CHITECTURAL STORY OF THE STORY

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NEWSLETTER

NEWS OF OFFICERS - President Wriston is moving to Chicago to assume her new position, Sept. I, of Head, Museum Education, Art Institute of Chicago. Treasurer Robert Walker and Agnes Gilchrist are Co-Chairmen of the Manhattan Bus Tour, Sept. 10, which SAH is offering the members from abroad who are attending the The XX International Congress of Art History in New York. They have prepared a guide, extra copies of which may be obtained from Mrs. Roseann Berry, Box 94, Media, Pa., for \$1.00, each.

SAH NEWS - The Fall SAH Directors' meeting will be in New York on Saturday, Oct. 14. Anyone having suggestions for SAH tours or any other suggestions for the Society should write President Wriston before Oct. 1. Dr. Edward De Zurko, Architecture, Rice University, Houston, Texas, is Chairman of the Nominating Committee and all who want to work for SAH should write to him promptly.

The ANNUAL MEETING is to be in Boston, Jan. 25-27, 1962. The headquarters will be at the Statler Hotel. Vice-President J. D. Forbes, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, is Chairman of the program. Anyone wishing to present a paper, write Dr. Forbes before Oct. 1. This will be the first January meeting without the College Art Association, which is meeting in September after the International Congress in New York.

SUMMER TOURS - For the third summer SAH has had a tour in Europe. This year owing to the manifold good offices of the Ministry of Education, Art and Science of the Netherlands, about 40 SAH members had the opportunity to spend 11 days under the guidance of the staff of the Monumenténzorg, owing to the generous cooperation of the Director, Dr. Hotke. They were Dr. Roosegarde-Bisschop for Amsterdam, Miss Herma Van Den Berg for Friesland and Mr. Rosenberg for the Vecht and Gelderland. The Tour, planned by Dan Hopping, Dr. L. Herbert Loeb and Mr. Rohling and Mr. Rosenberg a year ago, provided many memorable experiences like the dinner by candlelight in Muiderslot, the evening concert in the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem, the boat trip on the Vecht, the privately-owned castles in Gelderland and delightful municipal and government receptions. The lectures by Miss Van Den Berg, Mr. Weller of the Amsterdam Monumenténzorg, who has 6000 historic buildings under his care to keep architecturally and economically efficient, and by Dr. Loeb on castles, aided our understanding of the rapid changes in styles from 1600 to 1800. Agnes Gilchrist was SAH Chairman. "Guide to Dutch Art", edited by Dr. H. E. Van Gelder and published by the Netherlands Government, Ministry of Education, Arts and Sciences, was given each member of the SAH Holland Tour.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the August Tours, SAH was blessed with perfect weather and a marvelous local committee whose hours of work made the days in New Bedford, Fairhaven and Westport seem like effortless halcyon days during which we were identified by the whales made by Mrs. Alexander S. Pierce, entertained and edified by Mr. and Mrs. John H. Ricketson and Mr. and Mrs. John M. Bullard and guided round the world by Peter S. Grinnell via the Benjamin Russell Panorama of a whaling voyage painted in 1848 and about 1300 ft. long and 8-1/2 ft. high. A movie with special music has been made of it which will soon be released. The Panorama belongs to the Whaling Museum, where through the courtesy of the President Thomas Card and the Trustees of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, we had dinner under the sails and bowsprit of the "Lagoda". The Gothic Revival Rotch House, inherited by Mrs. Bullard, is well-known, but the richness of the Greek Revival, the shingle style residences and the Byzanto-Romanesque office buildings were a revelation. The structural use of gray granite was impressive. In Fairhaven, Miss Hastings and Miss Steele were our hostesses in the Library, Italian Renaissance, the High School, English Tudor, and Miss Paul in the English Gothic cathedral built for the Unitarians and dedicated to motherhood. All three buildings were designed by the Boston firm of Brigham and Partners and given by Henry Huttleston Rogers, who made a fortune with Rockefeller in oil, to his birthplace, Fairhaven. In Westport, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Paull guided us to the granite Kirby House, Dr. Handy Double House and the gambrel-roofed William Almy House. An unexpected architectural highlight was the rusticated wood front of the Ricketson House in Padanaram. Also entertaining us were Richard H. Howland, now Curator of Civil History at the Smithsonian; Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Houghteling and Mrs. Demarest Lloyd.

SUMMER OPENINGS - Both opened July 1 and are of special interest to SAH members, many of whom were present at the respective festivities. Outside Bath, England, The American Museum, housed in Claverton, presents many aspects of English Colonial art and American art to 1850 which is represented by a bedroom from New Orleans. Mr. Judkins' collection of patchwork quilts is the most impressive. Gingerbread is made in a beehive oven in the Tavern and many natives of Somerset say they are still baking in similar ovens.

The other opening was the Shaker Village at Hancock, Mass. on Route 20, near Pittsfield. Dr. Edward Andrews is Curator; a new edition of his book on Shaker Furniture has been brought out by Dover Press and part of his collection of Shaker furniture is in The American Museum in England. Shaker Community, Inc., 500 Williams St., Pittsfield, Mass. is planning an interesting program of publications. The first, "The Hancock Shakers", by Edward Deming Andrews (\$1.00), has just appeared; also available is a series of articles by the same author on "The American Shakers."

A request has come which must be passed on to SAH members. At Smith College, there is an island in Paradise Pond, on which the College wishes to put a 19th Century Gothic summerhouse or gazebo. Anyone having one or knowing of an available one, please write and send a photograph to President Mendenhall, Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

Henry-Russell Hitchcock has been appointed to one of the new Sophia Smith Professorships at Smith College. The Shoe String Press, Hamden, Conn. is issuing a new edition of his book on Richardson. He has been lecturing at the American Embassy in London and gave one of the three key addresses at the International Architects' Union Congress and much more.

Craigfont, the stone house of General James Winchester, near Gallatin, Tenn. is being restored by State funds and those raised by the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities and being opened to the public. It was built in 1804. Also good news from Nashville, Tenn. is that funds have been raised for the renovation of the Presbyterian Church designed by William Strickland in the Egyptian style.

Preservation is a world-wide problem from Abu-Simbel to Uppsala, the famous university town in Sweden which, like the university town of Oxford, England, is being made into an industrial center. Sten Rentzhog, Secretary, "Varda Uppsala", Sweden, would like to hear from Americans engaged in preservation, for many Europeans do not believe that progressive U.S.A. has any interest in the past. Helen Lowenthal, Victoria and Albert, London, feels that this is the time for an international organization to coordinate and strengthen the preservationist groups in every country.

Henry Hope Reed, whose walking tours for the Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Ave. at 103, N.Y. 29, are such a success that they are written up in the Cunard Lines Oceanic Times (interested walkers, write Mrs. Loud at Museum for Fall schedule) and whose new book, Architecture in America: A Battle of Styles, edited with William A. Coles, University of North Carolina, has just appeared, published by Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., writes an informative note: "Architecture is now a subject for freshman English composition courses. So-called 'controlled research materials texts' are a recent development in the textbook business, especially adapted for freshman use in the larger state universities."

The Postmaster-General has appointed John Maass to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, an eleven-member group which advises on subject matter and design of postage stamps. Mr. Maass has produced a charming pamphlet on the Fairmount Park mansions for the City of Philadelphia.

Eduard F. Sekler of Harvard has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for the critical, morphological study of selected urban spaces in Europe and Asia.

The Central New York Society of Architectural Historians had a most successful outing on May 6/7 to Cooperstown and Hyde Hall (begun 1811). Those wishing to be on the mailing list of this group, write Prof. Carl K. Hersey, Fine Arts, Univ. of Rochester, Rochester 20, N.Y.

SAH member, John N. Pearce of the Smithsonian, writes that Mrs. Kennedy has appointed his wife, Lorraine W. Pearce, Curator of The White House.

Martha G. Robinson, O.B.E., this summer received The Times-Picayune Most Distinguished Citizen of New Orleans Award.

A group in Chicago is trying to renovate the auditorium by Sullivan and Adler. Fireplace, \$5000; drinking fountain, \$250; marble stairs, \$10,000; or any amount gratefully received by Mrs. John V. Spachner, Chairman, Auditorium Theatre Council, 90 E. Congress St., Chicago 3, Illinois.

The third summer course of the Centro Palladiano, Villa Cordellina-Lombardi at Montecchio Maggiore, Vicenza is Aug. 20-Sept. 9 and three SAH members are among the lecturers: Wolfgang Lotz, Maurice Craig and Roberto Pane, who gave the opening lecture for the SAH Vicenza Tour as Craig did for the Dublin Tour. Students of Palladio who would like to attend the next course should write now to be on the mailing list.

Another summer course of special interest to architectural Historians is the English National Trust

Summer School at Attingham Park, near Shrewsbury, Salop. For information write Edith Standen, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York 28. This summer 7 members of the Holland Tour attended Attingham.

The Caleb Pusey House, 15 Race St., Upland, Pennsylvania, is being restored by <u>W. Nelson</u> Anderson.

William H. Scheick succeeds Edmund R. Purves as Executive Director of The American Institute of Architects.

The University of Pennsylvania has received a grant of \$18,700 by the Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia to study the "Society Hill" area and part of Germantown. The study will be conducted by C. Preston Andrade, Prof. of Arch. of the Graduate School of Fine Arts of the University.

The Cooper Union Art School has published an excellent monograph: "Peter Cooper & The Wrought Iron Beam", by Esmond Shaw.

Henry Chandlee Forman, who guided the first SAH August Tour in 1951 about Nantucket, has just edited, illustrated and written a preface for a history by Edward F. Underhill called "The Old Houses on 'Sconset Bank" which first appeared in The Sconset Pump (Nantucket's only daily newspaper) in 1888. Those who tried to divine the original Sconset House ten years ago with Dr. Forman will be especially grateful for this entertaining and informative account. One item of special interest that Mr. Underhill brings out is that the first one-room cabins had clapboarded roofs and only later were shingled. Which brings up the question of when and where shingling was introduced. Wood shingles were not used in Europe save rarely on church steeples. It seems unlikely that the 17th-Century settlers used them in this country.

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