

THE  
OCTAGON

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*A Journal of The American Institute of Architects*

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE STANDARD DOCUMENTS

**T**HE Board of Directors of The Institute has approved certain revisions of the Standard Documents of The Institute and the issuance of a Fifth Edition.

The revisions are not extensive and largely relate to the text of the General Conditions, Articles 5, 12, 15, 18, 29, 34, 36, 37, 39, and 40.

The Board has also approved, and authorized the distribution of "A Circular of Information Concerning the Fifth Edition of the Standard Documents."

This Circular of Information includes a Report on Fire Insurance, the Full Cover Builders' Risk Fire Insurance Policy, the Standard Form of Arbitration Procedure, and a reprint of the Review of the Documents, originally issued in 1928.

The Board, in approving the new Fifth Edition of the Standard Documents, and the Circular of Information, expressed its appreciation to William Stanley Parker, Chairman of The Institute's Committee on Construction Industry Relations. Mr. Parker, as principal author of the Circular of Information, and as the collaborator in preparing the revisions which are incorporated in the Fifth Edition, has rendered a comprehensive and valuable service to the public, the construction industry, and the architectural profession.

In order that every member of The Institute may have up-to-date information on contract procedure, and the related matters involved, The Institute is sending the Circular and a complete set of the documents comprising the Fifth Edition, to every member. This mailing will be from The Octagon, during the month of February.

Meanwhile, the two hundred and ten dealers in architects' supplies, who act as agents for the distribution of the documents, have been fully advised—as above.

Their orders are now being filled with the Fifth Edition. Some of them may not be in stock with the Fifth Edition for several weeks, or more. Those architects who desire the revised forms and do not find them on sale locally should send their orders direct to The Octagon.

However, the revisions are not so extensive as to invalidate or detract from the value of the forms comprising the Fourth Edition, which can be depended upon as satisfactory contract documents, as heretofore.

Every member of The Institute should preserve The Circular, and the sample Fifth Edition, when received. It is recommended that he adopt and use the documents as standard practice in his office, thereby bringing his contract procedure up to date.

CHARLES T. INGHAM,  
*Secretary*

# THE OCTAGON

*A Journal of The American Institute of Architects*

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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## The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius, or Art for Art's Sake

CO-WORKERS ARE WE ALL, TOWARD ONE RESULT. (BOOK VI, §42)

THE Twenty-fifth Convention of The American Institute of Architects was held in Boston, October 28th, 29th and 30th, 1891. In all, three Conventions have been held in Boston. The 5th, in November 1871, the 11th, in October 1877, and the 25th, as noted.

Reading between the lines of the minutes of the Boston Society of Architects and the daily papers of that date, we gather the affair was a notable one. To Wm. D. Austin, historiographer, who bears the same relation to the Society on the spear-side as Clio does to the Aganappides on the distaff-side, we are indebted for the following account. His researches in the dust-proof vaults of the impeccable Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company have been long and arduous. His exhumations have been literally appalling (to him), and as he handed us the extracts he appeared somewhat agitated. "Wouldn't it burn you up?" he said. "Why, they were talking about and doing the same old things then as now. Just listen to this: 'A paper on "Architecture of the U. S. Government," by J. H. Windrim, ex-supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, was read and gave rise to the appointment of the following Committee, who were to report to today's meeting (Oct. 29, 1891), on the subject of the method of preparing designs for National buildings: Messrs. Van Brunt, Blom, Windrim, and Stone.' The following day: 'A discussion was had on Mr. Windrim's paper, "Architecture and the U. S. Government", which was read yesterday.' It gives me a feeling of sadness, as George Ade said of an oil painting of the Little Miami River."

At the February 6th, 1891 meeting of the Society, President E. C. Cabot in the Chair, it was voted, upon motion of Mr. Everett, that a committee be appointed by the Chair to take charge of and arrange for the reception of The American Institute of Architects at the time of their next annual meeting, which is to be held in Boston. On May 8th, 1891, the "Committee of Arrangements" recommended an appropriation of \$1000.00 for the entertainment of The Institute at its forthcoming Convention. The appropriation was voted the committee, which consisted of E. C. Cabot, Chas. A. Cummings, R. S. Peabody, W. G. Preston, and H. Langford Warren. On June 23rd, 1891, it was proposed to hold an Architectural Exhibition at the time of the Convention, and the Chair appointed a committee "to take into consideration the question \* \* \* and to confer with the Architectural Club on the subject to see if it will cooperate; that having considered the matter they report to the Executive Committee, who will authorize them to proceed or abandon the project as the facts seem to warrant; that the Society, in the event of holding an exhibition, guarantees the expenses attending it to the extent of \$1000.00. Unanimously voted."

The exhibition committee, Messrs, John A. Fox, A. W. Longfellow, Jr., E. M. Wheelwright, C. H. Blackall, A. G. Everett, and R. C. Sturgis, produced a distinguished exhibition. It was hung in the New Public Library (the Convention meetings were held in Bates Hall, recently finished but not occupied for Library purposes) and, according to reports current at the time, attracted much

"favourable comment."

On October 2nd, 1891, the Committee on Arrangements asked for an additional appropriation of \$200.00, which was granted and apparently expended with foresight and circumspection, for a balance of \$48.40 was returned to the coffers of the Society.

The following, from the Secretary's Journal is a model of brevity as a report of Convention Proceedings:

"October 28th, 29th, and 30th. The American Institute of Architects held its twenty-fifth annual convention in Boston and the Society in conjunction with the Architectural Club held an Architectural Exhibition in the hall of the new Public Library from October 28th to November 4th inclusive. The Society entertained The Institute at a dinner in the evening of October 29th. Mr. Hunt, Mr. Adler, Mr. Walter Crane, Prof. Norton, Gen. Walker, Mr. Ed. Atkinson, and Mr. Sayward, were among the speakers."

The accounts of the Convention in the "American Architect and Buildings News" and in the daily newsprints are much fuller, and from them we glean further details. "The Thorndike," generous hostelry of sainted (St. Julian l'Hospitalier) memory, was the favored rendezvous of Architects *ab ovo*. What a sight for sore eyes was the long bar laden with snacks and gudgeons\*! For twenty years or more the literati and the illuminati of the Hub foregathered there in droves from 5 to 7 of an evening. Nobody ever considered passing by without stopping, at least, just for a quick one. The Thorndike undoubtedly got most of the \$1151.60 so gravely reported in the minutes of the annual meeting of the Society on January 8th, 1892.

The sessions of the Convention were called to order by President R. M. Hunt of Chicago, (*sic*) who gave an interesting account of the history, objects, and successes of The Institute. The Board's report outlined the accomplishments of the past year, and a paper by Frederick Bauman of Chicago was read by the Chairman on "The Sanitary Protection of Residences." This was enough (God knows) for one day and the members adjourned till evening when: "The Delegates were

\* - gudgeons, 2. (f, OF gujon, perch, = prec.)

tendered a Reception by the Master Builders' Association." (Wonder what *that* was like! Could it have been comparable to the Evening Receptions of The Producers' Council? What we'd like to know is— Who produced the best party, the Producers or the Master Builders? The Good Book translates *ἀρχιτέκτων*, "Masterbuilder", you know).

The headlines in the Boston Daily Advertiser (not to be confused with the present tabloid of the same name) read:

#### "ARCHITECTS DISCUSS FINE POINTS"

Papers by Prof. Barr Ferree of the University of Pennsylvania on "Comparative Architecture", and by Prof. C. H. Moore of Harvard University on "The Antecedents of Gothic Architecture", were listened to.

Another paper on "Architectural Education" was submitted by the Cleveland Chapter, read by Mr. Iseman, was heard and accepted. In the afternoon the Delegates were guests of the City of Boston, and as such made a trip down the harbor to Deer and Rainsford Islands on the A. Putnam Bradlee. In the evening the Boston Society was the host at a banquet at the Thorndike, instead of in Bates Hall as was originally intended. "Around tables laden with good cheer," says the Advertiser, "some 250 guests did justice to the excellent repast spread before them. Cigars were then lighted and remarks were made by officers of The Institute and receiving associations and by others." The following morning a final session was held for unfinished business—the nature of this not reported—and in the afternoon "The members of the Convention took carriages for a ride in the suburbs."

The October 31st issue of the American Architect and Building News prints a more lengthy account of the Convention, giving President Hunt's address in full, and the discussion on Mr. Windrim's report. It also prints in full two or three of the papers that were "listened to." The editor's critical comment and somewhat cynical, not to say satirical, animadversions are crisp and pithy, as for instance, those referring to the president's address and the non-activities of important committees. William Rotch Ware thundered for many years from his editorial sanctum in Van Rensselaer Place and loved to



scold his confreres, who took it meekly on the chin. The American Architect and Building News in his day was a fine, scholarly, upstanding professional journal, a little dull and old-fogy perhaps, according to present-day notions. Of the highest ethical standards, its influence on the profession was profound at a time when sentient councils were most needed.

Looking back a half-century, one can readily imagine from reading these short and simple annals, that a pleasant, social, and a thoroughly enjoyable jolly time was had by all, ending, very likely, with a garden party, gracious conversation, Strasbourg patés, York Ham, Fishouse Punch, and Moët and Chandon at Bob Peabody's.

H. G. R.

## The Upstart Crow

BY ABRAM GARFIELD, F. A. I. A.

ROBERT GREENE, the playwright, was coming towards the end of his days, and it is a matter of some slight interest that he was an old man at the age of thirty-five. The reasons for his being an old man at thirty-five were the same reasons which governed the aging of Thomas Nash, Christopher Marlowe and George Peele, but of that no more need be said. The story which has given to Robert Greene a modicum of immortality which might not have been earned from his plays, was his well-known farewell and note of warning to these three fellow professionals which ran somewhat as follows:

"Yes, trust them not (the players): for there is an upstart Crow, beautiful with our feathers, that with his Tiger's heart wrapt in a player's hide, supposes he is as well able to bombast out a blank verse as the best of you: and being an absolute Johannes factotum, is in his own conceit the only Shakescene in the country."

Now this is a very curious thing if you will consider it for a moment. Greene and his associates were among the professional University trained playwrights of that day. Their function was to write plays for others to act. The actors were a group apart held in small regard by the community at large as well as by this somewhat limited group of acknowledged playwrights. This group had been taught the traditions, the machinery, the mannerisms of the stage; a situation must lead to its usual consequence; a difficulty or dilemma is avoided by such and such an accepted convention. The blank verse which was the habit of the day had a given number of accents or beats to the line and the handling of this verse

was according to rules to a large extent invariable. This, of course, is an insufficient characterization but for our purpose it will do.

Now why did Robert Greene feel alarm of such an urgent nature that he was led to warn his three cronies against the upstart Crow? This paper is not intended as an essay upon a well-known subject, and it is enough to accept the verdict of history that William Shakespeare, the common actor, had by the time he was twenty-five or six years old written plays which were so acceptable that the older, regular writers were feeling the pinch of comparison. It was too late for Greene to be alarmed for himself, but he could yet be indignant, and "Johannes factotum,"—Jack of all trades—was a hardly veiled insult. And even this Parthian arrow falls short because it became evident so soon that the derogatory expression, factotum, was accurately descriptive, and William Shakespeare could, consummately, do all. He could take his place upon the stage and he could write the lines for his own group of actors and direct them in such a manner that the audience of his day was exactly suited.

I shall not labor this introduction further. Is there not a comparison, at least an analogy, for our consideration? Greene was offended and sore because he saw someone untrained in the rubrics of his particular art receiving a recognition which he believed belonged only to those trained to the niceties of the drama.

It is not necessary to conclude, because William Shakespeare, who began as an actor without training as a playwright and could at the same time write good plays, that a builder who has not been

trained as an architect can therefore make good and sufficient plans. To put it in another way: the fact that Shakespeare, without the traditional training, became a competent playwright does not indicate that a builder or contractor is likely to become a good architect.

Let us not be absurd about this. There is something to be said and to be thought about. In the first place, genius is beyond placing within the limits of reason, and conclusions may not always be reached for others by observing the ways and means of genius. Furthermore, I have enough confidence in the generosity of our profession to know that it will accept genius if it shall appear on our horizon, without regard to its scholastic beginnings or other backgrounds.

It is imaginable that some young man will start as a stone mason, or worker in metals, or as a carpenter. He is a craftsman. His intelligence and the capacity of his brain to absorb are such that he learns and comprehends and remembers everything that comes to his attention. The work of all other building trades takes place before his eyes, and such eyes as his will grasp, not only the essentials, but the details of everything that is done. He will do more than this. His mind is such that by some alchemy of spirit he becomes in accord with everyone having to do with the building of buildings, with the owner, the building committee, the inspection agencies, those who supply materials, the laborers, and, which is of great importance, the casually observing public. Does this seem fanciful to you?

It is improbable but not impossible. Can you think of William Shakespeare without acknowledging all of these qualities and abilities? It may happen again. Such a young man can do anything that he wishes to do. He sees his work from its own standpoint and he comprehends it from the standpoint of those who are to use it. His mind leaps to all parts of the building and to the ways of doing things which each of its varying occupants wholly understands, until finally he concludes to "write his own play" for his fellow workmen.

Such a young man is not one of us. We do not believe that he exists, but he may have been born, and, if he has, one day he will do with architecture something which we are not doing. It may be

that history will repeat itself, and that this young man will not trouble himself and the world with what is called something new, originality. I believe he will accept old and much used forms. He will know that there are very few plans, just as there are very few plots and dramatic situations, and also very few funny stories, but he will dress them with the materials which are here for all of us to use in such a way that each material and each arrangement will express the full and proper essence of its beauty.

This is perhaps a crude comparison, a too rough manner of expressing what William Shakespeare did with the dramatic art. I wonder, nevertheless, if there is not something here to think about.

We have been trained to make plans and to illustrate them by drawings of what these plans will look like when built. Has it occurred to us that the very ability to draw allows us to make a somewhat easy, possibly unjustified impression upon that immense majority of the public which has not practiced itself in this almost rudimentary attainment?

It has been said that language was given us to aid in the concealment of our thoughts. Is it possible that illustration is a method of concealing the proper use of materials? If there is an element of truth in this last, it is somewhat discouraging and rather dreadful, just as the aphorism about language is rather dreadful.

I appreciate that I am making use of over-statement, but in a short paper it is perhaps admissible. Is it not true that our training gives most of its attention to that not too difficult and amusing trick of illustration? Is that the reason why students of architecture work later and are more engrossed in their work than other students? Is it because they are learning a certain sleight of hand to mystify the public? If there is any truth in this, we who are older may be doing much the same thing and may be taking too seriously that part of our work to which we give our best consideration. This of course is no new thought. We have all been warned against paper architecture. The better teachers have always urged that the plan is determined by its intended use, but my question is, how far does the teacher comprehend his own words, and to what extent have we learned the lesson? How many of us, when we are absorbed in that part

of our work which has to do with the outside appearance of our building, are primarily conscious of the proposed material? Do we not, even as we have gained greater experience, have still to bring ourselves up short, over and over again, so as not to be led astray by the paper presentation which we have evolved? The designer who is free from this blindness, who is not tempted by this manual dexterity, may almost be said to have arrived.

There is more to it all than this, too much for a short paper. There is such great importance in this almost universal and acknowledged weakness in our profession, that I have been led to make the guess that the genius, when he comes, will have started as a craftsman.

It has been said that William Shakespeare was primarily a poet—one who dealt in the abstraction of ideas just as we do so often. It is possible, nevertheless, to say that his poetry, as such, was written during a period when the plague forbade the presentation of plays in London and, as soon as the stage was no longer forbidden, he returned to his trade of actor. And the actor's trade is to convey these abstract ideas to his audience, to present them as the reality of life.

Now, for another thing, consider the London audience of three hundred years ago. It was not an Athenian group. Active minded, yes, but made up of rough young blades, boisterous and quarrelsome first of all, and also the "Groundlings" of the pit, an unpromising field in which to sew the seeds of gentle plants. This audience, this public, was often a distress to the playwrights who lamented the limitations placed by it upon their genius. Shakespeare, perhaps alone, understood them. He often threw their ignorance directly into their faces yet smiled at them in a comprehending way and they loved it. He gave them what they wanted. He knew what they liked, and if the beauty of his lines went over many heads, the idea went home

and stuck. He was an actor and knew the thing that counted.

Do we, the architects of today, complain that our public lacks comprehension, or do we search primarily to answer its wishes, allowing the sense of beauty which we believe is in us to come out as a by-product? Complaints are often an evidence of weakness. When we charge the world which surrounds us with lack of comprehension, we show that we are afraid of it. If we are afraid it is because we are not a part of it, and if this is so there is something wrong with ourselves, not with our audience. Is it possible that we offer them figures of speech, with the essential point brought out by the use of an unaccustomed or even foreign word, when a good old platitude expressed to the best of our ability would be better understood?

This is not a plea for traditional architecture which is particularly liable to depend upon an unusual or foreign word for its understanding. It is a plea for architecture; that we should know better than we do know the materials which we use because, until we do know them truly and fully, we are not master builders.

There is this to say for the box-like silhouettes of today. The necessity for beauty will soon demand that the rectangle, without relief or shadow, shall achieve elegance by perfecting the use of the chosen material, whatever it may be. This requires knowledge. This dissertation is also a plea that we shall understand better than we do the wishes of those for whom we build. If we do not, they will not understand us. This very expression is a platitude, yes, but well worth working over again.

When the upstart Crow—the craftsman who does not have to go to the Bureau of Standards to determine the difference between a two-by-four stud and a brick—is discovered in our midst, let us at least not exhibit publicly our fear as did Robert Greene, towards the end of his days.

## Appointments—Commission of Fine Arts

THE Commission of Fine Arts announces the following appointments for four-year terms:

William F. Lamb, Architect, of New York. Mr. Lamb is a Fellow of The Institute and a member of the firm of Shreve, Lamb and Harmon.

Paul Manship, Sculptor, of New York. Mr. Manship received the Fine Arts Medal of The Institute in 1921.

Eugene Savage, Painter, of Ossining, New York. Mr. Savage was reappointed for a second term.

## International Congress of Architects

**T**HE International Congress of Architects will be held in Paris, during the week of July 17th, 1937. It will be one of many similar professional meetings held in connection with the Exposition des Arts et Techniques on the grounds of the Exposition and in the halls provided for such purpose.

Our fellow Architects in France have requested their Government to invite all countries to send delegates to the Congress. Consequently all who attend are in a sense the guests of the French Government, which will offer official entertainments and extend other courtesies.

During the week of the Congress its business sessions will be so organized as to allow ample time to the delegates for seeing the Exposition, and for taking part in all the entertainments and excursions that will be organized for the Congress by the French Architectural Societies who will be, after the Government, the hosts of the occasion.

This Congress, while similar to a meeting of an association of Architects everywhere, differs in that the delegates to the Congress, as representatives of their several countries, have an official standing, and in fact, in our case, are appointed by the Federal Government. On returning to this country the Chairman of the delegation is required to make a report to the State Department.

The delegates from the several countries are thrown together informally and have every opportunity to try out their knowledge of foreign languages, and to give their confreres an opportunity to do the same. Ideas are exchanged and outlooks are broadened in interesting surroundings and under delightful, friendly auspices.

Our contribution can be attendance, supplemented by the writing of papers on the "themes" that have been established for discussion at the sessions of the Congress. Otherwise, our delegates have no duties. They can go, see, observe and enjoy this Congress in Paris, preparatory to acting as hosts to the Congress that it is proposed to hold at the New York World's Fair in 1939.

It has been estimated that Four Hundred Dollars (\$400) will cover the cost of the trip, New

York to New York, in tourist class on the ships and giving thirteen days in Paris. An additional \$150 to \$200 will cover Cabin Class on the ships and twenty-five days in Paris. These figures are based on making a party of members and their families, of at least twenty-five. Members planning to go should decide promptly.

### THE THEMES

(Subjects for discussion at the business sessions)

- I—Professional—Circumstances under which Architects and Contractors may fully collaborate.
- II—Technical—Influence of the use of local materials upon the form, the economy and the appearance of structures.
- III—Educational (a)—Fundamental Training: The degree of general culture necessary in order to undertake the study of architecture.  
(b) Post-Graduate Education, Probation: Various technical studies required for fitness to practice the profession of architecture.
- IV—City Planning—Sanitation of old towns, and Rehabilitation of urban districts.
  - (A)—Studied at the Congress in Rome, September 1935: "The Evolution of the Profession."
  - (B)—Referendum—"Existing legislation concerning the responsibility of the architect to individual clients and to the State."

As the opinion of the profession in the United States is of great interest to our foreign confreres, all are urged to write papers, long or short, on one or all of these subjects. To be sure that papers receive consideration by the Congress they should be delivered to the Chairman not later than April 1st.

Further information concerning all the above may be had by corresponding with The Secretary of The Institute at The Octagon, or with Geo. Oakley Totten, Jr., Secretary, American Section, C. P. I. A., 2633 16th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS  
C. C. ZANTZINGER, *Chairman*  
S. F. VOORHEES, F. V. MURPHY, GEO. OAKLEY TOTTON, JR.



## The Delano and Aldrich Scholarship

By C. C. ZANTZINGER, F. A. I. A.,

CHAIRMAN OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION.

THE Delano and Aldrich Scholarship is awarded annually to a French citizen, whether architect or student of architecture, for travel and study in this country. It was established in 1928 by William Adams Delano and Chester Holmes Aldrich, the members of the well-known firm of New York City. They turned over to The Institute the sum of thirty thousand dollars, and instructed that the income thereof should be used in perpetuity in bringing French students of architecture to this country. Their far-sighted generosity in thus making it possible for a young Frenchman to come to this country and familiarize himself with our methods of construction and practice, and see results, has borne fruit through the years.

It should be recalled that prior to the establishment of this Scholarship there had been for three years a French Travelling Fellowship which was established by Julian Clarence Levi and financed by him for three years at \$1,500 a year. These Fellowships were awarded to the following three men: Marcel Gogois, Maurice Chauchon, and Marcel Chappey.

The Board of Directors of The Institute then turned over the administration of the Delano and Aldrich Scholarship to the Committee on Education, who appointed a Committee of Selection in France charged with making the actual award of the Scholarship. It was deemed wise not to make the award by competition, but rather to select men on their professional attainment and character. Once the scholar has arrived in this country, he proceeds under the guidance of the Committee on Education. The Committee of Selection in Paris have considerably varied the type of man whom they have sent out. We have had the less mature and very talented, and also the man in his early practice, likewise very talented. It has been possible for several of the holders to add from their own resources to the Scholarship Fund and this has enabled them to travel as far as the Pacific Coast, or again, in recent years, several of the men have been married, and have travelled with

their wives either by motor or by motorbus, going as far as their funds permitted.

The members of our Committee have enjoyed their contacts with these young and enthusiastic fellow-practitioners from a foreign land. We have become convinced of the great benefits accruing to them and also perhaps, judging from ourselves, of the benefits that may accrue to some of us in this country who are so fortunate as to see these young men and discuss our common problems with them.

We have been particularly struck with the wisdom of the Committee of Selection in their choice of men in Paris. They have certainly sent out men of high qualifications. We have been impressed with the open-minded interest of these young men in all that they see in this country. We are convinced that they go home carrying a message about America to France that must be in the long run a very real contribution to a better understanding between the two countries. Of course this influence is limited, and yet let us point out that the scholars selected, being men of promise, will carry to their fellow-citizens throughout their lives the message of what they have learned of the United States, its people, its ideals and its art. They are a splendid lot, as we have known them. They go home to become an influence for friendly relations and better understanding between our countries, an influence which may be entirely out of proportion with the number of scholars who, under the terms of the Foundation, may receive its benefits.

Each holder of the Scholarship completes his formal obligations by preparing and presenting a report of his American travels. This report finds its way eventually into the files of the Committee on Education, but frequently serves the more useful purpose of forming the basis of a lecture which is given before certain of the architectural societies in France, generally the Société des Architectes Diplômés. Certain ones of the scholars have also written articles for the architectural press in France.

For the completeness of this article, it is desir-

able to note the names of the scholars up to the present time. These are as follows:

Pierre Mathé, Robert Camelot, Jean Meunier, J. L. Walbert, Raimond Lopez, Guy S. Pison, and Louis Arretche.

To our fellow-members, Delano and Aldrich, we all of us, as architects and citizens of the United States, owe a debt of gratitude for what they have done in establishing this Scholarship. Those of us who have been so fortunate as to be associated with the running of the Scholarship have been repaid many times over for our trouble in the pleasure we have had in seeing these young Frenchmen so enthusiastically absorbing what to all of us is but our everyday life.

We have but one regret which is that, due to the recent conditions of business generally in this country, it has proven impossible to find temporary employment in offices throughout the country. We hope that another year, with better times, it may be possible for these young men to enter offices in different cities. They will thus be able more completely to learn and understand what we are about in Architecture in this country and be-

sides they will be able, by a longer stay on this side of the water, to get to know us better.

On our part we should not forget that to these young men America is still the land of opportunity, while in Europe much of the essential in great public works and buildings has already been accomplished. These men fully realize that we still must build tremendously; that here great projects must be undertaken. With this in mind, these scholars would gladly spend a longer time with us for the better understanding of our approach to our great problems..

It is the belief of the Committee on Education that the membership of The Institute will be interested in this account of the accomplishment under the Scholarship and that they will like in future years to cooperate in making it of ever-increasing value to the holders. To this end, it is planned in the future to announce the awards in THE OCTAGON and also to print the proposed itinerary of the scholars so that the members of The Institute may get in touch with the Committee on Education and help the wayfarers on their journey or interest themselves in their welfare during their stays in particular cities.

## Small House Planning Conferences

BY MILES COLEAN, A. I. A., TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, F. H. A.

THE architectural profession will be interested to learn of the small house planning conferences now being held in various cities throughout the United States by the Federal Housing Administration.

The purpose of these conferences is to demonstrate to the building industry how to provide adequate, well-planned and attractively designed small houses at prices which the great mass of the low income groups can afford to pay. Until recently the architects and home builders have neglected to give this problem the serious, intelligent thought it deserves, with the result that blighted areas have steadily increased in every city to the detriment of real estate values.

The conferences are being conducted by Howard Leland Smith, a member of The American Institute of Architects, and Chief Architect of the Technical

Division of the Federal Housing Administration at Washington, D. C.

By means of charts, motion pictures and sketches, the audiences are shown what is being done in the way of building small houses in various parts of the country; how attractive communities are being developed to insure the greatest resistance to blight; what factors constitute livability and privacy in a property; what principles in planning must be followed to construct small houses economically; how to avoid monotony in group housing by varying the exterior design when the same unit plan is used repeatedly; and what methods of construction tend to insure durability.

Many other phases of building small houses are also discussed and illustrated, among which are efficiency in production, breakdown costs, and selling methods.

In these conferences much stress is laid on the need for the architect's services, not only for the purpose of obtaining good plans but also to provide the necessary supervision during construction to insure compliance with all requirements in the plans and specifications. Through education and specialized training the architect is best fitted to solve the many difficult problems presented in this small house field.

The conferences already held have proved that builders will seek the services of architects for small houses when the value of their services is clearly demonstrated. All inquiries made at the conferences regarding architectural services are re-

ferred to the local chapters of The Institute so that they may recommend such members as they think best qualified to handle the particular problem.

The Federal Housing Administration is desirous of having the sponsorship and cooperation of all Institute chapters wherever these conferences are held. It is seldom that the architectural profession is afforded such an opportunity of having the value of its services brought so forcibly to the attention of the building industry. It is hoped that every member of The Institute will support this worthy program and that the local chapters will not only sponsor but also take an active part in these conferences.

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## Progress in Housing

THE date on which the Overcrowding Standard of the Housing Act, 1935, came into operation in the areas of 1,282 local authorities in England and Wales was 1 January 1937. At various dates in the course of this year the standard will be enforced in almost all the remaining local authority areas. By the close of the year over 96 per cent of all the authorities in the country will have the overcrowding provisions in operation. The few areas not yet included in any order are naturally those in which the problem is most serious. The Government have determined that the orders shall be taken seriously and enforced wherever they apply. The delay in enforcing the Act in certain areas is solely and wisely due to a realisation that to present a local authority with an order with which, by force of circumstances, it cannot comply would only result in the whole provision being brought into ridicule. It is infinitely better to accept the inevitable delays in a realist manner, and to get results according to plan, than to pretend to a comprehensive fulfilment which is in fact impossible. In the past there have been some justifiable complaints that the standard enforced by the Act was too low, chiefly because it takes into account living rooms as sleeping accommodation, but it must be realised that any higher standard would, as things are, take even longer to enforce. The demand for a higher standard must

not be forgotten. As soon as conditions have improved sufficiently to allow higher standards to be applied realistically new Acts must be passed. In housing we are too far behindhand to contemplate resting on our laurels for one moment.

A recent housing return by the Ministry of Health states that during the year ended 30 September 339,538 houses were completed. This is a record figure, exceeding the previous best by 10,000. Of this figure about 65,000 were built by local authorities and 274,348 by private enterprise without State aid. There were just over 1,000 unsubsidised local authority houses and just over 300 subsidised private enterprise houses. The number of houses built by the local authorities in the second half of the year under review exceeded that built in the first half by about 9,000, whereas eighteen thousand fewer private enterprise houses were built in the second half than in the first. During the year ended 30 September 1936, 99,206 private enterprise houses of a rateable value not exceeding £13 (£20 in Greater London) were built for sale, and 36,686 of this value were built to let. There were 141,204 private enterprise houses of a rateable value exceeding £13 but not exceeding £26 (£21 to £35 in Greater London) built for sale and 29,862 built to let.

These results are encouraging. Unhappily we must realise that another story underlies these

amazing figures. No architect needs telling how deplorable is the average standard of private enterprise building throughout the length and breadth of the country. It is worth remembering that each house built, however ugly, jerry-built, vulgar and pretentious it may be, still counts as *one* in these statistics. If a qualitative assessment could be made,

not merely of æsthetic qualities but of the whole gamut of social amenities, 200,000 perhaps of these speculatively built houses would appear on the debit rather than the credit side.

(Reprinted by courtesy of the Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects, issue of January 9.)

## New York City's New Method of Selection for Architectural Appointments

BY ELECTUS D. LITCHFIELD, A. I. A.

**N**EW YORK CITY has taken a very interesting step with regard to its architectural appointments for municipal work.

An investigation made something more than two years ago, and shortly after the election of Mayor LaGuardia, showed that under past administrations appointments had been largely controlled by political considerations, and repeated commissions had been awarded to those who stood close to the reigning machine. In one or two cases the amount of architectural commissions ran into millions of dollars.

On January 1, 1935, the situation was definitely called to the Mayor's attention by the Municipal Art Society of New York. Mayor LaGuardia was most interested and cooperative. He authorized calling together the Presidents of all the architectural societies of New York City, together with the President of the Fine Arts Federation, in the endeavor to prepare recommendations which, if adopted, would result in the appointments being based not on political considerations, but on merit. After extended conferences and discussion a procedure was set up which received the approval of the Mayor.

This provided:

*First.* For the selection of a Jury of Three (with one alternate) by the Committee consisting of the Presidents of the eight societies referred to above.

*Second.* The transmission by the Civil Service Commission of the City of New York, to every registered architect, of a questionnaire prepared by the Committee of Eight in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission.

*Third.* The submission of the answers to this questionnaire to the Jury, named as above, and for the selection by them of the names of the fifty architects, or firms of architects, which in their judgment are best qualified for municipal appointment during the ensuing year.

This plan was put in operation last year, and in December the Mayor approved the nomination of the new Jury who will make the selection of the list of those especially qualified for the year 1937.

A few slight changes have been made from the original set-up. It was originally arranged that those serving as members of the Jury, or alternates, were ineligible for inclusion in the current list. The City was fortunate last year in finding such men as I. N. Phelps Stokes, Kenneth Murchison and Ralph Walker who accepted nomination to the Jury notwithstanding the fact that it deprived their firms of municipal appointments during the year. In order that there might be no difficulty of obtaining jurors of the very highest standing each year, the regulation has been changed so as to provide that the names of the Jury will automatically appear in the list of eligibles for the current year.

The list was originally limited to fifty. This year a limit of sixty has been set. It has been intended that this list should be an honor list and should include the top men of the profession. For this reason I personally have felt that it would have been more satisfactory to have limited the list to twenty, or possibly thirty at the outside; but it has seemed, at the start at least, necessary to name a larger number.

The new Charter adopted at the recent election



by the City of New York provides that this eligible list must be named each year, on, or before, the fifteenth of January, and that appointments must be made from this list. The Charter does not detail the machinery by which the list is determined, but it is hoped that future Mayors will continue the practice developed by Mayor LaGuardia, and turn to the heads of the Fine Arts Federation, the Municipal Art Society, the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, the New York Society of Architects, the Brooklyn Society

of Architects, the Bronx Society of Architects and the Staten Island Society of Architects, constituting the original Committee of Eight for nomination of a Jury of Selection.

Does not this procedure in New York offer a suggestion to other cities and the Federal Government? The day must come when the Treasury Department or a new Department of Public Works will again employ architects in private practice. In that day could not a similar jury be of value to the Government and to the profession?

## Must We Have Trailers for Houses?

BY FREDERICK L. ACKERMAN, F. A. I. A.

IT HAS come about that whenever the subject of Housing is discussed, particularly when it is proposed that the Government should take a hand in the matter, reference is made to the automobile industry. The latter is held up as a shining example of perfect conduct in the industrial field, while the construction industry is referred to as the "Peck's Bad Boy" of the whole industrial system.

According to Mr. Cameron, of the Ford Sunday Evening Hour, the price per pound of automobiles has been falling through the years. Those of us who are connected with the building of houses know very well that the price per cubic foot has been rising. The general opinion apparently prevails that if the construction industry would pattern its program of action after the automobile industry, we could have all the habitations we need, particularly if we developed a second-hand market and treated the matter after the manner of the automobile industry.

It may be well to consider in what respect these two industries differ and what radical changes would have to be made not only in the production industry, but in respect to the operation of our economy as well, if habitations were to be produced in ample supply.

What would have happened during the last thirty years if the automobile industry were under the surveillance of laws governing the building of automobiles which imposed the lag, as do laws covering the erection of buildings, of a quarter of a century

or more following the unfolding of an idea before it could be applied? What would have been the history of Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, had it been necessary for these industries to assemble all cars in individual garages instead of upon the assembly line? What would have happened to the rate of flow on the assembly line had it been composed of forty-odd well established trades engaged, most of the time, in jurisdictional squabbles over vested interests in the use of materials and in techniques?

So much for the production problems involved. Let us look now at the financial.

What would have happened, in the case of the automobile industry, if practically every car produced carried a first mortgage of 60% of its value, which mortgage it was not customary, until quite recently, to amortize; every other car a 20% mortgage; and say every third car a 10% mortgage? What would have happened if every year or so the valuation of every old car had been marked up by local appraisers and assessors so that the older it got the greater became its valuation? What would have been the course of technical progress in the automobile industry. I will leave that question for anyone to answer. My only comment, made from intimate experience with the building industry, is this: The designers and the engineers in the construction industry have worked before the same background of scientific knowledge as the designers and engineers of the automobile industry. They have worked with the same aspira-

tions and with the same urge to explore and apply. The reason why they have not made progress should be obvious from the contrasts just referred to.

Another contrast may be drawn that is equally significant. The automobile industry has, by and large, sought to apply technological gains not only in the plant which produced the car but in the car itself. The designers and the engineers of the production industry have sought to apply such gains as arose out of their explorations in the technical field but they run into a series of stone walls when they make the attempt. Vested interests in materials and processes, vested interests of labor in its techniques, make the going difficult; and by and large, innovations in form and arrangement as well as the application of materials do not meet with a ready response from lending institutions, for it is well understood that too wide a discrepancy in respect to utility between the old and the new would render investments in the obsolete of dubious worth.

Anyone who has attempted to buy a comparatively new car has a very vivid idea of the rate at which its value is extinguished by the rules of obsolescence which the industry has been able to put into force. This rapid extinguishment has the effect of getting old cars out of the way so that new ones may be produced.

This serves to define the nature of what we call *The Housing Problem*: The production industry is faced with the problem of supplying all families with habitations, but its market for new habitations is limited to but a fraction of the population. This means that if all families are to have habitations, irrespective of character or quality, the number of houses supplied per annum to that group which can afford to buy or rent new habitations must be a multiple of the number required to maintain one house per family in that group which can afford the new. Since it turns out that the lower income groups can pay no more than the operating costs of habitations in which they live, it follows that this limited market must be subject to a very rapid extinguishment of capitalization if all families are to have habitations. A rapid extinguishment of valuation in this field represents as an aim exactly the opposite of what we attempt to do and therefore we are confronted with an ever increasing number of second, third, fourth . . . nth-hand houses. Hence areas of blight, decay, slum.

These few points of illustration should serve to indicate quite clearly that about the only point in common as between the Production and the Automobile Industries is the fact that both cars and houses are sold.

There is still another difference which should be noted, for it has, in the case of the production industry, a very important bearing upon our urban economy: The continual turnover of cars from one income group to another involves, in the physical world, merely the transfer of cars from one garage to another. But the turnover of habitations from one income group to another is something else altogether: the habitations stay put but the users of them move from place to place.

So long as the present economic relationships which give rise to such a limited market for new habitations hold, we will be faced with a never ending intra-urban migration of income groups. The lower income groups will follow in the wake of obsolescence and physical decay wherever it takes place, whereas the higher income group will seek new pastures. The low income group will move into habitations ill suited to their use, and they will arrive during that period when the cost of maintaining the obsolete units will be at maximum.

The physical outcome of this turnover of habitations from one income group to another and the social and economic consequences of these migrations are on display in every American city of any size. Nothing in our entire economic scheme contributes more definitely toward the development of the random pattern of functions which characterizes our urban centers than this set of pecuniary relationships within our economy.

Some time ago we sought by zoning to stay the course of these migrations, but without avail. The lower income groups *have to take their decayed, obsolete habitations where they find them; there is no help for that*. And we observe, generously, that it is the lower income groups which bring on conditions of blight and decay!

You see, there is perhaps an economic basis for Roger Babson's prophecy that America will take to the trailer. The lower income groups are continually on the move from one area of decay and obsolescence to another. Well, his prophecy may come true, but one may ask: Precisely what problem is solved if it does?

## The Structural Service Department

BY THEODORE IRVING COE, TECHNICAL SECRETARY OF THE STRUCTURAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

THE Joint Committee on Standard Specifications for Concrete and Reinforced Concrete has made a constructive and authoritative place for itself in the rapidly developing use of concrete and reinforced concrete.

In 1932, by action of The Board of Directors, The Institute accepted an invitation to join the Sponsors of the Joint Committee; the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society For Testing Materials, American Railway Engineering Association, Portland Cement Association and the American Concrete Institute.

Each of the six sponsors is represented in the Joint Committee by five members. The representatives of The Institute are Paul W. Norton, chairman, John C. Bollenbacher, Clarence Jensen, Charles W. Killam and Charles M. Gay.

The six chairmen of the sponsor groups constitute an Executive Committee of the Joint Committee, the detail work being done by eight principal working sub-committees assigned to the following general subdivisions of activities: 1. Cement and Aggregates, 2. Metal Reinforcement, 3. Proportioning and Mixing, 4. Forms and Placing, 5. Design, 6. Details of Construction, 7. Waterproofing and Protective Treatments, 8. Surface Finishes. Members of The Institute group are serving on all sub-committees except Nos. 2 and 4.

The representative character of the sponsor bodies and the varied and wide-spread background of professional skill and experience embodied in the joint membership brings to the work of the Joint Committee an exceptional degree of professional and technical knowledge and ability.

Through the medium of meetings and voluminous correspondence every phase of the detailed work of the Joint Committee and its Sub-Committees is sub-

ject not only to the review, comment and criticism of the Committee as a whole but, through wide publicity, the reaction, counsel and criticism of other interested individuals and groups.

The specification or recommended practice which results from this procedure thus represents a consensus of the carefully considered opinion not only of the personnel of the Joint Committee, but others who may be interested in or affected by the specifications and standards determined by the Joint Committee.

The December 1st-5th meeting of the Joint Committee, in Washington, was devoted to the completion of a tentative draft of Recommended Practice and Standard Specifications for Concrete and Reinforced Concrete, to be submitted for discussion at the convention of the American Concrete Institute to be held at the Hotel Roosevelt in New York City at 8 P. M. on Feb. 25 and at 2 P. M. on Feb. 26.

It is anticipated that the meetings of this Convention and the discussion of the tentative draft will prove both interesting and constructive and members of The Institute who are interested are invited to attend the meetings and participate in the discussions.

A limited number of copies of the tentative draft mentioned above are available at The Octagon for members who are interested.

The work of the Joint Committee is an outstanding example of cooperative effort in the solution of common problems of interest to the construction industry and it is most gratifying to record the participation of The Institute in this joint effort and to commend The Institute members of the Committee who have so actively and effectively justified the sponsorship of this important work by The Institute.

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### Sixth Annual Pilgrimage of the Natchez Garden Club

The Natchez Garden Club extends a cordial invitation to all architects to take part in the "Pilgrimage" during the week of Mar. 28, to Apr. 4, inclusive.

For information write Mrs. Joseph F. Dixon, President, The Natchez Garden Club, Post Office Box 537, Natchez, Mississippi.

## With the Chapters

### Baltimore.

Twenty-one members were present at the regular monthly meeting of the chapter held in Baltimore. The principal topic of discussion was the manner of appointing architects for public projects.

A resolution was adopted empowering the president to appoint a committee to consider methods of procedure in choosing architects for public projects in cases where the advice of the chapter has been requested by public officials.

The chapter is pleased to announce that Mr. Isiah Bowman, President of Johns Hopkins University, was unanimously elected an Honorary Associate in the chapter.

William G. Nolting, Regional Director of the Middle Atlantic District, Director of The Institute, and member of The Investment Committee, addressed the meeting on the proposed methods of administering the Edward Langley Scholarships of The Institute.

The secretary was instructed to submit a report on the arrangements being made for the annual dinner of the chapter which will be held next month.

### Boston.

The regular meeting of the chapter was held in the Library of the Boston Architectural Club on January 5.

President Shepley opened the meeting with a discussion of the Sixty-ninth Convention which is to be held in Boston during the first week in June.

The president called on Mr. Ripley to bring before the meeting such matters as should be given consideration in discussing the Convention. Mr. Ripley said that this would be the Sixty-ninth Annual Convention of the A. I. A., and this year the Boston Society of Architects would observe the 70th anniversary of its founding, which took place in 1867. The last convention held in Boston was in 1891. He spoke of the central location of Boston in connection with the New England chapters and the intention of asking their direct cooperation in all matters pertaining to the Convention; in substance to make it really a New England meeting.

The local committee will start work immediately to gather information and map out local points that should be of interest to visiting delegates. Mr. Ripley said he thought people came to such conventions principally to meet old friends, to see the section of the country where the convention is held and to visit points of interest. He described briefly the usual program which is arranged to try to balance pleasure with the business of the convention.

The meeting was then thrown open for discussion and many interesting suggestions were made to the Chapter Convention Committee for the entertainment of our visitors.

At 6:45 P. M. the meeting adjourned to the Great Hall for cocktails and the farewell dinner to Professor Haffner.

About 7:15 P. M. some sixty-five members sat down to a dinner which will be remembered pleasantly for a long time by those who were present. Mr. Ripley had arranged a special menu for the occasion, and the "Bouillabaisse" in particular was a work of art, and frequent filling of wine glasses imparted a mellowness that seemed to inspire a good many members with the idea of saying something. Long before the dinner was over the president announced that there would be no set program of speeches and that any one who felt so inclined would have a chance to say a few words. About the middle of the dinner Harold Field Kellogg appeared well disguised as the French ambassador and, after kissing Professor Haffner on both cheeks in the proper French manner, proceeded to deliver an address in French, bringing forth at the same time a model of the *S. S. Lafayette* which was placed on the table in front of Professor Haffner. During the meal a phonograph burst forth occasionally with French songs from some ancient records, to which the members lent a more or less fitful accompaniment. Daland Chandler unburdened himself of a poem, and a cocktail shaker suitably inscribed, from members of the Society, was presented by Mr. Ripley in a graceful speech. All in all it was a merry celebration and Professor Haffner, who was leaving to return to France, seemed visibly affected.



**Buffalo.**

The annual meeting of the chapter was held at the University Club in Buffalo on January 12.

Harry F. Hudson, presiding in the unavoidable absence of the retiring president, Olaf Wm. Shelgren, called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Hudson reported for the Executive Committee and announced the names of new associates and members admitted during 1936.

The amending of the chapter by-laws is progressing rapidly and certain amendments affecting the Executive Committee of the chapter were read by the retiring secretary, David B. Crane.

Mr. Crane then took the floor and in his report for the year expressed, first, his appreciation for the opportunity of serving as secretary of the chapter for the last two years, and second, his regret that he could no longer continue the work. He outlined what he considered to be the most important of the tasks which were being turned over to the new officers, stressing the chapter's need of sound financing, more highly organized committee work and an increase in the practical value of the chapter to the membership. Stressing his conviction that a weak organization is always far worse than none, and his thorough belief in the absolute need for the orderly and efficient conduct of our common affairs through a powerful Buffalo Chapter, he emphasized the importance of a continuity of progress from year to year, and a spirit of cooperation between the officers of successive years. Speaking for the retiring officers and directors he offered their assistance to the new officers and directors accordingly.

On behalf of the chapter Mr. Hudson presented the retiring secretary with two beautifully bound volumes on the life and letters of Vincent Van Gogh. They were received with deep appreciation.

**Kansas City.**

The first regular meeting for 1937 was held on January 13 in Kansas City.

Alfred E. Barnes, retiring President, opened the meeting by thanking the retiring officers for their

cooperation during the past year, and then introduced the new President, A. W. Archer.

Mr. Archer briefly explained his plans for the Chapter for the year 1937. His forecast for the coming year for the profession was received with enthusiasm. He said indications pointed directly to a definite change in the times, and indicated that the Chapter must keep up with the profession, and be ready to do its part in the new program.

"The architect must have a broader view of his responsibility to the community as a whole," said Mr. Archer, "rather than a confined view of his relation to his profession only. As the architect becomes more civic-minded, he will in turn create his proper place in civic development for which his profession so aptly fits him."

Of paramount importance to the chapters in Missouri is the new bill for Registration of Architects and Engineers, now sponsored by the Missouri Construction League, to be presented to the Missouri Legislature early this year.

Mr. "Tip" Brown, Chairman of the Better Housing Committee of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, was the principal speaker of the evening. He addressed the chapter on "Lifting the Face of Main Street."

Mr. Brown recounted his experiences during his travels throughout the State in the interest of improvement of property generally, with special emphasis on civic design. Mr. Brown informed his audience that through working closely with architects in the various communities visited, great progress had been made in enlightening business men of the value of improvements. He indicated that through this missionary work, architects might look forward with confidence to improvement in the building industry during the coming year.

**Kentucky.**

The last regular meeting of the chapter proved to be a most enjoyable one, if judged by the interest of those present and their seeming reluctance to adjourn.

The meeting place was the French Village, where dinner was served to a good number of members and guests before the start of the business meeting.

A letter from James T. Grady, Publicist of The Institute, was read, urging the chapter to prepare

articles of five hundred or six hundred words on architectural subjects for release in the local press.

There was extended discussion on methods of bidding by certain local contractors, and on motion of O. P. Ward, seconded by E. T. Hutchings, the secretary was instructed to write letters to the contractors involved expressing chapter disapproval of such methods of bidding.

The secretary was also instructed to write a letter of endorsement to the association charged with the preservation of "Liberty Hall" in Frankfort.

The principal speaker of the evening was Howard A. Churchill of Lexington, who spoke entertainingly on various matters confronting the architectural profession in Kentucky.

#### New York.

The guests of honor at the December meeting were Elwyn Seelye, Consulting Engineer; Frederick C. Kuehnle, Chief Inspector, Department of Buildings, Manhattan; Myron L. Matthews, General Manager, The Dow Service; and J. Riely Gordon, New York Chapter Representative of the Mayor's Committee for Investigation of Building Conditions in Queens.

The theme for discussion at this meeting was "How to Achieve Safe and Sound Building."

Elwyn Seelye spoke on "Criminal Liability in Building." Frederick C. Kuehnle spoke on "General Building Construction." Myron L. Matthews gave a talk on "Better Building Through Cooperative Action."

J. Riely Gordon spoke on the subject of "Jerry Building in Queens."

The next meeting of the chapter promises to be equally as interesting. The speakers will be Matthew W. Del Gaudio, President of the New York Society of Architects, who will give an informal talk; J. Riely Gordon, President of the Council of Registered Architects, who will speak on "Legislative Activities of the Council," and Richmond H. Shreve, Director of the New York District of The Institute, who will talk on "Review of Activities Regarding the New York State World War Memorial."

#### Northern California.

The regular monthly meeting was held at the St. Germain Restaurant, San Francisco.

President Will G. Corlett presided.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

It was moved and carried that John Bakewell, Jr., be reimbursed for the expenses incurred in the preparation of drawings in connection with the campaign to prevent billboards along the Bay Bridge approach.

It was announced that John Knox Ballantine, Jr., and Andrew T. Haas have been elected to Institute membership.

Ralph A. Tudor, Senior Engineer for the San Francisco Bay Bridge, was the guest speaker. His close connection with the design and construction of the bridge and its operation since the opening enabled him to relate many facts about the structure. These were doubly interesting because many were on matters not generally understood by the public.

The talk was based largely on the handling of traffic and the operation and maintenance of the bridge. Technical discussion was avoided, except when the speaker generously replied to the questions of the members.

#### Rhode Island.

The highlight of the annual meeting of the chapter held on January 14, was the address of the retiring President, F. Ellis Jackson.

Mr. Jackson reminded his audience at this, the sixty-first annual meeting (the Rhode Island Chapter was founded in 1875), that in addressing the chapter upon taking office a year ago, he drew upon the philosophy and wisdom of Marcus Vitruvius Pollio in closing that address, and had said, "With these words of an ancient who in his simplicity was more modern than many who call themselves by that name, I leave you to produce for yourselves and for us a result that by next year shall be the accomplishment of a period then past, which tonight we look forward to as a time yet untested and unknown. I bespeak your endeavors and cooperation and look forward with every confidence to the objectives still intangible that will prove our goal."

That the endeavors and cooperation of members had been fruitful, and the goal reached, was evidenced by Mr. Jackson in his review of chapter activities of the past year. He called attention to the passage of the Architects Registration Act and

spoke of the large part the chapter had played in the framing of the Act, and to various other chapter activities which had been eminently successful.

"If we are to maintain the vitality and vigor of this organization," said Mr. Jackson, "we need a greater number from whom to select those best qualified for service now undertaken by their predecessors in seniority, and to bring us an uninterrupted stream of new ideas which, joined with the old, tend to assure progress as opposed to a thoughtless acceptance of established forms and procedure. It is not altogether by what we accomplish that we develop, but also by the lessons learned through what we have *not* done. I would choose to make the chapter much more valuable to us all, each with his part to do, and to perform, rather than to apportion work and duties for a few. This new life within is a necessity, and I give you the welcome news that it is at hand."

#### St. Louis.

The first meeting of the year was held at Garavelli's in St. Louis on January 5. Preceding the meeting, a dinner was served to thirty-five members and guests.

President Hoener announced that a committee consisting of Geo. Hellmuth, P. John Hoener and Wm. F. Wischmeyer had been appointed to represent the architects and to assist those responsible for revising the Building Code of St. Louis.

There was much discussion on the proposed Architects' and Engineers' Registration bill which is soon to be introduced in the Missouri Legislature.

The guest speaker of the evening was Pierre Blouke, A. I. A., representative of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, who addressed the meeting on the importance of chapter cooperation with F. H. A. and H. O. L. C. in the small house problem. Many questions in regard to the small house service were propounded by the members and answered satisfactorily by Mr. Blouke.

The annual meeting of the chapter was held January 26. Officers elected to serve during 1937 are as follows:

President.....	Benedict Farrar
Vice-President.....	Angelo B. M. Corrubia
Secretary.....	Arthur E. Koelle
Treasurer.....	Wm. B. Ittner, Jr.
Member Executive Board.....	I. R. Timlin

#### Southern California.

The Clark Hotel, in Los Angeles, was the scene of the regular monthly meeting of the chapter with over forty members in attendance. Seated for dinner promptly at 6:30, the necessary business was disposed of early in the evening.

Officers for 1937 were elected as follows:

President.....	Ralph C. Flewelling
Vice-President.....	Eugene Weston, Jr.
Secretary.....	George J. Adams
Treasurer.....	Samuel E. Lunden
Director (3 years).....	Edgar F. Bissantz

Delegates and alternates to the 1937 Institute Convention were named in the following order: Eugene Weston, Jr., S. B. Marston, Sumner Spaulding, David C. Allison, Samuel E. Lunden, A. C. Zimmerman, Earl T. Heitschmidt, Edgar F. Bissantz, Carleton M. Winslow, Herbert J. Powell.

The President asked Messrs. Zimmerman, Risley and Withey to serve as an Auditing Committee to examine the chapter books for the year 1936.

"The Life of Sir Christopher Wren" was presented in a sparkling manner by Walter S. Davis. Mr. Davis presented facts and figures from the life of the English architect that the casual reader of his biography certainly would never have discovered.

Joseph Weston, recently returned from Washington, spoke on the work of the Federal Resettlement Administration. His remarks, devoted principally to the architectural problems involved in this work, left the impression that Southern California, through Mr. Weston's appreciation and ability, has contributed in a substantial way to the proper design of rural projects.

The Forum, led by H. C. Newton and S. B. Marston, disclosed some interesting facts pertaining to bonds and contracts.

The local Producers' Council Club is completing plans for two meetings patterned after the November meeting, sponsored by the Columbia Steel Company, and dealing with the San Francisco Bay Bridge. At the January meeting, the Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company will demonstrate the use of new glass products. At the April meeting, the Vermont Marble Company will sponsor a meeting devoted to three new marble products.

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