

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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Westward Ho!

THE next Convention will be held at Minneapolis; a decision by the Board of Directors that is a happy one. There is nothing new in the plan of holding a Convention at some place other than Washington; in fact, the custom has been more or less established that this should occur every third year. But there is, notwithstanding, a tendency to choose Washington, partly because of habit and partly through a feeling that proximity to governmental forces may be opportune. It is not the purpose of these lines to discuss this phase of the question; their object is to comment upon the special excellence of the present choice.

This excellence is twofold; on the one hand because the place selected is in the West, on the other because it is in the territory of the Minnesota Chapter.

To the westerner, Minnesota does not seem very western; to us of the great eastern centers it is at least enough so to make us feel that it lies well beyond the atmosphere of our accustomed lives and thoughts. It seems to us also western enough to lie within the boundaries of that great region conscious of some sense of isolation from the intimate contact essential to the harmonious growth of the Institute. To that extent, the choice is good.

Nobody who has at all followed the work of the Minnesota Chapter; who knows at

all the men in it; who realizes its aspirations and the efficiency of its communal efforts, can fail to believe that it is a living force for the building up of those ideals of public service for which we stand. It was well said, by a director, during the Board's discussion of a Convention place, that the Minnesota Chapter was not following but leading the Institute. And so, yet again, the choice is good.

But there is even a broader reason for it. We of the East tend, unknowingly to ourselves, to become enmeshed in the insistent complexity of our environment. We do not know, we have little vision of, our country as a whole and of those who are playing their parts in sections beyond our common view. It narrows and deadens us. We become self-centered, self-satisfied, ignorant of much we should see clearly, lacking in that quick sympathy of understanding without which we must all die. The cure lies in going forth from the little circle that appears to us to be the world; going among our brothers who are, long miles away, solving problems for us all.

That officers, directors, delegates and other members of the Institute should convene in that place where the Minnesota men conduct their Institute work of esthetic and social service, is no more than a fitting recognition of the value of that work.

C. GRANT LAFARGE.

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hereafter do what was best to make the profession of architecture more and more worthy and honored.

Mr. Barber gave his point of view as to what the Institute had done in advancing the standing of the architect in the eyes of the law. He referred to the Schedule of Charges and showed its origin and its value; how and why it is recognized by the Courts, although it is not mandatory upon the members of the Institute. He gave instances to illustrate progress in the attitude of the public, the clients, toward architects and he ended by pointing out how every architect needed to be part of some great movement in his profession in order to realize the importance of something other than his own interests.

Mr. Wade then made an interesting statement to the young men as to the purpose of the new State Registration Law and the principles that would guide the Board of Examiners under the Registration Act in carrying that act into effect. He indicated very clearly that the Board's idea was that the act should be so used as to advance the standard of attainment of those who entered the practice of the profession and not in any way to disbar men by complicated examinations and restrictive prohibitions. The formal meeting was concluded by the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, Mr. Kohn, who referred to one or two recent accomplishments of the Institute in the New York district, and ended by

outlining a plan which would in his opinion, make membership in the Chapters of even greater value to young professional men.

From every outward indication the audience was immensely interested in these brief talks given by members of the Institute. The senior draughtsmen and students and indeed all the younger architects present asked all sorts of interesting questions during the hour or more of social entertainment which followed the speaking. Those members of the Institute who were present were convinced of the great need for just this sort of meeting one or more times a year. Heretofore, at least in the New York district, no effort has been made to explain to those that are some day to be members of the Institute just what the Institute is and what it means to do. That the explanations were effective was evidenced by the fact that quite a number of the younger men, who are eligible, and indeed some that are not yet eligible, asked for application blanks so that they might join the Institute at once. The main object, of the whole meeting, however, was not to get new members, but to lay the foundation of a clear understanding of what the Institute means to those who some day are to be its members.

The meeting was arranged by the following Committee: William P. Bannister, William Emerson, Arnold Kolbe, Robert D. Kohn, *Chairman*.

Obituary

Lawrence Gustav Hallberg

Admitted to the Institute, 1884; to Fellowship, 1889.
Died at Chicago, December 4, 1915.

Clinton Day*

Admitted to the Institute, 1902; to Fellowship, 1912.
Died at Berkeley, California, January 11, 1916.

John Bacon Hutchings*

Admitted to the Institute, 1914.
Died at Louisville, Kentucky, January 17, 1916.

Fernand Parmentier*

Admitted to the Institute, 1906; to Fellowship, 1914.
Died at Seddul Bahr, Turkey, August 7, 1915.

*Additional notice will appear in the March Journal.

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No. 3

Early Architecture of the Rappahannock Valley

IV. MARMION

By FRANK CONGER BALDWIN

IT IS strange that among the many authoritative volumes that have been written about the historic homes of Virginia, one finds no account of Marmion, which, by reason of its share in the traditions of the famous Fitzhugh and Lewis families, as well as its own unique and distinctive interest, merits a most particular attention. It is perhaps equally remarkable that Marmion should have escaped the wanton firebrand of the Indian, for, at the time it was built, it was at the outskirts of the civilization of the colonies, and its situation was in the very heart of the region of the Indian depredations and massacres which were partly the cause of Bacon's Rebellion.

Tradition and the surrounding circumstances would indicate that Marmion was built in 1674, by William Fitzhugh, whose will was probated in Stafford County in 1701, and who devised the estate to his son Thomas. From the latter it passed to one Hall and from him was purchased by George Lewis, a nephew of George Washington and son of Colonel Fielding and Elizabeth Washington Lewis. The estate has remained in the Lewis family to the present date.

George Lewis was a captain in Baylor's

regiment and commanded General Washington's life-guard. It was in his arms that General Hugh Mercer expired on the battlefield of Princeton. George Lewis retired to Marmion a few years after the Revolution, and died there in 1821. His younger brother, Robert, was private secretary to Washington during part of his presidential term. The Lewis family is one of those which largely created historic Virginia, and the present owners of Marmion are the direct descendants of the "Immigrant" General Robert Lewis who, in 1650, received a grant of 33,333 acres and who built the original family seat, Warner Hall, which was destroyed by fire in 1849. Mr. Henry Byrd Lewis, the present owner of Cleve Manor,* was born at Marmion.

Marmion's existence is apparently not well known today, except locally, for, though but eighteen miles from Fredericksburg, it is hidden away in remote and secluded dignity, amid its surrounding forest, in a sparsely populated section of King George County, and unless one knew of the treasures it contains one would be tempted to pass it by with slight consideration.

*See Journal for June, 1915

State Registration of Architects

By D. EVERETT WAID

A debatable point was brought out by the Committee on Legislation at the last Convention. The report assumed that a registration law must be based on the power vested in the state to protect the public against unsafe buildings. It further took issue with most of such state laws, at least as they are being enforced, by assuming "that public safety has no concern in those qualifications of the architect which enable him to practise a fine art, and that on such lines he should be no more subject to examination than is the painter or sculptor."

Whether the power which is founded on the right to protect life can be extended to protect the public against bad taste may be questioned, but such an attempt is made by refusing to admit to practice, all who have not, in the opinion of the Examiners, a proper knowledge of artistic design. That attempt is enforced by forbidding anyone except registered architects the right to file drawings and take out permits for building. Incidental abuses grew out of that law such as the case of a carpenter who, desiring to build a shed or shop, took his drawing to a licensed architect, secured the impression of his seal for \$5 and then was free to file his own drawing and obtain a permit.

That such a law is drawn on a wrong basis is indicated by the fact that the Illinois law is now imperiled by legislation sought by the engineering profession in its behalf. If they succeed in their efforts the architects may be in worse condition than if no license law whatever existed.

The New York law for registration of architects is drawn on a different theory. It is an educational measure and its most important or all-important object is to raise the standard of qualifications of

architects and thereby their efficiency and value to the public. Incidental to this purpose it prevents imposition on the public by providing that when it does employ an architect it shall be guaranteed some evidence that he is entitled to the name.

But the New York law does not interfere with the right of any carpenter, builder, engineer, contractor or owner, to plan and erect any building for himself or others, provided he does not use the title "architect."

The building laws and the Building Departments charged with the enforcement of the building laws should protect the public against unsafe construction. The architect must protect the public against bad design by the merit of his own. It is the only possible way. The profession has no right and should have no wish to legislate business into its control. If we cannot command the respect of the public without legislation and cannot sell our brains to willing purchasers then architecture is in a bad way indeed.

In order to answer one or two specific questions regarding the New York law for Registration of Architects it may be announced that the Department of Education at Albany will mail application blanks upon request. A portion of the blank filled out over an affidavit will secure the certificate for each architect who was established in practice in the state before April 28, 1915. Other portions of the blank together with the accompanying text of the law will indicate the requirements which must be met by all other applicants.

Applications should be filed before April 28, 1916, by those who wish to secure certificates *without* examination.

Obituary

Clinton Day

Clinton Day, whose death was announced in the *Journal* for February, was born in Brooklyn, N. Y. in 1847, and came of a family distinguished in American life. His father, Sherman Day, was at one time a California State Senator and also held the position of U. S. Surveyor-General for that State. He was identified with the founding of the State University, at that time known as the College of California.

His grandfather, Jeremiah Day, was president of Yale University for many years. Mr. Day went to California in 1855, and was graduated from the College of California in 1868. The Honorary Degree of L. L. D. was conferred upon him by the University of California in 1910. Mr. Day was identified with many important architectural undertakings in California and his good fellowship, sympathetic kindness and high principles had made him widely beloved.

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John Bacon Hutchings

John Bacon Hutchings, whose death was announced in the February Journal, was born in Louisville, November 25, 1859. In 1891, he associated himself with Mr. C. A. Curtin, a prominent architect of Louisville, under the name of Curtin & Hutchings, the partnership continuing until 1898. Mr. Hutchings then opened his own office, taking his son, Mr. E. T. Hutchings, into partnership in 1911. He designed many prominent residences in Louisville, and at his death was engaged upon a group of four buildings for the Young Women's Christian Association of Louisville.

The resolution spread upon the minutes of the Louisville Chapter records that "His genial and lovable personality was as the exterior of a beautiful building, incidental to the noble purpose for which the building exists. The foundation upon which his character rested was a sound sense of rectitude and honor, a keen sense of justice and fair play, leading to lofty convictions which could not be shaken. These qualities, together with a fine sense of humor, made him esteemed and beloved by all who came in contact with him, and an honor to the high profession of his choice."

Fernand Parmentier

Fernand Parmentier, Secretary of the Southern California Chapter, died fighting for France. His death was recorded in the February Journal and brought the tragedy of the present war in Europe directly home to the many members of the Institute who have hoped that their fellow member might not be sacrificed. The bravery and patriotism which inspired Mr. Parmentier, not robust in health, to enlist in the forces of his native land, when the war broke in upon his holiday in Europe are characteristic of the man and the race from which he sprang.

His father was an officer in the French army and fought in the Franco-Prussian War, later removing to Alsace, where Fernand Parmentier passed his boyhood. One likes to think of him as perhaps having been among that famous "Derniere Classe" of Daudet, and as a Frenchman whose allegiance could not be torn away by the hand of the conqueror. He was born in Paris in 1868. He came to America at the age of fourteen, studied in the Chicago schools, and

took up architecture in various offices in that city. He entered an office in Santa Barbara and then established himself in Los Angeles in 1897, where he had practised up to the spring of 1914.

During the first part of his army service, the Journal received letters from him, at intervals, always full of hope and confidence, and always expressing the hope that he might find leisure to write a brief account of some of his experiences. He was with the army that first penetrated Alsace, but was later transferred to the forces which sailed for the ill-fated expedition to the Dardanelles, there to meet his death. He had been made a corporal, and his last letter expressed his pleasure at the news of his advancement to Fellowship in the Institute. He described the Turkish trenches as being almost beyond endurance, but made no complaint. The news of his death was not received for many months afterward, but the long-continued silence had made us all fear greatly for his safety.

Thus passes, in the great sacrifice, a man and an architect. He leaves us the memory of unselfish devotion, loyalty to high principles and the willingness to die for a cause which he believed to be just.

Lawrence Gustave Hallberg

Lawrence Gustave Hallberg, notice of whose death appeared in the February Journal, was born at Wenerenas, Sweden, September 4, 1844. He was graduated from Chalmers Polytechnic Institute of Gottenberg, and after extensive travel entered the office of Sir Digby Watts, London. He located in Chicago in 1871, and has since practised there, forming a partnership with Mr. Meyer J. Sturm, in 1902, which continued until 1904. In 1913 he took his eldest son into the partnership of L. G. Hallberg & Co.

He built many residences, but his chief work was in reinforced concrete warehouses and factories. From the resolution adopted by the Illinois Chapter is quoted the following: "A genial personality, he was beloved by all who came in contact with him. Familiar, yet courteous in bearing; progressive, yet balanced in counsel; unpretentious, yet satisfying in his art; he held respect and maintained his honorable rank through a long and successful professional career."

H. P. Schnetzky

Admitted to the Institute in 1912

Died at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, February 21, 1916