

THE  
OCTAGON

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*A Journal of The American Institute of Architects*

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*The Sixty-eighth Convention  
Concerning By-Law Amendments  
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Exhortation to the Artist  
With the Chapters—As of Interest*

*Volume 8*

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## Concerning By-Law Amendments

The Board of Directors, at its December meeting, 1935, took action as follows:

*Whereas*, The Sixty-seventh Convention directed this Board

(a) To edit the By-Law amendments as printed in *THE OCTAGON* of April, 1935, as same were amended by the Convention, and to write therein, in proper form, the said amendments made by the Convention;

(b) To edit the By-Laws to bring anything contrary to or conflicting with the amendments on State Associations and on Fellowships adopted by the Convention into conformity therewith;

(c) To amend Chapter XV of the By-Laws so as to repeal any infringement on the liberty of action of the State Association Members with respect to advertisements in their publications;

(d) To change the title "Retired Member" to "Member Emeritus";

(e) To permit Chapters to form Junior Members into Junior Societies within their jurisdiction; and

(f) To edit the proposed amendments to the By-Laws not acted upon by the Convention, and present them to the Chapters for study and to the next Convention for action, the Board to be guided in its editing by the various Sense of the Meeting motions taken by the Convention and published on page 31 of *THE OCTAGON* for June, 1935; and

*Whereas*, The amendments adopted by said Convention have been edited, and the proposed amendments to the By-Laws have been prepared in accordance with the above instructions, and this Board has carefully considered the same, chapter by chapter, article by article, and section by section; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That each and all of the said edited amendments and the said proposed amendments as submitted or changed by this Board, be and hereby are approved, and the Secretary and Treasurer be and hereby are directed to edit the same and to publish them in the January issue\* of *THE OCTAGON*, requesting the members and Chapters to study the amendments and recommend their favorable action thereon at the 1936 Convention.

\* Will be published in the March number.

*Whereas*, The By-Laws may be amended by this Board to the extent and under the conditions fixed in Chapter XVII, Article 1, Section 2, of the By-Laws; and

*Whereas*, The Committee on By-Laws recommended to this Board, at its meeting in March, 1935, certain amendments to the By-Laws which may be made by the Directors in accordance with said authority, and the said amendments were approved by the said Board at its meeting in May, 1935; and approved by Counsel as to form, legality, and within the powers of this Board to make; and

*Whereas*, The Board again approves said amendments and desires to make same in order to save expense and the time of the 1936 Convention; be it

*Resolved*, That the By-Laws of the Institute, as same were constituted after being amended by the Sixty-seventh Convention, be and hereby are amended by the deletions from, the changes in, and the additions to the Chapters, Articles, and Sections of said By-Laws listed below,\*\* as published in *THE OCTAGON* of April, 1935; provided that the Secretary be and hereby is empowered and authorized to rearrange any or all of the said amendments to make them conform to the amendments to the By-Laws to be proposed to the 1936 Convention, and to edit the said amendments or delete therefrom such as are inconsistent or not required in the proposed new By-Laws.

In accord with these resolutions, and under the direction of the Board, the Secretary will publish in the March number of *THE OCTAGON*, which will be mailed as early in February as possible, the complete series of By-Law amendments, in two parts.

Part I will contain those amendments as to substance, which will be offered to the Convention for adoption.

Part II will contain those amendments as to form made by the Board of Directors, and to be reported to the Convention, under Chapter XVII, Article 1, Section 2 of the By-Laws.

\*\* These chapters, articles and sections will appear in the March number.

# THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

Published Monthly by

The American Institute of Architects

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## The Sixty-Eighth Convention

Second Notice

### TO THE MEMBERS:

The first official notice to the membership concerning the Sixty-eighth Convention appeared in the January number of THE OCTAGON.

The Convention will be held at Old Point Comfort, and Williamsburg, Virginia, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, May 5, 6, 7, and 8, 1936.

The hotel headquarters will be the New Chamberlin Hotel, at Old Point Comfort. Information concerning the making of reservations will be found elsewhere in this notice.

The Convention headquarters, except for the first day, will be the Phi Beta Kappa hall, on the campus of William and Mary College, at Williamsburg.

Chapter Officers, delegates and members are requested to review the notice in the January OCTAGON, which gave information on—

- Early Election of Delegates
- Procedure for Delegates and Proxies
- No Taxes or Refunds
- Chapter Meetings on Convention Business
- Nominations of Officers and Directors

All of these items are of importance, and none should be overlooked by the Chapters and Delegates.

### QUALIFICATIONS OF DELEGATES

Any member of the Institute who is in good standing and has been duly elected or appointed by a Chapter, or by a State Association Member, to serve as a delegate at the 1936 Convention, will be accredited to the Convention by the Credentials Committee—upon presentation to that Committee of his 1936 Institute membership card, and the credentials of his election or appointment by the

Chapter or State Association Member, as the case may be. Thereupon he will be registered and may act as delegate of said Chapter or of said State Association Member at the Convention, and vote thereat any duly accredited proxy executed to him by a Chapter or by a State Association Member.

Possession of his 1936 membership card will be *prima facie* evidence of the delegate's good standing in the Institute on April 30, 1936, insofar as payment of Institute dues is concerned.

Any member of the Institute who is in good standing therein and has been duly elected or appointed as an *alternate* by a Chapter, or by a State Association Member, will be accredited to the Convention as such alternate on presentation of his 1936 membership card and the credentials as required of a delegate. In the absence of a delegate of said Chapter or said State Association Member from the Convention, the alternate may be accredited to act in lieu of said absent delegate and thereafter may exercise all the powers of a delegate in the Convention.

### SPECIAL PROXY REPRESENTATION

Special attention is called to the procedure for electing delegates and executing proxies. In order that there may be no misunderstanding, the resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors at the December, 1935, meeting—for the purpose of assuring representation from every Chapter and from every State Association Member—are again quoted, as follows:

*Whereas*, It is desirable that every Chapter and every State Association Member be represented at the Sixty-eighth Convention, and that they utilize their full right of proxy under the By-laws of the Institute; therefore, be it

#### Sixty-eighth Convention—Continued.

*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors does hereby authorize and declare that any Chapter and/or any State Association Member may be represented at the annual Convention of The American Institute of Architects, to be held in May, 1936, by voting and duly executing its proxy for one or more or all of the delegates to which it is entitled to be represented at such Convention to any duly accredited delegate to such Convention; and each such proxy, when duly accredited to said Convention, shall be voted by the said delegate holding the same; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Credentials at said Convention if it finds the said proxy to be in due and regular form and duly executed, shall accredit each such proxy to the meeting as qualified to be voted therein and thereat by the said delegate.

In due course Chapter and State Association Member Secretaries will receive delegate cards and proxy cards which must be properly executed and filed with the Credentials Committee at the time of registration. Those without such cards cannot qualify or vote.

The Board of Directors of the Institute requests every Chapter and every State Association Member to send just as many delegates to this Convention as is possible within its quota. The Board realizes that it will not be possible for some Chapters and some State Association Members to send their full quota of delegates. In that event, it urges that the plan for the giving of proxies, as herein outlined, be followed.

#### HOTEL HEADQUARTERS AND RESERVATIONS

The New Chamberlin Hotel, at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, has been selected as the hotel headquarters for the Convention.

By special arrangement with the management of the New Chamberlin Hotel, all Institute delegates, members and guests will be assured of accommodations if their reservations are made direct to the hotel at an early date, and *not later than April 27*.

Reservations made after April 27 may be too late to secure the type of accommodations desired. Information concerning types of rooms, and rates will be given in the March number.

#### THE PROGRAM

The April number of THE OCTAGON—to be mailed on April 1—will give full information concerning the Convention program. Thus, an outline of Convention business and events will be in the hands of every member prior to the April meeting of his Chapter at which Institute affairs and Convention matters should be discussed.

The March number of THE OCTAGON, containing the By-law amendments, will be mailed as early in February as feasible—in order to give members and chapters full opportunity to consider the amendments in advance of the Convention.

Attention is called to the article on Williamsburg which follows this notice. As it is written from the layman's point of view it should be of special interest to the architect's family and friends. Make it available to them and encourage them to come with you to this Convention.

It is again emphasized that the Institute on its own accord, and on behalf of the Williamsburg authorities, cordially invites all architects, architectural draftsmen and students, their families and friends, to all sessions of the Convention—at Old Point and at Williamsburg.

The New Chamberlin Hotel can accommodate more than five hundred guests. During the period beginning May 5, it should be filled with those attending the Sixty-eighth Convention of The American Institute of Architects.

The attractions of this Convention have unusual appeal to the architect. Williamsburg itself must be seen to be understood and appreciated. The hotel at Old Point is new. Its entire attention and service will be devoted to the comfort and enjoyment of the architects and their friends during the Convention period.

The season of the year in Tidewater Virginia is ideal. Expectations for days of sunshine, with a countryside arrayed in the fresh colors of spring, offer inducements for personal recreation and enjoyment which may not be repeated for many years to come.

As heretofore, the Convention will conclude with a formal dinner at which tribute will be paid to some of those who have made possible the restoration of Virginia's ancient Capital.

It is probable that on Saturday, the day following the Convention, a tour to some of the historic plantations on the James River will be arranged.

The Virginia Chapter of the Institute will join with Williamsburg Restoration, Inc., in acting as hosts to the visiting architects and their friends. Their cordial invitation, and that of the Institute, is now transmitted to the membership and the profession.

Join with us in making Institute history at Williamsburg in 1936.

CHARLES T. INGHAM,  
Secretary.

## The Charm of Colonial Williamsburg

BY LOUISE ROCHON HOOVER—IN THE WASHINGTON STAR

**F**EW there are who at some time have not wished they had been privileged to live in the peaceful and plentiful old days of the Colonial era, before the monster of modern turmoil crept across the world. The opportunity to test this desire comes with a visit to Williamsburg, Va., where one may live again as the colonists lived in their spacious old mansions, with their beautiful box-bordered gardens, their cobbled streets, shaded with giant trees, and their freedom from economic problems.

Williamsburg!—The restored Colonial village, where the eighteenth century lives again in tangible, beautiful form. The second capital of Virginia, this town of such vital historic memories had suffered years of neglect and decay until the generous interest of John D. Rockefeller, jr., restored its early glory. It was Dr. Goodwin, of Bruton Parish Church, whose vision and eloquence enlisted the sponsorship of Mr. Rockefeller in the work of restoration.

### The College of William and Mary.

Upon entering Williamsburg the visitor is at once gratefully aware of the absolute serenity of the scene. The charming "Tidewater Colonial" houses, the whitewashed picket fences and the scent of old-fashioned flowers cast a profound spell of peace. The complete lack of modernity is especially remarkable, as Williamsburg is a college town, alive with hundreds of young people, the students of the College of William and Mary, second oldest university in America. The village is so entirely steeped in the Colonial atmosphere that not even the active life of the students disturbs it in any way.

This college, of course, was the town's main raison d'être during the stagnant years between the time of the removal of the capital to Richmond and the recent restoration. One should not miss a stroll through the fine old grounds of the college with their noble, spreading trees, nor a sight of the buildings, particularly the Wren Building, designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1695.

The great task of the restoration of Williamsburg has been carried on with infinite taste and sensitiveness, and with endless patient research. The architects, landscape architects and decorators have

produced a gem which will thrill every American visitor to this shrine. Here he will feel the quiet peace of life in Virginia under the Colonial Governors, long before the Revolution separated England's fifth colony from the mother country. He will be amazed in the realization that, surrounded by a wilderness alive with Indians, these courageous colonists produced homes, government buildings and a standard of living equal to those they had known in England. For Williamsburg is not the crude settlement one might expect, but a town whose architectural beauty is an object lesson to the builders of today.

The Capitol, the Governor's Palace and the Raleigh Tavern are the important places to visit. The Capitol is a duplicate of the original building which was destroyed by fire in 1747. It was rebuilt over the original foundations and furnished according to the carefully detailed inventories on record. In its time one of the most important buildings of Colonial America, its political influence reached far beyond the borders of the Virginia colony. Many legislative struggles preceding the American Revolution took place within its walls. The House of Burgesses, the Council and the General Court of Virginia met here from 1704 to 1776. The General Assembly, composed of the House of Delegates and the Senate, met in the Capitol until Dec. 1779.

Since the General Assembly of Virginia is the oldest representative legislative institution in America, the Williamsburg capitol is filled with memories and associations of our early history. In the reconstruction of this building the journals of the House of Burgesses were of great value, giving minute detail concerning the design and the furnishings. It was, therefore, possible to produce a structure with all the atmosphere of the original, one which could create for the visitor the complete illusion of the eighteenth century. In the interior especially one senses this. The long, oval tables of the committee rooms, with their green cloth coverings and their old ink stands, make one glance at the door, half expecting to see the venerable Assemblymen file in to their accustomed places. Another delicate touch of pre-Revolutionary illusion is the British flag floating over the capitol, just as it did, of course, in 1705.

### Colonial Williamsburg—Continued.

#### The Governor's Palace.

The Governor's Palace, in use from 1705 to 1781, surpassed in grandeur, perhaps, any other notable seat in the Colonies. It was the center of the social life of Virginia until the Revolution, and housed such famous Governors as Col. Alexander Spotswood, Robert Dinwiddie and the Baron de Botetourt. Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson also lived here as the first Governors of the Commonwealth of Virginia after the separation from Great Britain. The palace was burned to the ground in 1780. In excavating the site the foundations of the old wall were discovered. From these a copper plate engraving of the front of the building at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, England, and a plan drawn by Thomas Jefferson in possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Governor's Palace was rebuilt in exact reproduction. Its lovely facade of pink brick interspersed with blue, its exquisite wrought-iron gates and spacious grounds were all reconstructed in minutely perfect detail. In the interior colors of walls and woodwork were reproduced according to the data contained in the inventories. The restorers combed this country and England for the furniture, draperies and candelabra of the period. Many are the interesting circumstances connected with the finding at last of just the right chair or table for some particular spot. A rare bit of good fortune occurred in the discovery, in England, of a set of India print draperies of the period, exactly fitting the windows of the ball room. Even the formal gardens of the estate were recreated by transplanting giant boxwood, crepe myrtle, red cedar and other fragrant plants used in Colonial gardens. The grandeur of the restored palace prompts the imagination with visions of the royal Governors, patterning their customs and elaborate entertainments on those of the Court of England, and according to tradition, frequently equaling them in splendor.

#### The Raleigh Tavern.

The Raleigh Tavern, memorably identified with the social and political life of Colonial Virginia, was a veritable mirror of the customs and manners of old Williamsburg. Dramatic meetings of the Virginia patriots were enacted within its walls when these zealous gentlemen led the movement to establish an independent government among the colonies. It was the best known tavern in the Capital City during the years when the Virginia colony exercised

its greatest influence. It held a place of distinction in the life of the other American colonies as well as of Virginia and was unsurpassed in the excellence of its appointments, its hospitality and the important interests which centered here. The atmosphere of comfort, dignity and elegance of the original tavern attracted a distinguished patronage. Royal governors, members of the Council and the House of Burgesses, planters, merchants and soldiers were among its guests. George Washington in his diary makes frequent mention of gay evenings in the tavern. It seems that Henry Wetherburn, for many years the able manager of the tavern, was widely known as a maker of punch. It is recorded by a deed in Goochland County that William Randolph sold to Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson, 200 acres of land in consideration of "Henry Wetherburn's biggest bowl of Arrack punch."

The tavern's place in history, however, is built on stronger evidence than its popularity for brilliant social gatherings. It was the scene of important political events immediately preceding the Revolution. Here the Burgesses held their last meeting, among them George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry. Here also was held the first meeting of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, which was founded by the students of the College of William and Mary in December, 1776.

The tavern has been reconstructed and is completely furnished in what the colonists would have termed "elegant" arrangements. It offers a wealth of ideas in decoration. In the gay colonial color schemes, for instance, such combinations as subtle bluish-green woodwork with whitewashed walls and notes of cardinal red in rugs and draperies are used. And in each room fresh bouquets of old-fashioned flowers accent the color note. Both antiques and reproductions have been used to achieve a perfect recreation of the interior described in the inventory of Anthony Hay, one of the innkeepers. The garden also is very lovely, boasting one of the finest holly hedges in the country.

In the Ludlow-Paradise house may be seen a collection of early American folk art, the property of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, jr. Works in oil, water color and pencil are included in an exhibition which is full of interest even to the visitor who is not usually attracted by art. The portraits of children, of quaint decorous ladies and of swash-buckling gentlemen astride their steeds give a very special picture of the Colonial scene. Of these, the portraits of serious-eyed little girls, in their stiff

little spreading skirts, with hands primly folded are the most appealing. There are many strange pencil drawings commemorating the death of an individual. It was apparently the custom, if one were artistically inclined, to send a drawing to the bereaved in expression of sympathy. These pictures showed the grave, the tombstone neatly lettered with the name and death date of the deceased and always a family group standing about under a weeping willow tree, mourning into large lace-edged handkerchiefs.

In each of the restored buildings mentioned, a gracious lady in Colonial costume acts as hostess and guide to the many visitors. She is brought each day to her post in an old stage coach, attended by two Negroes in Colonial livery. The sight of this old coach rumbling down the Duke of Gloucester street is one of the high lights of the trip.

The visitor should not fail to see Bruton Parish Church, "Court Church of Colonial Virginia," said to be the oldest Episcopal church in continuous use in this country, and the Wythe House with its orig-

inal Chinese Chippendale room. George Wythe, whose home it was, signed the Declaration of Independence and was the first professor of law in the United States. The Powder Magazine and the Public Gaol, both under process of restoration, may also be seen.

All Williamsburg covers an area no greater than a few city blocks, making the points of interest within a stone's throw of each other. Most of them border the main thoroughfare, the Duke of Gloucester street, so one strolls along under the sun-splashed trees, peeping over box hedges into scented gardens, or gazing incredulously at the rows of Colonial shops. The old apothecary's shop and the printer's shop, restored, have been used as models for the new grocery, clothing and regular trading stores, making the commercial section architecturally uniform. It is amusing to note the absence of the familiar chain store displays. They are permitted only a neat sign, chastely lettered in Colonial type, hung from wrought iron brackets.

## Applications for Membership

*Notice to Members of the Institute:*

*January 30, 1936.*

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors, or its Executive Committee, for action on their admission to the Institute, and if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

<i>Boston Chapter</i> - - - - -	FRANK H. COLONY, CARL ANTONY RITTER
<i>Central Illinois Chapter</i> - - - - -	FRANK MILLS LESCHER
<i>Chicago Chapter</i> - - - - -	ELMER A. GYLLECK
<i>Minnesota Chapter</i> - - - - -	REV. GILBERT L. WINKELMANN, O.S.B.
<i>New Jersey Chapter</i> - - - - -	HAROLD FOSTER CLARK
<i>New York Chapter</i> - - - - -	REUBEN HENRI BOWDEN, HARRISON GILL
<i>Tennessee Chapter</i> - - - - -	ALBERT I. BRADY, LOUIS G. CARLISLE, G. ALBERT CHANDLER, WILSON JETER EASON, HOWEL BATEMAN HULSEY, DUDLEY EMERSON JONES
<i>Washington, D. C., Chapter</i> - - - - -	MARIO VINCENT CAPUTO, THOMAS HALL LOCRAFT, CHARLES E. PETERSON
<i>West Texas Chapter</i> - - - - -	DAN J. DRISCOLL, ARTHUR FEHR, CLIFFORD HENRY JAMES
<i>Wisconsin Chapter</i> - - - - -	HENRY PHILIP PLUNKETT

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws, to send privileged communications before February 29, 1936, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors on their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

CHARLES T. INGHAM,  
*Secretary.*

## A Monument To Robert Mills

FOR many years the Washington Chapter of The American Institute of Architects has been visiting with great faithfulness every Memorial Day the grave of Robert Mills, and holding a little commemorative ceremony there.

That continued act is representative of a fine sentiment and a fine pride in the profession. It seemed essential and necessary, therefore, that one day on that spot, which these architects by their effort had done much to sanctify, should be placed a stone to continue the memory of Mills to other generations.

Perhaps without justification and coming in at a late hour, I found myself involved in the matter of obtaining this stone.

It occurred to me that, with sculptors out of work and needing to have projects devised for them, the monument to Robert Mills was certainly a worthwhile sculptural project.

I went therefore to my good friend Olin Dows, who is acquainted with possibly every painter, sculptor and stone-cutter in the continental United States and who by pushing certain buttons known only to him is able to put them to work, and placed this idea before him.

As a result, suddenly there was a sculptor-stonecutter available for the carving of the monument. It was all so very quick. One awoke to the fact that there was no design for the monument and no block of material from which to cut it. Nor was there permission from anyone to erect it. Otherwise everything was all clear.

So, having no design and no material for the monument, steps were taken to get permission to erect it. In the course of this investigation, it developed that the Washington Allied Architects had held a competition for a Mills monument, the expenses of which they had defrayed from their own funds, for the benefit, incidentally, of unemployed draftsmen. This competition had been won by P. G. Golden.

It was inevitable that due to a lapse of time the drawings, except for a newspaper print, were lost. But those three talented musketeers, Delos Smith, Francis Sullivan and Horace Peaslee, who now joined in on the project, persuaded Harry Cunningham to make some sparkling drawings interpreting the sketch.

There was now a stonecutter knocking at the door demanding material upon which to etch, carve and otherwise express himself. We had some of

the highest type of working drawings for a high-grade monument. But no stone. It was all theory and no substance.

Everyone we met felt our plaintive eyes upon him asking him, in effect, if he had a block of marble nearby measuring eight feet high, four feet wide and two feet ten inches deep.

At length, the National Marble Producers' Association under the efficient leadership of Locke Trigg, approached us with luminous wings and the voice of angels and offered to donate the material and enact thereon all the preliminary truing up and cutting, together with the running of moldings.

Everything was now at hand except the money. Production began before you could catch your breath. A foundation came into being. The thing was really achieved, and as I write this the fabrication is complete except the lettering.

If not a penny is contributed from any further sources, the whole expense of the project, in material, time, transportation, and construction cost is underwritten by persons who have asked no repayment.

But there has been a general feeling that the sentiment surrounding this stone would not be lessened if its cost were paid for by architects, and preferably by many architects.

For this reason an effort is being made to give every architect an opportunity to contribute in small amount. Such funds as may be raised will be applied to repayment of advances for cost of foundations, for cost of the marble block, for fabrication of the block, for its transportation, and for its final setting. It is hoped that no one will feel burdened if this call for contributions moves his way. It is more sentimental than financial.

The approximate complete cost of the Monument will be \$300.00. If many architects as individuals, or through the Chapters of the Institute, make small contributions, it will spread the cost throughout the profession, and thus there may be carved upon the stone "Erected by the Architects of the United States."

*Edwin Bateman Morris.*

*Editor's Note:* This movement is not sponsored officially by the Institute, but THE OCTAGON is glad to print this appeal from Mr. Morris, and to suggest that those wishing to contribute send their remittances direct to him, marked "Personal," in care of the Procurement Division, Treasury Department, Federal Warehouse, 9th and D Streets, S. W., Washington, D. C.



## Exhortation to the Artist

BY FREDERIC E. TOWNDROW, A. R. I. B. A.

A SUB-TITLE for this essay might be "The Woolworth's Theory of Art," because I intend to expound the view that the value of the artist's work is in proportion to the size of its market. At the moment real pictures are much too much of an expensive luxury for the average man. For instance, let us ask ourselves these questions: When I go into an average English home—even of well-to-do people—why is it that I rarely see a real painting by a contemporary artist? (I say "real" painting because there is the prevalent notion amongst English men and women, that for them to have a "real painting done by hand" it is something so extraordinary as almost to be ashamed of.) And why is it that in all those hundreds of bright and expensive-looking public houses and road houses and restaurants which have been built in this country during the last few years, no one ever thinks of hanging up a few *real* hand-painted pictures upon the walls? And why is it that when I design a modern house for a client I generally forget or fail to persuade him to include some sculpture or pictures in the scheme? I can give the answer in a nutshell: it is because the work of the artist is not marked up in plain figures; there is too much mystery about its price.

High art has become "high hat." It is a luxury product almost solely for the upper-class market. Art is produced not to satisfy a common need, but a peculiar one. It works on the basis of scarcity values. If the output is increased, down goes the price. So etching plates are destroyed after about fifty prints, artists work at "half-cock," and the great public prefers bare walls. All this is part of the mad economic system under which we live. To destroy what is meant to be beautiful in order to maintain a fictitious level of prices is just as fatuous as growing coffee beans in order to throw them into the sea. To restrict output in art in order to keep it rare and precious is the policy of starvation. It is the policy of quotas and tariffs and unemployment.

But in art this could easily be cured, for here it is based upon a wrong sense of values. It is based on the notion that goodness and scarcity are the same. Yet Goodness in art—if it can mean anything at all—must mean the sum total of the influence for good which any artist can produce or inspire. Given

a high level of accomplishment, quantity is as important as quality. A thing is not meretricious merely because a large number of people can afford to enjoy it.

If an artist can produce a thousand good pictures at a pound each, he is, to my mind, a greater artist than he who produces only one picture to sell at a thousand pounds, because his good influence is spread out over a much wider field.

Thus, as I see it, one must judge all work by the sum total of its influence for good. If I produce a remarkable painting and then put it in a cellar, and let it remain there, then, for all practical purposes, that picture does not exist. But that, very nearly, is what most artists do. They produce one or two pictures (hoping they will have a scarcity value) and sell them to rich clients who will put them in houses where only a few people can see them. Pictures should be as plentiful and as beautiful as books. They should be similarly the agents of beautiful or stirring ideas, similarly the vehicles of beneficent influences and, similarly, they should be burned when they have been looked over long enough; that is, when their message has ceased to have any message.

In the future, the intelligent artist—no matter what his medium—will strive for the fullest expression of his ideas in every possible way. He will strive to be the artist-producer. It will not matter much whether he is in commercial art, in industrial activity, in teaching, or in painting upon canvases, providing he does not spare himself. *The greatest influence for good over the greatest number for the longest period* should be his motto. There is work to do for many more thousands of artists. Artists are needed in almost every corner of human activity. But they must organize themselves as an army of producers. So why not a school for artist-producers?

A school where they may not only learn the business of creating but also the business of selling. This is the only way in which we shall get beautiful things at a fair price. The only way in which the honesty and altruism of craftsmanship can be brought back into production to drive out the false, the shoddy and the ugly in modern commercialism. *"Architectural Design and Construction," December, 1935.*

## With the Chapters

[Excerpts from Minutes, Bulletins and Reports]

### Brooklyn.

At a recent meeting of the Brooklyn Chapter, a resolution was adopted condemning the proposed new building code for New York City as "tending to retard building activity" and recommendations were adopted for the proposed charter revision.

The resolution definitely placed the Chapter on record as opposing the new code as submitted to the Board of Aldermen by the Merchants Association. The resolution, offered by Stephen W. Dodge, Vice-President of the Chapter, requests that before any modification of the new code is passed by the Board of Aldermen, it should be reprinted and an opportunity be given for further hearing.

Opposition is based, in addition to a number of technical differences of opinion, upon the premise that the new code is entirely different in form and therefore will take a long time for builders, architects and city authorities to familiarize themselves with the new provisions.

The recommendations are as follows:

"That a board of appeals take the place of the Board of Standards and Appeals, to be composed of a registered architect, a licensed structural engineer, a licensed mechanical engineer, a builder, and a realtor. Each member should have had at least ten years' experience and should be chosen by the Mayor from three names presented by each of the recognized societies.

"It shall be the duty of the Board of Appeals to pass on appeals from decisions by the Board of Buildings and zoning resolutions. The building commissioners should be appointed by the Borough Presidents of each of the five boroughs. The five commissioners, to be either architects, engineers, or builders, will compose a Board of Buildings, as at present, with powers to make, amend, modify the rules of the building code, and test and approve materials and appliances.

"That all functions of the Tenement House Department, Fire Department and the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity in reference to building operations shall be vested in the Department of Buildings."

It was also recommended that no architectural bureau be established by the City of New York, but that architectural work be assigned to architects in private practice.

### Buffalo.

At the December meeting of the Chapter it was decided, that in furtherance of efforts to bring about legislation favorable to architecture and the architect, the following letter be sent to the Governor of the State of New York:

December 9, 1935.

The Honorable Herbert H. Lehman  
Governor of the State of New York  
Albany, New York.

My dear Governor Lehman:

The Buffalo Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, in view of your Excellency's expressed interest in movements which will be of benefit to wage-earners in the lower income brackets, wishes to call your careful attention to one of its recent activities.

In an effort to minimize the number of poorly designed and uneconomically maintained homes of the cheaper class in New York State, this Chapter has in the past year organized and sponsored the "Buffalo Small House Bureau." Through this Bureau a prospective home owner may obtain, on homes costing \$7,500.00 or less, excellent architectural service (including plans, specifications, and inspection of the construction), at a fee of from \$125.00 to \$165.00. The Buffalo public is becoming increasingly aware of the benefits they may derive under such a plan, realizing that the negligible cost of this architectural service is repaid to them in reduced maintenance costs, increased economy of space and greater efficiency in their entire mode of living.

The experience, and training, and unbiased services of the architect, if the public is to benefit from such, should not be ignored due to laws which, on account of the proportionate increase in the number of small homes, are fast becoming antedated and in fact injurious to the architecture of this day and age.

We now most emphatically urge, therefore, that in order to help us and similar groups throughout the state in developing this plan to the point where it becomes of benefit to every citizen contemplating an inexpensive home, you give your whole-hearted support in the future to measures which may further qualify the present exemption laws of New York State by which certain buildings may now be designed without the use of architects or engineers.

Submitted in the hope that such legislation may meet with your early approval and adoption.

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN J. WADE,  
President.

### Grand Rapids.

The first meeting of the year was held on January 6 at the Association of Commerce.

The high point of the meeting was the presentation, by President Harry L. Mead, of his annual paper, in which he reviewed conditions in the building industry in the Grand Rapids territory.

In concluding his address, President Mead said:

Locally there is a healthy and conservative improvement in the industrial situation and in the employment of labor, and it is unquestioned that this improvement will be reflected in increased real estate activity and result in a material improvement in building activity. Hundreds of dwelling units have been demolished during the past several years and this condition will serve to eliminate many of these structures which had become unfit for human habitation. This work could be carried further in every city and many villages with great benefit to the community involved and would serve as a stimulus to the construction of many new, clean, well designed modern dwellings.

A healthy indication in the field of home building as fostered by the Federal Housing Administration has been the elimination of many of the factors which have served to injure the home buyer and those agencies which have been in the business of lending money for the building and purchasing of homes. The evils existing under the former practice of speculative home building in which the Architect was not called in to safeguard the interest of the buyer and of the lending agency, the poorly designed, unwise and shoddily constructed buildings were first called to the attention of the public in the President's Conference on Home Building and Ownership in 1931. It is now mandatory that all plans for homes the mortgages on which are to be insured by the Federal Government must be passed upon by properly qualified Architects as to all of the qualities which go to make a good home and a sound and permanent investment.

### Pittsburgh.

The early December meeting was devoted to newspaper publicity in cooperation with F. H. A.

The Secretary read proposals received from Sun-Telegraph, Press, and Post-Gazette, and considerable discussion followed.

It was moved that each of the newspapers be thanked for submitting its proposal and that the Chapter, at its earliest opportunity prepare and submit to each of the newspapers a plan in which the Pittsburgh Chapter can cooperate.

The motion was put to a vote and carried.

At the regular December meeting the Secretary reported for the Special Committee on Registration Laws and the recommendation of the Board

thereon. The report was referred to the State Association and notice of this action was ordered given to other Chapters in the State of Pennsylvania and to the State Registration Board.

The Secretary was requested to ask each Chapter in the State to urge upon Governor Earle the appointment of a Western Pennsylvania architect to the State Board of Examiners of Architects. The name of Charles T. Ingham was suggested.

The Secretary read the report of the Joint Meeting of the Committee on Small Houses and the Publicity Committee, at which forty architects were in attendance. At this meeting, it was moved and seconded that a Special Committee be appointed to proceed to acquaint the papers with the Chapter policy, and to develop the plan with any newspaper interested. The Secretary was instructed to inform the members of the status of this matter and that they be notified that they may be called upon to prepare drawings.

Charles T. Ingham, Secretary of The American Institute of Architects, stated that the Pittsburgh Chapter has not been furnishing the Committee on Publicity of the Institute with items of interest that can be used to publicize the work of the Institute.

### Oregon.

At a recent meeting of the Chapter many topics of interest were discussed.

A report of the Building Laws Committee was presented by Francis B. Jacobberger, and extended discussion ensued relative to the Front Street Improvement project. Hollis E. Johnston moved that a letter of appreciation be written to the City Council on their efforts in regard to the Foothill Boulevard and Front Street project.

The report of the Education Committee was presented by A. Glenn Stanton.

The report of the Entertainment Committee was presented by John T. Schneider.

The report of the Membership Committee was presented by Richard Sundleaf.

The report of the Special Capitol Committee was presented by Hollis E. Johnston, after lengthy discussion with the Capitol Reconstruction Committee. It is the opinion of the Capitol Reconstruction Committee that a competition for the reconstruction of the Capitol Building should be held and that five architects, outside of the State of Oregon, should be named, whose professional advice would be sought.

## As of Interest

### "Color in Sketching and Rendering."

Arthur L. Guphill, A. I. A., author of "Sketching and Rendering in Pencil" and "Drawing with Pen and Ink," has just completed what is perhaps one of the most comprehensive, clear and authoritative books on color thus far offered to the profession.

This volume was first conceived as a text and reference book for the person primarily interested in architectural rendering in color. In its final form, however, while still ideal for that purpose, its scope has been so enlarged that it offers a vast fund of information on practically every phase of representative painting in water color and related media. Step by step, the text leads through particularly complete elementary chapters to later professional considerations. Every point is fully explained and graphically illustrated. Numbered exercises are offered for the student forced to work without a teacher. Many professional secrets are revealed.

It has many illustrations in full color and is indexed for ready reference.

Published by Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 330 West 42d Street, New York City. Price, \$10.00.

### "Our Enemy the Termite."

Thomas Elliott Snyder, Senior Entomologist of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture, has just completed a two-hundred page, illustrated volume on termites, which should be of particular interest to the architectural profession.

It is estimated that termites cause \$40,000,000 damage in the United States annually. Here is a book which tells how to build termite-proof structures and how to save structures infested by termites.

Dr. Snyder has studied the termite for twenty-six years, and this book is the fruit of his research.

It treats the termite from both the economic and entomological point of view for, as the author shows, it is impossible to prescribe methods of control until the type of termite involved and its life habits are understood.

The first six chapters discuss the place of termites among insects; the different species of termites; their life history and the caste system; their physiology and behavior, individual and social; their food; and the guests which sometimes dwell in the termite colony. Although completely authoritative and rigorously scientific, the book is so simply written that the layman can understand it without difficulty.

The four remaining chapters discuss the damage that termites do and methods of control. This section is especially suited to the needs of the city planner, the architect, the contractor, the homeowner, and all who own or use any sort of wooden structures or supports. Here practical suggestions are made for building termite-proof houses and for saving structures already infested. The various methods of control now on the market are discussed and the fraudulent ones exposed. At the same time, the question of a termite menace is sanely treated and the unfounded fears which have arisen from ignorance on the part of the public are dispelled.

The appendix contains recommended provisions for city building codes, for insuring protection against termites and decay, a model tally sheet or form on which a building inspector can record the pertinent facts about termite damage, and specifications for an agreement between the house-owner and a contractor undertaking to remedy termite damage to buildings.

Numerous illustrations heighten the value of the work.

Published by Comstock Publishing Company, 124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, New York. Price, \$3.00.

