



NEWSLETTER

THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

Vol 8, No 2 May, 1964

1965 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1965 Annual Meeting of the SAH will be held jointly with the College Art Association of America, January 28-30, 1965, at the Beverly-Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, California. George B. Tatum of the University of Pennsylvania, is general chairman. Although still in the planning stage, sessions are expected to deal with various aspects of the architecture of Europe (prior to 1850), the Far East, Latin America, and the 20th Century. One Session will be devoted to Historic Preservation on the West Coast, and there will be an opportunity to visit the new Los Angeles County Museum as well as to participate in local tours to points of special architectural interest.

At the conclusion of the sessions in Los Angeles, the Society will hold a special meeting in San Francisco with headquarters at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. A dinner Sunday night, January 30, will be followed by a discussion of the buildings of the San Francisco area to be seen on the architectural tours the next day. The second Session ends Monday evening, February 1.

In order to make adequate preparations, members of SAH are urged to complete and return the short form appearing at the end of this Newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY

From the News of the forthcoming American Institute of Architects' convention in St. Louis (June 14-18) we learn that "The Internal Revenue Service has liberalized, by interpretation, a previous ruling regarding convention attendance. The current ruling, 63-266, IRB 1963-51, 9, state that the test for deductibility of convention expenses will be met if the agenda (program) of the convention or other meeting is so related to the taxpayer's position as to show that attendance was for business purposes. Previously it was necessary to show that the taxpayer was benefitting or advancing the interests of his trade or business."

SAH CHAPTER NOTICES

Chicago Meetings have been scheduled for May 9 and June 20, with a field trip to the new University of Illinois Campus in Chicago planned on Saturday, May 9. For Saturday, June 20, a tour has been arranged to Taliesin, Spring Green, Wisconsin, which will include seven buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright over a period of seventy years. For further information contact Anne L. Gibbs, 100 Dupee Place, Wilmette, Illinois.

ORGANIZATIONS

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its 19th Annual Meeting and Preservation Conference in San Antonio, Texas, from October 29 to November 1, with the San Antonio Conservation Society acting as host organization. In April, the Trust held the First Georgia Preservation Conference at the Columbus Museum, in Columbus, Georgia.

The University of Texas and the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art are sponsoring a broad-scale survey of Nineteenth Century Texas architecture. When complete, the findings will be published by the University, and a major traveling exhibition of Texas architecture will be organized. The Steering Committee for the project includes SAH members Drury B. Alexander and Martin S. Kermacy, of the University of Texas. The field work is under the direction of SAH member John Garner, a graduate student at the University of Texas. Todd Webb will be the photographer.

Three conferences on the preservation and restoration of historic buildings are scheduled this June, pointing up the rapidly increasing interest in and growing professionalism of this important architectural history field. On June 11 and 12 the Buildings Research Institute will hold a forum in Washington, D. C. on the principles and techniques involved in the restoration and preservation of historic buildings under the Chairmanship of Charles E. Peterson, FAIA. Inquiries should be addressed to Milton C. Coon, Jr., Executive Vice President, B. R. I., 1725 DeSales Street, NW, Washington, D. C. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will include seminars on historic restoration as part of this year's Institute of Pennsylvania Life and Culture, to be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Museum at Landis Valley (Lancaster vicinity), June 23-26. The seminars will be under the direction of William N. Richards. For information, write Landis Valley Associates, PO Box 969, Harrisburg, Pa. As part of the 17th Annual Seminars on American Culture, sponsored by the New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown, July 5-18, there will be two programs on historic preservation: "Saving the Past: Historic Preservation and City Planning," arranged by Stuart W. Stein, Barclay G. Jones, and Stephen W. Jacobs of Cornell University, and "Architecture Worth Saving," chaired by Harley J. McKee of Syracuse University and the National Park Service. For further information, contact Frederick L. Rath, Jr., Vice Director, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York.

This summer the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, will have projects in three Eastern cities: Annapolis, Maryland; Chicago, Illinois; and New Haven, Connecticut, to make measured drawings, photographs, and written documentation of a selected group of the areas' historic buildings. These three projects, directed by the Service's Eastern Office of Design and Construction, are part of the Survey's continuing program to build an archives of American architecture. Started 30 years ago by the National Park Service, the American Institute of Architects, and the Library of Congress, over 10,000 buildings have been recorded by H. A. B. S. The project in Annapolis

is under the direction of Professor Harley J. McKee of Syracuse University, and will be carried on in cooperation with Historic Annapolis, Inc., and the Maryland Historical Trust. J. William Rudd of Texas Technological College will be in charge of a continuing program in Chicago, sponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The work is done with the cooperation of the City of Chicago, the Illinois Institute of Technology, and the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. In New Haven, Connecticut, the project will work with the New Haven Preservation Trust, under the supervision of Woodrow W. Wilkins of the University of Kentucky.

Two architectural tours of interest in New York State are being planned this spring. The Central New York Architectural Historians will tour Delhi and Franklin, in the Western foothills of the Catskills, on May 23. For information write Eugene D. Montillion, Broome County Planning Board, 209 County Court House, Binghamton, New York. The Cobblestone Society will have a tour in Wayne County, east of Rochester, on June 6, to visit a number of Cobblestone buildings. For information contact Homer Brown, R.D. 1, Albion, New York.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

James S. Ackerman, Harvard University, has received a Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies for research on "The Architecture of Palladio."

William T. Alderson, Tennessee State Librarian and Archivist, has been appointed the Director of the American Association for State and Local History. With his appointment, the AASLH will move its offices from Madison, Wisconsin to Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Alderson will retain his position as Chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

We regret to note the passing on March 19th of the well-known Philadelphia architect, humorist, and artist, Alfred Bendiner.

Jack E. Boucher, National Park Service, has been elected President of the Atlantic County (N. J.) Historical Society.

Kenneth Chorley has been elected Trustee Emeritus of Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., following 37 years of service as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Francis James Dallett of Philadelphia has been appointed Director of the Newport (R. I.) Historical Society. He was formerly Assistant Director of the American Museum in Britain.

Philadelphia architect John F. Harbeson, F. A. I. A. has received the Medal of Honor of the National Sculpture Society for his work with the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Russell V. Keune of Chicago has received the Francis J. Plym Fellowship in Architecture from the University of Illinois.

Photographer Gerda Peterich of Concord, New Hampshire, has an exhibit "The Architecture of Manchester, 1840 to 1900" on show at the Currier Gallery of Art, in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Richard W. E. Perrin, Director of Development for the City of Milwaukee and a noted architectural historian, has been named Chairman of the City's new Landmarks Commission, which has been set up to work toward the preservation and restoration of historic buildings in Milwaukee.

Harry H. Schnabel, formerly Director of Field Services for the American Association for State and Local History has been appointed Assistant Director of the American Museum in Britain.

PROFILES

With this issue we inaugurate a series of biographical and professional sketches of some of our SAH members. Our readers' comments would be appreciated, as well as suggestions for future sketches and biographers. For this issue it is a particular pleasure to present a profile of our President, H. Allen Brooks.

H. ALLEN BROOKS

by

Osmund R. Overby



H. Allen Brooks, newly elected president of the Society of Architectural Historians, is professor of the History of Art in the Fine Art Department of the University of Toronto. A prominent member of a younger generation of SAH members, his primary historical interest has been a study of the "Prairie" architects, the early contemporaries of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Mr. Brooks was born in Connecticut, November 6, 1925, and grew up in Woodbridge. Following high school in New Haven he entered Dartmouth, but was soon drafted into the service, and sent to the Philippines with the Army's Corps of Engineers. Returning to Dartmouth, a gradually maturing interest in architecture led him to elect a major in architecture and history of art. Among the art history courses was Hugh Morrison's well known course in American architecture which stimulated his interest in architectural history. While at college, several summers were spent in Europe leading tours for the Students' International Travel Association. He received a B. A. from Dartmouth with the class of 1950.

Following his decision not to practice architecture professionally, Mr. Brooks joined the McGin Construction Company in Naugatuck. In the Fall of 1952 he returned to academic life choosing the Yale graduate school because of its strength in the history of architecture. He received an M. A. there in 1955; his thesis on Leopold Eidlitz was written under the direction of Carroll L. V. Meeks. It was also at Yale that Vincent Scully stimulated his interest in Frank Lloyd Wright's early contemporaries in Chicago. While pursuing this topic he transferred to Northwestern where he studied under Hayden Huntley and Carson Webster. In 1957 upon completing his dissertation, "The Prairie School: The American Spirit in Mid-West Residential Architecture, 1893-1916," Mr. Brooks received his Ph.D. degree.

His first full time teaching post was in the Department of Architecture at the University of Illinois where he taught Ancient and Renaissance architecture. He moved to the University of Toronto in the fall of 1958. There he has taught a variety of courses in the history of Renaissance and Modern art, offering graduate seminars in modern architecture.

Mr. Brooks' chief field of research has continued to be that group of architects he has taught us to call the Prairie School. Recent studies have not only concentrated on increasing the story in depth, but also in range with the examination of related movements in other parts of the world. His work has been recognized and aided by a Canada Council Fellowship and a Grant-in-Aid from the American Council of Learned Societies. His studies have served both to introduce us to a whole new group of architects and also to describe in detail the milieu in which Frank Lloyd Wright matured. Men like Purcell and Elmslie, Maher, Griffin, and many others, have been unjustly forgotten in recent decades, and their story lends substance to Wright's comment, "Inspiring days they were, I am sure, for us all."

The Prairie School was first presented to the scholarly community at the annual meeting of the SAH in 1958. This was followed by a talk at the 1960 meeting on Wright's projects for the American Luxfer Prism Company Competition. A paper read at the Twentieth International Congress of the History of Art in 1961, in which the general subject of the Prairie School was developed further, has recently been published in the Acts of that congress. Among his other articles and reviews are two on the Prairie School: "The Early Work of the Prairie Architects," in the SAH Journal for March, 1960, and "Steinway Hall, Architects and Dreams," in the October, 1963, SAH Journal dedicated to Henry Russell Hitchcock.

Mr. Brooks has given us a sampling of the work of some of the Prairie architects, sketched the outlines of the movement, and suggested its importance. He has shown us that the men of the Prairie School worked in close relationship with each other and joined in various common causes. He has indicated that the movement began under the inspiration of Louis Sullivan, and matured under the influence of Wright whose works after 1902 were particularly important in establishing the architectural style of the school. Finally, he has shown that the movement continued to flourish after Wright's departure from Chicago in 1909. The need for a full discussion of the Prairie School should be met by his forthcoming book, now in the final stages of writing.

Before his election as president, Mr. Brooks was active in the affairs of SAH serving as a director and as a member of the nominating committee in 1962. Perhaps because his own subject has an importance beyond its geographical and chronological limits, he has been concerned with general questions of inter-relationships and critical interpretations, approaching his subject within the framework of the art historian. We can, then, expect him to serve SAH both with a knowledge of the demands of scholarship, and also with an appreciation for the range of subjects that interest architectural historians.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

John A. H. Sweeney, Curator of the H. F. DuPont Winterthur Museum has written a very useful guidebook to the Museum, Winterthur Illustrated, that emphasizes their important architectural holdings of period rooms and decorative features.

Architecture in York County, the booklet prepared for last year's August Tour by the Historical Society of York County, is still available from the Historical Society of York County, 250 E. Market St., York, Pa., at \$1.25 the copy.

A very commendable new report has come to our attention from California: Old Sacramento Inventory of Historical Buildings, published by the State's Department of Parks and Recreation. In addition to a thorough and illustrated inventory of early pioneer buildings threatened by demolition for a new highway, there is a detailed list of the significant architectural fragments and trim to be salvaged from each structure during demolition. In transmitting this report to the State, Western Heritage, Inc., who prepared the inventory suggests that 1) measured drawings should be made of all structures recommended for reconstruction; 2) a stockpile of salvaged materials should be established for use in restorations; (3) the architectural salvage program should be carefully supervised during the demolition of the buildings; and 4) that a program of salvage archaeology should be instituted in the demolition area. The proposed salvage program, in particular, could serve as a model for other historic districts where demolition is threatened.

The first of several studies of historic federal buildings in Washington has been published by the General Services Administration: Historical Study No. 1 Pension Building, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, G. P. O., Washington, D. C., for \$.20. The study traces the history and architecture of the 1885 Pension Building, one of Washington's principal monuments. It is noteworthy the GSA which is too often architecturally and historically insensitive is demonstrating an interest in the historic and architectural values inherent in many of their older buildings, not only in Washington, but throughout the country. Many of them, incidentally, are currently threatened, including the New Orleans Mint, designed by William Strickland, or the St. Louis Post Office, and last year the monumental Mobile, Alabama Custom House was demolished.

J. D. Forbes, of the University of Virginia calls our attention to a brief reference to SAH in the New Yorker, for March 28, p. 144, as part of a motion picture review. Perhaps an odd place for a scholarly society to find itself, but interesting, nonetheless.

Guide to Chicago and Midwestern Architecture, published by the Burnham Library of Architecture, Art Institute of Chicago (28 pp., 1963), lists midwestern buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright, and significant Chicago buildings by other architects. Available from the AIC, Chicago 3, Illinois for \$.25 (\$.35 by mail).

We, The People, The Story of the United States Capitol, Its Past and Its Promise, has been published by the U. S. Capitol Historical Society (143 pp., 1963). Available from the U. S. C. H. S., House Office Building, Washington, D. C., for \$1.25 (\$2.75 hardbound).

The April 1964 number of Inland Architect, the publication of the Chicago Chapter of the AIA, is devoted, as it is each year, to architectural history. The issue has two articles by SAH members: "Segments of the Past" by Marian C. Donnelly, and "Forgotten Facets of Dankmar Adler" by Rachel Baron. Copies are \$.35 from Chicago Chapter AIA, 221 North LaSalle Street, Chicago 1, Illinois.

EDUCATION

James M. Fitch, of Columbia University, reports a significant new course to be started at Columbia this fall, dealing with preservation and restoration of historic buildings.

A new course of graduate study in the restoration and preservation of historic buildings will be initiated at Columbia University's School of Architecture beginning in the fall of 1964. The first of its kind in the nation, this course is designed to give advanced students in architecture, as well as allied fields of archaeology and art history, a general familiarity with a field of growing professional opportunity both here and abroad. A wide range of both theoretical and practical problems, ranging from basic legislation to curatorial aspects of restoration projects, will be covered in a series of class room lectures, laboratory and field assignments and guided visits to outstanding institutions in the East. The new course, under the general direction of Professor James Marston Fitch, will be handled by the School's own history department, each member of which has had experience in some aspect of the field. Staff members participating include the newly-appointed Adjunct Professor Charles E. Peterson, FAIA; Associate Professor Joseph E. Shelley; Assistant Professor Raymond Lifchez, Adolf K. Placzek; and Professor Fitch.

The new course is a part of the School of Architecture's program of providing for specialized study at the post-graduate level in selected areas of professional significance. An outstanding feature of this new program is that it will permit a student interested in a career in the field of historic building preservation to follow a curriculum especially organized around that subject, including established courses in history and bibliographic research as well as a design program especially oriented toward preservation and restoration activities. Although designed primarily for candidates for the degree of M.S. Architecture, a limited number of qualified students from allied fields will be admitted.

The University of Virginia has announced a new graduate program in architectural history; William B. O'Neal has sent this notice:

Dean Thomas K. FitzPatrick of the School of Architecture of the University of Virginia is instituting a graduate program leading to the degree of Master of Architectural History. This program will begin in the fall of 1964 under the direction of William B. O'Neal, Professor in Charge, History Programs and in collaboration with Frederick D. Nichols, Professor in Charge, Design Programs. The University of Virginia has offered a Bachelor of Architectural History degree program since 1958. Both the undergraduate and graduate programs are conducted in association with the Corcoran Department of History at the University, so that the student's background in history may be as comprehensive as possible. The new graduate program has been founded in order to give the student a thorough grounding in the professional understanding of architecture; a comprehension of its critical evaluation through the investigation of the historical techniques; and a translation of ascertainable facts into intelligible historical interpretation. Each student will be given individual guidance throughout his required course work and will consider in detail and in depth the forms of the architecture and the allied arts in his chosen field. He will amplify this study of visual forms of his field with an investigation of the original sources of its architectural history and its literary, political and economic backgrounds.

Whenever possible, field work will supplement the graduate seminars, since Virginia and its surrounding area are especially rich in architectural monuments. The library resources of the University of Virginia include its general architectural library, a reconstitution of Thomas Jefferson's library on the fine arts and architecture, a large and splendid office library of the Twenties, a large group of 17th and 18th Century editions, a growing collection of mid-19th Century source books, and over 20,000 photographs. For further information concerning the program and the eligibility of candidates for admission, write to Mr. O'Neal, School of Architecture, University of Virginia, Box 1847, Charlottesville, Va.

The ninth annual Teacher Seminar sponsored jointly by the American Institute of Architects and Associated Collegiate Schools of Architecture will be held on June 7-13 at Cranbrook Academy of Art. This year's program will be devoted to "History, Theory, and Criticism," and most of the participants are SAH members. The steering committee includes Chairman Lawrence B. Anderson, Donald P. Faragher, and Henry C. Kamphoefner. The program committee consists of Chairman Henry A. Millon, Thomas Howarth, Peter Collins, Walter L. Creese, and Marcus Whiffen. Buford L. Pickens will serve as moderator.

Fulbright grants have been announced for Europe, Africa, the Near and Far East, and South and Southeast Asia for 1965-66, under the government's Fulbright-Hays Act. They are for both university lecturing and advanced research. The competition closes August 6; address inquiries to Committee on International Exchange of Persons, Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. 20418.

EXHIBITIONS

"Chateau of Chambord," an exhibit of 33 mounted photographs, is available from the Cultural Division of the French Embassy, 972 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N. Y., without charge except for transportation costs.

Mrs. Rosann S. Berry, Executive Secretary, SAH, Box 94, Media, Pa.

_____ I plan to attend the first portion of the SAH Annual Meeting, to be held jointly with the College Art Association of America, Jan. 28-30, 1965, in Beverly Hills, California.

_____ I plan to attend the second portion of the SAH Annual Meeting, to be held at San Francisco, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 1965.

_____ I do not plan to attend either portion of the 1965 Annual Meeting.

I would be interested in a group or chartered flight on a major airline from _____.

Name

Address

_____ Please send a copy of Two Centuries of Philadelphia Architectural Drawings, published by SAH, 1964. \$2.00 is enclosed.

The following are prospective members of SAH. (A descriptive brochure, with application blank, indicating that you have suggested them for membership, will be sent to each person recommended.)

Name

Address

Name

Address