ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW YORK

Opening the Society's 26th year was the Annual Meeting in New York, held January 27–30 at the Americana Hotel, with approximately 550 members and guests attending for a four day round of architectural history papers, tours and receptions. General Chair for the meeting was George B. Tatum, University of Pennsylvania, and the Local Chair was James M. Fitch, Columbia University, to whom thanks are due for their carefully made arrangements and the many pleasures of the meeting. The meeting marked the end of President H. Allen Brooks' term of office, one marked by a vigorous growth in the Society, and we all owe a deep debt of gratitude to him for his many contributions to the Society as president!

The Society of Architectural Historians Annual Business Meeting was held on January 27, following the traditional luncheon. The following report is taken from Secretary Adolf K. Placzek's minutes: President H. Allen Brooks called the meeting to order at 2 o'clock and welcomed the members present. John M. Dickey submitted the Treasurer's Report which was accepted by the assembled membership. Robert Branner submitted the report of the Editor of the Journal. He also announced that Thomas J. McCormick has submitted his resignation as Book Review Editor, and that he has appointed Robert W. Berger of Brandeis University as his successor. James C. Massey then submitted the report of the Editor of the Newsletter. He announced that the Newsletter will continue to be published five times a year, and that a new double-column layout will be used starting this year.

William Jordy, as chairman of the Nominating Committee, then submitted the following nominations: President—George B. Tatum, University of Pennsylvania; Vice President—Henry A. Millon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Secretary—Adolf K. Placzek, Columbia University; Treasurer—John M. Dickey, Rice & Dickey, Architects. Directors: David S. Gebhard, University of California, Santa Barbara; Stephen W. Jacobs, Cornell University; Irving Lavin, New York University; Carroll L. V. Meeks, Yale University; Paul F. Norton, University of Massachusetts; Earl Rosenthal, University of Chicago. The nominations were accepted by the membership without a dissenting vote. President Brooks announced the formation of a new local chapter in Cleveland, and that the 1968 meeting will be held in Cleveland, and that the 1968 meeting will be held in St. Louis. Alan Laing moved to extend the warmest sympathy of the Society to its senior member Turpin Bannister, now an invalid. The motion was seconded by Samuel Wilson, Jr., and unanimously carried. The Secretary was instructed to convey the message.

George B. Tatum accepted the Presidency formally and extended the gratitude of the Society to the outgoing President, H. Allen Brooks. Mr. Brooks, in closing the meeting, expressed his appreciation to his colleagues of the Executive Committee and, above all, to Mrs. Rosann S. Berry, Executive Secretary. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

As an aside, the year 1965 was a notable one for the Society. It was the first time that the entire membership was present for the Annual Meeting. The membership gained 117 new members during the year, bringing the total to 550. The Newsletter will continue to be published five times a year, and a new double-column layout will be used starting this year.

The first session for the reading of papers was on Thursday morning and was devoted to the ICONOGRAPHY OF ARCHITECTURE: PROBLEMS OF THE ORIGIN OF TYPES FROM CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY TO 1144 A.D., under the Chairmanship of François Bucher, Princeton University. Speakers were: Ellen Marie K. Loeb, Berkeley, California, Labyrinth Enclosures from Pre-History to Ancient Greece; Homer A. Thompson, The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University, The Hero Sanctuary as an Architectural Type in Ancient Greece; John Ward-Perkins, British School at Rome, Imperial Mausolea and their Possible Influencc on Early Christian Central Plan Buildings; Hans Buchwald, Harvard University, The Eastern and Western Influences on the Eleventh-Century Architecture of the Veneto; W. Eugene Kleinbauer, University of California, Los Angeles, The Golden Octagon of Antioch; Sumner McK. Crosby, Yale University, The Polymateic System at St. Denis; Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, Pratt Institute, Heuristic Assumptions on the Origin of Greek Architecture.

After the Annual Business Meeting, Thursday afternoon was given over to ITALIAN RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE ARCHITECTURE under the direction of John Coolidge, Harvard University. The speakers were: James Ackerman, Harvard University, Observations on Late Renaissance Churches; Timothy Kitao, Rhode Island School of Design, Bernini's Churches; Robert Berger, Brandeis University, The Motif of the Drum Without Dome; George L. Hersey,
Yale University, Giuliano da Maiano and the Porta Capuana at Naples; Abraham Rogatnick, University of British Columbia, The Piazza San Marco; Post-Napoleonic Metamorphoses.

In the evening a special program on CURRENT PRESERVATION PROJECTS OF NATIONAL INTEREST was presented at Columbia University in connection with the opening of an exhibit of Avery Library's new collection of Louis Sullivan drawings, recently acquired from the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. Chairman for the evening session was William J. Murtagh, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the papers included: David C. Huntington, Smith College, Olana: Frederick Church’s World on High; J. C. Harrington, National Park Service, Archaeological Contributions to Historic Restoration; Randle B. Truett, National Park Service, Forum, Theatre: A Problem in Historic Interpretation; Daniel B. Sack, National Gallery, Old Bethpage: Planning a Village Restoration; John N. Pearce, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Lyndhurst: A. J. Davis’ Gothic Castle; Anna K. Cunningham, New York State Department of Education, Herkimer House; Palatine German Mansion in the Mohawk Valley; Mary K. Raddant, College of Architecture, Cornell University, Organizing the Rural Aesthetic.

Friday morning’s subject was TOWARDS MODERN ARCHITECTURE with a session on the period 1885-1915, chaired by Edgar Kaufman, Jr., Columbia University. The speakers included: Arnold Lewis, College of Wooster, European Discovery of American Architecture, 1885-1915; Leonard K. Eaton, University of Michigan, Richardson and Sullivan in Scandinavia; W. Winslow Shea, University of North Carolina, The Function of Ornament in the Architecture of Louis Sullivan; Robert Jusdon Clark, Princeton University, Joseph Maria Olbrich and the Vienna Secession Building; George Collins, Columbia University, The Transfer of Thin Masonry Vaulting from Spain to America; H. Allen Brooks, University of Toronto, Frank Lloyd Wright: From Barn to Prairie House.


At the annual College Art Association – Society of Architectural Historians banquet on Friday evening Jakob Rosenberg, Harvard University and National Gallery, was the speaker, and the CAA and SAH Book Awards were formally announced.

The Saturday morning papers concerned New York City, with a session chaired by James G. Van Derpool on DIVERSE ARCHITECTURAL PROBLEMS IN EVOLVING NEW YORK. Speakers included: Agnes Addison Gilchrist, Mr. Vernon, N.Y., John McGtomb, Jr., Designer of Buildings in the Federal Style; Jacob Landy, City University of New York, Minor Lafayette’s New York Architecture; Regina Kellemann, Landmarks Preservation Commission, New York City, The Grange Terrace: The Question of Authorship; Winston Weisman, Pennsylvania State University, The Commercial Style in New York City; Edward Teitelman, Danbury, Connecticut, Philadelphia Romantic Eclectics in New York City Circa 1900; Geoffrey Platt, Landmarks Preservation Commission, New York City, Legal Aid to Preservation in New York City.

Two specially arranged architectural tours were presented on Saturday afternoon. The first went downtown to visit key monuments of the past, including Trinity Church, St. Paul’s Chapel, the mid 19th century cast iron commercial buildings now threatened by a crosstown expressway, and Louis Sullivan’s Condict Building, among others. The second tour concerned itself with contemporary landmarks uptown, including the CBS Building and the Lincoln Center development. Following both tours members enjoyed a reception at the Museum of Modern Art, and a showing of the Museum’s collection of drawings by Mies van der Rohe. On Sunday, the last day of the meeting, 60 members braved a snowstorm to travel up the Hudson to see “Lyndhurst” and “Sunnyside,” two important mid-nineteenth century preservation projects.

SAH NEWS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED. Prof. Francois Bucher, a member of the Department of Art and Archaeology at Princeton University, has been appointed chairman of the SAH Nominating Committee for 1966. Other members of the committee are: Marion Card Donnelly, Chicago; David Gibbard, University of California, Santa Barbara; William Jordy, Brown University, and Homer Thompson, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. Professor Bucher’s committee will nominate the officers and six new directors for election at the annual meeting in Cleveland, January, 1967. SAH members who wish to suggest the names of persons for consideration by the Nominating Committee may address Professor Bucher at the office of the Society, Box 94, Media, Pa. To be considered by the committee, such suggestions must be received not later than April 15, 1966.

The SAH Tour in Quebec City, August 18-21, 1966, will feature tours of the Upper and Lower Town of the old section of Quebec, old suburbs along the Grande Allee, a tour of the Isle of Orleans, and one to Neuville, according to Albert P. Childs and A. H. Richardson, Chairmen. An exhibition of photographs of existing buildings and views of former buildings in the vicinity of Quebec City is planned. There will also be a display of original plans taken from the files of a Quebec architectural firm, covering the years 1840-1900. Andre Robitaille, Local Chairman in Quebec City, has announced that Louis Béaupré, Jacques de Blois, Paul Lafontaine, Jean Ritchot, and Gilles Vynlandt will serve on his steering committee. Since the number attending the tour on the buses must be held to seventy-five persons, it will be necessary to limit guests of SAH members to one family member only; all other persons participating in the tour must be members of the Society of Architectural Historians.

At the end of 1965, SAH had 2,860 members, including 487 who joined during the year. It is interesting to note that the membership ten years ago stood at only 884, less than a third of the present number.

CHAPTERS

Cleveland A new Chapter of SAH has been organized in Cleveland, and has been accepted into the Society by the Board of Directors at their January meeting. The Western Reserve Architectural Historians plan an active program of lectures and tours in the Cleveland area, and welcome new members. For information: Henry H. Hawley, Secretary, c/o The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. Membership is $3.00. President of WRAH is Richard N. Campen, Vice President and Program Chairman, Jack Large, Secretary-Treasurer, Henry Hawley. Several committee chairmen have been appointed: Robert C. Glass, Preservation Projects; James C. Shoemaker, Robert E. Schoefield, Research Committee, and A. Benedict Schneider, By-Laws.

The first program of the WRAH was held on February 13, with a talk on the Cleveland architect Milton Dyer, given by Norman Magden.

Philadelphia On March 17, at 8 p.m., Adolf Placzek, Columbia University, will present a program on architectural books to SAH–Philadelphia at the University of Pennsylvania’s Furness Building of the Graduate School of Fine Arts. Mr. Placzek’s discussion will be on “The Connoisseurship of Books – Modern Architecture Classics.”

Future plans for the Philadelphia Chapter include a talk (April 15) and tour (April 16) of Victorian Churches in Philadelphia by James Van Trump, and tours to Washington as guests of the Thornton Society (May 21), and to Chester
Chicago On February 17, Robert L. Scratch, University of Chicago, spoke on "Kenchreai, Port of Ancient Corinth." For membership (2.00) address Joseph Benson, Municipal Reference Library, 1005 Cottage Hill, Chicago, Ill.

Southern California A new chapter has been organized in Southern California, with the fall meeting devoted to the important and now threatened Dodge House, by Irving Gill, with a talk and movie by Esther McCoy, a tour of the house, and an exhibit, "Our Vanishing City." Officers for the new chapter are Randall L. Makinson, President, and Jay D. Frierman, Secretary-Treasurer; members of the Board include Robert D. Winter, Anthony Thorfin and Carl Seton M. Winslow. Interim Washington University may join.

The National Endowment of the Humanities, created by Congress last year. The Council will function as an advisory body to Dr. Henry Allen Moe, current Chairman of the National Council on the Humanities and Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. (Dr. Moe will be succeeded in July of 1966 by Dr. Barnaby Keeney, who is serving in his final year as President of Brown University.)

The members appointed by the President come from the ranks of university presidents, faculty members, heads of professional societies, leadership in business, labor, religion, and journalism, and include Gustave O. Arlt, Council of Graduate Schools in the U.S.; Robert Goheen, Princeton University; Emil W. Haury, Arizona State Museum; Adelaide Hill, Boston University; John W. Leston, Superintendent of Public Schools, Atlanta; Robert M. Lumiansky, University of Pennsylvania; G. William Miller, Textron, Inc.; John Courtney Murray, S. J., Woodstock College; Meredith Wilson, conductor and composer; Germaine Bree, Institute for Research; John E. Fogarty, Rhode Island, Mrs. Edith Green, Oregon, John Clark, Providence, Rhode Island; Gerald F. Else, New York Herald Tribune; Emettee S. Redford, University of Texas; Barnaby Keeney, Brown University; David Mason, University of Montana; James C. O'Brien, United Steelworkers of America; leon Ming, National Endowment for the Humanities; Earl H. Huxtable, and Lewis Mumford... the American Association for State and Local History has presented an Award of Merit to SAH member Ambrose C. Cramer, Rockport, Maine... Henry Darbee has been appointed Executive Secretary of the Connecticut Historical Commission... Robert L. Elgin, Coombs and Elgin, Architects, Engineers and Surveyors, Box 365, St. James, Mo., is planning a set of the White Pine Monographs, and wishes to hear from other members who may also have duplicates to trade... Agnes A. Gilchrist is serving in his final year as President of Brown University.

The National Endowment for the Humanities, under which the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities is principally concerned with the enactment of the law creating the National Council on the Humanities and Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. (Dr. Moe will be succeeded in July of 1966 by Dr. Barnaby Keeney, who is serving in his final year as President of Brown University.)

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Chapter and the architectural profession as an architect, educator, and historian." W. Caldwell Smith, AIA, architect, has opened his own office in Atlanta, Georgia, at 374 East Paces Ferry Road, N.E.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**New Booklets of Architectural History Interest:**


Edinburgh - *An Architectural Guide*, Edinburgh, 1964, 52 p. published by Edinburgh Architectural Association, 31 Albany Street, Edinburgh, 63, for present to President Johnson, and will serve as the basis for new legislation in the preservation field to be introduced in Congress at this session. Copies of the book will soon be available at book stores or through the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Following an introduction by Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, are chapters by Sidney Hyman, John and Albert’s Peale Museum writes that the Washington Monument, designed by Robert Mills and built 1815–1842 has been opened to the public as a branch of the Peale Museum, and a museum established in the vaulted room at the base. A medal has been struck on the occasion in both bronze finish and silver.

**U.S. Capitol** The AIA recently issued a call for the preservation of the nation’s Capitol. In a prepared statement, it offered the urgent reminder that "If the Capitol continues to expand it will rapidly lose all resemblance to the original building." Under consideration now is an extension to the West Front, which would obscure the last of the original exterior walls. "If reconstruction is structurally necessary," comments the AIA, "it should be carried out in strict accordance with the present design."

**Acropolis** From the *New York Times*, January 26, 1966: "An expert in the preservation of antiquities appealed today for international cooperation in protecting Athens’s 2,400-year-old Acropolis from decay. Dr. Harold J. Plenderleith, director of the International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, based in Rome, said in an interview today that the problem on the conservation of the Parthenon and other marble monuments of the Acropolis, was too much for any single nation to handle alone. Dr. Plenderleith’s office is a unit of UNESCO. Dr. Plenderleith recommended the establishment of an international panel of experts to study the problems of the Acropolis, prescribe remedies and to seek financing from such international organizations as UNESCO."

**POSITION OPEN**

Summer employment opportunity for competent researcher in the field of architectural history. A graduate student or retired architect-historian desired. Beach cottage provided near excellent recreational facilities. Apply Education Director, Plimoth Plantation, P.O. Box 1620, Plymouth, Mass. 02362, giving educational and/or employment background. Compensation arranged.

**COURSES AND GRANTS**

The New York State Historical Association has announced that its 19th annual Seminars on American Culture will be presented in Cooperstown, New York, between July 3–8 and 9–16, 1966. Each week three morning courses and three afternoon courses will be offered from a curriculum ranging from American vernacular dance to art conservation, from the faking and forging of antiques to American folk life in the West. Books and booklets to a study of biography. As a special feature, there will be three workshops presented in spinning and weaving, wood carving, and tin painting. Seminarians may attend workshop sessions in lieu of the regular courses. Full details are contained in a Seminar brochure, which may be procured by writing to Frederick L. Rath, Jr., Vice Director, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N.Y. 13326.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Washington Monument Wilbur H. Hunter, Director of Baltimore’s Peale Museum, writes that the Washington Monument, designed by Robert Mills and built 1815–1842 has been opened to the public as a branch of the Peale Museum, and a museum established in the vaulted room at the base. A medal has been struck on the occasion in both bronze finish and silver.

Lost: Victor Horta’s art nouveau masterwork, the Mais mi du Peuple of 1896 in Brussels has been discovered in W 000 years ago and are the oldest known houses in the Americas, according to J.O. Brew, project director.