



NEWSLETTER

THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

Vol 8, No 3 September, 1964

1965 ANNUAL MEETING
Beverly Hills and San Francisco, California
(January 28-30; January 31 - February 1, 1965)

Preliminary program, with pre-registration form, flight information and hotel reservation cards, should reach SAH members before the end of September. Please read this material carefully. It is to your advantage to pre-register as early as possible.

AUGUST TOUR TO PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Captain Carl A. Johnson, Executive Vice-President of Strawberry Banke, Inc., and local chairman of the tour, sends this report:

"Members of the Society gathered for the Annual August Tour - 1964, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on August 21st. The tour was coordinated by Strawberry Banke, Inc., the historical preservation project in that city. Having received advance copies of a tour guide, "Architecture Near the Piscataqua," published by Strawberry Banke for the occasion, and now available at \$1.50 a copy, the group was well prepared for the sites and houses which they were to visit. Departing their headquarters at the "Sign of the Lions," the Rockingham Hotel, at 2:00 p. m., a walking tour of Portsmouth took them to the Governor Goodwin Mansion, the Strawberry Banke Area, the Warner House and the Moffatt-Ladd House. In the evening, they had the pleasure of hearing George Hersey's inspired talk on "American Colonial Architecture and its Revival" and an exposition of the Strawberry Banke Project, after their banquet at the hotel. Many old acquaintances were renewed and new ones made on this occasion, so that an excellent spirit of camaraderie developed and persisted throughout the remainder of the Tour.

Saturday and Sunday tours were made by bus to Rye Beach and New Castle, New Hampshire and Kittery and York, Maine. A highlight was the visit to old Navy buildings at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, augmented by luncheon at the Officers' Club and the opportunity to view some of the nuclear powered submarines which had been built there.

Generous hospitality by friends of Strawberry Banke, Inc., made this a truly memorable August Tour - one that will long be remembered by those who were able to participate in it."

CHAPTER NOTICES

Chicago - Chapter President Harold Allen reports that on Saturday, June 20, fifty members and friends of the Chicago SAH Chapter, augmented by a SAH delegation from Iowa City, toured Madison, Wisconsin, and the surrounding area to visit a number of Frank Lloyd Wright's buildings.

Philadelphia - A SAH chapter is being formed this fall in Philadelphia, and all SAH members in the Delaware Valley are urged to join. An active program of lectures and tours is being planned, and the opening meeting will be on Friday, October 2, 8:00 pm, at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, on East Washington Square. Featured speakers will be Charles E. Peterson, FAIA, and Francis James Dallett, Director of the Newport Historical Society. All members and friends of SAH are invited. The second meeting, in November will be dedicated to William Strickland. It will be held at his important, but seldom visited, Naval Asylum in Philadelphia. Agnes Addison Gilchrist will be the principal speaker.

Dues for the chapter are \$2.50 per year; membership is open to all members of the national SAH. For information and application blank, address Mrs. Moira Mathieson, 20 W. Montgomery Ave., Ardmore, Pa.

ORGANIZATIONS

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, of which SAH is a sponsoring member, will hold its annual meeting and preservation conference in San Antonio, October 29 - November 1. Texas architectural history will be stressed in the programs and tours, and following the conference will be a separate week-long tour to Mexico to visit sites of architectural and archeological importance. Also on the National Trust schedule is a regional conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 12, in cooperation with the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society.

The current American Landmarks Celebration is being sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, as part of the UNESCO International Monuments Year, which is being observed throughout the world, with the stated aim of encouraging nations to "develop and improve technical and legal measures for the protection, preservation, and restoration of cultural property, and for the safeguarding of the beauty and character of the landscape." The American celebration was launched on July 30th in Washington, by Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, Honorary Chairman, at the home of Woodrow Wilson, now a National Trust museum property. At the ceremony, with co-chairman Gordon Gray, Chairman of the National Trust,

and John A. Carver, Jr., Acting Secretary of the Interior, Mrs. Johnson graciously opened the celebration saying, in part "I am pleased to be with you on this occasion marking the opening of our American Landmarks Celebration. In this age of vast and constant change, it is more important than ever that we preserve our rich inheritance and remember its significance - both for the present and for our future. It is most appropriate that this, the home of President Wilson, a man whose concern for mankind was international, should be the site and occasion for the opening of America's Landmarks Celebration." The celebration is intended to draw the nationwide attention of American public opinion to the acute need for action to safeguard the richness and diversity of America's architectural, historical, and natural heritage as living history, a vital record, and a source of inspiration to future generations. Also at the ceremony Mrs. Johnson presented to Chairman Gray a certificate naming the Woodrow Wilson House as a Registered Historic Landmark, so designated by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, as a building of national historic significance. It was to this house at 2340 S Street in Washington that President Wilson retired in 1921. On the Steering Committee of the American Landmarks Celebration, are two SAH members, Robert C. Gaede, AIA and Charles van Ravenswaay, in addition to SAH President, H. Allen Brooks, University of Toronto, who represents the Society.

The Second International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments was held at Venice in May, with architects from all parts of the world in attendance, including SAH members James M. Fitch, Christopher Tunnard, Barbara Wriston, Eduard F. Sekler, Charles E. Peterson and Rollin Jensen. Out of the sessions has come the "Venice Charter," the "International Charter for the Preservation and Restoration of Monuments," setting forth guidelines and doctrines for the restoration and preservation of historic buildings. Some of the highlights of the charter, representing newer approaches to restoration include: 1) The importance of using historic buildings, rather than maintaining them only as museums. 2) That historic buildings should be preserved as they have come down through the centuries, rather than be arbitrarily restored to a specific early period. "The contributions made by all eras to the erection of a monument must be respected." 3) New and additional work added to historic buildings should "bear the mark of our times," and should be permitted only if they do not interfere with essential parts of the building or its setting. 4) Particular attention should be paid to maintaining the integrity of the site and surroundings of buildings, whether in urban or rural areas. 5) The reconstruction of ruins is to be prohibited, except for the reassembly of existing but dismembered parts. Translations of the full draft may be obtained through the courtesy of Henry A. Judd, Supervisory Architect, National Park Service, 143 S. Third St., Philadelphia 6, Pa. The chief product of the sessions was the adoption of a resolution supporting ICOMOS (International Council for Monuments and Sites), a movement sponsored by UNESCO. This would be a permanent group to assure the continuance of the writings similar to the Paris (1957) and Venice Congresses.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

New appointments of SAH members this fall include:

Nancy Boone, Washington University, St. Louis
Charles E. Buckley, City Art Museum, St. Louis
Richard Hartung, Rock County Historical
Society, Jonesville, Wisc.
Osmund R. Overby, University of Missouri

Gerda Peterich, Syracuse University
Paul Sprague, Notre Dame University
Woodrow W. Wilkins, University of Kentucky
George Winterowd, University of Minnesota

Awards and Honors Noted:

George R. Collins, Columbia University - Grant-in-Aid, American Council of Learned Societies, "dependence of major American architectural firms on Catalan thin shell vaulting, 1890-1940."
Constantine A. Doxiadis - Honorary LLD from Mills College.
William I. Homer, Princeton University - Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies. Professor Homer's new book *Seurat and the Science of Painting* was published this summer.
Lewis Mumford - Medal of Freedom, highest civil honor that the President of the United States can bestow.
Sumner C. Powell - Pulitzer Prize for *Puritan Village: The Formation of a New England Town*. (See his article on 17th Century Sudbury, Massachusetts, *JSAH XI, 1, March 1952*.)
Myron Bement Smith - Order of Humayoun, collier; the highest decoration for scholarly achievement of Iran. The investiture was made on June 22nd by His Excellency, Mahmoud Foroughi, Ambassador of Iran, at the Embassy in Washington. The award was made "In recognition of Dr. Smith's meritorious contributions to the study and understanding of Iranian Architecture."
Several SAH member architects have been elected Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. This distinguished award has been conferred on Herman Charles Light, Paul A. Goettelmann, Charles F. Murphy, Paul F. Jernegan and Eugene J. Mackey.

The Newsletter sincerely regrets the death this summer of Harold Donaldson Eberlein, distinguished Philadelphia architectural historian, on July 26th, at the age of 89. He was the author of over thirty books on many historic and architectural topics, a frequent contributor to magazines, and a noted authority on Philadelphia history. In recent years he was a member of the Advisory Board of the Historic American Buildings Survey. His most recent book, done in collaboration with Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard, was *Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware*, published in 1963.

We regret also the death this summer of Robert W. Talley, President of the SAH Houston Chapter.

Bates Lowry, Brown University, has been appointed Editor of the *Art Bulletin*.

In the Union College series *Union Worthies*, Number 19, 1964, are two articles by SAH members: Christopher Tunnard, Yale University, "Joseph Jacques Ramée and Union College" and Russell Lynes, Managing Editor of *Harpers Magazine*, "What is Becoming of Architecture."

William T. Alderson, Director of the American Association for State and Local History calls our attention to the fact that he has resigned as Chairman of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Dr. Alderson will, however, retain his editorship of the Tennessee Historical Quarterly.

Richard H. Howland, Smithsonian Institution, has been elected President of Washington's Thornton Society. Charles E. Peterson, founder of the Society and its first president, was a recent speaker.

PUBLICATIONS

Among recent publications of interest to architectural historians are:

Maintaining the Architectural Character of a Neighborhood, available from the Department of Urban Renewal, City of Chicago, 320 N. Clark St., Chicago, Illinois, no charge. This attractive publication offers suggestions to the difficult problems of maintaining and restoring the urban streetscape in old residential areas.

"The Changing Face of Princeton," by Constance Greiff and Mary Gibbons, in Princeton University Library Chronicle, Spring, 1964, pp. 184-208. Available from the Princeton University Library for \$1.25. A commendable and well-illustrated history of Princeton architecture, from the 17th to the late 19th centuries.

"A Guide to Historic New Haven," published by the New Haven Preservation Trust, Box 1671, New Haven, no charge. An eight-page illustrated leaflet, with maps, of the principal architectural monuments of New Haven.

Winterthur Portfolio I, published by the H. F. duPont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware, at \$9.50. First of a series of publications containing a variety of articles of historical interest. Of particular architectural note in the first number are articles by two SAH members: Jonathan L. Fairbanks, "The Architectural Development of Winterthur House" and John A. H. Sweeney, "The Evolution of the Winterthur Rooms."

Architecture Worth Saving in Onondaga County, by Harley J. McKee, available from Syracuse University Press, Box 87, University Station, Syracuse, New York, at \$3.95 postpaid. A significant and superbly illustrated survey of the historic and architecturally important buildings in the central New York State Area around Syracuse. This work is an exemplary model for similar area surveys.

Capitol Story, by Cecil R. Roseberry, available from the New York State Library, Gift and Exchange Section, Albany 1, New York for \$1.00. A thorough illustrated history of a major 19th century monument: the New York State Capitol.

Agriculture - Administration Building - General Services Administration Historical Study No. 2, Government Printing Office, 1964, \$.25. The second in a new series of studies of significant federal buildings.

Harmonist Construction, by Don Blair, published by the Indiana Historical Society, 408 State Library and Historical Building, Indianapolis, Indiana, for \$1.00. An examination of the buildings of the George Rapp's community at Harmonie, Indiana in the period 1814-1824.

The papers delivered at the recent Buildings Research Institute Forum on the Restoration and Preservation of Historic Buildings, chaired by Charles E. Peterson, FAIA, will be published this fall by the Institute as part of the September-October issue of their journal Building Research. Copies are available from the Institute, at 1725 DeSales Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. at \$7.50.

The second number of the Prairie School Review, a new quarterly devoted to the study of the "Prairie School" architects, features the work of Guenzel and Drummond, by SAH member Wilbert R. Hausbrouck, while the next issue will be an examination of Frank Lloyd Wright's Winslow Home of 1893 in River Forest, Illinois. Subscription to the magazine is \$5.00 per year to the Prairie School Press, 117 Fir Street, Park Forest, Illinois.

THE ISLAMIC ARCHIVES: A NEW RESOURCE FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTS By Myron Bement Smith

While the scarcity of adequate photographs is still hindering the study of many architectural monuments of Europe and the USA, the often total lack or continuing inaccessibility of suitable photographic documentation is a veritable cultural road-block to research in and teaching the architecture of Islam. Yet photography has become an almost universal hobby. Many thousands of well-educated, camera-carrying Americans now visit the Near/Middle East and North Africa or are stationed in those Lands of Islam. Would their costly pastime, plus proverbial American generosity, add up to a new resource for documentary photographs for the study of Islamic culture and civilization, including its alluring and exotic architecture?

In the faith that American photographers, both travelers and scholars, would be glad to share duplicates from their color slides and photoprints from their negatives, the Islamic Archives was launched. The 80,000-plus documents - mainly photographic - added to the Islamic Archives since its origin, have abundantly justified that confidence. Once the objectives of the Islamic Archives have been explained, no American photographer has hesitated a moment to cooperate. From suggestions dropped here and there, many such amateurs - including a distinguished Ambassador - have been inspired to photograph Islamic architecture for a purpose. And there we have it: an entirely new resource for scholarly documentation of the history of Islamic and cognate architectures and the several other Near Eastern academic disciplines in which the photograph is a prime or useful document. And if we expand this 'share your slides' concept to other areas - such as South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Far East and so on - we can see what a welcome enrichment of our documentary resources for understanding the cultures and civilizations of other lands and peoples is to be had for the asking.

At the 1964 SAH meeting in Philadelphia, on the balcony off the salle des pas perdues, members could see projected 564 outstanding color slides of Islamic architecture and its decoration - minarets, mosques, tombs and palaces - from Moorish Spain to Mughal India. These slides came from the Islamic Archives. Here were not a few unrelated views of a monument, but distance shots, medium shots, close-up details and more details - a valid visual saturation with which to lead a student up to a building, let him walk about in it, and bring its colorful, exotic wonders to his eyes as a vivid aesthetic and architectonic experience. What is indicated is a central repository, established as an adjunct to some great university library, where photographic documents useful to scholarship and teaching can be assembled and inter-filed with other documents which supplement the information in the photograph. This working collection, conceived from the point of view of creative scholarship and teaching, will offer these services: first, the files will be open to any scholar or

serious student who may wish to consult them in connection with a particular problem or to use them as supplementary documentation to knowledge recorded in the adjacent general reference library; second, duplicates for use in research and teaching will be supplied at cost from any document - photographic or otherwise - for any scholar or educational institution in the world.

It is high time the Islamic Archives - maintained up to now as an experiment sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies and the Committee for Islamic Culture - be established on an operating basis in some American University. To this end, the U. S. Office of Education has asked me to conduct - under the aegis of Pratt Institute - an inquiry among scholars, institutions and amateur photographers. I shall be most grateful to hear of any collection of photographs - modern or old - or of color slides, made in the Near/Middle East or North Africa and on through India, which contain views which can usefully illustrate any aspect of the cultures and civilization of the Lands of Islam: the people, their ways of life, crafts, artifacts, art, folk and formal architecture, ancient (pre-Islamic) monuments, trade, transport, religion, institutions, countryside, towns and cities. And I shall be glad to hear from any scholar concerned with any aspect of these and cognate cultures and civilization who would like to give evidence for this present inquiry.

(Dr. Smith is Director of the Islamic Archives and may be addressed at Box 21111, Washington 9, D. C.)

EDUCATION

Milton Lewine, Columbia University, has written to report on Columbia University's conference on modern architecture:

"The second biennial Modern Architecture Symposium was held at Columbia University the weekend of May 8 - 10 under the sponsorship of its Department of Art History and Archaeology and Avery Architectural Library. Working sessions of the Symposium were again chaired by Henry-Russell Hitchcock of Smith College. The subject under discussion this year was "The Decade 1929-1939." The Symposium was organized by a committee composed of Professor Hitchcock, Philip C. Johnson, Adolf K. Placzek, and George R. Collins. Robert A. M. Stern of Yale University served as Professor Hitchcock's assistant in arranging the agenda. It had been planned, a surprise to Professor Hitchcock, that the Symposium which he was chairing would serve as one of the several celebrations of his 60th birthday that have occurred this year. He was presented at the end with a letter signed by the various participants and also, mysteriously, by Alvar Aalto who was not present in the flesh, but had been several times discussed by Professor Hitchcock. Panelists delivered short papers during the two Saturday sessions; the Sunday meeting was thrown open to a discussion in which a number of distinguished guests participated. The Proceedings of the Symposium will be made available in printed form, as was done in 1962. Members of the panel and their subjects were as follows: George R. Collins (Columbia University) "Spain: a Case Study in Action and Reaction"; James M. Fitch (Columbia University) "The Spread of Modern Building Technology"; Henry-Russell Hitchcock (Smith College) "Recollections"; Philip C. Johnson (New York City) "Reminiscences"; William H. Jordy (Brown University) "The International Style in the 1930's"; Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., (Columbia University) "Frank Lloyd Wright's Years of Modernism"; Henry Millon (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) "Architectural History and Fascism"; Sibyl Moholy-Nagy, (Pratt Institute) "The Diaspora and its Effects"; Paul F. Norton (University of Massachusetts) "World's Fairs in the 1930's"; Adolf K. Placzek (Columbia University) "The Decade's Literature"; Vincent J. Scully (Yale University) "Doldrums in Suburbs"; Eduard F. Sekler (Harvard University) "The Architectural Reaction in Austria"; Peter Serenyi (Amherst College) "Le Corbusier's Changing Attitude Towards Form"; Robert A. M. Stern (Yale University) "Relevance of the Decade"; Catherine Bauer Wurster (University of California at Berkeley) "The Social Front in the 1930's".

PRESERVATION NOTES

Three Frank Lloyd Wright buildings have figured in the news recently: The monumental Imperial Hotel (1916-22) in Tokyo will be torn down within the next few years. On the positive side, the Loren Pope House (1940) in Falls Church, Va., which was in the path of a new highway, will be moved to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Woodlawn Plantation, where it will be permanently preserved, the successful result of a campaign started by Wolf von Eckhardt of the Washington Star. Champion of the hour: Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall, who personally intervened with highway officials, and sought a solution in cooperation with the Trust and the American Institute of Architects. "Fallingwater," Frank Lloyd Wright's 1936 masterpiece near Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania, about seventy miles southeast of Pittsburgh, is now open to the public. The house was recently given by Edgar Kaufmann, Jr. to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy as a memorial to his parents. Reservations are required for the Conservancy's guided tours of the house, and may be secured from the W. P. C. at 204 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222. Tours are conducted Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 5 pm and on Sunday from noon to 5:00 pm. Admission is \$1.25.

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

Please send the following publications:

_____ copies of Architecture near the Piscataqua, (published for the 1964 Portsmouth, New Hampshire Tour) at \$1.50 each.

_____ copies of Two Centuries of Philadelphia Architectural Drawings, \$2.00 each.

Name Address