



NEWSLETTER

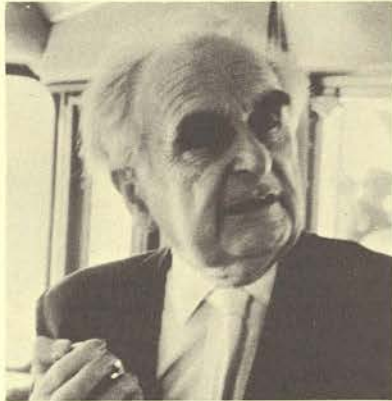
THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

Vol 9, No. 1 February, 1965

1965 ANNUAL MEETING

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians was held in Beverly Hills, California, January 28th to 30th, and in San Francisco, January 31st and February 1st. That part of the meeting which took place in Beverly Hills was held jointly with the College Art Association. Since this was the first time the Society had travelled to the far West, however, it was decided that the opportunity to have a session in, as well as about, San Francisco should not be missed. There were two full days and an evening of papers, in addition to exhibits, luncheons, receptions, and dinners, and a day-long architectural tour in Los Angeles; a dinner with a session following, and an all-day tour were held in San Francisco - all events in glorious weather. A remarkable 200 SAH members and guests attended in Beverly Hills and 100 in San Francisco. Vice President George B. Tatum, University of Pennsylvania, was General Chairman for the meeting, and the local committees were chaired by Richard G. Carrott, University of California, Riverside, in Beverly Hills and Joseph A. Baird, Jr., University of California, in San Francisco.

The Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting was held on Friday, January 29th. President H. Allen Brooks, University of Toronto, announced the appointment of a new Editor of the *Journal*, Robert Branner of Columbia University, effective with the retirement of Paul F. Norton after the publication of the May, 1964 issue. He also announced that the March, 1965 *Journal* will be a special issue on the Modern Architecture Symposium which was held at Columbia University in 1964. Vice-President Tatum, in the absence of the Treasurer, reported that dues in the Society had been raised at a special meeting of the membership held on December 3, 1964. In spite of rising production costs, the increase will make it possible to expand the *Journal* and publish five, instead of four, *Newsletters* in 1965.



Richard Neutra, commenting during SAH tour of Los Angeles Architecture Photo: Howard Dearstyne.

Secretary Adolf K. Placzek, Columbia University, announced that the Book Award Committee, chaired by Thomas McCormick, Vassar College, presented the Alice Davis Hitchcock Award for the most distinguished book on architectural history by an American or on an American subject published in 1964 to Alan Gowans, University of Delaware, for his *Images of American Living: Four Centuries of Architecture and Furniture as Cultural Expression*.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Henry A. Millon, M.I.T., presented the following slate of officers and directors, which was accepted by unanimous vote:

President, H. Allen Brooks, University of Toronto; Vice President, George B. Tatum, University of Pennsylvania; Secretary, Adolf K. Placzek, Columbia University; Treasurer, John M. Dickey, Price & Dickey, Media, Pa.

Directors to serve three years:

Francois Bucher, Princeton University; John Coolidge, Harvard University; Alfred Frazer, Vassar College; Walter B. Horn, University of California; William Jordy, Brown University; Winston R. Weisman, Pennsylvania State University; Milton Lewine, Columbia University (to fill unexpired term of George B. Tatum)

Resolutions thanking the local committees, the Los Angeles County Museum and its Docent Council, the Municipal Art Commission, the Cultural Heritage Board, and the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the headquarters Beverly-Hilton Hotel were introduced by Vice-President Tatum, and approved by the members present.

The first group of papers on Thursday morning were on European Architecture before 1800. Introduced by Chairman Walter Horn, University of California, Berkeley, speakers were: Rudolph Wittkower, Columbia University, "Bramante's Tempietto"; Henry A. Millon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "Geometry in Seventeenth Century Italian Architecture"; Irving Lavin, New York University, "Letters from Parma (1618, 1627-28) and the Early Baroque Theater"; S. Lane Faison, Jr., Williams College, "Leonhard Matthaues Giessl, Court Architect of the Bavarian Barocco"; Ernest Mundt, San Francisco State College, "The Function of the Rocaille in South-German Rococo Architecture"; F. W. B. Charles, Bromsgrove, England, "Cruck Construction in England"; and John F. Fitchen, III, Colgate University, "New York State Dutch 'Anchor Beam' Barns".

Papers Thursday afternoon were on Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Architecture: The New Tradition, with John Jacobus, Indiana University, Chairman. Speakers were Winston R. Weisman, Pennsylvania State University, "Chicago School, Fact or Fiction"; Helen Searing, Yale University, "The Amsterdam School Reappraised"; Stanford Anderson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "The Early Works of Peter Behrens"; and Norma Evenson, University of California, Berkeley, "The Aftermath of Empire--Architecture in Modern India". Commentator, following the speakers, was Marcus Whiffen, Arizona State University.

Thursday evening the SAH and CAA were guests of the Members' Board of the Los Angeles County Museum for cocktails and a buffet supper. Tours of the new museum building, designed by W. L. Pereira and Associates, were conducted



Barbara Wriston and
President H. Allen Brooks
at Los Angeles Annual
Meeting. Photo: N. A. Dick



Executive Secretary
Rosann S. Berry and
Secretary Adolf K. Placzek
at Los Angeles meeting.
Photo: N. A. Dick

by the Docent Council. The new building is not scheduled to open until April, but a very impressive pre-opening, with many of the collections in place, was arranged for this gathering.

The subject of the Friday morning papers was the California Scene: 1890-1940 with David Gebhard, University of California, Santa Barbara, Chairman. The speakers were Robert Winter, Occidental College, "The Craftsman Movement in California"; Kenneth Cardwell, University of California, Berkeley, "Bernard Maybeck and the San Francisco Architectural Scene, 1890--1915"; Randell Makinson, University of Southern California, "Architects Greene and Greene"; Robert Clark, Princeton University, "A Decade of California Houses by Louis Christian Mullgardt"; and Esther McCoy, "R. M. Schindler".

Friday afternoon papers were devoted to the Preservation of Historic Buildings on the West Coast, with William Woollett, AIA, Chairman. Speakers were Raymond Girvagian, AIA, and Carleton Monroe Winslow, AIA, University of Southern California, "Preservation Activities in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area"; William J. Murtagh, National Trust for Historic Preservation, "Notes on Financing Historic Architectural Preservation in the United States"; Orvel B. Johnson, California State Office of Architecture and Construction, "Restoration of Historic Buildings on the West Coast"; and Elisabeth Kendall Thompson, AIA, Architectural Record, "Development of Legislative Protection for California Western Historic Architecture". Henry T. Hopkins, Los Angeles County Museum, was the member of the local committee responsible for professional equipment at the meeting.

The annual banquet with the CAA was held Friday evening. Philip C. Johnson, AIA, with his customary perceptive wit, spoke on "The Historian and the Architect", stressing the importance of the historian as the guardian of the architect's memory, the keeper of his conscience, and the evaluator of his values.

Saturday was devoted to a tour of the Los Angeles historic buildings, with luncheon at the Gamble house, Pasadena, designed by Greene and Greene. Carleton M. Winslow has responsibility for planning the tour, and at the Gamble House Randell Makinson, President of the newly formed Southern California Chapter of SAH, served as host. At the conclusion of the tour members of the Society were the guests of the Cultural Heritage Board, the Municipal Art Commission of the City of Los Angeles, and the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects for a reception at Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock house. There Mrs. Richard Neutra sang, as she had previously in Wright's time; earlier in the day her husband had explained his own house as well as served as commentator during the Society's tour of his Lovell house.

Special SAH exhibitions for the meetings in Beverly Hills included: "Project: Environment U. S. A.", prepared by the Architectural Panel, International Design Centre; "Bernard Maybeck", prepared by the California Redwood Association, and "Architectural Monuments of Southern California", prepared by the Southern California Chapter, American Institute of Architects. These were secured by David Gebhard, who also in connection with the meeting wrote an architectural guide to the Los Angeles area, to be published later under the auspices of the Los Angeles County Museum.

The San Francisco meeting began with dinner and a series of talks Sunday evening at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. The talks, devoted to San Francisco architecture, were presided over by Carter Keane, President, Northern Pacific-Coast Chapter, SAH. They included a "Preface" by Joseph A. Baird, Jr., University of California; Prefabricated Houses for the Gold Rush" by Charles E. Peterson, FAIA; "An 'Insider's' View of Twentieth-Century San Francisco Architecture" by John Woodbridge, AIA, of Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill, San Francisco; and "Preservation Activities in the San Francisco Area: A Brief Resumé", by Charles W. Pope, AIA, National Park Service. In a brief opening statement President Brooks expressed the Society's pleasure at being invited to hold its annual meeting on the West Coast, and Vice President Tatum paid tribute to Joseph A. Baird, Jr. for his skill in arranging the many details of the meeting in San Francisco.

The all-day tour on Monday began with coffee and an aerial view of the city from the penthouse of the Wells Fargo Bank, included luncheon at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor designed by George Applegarth, and ended with a reception at the Mansion of the California Historical Society. One highlight of the day was a tour of Fort Point, which is rarely open to visitors. Copies of the attractively printed and informative itinerary which was printed for the San Francisco Tour are available from Mrs. Rosann S. Berry, SAH, Box 94, Media, Pa., at \$.50.

The Newsletter is indebted to Osmund R. Overby, University of Missouri, for preparing this report of the Annual Meeting.

SAH NOTICES

August 19-22 - The 1965 August Tour, Chicago, Illinois.

January 27-29 - The 1966 Annual Meeting, New York City. Notices will be sent for advance registration. There will be no European Tour this year.

The Society continues its rapid growth, and 1965 finds SAH with over 2600 members, including 529 new members who joined during 1964. Starting this year the SAH Newsletter will be published five times a year, adding a summer issue to the previous four issues. The Newsletter issues will be February, April, June, September and November. To insure the arrival of Journals, Newsletters, and other membership materials, please notify the Executive Secretary, SAH, Box 94, Media, Pa., of your change of address two months in advance of a month of Journal publication. Student members should enter permanent home addresses and arrange for the forwarding of SAH publications and notices.

CHAPTER NOTICES

- Chicago Wilbert R. Hasbrouck, AIA, addressed the December meeting on "Frank Lloyd Wright's Residential Designs 1893-1958", at Wright's Oak Park Unitarian Church. On February 4, L. Morgan Yost spoke to the Chapter on "Greene and Greene, Maybeck, and the California Contribution" at Northwestern University.
- New York Chapter Secretary Jane B. Davies writes:
In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the death of Michelangelo six lectures and four exhibitions were presented during November at Columbia University, to which the members of the New York Chapter were invited. Preceding the final lecture (November 24th) by James Marston Fitch on "Contemporary Meaning of Michelangelo's Architecto-Urbanistic Ideals," a chapter business meeting was held and Milton J. Lewine, Columbia University, was elected President.
- Philadelphia At a dinner meeting at the Franklin Inn Club, on January 13, Richard H. Howland, Smithsonian Institution, addressed the Philadelphia Chapter on "Greek Revival Architecture". The next meeting will be held on March 12, at which time William J. Murtagh, National Trust for Historic Preservation, will speak on "Moravian Architecture". The meeting will be held at 8:30 P. M. in the Rare Book Room of the Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania. An all-day tour of Lancaster, Pa., will be held on Saturday, May 15. For information: Moira Mathieson, 20 W. Montgomery Avenue, Ardmore, Pa.
- Southern California The SAH Southern California Chapter has been formed in Los Angeles, with headquarters at the Gamble House in Pasadena, designed by the brothers Charles and Henry Greene. Officers of the new Chapter are: Randell L. Makinson, Chairman, Robert Winter, Treasurer, Jay D. Frierman, Secretary, A. Thormin, David Gebhard and Richard G. Carrott, Directors.

ORGANIZATIONS

The American Council of Learned Societies has announced that subcommittees of both the Senate and House of Representatives have scheduled hearings on the various arts and humanities foundation bills during the period February 23-26. Senate hearings will be before the Special Subcommittee on Arts and Humanities, under the chairmanship of Senator Claiborne Pell, (R. I.), of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. In the House of Representatives the hearings will be before the Special Subcommittee on Labor, chaired by Congressman Frank Thompson, Jr. (N. J.). Among the bills on which testimony will be heard by the Senate subcommittee are: The Gruening Bill (S 111) and the Pell Humanities Bill (S 316). The House subcommittee will hear testimony on the counterparts of these Bills: The Moorhead Bill (H R 334) and the Fogarty Humanities Bill (H R 2043). The Society has gone on record in favor of the Pell and Moorhead Bills.

The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, History and Landmarks Foundation has been launched as an independent non-profit organization devoted to the preservation of historic Pittsburgh buildings and the vitalization of the Western Pennsylvania historical heritage. The foundation plans a wide program of studies of Pittsburgh architecture, the purchase, restoration and sale of historic buildings, tours, publications, and cooperation with planning agencies. Interested people are invited to become members; address the foundation at Chamber of Commerce Building, Pittsburgh, Pa. President is Charles C. Arensberg, and several SAH members are on its Board of Directors, including Mrs. Henry P. Hoffstot, Jr., and James D. Van Trump, (who are Vice Presidents), Charles M. Stotz and Ralph E. Griswold.

The American Association for State and Local History, 132 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn., has extensively redesigned and improved their fine monthly publication History News, starting with the January, 1965 number. William T. Alderson, Jr., is Editor.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold two preservation conferences this spring: Hilton Head, South Carolina, May 7-9, in cooperation with three state organizations, and in Lexington, Kentucky, May 21-3, in cooperation with the University of Kentucky Department of Architecture.

MEMBERS

Recently noted elections and honors:

- Edmund N. Bacon, Philadelphia City Planning Commission - Trustee, American Academy in Rome.
Orin M. Bullock, Jr., Baltimore, Md. - Chairman, AIA Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings.
Frederick Gutheim, Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies - Member, Presidents' Task Force on Natural Beauty.
John F. Harbeson, Philadelphia, Pa. - President, Carpenters Company of the City & County of Philadelphia.
Vincent J. Kling, Philadelphia, Pa. - President, Philadelphia Chapter, American Institute of Architects.
Mr. & Mrs. Bertram K. Little, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities - Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
H. Roll McLaughlin, Indianapolis, Indiana - President, Historic Landmarks Foundation, Indiana.
Henry A. Millon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology - American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship 1965-6, Subject: Guarino Guarini.
Charles H. Woodward, Philadelphia - Trustee, National Trust for Historic Preservation.

New positions of SAH members:

- Alan Burnham, Greenwich, Connecticut - To teach a course on American Architecture at the New School for Social Research.
Harriet Ropes Cabot, Boston, Massachusetts - Curator, Bostonian Society.
Francis James Dallett - American Museum in Britain, Oaverton Manor, Bath.
Robert L. Geddes, Philadelphia - Dean, School of Architecture, Princeton University.
Patrick Horsbrugh - University of Texas.
Newton Le Vine - Started practice as architect and planner in Lakewood, New Jersey.
Martin Meyerson - Chancellor, University of California, Berkeley.
James D. Van Trump and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., Pittsburgh, Pa., are now publishers as well as Editors of Charette, the Journal of Pennsylvania Architecture.

PUBLICATIONS

Some recent architectural history pamphlets and articles:

- Brainard, Newton C., The Hartford State House of 1796, The Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Conn., 1964. 68 p. \$1.50.
- Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, "American Drawings at the Royal Institute of British Architects", in Opus Musivum, Netherlands, 1964. p. 407-14.
- Huber, Leonard V., and Wilson, Samuel Jr., Baroness Pontalba's Buildings, New Orleans Chapter, Louisiana Landmarks Society, Gallier Hall, St. Charles St., New Orleans, La., 1964. 62 p. \$1.50.
- Koeper, H. F. Historic St. Paul Buildings, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minn., 1964. 116 p. \$1.00.
- Massey, James C., Architectural Surveys, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 815 17th St., NW, Washington, D. C., 1965. 10 p. \$.25.
- National Trust Atlas Showing Places of Historic, Architectural and Scenic Interest in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, National Trust, London, 1964. Detailed location maps to over 7000 historic places.
- Perrin, Richard W. E., "Frank Lloyd Wright in Wisconsin" in Wisconsin Magazine of History, Autumn, 1964 p. 32-47. Final article in Mr. Perrin's comprehensive 1960-64 series on the architectural history of Wisconsin.

The prominent American architectural magazine Architectural Forum, recently discontinued by Time Inc., will resume publication in April, 1965, sponsored by the American Planning and Civic Association, with a grant from the Taconic Foundation. SAH member Peter Blake will be Editor.

Wayne Andrews' (Wayne State University,) fine survey of paperback books on architecture appeared in the New York Times Book Review for January 17, 1965. Not to be overlooked, Mr. Andrews' own book Architecture, Ambition, and Americans is now available in a paperback edition.

EDUCATION

Washington University, St. Louis is sponsoring a conference on "Planning for the Quality of Urban Life" on April 21-3, 1965. The conference, which will be the University's major contribution to the St. Louis bicentennial celebration has been made possible by a grant from the St. Louis Regional Planning and Construction Foundation. A book of the proceedings will be published after the conference, edited by SAH member Sam Bass Warner of Washington University.

The National Science Foundation has granted Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, funds in support of a summer institute on urban planning. The six week course will provide professional level study in urban planning for college teachers of engineering, city planning, architecture and related fields. The program will be administered by Russell M. Lewis and George A. Dudley of RPI.

EXHIBITIONS

Frederick Law Olmsted, consisting of sixteen 7 by 4 by 1½ ft. free standing display units, \$150.00 plus transportation charges. Prepared by the Department of Landscape Architecture, Harvard University in association with the American Society of Landscape Architects. Commemorates the achievements of Olmsted, America's first and foremost landscape architect, whose career marks the beginning of a new era of park and civic design in America. Contact: Sylvia E. Purvins, Exhibition Coordinator, Olmsted Exhibition Committee, Robinson Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

The Art Gallery, University of California, Santa Barbara is presently working with Esther McCoy to produce two architectural exhibitions, which will be organized over the next two years. The first of these will be a large exhibition of the California architect, R. M. Schindler; the second will be an extensive exhibition of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Both of these exhibitions will be shown at other institutions in the United States.

PRESERVATION NOTES

- Demolished: Peachtree Arcade, Atlanta, designed by Ten Eyck Brown in 1916.
- Threatened: Old St. Louis, Missouri Custom House and Post Office, completed in 1884, and one of the major public buildings of its period surviving in the United States.
- Threatened: The Old Merchants House, 29 East 4th Street, New York City--designed by Minard Lafever, architect, in 1832--is a prime example of domestic Greek Revival architecture. The house was occupied by the Seabury Tredwell family for a period of one hundred years; a nonprofit foundation, which currently owns and operates the house as a museum, was organized in 1933. Sufficient funds are not available to maintain the property, and a \$75,000 fund drive is now under way.
- Discovered: A Russian Stone Wharf of C. 1792 in Kodiak, Alaska, uncovered by the earthquake and tidal wave that smashed Kodiak.
- Preserved: "Lyndhurst", Tarrytown, N. Y., Gothic castle designed by A. J. Davis in 1838-41, has been accepted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It will be restored and opened to the public.
- Preserved: "Pyne-Davison Row", New York City, two important Georgian revival mansions at 680 and 684 Park Avenue between 68th and 69th Sts., through the generosity of the Marquesa de Cuevas, who purchased the mansions from a developer just as demolition started. The New York Landmarks Preservation Commission has described the block as the finest of its type and period in the country.
- Restored: Old State Bank, Vincennes, Indiana, an 1838 Greek Revival bank, by architect H. Roll McLaughlin for the State of Indiana, Dept. of Conservation.

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