, published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, contains 229 catalog entries and covers programs, services and activities of forty-nine permanent departments, agencies, boards, and commissions as of June 30, 1974. Historic Preservation: Federal-State Cooperative Efforts was compiled by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from responses to a questionnaire distributed to State Historic Preservation Officers in 1974. It charts the needs and accomplishments of state preservation programs and also reveals useful opinion on the status of the programs.

Advisory Service for Preservation Officials. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has contracted with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to provide a Technical Advisory Service for Local Preservation Officials. The two-year cooperative effort is aimed at helping the growing number of local landmark and historic district commissions as well as officials and planners responsible for preservation in their communities. Plans include 1) preparation of a handbook on the establishment and administration of landmark and historic district commissions, 2) publication of a directory of commissions, and, in the second year, 3) organization of a series of regional workshops. Frank B. Gilbert will head the effort for the National Trust, and Russell V. Keune, SAH, the Trust's vice president for preservation services, will supervise the program for urban commissions.