

SOCIETY . . . OF . . . ARCHITECTURAL . . . HISTORIANS . . . . . NEWSLETTER

September 1959

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SAH NOTICES - The next Directors' meeting will be in Boston in October. Any member having suggestions for the future or current activities of the Society, please write President Walter Creese, Architecture, University of Illinois, Urbana.

The chairman of the Nominating Committee is Charles E. Peterson, 120 S. Third St., Phila. 6. The other members are Stephen Jacobs, Jay D. Frierman, Leonard Huber and Grace Zern. All would appreciate names of possible candidates for the 1960 slate.

Marion D. Ross, Architecture, University of Oregon, Eugene as Chairman of the Bock Award Committee would welcome the titles of books on architectural history published between Nov. 1, 1958 and Oct. 31, 1959.

New York City will again be the place for the annual meeting, the last week-end in January. Harley McKee, Architecture, University of Syracuse, is program chairman and reports plans for sessions on Modern Architecture in the Guggenheim Museum; Town Planning, chairman Christopher Tunnard, Yale; Preservation and Urban Renewal, chairman, Holmes Perkins, Pennsylvania. Robert Branner, Columbia, is the local SAH chairman. On Sunday, there will be a tour of Brooklyn Heights, the new "Left Bank" of NYC where a great number of SAH members live including Wayne Andrews, Clay Lancaster and Maud Dilliard, who is chairman of the Library Committee of the Long Island Historical Society.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOW 1960 - As the 1958 SAH Photographic show was so well received and is booked up for months in Canada as well as the U.S.A., it seems time for another show in NYC at the annual meeting which will travel afterwards also. Last time, it was a successful pot pourri. This year we are experimenting with a theme "COLUMNAR ARCHITECTURE". Those wishing to exhibit in the show, please notify Mrs. John M. Gilchrist, 286 E. Sidney Ave., Mount Vernon, N.Y. by Oct. 15.

SAH SUMMER TOURS - This was a pioneering summer with the first overseas tour and the first summer with two tours. Both were successful. The Palladian Villas are being considered for the 1960 June Tour.

The DUBLIN TOUR with SAH Director Richard H. Howland as chairman and Dan Hopping co-leader and 68 members was a rousing hit. The Irish Committee of Mr. & Mrs. Desmond Guinness and Percy LeClerc made it so. They were assisted by many members of the Irish Georgian Society founded 1957, Trinity College, the City of Dublin, the Irish Tourist Board, with special thanks to Chairman Mr. O'Reagan and dozens of owners and custodians of buildings. A quarto volume would be necessary to do justice to the Dublin Tour which began with a scholarly lecture by Maurice Craig, author of Dublin 1660-1860, Cresset Press 1952; Italian Opera Bouffe; a midnight supper at the Royal Hibernian with architectural displays of homard and breast of chicken quickly demolished. It ended with a trip to the superbly appointed Palladianate villa of Kussborough in Co. Wicklow, with the grande finale a reception for SAH and the Irish Georgian Society given by Ambassador and Mrs. Scott McLeod at the American Embassy in Phoenix Park with musicians in 18th C. costume. In the six days between, we visited Lucan, Carton, a Betty Langley Barn, Castletown, Powerscourt, Charleville, were guided through the treasures of Malahide by Lord Talbot with his ironic whimsicality, the Marino Casino and the Conolly Folly. We viewed Dublin's 18th C. architecture on foot, from buses and horse-drawn vehicles including jaunting carts and side-cars. We listened to lectures by R. Wyse Jackson, Dean of Cashel and the encyclopaedic, national figure, Eoin O'Mahony. We were informed of Irish customs by the monologist, John Molloy and yet the schedule was so well arranged that we had time for horse races, Sibyl Connolly's and research at the National Library. We had receptions at the Provost's House, Trinity and Charlemount House, an al fresco luncheon at Leixlip Castle and a formal one at the Guinness Brewery. We admired the plaster work everywhere and especially at 10 Dominick Street. We saw Kilmrainham Hospital and St. Doulagh's Church with its stone roof. We saw the exhibit of photographs of 18th C. Irish Country Houses by Mr. Donar and the superb photographic survey of Irish ecclesiastical architecture prepared by Dennis O'D. Hanna.

THE AUGUST TOUR with Wilbur H. Hunter, Director of the Peale Museum, chairman, was one of the most diversified yet devised. 76 attended. It began with a self-conducted walking tour of the Mount Vernon area of Baltimore directed by an excellent guide prepared by F. Garner Ranney. Considerate SAH member Alec Cochran provided an air-conditioned bus to convey members to the Sherwoods, to the hotel, to the Virginia Restaurant where we had an all-Maryland dinner and back from the Peale Museum where Bill Hunter briefed us and Mrs. Wright of Historic Annapolis talked of their winterfront project. Promptly on time at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, the special B. & O. train left Camden Station for Harper's Ferry. For this and the rest of the Sat/Sun. tour, Bill Hunter prepared an outstandingly excellent booklet in SAH



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JOURNAL format. Archie Franzen, National Park Service architect met us at Harper's Ferry and was our competent and witty guide for the remainder of the day which included Washington houses in Jefferson County, West Virginia, of special note Harewood House, the Worthington house, Piedmont, the enchanting town of Middleway, formerly called Wizard Clip and lastly the Horatio Gates's house, Travelers' Rest before our resting place, Shepherd College at Shepherdstown, courtesy of President Ikenberry, Sunday, after exploring Shepherdstown and some swimming in the Potomac, we crossed Antietam battlefield and came to Frederick, Md. for lunch, a tour of the town, a visit to the Mathias house, courtesy of Charles McMathias, Jr. and the hospitality of the Frederick Historical Society. In the afternoon the great houses of Glenelg (note palindrome), Folly Quarter, plans of which by William F. Small, 1831 have been acquired by the Maryland Historical Society, and most historical of all, Doughoregan Manor. In the evening, for contrast, Mr. Hooper, trustee of the Peale Museum invited the tour to his 1958 Marcel Breuer house. On Monday, Charles Scarlett welcomed us to Whitehall restored from its 1780's state to its pristine 1763 form. The rest of the day was spent in Annapolis under the guidance of the officers and personnel of Historic Annapolis, Inc. The beauty of the Brace house and the Skeletal condition of the Slicer house were striking. Before lunch, Bryden Hyde, president of Historic Annapolis hospitably quenched our thirst in the Hyde house (now Treadway Inn) which had been built by his ancestor about 1770.

COMING EVENTS - Oct. 7-9, Phila. American Association for State and Local History  
Oct. 9-12, Washington, D. C. National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Oct. 15-18, Harper's Ferry, West Va. John Brown Raid Centennial Observances  
for information write Mrs. Frank E. Shugart, Harper's Ferry, West Va.  
Oct. 15-17, Alexandria Va. Forum on Early Architecture of Alexandria and the  
Northern Virginia Area. Speakers include Frederick Nichols, Dick Howland, Helen Bullock, Walter Macomber, Mrs. Rosamond Bierne and Sir George Trevelyan well known to Attinghamites. At Mount Vernon there will be a special display of architectural import. Those wishing to attend should write George D. Barnes, Box 727, Alexandria, Va.

PEOPLE - Captain John Jay Ide published IRISH COUNTRY HOUSES OF THE GEORGIAN PERIOD this spring and sent copies to everyone attending the Dublin Tour. Captain Ide is also author of "Noto - The Perfect Baroque City" which appeared in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL Nov. 1958, pp. 11-15. We are pleased that he identifies himself as a member of SAH. Phyllis A. Reinhardt has resigned from Yale and accepted the position of Art Librarian at Smith College as of September. - Bartlett Cowdrey is doing a swell job with the ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ART with an office overlooking Bryant Park, 14 W. 40, N.Y. 18. A NYC Committee for the Archives is being formed with Mrs. Charles F. Willis, Jr. Chairman and Agnes Gilchrist Secretary pro-tem. - Walter Theodore Tyler, second-year architectural student at Univ. So. California has won the 1959 mentorship award offered by Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall, Architects and Engineers. - John Harbeson, one of our loyal members, has written "The Reverse of the Capitol Story" in which he explains why the Federal Capitol needed its current alterations. Copies are available, 17th & Sansom, Phila. 3. - Buckminster Fuller of geodesic and dymaxion fame has rejoined SAH as a Patron member. We are proud of his support as architectural history of the present interests us as much as that of the past and Mr. Fuller is the embodiment of contemporary architecture history of the dome as the article in the N.Y. TIMES Mag. Sec. Aug. 23, '59 well pointed out.



PUBLICATIONS - Barbara Wriston brought back a guide to the buildings of Singapore by Marjorie Doggett, published by Donald Moore, Singapore, 1957. The title CHARACTERS OF LIGHT comes from a speech by Sir Stamford Raffles who founded the city in 1819. - The Aluminum Association has just published ALUMINUM CONSTRUCTION MANUAL, 420 Lexington Ave., N.Y. 17, 390 pp. 6 x 9 \$3.00 - Marion Ross writes of many publications; Kenneth Conant's new book on Carolingian and Romanesque Architecture and his article "The Pointed Arch - Orient to Occident" in Palaeologia, Vol.VII, No.3/4,, a Japanese periodical; Bunji Kobayashi had an article in the May 1959 issue of the Architectural Review (London) on the curious use of double spiral ramps in an 18th C. wood tower; Lee H. Nelson, a former student of Ross and now architect with the National Park Service had an article "Architects of Oregon: Piper and Williams" in THE CALL NUMBER, Spring 1959, published by the Library, Univ. of Oregon at Eugene.

RESEARCH QUERY - When did the vogue for painting brick red begin?

SAH OVERSEAS - Robert Sivard, Chief, Exhibits Division, ICS, USIA, Washington requested 5 copies of the SAH JOURNAL for display in the Buckminster Fuller dome at the Moscow Exhibit. Perhaps Mrs. George Maurice Morris who went from the Dublin Tour to the opening of the American exhibit in Moscow can report whether she saw them. - Ian McCallum has just been appointed Director of the first American Museum to be established in Europe, at Claverton, by the City of Bath, Somerset, England.

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