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E. B. MORRIS, SR. ELECTED TO COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

A fine fellow and grand gentleman has been named to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. He is Edwin Bateman Morris, Sr., FIA, the first member of the Potomac Valley Chapter to be so honored.

It is a richly deserved honor for "E. B.", as we affectionately know him, but it is also an occasion for all members of the chapter to bust a few buttons knowing that this gentleman who has done so much for the chapter is being so recognized.

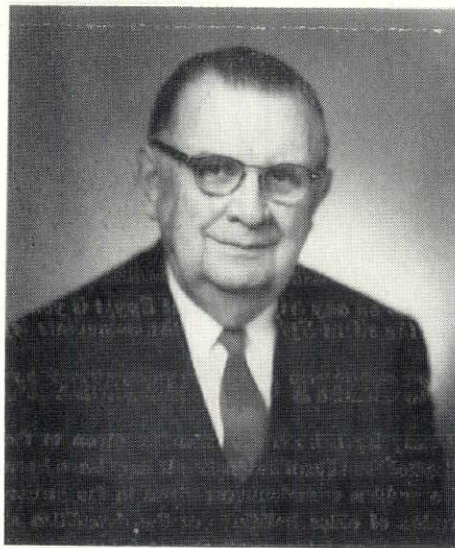
E. B. is a charter member of the Potomac Valley Chapter, a fact of which he is "very proud" and has worked tirelessly since its inception to make it the fine active organization that it is today. The beauty of having such a fine, hard-working member as E. B. lies in the fact that he does all these things with so much charm and wit.

According to his autobiography which he penned for the chapter on this occasion, "as are all Morris's", he was born in Philadelphia and fortunate for the architectural profession on Corinthian Avenue, a name which he thinks might have started him thinking architecturally at an early age.

E. B. studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania where he played end on the Freshman football team and where he was editor of the Red and Blue, the university magazine. After graduation he worked in several offices in Philadelphia.

He later moved to Washington to the Supervising Architect's Office where he eventually became assistant chief of an organization of about five hundred men. While there he helped organize the Association of Federal Architects, and for fifteen years published the FEDERAL ARCHITECT. Five years ago this same organization presented E. B. with a gold medal for outstanding service to architecture.

In 1942 he left the government to go with a private association "to talk with such geniality as I could assume about tile, one of the few construction materials of which one may say there is no perfect substitute." (E. B. also admits to a fondness for scrapple, one of the



EDWIN BATEMAN MORRIS, SR., F.A.I.A.

"foods of which one may say there is no perfect substitute.")

While not a specification writer, E. B. became interested in specifications and was instrumental in organizing the Construction Specification Institute and its magazine. This organization has grown in ten years to a membership of four thousand.

In addition to all these activities through the years, E. B. has always found time to pursue a vigorous writing career, both in the architectural field and as an avocation. The AIA Journal and the Atlantic Monthly have often used his by-line, a fact that has been recognized by AIA in making the fellow award which is for "Service to the Institute" and "Literature".

He has at least a dozen novels to his credit, one of which Hollywood thought well enough of to screen it twice—once in the silent days and again as a "talkie". If you haven't seen it, you might catch it some night on a late TV show, according to E.B. It's still making the rounds and the title is "Narrow Street", with Marie Dressler and Edward Everett Horton.

Although a transplanted Philadelphian, E. B. has by now become an adopted son of that fine, old, historic area of Montgomery County, Maryland, known as Sandy Spring. It was there where he met his charming wife, Faith Farquhar, a member of one of the oldest families in Maryland, and it was there where they were married in 1910 in her home, the house which is now known as Olney Inn. The Morrises have three children: Edwin Bateman Morris, Jr., who is active in the AIA, Mrs. Kay Mills and Mrs. Patty Stabler.

During the AIA convention in New Orleans, June 22-26, thirty-nine outstanding architects from all sections of the United States will be formally inducted into the College of Fellows of the Institute. The Potomac Valley Chapter will be especially proud when this name is announced: Edwin Bateman Morris, Sr., FAIA.

Senseman Slated for AIA Regional Director Ballot

Our active past president, Ronald S. Senseman AIA, has been nominated as a candidate for the office of Regional Director of the Middle Atlantic Regional District of the AIA.

Ballots will be mailed from the Octagon on Friday, May 15, to all corporate members assigned to chapters in the Middle Atlantic Region and must be received in the Octagon no later than June 1, 1959 at 5 P.M. Also a candidate for the office is Daniel A. Hopper, Jr., of the New Jersey Chapter.

Ron has been active on various committees which published reports on school design and has authored several articles on home, church and school building. He annually lectures on "Church Architecture" and "Class in Principles of Architecture" at the Washington Missionary College.

He is registered in the States of Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Virginia, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Jersey, Indiana, and Florida. In addition to many schools in various states

(continued on page two)

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER OF MARYLAND

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NEXT REGULAR MEETING

12 Noon, May 4, 1959

Stone House Inn

Four Corners, Silver Spring, Md.

June Meeting — June 1, 1959

Chapter Honors Associate Members

Handsomely inscribed certificates of Associate Membership in the Potomac Valley Chapter AIA will be presented to associate members at our next regular meeting on Monday, May 4. Secretary Milt Prassas has expertly carried out a directive of the Executive Committee in having the scrolls prepared—the first of their kind (to our knowledge) among AIA chapters throughout the country.

Other chapters that may wish to so honor their associate members may be interested in contacting the Potomac Valley Chapter Secretary. He informs us that the plates are available and he would be glad to supply prices on various quantities which would, of course, have the proper chapter name inscribed.

Suitable for framing and produced on heavy stock, the certificates measure 8½ by 11 inches.

continued from page one)

his firm has to its credit such projects as the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington, D. C., the Graduate School addition at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D. C., and the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Ever active in AIA affairs, Ron has been a past president of the Maryland Division, Washington Metropolitan Chapter, AIA; past president of the Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland, AIA; AIA representative at National Chamber of Commerce meetings, a delegate to the Pan American Conference and a frequent attendant at AIA conventions.

There's an old adage which goes: "If you want a job done, give it to a busy man." Ron's the man.



A must on any trip to ancient Egypt is your picture on a camel in the shadow of the pyramids and the silent Sphinx. On the immediate left are Mrs. Senseman and Ron. See story.

ACCENT ON ARCHITECTURE ON CAPITAL HILL

It may have been the attention given to the Capitol East Front Extension; it may have been the sudden consciousness given to the preservation of older buildings or the demolition of World War I "tempcos" still standing — and those even more "tempo-types" which we still have from World War II. Nevertheless, it is evident that there is an architectural awareness in the Nation's Capital which has not been accented in many years.

Typical of this trend are companion bills currently before the Congress which would require high standards of architecture for Federal buildings, acquire and preserve works of art for those buildings, and preserve historic buildings and antiquities. Authors of these measures are Senator Clark (D., Penn., Rep. Reuss (D.), Wis., and Rep. Thompson (D.), N.J.

Main features of the bills, according to Sen. Clark in a recent statement in the Congressional Record, are:

"First, Historic Buildings: The Administrator of General Services, who is authorized under present law to order the demolition of any buildings declared surplus to the needs of the Government unless the Secretary of the Interior counteracts that order within 90 days, would be directed to have historic buildings, sites, objects and antiquities owned or controlled by the United States which are or may

be threatened with destruction.

"Second, Works of Art: Another purpose of the bill is to direct the General Services Administration to provide a continuing program of preservation, repair, and restoration of works of art owned by the United States and to acquire suitable works of art for the decoration of Federal public buildings.

"Third, Architecture: The bill would also direct the Administrator of the General Services Administration to require high standards of architectural design and decoration for Federal public buildings and set up appropriate machinery to accomplish this end after consultation with the Commission on Fine Arts, the Director of the National Collection of Fine Arts and the Director of the National Gallery of Art.

"Fourth, Commission of Fine Arts: The Commission of Fine Arts was created in 1910 primarily to serve as guardian for the L'Enfant plan for the District of Columbia and it has conscientiously carried out that task. Rightly or wrongly, however, the Commission has gained the reputation of restricting the competitions and commissions over which it has advisory responsibilities to a limited coterie of friends. It may be claimed that the style of work thus chosen harmonizes with the aesthetic ideal of the period when Mr. L'Enfant—1754-1825—drew his famous plans for Washington,

'ROUND THE WORLD ON AN AIA TREK

by RONALD S. SENSEMAN, AIA

The seven-week trek around the world by air that a group of AIA members took recently and was my pleasure to lead, was crammed full of interesting and fascinating sights and experiences. From the tremendous, overwhelming memorial to Franco in Spain to the exquisite beautiful gardens of Japan we saw many magnificent architectural sights.

In Spain at Franco's memorial, at Los Caidos, Franco's architect, Senor Mendez, escorted us through the beautiful, and unusual building, and even took us behind the scenes. The scale of the building and the cross are tremendous; the sculpture was most interesting and unique. In the lovely city of Madrid it was our added pleasure to enjoy the beauty and excitement of local Spanish dances, Flamenco style.

Our next flight was to Rome, Italy where we enjoyed the very famous Pantheon, Vatican, Coliseum, St. Paul's and some of the beautiful fountains designed by Bernini. We found Rome to be an extremely beautiful and gracious city and were sorry that our stay there was limited to only three days.

As architects we all enjoyed Athens, particularly the Acropolis where we visited the famous ruins of the Parthenon and other ancient Greek ruins. We took a beautiful ride by the blue Aegean Sea to Corinth where we visited other ancient ruins and got a beautiful view of Mt. Parnasus where Greek Mythology was born.

While in Greece we were the guests in the home of one of the architects there, Mr. Marthos, President of the Greek Society of Architects. He had a very Bohemian type studio where he painted his abstract pictures, soon to be shown in the U.S.A. Incidentally, our group gave a cocktail party in each country we visited, to meet the local architects, all of which led to many further contacts with the local men who showed us places of interest and often entertained us in their homes. If any one thing about our trip was more interesting than another, it was these personal contacts.

In Egypt we felt that we had entered a different era of civilization. We saw many interesting mosques in Cairo, the pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza, and the Temple of Karnak at Luxor and the tombs at Thebes. On the more modern side we saw the new Nile Hilton Hotel in Cairo which is the last word in luxury, American-style.

During our eleven-day stay in India we saw a never-ending drama of beauty and squalor existing next to each other. The Taj Mahal at Agra, India, was one of the highlights of our trip. In a setting of poverty and misery, it stood out as a rare gem in its beautiful setting even more impressive than photos. The temples of India are beautiful and contain much of the wealth of the country. Darjeeling, India, with the Himalayan backdrop, was extremely picturesque, and our early morning trip to

Tiger Hill to see the sun rise on Mount Everest was an inspiring sight. A quick visit to Le Corbusier's, capital city of the Punjab Chandigarh, was most unusual and certainly a must for architects.

India is a real study in contrasts, the very rich, the very poor, fabulous beauty and the ugliness of poverty.

After our last stop in Calcutta, India, anything would look good. Therefore, we all loved Bangkok, Thailand. It is a modern city for the most part, except for the interesting section of the city that is built on the canals and waterways, where many live in house boats or stilted canal-side dwellings. The water provides for all the needs of the family, as an early morning trip by boat proved.

The Imperial Palace grounds and temples are typical of Thai architecture, the sort of buildings we all think of when we mention Siam. Everywhere one looks there is ornate beauty. The colors, designs, and structures were different indeed from anything we were to see.

Hong Kong was naturally our only stop in China, and we found it a very fascinating one. The beauty of the mountains, the seashore, and the picturesque harbor simply jammed with boats of all types and sizes. The overwhelming and breathtaking beauty of Hong Kong is and at night left us feeling, somehow, that this was the most fabulous place we had seen. All this—and those heavenly shops with the fantastic bargains!

We found Japan to be a gem of a place to visit. Its many gardens are very pleasing and restful in their quiet informal beauty. The sight of Mount Fujiyama was an inspiring one, jutting up as it does out of the flat garden that is the rural area of Japan. The ride thru the beautiful, orderly countryside to Kyoto will always be remembered as the cleanest, most prompt train ride we ever had. Kyoto, in southern Japan, is full of many ancient temples, very typical of ancient Japan.

Nikko in northern Japan is unusual indeed, with many colorful and decorative temples and shrines. Nikko also gave us the added thrill of two small earthquakes and a ride up the mountains on a highway with 32 switchbacks.

Arriving in Honolulu was like coming home. The islands of Hawaii are lovely and restful, a paradise for all who have the good fortune to visit there. The mountains are beautiful, as are the beaches, the palm trees, and the blue ocean. Showers come and go, and the valley is filled with rainbows and the wind always blows in the mountain passes.

Most of all we enjoyed the American hamburgers and the American way of doing things in this, our newest state. By then, we were all a little homesick, and arriving back in Washington via the Golden Gate four days later brought to an end a most unusual and wonderful trip.

HERE and ELSEWHERE

Architects in Prestige Group

According to Vance Parker writing in the current issue of LOOK magazine on the subject of "The Pursuit of Status", a licensed architect has top ranking prestige-wise among the various occupations in this country.

The sociologists' findings place the architect in the top seven along with the stock broker, medical specialist, executive of a national concern, Federal judge, law partner in a prestige firm, flag rank military officer and a Bishop D.D.

Rockville Names Arthur For Civic Center Hall

The City of Rockville, Maryland, is going ahead with plans for an auditorium on the Civic Center grounds and the Mayor and Council have named Stanley H. Arthur, our vice president, as architect.

The council recommended a two-story building with a ballroom on the first floor level and a theatre on the second, with a capacity of 900 for the building.



An acceptable alternative would be an expandable one-story theatre with a 900 seating capacity. The auditorium will be built on the thirty-four-acre Civic Center tract on Baltimore Road which is dominated by the Civic Center, a thirty-room Colonial mansion which was recently restored by the City.

European Architectural Tour

Several outstanding examples of contemporary Western European Architecture will be visited this Fall by a group of American architects on a professional tour sponsored by the French branch of the International Union of Architects, in association with Air France and McGinnis Travel Service, Inc., of New York.

The establishment of the necessary professional contacts have made it possible for American architects to see and discuss architectural accomplishments which had a profound effect on American design in recent years. Not only will individual architectural achievements be visited in Paris, Marseilles, Milan, Rome, Zurich, Basle, Cologne, Berlin, and Rotterdam, but meetings have been arranged in those cities so that U.S. and European architects can discuss subjects of mutual interest, such as trends in design, methods of architectural practice, and other professional problems. The itinerary also includes stops in LeHavre, Nice, Venice, Valauris, Ronchamps, Duren, Dusseldorf and Brussels.

The thirty-day tour group will leave New York on October 17. A package fare including all transportation and hotel accommodations is available.

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