

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

1910.

FOR ONE YEAR.

FRANK MILES DAY, 925 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.
GEORGE CARY, 184 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.
R. CLIPSTON STURGIS, 120 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

FOR TWO YEARS.

FRANK C. BALDWIN, Union Trust Building, Detroit, Mich.
S. B. P. TROWBRIDGE, 527 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
JOHN M. CARRÈRE, 225 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

FOR THREE YEARS.

CASS GILBERT, 11 East Twenty-fourth St., New York, N. Y.
RALPH ADAMS CRAM, 15 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.
JOHN G. HOWARD, 604 Mission St., San Francisco, Cal.

AUDITORS.

ROBERT STEAD, 906 F Street N. W., Washington, D. C.
JAMES G. HILL, Corcoran Building, Washington, D. C.

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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS.

Following is the text of a Bill creating a Commission of Fine Arts for the Federal Government, as passed by the Senate May 3, 1910, and as finally agreed to and passed by the House of Representatives, May 12, 1910.

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a permanent Commission of Fine Arts is hereby created to be composed of seven well-qualified judges of the fine arts, who shall be appointed by the President, and shall serve for a period of four years each, and until their successors are appointed and qualified. The President shall have authority to fill all vacancies. It shall be the duty of such commission to advise upon the location of statues, fountains, and monuments in the public squares, streets, and parks in the District of Columbia, and upon the selection of models for statues, fountains, and monuments erected under the authority of the United States and upon the selection of artists for the execution of the same. It shall be the duty of the officers charged by law to determine such questions in each case to call for such advice. The foregoing provisions of this Act shall not apply to the Capitol building of the United States and the building of the Library of Congress. The commission shall also advise generally upon questions of art when required to do so by the President, or by any committee of either House of Congress. Said commission shall have a secretary and such other assistance as the commission may authorize, and the members of the commission shall each be paid actual expenses in going to and returning from Washington to attend the meetings of said commission and while attending the same.

SEC. 2. That to meet the expenses made necessary by this act an expenditure of not exceeding ten thousand dollars a year is hereby authorized.

such papers as may be of general interest to the profession, and an annual report, with a list of the members of the Chapter.

At a recent meeting of the Boston Chapter the following action was taken on the death of Mr. William G. Preston:

Resolved, that the Boston Society of Architects records its great sense of loss in the death of Mr. William G. Preston, who for thirty years was Treasurer of this Society. During his period of service he was distinguished not only by the faithful accuracy of the good business man in the care of the Society's funds, but by a unique ability to make the treasurer's reports entertaining, thereby securing for these reports a degree of attention not always accorded to such documents. His quiet but genial personality and his unfailing friendliness endeared him to all who knew him. His absence from our midst will be felt by many as a personal bereavement.

Under "Obituaries" will be found a brief account of the life of Mr. W. G. Preston.

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER.

A regular meeting of the Chapter was held, March 2, 1910, at the University Club with dinner at 6.30.

His Honor Mayor Fletcher was present as guest of the Chapter.

President Sawtelle occupied the chair.

The records of the last meeting and of a special meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Clarke for the Committee on the Memorial to Mr. Stone exhibited a sketch of the scheme proposed by the Committee.

It was voted that the scheme be approved by the Chapter.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Glenn Brown asking the Chapter, as such, to contribute to the McKim Memorial in the American Academy at Rome.

It was voted to refer the request to the Secretary and Treasurer.

The Secretary announced that Miss Loraine P. Bucklin had presented to the Chapter a daguerreotype of Thomas a Tefft.

It was voted that the Secretary convey to Miss Bucklin the thanks of the Chapter for this gift with the assurance that the Chapter will always preserve it among its archives.

President Sawtelle addressed the Chapter, introducing the subject for the evening: "A General Scheme for a Greater Providence."

Mr. Adams spoke on the improvements now contemplated in Cleveland.

Mr. Hindle discussed the civic plan of Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and Columbus.

Mr. Homer spoke on the necessity and character of a commission to take charge of the future growth of the city.

The President then introduced His Honor Mayor Fletcher who made a very interesting address on some aspects of the problem now before the city of Providence.

Mr. Clarke spoke on the present plan of the city.

Mr. Jackson spoke on the necessity of a commission because of the many different schemes which, without such a commission, would lack unity.

The thanks of the Chapter were voted to Mayor Fletcher.

NORMAN M. ISHAM,
Secretary.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER.

The Connecticut Chapter held a meeting on April 4 to discuss the new Code of Competitions recently issued by the Institute.

The general opinion of the members of this Chapter, as expressed at this meeting, is that the Code is most admirable for competitions of matters for buildings costing a large sum, which class of competitions was evidently in mind of the framers of the Code. It seems to us, however, that there is a large class of minor competitions for buildings of comparatively small cost in which the intentions of the owners and of the architects competing are perfectly fair and honorable which cannot be conducted under the Code as drawn, on account of the expense involved to the owner of employing an expert and of holding a form of competition and also on account of the short time which is sometimes allowable. If the Code must be rigidly followed as drawn for all of these small competitions it will mean the practical elimination of Institute members from a large portion of a good class of work in this State which we have previously enjoyed, and it seems to us an unnecessary hardship. Our suggestion would be that a cost limit of buildings be fixed, above which the Code should be mandatory and below which it would be simply advisory.

The President of this Chapter has written to this effect to Mr. John M. Carrère, President pro tem. of the Committee on Competitions, stating our position very much as outlined above.

WM. E. HUNT,
Secretary.

NEW YORK CHAPTER.

At a recent meeting of the New York Chapter there were passed amendments to the By-Laws of the Chapter in relation to the election of Chapter members. Instead of electing by letter ballots sent to the Admissions Committee, the Admissions Committee now send the recommendations concerning favorable candidates to the Executive Committee who ballot upon each candidate separately. For this balloting by the Executive Committee a quorum of seven of the Executive Committee is necessary and two negative votes are necessary for excluding an applicant.

FRANK H. HOLDEN,
Secretary.

other necessary expenses of a commission, the members of which are to act without compensation.

In accordance with the act of Councils, the Mayor appointed the Commission from the Affiliated Organization.

The Commission is now at work, and the results of their labor will be a great benefit to the architects, builders and other interests of the city. It is the consummation of years of work on the part of the Chapter, and owes its existence to the energy and determination of Mr. Stotz.

R. M. TRIMBLE,
Secretary.

Under Chapter Notes, Pennsylvania State Association, A. I. A., will be found the minutes of the meeting of the representatives of the affiliated organization and of the memorial to the Mayor.

The following memorial was presented by the Pittsburgh Chapter in honor of Mr. John M. Alston, F. A. I. A.

OBITUARY.

John M. Alston died April 17, 1910, in his 87th year. Born in Scotland, he came to his vicinity, Pittsburgh, eighty years ago and has spent his life here.

After securing the elementary schooling of his day, he was then entered as an apprentice in the stone cutting trade which he followed, improving his time and following his natural bent by the study of architecture and draughting, being aided by the late J. W. Kerr, the first architect of Pittsburgh, and eventually practicing architecture until in recent years he retired.

John M. Alston was a man of dignity and presence, of calm and kind demeanor, and worked with credit to his time and opportunity.

On March 16, 1909, John M. Alston, at the age of 86, attended the regular meeting of this Chapter and told the members of his early experiences, calling to mind his patron, Mr. Kerr, with whom he studied.

He was a Charter Member of the Pittsburgh Chapter, and was elected a Fellow of the Institute in 1891.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION, A. I. A.

Following is a report of the general proceedings of the meeting of the Pennsylvania State Association of Architects held recently in Pittsburgh:

At the Second Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Association of Architects held recently at Pittsburgh, Penna., the opening remarks of the President dwelt

upon the encouraging interest taken in the Association by the Architects of the State at large, indicating that there was an opportunity for the Association to become a vital factor in the interest of the profession, that these annual meetings of the delegates representing the various Chapters of the State are bound to bring the Chapters in closer relation to one another, encourage more concerted action and ensure greater influence upon all State matters. He stated that in no other way than by personal contact could the Association expect to accomplish any results or make any effective progress. Apropos of his remarks, commending and encouraging letters were read by Mr. Boyd from a number of the officers of the American Institute.

A number of letters in reply to the general communication sent to all the architects of the State were read by the Secretary, some asking information, others desiring to join the Association, and practically all of them expressing interest and promising cooperation.

With a view of furnishing additional information to those architects of the State who are not already members of the Institute a circular letter was composed and is to be distributed in a few days.

Committees on Revision of Building Laws, approved at the meeting in December last, were appointed, composed of seven men from the three Chapters.

The most important business of the session was the proposed revision of the Building Laws. Mr. MacClure, of Pittsburgh, explained in brief the very satisfactory progress which was being made in Pittsburgh and vicinity. It was explained that after a considerable amount of hard work by the Pittsburgh Chapter and through the efforts principally of Mr. Stotz, its President, and with the approval of the A. I. A., a meeting of delegates was called by him appointed from twelve of the most important organizations of the city, who met in Mr. Stotz's office to consider the subject.

The Organizations represented were: Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh Board of Trade, Engineers' Society of Western Penna., Western Builders' Association of Allegheny County, Builder's Exchange League, Master Plumbers' Association, Electrical Contractors' Association, Bar Association, Civic Commission, Pittsburgh Chapter A. I. A., Civic Club of Allegheny County, Board of Fire Underwriters.

Mr. Stotz was elected Chairman, and after a discussion of the subject the support of all the organizations was pledged; and at a second meeting a week later, a memorial urging the revision of the building laws was addressed to the Mayor and Councils. The inadequacies and defects of the present laws were in part enumerated and the Mayor was requested that a Commission be appointed to revise the Building Code.

A meeting with the Mayor was arranged, after which he brought the matter before Councils with the result that a Commission was appointed.

Following is the Mayor's letter making the appointments:

OBITUARIES.

A. V. PORTER, F. A. I. A.

Mr. A. V. Porter was born in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., May 25, 1856, where he spent his early life. At the age of twenty he went to California in the employ of several large lumber companies. In 1887 he returned East and settled in Brooklyn where he practiced the profession of Architecture. His first work was Herkimer Baptist Church, Brooklyn, and residences at Shelter Island. In 1893-94 he was associated with Shickel and Ditmars in residential work. From 1895-1910 he was the architect for the Metropolitan Street Railway Co., during which time the railroads were first equipped with cable and then underground electric service, requiring immense car barns and power houses throughout the city. The one on First Avenue and Ninety-sixth Street, seventy thousand horse-power, chimney stack three hundred and eighty-five feet high, was the first of the large power houses and is now followed in many of its features in most of the power houses recently built.

Mr. Porter was elected a Fellow of the Institute in 1897, and was a member in good standing at the time of his death which occurred November 20, 1909.

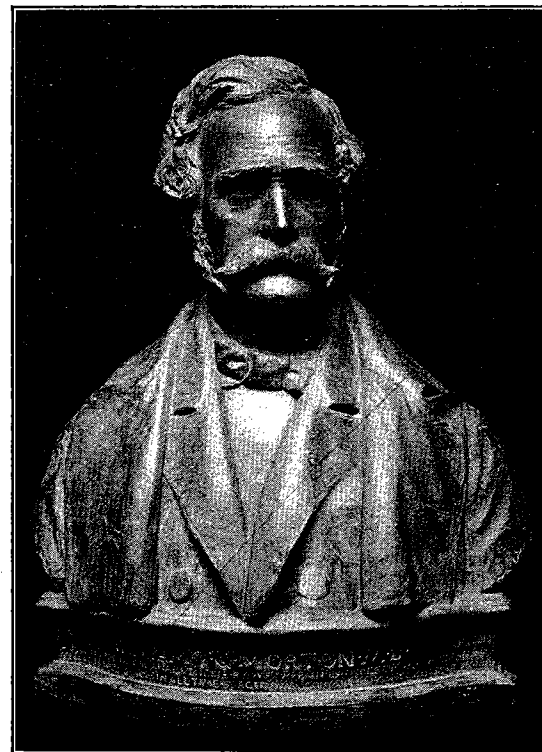
In the January issue of the Institute Quarterly Bulletin will be found the action of the Brooklyn Chapter on the death of Mr. Porter.

JOHN M. ALSTON, F. A. I. A.

Under Chapter Notes, Pittsburgh Chapter, will be found an obituary notice of Mr. John M. Alston, which gives a brief sketch of the life of Mr. Alston.

WILLIAM G. PRESTON, F. A. I. A.

The following account of the life and work of Mr. William G. Preston is taken from the Boston *Transcript* of 27th of April, 1910.



BRONZE BUST OF DR. W. T. C. MORTON
(DISCOVERER OF SURGICAL ANAESTHESIA)

By Helen Farnsworth Mears, Sculptor

Exhibited, March, 1910, Boston Hospital, Ether Museum

Exhibited, April, 1910, Knoedler's Art Galleries, New York

To be placed permanently in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Cast by Jno. Williams Inc., New York