

May 1959

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INFORMATION is sought by Madeleine B. Stern, 152 E. 179 St, NYC 53, about Louise Blanchard Bethune, 1856-1913, America's first professional woman architect and the first woman to be a Fellow of the A.I.A.; about Harriet M. Irwin of Charlotte, N.C., who in 1869 applied for a patent for hexagonal houses; and about Sophia G. Hayden, who in 1891 won the prize for the best design for the Woman's Department Building at the Columbian Exposition.

The annual SAH AUGUST TOUR will be held the weekend of Aug.22. Notices will soon be sent all members.

COMING EVENTS June 6-7, Conference in Cape May sponsored by the New Jersey Historical Society (to register, write Robert Lunny, Dir., Newark, N.J.), the Cape May Historical Soc. and the National Trust. A tour of 19th C. seaside resort hotel architecture is planned.

Aug.27-Sept.10. The Palladio Society, organized Dec.18, 1958 will hold a seminar near Vicenza. Queries to Centro Internazionali de Studi di Architettura, Andrea Palladio, Basilica Palladiana, Vicenza, Italy.

Oct.7-9. annual meeting of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY, Philadelphia

Oct.9-11. National Trust, annual meeting, Washington, D.C.

SAH OVERSEAS - Prof. Bunji, Univ. of Tokyo, writes of the meeting of the Tokyo Chapter of the Architectural Institute of Japan on March 16, at which Vice-President Wriston talked on the beginnings and present organization of SAH. She was presented with tools, a square and an ink-pot, used by Japanese carpenters. James Noffsinger on his way to Indonesia was also in Tokyo. Prof. Bunji, who is one of our most active SAH members in Japan, graciously offers to help any SAH members coming to Japan in planning their itinerary.

SAH in GREAT BRITAIN will hold its annual meeting in May and another early in September in Norwich. Their first publication was noted with approbation in COUNTRY LIFE. (The cost and how SAH members may obtain a copy has not been announced.)

SAH in the U.S. The PACIFIC SECTION SAH had its annual spring tour in April with 25 present. The tour included the State Capitol (1853) in Benicia, Sonoma Mission, Vallejo's "Lachryma Montis" and his huge adobe farmhouse near Petaluma. The new officers of the PACIFIC SECTION: President Joseph A. Baird, Art Dept., Univ. of California at Davis, Cal. Secretary-Treasurer Richard C. Peters, Architecture, Univ. Cal., Berkeley. Many thanks to outgoing Sec.-Treas. Charles S. Pope who always sent us notices of the Section's doings. Other secretaries, please note!

On Sat. May 23, the CENTRAL NEW YORK ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS are meeting with the Onadaga Historical Ass. at 10 a.m. at the library in Skaneateles. For reservations write Prof. Harley J. McKee, 701 Crawford Ave., Syracuse 10, N.Y.

1960 Annual SAH MEETING will be in New York the end of January. Harley McKee is program chairman and any member having a paper should send him the title as soon as possible.

The SAH-PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOW assembled in Washington in 1958 is still on tour. It is hoped that another show will be organized for the N.Y. mtgs.

PRESERVATION LEGISLATION S.K.Stevens, Ex. Dir. Pa. Hist'l & Museum Comm. kindly sent us a copy of HOUSE BILL No. 579, Sess. 1959, Gen'l Assembly of Penna. which if passed would authorize all communities to create historic districts and to appoint Boards of Historical and Architectural Review to administer them.

SAH member Grant Simon has written an architectural history, The Beginnings of Philadelphia, which book, with a specially inscribed title page, is the official gift of the City of Philadelphia to distinguished visitors.

Another distinguished Philadelphia SAH member, John F. Harbeson, has been elected president of the National Academy of Design.

From the spring DIRECTORS' MEETING, held May 9, at the Grolier Club, NYC, with 3 officers and 13 directors present come the following items. James Van Derpool will represent SAH at Earl Reed's Preservation Committee meeting at the annual meeting of the A.I.A. in New Orleans. SAH is co-sponsoring the printing of the bibliography of the late Fiske Kimball. It will run to over 70 pages. Director Marion D. Ross, Univ. of Oregon, Eugene, Ore. is chairman of the SAH Book Award Committee. Continuing members are Julia Sabine, Newark Library, Book Review editor Thomas McCormick and JOURNAL editor, Paul Norton, Univ. of Mass. Amherst. Our fourth Life Member is Charles Grace of New York whom we welcome. There are 15 new overseas Institutional members. It is hoped that by next Commencement time, an SAH Student award for excellence in architectural history will be awarded in many colleges. The Directors agreed that the award should be a copy of the book winning the last SAH Book Award and Alice Davis Hitchcock medallion. This has already been done at the University of Kansas by Prof. Hermanson and at Tulane by Samuel Wilson. Institutions interested in cooperating in this program, please write President Creese, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana for details. A Fulbright lectureship in Melbourne, Australia is available. The American Council of Learned Societies has research grants for advanced scholars. THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY of London is beginning a program of tours of 19th C. architecture. The first was concentrated on the architecture of G.E. Street and the Law Courts. John Betjeman has edited An Americans' Guide to Parish Churches of England. UNESCO coupons can be used by overseas members to pay SAH dues.

THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF THE UNION Annual Report for 1958 has a number of excellent articles on the architectural history of Mount Vernon, including one on the restorations of the building from 1858 to 1958 and one on the measured drawings of Mount Vernon with many illustrations.

Much architectural history of New York may be learned by those who walk the streets slowly enough to read the inscriptions on the bronze plaques placed by the New York Community Trust on buildings selected by the Historic Buildings Committee of the N.Y. Municipal Art Society under the chairmanship of Edward Steese with the cooperation of the N.Y. Chapter of SAH.

"Amigos de Gaudi -U.S.A." sponsored by the Columbia Univ., Dept. of Fine Arts has a photographic archive. Requests for information or materials should be addressed to Prof. Collins, Dept. of Fine Arts, Columbia University, New York 27, N.Y.

Henry Chandlee Forman who conducted the first SAH August Tour in Nantucket in 1951 has contributed an article "Vanished 'Sconset Houses on Nantucket" to the Jan. 1959 issue of HISTORIC NANTUCKET in honor of the 300th anniversary of the settling of the island.

Samuel Y. Edgerton, Perkiomen School, Pennsburg, Pa. was a Fulbright exchange teacher in Germany last year and tried to find out about the Bauhaus in Dessau. It is now used as a Berufschule or trade school.

Robert Stewart writes of his many activities in St. Louis with the Jefferson Barracks, one building of which has been restored and about which he lectured at the Missouri Historical Society. A St. Louis Landmark Society was formed in March.

Director and past-SAH-president Carroll L.V.Meeks, Architecture, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. is planning various ways in which SAH can be more useful to its members. He wishes SAH members with book-length MSS ready for publication to write to him if they would be interested in SAH sponsored publication. Also he wishes to know if members would be interested in subscribing to a periodical of "ART AND ARCHITECTURE ABSTRACTS".

The next NEWSLETTER will come in Sept. The deadline for news is Sept. 1. Hope I have omitted no item sent and thanks to all who have contributed. Have a good summer and let's each of us try to get a new SAH member by Oct. Annual membership \$7.50. Just send check with name and address to Robert Walker, SAH Treas., Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.

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