

ON WAR MEMORIALS, CAUSE AND EFFECTIVENESS

by Alan K. Laing, A.I.A., Professor of Architecture, University of Illinois

"And what kind of a memorial do you suggest, Demetrius, to commemorate the heroes of Marathon?"

"I think it should be useful."

"By that do you mean that it should be useful to the body or to the spirit?"

"Both."

So, I suppose, ran the discussions in the agora as the Athenian fathers of twenty-four hundred years ago neared decision on the manner of commemorating their honored dead. After some review of the writing about war memorials in the post Civil war period, in the years 1919-20, and in the present, one can scarcely avoid a "this is where I came in" feeling as the subject is again thrust forward from the ashes of war. By this I do not mean that nothing new has been added, for many have thought about the subject and brilliant presentations of it are not lacking. But certain aspects of the question inevitably recur. However, its urgency is such that all aspects should receive our continued and careful attention.

First as to terms. With etymological justification "memorial" and "monument" are used synonymously. However the word "monument" is often used in a more general sense. Sometimes (I suppose from its association with cemetery monuments) it is also used in a deprecatory sense.

The primary function of a memorial is certainly to preserve remembrance of someone, something, some idea or event. The memorial may be, and we hope will be, beautiful. It may improve the appearance of the community in which it is placed. It may serve some more practical purpose. But all these are secondary to the preservation of remembrance.

The duration of such remembrance varies with the nature of the thing or person remembered. If our thinking is to be commensurate with the present cause it must embrace many centuries. If it fails to do so posterity will wonder at our myopia.

For memorials to those who have died in the present defense of freedom we all seek the best, the most evocative symbols that can be achieved. Visual experience with pinch-penny plagiarisms and sentimental ineptitudes have prompted architects and others to speak out vehemently against the repetition of such mistakes. The recollection of such architectural clichés leads some to condemn as "monuments" all memorials which have no practical function.

But ours is an eminently practical age. That ideals, courage, and sacrifice exist in prodigal quantity needs no further testimony than the daily paper. None the less, in the routine of peacetime living, the emphasis is on the practical. Education stresses livelihood rather than citizenship or humanity. The frontiersmen in all areas of knowledge are challenged as to the practical application of their discoveries. "So what?" and "What's the good of it?" are the questions asked by Main Street.

Judging from past experience and present publicity, towns large and small are going to build war memorials of some kind and we might as well face the fact that many of the communities will have big dreams but little purses. Other practical considerations are equally apparent. Memorial committees may not be wisely appointed. In fact, they may be entirely composed of members having little or no acquaint-

tance with architecture or art. Intentions will be good but experience and training generally inadequate. Then there is the matter of committee fatigue, the "yield point," I suppose we might call it, when committees become so tired, looking, talking and evaluating, that they finally select a design as they would pluck a lottery number. (Following the first world war, one committee having less than \$1000 to spend considered forty-six different designs.) Another consideration is the limited number of architects, sculptors, and painters capable of making significant contributions to memorial design even if funds are adequate. Corollary to this is the possibility of competition from a multitude of urgent practical projects each vying for their services.

With such practical considerations before us it seems preferable to think of memorials as classified according to the quantitative representation of those commissioning them. Some may be international in character . . . commemorating the heroic dead on some foreign battlefield where allied might and courage achieved an epochal objective. Memorials of a national character there will certainly be, and those commissioned by states and large cities. A final group, not of smaller functional importance but limited by budgetary restrictions, will include the many memorials commissioned by smaller cities, towns and villages.

Further analysis of the memorial function obviously involves the subject and nature of remembrance. Of course we fervently desire to remember the men who fought and died. But we feel, as they would feel, that such remembrance is only a token of our debt. What of the cause for which they fought and died? Is it to be effaced by the erosive action of time? We say that the symbol of commemoration must be such that we cannot forget, but in our hearts we are skeptical of our ability to create such a symbol and skeptical of our ability to gather its full meaning after repeated contact. So, while I anticipate some memorials, international, national, state and municipal, conceived strictly as symbols of remembrance, I believe there should be others which challenge remembrance in a more specific way.

The physical form of this second type of memorial should evoke remembrance of men and deeds, but it should also actively serve the cause for which the sacrifice was made. How? By partially embodying the functions of museum, educational center and chapel. It may sound academic, or perhaps your recollection of the usual museum of war relics may provide foundation for a wall or prejudice. But further exploration of the idea may be profitable. Remembrance, like imagination, is a thing of spirit overleaping barriers of time and space. It seems to me that the activities suggested by the above functions have a relevancy to the memorial function far exceeding that of athletic stadiums, community buildings, bridges or air beacons. Practical use which does not involve mental and spiritual processes in direct relation to the purpose of the memorial will inevitably vitiate that purpose.

Those in contact with contemporary museums know that display technique has improved astonishingly in recent years. It daily demonstrates its ability to attract the attention of thousands and challenge the thought of hundreds. I suggest, therefore, in place of the semi-sepulchral war museum, which has frequently been a part of war memorials, a live museum

employing modern techniques. Exhibits, which could originate in one or several centers, might aim at increased international understanding. They might illustrate milestones toward peace. They might periodically reinform us of the tragic toll of war. Films on similar themes might also be shown at intervals. You have witnessed the extensive use of these techniques in wartime, and you have heard it said a dozen times that freedom is not a thing once won and placed in safe deposit. If, then, memorials are to help us remember the cause as well as those who died for that cause, should they not help us to continue our effort in behalf of that cause?

The space provision need not be large. Continuity of interest seems preferable to concentrated but infrequent attendance.

Supplementary to this activity, which is of course educational in nature, the memorial (I am still talking about those in large governmental units) might serve as a repository for material pertaining to war and peace, and provide a study center for those engaged in those studies. It is conceivable that government documents, or microfilms of pertinent material which might not be available in public libraries, would be housed in such memorial centers. Once so housed they would probably attract their like. Such collections when separately sheltered usually receive more attention than when placed with a general library collection. The Hoover collection at Stanford University represents the idea, and I note with interest the provision for a memorial library, as well as a museum, in the proposed Boston War Memorial by Maginnis and Walsh.

Fruitful possibilities also appear in the organization of awards for distinguished achievement in the fields of international understanding and peace. Such awards might be made at public gatherings held in the memorial setting. I know there are those who look with skepticism at the Nobel awards in behalf of peace while applauding those made in science and literature. But all these awards have focused public attention upon outstanding achievement in the respective fields, as have the awards made by some cities for exceptional contributions to civic welfare.

In 1919 Ralph Adams Cram wrote that votive churches would make the best and most significant memorials. However, he saw no use in talking of them to that generation for several reasons. Perhaps we are now more spiritually mature. At least, I hope we shall have something better than the bitter skepticism and hedonistic materialism of the 1920's. The idea of a chapel of meditation seems eminently fitting in connection with a memorial. Certainly it should be such a place as would feed the aspirations of mankind . . . a place in which the utmost attention should be given to aesthetic values. I think it need have no chaplain or officiating priest. It would be a place where all might come, but especially those who have experienced the sharp stab and continuing ache of war sorrow, knowing that they might find there some solace in remembrance of their departed and in communion with God.

These memorials should be placed at or near the heart of population activity in a setting of dignity and ampleness. They would thereby expose the greatest number to the memorial function, actively or passively. Of course, the placement and orientation will be affected by the city plan and by the character of the memorial itself.

In design as in the materials employed, the conception should anticipate a useful life of centuries. For that reason particularly, I should advocate simplicity and restraint. I should also urge the avoidance of identifiable stylistic forms, so that the grandsons of the present generation may see our honest effort to give expression to our civilization in its time

of greatest emotional stress. Dependence on forms created by other civilizations carries with it a confession of aesthetic incoherence. This is not said to belittle the aesthetic quality of many derivative memorials, nor to deny the value of careful study in the laboratory of the past. It is said to encourage an indigenous and "of our time" quality in memorials and to add to the fullness of their expression.

Now a note on the very practical matter of cost. The initial cost of any large war memorial will be a significant item, notwithstanding our constant exposure to the ten and twelve figured sums of recent years. But if a memorial is worth building, I think everyone will recognize the wisdom of building the best. Maintenance of such active memorials, as I suggest may seem costly unless measured in terms of their accomplishment, and accomplishment in such a realm is hard to measure. The five Nobel prizes amount to about \$40,000 annually. That figure would about equal the cost of one big gun. I leave to you the evaluation of one big gun in modern warfare and the Nobel awards in peacetime living. Generously estimate the cost of operating the memorial functions suggested in comparison with the war costs we shall face if we fail again in our effort to live together. By linking the necessary appropriations to the memorial we shall be more conscious of their purpose. The connection will constantly reinforce the major objective . . . remembrance of the tragic past and the need for incessant effort in the future if the cause for which our heroes died is to be achieved.

As to war memorials for the small community (and for memorials in general) there are valuable suggestions in the article by Mr. Fiske Kimball (New York Times, Nov. 10, 1944) and in the progress report of the Institute's War Memorials Committee under the able chairmanship of Mr. Paul Cret.

The importance of appointing a non-political, representative and intelligent committee is unquestionable and the communities should certainly make use of their architects, artists and museum men when these are available.

Advisory aid may be obtained in some instances from state art commissions, from committees of the local A.I.A. chapters, state architects societies and of the National Sculpture Society.

Regarding the question of duplicated designs, Mr. Kimball states that the National Sculpture Society is working to improve the quality of standardized tablets. I am wondering if the Institute, possibly in collaboration with the National Sculpture Society, could not sponsor architectural designs for duplication in communities not too closely situated. There may be efforts in that direction, though I have not heard of them. The problem does not involve the functional variations present in small house design and consequently should be more capable of solution. The availability of a reasonable number of such designs at a cost commensurate with average community budgets might do much to eliminate such inappropriate memorials as found realization after the last war.

Finally, with respect to community education on the subject of memorials, I should heartily second Mr. Bannister's suggestion that the Institute Committee prepare one or more travelling exhibitions for circulation among larger cities and a brochure reproducing part of such exhibits for distribution to the smaller communities. The architects of the nation bear a heavy responsibility in the matter of war memorials and must take the lead in creating an awareness of the factors involved and the qualities desired. Even though there be disagreement as to the form the memorial should take, the subject offers an important opportunity for community education in architecture and in the spiritual values we hope to perpetuate.

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Editor Monthly Bulletin

ARTHUR WOLTERS DORF, 520 North Michigan Ave., CHICAGO 11, ILL.

Prompted by the Federal Government to plan and arrange for postwar construction in order to provide steady jobs for the millions of men and women returning to their homes after the war, both the states and municipalities are active in examining carefully their needs in order to cooperate with the Federal Government in providing employment. The Bulletin will consider here only Chicago's plans in this effort.

Mayor Kelly has called upon all the city departments and bureaus to tabulate and estimate approximately the cost of their needs. They have done this and their statements have been referred to the Chicago Plan Commission for study, assemblage and coordination. While the city furnishes water and perhaps other utilities to suburbs beyond the corporate limits of the city, the construction enumerated is for work within the city. It is the function of the Plan Commission to formulate a balanced and unified program to eliminate overlapping departmental inclusions and to bring the entire within the framework of the Master Plan of Chicago.

In this connection earlier investigations and planning by the Commission form a valuable guide. In 1941 the Commission reported on "Rebuilding Old Chicago." In 1942 it made, as a WPA project, a comprehensive land use survey. This survey is perhaps the only complete and thorough land use survey produced in any American city to date. In 1943 came a master plan for residential land use. All of these projects have been published in book form, replete with maps and valuable illustrations. The program for postwar construction contemplates about a ten year period for public works constructions. It does not include housing projects, even though some housing projects might be helped along with public monies. A summary of the works for various departments of the city comprises twenty items or twenty department needs. They are:

Health	\$ 9,809,401
Water	\$ 134,730,000

Sewerage	\$ 111,429,514
Fire	\$ 5,166,831
Police	\$ 2,077,532
Municipal Buildings	\$ 9,455,000
Parks and Playgrounds	\$ 77,111,000
Boulevards and Parkways	\$ 18,285,500
Schools	\$ 30,202,000
Libraries	\$ 2,547,750
Transit	\$ 175,200,000
Expressways	\$ 167,317,000
Major Thoroughfares	\$ 31,866,000
Street Lighting & Traffic Control	\$ 11,277,000
Secondary Streets	\$ 25,450,000
Grade Separations	\$ 53,256,000
Bridges	\$ 16,495,000
Parking	\$ 30,000,000
Water Way Improvements	\$ 9,124,000
Airports	\$ 26,000,000
Total	\$ 946,799,528

The selection of projects is not intended to be final, nor does the program suggest that each of the projects must necessarily be realized. As the future unfolds, some adjustments and additions may be found practical and desirable.

Some of these projects may be expected to bring direct money returns such as tolls from superhighways. No consideration is given by the Commission of how these monies are to be raised. The Commission is a planning and advisory body. The Common Council of the City of Chicago is the one to appropriate or find the monies and give orders for execution.

A detailed account of the various projects proposed is to be published very soon in book form by the Chicago Plan Commission, entitled CHICAGO LOOKS AHEAD.

The Bulletin's editorial on postwar commemorative monuments printed in the February-March issue has been responded to in two letters by men prominent in the architectural field; one, condemnatory—the other voicing approval.

William W. Wurster, recently appointed Dean of the School of Architecture at M.I.T. takes particular exception to the editorial's closing words where the suggestion is made that, since architects read the Hudnut criticisms attentively, the work of Hudnut as a once practicing architect be published in pictures and text to enlighten fellow architects on the Hudnut conception.

Mr. Wurster calls this an "implication that Dean Hudnut should be mute on an important subject in architecture for no other reason than that he is not a practicing architect." Mr. Wurster says further . . . "the very creative ability would color and get in the way of an objective criticism and ever justify past performance and seek to guide the object under scrutiny in its own creative image." (sic) . . . "Indeed, we lack honest professional criticism more than we lack designers". . .

Mr. Paul P. Cret, A.I.A. War Memorials Committee writes: "I am glad your Bulletin agrees that the issue raised by Mr. Hudnut is not more than his personal view on a subject which has many aspects. To state as Mr. Hudnut does, 'Among the thousands that have been built not one is beautiful . . .' is not more than to say that he does not like them, and it

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Illinois Society February and March Meetings

The monthly dinner and meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects was held in the Chicago Room of Central Y. M.C.A., Chicago, on February 28 with an attendance of 46. The inner man having been taken care of, President G. Harold Smith turned to the business of the evening. He had Secretary Harris read the minutes of the January meeting, which were approved without change. He then welcomed four new members who were present, M. Jerome Glicken, Moriz F. Strauch, Mr. Van der Meer of Aurora and the new Cook County architect David Saul Klafter. The visitor he introduced was Captain Charles V. Rowe, son of Charles B. Rowe, a member. The President announced that a draft of the proposed new Illinois Professional Engineering Act had been submitted to which the Board of Directors had taken no exception.

The President now turned to the program of the evening and introduced Frank J. Hanrahan, structural engineer for the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, as the first speaker. Mr. Hanrahan had come from Washington, D. C. especially to address the Society on "Developments In Roof Structures Resulting From War Experiences And Their Adaptation To Postwar Work." The speaker began by saying that before Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941) the structures using wood roof trusses were of a standard with ring connections, etc., that had been accepted and approved up to that time. Immediately after Pearl Harbor there was a change. Great acceleration in the draft of men put into the armed forces of the country produced a scarcity of competent mechanics, while the speed demanded for the erection of new structures became very pressing. At a convention of American and Canadian engineers, appeared a representative of the United States Government who insisted that structures in which war material must be fabricated would have to be created forthwith and completed at the earliest moment possible, even though a small percentage of failures might happen. The result was that green lumber was used, incompetent mechanics were set to work, in one case wood trusses were set with the lower cord on top and other mistakes occurred. Connectors were at times omitted and old fashioned plain bolts with little washers substituted. In 1943 the Army, Navy and the Maritime Commission, with the efficient help of Forest Products Laboratory, the National Bureau of Standards and the Department of Commerce had formulated excellent and rigid specifications with 25 per cent increase in fibrestress and from then on the work on these war structures, usually with a truss span of 70 ft. and more, proceeded regularly and efficiently so that today these structures built for the Government cover an area equivalent to a building 92 ft. wide and stretching in a straight line from New York City to San Francisco. The failures from Pearl Harbor to now are but 5% of the total. Mr. Hanrahan now turned to the screen and showed pictures of these structures with truss types of the Howe, the bowstring and parabolic arches. He spoke of difficulties at the truss and column connections in the early period. There were some questions and answers.

The second programmed speaker was Leo H. Kraemer, long consulting engineer for the Lumber Institute and now research engineer for Edward Hines Lumber Company. His subject was "Chemical Treats Of Lumber And Wood Chemistry." Mr. Kraemer's subject had bearing on plasticized wood, often misnamed plastic wood. Fundamentally this means wood veneers impregnated with resin. He, too, paid his compliments to Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin, whose scientific investigation and deductions made possible what has been accomplished in this new wood development. Here again the Government's war orders have played an important part in the advance made. While lumber was not an absolute necessity, since other materials were still available, the Navy had been insistent on the use of wood in airplanes. The treats to render lumber decay resistant were predicated on a long satisfactory service record. Fire resistance had been achieved in the past though the life of

this resistance had not been sufficiently long. Minalith and protolox have proved their permanence. The speaker next dwelt upon the importance of glues and their very careful application. He spoke of dirt and dust being a sure disintegrant when found on the surfaces where glue is to adhere effectively to veneers. Moisture in such places is also disastrous and even temperature is a necessity. He held that the three classifications of waterproof glues are phenols, resorcinols and melamines. These are hot press glues. The cold setting glues are urea and casein. These give satisfaction under protected conditions but should not be used where affected by moisture. Urea glue when hot pressed may become water resistant but not waterproof. The speaker warned that with the use of plasticized wood the architects' responsibility was increased. He must expect that the manufacturer is likely to become over-enthusiastic with his product and that the architect through inspection or otherwise must be on his guard to get, not alone the right glue but the workmanship producing perfect adhesion throughout the entire surfaces of the lamination.

—A. W.

The March meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects was held Thursday March 29 in the rooms of The Builders Club, a change in the regular date having been made to accommodate the engagements of the speakers. The club's quarters afforded a comfortable meeting place, and after some delay an acceptable dinner was served. There were forty-two members and guests present. Among the seven guests were Architect W. E. Kapp of Detroit, and a number of architects of the United Air Lines. James Moore, Manager of the U.A.L. economic research, an announced speaker, was unable to be present. He was ably represented by Don F. Magarell, who furnished a mass of interesting research statistics.

President Smith called the meeting to order at eight o'clock, the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, no correspondence, no committee reports or new business was presented; the president then introduced the principal speaker, Albert F. Heino, United Airline Architect, who in turn introduced other speakers from the U.A.L. The subject was "Air Terminal Design", as applied to the buildings rather than to landing fields, or runways. After considerable delay in getting the lantern in operation, a number of studies by architects of Air Terminals were shown, as well as some very beautifully colored pictures of future passenger air planes, which have never before been shown.

Due to the huge ground space required by parked airplanes as compared to their carrying capacity the design of air terminals for the future becomes a difficult and complicated problem, one in which architects will be interested, but which involves a mass of engineering and scientific data and an ability to look into the probable requirements of the future, keeping in mind the trends of airplane development and increasing popularity of airplane travel. Somewhat different future methods of planning will be required due to these and other developments, than those heretofore in use, which have resulted in what was termed "organized confusion". The solution seems to be in a decentralized arrangement providing for the separation of various lines using the same terminal, and the separation of passengers, public, freight, mail, express, and utilities involved in servicing the planes as well as those serving passengers. This separation however will have to be accomplished in a manner that will not detract from the efficiency of the plant, both as regards passengers and the operating departments. Communications from one part of the huge space to another without undue delay, confusion and loss of time, is one of the major problems. Many services have to be performed in the brief stop of a plane, involving unloading passengers, freight, mail etc., and reloading, as well as refueling and servicing, all performed in the shortest possible time, in the most efficient and convenient manner without interference. Multiply these operations by a large number of planes, necessarily widely separated, and a complicated and difficult problem results, compared to which the design of a large railroad terminal is a simple problem. An improvement in the design of planes is to be looked for which will affect the terminal design. As a general scheme a structure with at least three stories seems indicated, the top being for public waiting rooms and sight seeing, the second for passengers and the lower story for freight, mail, express, etc. and services. It is expected that passenger loading and unloading will be made practical at

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Chicago Chapter February and March Meetings

A curiosity to fathom the mystery of a *Brouhaha* or an urge to explore the interior of those sturdy walls which enclose The Racquet Club were no doubt responsible for the oversubscribed (50 limit) attendance of 66 persons at the February 20 Chicago Chapter, A. I. A. meeting. The gathering got off on an early start which was much accelerated by the flow of amber colored fluids dispensed at a private bar.

It was both pleasant and gratifying to count among those in attendance such faces as C. Herrick Hammond, Hugh Garden, Andrew Rebori, Hubert Burnham, John Furgard, and Bertram Weber.

Dinner did not get under way until around 7:30 P.M., presided over by President Alfred Shaw who was in his element and promptly announced that all reference to architecture was taboo. The dinner was extraordinary, the plate-resistance being a 1-3/4 inch thick mutton chop garnished with a pork sausage, mushrooms and a piece of kidney, and ended with a demi tasse of coffee and French pastry.

There was a call, even an insistence, to read the minutes of the last meeting, all duly squelched, which gave Shaw his opening to call on Herrick Hammond to talk about "curing", which proved to be a new ice sport. He ended up by reading a poem about Tom Atkins who compared the short longevity of animals who don't imbibe lipuor like an in-briate.

Next followed Andy Rebori who with much *éclat* and *gusto* refereed a championship bout between a certain Jack Dempsey and an orangutan, which the succeeding speaker, Arthur McArthur, alleviated with his discourse on Scotch Presbyterianism.

A cooper, Shaw's Uncle John Winterbottom, then regaled us with a telephone conversation of a colored boy and his master reporting what happened when his mule Imogene became stubborn. He later sang a song about another darky who did not want to be reconstructed after the Civil War.

Others who added stories or yarns were Jarvis and John Cromelin who arranged a quartet of former Ecole des Beaux Arts students to sing old French student songs which, however did not go over big, and as the evening lagged many scattered to tour the majestic halls and lounges of The Racquet Club.

It was a grand and jovial party, and where else could you have eaten a 1-3/4 inch thick mutton chop and bread with honest and truly butter at so low a tariff as one dollar and ninety cents including tax and gratuities.

Leo J. Weissenborn

The Chapter's March meeting has been deferred to March 30 to meet the time schedule of Frank Lloyd Wright, programmed speaker for that meeting. A report of the event will appear in the June-July issue of the Bulletin.

Ernest J. Townsend, Field Representative of Michigan Planning Commission reports Michigan's upper peninsula has an area nearly that of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island combined, yet it has fewer inhabitants than one-half the population of Boston. In 1940 324,000 persons lived there. By 1944 downstate war industries, selective service and enlistments had drained away twenty percent of the 1940 population.

Newly appointed members to the Chicago Plan Commission are John A. Holabird, James J. Cavanagh, Martin Kennelley, succeeding Albert H. Veeder, Edward A. Kelly, James Bulger.

"Let there be no memorial in which the mundane, utilitarian or functional outweighs its spiritual or high moral purpose, and let us be mindful that future generations will judge us by what we build."

Paul Manship

Carl L. Gardner, newly appointed to the position of Director of Master Plan, the Chicago Plan Commission, succeeding J. Howard Raftery, resigned, has come from the Federal Housing Administration where he was in charge of land planning. He is a graduate of the University of Washington and a post-graduate student of the School of Planning at Harvard. He has served the National Park Service, Farm Security Administration and the Rural Resettlement Administration. Earlier in his career he worked on the technical staff of Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks in New York City, on the Long Island Parkways and with the late Thomas Adams who directed the New York Regional Plan.

The Boston Public Library, in Charles D. Maginnis' opinion, is Boston's most arresting and impressive civic building. Admitting that it is abstract and academic, and if done again would be done differently, Maginnis feels it is a demonstration of architectural nobility for which modernism promises no corresponding terms. Its distinguished envelope, rich decorative contents and general serenity all appeal to him.

Understand the real lowdown on the Big 3 conference is that Churchill got Germany, Stalin got Poland and Roosevelt got Montgomery Ward's. —Chaswit

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would be useless to reply that Mr. Hudnut's taste is not necessarily the standard by which all things are to be judged. He would not agree. As an argument it is of the same value as 'I never did like tomatoes, therefore tomatoes are bad.'

The Bulletin's opinion today coincides with the opinion expressed in the February-March Bulletin.

Three Organizations Sponsor Walter Gropius' Lecture

The Chicago Association of Commerce and Chicago Plan Commission joined the Institute of Design in sponsoring a lecture by Walter Gropius, preceded by a luncheon on February 23 in the grand ballroom of the Palmer House. The surprisingly large attendance of more than 600 was drawn from many elements of the community.

Walter Gropius is known to most architects as the founder and director of the Bauhaus at Dessau in Germany in 1918. It was a school meant to bring disappointed architects, designers, artists and craftsmen out of hiding in their "ivory towers" and prepare them for work in the post war days of World War I. Gropius left Germany in 1934, spending the next two years in England and after that he came to this country becoming Chairman of the School of Architecture of Harvard University, which position he holds today.

Gropius talked on "Rebuilding our Communities after the War," and illustrated his talk with lantern slides. Among the many things he said are "The sickness of our present communities is the pitiful result of our failure to put basic human needs above economical and industrial requirements . . ." Later he said "it is up to the community to keep the real estate men from running wild." He said further "It is a fact that the average man today can not afford a decent dwelling on the free market. . . Something must be wrong in the whole building trade if the rent of even those (government) subsidized dwellings, only half-paid-for by the tenants, still remains out of reach for the lower income class." Gropius advocated ownership of land; simplification of building techniques by use of prefabricated dwelling units without sacrificing "individuality and beauty."

The Container Corporation of America has retained Walter Gropius, once with the Bauhaus in Germany, as its "architectural consultant." He will draft a "dream factory plan" for the company, giving the structures a family resemblance and hence some promotional value.

Old Building Contest, Elgin

Awards of merit for various classes of buildings over seventy years old and within five miles of Elgin, Illinois, were announced at the annual dinner of the Elgin Real Estate Board in the Masonic Temple on the evening of February 17. For some years it has been the custom of the Board to give awards to new structures, but this year war has interfered with the output and the present contest was held instead.

Taking part in the official tour of inspection of eligible examples last fall were the real estate editors of Chicago daily papers, American Builder, three Elgin Real Estate Board representatives, Assessor Calame. Guests were supplied with a photo list. Mayor Walter Miller and Earl H. Reed, Architect of Chicago, accompanied the party, Reed functioning as judge of the contest.

More than forty structures were visited October 21 last, resulting in the giving of awards and honorable mentions in various classifications ranging from ante bellum examples to those of the Grant period, subdivided into masonry, frame and other classifications.

Elgin Academy's main building, built in 1855 and designed by J. Quigley, a Buffalo architect received first award for institutional buildings and the award for the best of all old buildings in the Elgin area.

Many early masonry structures were reviewed, including the important 1841 Fay-Keating house in ledge stone, with brick double chimney ends, located near where Scott's army crossed the Fox and the brick Hinsdell house of 1845 with curved stairs and pure Greek wood detail stands. Both were measured by the Historic American Buildings Survey under Mr. Reed's direction as District Officer, hence excluded from the present contest.

Of outstanding interest is a group of cobble and ledge stone houses of excellent craftsmanship, some of which are attributed to James Beasley, early stone mason, by Mr. Yarwood who did excellent research work in connection with buildings mentioned herein. The Peasley residence in South Elgin, awarded a first prize, bears evidence of having been erected in the 1840's. It has simple fine mass, interesting openings and the walls of the main portion are formed of alternated cobble and ledge stones, three courses each, producing a charming effect. As usual in these houses, the corners are strengthened with dimension stone quoins. There are several others of plainer type including Pioneer House, built by the Kimballs in 1846, and the Kenyon farmhouse in South Elgin with three types of cobblestone work and fine woodwork.

Local tradition indicates that these cobblestone walls, usually 18" or more thick, were built with plank forms of a height required by one day's work, into which the stones and mortar were dumped. Great care was taken to first course up the selected stones on the outside surface as the work progressed and when forms were removed, the work was pointed up with mortar, cement being rarely or never available. Though found in isolated cases in the midwest and in upper New York state, this effective building method is highly developed around Elgin.

The broad surfaced, under windowed Todd cottage in Dundee displays skillful local buff brick work. Its lines are curiously composed to represent Greek Revival cornice and end return members. It received a first award. The McLean farm house in Dundee and the Van Nostrand in south east Elgin were noteworthy. The former was refined in detail and of that "up state" New York and Ohio type found so frequently here to warrant calling it the "Illinois Farm House Style." It was given a first award. The Van Nostrand house is elaborate Greek, somewhat debased, but with original porch supports and an interesting rear.

The Wilcox house, a miniature Greek court house, is of stucco and embodies the ideals of the 1840's according to Minard LaFever's handbook. It was given a first award as was the Fierke house in Dundee, a quite perfect middle Victorian example. The Whedon and Browning houses and the

Braden in Dundee were considered to be adaptable in type to modern use, with first award to the first named. Trim and hip roofed, this simple little home recently modernized, could take a creditable place in any group of currently designed small homes.

The Davidson house near the site of the Gifford log cabin of 1835 on the Galena-Chicago road, was given first award on account of historical interest, it having been built by James T. Gifford, the founder of Elgin. Though harmonious in appearance, it displays a variety of styles from the Peasley cobblestone and Greek features to Mansard roof and dormers of the 1870's.

Two old hotels, the Kimball House, now the Northway, built in 1853 near Elgin's first railroad station on the east side, and the Western House with the 1875 front on the west side. The Kimball is now bereft of its formerly interesting cupola, chimneys, rails and west porch, and presents little idea of its original appearance. A panorama drawing of Elgin in the early 1880's portrays a prosperous town. Inserted in the upper corners show the renowned watch factory and the excellent State Hospital of the 1870's with an astonishing bridge in the foreground provided with a picturesque island house in the middle, like Florence or medieval Paris.

Elgin antiquities are not easily found because of the unusually scattered manner of its growth. But many fine early examples remain. They were identified and discussed in detail and their relationship to other pioneer work defined by Mr. Reed during his talk. Over thirty-five local slides from Kenneth C. Hoffman's photos and as many others loaned by the Chicago Art Institute were used to present the subject to two hundred or more local people present at the dinner.

Take the old Army Trail out as soon as conditions allow work through south Elgin into Dundee and you will see as interesting a group of old structures as can be easily reached in one day from Chicago. —E. H. R.

Chicago "Auditorium's" Future

Chicago's famous old Auditorium Theater with its hotel and office building is again in the public eye. Citizens want this building preserved, particularly the theater and the history it has made. It was conceived, financed and erected by public spirited Chicagoans of vision, imagination and faith in the future of the city. It is 57 years old. It is a flower of Chicago's golden age—1870 to 1890, when its citizens needed a place for great public gatherings. They built the finest theater in the United States and its acoustics proved better than any other public hall in America.

True, the building has never paid. The taxes in 1889 were \$22,000 and in 1926 they were \$187,000. There are three owners and at present the city is using it as a recreation center for soldiers on furlough sojourning in Chicago.

Charles Collins, conductor, "A Line O' Type Or Two" on the editorial page of the Chicago Daily Tribune, elaborates on David Darrah's dispatch from Rouen, capital city of Normandy. Collins calls Rouen the cherished museum of architecture of the middle ages. He continues:

"The cathedral has been horribly damaged by bombing, and altho its lofty spire stands, its two towers have been destroyed. This means that the Tour de Beurre, which inspired the buttressed crown of The Tribune Tower, has gone. Restoration is possible, Darrah thinks, but who can put together the splinters of more than 100 ancient stained glass windows? . . .

"The Palais de Justice has been bombed and burned. This was another masterpiece of the flamboyant style in Gothic architecture. Near it is the old market place, where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. The exact spot is marked by a mosaic design in the pavement. . . .

"The shattered cathedral contains the tomb of the Norse viking leader who conquered Normandy in the dark ages. French history calls him Rollo, a name that became associated, in the Victorian period, with nice little boys who obeyed their parents". . . .

Producers' Council Says No Revolutionary Changes Now

Surveys among manufacturers of building materials and equipment clearly indicate the following facts: Among the structural materials (wood, masonry, reinforced concrete, and steel) and in the field of building equipment (heating, plumbing, and electric facilities) the principal developments during the war are largely technical improvements in the manufacture or fabrication of familiar products. There will be some significant advance in the standardization of sizes (called dimensional coordination), which will tend to reduce waste and facilitate assembly; there will be an increase in the trend toward the prefabrication of small dwellings. There is no practical likelihood of major substitutions of plastics for new metals for standard structural materials because it takes a number of years to establish their performance characteristics, secure wide distribution, and teach building trades mechanics the techniques that are involved. These new products will appear in building accessories such as hardware, lighting fixtures and domestic equipment, or will be alternates for established products that can be used in the same manner as the materials they supersede.

Equipment Development: In the field of building equipment there will be new designs, new colors and finishes, and accelerating flow of technical improvements in the quality and performance of such items as ranges, refrigerators, heating and air conditioning units and lighting. Entirely new types of equipment for home use such as food freezers and automatic laundry equipment will be on the market. Building designs need not be revolutionized to utilize these new types of equipment. Building plans can be made now, based on available data, that will permit their use as rapidly as they come on the market. Finishes also will be improved through advanced knowledge of the chemistry of paints and the synthetic resins, and since these materials are in production for war uses, their immediate supply can be anticipated.

Illumination Design and Problems Course

A nine weeks course of instruction for architects, designers, engineers and contractors in arriving at solutions of problems in illumination, specification, has been arranged by an advisory committee from the Chicago Lighting Institute, Illinois Institute of Technology and Illuminating Engineering Society, beginning March 5 and ending May 3.

There are twelve class room lectures to be given March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9, April 16, April 19, April 23, April 26, April 30 and May 3, in the quarters of the Chicago Lighting Institute, 72 W. Adams Street. The sessions will run from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.

The laboratory classes occur March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29, April 5, and April 12. These laboratory sessions will be held at the Illinois Institute of Technology on the Lewis Campus, 1951 W. Madison Street, from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M.

The registration fee is \$5.00 per student, and enrollment will be limited to 25 students.

(I.S.A. March Meeting, Continued from Page 4, Column 2)

the second story level without the present portable staircase arrangement, with freight and baggage handled near the ground level. Stress is laid on the necessity of flexibility in the plan. Provisions also must be considered for quarters for the crews, and possible hotel accommodations. Due to the "air traffic pattern" of a greatly enlarged air service, large future air terminals cannot be placed too close together, without danger. On the whole, the design of air terminals seems to require highly specialized talent, careful study, engineering knowledge, and above all, imagination as to what the future will develop.

The next Society meeting will be a joint meeting with the Producers Council and Chicago Chapter, A.I.A. held at the Merchants Club, Tuesday, April 10. The subject will be "Modular Coordination". The death of fellow member Godfrey E. Larson was announced.

—Victor A. Matteson

The New Illinois State Museum, Springfield

Sketches and preliminary plans have been prepared for the new two-million dollar State Museum at Springfield. It is possible that construction may begin when building materials again become available. It will occupy a site bounded by four streets, adjacent to, and to the northwest of the Capitol, one of a group of several new buildings to be built circling the State House on the north, west and south. The Museum, in its present quarters on the fifth floor of the Centennial Building is doing magnificent work in spite of inadequate and cramped quarters and out-moded equipment. Space and tools are lacking; emerging are twofold plans for the future—new educational ideas and the new physical plant in which to conceive, construct and display them. The need for the Museum stems from the facts that outside of Chicago there are no adequate Museums in the State.

The average visitor will enter an entrance hall either direct from the outside on foot or from the ground floor where he entered after parking his car. After leaving the hall he will be unaware of architecture for there will be none until he reaches the art galleries on the top and third floor. His path will wend its way through interesting corridors of exhibits. His interest will be kept alive by arousing vistas created by the museum staff. The story of Illinois, geological, geographical, historical, industrial, educational, will be presented on the first floor. World exhibits, systematic exhibits, oriental art and temporary exhibits will occupy the second floor. There will be escalators, comfort facilities on each floor, benches and chairs at strategic intervals.

The museum man will find that there are no rooms he must fill. His plans and ideas can be given unlimited latitude. He can control the circulation of the visitor and can direct attention as he chooses, to bring out definite ideas, which can be changed readily if he sees fit to do so. He will find receiving and storage sections on the ground floor. The work shops, studios, library, facilities for visiting researchers are provided for. The large habitats and other full scale exhibits can be constructed on the top floor and delivered intact to any spot in the building and placed in service by plugging in the cord to a handy outlet. Children's needs are cared for—cafeteria for visiting groups, children's museum and studios with a separate entrance.

The architect will recognize in the practically windowless structure the resulting problems of interior ventilation and heating. The first and second floors will present a unique appearance in the museum field in that there will be no corridors or rooms—but space placed at the disposal of the museum staff—the column spacing on the first floor will be 34' x 34' and on the second 17' x 17'. Vents, outlets, anchors, lights will be planned on a module system to give the greatest flexibility. Beyond that the architecture will present the appropriate dignity and taste of an important structure of the State's Capitol Group.

—Joseph F. Booton, Chief of Design
Division of Architecture, and Engineering, State of Illinois

More of the Wagner Theater, Bayreuth

The Editor: Architect Semper was commissioned by King Ludwig II in 1867 to build a theater for Wagner. His plans were too elaborate; he then received a commission from the Bayreuth citizens who gave a free grant of the land and ordered not more than 1,125,000 francs be spent on the building. Corner stone was laid May 22, 1872, the fifty ninth birthday of Wagner. Rehearsals began in the theater August 6, 1876. First performances of the Ring, August 13-16. So says Albert Lavignac in *The Music Dramas of Richard Wagner*.

Marx E. Oberndorfer

John R. Fugard, Chicago architect, announces the addition of Paul G. Burt, Laurance E. Wilkinson, Gustave Orth and Capt. John R. Fugard, Jr. as partners in the newly formed architectural firm to be known as Fugard, Burt and Wilkinson. Their offices are at 520 N. Michigan Avenue.

Mr. Fugard's earlier connections were with Frederick J. Thielbar who died November 15, 1941. The firms of Thielbar and Fugard, 1925-1942; Fugard, Olsen, Urbain and Neiler, 1942-1945 were predecessors to the firm now created. Mr. Fugard was President of the Illinois Society of Architects 1932-1933.

Central Texas Chapter Addresses A.I.A. Board

"We have asked the A.I.A. Board for real help financially and spiritually, and we have gotten both. To them we owe a splendid compliment and an unconditional confidence.

"We felt the need for a publication, a BOOKLET, done by the profession, all aspects of it, for public and professional use. The Board found the funds, and it is being written by over twenty outstanding American architects. It will represent Education, Registration, Accrediting, and Practice, and we hope will be ready for distribution by early spring, the war permitting.

"We have urged the clarification of national policy in architectural education, particularly the relation of the pre-college level of training to the college level. We have also urged the creation of a national director or coordinator of public education, in order that all of our thinking be clarified and be made known to those who look to our profession for leadership.

"The Board has approved our request (developed jointly with C. Julian Oberworth, our membership secretary) to create traveling scholarships to national meetings for selected student Associates from the student chapters of the professional schools. These students will have their own meetings also, will meet and have the opportunity to talk to and to know the architects they now rarely if ever see. We hope that student exhibitions and other planned programs at convention time will bring our young professional people into much closer contact with our professional society early in their lives and will establish a friendly and continuous interest from school days forward.

"The Board instructed our committee to report a program for returning service men. A consensus of opinion from the schools and from a few practicing architects indicates that a decelerated rather than an accelerated program is desirable. Veterans will require special consideration, testing, special examinations for advancement and special coaching. Refresher training is recognized by many schools as essential. All of these services must be so carefully related to individual needs that regimentation will be reduced to a minimum.

... "Generally, the schools have been on an accelerated program for the past two years at least. They feel the future of architectural education must be built on the more sound principles of thorough education rather than on a hastily acquired and assimilated partial training."

—Walter T. Rolfe, *Central Texas Chapter, A.I.A.*

New W G N Air Theater Prizes

On February 4 the Chicago Tribune announced the prizes awarded to winners in the "W G N Chicago Theater of the Air" competition for the most beautiful and efficient radio studio theater in the world."

The first prize of \$5,000 went to Arthur Frederick Adams and William F. Clark of Chicago. The drawings showed a floor plan of the theater and a perspective of the stage. Mr. Adams as architectural designer was a member of the firm of C. W. and George L. Rapp, architects of the Oriental and Southtown theaters in Chicago (Balaban and Katz Movie Houses) and of the Paramount theater in New York. Mr. Clark was also associated with the Rapp firm.

The second prize of \$2,500 went to Hyland Dinion and Irving H. Merritt of New York City.

The third prize of \$1,000 went to Joseph T. Gemmi of Decatur Illinois.

Fifteen honorable mention awards of \$100 each were given. The recipients were from many parts of the country, ranging from Los Angeles, California to Brooklyn and New York.

The judges were Col. Robert R. McCormick, president of W. G. N.; Frank P. Schreiber, station manager and Henry Weber, W G N's director of music. John W. Park, Tribune production manager, acted as professional adviser to the jury.

The theater to seat 2,000 is to be the chief feature of a

building to be constructed after the war to the south of Tribune Tower. The A.I.A. disapproved this competition.

A Correction: The writer of the article "Placement of Sculptural Monuments" in the February-March 1945 issue of the Bulletin called attention to the lack in Chicago of a memorial to Fr. Marquette. We learn, however, that there is such a memorial which was unknown to the writer, perhaps because of its rather obscure location. It is located in Marshall Blvd. where it turns East at 24th Place opposite the Carter Harrison Technical High School and approximately near the supposed location ("two leagues up the river") where Marquette wintered in 1672.

The design takes the form of a group of three figures—Pere Marquette in the center with an Indian of the Illinois tribe on his right and Louis Joliet on the left. The bronze sculpture is by Hermon MacNeil and the pedestal contains this dedication "This monument was erected by the Trustees of the B.F. Ferguson Monument Fund to commemorate the discoveries and the sacrifices of the Jesuit missionary Pere Marquette—Dedicated 1926". There is no reference to the date of historical period commemorated.

Selecting the Home Site, Solar Orientation in Home Design, Heating the Home with a Central Heating System are subjects of University of Illinois Bulletins issued by the Small Homes Council.

Professor Ragnar Ostberg, internationally renowned architect of Sweden died in Stockholm February 6, age 79 years. Professor Ostberg was born in Stockholm July 14, 1866, attended Stockholm School of Technology 1885-89; Royal Academy of Arts 1888-91; studied architecture in U.S.S.A., France, Italy, Greece, England and Spain 1893-99; Professor of Architecture, University of Arts, Stockholm 1921-31; Gold Medal R.I.B.A. 1926; Tessin Gold Medal 1931; Gold Medal, A.I.A., 1933. His most distinguished work is the City Hall in Stockholm. Among the charming villas he designed are Laurins on Djurgården and Paulis in Djursholm. He was architect of the Odd Fellows Building, Nykoeping; August Blanche monument and Patents and Registry Building, both in Stockholm; the Crematory in Haelsingborg; Vaermaland Fraternity House in Upsala and Zorn Museum in Mora.

Charles Bostrom, Chicago builder who served the city of Chicago as Commissioner of Buildings for eight years (1915-1923) died in Chicago, March 6, age 72. Mr. Bostrom was born in Sweden, coming to Chicago in 1891. In 1923 he was made chairman of Chicago's first zoning commission. He served on the Board of Zoning Appeals into 1927.

Francis Augustus Flaks, Chicago architect, died in Hinsdale, Illinois, January 29, 1945. He was born in the town of Mecin, Bohemia, June 26, 1886. He attended grammar and high school in Blovic and Pilsen until the age of seventeen, when he left Bohemia and alone voyaged to the United States, coming directly to Chicago. Here he continued his schooling in a public evening school, Y.M.C.A., Art Institute, Armour Institute, followed by years as junior draftsman in the office of James B. Dibelka.

In the subsequent seven or eight year period and 1917, the year the partnership of Dibelka, Flaks and Minchin was formed, Mr. Flaks was employed in structural steel shops, foundry and the office of contractors; in these he acquired a great fund of knowledge about practical construction, materials, drafting shop drawings, processes of fabrication, quantity and cost estimating.

He was draftsman and superintendent for about a year for Worthman & Steinbach, Chicago architects. When James B. Dibelka became State Architect, Mr. Flaks assumed complete charge of the office of the firm of Dibelka, Flaks & Minchin. Upon the dissolution of this partnership he joined Schmidt, Garden & Erickson where he remained, a most esteemed and valued associate, for almost twenty-five years.

He became a member of the Illinois Society of Architects in 1916 and served actively to life's end. —R.E.S.