



ANNUAL MEETING

Frederick G. Frost succeeded himself as President of the Chapter at the annual meeting held June 5 at the Architectural League. Earlier in the luncheon meeting the 83 members present had accorded Mr. Frost a rising vote of appreciation for his efficient handling of his office during the past year. Mr. Frost then read the President's annual report which we print in this issue.

Another motion of commendation was voted to Cornelius J. White, retiring Treasurer of the Chapter, for the excellent work he had done while serving in that capacity for the last four years.

The first act of the new president upon returning to the chair was to thank the retiring officers and the membership for their past cooperation and to introduce the other newly elected officers. They are: Harvey Stevenson, Vice-President; Frederick J. Woodbridge, Secretary; Henry Hofmeister, Treasurer, and Robert S. Hutchins, Recorder.

The Apartment House Medals were awarded after a report by Leopold Arnaud, as Chairman of the Jury for making these awards. After a lapse of several years this Committee was revived and offered awards for the period from 1933 to 1938; 14 entries were submitted. This year's Committee decided to award the Medals to the architects and present certificates to the owners, this being the reverse of the former custom.

Entries were divided this year into two categories: Group I, apartments over six stories, and Group II, apartments under six stories. The award in Group I went to Wallace K. Harrison and J. André Fouilhoux for the design of the Rockefeller Apartments, and the award in Group II to Clarence S. Stein for the design of the Phipps Garden Apartments, Second Unit.

One outstanding entry did not fit into either category but was of sufficient merit to warrant a special commendation to the architects, Walter B. Sanders and John G. Breck, for the design of the three-story apartment house at 235 East 72nd Street.

The President reported that the final appeal by the plaintiff in Curran vs. Gehron has been denied, thus ending this suit in our favor. It only remains now to pay the bill. The fee for legal services together with disbursements amounts to \$1,923.69. We have received approximately \$370, with promises of as much more, as contributions towards this bill from some of the architects interested in city work, to whom Mr. Frost appealed.

Mr. Frost stated that it is the Executive Committee's recommendation to the Chapter that the bill be paid now out of our Contingent Reserve Fund, which was set up for just such contingencies. The contributions already received and any further ones are to be credited to that Fund.

FOR EMPLOYMENT

The special committee appointed to promote the use of the Chapter's Application for Employment, printed copies of which were enclosed in the April OCULUS, have suggested that the price then stipulated (3 cents apiece) might be a burden in some of the larger offices.

They have recommended that Parts I and II filled in may be mounted and displayed prominently in the office. Part III, the actual application for employment, may then be reproduced by typing or mimeographing in any desired quantity. Thus the cost to each member will be materially cut down and the posting of Parts I and II will advertise the fact that the employer is in accord with the Chapter's employment policy.

A copy of the application is enclosed with this OCULUS.

HOLLAND RELIEF

The Chapter has received an appeal from the Queen Wilhelmina Fund: "If you can spare one more pittance for those whose ideals and whose history are so closely linked to our own, and whose only fault was that they labored at the arts of peace and believed others as honest as themselves, please send what you can to the Queen Wilhelmina Fund, in care of Ides Van der Gracht, 224 East 49th Street, New York City."

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

I cannot help but feel that this year (1939-1940) has been a most successful one for the New York Chapter.

COMMITTEES

The real work of the Chapter is done by the Committees, in cooperation with the officers. This year we have had more committees than ever before and larger committees than ever before, all functioning effectively. My first act on becoming President last year was to send out a call for volunteers for committees, and in a very short time I had heard from 72 of our members, most of whom offered to serve on two or three, and in some cases four or five committees.

As the year progressed and new members joined, these new members were put to work. From time to time it has been found necessary to appoint Special Committees, and in each case the willingness expressed by the men whom I asked to serve was extremely gratifying. We have continued this year the policy of appointing an associate to serve on each of our committees.

In my capacity as member ex-officio of all committees, I have tried to attend as many of their meetings as possible, and I would like at this time to express the pleasure which association with these excellent workmen has given me, and my appreciation of their always willing cooperation and splendid help.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has materially increased this year. We have taken in 21 new Institute members and 20 new associates, and three have come to us from other chapters, making in all 44 new members. Against this our losses from deaths, resignations, etc., have amounted to 21, leaving us a net increase in membership of 23. Looking back over the last four years, this is a distinct improvement. In 1936 we had a net loss in membership of 32, and in 1937 of 43 members. The next year we had a net increase of only 8, and a year ago our net increase was only 5.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The average attendance at the monthly meetings has also increased. Two meetings were held in the form of an open forum, with no head table, and at which members were given the opportunity to speak, and particularly the young Associates were urged to express themselves.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Our Associate members, who now number 38, have held two meetings of their own this season, under the guidance of Harvey Stevenson, who as Vice President has acted as liaison officer between the Associates and the Executive Committee.

NEW DOCUMENTS

The Chapter has voted to publish two new documents this year, one an Explanatory Memorandum on Architectural Competitions, and the other a form of Application for Employment which is in effect an agreement between the Employer and the members of his architectural staff.

QUESTIONNAIRE

There are some things which your Executive Committee has to refer to the Chapter Membership in order to get the Membership's direct wishes:

1. The LeBrun vote for changes in the Deed of Gift. So far we have had only 125 responses.
2. The filling out of the Employers-Employees agreement, with only 24 returns.
3. Questionnaire on Publicity, with only 45 returns.

I therefore urge the members to send in their decisions on these matters, for your officers cannot function effectively without your cooperation.

OTHER DUTIES OF YOUR PRESIDENT

At many meetings and dinners of other organizations throughout the year I have been invited to represent you. This I have done quite religiously. Another duty is to present the School Medals given by the A.I.A. to students of accredited schools of Architecture in the vicinity. This has been done at Columbia and New York Universities this year.

Another duty of the President is to meet from time to time with that body known as the Joint Committee of Architectural Societies in the Metropolitan Area. This, as you know, is a Committee made up of representatives of each of the architectural groups in and around New York. In this way the Chapter keeps in touch with the activities of its fellow Architects, and furthermore through this Committee we are able to join forces when any concerted action regarding city affairs is needed.

THE BUILDING AT COLUMBIA

About a month ago an announcement appeared in the newspapers regarding the new building to be constructed by Columbia University, and as President of the Chapter I wrote immediately to President Butler deploring the fact that Columbia should contemplate the erection of a building without engaging the services of an Architect. You are all familiar with Dr. Butler's reply which was read at the last Chapter meeting, and also our resolution passed at that time. I have here the reply to our resolution. [*Here the President read a letter from Columbia University stating that the firm of Eggers & Higgins had been appointed as architects of the new building.*]

PUBLICITY

A definite publicity campaign has been started—not by engaging a public relations counsel but through the efforts of our members themselves. With the aid of James T. Grady, publicist of the A.I.A., articles concerning the New York Chapter and its activities have appeared not only in the New York papers but in the newspapers of Philadelphia, Washington, Detroit, Boston and no doubt others which have escaped our notice. Mr. Grady's assistant is ready to call upon any Chapter member for an interview. He has already called on a number of the officers and the chairmen of committees, and since January 1 about 60 newspaper articles have come to the attention of the Chapter office, all concerning the New York Chapter.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Annual Reports of our Committees are now at hand. It is my thought, however, not to take your time to have them read through now. They will be kept on file at the Chapter office for any member who is interested to inspect. Later the substance of each Report will be printed in the OCULUS, if this meets with your approval.

FREDERICK G. FROST

NECROLOGY

While those present at the annual meeting stood, the Secretary read the names of members of the Chapter who had died during the year 1939-40. The list follows:

Members

Dwight James Baum, 1918
Edward P. Casey, 1897
Clare C. Hosmer, 1917
Clinton Mackenzie, 1902
Alexander W. Ross, 1899
D. Everett Waid, 1900
John P. Walther, 1911

Honorary Associate Member

Charles M. Schwab, 1922

CONVENTION

Sixteen of the 600 delegates attending the annual convention of the Institute held in Louisville, Kentucky, May 20 to 24, represented the New York Chapter. Describing the convention at the recent Chapter meeting, President Frost said: "A great deal was accomplished at the convention, particularly in regard to state associations. Round-table discussions, the open hearings of the Resolutions Committee, the opportunity given for general discussion and the changes in the general character of the program were all commented on favorably. The consensus of opinion is that the convention was highly successful.

"A great deal of entertainment was provided for us. The President's reception and dinner dance was held at the Pendennis Club and attended by about 250. A splendid horseshow was arranged for us at the Rock Creek Riding Club where there was ample opportunity to admire beautiful Kentucky horses as well as some very pretty riding and jumping. After the show we all went to the clubhouse for a real southern barbecue, accompanied before doing and after by mint juleps." Rumor has it that twenty-four hundred (or was it thousand) mint juleps were served!

Twelve Fellowships were conferred by the Institute, one of them on our Chapter member Frank J. Forster.

The Convention adopted the New York Chapter's resolution to the effect that any Chapter contemplating action outside its own territory shall notify the Regional Director and the Secretary of the Institute. It also adopted a resolution prepared by our Secretary, Mr. Platt, in which the architectural profession offered its full cooperation to the Federal Government in connection with the proposed public work program necessitated by the present national defense emergency.

Among other resolutions adopted was one urging the passage of Senate Bill 591, which is the bill to provide funds for continuing the USHA program.

As to the A.I.A. By-Law Amendments: A few minor changes were made in those affecting state associations. The amendment concerning the nominations of Regional Directors, in which the provision allowing the Secretary to fix the time limit in his own discretion was objected to by this Chapter, was modified to set the time limit from 30 to 60 days.

As to Paragraph 7 of the Standards of Practice relating to Competitions, to which this Chapter also objected, it is pleasant to report that that paragraph was deleted by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

As authorized by the June meeting of the Chapter, the OCULUS prints synopses of annual committee reports. Perusal of these reports will, we hope, give some of our members a clearer idea of the objects and functions of our Chapter Committees. We begin with the report of the Committee on Education, John C. B. Moore, Chairman:

After careful examination of the data submitted by the ten applicants for Arnold W. Brunner Scholarship, your Committee unanimously selected Truman J. Matthews of Santa Fe, New Mexico, for the 1940 award, and recommended honorable mentions for Theodor Muller of Boston and Norman R. Sturgis of Albany. The award was made to Mr. Matthews in Santa Fe by the Governor of New Mexico, who kindly agreed to represent the Chapter.

Mr. Matthews' subject, "The Architecture of the Southwestern United States" promises to be a comprehensive study of the various types of regional architecture of our Southwest. Some of the older examples are already fast disappearing. An analysis of the climatic and social background giving rise to the characteristic forms will be included.

A new service of vocational guidance for prospective architects in the high schools and colleges in this area has been instituted by this Committee. Announcements were sent to sixty-three schools and colleges in the New York region, and since May 15th when the service was started, five of our Chapter members have given talks to vocational groups. The purpose of these talks is not to encourage students to be architects, but to give some sound advice to those who have already decided to become architects.

Some three years ago the New York Engineering Societies started a similar plan for the guidance of future engineers. The requests which that group received for architectural advice and information have prompted them to approach this Committee, with the result that we have agreed to participate in a joint service under the name of the "New York Architects' and Engineers' Committee on Student Guidance."

The number of architects in New York who have been asked to serve as Mentors under the plan of the National Council of Architectural Registrations Boards is still exceedingly small—five or six in all. Graduates are apparently reluctant to register with the National Council for this purpose. However, a new list of recent graduates of architectural schools in the New York region is being circularized

again this year to inform each individual of the advantages of Mentorship.

COMPETITIONS

Lorimer Rich, Chairman of our Committee to Promote Competitions, reports that at the year end the Committee has under consideration two projects: First, an exhibition of public architectural work which is the result of architectural competitions; second, an effort to interest the City of New York in holding at least one architectural competition each year.

The Committee has been engaged in editing a document entitled, "An Explanatory Memorandum on the System of Architectural Competitions." This document, having been approved by the membership at large, is being edited and printed and will be available for distribution within a short time.

CONTRACTS

This Committee reports that as a result of negotiations and numerous conferences with the Department of Public Works, a revised form of architects' contract was issued by the City and is now in use for all City work. Although this revised contract does not contain all the provisions recommended by our Committee it clarifies several points, especially the information to be furnished and the work to be provided by the City as the client.

The Department is now compiling the results of its experience with this revised contract and has indicated it will be glad to discuss these results with our Committee. Therefore all Chapter members who have had experience this year with the new City form of architects' contract are urged to send in their comments to the Chapter office (address the Chairman of the Committee on Contracts) in order that this Committee may be intelligent and well-informed in further City conferences.

HOUSING COMMITTEES

We print in full the annual reports of the Large Scale and Small Housing Committees:

The Large Scale Housing Committee held six meetings during the year. A sub-committee on legislation also held several meetings. The Committee's activities can be summarized as follows:

1. Submission to the Chapter of Resolution deploring Chairman Rhein-stein's resignation from the Housing Authority. This resolution was passed by the Chapter with slight revisions.

2. Inspection of Park Chester Development of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company with a view to determining whether or not such private developments should come within the jurisdiction of the City Planning Commission. Careful consideration of

this point has not resulted as yet in any definite recommendation.

3. Several confusing points with respect to Multiple Dwelling Law and Code were cleared up with Commissioner Wilson.

4. The Committee learned that legislation was pending at Albany which would outlaw future design of buildings as developed successfully in recent housing projects in the City. The Committee initiated action which revised the legislation.

WILLIAM BALLARD, *Chairman*

The Small House Committee has been composed, throughout the 1939-1940 period, of more than 20 architects and has met monthly during this time. Several special meetings have been called in addition to the regular meetings. The attendance has been excellent at all meetings and, in most instances, we have had full attendance.

All problems that confront the architect interested in small house practice have been discussed at great length. The problems are numerous and no definite solutions to many of them have been arrived at. In an endeavor to find the answer to the national small house problem, the Committee invited William Stanley Parker of Boston to meet and discuss with them his experience and conclusions in that field.

Considerable time was spent by members of the Committee in investigating and reporting on the Chapter's participation in the 1940 World's Fair. The Chapter was offered space in Building J-5, but in view of the limited time and due to the considerable expense necessary to set up and maintain an exhibit, and the Chapter's inability to underwrite such a project, the Committee after careful thought reluctantly recommended abandonment of the idea.

A Sub-committee has been active in obtaining the cooperation of the A.I.A. Chapters and architectural societies in the metropolitan area, in a plan to award Certificates of Merit for Small House Design. The enthusiastic response has been stimulating. We anticipate good publicity and hope to create interest in the small house and appreciation of architectural service.

[As announced last month, entries are to be submitted before August 30. Official entry blanks at Chapter Office.]

This Committee has sponsored newspaper releases concerning the Small House. Articles written by the individual committee members and released directly to the newspapers after approval by the President have appeared not only in the metropolitan dailies, but in out-of-town papers as well.

RANDOLPH EVANS, *Chairman*