



NEWSLETTER

THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

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ANNUAL MEETING

J. D. Forbes and Thomas Maytham served as Chairmen for our Annual Meeting at the Statler-Hilton in Boston, January 25-27, at which two hundred fifteen members and guests were registered. We are pleased first to report the election of J. D. Forbes, University of Virginia, as President, Richard H. Howland, Smithsonian Institution, as Vice President, and John M. Dickey, Media, Pennsylvania Architect, as Treasurer. Alan Gowans, University of Delaware, was re-elected Secretary. And at the completion of their terms in office, I think we owe a debt of gratitude to Barbara Wriston, retiring President, to J. D. Forbes, retiring Vice President, and to Robert M. Walker, retiring Treasurer, for their devoted service to S.A.H.

New directors elected were: A. Henry Detweiler (Cornell University), Denys P. Myers (Baltimore Museum of Art), James P. Noffsinger (University of Kentucky), Elizabeth R. Sunderland (Duke University), Robert M. Walker (Swarthmore College), and Barbara Wriston (Art Institute of Chicago).

At the Annual Dinner-Business Meeting we particularly appreciated Walter M. Whitehill's address about the "Let It Alone" Club. At the meeting President Wriston announced the receipt of the Society's first foundation grant, \$2,500 from Chicago's Graham Foundation (S.A.H. member) for work on the Twenty-Year Index of the JSAH. Their generosity is deeply appreciated, and we hope this grant points the way to further foundation support for the Society. The Society's Alice Davis Hitchcock Book Award for the best book on architectural history published by an American scholar during the year 1961 was awarded to James Ackerman for his The Architecture of Michelangelo (2 vol., Viking Press). Treasurer Robert M. Walker pointed to the Society's continuing growth in reporting 289 new members for 1961, bringing the total membership to 1,752. President Wriston announced that the next Annual Meeting will be in Baltimore, and the August Tour, in Kentucky. James Phillip Noffsinger, of the University of Kentucky, was appointed Chairman for the Kentucky tour.

Several resolutions were introduced and passed:

- Frederick Nichols - of thanks to the committee for its arrangements for the meeting;
- Denys Myers - of thanks for the efforts and zeal of retiring officers and directors;
- Charles Peterson - of appreciation to several public officials for their support of historic preservation, including Governors Tawes of Maryland and Paiewonsky of the Virgin Islands, and Mayors Collins of Boston and Randalls of Providence. (Barbara Allen added Mayor Randall.)
- Richard Howland - of regret at the death of John Jay Ide of New York.

Changes to the By-laws were also approved, principally to bring them into conformity with current practices.

Wilbur H. Hunter was Chairman of the Thursday morning session devoted to "The Conservation of Urban Historical Architecture," a timely topic, indeed. His speakers were: Eduard F. Sekler (Harvard University) on "The Josefsplatz in Vienna, a Study in Urban Morphology"; Margaret Carroll (Urban Renewal Administration) on "Urban Renewal Experience in Historical Preservation"; and Robert Kerr, II (Historic Annapolis, Inc.) on "The Annapolis Harbor Restoration - an Approach to Architectural Conservation." We are sorry that Lachlan F. Blair was unable to speak on College Hill (Providence, R. I.) because of a sudden illness. (Copies of Miss Carroll's paper on the URA's part in historic preservation are available, free, from Mr. Sydney Kasper, Director of Public Affairs, URA, Housing and Home Finance Agency, Washington 25, D. C.)

During the session, Charles Peterson introduced officials of Strawbery Banke, Inc., of Portsmouth, N. H., a new institutional member of the Society, which has been selected as redeveloper for a federal urban renewal project in the historic Strawberry Banke section of Portsmouth. I believe that this marks the first time a non-profit group whose primary purpose is historic preservation has been so chosen, and opens a whole new approach to preservation. Their architects are Boston's Perry Shaw Hepburn and Dean, also an S. A. H. member.

Thursday afternoon, Richard H. Howland arranged a series of talks on "Official Buildings." Papers included: Edwin W. Small (National Park Service), "The Second Boston Town House"; Lee H. Nelson and Penelope Hartshorne (National Park Service) on "The Assembly Room of the Pennsylvania State House - Scene of the Declaration of Independence"; Mario E. Campioli (Architect of the Capitol) on "Comparative Study of the Exterior Details of the U. S. Capitol Building"; Margaret Brown Klaphor (Smithsonian Institution) on "The White House of Benjamin Latrobe"; Anthony N. B. Garvan (University of Pennsylvania), on "An Early Government Museum, the Old U. S. Patent Office; and George L. Wrenn, III (National Park Service) on "Bryant and Gilman's Boston City Hall."

Renaissance and Baroque Architecture was Friday morning's topic, under the direction of Howard Hibbard, Columbia University. The five speakers were: Earl E. Rosenthal (University of Chicago) on "The House of Andrea Mantegna in Mantua"; Gustina Scaglia (Queens College) on "A Mid-fifteenth-century Archaeological Plan of Rome"; Wolfgang Lotz (New York University) on "The Roman Legacy in Sansovino's Venetian Buildings"; Klaus Schwager (Johns Hopkins University) on "Giacomo della Porta's Project for S. Giovanni dei Fiorentini"; and Dorothea Nyberg (Columbia University) on "Late Baroque and Rococo in France: the Problem of Jules-Hardouin Mansart."

In the afternoon J. D. Forbes was Chairman of a General Session including a varied group of interesting papers. Speakers were: William L. MacDonald (Yale University) on "Apollodorus and the Architecture of Trajan"; Warren Sanderson (Southern Illinois University) on "The Early Churches at Saint Maximin of Trier from Constantine to Charlemagne"; Carl F. Barnes, Jr. (Pennsylvania State University) on "The Architect of Soissons and the Chronology of Chartres"; J. Daniel Selig (Yale University) on "The Character and Development of the Greek Revival in Boston"; Ernest H. Brandl (University of Notre Dame) on "Adolf Loos and the Chicago Tribune Building"; and Perry Borchers (Ohio State University) on "Experiencing Architecture in Space - with Byzantine and Baroque Examples."

I would like to note Perry Borchers' success with color stereo photography and projection in which he has achieved a remarkable sense of three-dimensional architectural reality. We understand that this projection is used in the architectural history classes at OSU, and it would indeed seem to have particular value in the training of architects.

Saturday was devoted to the modern movement. In the morning, Henry-Russell Hitchcock organized a panel on "The Impact of Gropius on Harvard and the Boston Scene." Speakers included: John C. Parkin (Architect, Toronto); G. Holmes Perkins (University of Pennsylvania); and Christopher Tunnard (Yale University). The afternoon was given over to a bus tour of contemporary buildings in and around Boston. The tour was planned by Harvard and M. I. T. faculties under the leadership of Eduard F. Sekler.

The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities tendered a reception for the Society Thursday evening at their Harrison Gray Otis House headquarters, for which we are indebted to Director Bertram K. Little and Assistant Director Abbott L. Cummings. Of particular note was the new SPNEA architectural museum, an important collection of architectural fragments and decorative trim attractively displayed. A collection such as this, carefully arranged, is certainly of great study value to student, scholar and restorationist alike.

CHAPTER NOTICES

Chicago Chapter The December 14th meeting at the Ryerson Library was devoted to a talk by Richard C. Haines on "The Manna Temple at Nippur."

Houston Chapter At its November meeting, Richard Perrine was elected Chapter President, succeeding Harvin C. Moore. For the January meeting at Rice University Mrs. Kenneth Dale Owen gave an illustrated talk on New Harmony, Indiana.

New York Chapter Percival Goodman, architect and city planner, spoke on "The Murder of Manhattan Versus an Architecture of Objet Trouvé" on December 5th at the Institute of Fine Arts.

Pacific Section Officers for 1961-2 are Richard C. Peters (University of California), President, and Carter Keane, Secretary-Treasurer. An excellent all-day program was held on December 9th in Alameda, with three talks in the morning, a tour of Alameda after luncheon, and finally a champagne reception. The talks were given by Kit Evans, "An Englishman's View of Some American Historic Structures"; Donlyn Lyndon, "Organization of Former Hindu Temples"; and Augustin C. Keane, "Early Alameda."

Philadelphia Chapter Shouldn't there be a Chapter in Philadelphia?

NEWS OF MEMBERS

James Van Trump of Pittsburgh is now Associate Editor of Charette, the magazine of Pennsylvania architecture. He will comment on the contemporary scene, as well as continue the historical articles he has written for Charette during the past several years.

Architect Gerald Watland is doing a c. 1700 Dutch room for the Albany Museum.

Giles Van Der Bogert, Schenectady architect, is Cultural Committee Chairman of the Stockade Association, devoted to the study and preservation of a remarkable residential area in Schenectady, including houses ranging from Dutch and Federal through Classic Revival and Victorian. Through Van Der Bogert's cooperation a group of the buildings have just been recorded for the Historic American Building Survey.

Joseph Baird is the new Curator of Art at the California Historical Society in San Francisco.

John Maass writes that the City of Philadelphia has selected George B. Tatum's new history of Philadelphia architecture Penn's Great Town as its "official gift to distinguished personages."

John E. Boucher (National Park Service), of Northfield, N. J. has received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History for his continuing study of southern New Jersey architecture.

Alexander C. Soper, of Bryn Mawr College and New York University, was the recipient of one of the \$10,000 prizes awarded by the American Council of Learned Societies in 1962 to ten American university professors in recognition of their distinguished contributions to humanistic learning.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Cobblestone Society, devoted to the fascinating cobblestone buildings of New York State has embarked on a wide program of activities. Membership is \$2.00; for information, write Mrs. Charles Thompson, Albion, N. Y. (Route #1).

COURSES AND GRANTS

On September 21, 1961, President Kennedy signed into law the Fulbright-Hays Act for Educational and Cultural Exchange, replacing the Fulbright Act of 1946, the Smith-Mundt Act of 1948, and lesser acts. The new law goes well beyond the earlier acts in a number of important respects; it is broader in its objectives and more liberal in its provisions.

The National Park Service will have positions in 1962 for several architectural students seriously interested in early American architecture as part of the Service's STUDENT SUMMER PROGRAM, now in its 11th year. The applicant must have completed at least two years in an undergraduate architectural school and have the recommendation of a faculty member, and, generally, only one student per school will be appointed. There are also occasional openings for faculty and graduate-level history of architecture students, holding a B. Arch. Write Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures, National Park Service, 143 South Third Street, Philadelphia 6, Pa.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation announces its FOURTH SEMINAR FOR HISTORICAL ADMINISTRATORS, a six-week graduate-level program at Williamsburg, Virginia. Information from the Trust at 815 17th Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. The course is jointly sponsored by the National Trust, American Association for State and Local History and the American Association of Museums.

PUBLICATIONS

Henry-Russell Hitchcock's important bibliography of writings on architecture published in America before 1895, American Architectural Books, is again available from the University of Minnesota Press at \$4.75.

From St. Louis, city planner Emmet Layton writes that the Jefferson Barracks, long associated with the 6th Infantry Regiment, has been partially acquired by St. Louis County for restoration. Other parts appear headed for demolition, however, and to call attention to the situation, a 78-page history of the Barracks and the 6th Regiment has been published. Jefferson Barracks and the 6th Infantry, by Ruth Layton and Alfred Bromet, is available at \$3.00 plus \$.15 mailing from Layton, Layton and Associates, 1221 Locust Street, St. Louis 3, Missouri.

The Journal of the Central Mississippi Valley American Studies Association, a semi-annual, costs \$1.50 per year from Prof. Jerzy Hauptmann, Park College, Parkville, Missouri. The Association is interested in architecture, and welcomes articles that will be of general interest to an American Civilization program. Papers should be sent to Prof. Stuart Levine, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

The New York Municipal Art Society and Museum of Modern Art have sponsored a guidebook by Ada Louise Huxtable - Four Walking Tours of Modern Architecture in New York. Available from the Museum, 11 W. 53rd Street for \$.95.

EXHIBITS

"Frank Lloyd Wright in Manchester." Photographs of two FLW houses in Manchester, New Hampshire, taken by S. A. H. member Gerda Peterich. Available from Currier Gallery of Art, Manchester, N. H. (15 panels, 32 running feet). Rental, \$40.00 plus one-way transport.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is circulating a fine exhibit of architectural photography, "Historic American Buildings Survey Photographs by Cervin Robinson," originally organized for the 1961 A. I. A. Convention in Philadelphia. It comprises 50 carefully-selected photographs taken by S. A. H. member Robinson for HABS. Available from Mrs. Marion Harding, Department of Education, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia 1, Pennsylvania. (Photos mounted on 22"-wide boards, approximately 92 running feet.)

EDITOR'S NOTE

I believe that the Society owes a vote of thanks to Agnes Gilchrist for her fine Newsletters of the past four years. As her successor, I welcome news of Chapters and members, exhibits, publications, courses, grants, research; in short, all items of interest to our Newsletter readers. Let me hear from you.

Our new masthead was designed for the Newsletter by Robert E. Cooper, National Park Service architect. Thanks, Bob!

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