



NEWSLETTER

THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

September 1962 Vol 6 No 3

President J. D. Forbes has prepared this message on historic preservation to clarify the Society's official position, and to encourage active participation at the local level by our members.

PRESERVATION AND THE S. A. H.

"A stated aim of the Society is 'To promote the preservation of significant architectural monuments.' How best can the members further the cause of architectural preservation?

"In his report on this question prepared at the president's request for the spring Directors' Meeting, Past President-Past Editor Walter L. Creese took a long, hard look at the realities of the situation and recommended that the preservation activities of the Society be limited to the areas of documentation, qualitative judgment, and research or publication subsidy -- and not include active support or promotion.

"The Board agreed with Mr. Creese's position that the Society was not set up to be an 'action' organization.

"But this does not mean that the preservation aim should be a dead letter. It becomes the duty of the Society to urge the membership to be active in the preservation movement on the local level by joining -- or forming -- local preservation action groups and by supporting the work of such national organizations as the National Trust for Historic Preservation (815 17th Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.) and the Preservation Committee of the American Institute of Architects (1735 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.).

"The National Trust will tell you the name of the preservation organization in your community or provide you with a model constitution for a tax-exempt preservation organization if you wish to start one.

"Recommended reading for individuals interesting in practical preservation at the local level are Guide to Community Action; a Sourcebook for Citizen Volunteers by Mark S. Matthews (New York: Harpers, 1954), 436 pp., and Elm Street Politics by Stephen A. Mitchell, former chairman, Democratic Party; foreword by Leonard Hall, former chairman, Republican Party (New York: Oceana Publications, 1959), 123 pp."

Veteran August Tour-goer Harley J. McKee tells us that more than sixty S. A. H. members and their guests enjoyed traditional Bluegrass hospitality on this year's highly-successful tour in Kentucky on August 17-19. Under the Chairmanship of the University of Kentucky's Charles P. Graves, the tour's headquarters were in Lexington.

On Friday afternoon the group toured the famous Bluegrass horse farms and homes, and afterwards Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Wright entertained at cocktails. In the evening, S. A. H. member Theodore M. Brown of the University of Louisville discussed "Old Louisville" after a buffet supper at the Phoenix Hotel.

On Saturday guests enjoyed a bus trip to Frankfort, with luncheon at the Old Capitol, and were addressed by Kentucky Attorney-General John B. Breckenridge. A tour to Shakertown at Pleasant Hill completed the afternoon, and at dinner Dr. A. B. Kirwan of the University of Kentucky spoke on Kentucky history (principally about dueling).

Sunday noon featured a Hunt "Breakfast" at the Iroquois Hunt Club followed by a tour of Lexington architecture, and Sunday afternoon cocktails at the John Hunt Morgan House.

A very few copies of the informative 24-page tour guide prepared for the S. A. H. Kentucky tour are still available from Mrs. Rosann S. Berry, Box 94, Media, Pennsylvania, at \$1.00 each.

The next important S. A. H. date for your calendar is the Annual Meeting, to be held in Baltimore, January 24-26, at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. Richard H. Howland, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C., the General Chairman, reminds us that the deadline for requests to deliver papers is October first. In addition to the five sessions for the reading of papers, as announced in the May Newsletter, there will be a conducted tour of old and recent ecclesiastical architecture in and around Baltimore on Saturday afternoon, January 26th. We are pleased to note that the speaker at our annual banquet, to be held jointly with the College Art Association on Friday evening, January 25, will be August Heckscher, Special Consultant on the Arts to The President.

We have again inserted a form at the end of the Newsletter for you to suggest friends and associates for S. A. H. membership. Mrs. Rosann S. Berry, our Executive Secretary, will send S. A. H. folders (with application blanks) with your name to your recommendees. Incidentally, the Society has welcomed approximately 65 new members this Summer, a remarkable demonstration of the vigorous growth that our Society is experiencing.

CHAPTER NOTICES

Chicago Chapter

Too late for inclusion in the May issue was a notice that the Chicago Chapter's May 24th meeting at the Art Institute of Chicago was devoted to a talk by Robert M. Lillibridge on "The Amana Towns of Iowa."

ORGANIZATIONS

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's 16th Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco this Fall from October 4 to 8, with headquarters at the St. Francis Hotel. There will be business and professional sessions, roundtable discussions, exhibits, reports by affiliated member groups and a tour of San Francisco. The speaker at the annual banquet will be William L. Slayton, Commissioner of the Urban Renewal Administration, whose topic will be "Urban Renewal Need Not be Urban Removal." Following the San Francisco meetings, the Trust has scheduled a tour of Hawaii. The Trust's offices are at 815 17th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

A recent institutional member of S. A. H., the California Heritage Council was formed in 1960 as a "statewide non-profit organization . . . established to preserve cultural, historical and architectural landmarks threatened by destruction." Fred Moulton of San Francisco is President. The Council has already grown to 300 members and is carrying on a program largely concerned with the study and preservation of California architecture. If interested, write the Council's Executive Director, James B. Alexander, 2090 Jackson Street, San Francisco 9, California.

A group of prominent New Yorkers, aroused by the thoughtless destruction of the City's architectural masterpieces, particularly the Pennsylvania Station, have formed AGBANY--Action Group for Better Architecture in New York. The group's Chairman is S. A. H. member Norval White, 33 East 61st Street, New York 21.

On August second the group, led by Mrs. Eero Saarinen, Philip Johnson, Thomas H. Creighton, Peter Blake and Raymond Rubinow, picketed Pennsylvania Station to protest its scheduled demolition. Since a number of prominent S. A. H. members are involved in the movement, we quote from a recent AGBANY release: "This magnificent building, designed 60 years ago by the great architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, was recently described by August Heckscher, President Kennedy's Special Consultant on the Arts, as 'a noble space, a fitting entrance to a great city'. Present plans call for the crowding of a massive complex of office buildings and sports arenas on the site, driving commuters and other travelers underground into mean eight or nine foot high rabbit warrens. This act of desecration and critic Lewis Mumford calls 'an act of irresponsible public vandalism'. Also decrying the demolition, Mrs. Eero Saarinen, who is writing a book on the works of Stanford White, pleaded for the preservation of 'one of the few remaining monuments of the Eclectic Period' . . . the Group has the endorsement of the persons quoted above plus such notables as Architect Philip Johnson, Yale School of Architecture head Paul Rudolph, famed sculptor Bernard Reder, Dean of the Cornell School of Architecture Burham Kelly, architectural editors Thomas Creighton and Peter Blake, and prominent architects and writers throughout the nation and Europe. In a recent press conference sponsored by the Group, Philip Johnson commented that New Yorkers should not be deprived of such significant artifacts of their culture as Pennsylvania Station, that they deserve a sense of continuity represented by such fine structures. But, he added, they deserve it only if they rise up and fight those who try to take it away."

The New York City Municipal Art Society is preparing a new illustrated edition of its book New York Landmarks under the editorship of Architect Alan Burnham, assisted by Henry Hope Reed, Jr., Mrs. Stewart Freeman, and others. New President of the Society is Morris Ketchum, Jr., who succeeds Harmon H. Goldstone, who resigned to become the first architect in years to serve on New York's City Planning Commission.

Ada Louise Huxtable writes in the New York Times Magazine (April 15, 1962) of the recently-formed Anonymous Arts Recovery Society, which was created to rescue ornament from demolished New York City buildings. Much handsome sculpture that formerly adorned buildings of a more elaborate day has been saved by the Society. The fragments are being offered to museums.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Three S. A. H. members, among 61 recipients representing 46 colleges and universities, have received Grants-in-Aid from the American Council of Learned Societies. H. Allen Brooks, University of Toronto, received a grant to continue work on Frank Lloyd Wright. George A. Kubler, Yale University, will do commentary, text, and translation for Felix da Costa, Antiguidade da arte da pintura. Eleanor P. Spencer, Goucher College, will study 15th Century Paris book illustration.

Joseph A. Baird, Jr., new Curator of Art at the California Historical Society in San Francisco, writes that he is attempting to establish an archive of San Francisco architecture at the Society, and that any contributions of relevant written or illustrated material would be very welcome. He also tells us that the California Historical Society will feature an exhibit "Times Wonderous Changes," San Francisco Architecture from 1776 to 1915 at the time of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's October meeting in S. F. Dr. Baird is also preparing an illustrated booklet to accompany the exhibit, and hopes to do further booklets and exhibits on Northern California and San Francisco for the California Historical Society.

Dr. Walter L. Creese, architectural historian and professor of architecture at the University of Illinois, has been named Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon. His appointment at Oregon will be effective July 1, 1963. During the current year the school will be administered by Acting Dean Marion Dean Ross. An active member of S. A. H., Dr. Creese was editor of the JOURNAL from 1950-53, then editorial advisor and on the Board of Directors. In 1958-60 he was S. A. H. President. He was a director of the College Art Association from 1951 to 1955 and editorial advisor of the College Art Journal, 1955-60.

Robert L. Elgin, President of Recreation Associates, St. James, Missouri, writes that he and Architect Kenneth Coombs of Kansas City are carrying on a program of research into three old buildings in St. Charles, Missouri that formed the State's first Capitol and Executive Offices, during the years 1821-1826 when St. Charles was Missouri's Capitol. The project is being done under the direction of the Missouri Park Board.

One of our very few Scottish members, Gavin M. Goodfellow of Edinburgh writes that he is employed by the Scottish Development Department of the Government as an investigator of historic buildings. In this capacity, he is drawing up lists

of important Scottish buildings. Mr. Goodfellow would be glad to correspond with other S. A. H. members who are interested in Scottish architecture, or American architects of Scottish origin. Mr. Goodfellow's address is 2 Bangholm Terrace, Edinburgh 3.

S. A. H. member Bunji Kobayashi, Professor of History and Architecture and Director of the Architectural Institute at Nippon University, Tokyo, is in the United States on a Fulbright Fellowship to teach at the University of Kentucky.

Agnes Gilchrist tells us that the New York Municipal Art Society has awarded a citation to Clay Lancaster for his new book Old Brooklyn Heights (Rutland, Vt., 1961).

The Museum of Modern Art has named Miss Grace N. Mayer Curator of its Department of Photography. A native New Yorker, Miss Mayer was formerly Curator of Prints at the Museum of the City of New York.

Dr. Genevieve Miller has been made curator of the Howard Dittrick Museum of Historical Medicine, Cleveland Medical Library.

After 34 years of service in the National Park Service as a Landscape Architect, Architect, and Historical Architect, Charles E. Peterson will retire in October to go into private practice as an architectural historian, restorationist and planner. Founder of the Historic American Buildings Survey, past President and now director of S. A. H., Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and now Supervising Architect, Historic Structures for the Park Service's Eastern Office of Design and Construction, he is one of our foremost architectural historians. "Pete" will open his office in the handsome Society Hill houses of the 1830's at 332-34 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, of which he is completing the restoration. His many friends and associates join to wish him well in his new undertaking!

Architect and Architectural Historian Richard W. E. Perrin, F. A. I. A., has been named the first head of Milwaukee's new Department of City Development. Mr. Perrin has studied Wisconsin architecture for many years, particularly the remarkable half-timbered German pioneer buildings in the southeast part of the State, and has frequently published his findings.

Henry Hope Reed, Jr. tells us that he is writing a column "Discover New York" in the Herald Tribune's Sunday Magazine Today's Living. The articles form an interesting series on lesser-known New York City historic buildings and sites. Of particular note is his column for May 20, 1962, "Classic Houses of the Upper East Side," in which Mr. Reed published, for the first time, he believes, notes on several of Architect Ogden Codman, Jr.'s houses.

We are most pleased to report the appointment of one of our leading members, James Grote Van Derpool, as Executive Director of the newly-formed Landmarks Preservation Commission of New York City. In his new position, Professor Van Derpool is responsible for the designation for preservation of important monuments, and for recommending a program of effective protection of those monuments that fall within public view. He will also advise other city agencies on matters concerning the preservation of historic structures. The Landmarks Preservation Commission has offices at 2 Lafayette Street, New York 7. Chairman of the Commission is New York Architect and S. A. H. member Geoffrey Platt.

Jack Wasserman is assuming the chairmanship of the recently-formed Department of Art History at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is also to receive a faculty grant to complete his study of the Sixteenth-century Italian architect Ottaviano Mascarino.

Our past President, Barbara Wriston, who is now Head of the Department of Education at the Art Institute of Chicago, addressed the Annual Meeting of the Chicago Chapter, American Institute of Architects in June on the intriguing subject. "When Does Architecture Become History?"

COURSES AND GRANTS

The University of London's Institute of Archaeology is offering an important new course in the Conservation of Historical Monuments under the supervision of W. A. Eden, Director of Studies. The new course leads to a diploma in the Conservation of Historic Monuments, and has been established with the aid of the Gulbenkian Foundation. Its object is to provide academic and practical training for architects involved in the restoration of historic buildings. The two-year course includes both classroom work and practical training in the office of an architect specializing in this work. Participating offices include the Ancient Monuments Branch of the Ministry of Works, and the Historic Buildings Sections of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the London County Council, as well as private firms. Applicants should have passed the Final Examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects or its equivalent. For information, write Registrar, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Sq., London W.C. 1. There is a great need for professional architectural training of this type, and the British are to be highly commended for establishing this graduate-level program. When will such courses for restorationists be available in the United States?

Applications from younger faculty members and graduate students interested in continuing their study and research in the Soviet Union for all or part of the 1963-64 academic year will be accepted by the Inter-University Committee on Travel Grants through November 16, 1962. Persons in all fields of study are encouraged to apply, provided that they can show reasonable professional and scholarly benefit to be derived from study and research in the Soviet Union. Applicants must be American citizens, and not more than approximately forty years of age. The applicant should be able to demonstrate an adequate working knowledge of Russian. Other eligibility requirements include: academic excellence; maturity and emotional stability; professional and scholarly competence, or indication of future professional promise; and a reasonable knowledge of both American and Russian history, politics, and civilization.

Funds are available to cover all or part of the exchange participants' expenses, including family maintenance. For further information and applications, write to Stephen Viederman, Deputy Chairman, Inter-University Committee on Travel Grants, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

The American Council of Learned Societies points out that the closing date for A. C. L. S. Grants-In-Aid applications is September 30, and not September 3 as mentioned in the May Newsletter.

RESEARCH

The American Architectural Archive, at 65 Fairfield Road, Greenwich, Connecticut, represents the collection of Alan Burnham, architect and architectural historian. It consists of books, magazines and pamphlets dealing with nineteenth century architecture in the United States. Files, arranged by architects, make it particularly useful to advanced students, who may visit the Archive by appointment.

Miss Mary Bartlett Cowdrey of Passaic, N. J., has been appointed Curator of Prints and Drawings for the New Jersey Historical Society. Miss Cowdrey will work on an illustrated iconography of New Jersey which will be published in 1964, New Jersey's Tercentennial.

Philadelphia's Mary Carolyn Pitts is preparing an architectural history of Cape May, New Jersey, long a fashionable seaside resort, especially noted for its "Victorian" resort hotels and cottages.

The New York State Council on the Arts is the sponsor of an historical study being made by the School of Architecture, Syracuse University, concerned with extant buildings in Syracuse and Onondaga County from early times to World War I, with the objective of promoting further recognition and preservation of the architectural heritage of New York State. In some ways the project is a "pilot" study. Research is being carried on by Patricia Earle and Paul Malo under the direction of Professor Harley J. McKee.

PUBLICATIONS

The Urban Renewal Administration publishes a small illustrated Semi-Monthly with news of redevelopment projects. Since there are frequent references to historic areas, we mention that Urban Renewal Notes is available without charge from Mr. Sydney Kaspar, Director of Public Affairs, Urban Renewal Administration, Washington 25, D. C.

The University of Louisville has published a booklet by Margaret M. Bridwell and Theodore M. Brown, Old Louisville. It is an excellent survey of Louisville's historic residential district, and costs \$1.75. Old Louisville complements Professor Brown's earlier Introduction to Louisville Architecture, published by the Louisville Free Public Library in 1960, which discusses downtown buildings.

Most of our readers have probably seen the widely-distributed new guide to the White House, which has been handsomely published by the White House Historical Association. It is a beautifully-illustrated guidebook to both the history of the Executive Mansion and the current restoration and decoration program being carried on under Mrs. Kennedy's direction. The White House: An Historic Guide is available for \$1.00, check or money order, from the White House Historical Association, Room 1013, Interior Building, Washington 25, D. C.

A special issue of the Journal of Housing for August, 1962 is devoted to "Historic Preservation Via Urban Renewal" and discusses the several urban renewal projects which are restoring historic buildings. The issue is available for \$1.00 from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment officials, 1413 K Street N. W., Washington 5, D. C.

Barbara Snow's preservation department in the July issue of Antiques Magazine (p. 86) ran an adverse report by Architect Charles Peterson on the planners' attempts to make a "Junior Manhattan" out of the old Society Hill area in Philadelphia. Quite a number of letters were sparked by the article. Miss Snow would like to have further comments to air on this controversial subject.

EXHIBITIONS

The Smithsonian Institution announces a forthcoming exhibition of 50 eighteenth-century English watercolors executed in India by Thomas Daniell and his young nephew, William, who were among the first European illustrators of the Indian scene. The exhibition, The Daniells in India, will be circulated throughout the country by the Traveling Exhibition Service of the Smithsonian Institution. The watercolors are exhibited through the courtesy of the owners, the Pacific and Orient Navigation Company, London. For further information, please write to Mrs. John A. Pope, Chief, Traveling Exhibition Service, Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.

Three photographic exhibits are being circulated by Clarence John Laughlin, 625 Decatur Street, New Orleans 16, Louisiana: 1) The Camera As a Third Eye (116 mounted photographs, about 150 running feet, \$50.00, plus one-way express and insurance) 2) Ghosts Along the Mississippi deals with Louisiana plantation architecture and is based on Mr. Laughlin's book of the same name. (120 mounted photographs, about 175 running feet, \$50.00 plus one-way express and insurance) 3) Sculpture Seen Anew: The Bronze Age to Brancusi. (105 panels, containing about 700 photographs, 210 running feet. \$100.00 plus one-way express and insurance.)

An exhibition of the work of a pioneer of modern architecture in Pittsburgh--Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr.--will be on view in the galleries of the Fine Arts Department of Pittsburgh's Carnegie Institute from October 11 to November 18. The show has been organized by James H. Cook and James D. Van Trump, both of the Department of Architecture, Carnegie Institute of Technology.

James C. Massey, Editor, 206 Gulph Creek Rd., Radnor, Pa.

Send the names of prospective members (either individuals or institutions) to Mrs. Rosann S. Berry, Executive Secretary, S. A. H., Box 94, Media, Pa., and a descriptive brochure (with application blank), indicating you have suggested them for membership, will be sent to each.

Name

Address

Name

Address

Name

Address