

THE  
OCTAGON

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*A Journal of The American Institute of Architects*

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*The Function of Functionalism*  
*Our National Archives of Historic Architecture*  
*The New York World's Fair*  
*Emergency Relief Appropriations*  
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*School Medal Awards - - With the Chapters*

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# THE OCTAGON

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## The Function of Functionalism

BY LEICESTER B. HOLLAND, F. A. I. A.

[A Paper Read at the 68th Convention of The A. I. A.]

WHEN Professor Emerson suggested that I should speak to you this evening, I asked if he had any especial topic in mind. "Why not give a thought to beauty," said he. Now, I would gladly do so, there are few things I would do more willingly, but Beauty is too mutable a flame to be portrayed in words of mine. So I have chosen instead, her sister goddess, perhaps to some degree her rival, Functionalism:

"Skin deep and valued at a pin  
Is beauty such as Venus owns,  
Her beauty is beneath the skin  
And lies in layers on the bones."

If I were talking tonight to any but a group of architects, or on any subject save architecture, I should not dare approach a topic such as I have set myself. For Functionalism is not simply a scientific or philosophic subject, but has assumed somewhat the aspect of a religion, or at least a cult. And as there is no use arguing about taste, there is still less use in arguing about religion. Either you believe in a given doctrine or you don't, and you will listen to what any speaker says about it with approbation or disgust from the word go, and will end with the same approbation or disgust, perhaps slightly heightened, at the word stop. Were I to ask you individually, point blank, yes or no, are you a functionalist?—some would doubtless answer energetically with the fervor of the faithful or the

hatred of the heresy hunter. But the majority, I think would answer, "What do you mean, a functionalist?" They are the wiser ones, I think, who through years over the drawing board have learned that in our work cults are invariably valueless, and that while faith may move mountains, it cannot produce architecture. *We* shall never find a quick and easy road to Paradise.

Where Angels Fear to Tread.

For this reason I dare face that fact that Functionalism is a cult, and further, I dare discuss it as a cult, and hope to discover by consideration of its formulae and practices what value may lie in the philosophy on which it rests. For Functionalism has its philosophy, of that I am sure, though I am not wholly sure what it is; it has its dogma, which should proclaim that philosophy. Further it has its practices which, based on dogma, may depart considerably from its philosophy, and finally it has its apparent theory popularly deduced from its cult practices. Let us consider these phases in the reverse order, starting with the surface phenomena familiar to all of us, and work backward toward the truth that may be at the bottom of it all.

As it expresses itself in current building, Functionalism aims to create plans which will provide functional relations between rooms arranged to suit present day modes of living, while permitting an

economical use of materials. It aims further to provide an exterior treatment dictated primarily by plan, with little or no regard for traditional concepts, and with elimination of all purely decorative features. That, I think, is an unprejudiced summary of functionalist expression in modern architecture.

#### **The Ancients and Honorables.**

But architecture so conceived is by no means new, it has a long and honorable history in this country, and tagging it by a new name does not make it revolutionary. A generation ago the city of Philadelphia was known affectionately as "the city of homes." These homes were, for the major part, so much alike that but for the number on the door it would have been difficult for an owner to identify his own. They were of excellent red brick, carefully laid, and had flat roofs. There was a door and two windows on the ground floor, two windows in each upper story. Lintels and door steps were of white marble—the most functional material available, in spite of the fact that the steps had to be constantly scrubbed and whitened. Within, a narrow hall led from the front door to the stairway, with the parlor at the side, and dining room and kitchen in a rear extension. Above, there was a sitting room in the extension, two bed rooms and a bath in front, and so on up. I do not believe a city residence could be more functionally planned or executed; there was no waste space at all, no exterior decoration, no queer corners or oddities, almost no closets, and the construction was simplicity itself. At a guess I should say that most of these houses were built between 1820 and 1860. Those which have not been torn down are still standing, as strongly, as efficiently as ever. They are as good today as they were a hundred years ago, but no better. Perhaps this might be called Quaker architecture, for the large brick meeting houses of Philadelphia show the same complete devotion to functional efficiency. And as, with the Quakers, rich and poor wore clothes of a common cut, so the brick row houses of the well to do differed little from those of the "mechanic" class, except in size and location.

#### **"Relic and Type of Our Ancestors' Worth."**

The so-called "Philadelphia blocks" were not the

only structures of the early nineteenth century that showed this rigid functionalism. The farm houses of New England obey the same compulsion, though the form is different. Here the buildings are isolated and sheathed with wood instead of brick, but the construction is as direct and economical, the plan as stereotyped on a basis of rational efficiency. In the main house the parlor—functioning chiefly for funerals—bed-room and roomy kitchen cluster around the single central chimney and stairway to the attic; from the kitchen the closed woodshed leads to the barn, so that the stock can be tended and the wood brought in, regardless of stormy weather. Nothing could be simpler, there is no waste, no excess in any part.

Of course these old houses are not exactly as their builders would build them today, for methods of construction and manners of living have changed. Today concrete and steel may be more economical than brick and timber, the old fashioned kitchen where the mistress sat in a rocking chair to shell the peas, would be waste space now, when the can-opener does the trick in half a minute. What was functional then is not functional now, but the principle remains, and we should expect the devotees of the modern cult to hail these works of our grandfathers as forerunners of the new gospel. Actually I have never heard one do so.

#### **"A Plague on Both Your Houses."**

The reason, I suspect, is that there would be no glory at all in admitting that one was trying to do today simply what had been so well done by the commercial builders of the past. For such architecture was not formerly the work of architects at all, it was simply an architecture of necessity. It is undeniable that a strict limitation to efficient minima makes for speed and economy in building, though I doubt if by itself it helps in any other way. But speed that kills and economy at any price are only excusable as the dictates of stark need. It may be that we cannot afford to build in any other way, if so, good-bye to the architects. For the architect has no reason to exist if he cannot choose how he shall build.

The best face saver, of course, when confronted with a necessity, is to make a virtue of it, embrace it with open arms, and claim the glory of self-



sacrifice. Poverty which one cannot avoid is deplorable, poverty voluntarily and ostentatiously assumed in the name of faith is highly honorific. Hence the Hindu fakir, the self-immolating ascetic. "When," says the story, "Orberose found she was no longer pleasing to men, she turned to God." So the more enthusiastic devotees of functionalism naturally embrace excessive and artificial servitude and proudly expose the meagre nakedness of their buildings as a rebuke to more fleshly design. It is not sufficient, for the adept, that a building shall function well, that would be simply common sense; to draw the praises of the world, the world must be made function conscious, and every functional element be flaunted in its face. Hence the extremist brings forward with a flourish steam pipes, drain pipes, air ducts and radiators, thin wiry spiral stairs and mass construction brutal in its directness. His motto seems to be the gangster's cry, "Give 'em the works!"

#### Distractions of St. Anthony.

Personally, I find such wanton exhibitionism distressing, even as a profession of faith. If one can afford no shoes or hat, bare feet and head are no disgrace. For unusual efforts, clothes are encumbering, and may be wisely laid aside, and no one can deny the beauty of a well formed naked body in action. But it is disturbing to be surrounded by buildings that seem all set to speed away at the starting gun. And it is certainly one thing for an athlete to slough his restricting garments, and quite another to have a visitor take off his overcoat, and then all his other clothes and skin, as well.

A quiet chat with an anatomical convive, lolling, as it were, in his viscera, would be very difficult for me. I wonder why. We all accept anatomy, we esteem the bones, the nerves, the muscles, even the ductless glands, and often like to discuss them, but the sight of them is undoubtedly distracting. And so with the vital organs of a building; we like to know they are there, technicians like to operate on them, but their insistent display in the common round of life is distracting. It hinders the mind in its current consideration of men and things. A philosophic outlook requires a decent integument for architectural surroundings, as well as for human beings.

#### The Gothic Beautician.

I grant I am presenting functionalism in its extreme phase; not all functionalists worship the apotheosis of the non-siphoning trap. Instead, one may reasonably aim at *expression* of construction rather than *exposure* of construction, for certainly all objects in nature express their construction, though it is rarely literally exposed. And we have all been taught that a good deal of the fascination of Gothic architecture springs from the frank declaration of its structural system. But the details of Gothic construction are not all obvious, they sometimes require the elaborate demonstration of a Viollet-le-duc before we apprehend them. All the casual observer recognizes is a fabric of piers and vaulting ribs closed by a secondary tissue of stone and glass, and held stable at a daring height by obvious external props. But there can be little doubt that the mediaeval builder enjoyed the display of his engineering skill as such, and whether consciously or not he habitually distributed his ornament so as to accentuate the anatomy of his building. Instead of yielding to the baroque barbarism of facial tattooing, as practiced by the Maoris, he limited his decoration to the civilized and strictly structural emphasis of the lip-stick and eyebrow pencil.

Unfortunately, with modern methods of construction it is very difficult to emphasize the anatomy of a building. For the patterns of straight forward steel and concrete work are simple in the extreme. One can hardly emphasize the repeated rectangularity of post and lintel, when there are no significant points on which to center emphasis. No one would attempt, I think, to express the reinforcing rods within a concrete beam, even though they are the heart and life of its strength, and the walls which shut the weather out are merely so much wrapping paper.

#### The Body That Was Greece, and the Clothing That Was Rome.

In this regard I should like to quote that great evangelist of structural expressionism just mentioned, Viollet-le-duc.\* "The exterior decoration of Greek architecture," he says, "was merely structure

\* Discourses on Architecture, p. 394.

refined into beautiful forms by the strictest application of reason; the elements of structure always appeared under the architecture, as the bones of a man are evident under his muscles. The decorative interior fragments, remaining to us from this beautiful architecture, are always in accordance with this principle. Under the Roman Empire, if the decoration was sometimes distinct from the basis of structure, it nevertheless frankly confessed its own structure as a parasite. We have seen that the Roman monument, made of rubble and brick, received a decoration of marble, without any absolutely necessary relation in character with the structure to which it was applied; but this decoration was, as it were, a second structure whose treatment belied neither its material nor its workmanship . . . Greek architecture is a naked body, whose beauty is the result of the perfect adaptability of its form to its structure and functions, while Roman architecture is a body clothed; but whether this clothing fitted the body well or ill, as a clothing it was always reasonable and appropriate to its material; it was rich if the material was rich, and simple if the material was poor."

Obviously modern architecture is allied to the Roman rather than the Greek, for the exteriors and interiors of our buildings can not limit themselves to their naked skeleton construction if the building is to have any function as a whole, and instead of trying so to clothe his building that it will look naked, the expressive care of the modern architect should be primarily concerned with the frank confession of the parasitic nature of his walls. Granted they are but textile garments, it makes no logical difference what the pattern of them may be, broadcloth or plaid, brocade or flowered gingham. If the wall is wall-paper, what matter whether the lines are horizontal or vertical or crisscross? So long as the architect respects his floor levels and his columnar supports, he is absolutely free to do whatever he likes with his facade, only he must remember to make it patently parasitic.

But does it follow that all facades that adhere to this functional canon are equally good? I need no reply, for everyone knows that facades have functions of form itself, quite apart from any question of structure.

#### "Backward, Turn Backward, Oh Time."

When I was a youngster I was given one Christmas, a nickel watch. That was not the price of the watch but the material of the case. This was really long ago, before the Ingersoll had made the dollar famous. My watch, like all cheap watches then, was Swiss, not unduly large, and quite a presentable timepiece. But much as I loved my watch, it did not get all the care it deserved, and at last gave up the struggle. Something essential was broken; the cost of reconditioning was unwarranted, and the watch was tenderly laid aside in a bureau drawer. In time another Christmas brought another watch exactly like the first, and this too, in due course was dropped or hit by a bat or something, and declined to function further. One day—still later—I was now in my teens and passionately given to tinkering—I came across the two watches and started to investigate. I took them all apart, and put them together again, and then I made a synthesis, and found that by combining the sound elements of the one with the other I could make of the two a single watch that would run. You can imagine my pride at the achievement. But now, having plumbed the intricacies of watchwork, I had lost the timid reverence which I think is normal toward such things, and felt that this synthetic watch was my own creation to do with as I pleased. What pleased me most was to see the wheels go round—I was a thorough functionalist—and as one is hindered from seeing the works in the customary disposition of a watch, I reversed them in the case, so that the ticking balance wheel was visible through the front glass, while to see the dial, the back had to be removed. This arrangement properly astonished my playmates and amused me greatly for awhile, but it had its practical inconveniences in telling time. So I made another shift, turning the works right side about again, but removing the face. The hands were left in place, and by proper orientation one could estimate the hour fairly well, while behind the two black indicators the whole delightful intricacy of brass wheels was perfectly exposed.

#### "My Face Is My Fortune, Sir."

I have no recollection of what happened after that. Perhaps in time the mechanism died again,

perhaps my plaything bored me and was put aside, perhaps I restored the face. I only remember that when my mechanical exposition lost its novelty it lost its charm. For thirty-five years I have carried a perfectly normal—if not always well regulated—time-piece. And with thinning hairs the consciousness has grown in me that in removing the dial of my nickel watch I devitalized it almost as effectively as if I had trod it under foot. For the truth I see now is, that the purpose of a watch is not simply to run, but to tell the time, and for this ultimate function the formal facade is just as important as all the machinery it conceals.

And likewise, of all architecture—save that of the dreariest necessity, that hardly deserves the name—it may be said that the form has a function of its own, not dependent on but often dictating the functioning of the mechanism it conceals. Indeed it sometimes occurs that a work of architecture has no function whatever except that fulfilled by its form. Witness the Arc de l'Etoile and the Washington monument, than which nothing could be more strictly functional, though plan and construction are not of the least concern.

**"Dinna Ye Hear the Slogan Noo?"**

This brings us to a consideration of the functionalist dogma which serves as the expressed basis for the various manifestations in practice we have been reviewing. For dogma is the crystallized ideology of any cult, and should serve as clue to the underlying philosophy, which is sometimes quite erroneously represented in the surface manifestations. There may be many dogmas to functionalism. I have found but one sententiously announced. It is "Form follows function," enunciated first, I believe, by Louis Sullivan. A catchy phrase, tripping with the alliteration proper to any cantrip. The mere sound leads one on; elaboration, with or without sense, is almost irresistible.

Form follows function, without the least compunction,

Form follows function, fiction follows fact.

Form is a fiction that flowers out of function

While function is a factor that's founded on a fact.

And so on and so forth.

But resisting elaborations which the functionalist may not accept, let us analyze the slogan and see just what it means and what it holds of worth. There is no need to define "form" to an architect, the word speaks for itself. "Function" is harder, for there are various sorts of functions outside of calculus, buildings as units have functions, parts of buildings have functions subsidiary to the total function but distinct in themselves, and structural elements have functions of a character independent of those of the building as a whole, or of its parts. Let us assume, in default of specification, that it is meant that each sort of function has its following form.

The hard knot still remains, what is meant by the non-architectural word "follows"?

Are we to understand the doctrine to assert that form should be considered only consequent to and dependent on a consideration of functions? Can we express it more clearly as a command to reach for a function instead of a form? Or is it meant that form develops spontaneously out of function, and follows it blindly and inevitably, uncontrolled and effortless as the morning after follows the night before? With this meaning form is an act of Providence, quite beyond the architect's concern, and the doctrine becomes "Save the function and you save all."

Either interpretation may be intended. Either or both may be sound philosophy, or either or both may be false. It all depends I fear, on how broad a significance one attaches to the elastic word function.

**Out of the Mouth of Grand Rapids.**

Recently I happened on a very penetrating observation in a most unlikely place, a gaudy catalogue of interior arrangements. Furniture, draperies, floor coverings, and what not, were shown in full, almost fulsome, color. Each dazzling composition had an appropriate code name and caption. One was a bed room christened "Modern." The caption ran "Modern is functional, the function of this bedroom is to induce repose."

I cannot guarantee that this particular layout would induce repose,—that is beside the point—but profound truth lies in the observation that a bed room does not wholly fulfill its function by being an economical and efficient sleeping place, it must



before all, induce a psychologic state in accord with its use. Functionally a dining room is not simply a place to eat in, a library a place to read in, an office a place to work in. To function fully such rooms must be designed to eat, to read, to work in well, and cheerfully and comfortably. The architect must be a psychologist in design, and oh, there are so many rooms—and exteriors—that need to be psycho-analyzed. Sometimes I fear that the basic complaint of modern architecture is an inferiority complex.

"More Stately Mansions, O My Soul."

This comes, I think, from a too rigid adherence to the canon of efficiency. As a therapeutic I would recommend a practice of the canon of liberality. There is a prevalent tendency to calculate scientifically just how much space is required for this or that, just how many steps it takes to go from here to there, just how the furniture or equipment may be disposed so as to interfere least with the necessary circulation. And then, having figured a set of minima for maximum efficiency, to let those figures control the design. The system is much too rigid. The slightest alteration in any factor may result in failure of the whole, and gadgets do not a palace make, nor chromium a home. Our friends, the engineers, for all their figures, are far more liberal. To be sure, they calculate their loads and strains most carefully, and study the breaking point of the materials, their strength in tension, compression and shear, but then, what does the engineer do? He allows a *factor of safety* of four or five times the minimum requirement. The architect would be well advised, likewise, when he has calculated his efficient minima, to allow a *factor of comfort*, not necessarily of four or five, but at least of two.

For architecture, since it is made for sensuous and temperamental man, can never be a strict mathematical calculation. To the mathematician six plus two amounts to just as much as five plus three; to the architect it may be considerably less, while four plus four may total up to a great deal more. Why it should be that the whole is sometimes so much greater than the sum of all the parts I cannot say, except that architecture is an art, and that is the nature of art.

"And I know not if, save in this, such gift  
be allowed to man,  
That out of three sounds he frame, not a  
fourth sound, but a star."

All Art Is Divided Into Three Parts.

From these considerations I maintain that no building which is merely efficiently planned and scientifically constructed can be *ipso facto* considered functional architecture, if indeed it can be considered architecture at all. Ever since architecture has been analyzed philosophically it has been recognized as a unity consisting of three parts, not of two. These components, as stated by Vitruvius, are durability, convenience and beauty. Or in the quaint phraseology of the ever memorable Sir Henry Wotton, knight, we have, "In architecture, as in all other Operative Arts, the End must direct the Operation. The End is to build well. Well-building hath three Conditions, Commodity, Firmness, and Delight."

"In all other operative arts"; the rule of the trinity is very wide, you see, by no means limited to architecture. I recall dimly, that in school or college we were taught, perhaps from Genung's Rhetoric (?) that the desiderata of literary composition were Clearness, Force, and Beauty. The same three elements rephrased for a different art. No one or two complete without the rest, and no one following inevitably from another. Even though, in sequence of time one might say that clearness must be assured before one thinks of force, and force before beauty, as foundations must precede walls and roof, yet always "the end must direct the operation," as the roof is the functional epitome of the habitation.

It may be, I am uncertain in this, that the primal doctrine of Functionalism as a cult, is that Plan and Construction, Commodity and Firmness, are alone essential to Well Building, and that Form or Delight is not in itself functional. If so, the doctrine is diabolic, of that I am very sure. Or it may be that the doctrine merely prescribes a procedure in design, advocating first a study of the plan, then of the construction and only at the last of form. In this case the doctrine is at least human, though perhaps not divine—but it is not new at all. May I read you another passage from Viollet-le-duc



which I happened on by chance when looking for the bit I read before? It appeared in 1863 when American architecture was approaching its lowest ebb, about to succumb to the fascination of the Napoleonic mansard, and the romantic Gothic frivolities inspired by Pugin.\*

#### Thus Spake Zarathustra.

"When an architect," says the practical Frenchman, "has an edifice to construct, a hospital, perhaps, a public office or a palace, his first task is to deduce some order from the programme which is given him, as this, like all written programmes, is apt to be confused and contradictory. He must satisfy himself regarding its real requirements and their relative importance, without occupying himself with any consideration of architecture, in the ordinary use of the term; that is to say, with the decorative envelope in which the structure is to be enclosed. He is content for the present simply to get everything in place; he takes care to subordinate those parts of each division of the programme which seem to him, on examination, to be mere accessories; by slow degrees, its intricate and complicated conditions thus become simplified; for to reduce an elaborate problem to its elements needs careful analysis and judicious distribution. Then, having arranged the different wings or divisions of his edifice satisfactorily, when he proceeds to unite them in a grand whole, he finds he must recur once more to the work of simplification; the whole wants unity, the connections between the different divisions are awkward and artificial and require adjustment. He again applies himself to the task of arranging the plan, changes from left to right, puts that in front which was behind, and returns a hundred times to the disposition of details in his design. Then the conscientious architect pauses and lays aside the sheets covered with the results of his studies, when suddenly he believes that he has discovered in his programme a principal idea, subordinating every other consideration. Light breaks upon him; instead of examining the proposition before him in detail, to arrive at the general combination of the whole, he reverses the operation; he discovers that until then he has had but a glimpse of the true requirements of the structure, and finds that its various apartments and dependencies should

\* Discourses on Architecture, pp. 188 ff.

be submitted to a new general disposition on a larger scale, affecting all their mutual arrangements and communications. Thus the details of the plan, the study of which had severally taxed the resources of his mind, assume their natural positions. The leading idea found, the accessories arrange themselves without difficulty. The architect has become the master of his programme, he reviews his interpretation of it with deliberation, he completes it and brings it to perfection. . . . His plan settled upon, his elevations are a part and expression of them; he sees how he should construct them, and the dominating idea of the plan becomes the principal feature of the façades. Considerations of stability and of the most economical methods of construction suggest to him the character of his exteriors. . . . Then arises under his hand a sort of carcass or frame, a combination of masses, in which he proceeds to make the exterior appearance a manifestation of the interior dispositions, to cause the idea of the plan frankly to reappear in the elevation, and to decorate or subordinate the various parts according to its suggestions. At this point the artistic capacities of the architect begin to be tested; for, to have a clear head, a practical mind, a power of expressing ideas with neatness and precision, is not enough; if he would be appreciated, he must gratify the eye and clothe his truthful expressions with graceful and attractive forms."

#### How Old the New.

Is this a new doctrine? It was not invented by Viollet-le-duc. It was old when Suger laid the corner stone of the apse of St. Denis, it was old when the baths of Caracalla were designed. If the function of functionalism is to re-emphasize such architectural philosophy, it follows in the footsteps of the mighty; if its function is just to combat a popular hankering after period decoration, it is fighting a losing battle against straw men, for it can only substitute one fashion for another. It becomes the trivial plaything of magazine advertisements.

In a recent book by Rebecca West, the author speaks of "a stupendous apartment, designed" as she says "in that modernist style which represents the last attempt of bad taste to escape the criticisms of good taste. Having been reproached so often for excessive and ill conceived and executed

ornamentation and poor design, it has set about getting rid of all ornamentation, and as much design as possible."

#### The Spirit Becomes Flesh.

There is one point I would emphasize in Viollet-le-duc's account, which I have seen nowhere else brought out. That is the turning point in the organization of the plan; when the dry analysis of the elements is completed, the efficient organization of the parts worked out, there comes all at once a crystallization, a revelation, as it were, of the meaning of the whole.—What is it? The plan takes *form*, the organism lives, it has a soul. For form is the soul of architecture, as plan is its intellect and structure its body. And it seems as if the form had been there all the while, and so it has; for plans are not simply lines on paper, but

symbols for areas enclosed, of definite cubic form, and back of all the forms of all the parts is the ideal concept of the formal whole, the spirit of a hospital, perhaps, a public office, or a palace. If the architect has no such subconscious vision of his building from the start, be sure it will never come alive.

If we must have a dogma, I would substitute for "Form follows Function," Sir Henry's version, "The End must direct the Operation."

The End is the enclosure of space, satisfactorily from every point of view, and enclosed space is form, whether viewed from within or without, the form whose creation is peculiarly the architect's study. Such form is no derivative or parasite of function. It is a twin-born guide and fellow, and the ultimate proclamation of the goal achieved.

### New York University Announces New Courses

THE School of Architecture and Allied Arts of New York University announces that it will conduct courses in Community Planning and Housing during the school year 1936-1937, headed by E. Raymond Bossange, F. A. I. A., Dean, and Dr. Carol Aronovici, who will be in charge of the courses.

The Advisory Board will consist of Frederick Ackerman, F. A. I. A., Technical Advisor, New York City Housing Authority; Harold S. Buttenheim, Editor, *The American City*; William H. Connell, Executive Director, Regional Planning

Federation of the Philadelphia Tri-State District; George Gove, Executive Director, New York State Housing Board; John Ihlder, Director, the Alley Dwellings Authority, Washington, D. C.; Robert D. Kohn, F. A. I. A., Former Director, Housing Division of the Public Works Administration; Albert Mayer, Architect, Resettlement Administration; and Clarence Perry, Department of Recreation, Russell Sage Foundation.

Special lecturers have been drawn from the ranks of well-known architects, economists, executives of various Government Bureaus, and philanthropic organizations.

### Committee on Insulation

MR. W. A. Danielson, Chairman of the Committee on Research of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, announces that there is in process of formulation a Committee on Insulation, one member of which will be an architect. The Committee will report on such subjects having to do with insulation as Conductivity, Emissivity, Reflectivity and Other Qualities; on Commercial Low Temperature Insulating Materials under Service Conditions, Methods of Installation, and Application of Various Factors in Heat Transfer Calculations.

Four members will be appointed by the Chairman and one member each from the three major insulating interests—the Loose Fill, the Insulation Board and the Bright Surface.

The Committee will act largely in the nature of a judge or jury and the technical representatives will submit their findings to the Committee and carry out such additional research as the committee desires. The conclusions of the Committee will become the basis for information relative to insulation and will serve as a general guide for the construction industry.

## Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1936

## TITLE II—RELIEF AND WORK RELIEF

THE first deficiency appropriation act (H. R. 12624—74th Congress), which act includes the emergency relief appropriation, was approved by the President on June 22.

This act makes available the use of \$300,000,000 for P. W. A. grants through the revolving fund operated in conjunction with R. F. C.

On the basis of the forty-five per centum grants, the allocation of this fund will allow a program of non-Federal public works of between \$500,000,000 and \$650,000,000.

Excerpts from the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1936 are as follows:

"To continue to provide relief, and work relief on useful projects, in the United States and its Territories and possessions (including projects heretofore approved for the Works Progress Administration which projects shall not be subject to the limitations hereinafter specified in this paragraph), \$1,425,000,000, to be used in the discretion and under the direction of the President, together with such unexpended balances of funds appropriated and made available by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 as the President may determine, which are hereby reappropriated and made available for the purposes of this paragraph, to remain available until June 30, 1937 (except as herein otherwise authorized): *Provided*, That this appropriation shall be available for the following classes of public projects, Federal and non-Federal, and the amounts to be used for each class shall not, except as hereinafter provided, exceed the respective amounts stated, namely: (a) Highways, roads, and streets, \$413,250,000; (b) public buildings, \$156,750,000; (c) parks and other recreational facilities, including buildings therein, \$156,750,000; (d) public utilities, including sewer systems, water supply and purification, airports, and other transportation facilities, \$171,000,000; (e) flood control and other conservation, \$128,250,000; (f) assistance for educational, professional, and clerical persons, \$85,500,000; (g) women's projects, \$85,500,000; (h) mis-

cellaneous work projects, \$71,250,000; (i) National Youth Administration, \$71,250,000; and (j) rural rehabilitation, loans and relief to farmers and livestock growers \$85,500,000:"

\* \* \*

"In order to increase employment by providing for useful public works projects of the kind and character for which the Federal Emergency Administrator of Public Works (hereinafter called the Administrator) has heretofore made loans or grants pursuant to Title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act or the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, the Administrator may, upon the direction of the President, use not to exceed \$300,000,000 from funds on hand or to be received from the sale of securities, for the making of grants, to aid in the financing of such projects: *Provided*, That no part of the sum made available by this paragraph shall be granted for any project unless, in the determination of the Administrator, the completion thereof can be substantially accomplished prior to July 1, 1938, and adequate provision has been made or is assured for financing such part of the entire cost thereof as is not to be supplied through the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works: *Provided further*, That this limitation upon time shall not apply to any project enjoined in any Federal or State court: *Provided further*, That in no case shall the amount of the grant exceed forty-five per centum of the cost of the project. Nothing herein shall be construed to increase the amount of notes, bonds, debentures, and other such obligations which the Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized and empowered under existing law to issue and to have outstanding at any one time, and nothing herein shall be construed to limit or curtail in any way any powers which the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works or the Administrator is now authorized to exercise."



## Our National Archives of Historic Architecture

BY CHARLES E. PETERSON, A. I. A.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** At the time the Historic American Buildings Survey was begun, Mr. Peterson was Deputy Chief Architect of the National Parks Service, and it was he who realized the opportunity to conduct such a survey under the Civil Works Administration. Mr. Peterson outlined a working plan for the Survey which was approved by the Director of the National Parks Service and the Secretary of the Interior, for inclusion in the Civil Works Program as a Federal project.

**T**HE underlying idea of the Historic American Buildings Survey is not new. Draftsmen from the time of Piranesi down to the present have been inspired to make drawings of old buildings. We find Benjamin Latrobe in New Orleans in 1819-20 entering the following note in his journal:

"It would be worthwhile, and if I can find time I will try to do something of the sort, to make a series of drawings representing the city as it now is, for it would be a safe wager that in a hundred years not a vestige will remain of the buildings as they now stand, excepting, perhaps, a few public buildings and a few of the houses built since the American acquisition of the country."

It is interesting to find that the value of architectural records was recognized in this country over a hundred years ago by an architect who was not primarily an historian. Latrobe designed important buildings in what was then the modern taste. It is only through the years that his buildings have become historic monuments and deserving of measurement and permanent record.

The French and the English went to Italy for their inspiration of the early Renaissance. The American Institute of Architects went to Williamsburg this year to see restorations of important work of the Georgian period. The study of precedent has always been an important part of architectural education, and most of the profession who have lived in the older parts of this country have, at one time or another, measured a local chimney piece or a fine old cornice with the idea of using all or part of the detail in their own work. (Unfortunately, most of these measured drawings have not been retained by the architects who made them.)

Some of the more enterprising architects have made collections of drawings and photographs of examples of early American architecture, many of

the better examples having been published in books and periodicals. Thus, some of the best examples of our native styles have been preserved for reference in the more than three hundred books on Early American Architecture now available.

### Creation of the Archives.

Until recently, however, nothing had been done to establish a national archives for our native architecture. The first effective move was made by Dr. Leicester B. Holland, F. A. I. A., in his capacity as Chief of the Fine Arts Division of the Library of Congress. In 1930, with the aid of the Carnegie Corporation, a new department, known as the "Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture," was established in the Library. This new department embraces a collection of photographic negatives and a collection of all books on American Architecture, with a general index to their illustrations. Through the efforts of Dr. Holland, this new department was a success from the start, with the result that thousands of valuable negatives from private sources have been brought to Washington for safe keeping.

The English architects deserve great credit for first recognizing "unemployment as an opportunity," for in 1931, under the leadership of the Royal Institute of British Architects, the services of unemployed architects and architectural draftsmen were utilized in preparing measured drawings of interesting buildings. Work was carried on for two years with funds supplied by private contributions; the work being largely confined to London, where the profession is concentrated. The drawings were of two kinds: Individual houses of the 17th and 18th Centuries, and strip elevations of long sections of streets such as Piccadilly and Knightsbridge. Tallis and Solvay prepared such



strip elevations for commercial advertising early in the 19th Century, and in comparison with the drawings made since 1931, it is shown how completely the face of London has changed in one hundred years. An index of measured drawings and photographs of old buildings for the Library of the R. I. B. A. was also begun.

As the depression in America followed that in England by some two years, it was not until 1933 that it was realized something had to be done to alleviate the distressed condition of the architects and draftsmen in this country. To those in difficulty, hope came with the Administration's announcement in 1933 that the "white collar class" would receive the benefit of suitable employment. The executive departments of the Federal Government were asked to submit programs to The Civil Works Administration which would immediately afford work for all classes. As a planning officer of the National Parks Service, deeply interested in the Early American Architecture of both the East and West, the writer took advantage of the opportunity to submit a program for preparing architectural records. The relief employment of architectural draftsmen for measuring historic buildings had already been done successfully on a small scale in New York and Philadelphia.

#### Beginning of the H. A. B. S.

It remained only to draft a plan for organizing such work on a nation-wide basis in such a way as to obtain the financial support of the Federal Government through the Civil Works Administration. From the standpoint of a relief project it was necessary that the men be put to work as soon as possible. From the standpoint of an architectural archives it was desirable that the work be done competently and uniformly. The advice of The American Institute of Architects was sought in formulating a suitable program. The Library of Congress already had made a strong beginning with its photographic archives, and was the ideal repository for government-owned architectural records. Fortunately, the interests of The American Institute of Architects and the Library of Congress were both ably served by Dr. Holland, who gave the project enthusiastic and effective support from the beginning.

On November 13, 1933, a memorandum proposing "the relief employment under the Civil Works Administration of a substantial number of the architectural profession in a program recording interesting and significant specimens of American architecture" was submitted to the National Parks Service. The subjects for measurement and photographing were to be " \* \* \* almost a complete resumé of the builders' art. It should include public buildings, churches, residences, bridges, forts, barns, mills, shops, rural outbuildings, and any other kind of structure of which there are good specimens extant. The lists should be made up from the standpoint of academic interest rather than of commercial uses. The largest part of individual effort spent so far in measuring antique buildings and recording them seems to have been with an eye to adapting historic styles to modern commercial architectural practice and \* \* \* whole classes of structure have been neglected." Also to be included were "other structures which would not engage the special interest of an architectural connoisseur \* \* \* the great number of plain structures which by fate or accident are identified with historic events."

The plan proposed the employment of 1200 persons, of whom nearly 1100 were to be architects, and a total expenditure of \$448,000. The executive functions were to be carried on by local officers, advised by local committees of architects and historians, and reported to the Washington office of the Branch of Plans and Design of the National Parks Service. The Washington office in its turn was to have the benefit of a National Advisory Board. The efforts of the whole group were to be directed to the gathering of material for the archives in the Library of Congress.

The idea was well received, and within four days it had been approved by the Director of the Bureau and the Secretary of the Interior. It was then submitted to the Civil Works Administration, supplemented by elaborate "breakdowns." The plan was suited to the requirements of the new relief program, and on November 29—less than three weeks after it was written—it was approved in its original form. The project was immediately set in motion by Chief Architect Thomas C. Vint of the National Parks Service, assisted by Assistant Architects, John P. O'Neill and Dudley C. Bayliss.

Valuable encouragement and advice were given by Francis P. Sullivan, A. I. A., of Washington, and William G. Perry, F. A. I. A., of the firm of Perry, Shaw & Hepburn, of Boston, architects of the Williamsburg Restoration. The Secretary of the Interior appointed District Officers and the National Advisory Board, in accordance with the recommendations of The American Institute of Architects. A nation-wide organization was soon functioning, and shortly after the first of the year there were measuring parties in the field.

#### The First Exhibit.

The project was carried on with the gratifying support of the profession and the public at large. By April it was possible to hold an exhibition at the National Museum in Washington, including drawings and photographs from all parts of the country. The quality of the work was excellent, and the exhibition was well received. The proven feasibility of the whole idea encouraged the National Parks Service, The American Institute of Architects, and the Library of Congress to effect, on July 23, 1934, an agreement to carry on the work as a permanent activity.

The project has now been carried through the stormy seas of two emergency programs—the Civil Works Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration—and it is well on its way through the third—the Works Progress Administration. The funds through which the Historic American Buildings Survey is operated are scheduled to expire on July 1, 1936, although the work will be extended beyond that date if it is possible to do so. The policy of the Administration in regard to the financing of various relief projects must continually change to meet changing conditions of unemployment. Over a large part of the South, it is already difficult to secure draftsmen to work on the Survey, and it is probable that, through general business recovery, in a year or two the project can no longer be conducted as an unemployment relief measure.

#### An Opportunity.

While the Historic American Buildings Survey receives its initial impetus from relief funds, it was designed so it could be made permanent. There are many possible sources which might supply the

funds to carry on the work, and the historic material which should be recorded is nearly inexhaustible. In only a few areas of the country have all the worthy buildings been measured, and with the passing of time many more will become eligible.

On August 21, 1935, there was approved an important Act of Congress "to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes." This act declares this form of conservation to be a policy of the Federal Government. Since the reservation of the Casa Grande Ruins of Arizona in 1889 and the setting up of the battlefield reservations of Antietam, in Maryland, and Chattanooga, in Tennessee, the following year, the nation has endeavored to preserve ancient and historic sites and buildings. In 1933, as a result of the President's Reorganization Order, the administration of all of the various historical projects was placed under the jurisdiction of the National Parks Service of the Department of the Interior.

Among other things, the Act of 1935 directs that the Secretary of the Interior shall perform the following duties:

- "(a) Secure, collate, and preserve drawings, plans, photographs, and other data of historic and archaeological sites, buildings and objects.
- "(b) Make a survey of historic and archaeological sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States.
- "(c) Make necessary investigations and researches in the United States relating to particular sites, buildings or objects to obtain true and accurate historical and archaeological facts and information containing the same."

The Historic American Buildings Survey had made an impressive start in these activities, beginning nearly two years before the Act of August 21, 1935, under the broad authority of the NIRA. It might be appropriate here to define the nature of the Survey, since its name, selected in the beginning for its trademark value, has always been something of a misnomer. The product of the

Historic American Buildings Survey consists of four parts:

(a) A master list of American buildings, significant for their historic or architectural value, available in the Library of Congress. The list is in the form of a card catalogue, with one card for each building. So far as is possible up to the present time, each card contains a bibliography of the building represented. The list contains at this date nearly two thousand entries, only a small fraction of the number needed to make it really comprehensive.

(b) A collection of measured drawings of these buildings on standard sheets. 5589 sheets of drawings, representing 788 buildings, have been deposited in the Library of Congress, and approximately 3706 more sheets have been completed for this purpose. Prints are available at a nominal fee, so that architects can add to their libraries selected subjects at a minimum cost. The original field notebooks become a part of the collection.

(c) A collection of photographs of these buildings which becomes a part of the Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture. Prints can be studied in the Library, and copies are available at cost. 4205 Historic American Building Survey negatives have been filed in the Library.

(d) A collection of historical notes deposited with the graphic material. The writings submitted are not exhaustive, and their accuracy is not vouched for. They were collected by architects on their visits to the buildings measured, with the idea of making available additional information. This collection of essays is in such form that it can be supplemented at any time from documentary sources.

#### **Congressional Appropriation Necessary.**

When the relief programs have ended it will probably be necessary for the Parks Service to carry on the Historic American Buildings Survey by direct appropriation from Congress. An effective program of measuring could probably be handled by several squads working directly out of Washington, cooperating with the District Officers. Such parties would be able to reach many important buildings which have been inaccessible for measurement under the unemployment relief programs be-

cause of insufficient travel funds. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in England maintains several such field parties. They cover the counties one at a time, and their drawings, photographs and technical descriptions are published in bound volumes.

Field work of this type could be conducted by the government by means of outside donations, as well as by congressional appropriation. There are a number of individuals and foundations which have, in the past, generously endowed projects of a research nature, and it does not seem unreasonable to hope for support from such sources.

Architectural schools near historic buildings have a good opportunity to contribute records executed as a part of the regular training of the students. At the present time students of the University of Virginia are recording four of the original pavilions on the Old Lawn of the University campus. Thomas Jefferson had intended these buildings to be examples of classic architecture, and they will now become available to students everywhere. Pratt Institute has completed four measuring projects and is undertaking others as a means of aiding students to finance their school careers. The University of New Hampshire, Armour Institute of Technology, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Clemson College, and George Washington University have also made important contributions to the Survey.

The National Parks Service is ready to furnish supplies for such work, provided it is done according to the standard specifications. The important thing is that there is now a proper repository where drawings made according to a uniform and established technique are preserved and made accessible for general distribution.

#### **Cooperation of the Architects Sought.**

Private architectural firms may, with very little additional work, make contributions to the Historic American Buildings Survey by submitting measured drawings made in connection with remodeling or restoring important old buildings. Such data will be accepted by the Library of Congress through the local officer of the Survey. Such officer, if unknown to an architect desiring to submit data or drawings, may be located by addressing the Na-



tional Parks Service of the Department of the Interior. While complete drawings of a building are desirable, drawings of parts of a building will also be received by the Survey.

In order to illustrate the possibility of contributions from a single office, the Branch of Plans and Design, a regular planning division of the National Parks Service, has made up many sheets of Historic American Buildings Survey drawings as by-products of work done for other purposes. For instance, the architectural remains from the interesting excavation projects at 17th Century Jamestown and other ruins in the State of Virginia are being recorded as a part of the Survey. The results of a study of mountaineer building methods in the Great Smoky Mountains are being drawn on Historic American Building Survey Sheets. Noteworthy, is the complete record (16 sheets) of the

condition of the Moore House at Yorktown before the beginning of the restoration in 1931.

It is the opinion of the National Parks Service, as an agency for the conservation of historic buildings, that all architects should file a complete record of the condition of any important building before restoration or changes are allowed to be made in the structure. The facilities of the Historic American Buildings Survey could be utilized for this purpose.

It is hoped that the great archives begun by the emergency unemployment program will continue in its vigorous growth. The responsibility is shared by both the Federal Government and the architectural profession. The enthusiasm shown in the first two and a half years justifies our expectation of a long and productive future for the important work of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

### The Siamese Twins of Meticulosity

TO THE SECRETARY

FROM WM. STANLEY PARKER, PAST SECRETARY:

I have just noted with amazement and regret in the latest issue of THE OCTAGON in the resolution relating to the National Housing Program, two instances of that expression "and/or" which made so many of our lives burdensome during the existence of the late NRA. Like the NRA this phrase has received an adverse supreme court decision in Wisconsin, and in order that The Institute, both officially and through its members, may not be guilty of contempt of court, I beg to quote from the following news item concerning this decision in the State of Wisconsin:

"In one of the most biting decisions the tribunal has ever handed down, Justice Chester A. Fowler took lawyers to task for the use of puzzling word combinations. The case involved an insurance policy invoked to recover costs of compensation awarded to an employe of the Sturgeon Bay Company who was injured by a truck. The court had to decide whether C. D. Brower 'and/or' the Sturgeon Bay Company was indemnified under the policy.

"It is manifest," Justice Fowler wrote, "that we are confronted with the task of first constru-

ing "and/or" that befuddling nameless thing, that janus-faced verbal monstrosity, neither word nor phrase, the child of a brain of some one too lazy or too dull to know what he did mean, now commonly used by lawyers in drafting legal documents, through carelessness or ignorance or as a cunning device to conceal rather than express a meaning with a view to furthering the interest of their clients. We have observed the "thing" in statutes in the opinions of the courts and in briefs of counsel, some learned and some not."

The Secretary, Chas. T. Ingham, in responding to the above wrote in part as follows:

"I am abashed beyond expression that the Secretary *and* the Executive Secretary, *or* the Executive Secretary, as the case may be, should have been so negligent as to permit the unexpurgated publication of that convention resolution which contains, not once but twice, the obnoxious expression to which you refer and which I refrain from repeating, lest *my secretary* fall under its seductive spell.

"The least atonement we can make is to publish your letter in THE OCTAGON, which we will gladly do and hope for more of the same to enliven its placid existence."



## The World's Fair Architects

**T**HE New York World's Fair Committee on Architecture recently announced a Board of Design for the Fair of which Stephen F. Voorhees, F. A. I. A., is Chairman. The other members of The Board are William A. Delano, F. A. I. A.; Robert D. Kohn, F. A. I. A.; Richmond H. Shreve, F. A. I. A.; Paul P. Cret, F. A. I. A.; Eliel Saarinen, A. I. A.; Gilmore D. Clarke, Landscape Architect; Jay N. Downer, Engineer; and Walter Dorwin Teague, Industrial Designer.

The New York World's Fair which will be held in 1939 is now well on its way with \$2,130,000 having been allotted by the State of New York, and New York City about to issue \$7,000,000 in bonds or corporate stock for Fair financing.

The World's Fair Corporation has been granted permission by the State to lease the necessary ground in Flushing where the Fair will be located, and the

State of New York has appropriated \$90,000 to finance a State Exhibit.

The Board of Estimate of New York City has authorized condemnation proceedings which will increase the City's holdings for Fair purposes to 1,000 acres, and has appropriated \$308,000 to enable the Fair Corporation to begin operations immediately.

The functions of The Board of Design will include the preparation of a general plan for the Fair and "the definition of the main theme, limitation of heights and areas for structures, and the general architectural characteristics, including color and lighting."

The Board will have full power in choosing assistants and advisers from among architects, designers, engineers, etc., and will have final authority over construction types, standards and construction methods.

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## The World's Fair—Suggestions Invited

**G**RATIFYING recognition of The Institute is contained in a letter addressed to President Voorhees by Grover A. Whalen, President of the New York World's Fair 1939, Inc.

That letter follows:

June 23, 1936.

DEAR MR. VOORHEES:

During the last few weeks I have frequently announced publicly that we in the New York World's Fair earnestly desire to consider all suggestions for its design, both general and specific. I now want officially to assure you that we are indeed receptive to such suggestions and to request that you pass on this information to your members and to others in your profession.

The Board of Design has had several conferences with the Collaborative Council, of which Mr. Ernest Peixotto is chairman, to whom the same information has been given and from whom we have received valued assistance, for giving widest publicity to this announcement.

Suggestions for the general plan and the general theme of the Fair should be submitted not later than July 14, and it is desirable that such suggestions should be in writing. Of course, the submission of suggestions must be with the understanding that there is no obligation assumed on the part of the Fair Corporation to pay for any of the ideas contained in such suggestions.

Very sincerely,

(S) GROVER A. WHALEN.

In making appropriate acknowledgment, Mr. Voorhees stated to Mr. Whalen that the substance thereof would be made available to members of The Institute in the pages of **THE OCTAGON**.

He pointed out the difficulty of obtaining suggestions for the general plan of the Fair, but expressed the hope that members of The Institute would feel free to offer general suggestions with respect to the development of the program of the World's Fair.

## School Medal Awards

The School Medal of The Institute was established in 1914. It is awarded each year, under the direction of the Committee on Education, for general excellence in architecture throughout the four-year course, to graduates of architectural schools recognized by The Institute.

The winners of the medals are nominated by the various faculties. The medals are usually presented with appropriate ceremonies at commencement exercises, and likewise copies of Henry Adams' book *Mont St. Michel and Chartres*, which are usually awarded to the second and third place students. In

some instances, one copy of the book accompanies the medal, and the other copy is awarded to the second place student.

There is a growing custom of participation by chapters in the presentation ceremonies. In many cases the chapter president, in collaboration with the dean of the architectural department, or the president of the university, takes part as the official representative of The Institute.

The complete series of school medal awards for 1936 as announced by William Emerson, Chairman of the Committee on Education, is as follows:

John A. Valtz.....	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Hollie W. Shupe.....	Ohio State University
Edward Hale Fairbank.....	University of Illinois*	James Lanier Doom.....	Georgia School of Technology
Arthur Richard Williams.....	University of Illinois*	Joseph Frank Balis.....	Pennsylvania State College
Serge P. Petroff.....	Cornell University	Wolf Jessen .....	University of Texas
Logan Stanley Chappell.....	Columbia University	Yoshio Iwanaga .....	University of Washington
Alexander Hamilton Van Keuren..	University of Pennsylvania	Richard Nichols Hoar.....	Alabama Polytechnic Institute
Eustis Dearborn.....	Harvard University	Melville C. Branch, Jr.....	Princeton University
Wendell Ross Spackman.....	University of California	Paul Lucien Gaudreau.....	Catholic University of America
George Victor Davis.....	Washington University	Albert C. Martin.....	University of Southern California
Eugene Joseph Mackey.....	Carnegie Institute of Technology	Leon Clement Hufnagel.....	University of Notre Dame
Paul Bradley Brown.....	University of Michigan	Herman C. Litwack.....	New York University
William James Taylor.....	Syracuse University	Cyrus L. Baxter.....	University of Cincinnati
Robert W. Auvinen.....	University of Minnesota	Joseph Donald Mochon.....	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Curtis Besinger .....	University of Kansas		
Adrian Nathan Daniel, Jr.....	Yale University		
Ivar Viche-Næss, Jr.....	Armour Institute of Technology		
Raymond Edwin Lippenberger.....	Kansas State Agricultural College		

NOTE: \*This year the University of Illinois, under special circumstances, awarded two Medals.

## Private Architects on Public Works—Convention Resolution

THE transcript of the proceedings of the Sixty-eighth Convention made 338 pages, exclusive of all written reports and addresses.

This record was checked and all resolutions adopted by the Convention—except one—were published in the June number of THE OCTAGON.

One resolution was overlooked. It is printed below and is self-explanatory.

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of The American Institute of Architects that the Government's best interests would be served by the employment of private architects on public works."

## With the Chapters

EXCERPTS FROM MINUTES, BULLETINS AND REPORTS

### Chicago.

The Annual Meeting of the Chicago Chapter was held at the Architects Club of Chicago on June 16th. Eighty members and guests were present at the dinner preceding the meeting.

President Hall opened the meeting and called upon the Secretary to brief the minutes of the last regular meeting. Reports of the Secretary, the Treasurer and of various standing committees of the Chapter were called for and received.

The Secretary announced to the members that Mr. Percy E. Thomas, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, would visit Chicago sometime during the summer and stated briefly the Chapter's plans for the reception to be tendered Mr. Thomas.

The annual election of officers was held. The following were elected to serve for the year 1936-1937:

President .....	John O. Merrill
1st Vice-President .....	Denison B. Hull
2nd Vice-President .....	John Howard Raftery
Secretary .....	Carl E. Heimbrodt
Treasurer .....	Elmer C. Roberts

Mr. Hall then turned the meeting over to John O. Merrill, the newly elected President, who announced that his platform for the coming year is to be composed of three main items:

1. The successful handling of the matter of the Glessner House recently bequeathed to the Chapter;
2. A drive for new members; and
3. The energetic continuation of the Public Information Committee.

Charles F. Kelley unveiled the portrait of Thomas Jefferson which was secured through the efforts of Miles Colean. Following the unveiling, Mr. Merrill introduced Thomas E. Tallmadge who spoke on the life and work of Thomas Jefferson as an architect.

It was moved and seconded that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Colean, expressing the thanks of all members of the Chapter for his assistance in securing the portrait.

### Cincinnati.

On May 26th, the members of the Cincinnati Chapter assembled in the Y. M. C. A. Building on the campus of the University of Cincinnati. After a pleasant dinner, the President called the meeting to order and the Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

President Van Arsdall informed the members that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is offering two graduate research scholarships in City Planning. Word was received of the pending revision of the Standard and other Contract Documents and the circulars of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

At the request of the Cincinnati Board of Education, President Van Arsdall asked to be granted permission to furnish this Board, through Mr. Willey of their Building Committee, a Standard Form of Contract Between Architect and Owner. As a result of Mr. Cellarius' suggestion, a motion was made and passed that the present form of contract be forwarded to the Cincinnati Board of Education with the insertion of the fees as 4½% without supervision and 6% with supervision.

The University of Cincinnati's student representative at the Williamsburg Convention, John Findlay, addressed the Chapter giving his experiences and impressions of the Convention. He brought out many interesting sidelights and expressed appreciation for the gift which made his trip possible.

The President then spoke of the pleasure of having as guests for the evening, the graduating class of 1936 of the Department of Architecture of the University. He called upon Professor Ernest Pickering who briefly addressed the students and urged them to look ahead by taking active interest in membership in The Institute. An invitation was issued to the Chapter to visit an exhibit of work of the Department of Architecture which is on display in Swift Hall.

The graduating class was congratulated by President Van Arsdall who then proceeded to the ceremony of presenting the School Medal for excellence in design to Mr. Cyrus W. Baxter. The volumes by Henry Adams "Mont Saint Michel and Char-

tres" were awarded to William Ahlert and John Findlay.

After adjournment, all present visited Swift Hall, where the students and chapter members discussed the work of the various departments which was on exhibit.

#### Georgia.

The disastrous tornado which laid waste to several communities in Georgia—particularly Gainesville—in the late spring, was the subject of a report submitted at a recent Chapter meeting.

The report of J. Warren Armistead, Jr., acting with William J. Sayward and Harold Clark McLaughlin as a committee, stated that the committee, as a result of the inspection trip to Gainesville, and in cooperation with Colonel Summerville of the W. P. A., had made recommendations to the Planning Commission as to changes in the building code and fire zoning regulations.

The Committee also recommended that architects and engineers act jointly and immediately to inaugurate a survey of existing building conditions with a view to the adoption of much needed safety measures, and the appointment of a commissioner or commission to be charged with the enforcement of the new regulations.

The chapter delegates to the Sixty-eighth Convention reported on their impression of the Convention, and a general discussion of prefabrication, air conditioning, stock plans, competitions and housing, closed the meeting.

#### Kentucky.

A synopsis of reports from the Kentucky Chapter is as follows:

As another indication that the profession is slowly but surely making its way back to normalcy, we are happy to record a most encouraging account of recent activities of the Kentucky Chapter.

Before the late depression, it had been the custom of the Chapter to hold, at least once a year, dinner meetings to which were invited all the practicing architects regardless of chapter affiliation.

This delightful custom had been the means of bringing together the architects of Lexington and Louisville, and of the state generally, for a round table discussion of their mutual problems, with the

result that great strides toward the solidification of the profession were being made.

The June meeting of the Chapter, held at the Ashland Golf Club in Lexington, marking the revival of these pleasant get-togethers, was especially well attended and the opening meeting following luncheon was of exceptional interest.

Leon K. Frankel, who had most efficiently made the arrangements for the meeting, made a short address of welcome and then turned the meeting over to Chapter President Julian Oberwarth. With his usual wit, the President immediately set the meeting at ease and established a spirit of humor and informality, before going into the more serious business at hand.

Mr. Oberwarth spoke at length on his impressions of the Sixty-eighth Convention, imparting to those members who were unable to attend, something of the charm of Colonial Williamsburg and the Virginia Plantations.

The Chapter Secretary, Ossian P. Ward, then discussed the business side of the convention, with particular reference to the reports of the New York, Washington, Baltimore and Detroit Chapters, which have made considerable headway toward the solution of the small house problem.

While these reports were generally encouraging, it was admitted that the architects will have a long hard fight on their hands before public recognition in the small house field is accomplished.

Gaarwood M. Grimes, chapter member and former District Officer for Kentucky in charge of the Historical American Buildings Survey, in his report, stated that it was becoming difficult to find competent men for the H. A. B. S. work, which fact is most encouraging, as it indicates that many architectural draftsmen are back in their proper places in the offices of practicing architects.

#### Oklahoma.

Through the courtesy of Joseph Edgar Smay, President of the Chapter, we have an account, both comprehensive and entertaining, of recent chapter activities.

C. Grant LaFarge, a member of The Institute's Committee on Education, was a guest of the Chapter at its May 22nd meeting, which proved to be the occasion for much discussion of the Mentor Sys-



tem and Registration. The discussion resulted in the appointment of a committee of three to draft a resolution indicating chapter support of the Mentor System, which resolution will be submitted to The Institute.

The present situation in the state in regard to registered architects was reported to Mr. LaFarge by Leonard H. Bailey, Secretary of the Chapter, and Secretary-Treasurer of the State Board of Examiners of Architects. Mr. Bailey announced that the Chapter intended going before the Legislature in January for the purpose of advocating the making of certain changes in the Registration Law, which will make it more effective and the restrictions regarding registration more stringent. The President of the Chapter appointed a Legislative Committee which has been instructed to start work immediately on the formulation of plans in support of such proposed changes in the Law.

President Smay has dedicated Chapter activities to a special effort to increase materially the membership in the Chapter. He appointed a new Membership Committee which is to utilize every effort to bring all eligible architects in the State into the Chapter.

After the adjournment of the business meeting, the members made a visit to the campus of the University of Oklahoma to inspect the new construction work now in progress there. When the inspection trip was over, the members and guests gathered at the Faculty Club for a dinner which the University students had arranged in honor of Mr. LaFarge and the Chapter members. The diners, over sixty in number, included, in addition to the Chapter members, the architectural students and members of the faculty.

Mr. Bailey presided as toastmaster and introduced Mr. LaFarge, the principal speaker of the evening, who addressed his remarks chiefly to the students. He pointed out that the practice of architecture invariably requires lean years of apprenticeship in architects' offices where the practical experience so necessary in rounding out their education may be gained. Mr. LaFarge warned students that they must overcome the temptation of higher wages in temporary employment with commercial concerns which would only hinder their advancement in the profession.

After the dinner, the guests adjourned to the

home of President Smay, where refreshments were served. It was the unanimous opinion of everyone present that this meeting, with the dinner, speeches and entertainment following, was one of the most delightful held in recent months.

#### Philadelphia.

The post convention meeting of the Chapter was held at the Architects' Building in Philadelphia on May 18th, with very close to fifty members present.

Reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting was omitted and various committee reports were read and accepted.

A letter from H. Louis Duhring, Co-Chairman of a committee sponsored by the Better Homes Exhibition, announced that it was their intention to hold an exhibition of architecture in the near future. It was moved and seconded from the floor that the Chapter go on record as favoring such an exhibition.

Several new members of the Chapter were inducted by the President and Secretary of the Chapter in accordance with Institute procedure.

George I. Lovatt, Jr., addressed the meeting with regard to the business side of the Williamsburg Convention. Robert R. McGoodwin and Dr. Paul P. Cret spoke at length on the lighter side of the Convention, with particular reference to their impressions of the Williamsburg restorations and the James River plantations.

The meeting adjourned after the Secretary was directed to officially express to Mr. Klaunder the anxiety and regret of the Chapter on learning of his accident and the wishes of all the members for a speedy recovery.

#### Pittsburgh.

The annual meeting of the Pittsburgh Chapter with the Faculty and seniors of the Department of Architecture, Carnegie Institute of Technology, was held on May 19th. Chapter members were invited to be guests of the Department of Architecture at a dinner, which was attended by the graduating class of the Department and was held at Carnegie Inn on Tech's beautiful campus. The class this year was somewhat smaller than usual, there being twenty-three architects and three interior decorators.

After dinner, The Institute's School Medal and other prizes were awarded by Raymond M. Mar-

lier, President of the Chapter, the medal going to Eugene Joseph Mackey for having the greatest promise of excellence in architecture. William Stuart Carlson and Edward George Rigg were each awarded The Institute's prize, a copy of "Mont St. Michel and Chartres," by Henry Adams. In addition, the Alpha Rho Chi Medal was awarded to William Landsberg for showing the greatest ability for leadership and for willing service to his school and department, and for showing good promise of professional merit through his ability and personality.

Mr. Hitchens, Head of the Department of Architecture, then introduced Charles T. Ingham, Secretary of The Institute, who gave a very interesting talk to the students regarding The Institute and its operations.

Harvey Schwab spoke, giving the students a preliminary analysis of the proposed apprenticeship, which the Pittsburgh Chapter intends setting up for the continued training of graduating students.

Further details of this scheme are in process of being worked out and will be submitted to the Chapter for approval at a later date.

William Bergen "Count" Chalfant, one of the potential members of the Chapter, who can usually be relied upon for a very entertaining and humorous talk, seemed to spread himself a little farther than usual and gave the students some very good advice on their future policy. His talk had some serious thought back of it, but it is questionable whether the real philosophic thought penetrated as it should, as everyone expected a more humorous flow of eloquence from the "Count."

No meeting of the graduating class could be quite complete without Henry Hornbostel offering a few words of good sound advice combined with his inimitable good humor.

After Mr. Hornbostel's talk the meeting adjourned, with everyone feeling that it had been most successful and everyone wishing the students good luck in the practice of their chosen profession.

### Members Elected—April 5, 1936 to June 15, 1936

<i>Alabama Chapter</i>	- - - - -	HENDERSON L. HOLMAN, JR.
<i>Albany Chapter</i>	- - - - -	HAROLD F. ANDREWS
<i>Boston Chapter</i>	- - - - -	WILLIAM HERBERT JONES, LEWIS MORSE LAWRENCE
<i>Brooklyn Chapter</i>	- - - - -	CHARLES JAMES DEPERI
<i>Buffalo Chapter</i>	- - - - -	R. MAXWELL JAMES
<i>Central Illinois Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ARTHUR F. DEAM
<i>Cincinnati Chapter</i>	- - - - -	GEORGE FREDERIC ROTH, JR., CARL SCHMUELLING
<i>Cleveland Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ROBERT WALLACE DICKERSON, GEORGE HUNT INGRAHAM
<i>Connecticut Chapter</i>	- - - - -	PASQUALE MARIO TORRACA, EDWARD GREGORIE WALLACE
<i>Minnesota Chapter</i>	- - - - -	EDWIN W. KRAFFT
<i>Nebraska Chapter</i>	- - - - -	CECIL C. COURSEY
<i>Northern California Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ANDREW T. HASS
<i>Oregon Chapter</i>	- - - - -	HERBERT A. ANGELL, JOSEPH W. HEILER, ROSCOE DELUER HEMENWAY, THAYNE J. LOGAN
<i>Philadelphia Chapter</i>	- - - - -	CLYDE S. ADAMS, LOUIS E. McALLISTER
<i>San Diego Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ROBERT R. CURTIS, KENNETH MESSENGER, GEORGE A. PALLISER, RALPH F. SWEARINGEN
<i>South Carolina Chapter</i>	- - - - -	IRVING CORYELL
<i>South Texas Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JAMES EDWARD MONROE, JR.
<i>Virginia Chapter</i>	- - - - -	FORREST WINFIELD COILE, BASIL A. PIPINO, A. BYRON WILLIAMS
<i>Washington, D. C. Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JAMES THOMAS CANIZARO
<i>Washington State Chapter</i>	- - - - -	THOMAS LOUIS HANSEN
<i>Wisconsin Chapter</i>	- - - - -	EDGAR H. BERNERS

## Chapters and Officers

PRESIDENTS (\*) AND SECRETARIES (†) LISTED AS OF JUNE 30, 1936

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- GRAND RAPIDS—\*Harry L. Mead, 901 Michigan Trust Bldg., Grand Rapids, Mich.; †Miss Marion F. Blood, 609 Wealthy St., S. E., Grand Rapids, Mich.
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- SAN DIEGO—\*Frank L. Hope, Jr., Bank of America Bldg., San Diego, Calif.; †Sam W. Hamill, Bank of America Bldg., San Diego, Calif.
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- SCRANTON-WILKES-BARRE—\*Searie H. Von Storch, Waverly, Pa.; †Arthur F. Coon, Union Bank Bldg., Scranton, Pa.
- SOUTH CAROLINA—\*Samuel Lapham, 42 Broad St., Charleston, S. C.; †J. Whitney Cunningham, 2 Pierson Bldg., Sumter, S. C.
- SOUTH GEORGIA—\*Henrik Wallin, 405 East Bay St., Savannah, Ga.; †Percy Sugden, 125 East 49th St., Savannah, Ga.
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