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

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SAH MEMBERSHIP NOTE - A membership card will be sent to any member requesting one with the payment of 1960 dues. <u>Suggestion</u>, will members instead of throwing SAH NEWSLETTER into wastepaper baskets, please hand to an architecturally-minded friend and tell him he may become an SAH member by writing a check for \$7.50 made out to Society of Architectural Historians and mail to Robert Walker, Treasurer, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa. (There is need for this because for the first time since July 1940, the membership has gone down; 99 members have resigned or been dropped; 91 new members have joined in 1959, making a decrease of 8 members.)

SAH LOCAL CHAPTERS - The Central New York Architectural Historians met in Owego, Nov. 7, to see Greek Revival houses and to hear talks by the Hon. <u>Howard W. Robison</u>, Member of Congress, 37 Dist. N.Y. and Joseph M. <u>Missavage</u>, Ex. Dir. Broome Co. Planning Bd. and Planning Consultant for "The Architectural District" 1957, Village of Owego Zoning Ordinance.

N.Y.C. Chapter - Mrs. Davies is the new sec'y-treas. Pres. Wayne Andrews, Scribners, is planning a meeting with Prof. Seckler from Harvard, early in December at the Duke Mansion, N.Y.U. Inst. Fine Arts and going to see if 5:30 p.m. will be a more convenient hour for New Yorkers. There was a meeting in Chicago, the end of October, according to Pres. Walter Creese. Note to secretaries of Local Chapters, please send notices of meetings for next NEWSLETTER before Feb. 1.

SAH OVERSEAS - <u>H. R. Hitchcock</u> reports attending the Sept. mtg. of SAH-Great Britain in Norwich when Sir John Summerson and John Harris both gave excellent papers. The first British Alice Davis Hitchcock medallion was presented to <u>Howard Colvin</u> for his DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH ARCHITECTS. The second volume of papers published by SAH-Great Britain has appeared, but no copies seem available in this country. Perhaps Sec'y Frank Jenkins can send over copies of both volumes to be sold at the N. Y. Annual Mtgs.

The American Museum at Claverton, near Bath, has a Shaker Room furnished from the collection of Faith and Edward Andrew of New Haven, SAH members.

N. Y. ANNUAL MEETING Jan. 28-31 Pre-registration will be sent out in Dec. Program is in hand under chairmanship of <u>Harley J. McKee</u>, University of Syracuse. <u>Robert</u> <u>Branner</u>, Columbia Univ. is local chairman. <u>Marvin Schwartz</u>, Curator of Decorative Arts, Brooklyn Museum, is chairman of the Brooklyn Tour which promises to be one of the best ever with the help of <u>Dan Hopping</u>, <u>Maud Dilliard</u>, <u>L. Livingston</u>, <u>Rosalie</u> <u>Bailey</u>, etc.

SAH TOURS - Dan Hopping is chairman of the 1960 International Tour to be held at Vicenza, the third week in June. Dick Howland reports that material gathered on the 1959 Dublin Tour was used for a "People to People" program. The 1960 August Tour will be in Bristol, R. I. Those knowing <u>George Howe's map of Bristol realize how</u> much there is to see.

SUMMER SCHOOLS - In addition to the York and Attingham sessions, the Courtauld Institute, 20 Portman Sq., London W.1 is sponsoring under the direction of Anthony Blount, a study of English medieval architecture, with scholarly lecturers, designed especially for graduate students or people with similar interests. The course will be held at Bath, 24 July - 6 Aug.; cost \$135.

PERIODICALS - MODULO and DOMUS are the visually-handsomest architectural magazines yet seen by editor. The English ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW continues to have the most informative articles on architectural history, viz. in Aug.-Sept. issue, "Art Nouveau in Essex" by John Malton and "An English LeRoy" by Marcus Whiffen, last year's SAH Book Award winner. In American periodicals of interest is "The New Sensualism", Thomas H. Creighton, PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE Sept.; "Notes Towards a Basis for Art", Albert Bush-Brown, ARCH. RECORD, Oct.; Congratulations to MUSEUM NEWS for new life & format and to C. C. Wall for his "Mount Vernon Experience" in Sept. issue. RESEARCH - The query on painted brick was prompted by Gerry Watland as we went through the small towns of NW Maryland on the August Tour. There were two replies for which much thanks. One from Edward Steese saying painting was for weatherproofing, citing the Dean's House at Princeton and the other from Mrs. Loeb. Berkeley, who sent a documented reply on plastering of bricks in Roman architecture. Charles Scarlett has whitewashed the bricks framing windows at Whitehall because it was an 18th C. custom. I noted in the Wallace Nutting Collection in the Hartford Athenaeum a painting of 1856 which showed the Old State House painted white. We all know what Downing had to say about painting bricks and the chart of colors to be used. Strickland said there is nothing worse than red brick against blue sky. but his tongue was probably in his cheek where it usually was.

Mr. Steese also noted the use of wood weatherboarding on the north side of the Dean's House at Princeton. I noted the slate siding of south walls of brick 18th C. houses in the south of Ireland, especially about Cork of which the Sherrard's house was a particularly fine example. Jacob Landy, N.Y. City College wants information about the N.Y. Mariners Temple and whether Minard Lafever had anything to do with it <u>Matthew Baigell</u>, graduate student, is working on John Haviland at the Univ. of Penn. <u>Robert Branner</u> suggests that a good topic for study would be the architectural work of Van Brunt in Kansas City.

PEOPLE AND PUBLICATIONS - John Rose, Federal Headquarters, Port of Spain, Trinadad, West Indies has done a lot of research on Carribbean architecture - John Muir Whitehill has just had published TOPOGRAPHY OF BOSTON, Lowell Lectures, 1958 -Kenneth Duprey OLD NANTUCKET HOUSES, Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1959, is a model of what a study of old houses should be - Helen Franc at the Whitney opening of the American Paintings shown in Moscow this summer, said Henry Hope Reed is getting out a HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART which should be interesting reading - Agnes Gilchrist is in Holland for 6 weeks doing architectural research for SLEEPY HOLLOW RESTORATIONS, INC. - Harley J. McKee is editor of THE VANISHING POINT, the newsletter of the Syracuse Soc. of Architects - George & Mary Roberts have just had published TRIUMPH ON FAIRMOUNT (\$6) a life of Fiske Kimball - Katalog 66 of WASMUTH BUCHHANDLUNG, Hardenbergstr.9a, West Berlin has an excellent listing of architectural books - Myron Bement Smith, Ph.D., is SAH's most travelled member. He is off again for the Int'l Educ. Program of the Dep't of State until Apr. '60 lecturing at the First International Congress on Turkish Art at Ankara and in Istanbul, Khartoum, Cairo, Alexandria, New Delhi and all over India, Colombo, Beirut, Damascus, Jerusalem, Teheran, Isfahan, Shiraz, etc. and plans to spend the spring studying Moorish architecture in Spain - Francis James Dallett, Librarian Philadelphia Athenaeum, has published on John Notman and is gathering information on a Strickland house in Bristol, Pa. - Robert G. Crompton had an a article on William Strickland in the Sunday Philadelphia PUBLIC INQUIRER - Alan Burnham is director of the ARCHIVES OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY, Fairfield Rd., Greenwich, Conn. -A group of SAHers, also members of the Historic Structures Committee of the N.Y. Municipal Art Society had a luncheon meeting in Sept. on the yacht "Mary Adams" of fellow-member John Nicholson in order to observe to right heel of the Statue of Liberty and the Ellis Island bldgs by Boring and Tilton, 1897. - Jane Owens left the Dublin Tour early to go to the Island of Iona to present a Lipschitz statue, "The Descent of the Spirit" in honor of St. Colomba - John Harris from the R.I.B.A. Library, London, authority on 17th C. English architectural drawings, will be at Avery Library, Nov. 10-May 1, and available for lectures - An international catalog of HISTORICAL PERIODICALS is being published, U.S. address, 640 W. 153 St., N.Y.C. -Copies of Bill Hunter's August Tour publications are available from Treas. Robert Walker, price \$1.50 - The Sept. 1959 A.C.L.S. Newsletter, 345 E. 46th St., N.Y. 17, lists all Grants and Fellowships - Clay Lancaster is returning to Kentucky to live. He has written a booklet on Brooklyn architecture - John Walden Myer and Dan Hopping will be in charge of publicity for the Jan. Mtgs. - Marion Dean Ross, Architecture, Univ. of Oregon, Eugene, has written a pamphlet on Oregon architecture, allustrated, published for the Woman's Committee of the Oregon Chapter, A.I.A., cost 50¢ from Prof. Ross - Three books of special interest must be listed: Helen Roseneau, THE IDEAL CITY - Peter Collins, CONCRETE - THE VISION OF A NEW ARCHITECTURF, 1959, and a reprint of the 1889 English translation by Benjamin Bucknall of DISCOURSE ON ARCHITECTURE by Viollet-le-Duc.

A GREAT EVENT - The opening of the Guggenheim Museum. If quality in architecture is judged by the amount of the personality of the architect palpable in the structure, the Guggenheim Museum by Frank Lloyd Wright is a masterpiece. It causes as strong and as diverse emotions as its creator did. It is Carracullan in character, that is, it captures space overwhelmingly as did the Baths of Carraculla. It is a perfect setting for the strongly personal collection it houses. SAH members are highly appreciative of the gracious invitation of James Sweeney, the Director, to hold our afternoon session there on Jan. 29.

EXHIBITIONS - POPE ADRIAN VI, Utrecht, Central Museum, excellent catalog.

KOREAN ARCHITECTURE, color photographs by Army photographers, shown first in Washington and will tour. Worth going miles to see. NICHOLAS LOCHOFF, copies of Old Masters painted for the Tsar of Russia at the Helen Clay Frick Gallery of the University of Pittsburgh. Architect doing reconstructions should look at these with special favor. Bernard Berenson said these were almost impossible to tell from the originals. The AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS, 1083 Fifth Ave., N.Y. 28, has 6 architectural exhibits circulating. The A.F.A. celebrated its 50th anniversary on Oct. 31, with the opening of the Collectors' Exhibition at the Edward W. Root Art Center at Hamilton College, Clinton, N.Y., which is the former house of Elihu Root one of the founders of A.F.A. and first president. <u>Harris Prior</u>, Director and long-time SAH member gave the history of A.F.A. at that time.

INTERNATIONAL CASTLE INSTITUTE, Schloss Rapperswill SG, Switzerland, Percy LeClerc, Director of National Monument, Eire, has been appointed director of the Castle Institute for the coming year. He is eager to have American members, dues \$6. Members may attend the tours organized by the Institute. In May 1960, there will be a tour of castles in Burgundy and in September, one of Swiss castles.

A new edition of LANDMARKS, the listing of historic structures in the 5 boroughs of N.Y.C. is coming out under the chairmanship of <u>Alan Burnham</u>. For copies address, Miss <u>Irene V. Walsh</u>, Executive Sec'y., Municipal Art Society, 119 E. 19th Street, New York 3.

On Nov. 10, Americans who had had Fulbright Grants in France were invited to meet at the French Consulate in N.Y. to form a new organization to be called the FRENCH AMERICAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION. Its prime purpose is to extend hospitality to French holders of Fulbright Grants. Anyone interested write: William M. Johnston, 708 Furnald Hall, Columbia University, N.Y. 27.

The ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ART received a Ford Grant of \$250,000, to be used over 5 years to further interest and understanding in American Art. Individual memberships are \$10. For more information write: Miss Mary Bartlett Cowdrey, Archivist, 14 W. 40th Street, N. Y. 18.

THE SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Spring Valley, N.Y., on Oct. 17, has a tour of 6 Dutch colonial houses never opened to the public before. Definitely worth seeing!

On Oct. 31, first steps were taken towards founding SHAKER, INC. which proposes to use the Shaker buildings at Hancock, Mass., for an Open Air Museum and to house the Shaker Collection of Faith and Edward Andrew of New Haven. Anyone interested in this, please communicate with Miss Dorothy Miller, Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd St., N. Y. 19.

Last but not least, our former secretary Professor <u>Eleanor</u> <u>Spencer</u> writes she spent the summer in Paris studying a French XV cent. illuminator. She is also cochairman of the 75th Anniversary celebrations of GOUCHER COLLEGE, where she is professor of Art. They determined upon a seminar with 25 members, <u>Bill Hunter</u> is one, to consider the topic HUMAN VALUES IN THE EMERGING AMERICAN CITY under the leadership of Eugene Johnson and Charles Frankel. This program is in part underwritten by the William Deiches Fund. Auditors may attend the seminars, Jan. 6, Feb. 17, Mar. 30, by applying to Miss Jeanne R. Lowe, 75th Anniversary Program, Goucher College, Towson, Baltimore 4, Md. A general concluding session, will be held April 21-22.

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