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THE NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
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BRUNNER SCHOLARSHIP

The first award of the Brunner Scholarship is to be made in 1940. The widow of the late Arnold W. Brunner established in her will a fund, the income of which is to be used for a scholarship normally awarded annually for the pursuit of advanced study in some broadly defined field of investigation in architecture. The grant for 1940 will be approximately \$1,200.

The scholar is expected to pursue studies, or do research, or travel and submit drawings and reports in accordance with his proposal made prior to the award. Under normal conditions the study is to be completed within one year.

The committee charged with the administration of the Brunner Scholarship may require progress reports prior to the submission of the completed study. Should the completed study be judged to have obtained an especially high degree of excellence the committee may temporarily retain all or part of it for purposes of exhibit or publication with due credit to the author.

The following subject has been assigned, defining the field of investigation for the year 1940:

"A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE INFLUENCE OF LOCAL CONDITIONS ON REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN THE UNITED STATES — AN ANALYSIS OF THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF GEOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL FACTORS ON PAST AND PRESENT BUILDING."

The award may be made to citizens of the United States engaged in the profession of architecture regardless of place of residence. But the candidates must have adequate professional background, more advanced and broader in scope than is generally implied by undergraduate architectural school training. Applications of candidates for the 1940 award will be received by the Chapter between the dates of February 1 and April 1, 1940.

NEXT MEETING CHANGED TO DINNER

Time: 6 p. m., Tuesday, January 16.

Place: Architectural League.

Subject: Relations Between Principal and Staff Members.

This subject has been continued from the December meeting for the purpose of creating a more ample opportunity for further discussion of the proposed "Application for Employment."

The mimeographed copy enclosed with this OCULUS is not the one discussed at the December meeting, but a revised form edited and approved by a committee headed by Philip L. Goodwin, and placed in your hands following the action of the December meeting.

BEST WISHES

We have lost our editor! Fate has lifted on her pinnacles Ward W. Fenner and has whisked him to Rochester, from which distance he declines to guide our succeeding oculi. We print President Frost's letter to Mr. Fenner upon his resignation:

Dear Ward:

The Executive Committee at their last meeting were apprised of your leaving New York . . . and have asked me to express to you their sentiments.

We feel your loss keenly, for you have always been ready to help whenever asked. Your willingness to take up the editorship of the OCULUS is just one instance, and we appreciate what a fine job you have made of it. We have reason to believe, on account of the high standard set by you in this bulletin, there will be a great incentive to your successor, Mr. Clay. However, what is our loss we hope will be someone else's gain and therefore we feel that if you will transfer to the Central New York Chapter, they will be stronger on account of your membership.

Our best wishes for success in your new venture.

DECEMBER MEETING

Following the subject as announced in the December OCULUS, "Relations between principal and draftsman," the sixty members present at the Chapter luncheon meeting held on December 12 discussed a document entitled "Standard Form of Application for Employment Recommended by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects."

This document, prepared for the meeting in mimeograph form, would be recommended for use by the profession at large in the metropolitan area, and is in effect a contract between employer and employee. As appearing before the meeting it contained the following: Part I, Application for Employment; Part II, A Definition of the Professional Attitude of the Principal toward the Members of his Staff; Part III, A Statement of Office Rules and Conditions of Employment.

Discussion was opened by Mr. Stevenson who explained that the idea had been conceived by the younger members of the Membership Committee who felt that one distinct inducement to younger men to join the Chapter would be the clarification of the principles of professional practice upon which members conducted their organizations, and the definite assurance of a fair and equitable relationship between employer and employee.

Associate Petroff, who had helped draft the document, stated he had served for some time on the Membership Committee, and told of resistance encountered when approaching possible new Associates: "Generally the sentiment of the younger man is that the A.I.A. is simply an employers' club."

He went on to say that the unions make definite offers to draftsmen, and that he had found most young men to be on the fence and ready to be convinced either way. On the other hand the A.I.A. has never defined its attitude toward the young draftsman. Obviously, members of the A.I.A. cannot compete with the unions by offering higher wages and shorter

hours, as the unions would immediately try to better the offer. They can, however, as professional men, state their principles with regard to their staffs and clarify their responsibilities.

Lively comment followed. Mr. Poor, asked for his views, said that there seemed to be two types of architectural office: The small one where the relationship between the employer and employee is on an intimate and friendly basis, and in such offices a document of this kind would be of little use. In the other type, the large office, which does such work as housing projects where the staffs are large but generally temporary, such a document should be very useful.

Following the branding by Mr. Walker of Part II as a "series of elaborate statements about ethics which might turn out to be so much dynamite," an attempt was made to omit from further discussion the entire Part II. A motion to send the document out to all Chapter members for consideration without Part II was defeated. The motion was then amended by Charles C. Platt who felt that since some of the statements contained in Part II are apparently considered of great importance by the younger men, and since these statements considerably strengthen the position of the younger men and could do no possible harm to the employers, the substance of the statements in Part II should be incorporated in the documents as distributed. The amended motion was passed and the meeting adjourned.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

CANDIDATES

The names of the following men have been presented:

For Institute Membership

1. William Reed Huntington

Sponsors { Walter H. Kilham, Jr.
Robert S. Hutchins

2. Albert Mayer

Sponsors { Henry S. Churchill
William E. Lescaze

For Chapter Associate Membership

1. Charles P. Donnelly

Sponsors { Alfred E. Poor
William F. R. Ballard

NEW MEMBERS

The following were elected on December 8:

Phelps Barnum
Andre Halasz
Irving D. Harris

LOSSES

William Dewey Foster, transferred to Washington, D. C., Chapter.

Dwight James Baum, died Dec. 13, 1939.

RÉSUMÉ

Architectural Highlights of 1939 in Which the Chapter Took an Active Part:

ARCHITECTS' DAY AT THE WORLD'S FAIR, Oct. 2: The Chapter acted as host to visiting architects who came here after attending the Institute convention.

CONVENTION OF STATE ASSOCIATION held in New York City the first week in October, largely attended by Chapter members.

CREDIT ACKNOWLEDGMENT: A plan conceived by the Municipal Art Society to issue at a nominal cost slips to be attached to photographs of buildings, etc., when issued for publication, giving due acknowledgment to the architect.

BATTERY BRIDGE: Active and aggressive stand taken by the Chapter in opposing the Battery Bridge.

HOUSING: The Chapter endorsed William Wilson, a member, as the new Commissioner of Housing and Buildings, and passed a resolution of appreciation to Alfred Rheinstein upon his resignation as Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority. The Chapter sent to Albany a recommendation that the Legislature provide that the architect's technical service before the contract be paid for by the local housing authority, the legislation as introduced providing for no fees for preliminary sketches or drawings, the only fees provided being if, as, and when a contract is awarded.

SMITHSONIAN COMPETITION: Chapter member Charles Butler, as Chairman of Institute Committee on Public Works, led successful effort to change the program to permit working drawings to be made in the architect's own office.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS UNION (A.F.L.): This union was organized with the object of making it mandatory that a member of the union supervise every construction job. The Chapter after discussing the union passed a resolution opposing it as detrimental to the best interests of the building industry.

WASHINGTON CONVENTION: At the Chapter pre-convention meeting three resolutions were passed for submission to the Institute convention in Washington:

1. Recommendation that the Institute

engage a public relations assistant to the Public Works Committee.

2. Recommendation that the Board consider joining with other professional and business associations to find ways and means of keeping the government out of business.

3. Request that the Institute allot some time during its convention for consideration of partial services.

Resolutions No. 2 and 3 were offered to the convention and passed but Resolution No. 1 was not acted on since it involved a matter of expense and the Resolutions Committee agreed, in view of this fact, that no action might be expected from discussion on the floor. Therefore No. 1 was referred back to the Chapter with the suggestion that it be presented direct to the Board. This has been done but official answer has not been received although President Bergstrom has unofficially said that similar requests have been previously turned down by the Board. He has promised that this matter will be taken up by the Board at the next meeting.

NEW STATE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSIONER: At the behest of Mr. Harmon, then Chapter President, a committee was appointed by the President of the State Association to call upon Captain Brandt, appointed State Commissioner of Public Works by Governor Lehman on March 30, to establish cordial relations and to ascertain his attitude in regard to private architects in state work. The visit was made by a committee consisting of Messrs. Kideney, Harmon, Butler and Del Gaudio. The new Commissioner was found to be of the same mind as his predecessor, Colonel Greene, in that he intends to keep all state work within his own department as long as the state architect, Mr. Hogarth (though he may be overworked) is able to turn out the work.

FUNERAL ARCHITECTURE

The Chapter has been asked to help furnish material for a book on Modern Funeral Architecture by Robert Aloï of Milan, Italy. Any member wishing to contribute should communicate with Felix Augenfeld, 35 E. 38th St., N. Y. C. The following is from Mr. Aloï's letter:

"The work will belong to the series of Contemporary Architecture issued by the same publisher and will be of international character.

"The volume has been divided as follows: Monumental tombs, ossuaries, etc. Funeral chapels. Little monuments (columns, etc.). Funeral decorations (sculpture, mosaics, bronzes, etc.).