

# THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Volume XII

APRIL, 1924

Number 4

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
SEGOVIA—UNDER THE AQUEDUCT . . . . .	<i>Louis La Beaume</i> Frontispiece
A LITTLE TOUR IN SPAIN—SEGOVIA . . . . .	<i>Louis La Beaume</i> 157
MONTICELLO . . . . .	<i>Fiske Kimball</i> 174
A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BASILICA OF CONSTANTINE . . . . .	<i>E. P. Franklin and Victor L. S. Hafner</i> 182
“BUNK” AND “THE GOOD OLD TIMES” . . . . .	<i>Edwin Bergstrom</i> 189
LONDON LETTER . . . . .	“X” 190
ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY . . . . .	<i>Lewis Mumford</i> 191
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY PLANNING . . . . .	<i>Clarence S. Stein, Associate Editor</i> 193
THE SECRETARY’S PAGE . . . . .	194
PRE-CONVENTION NOTES . . . . .	195
THE SEVENTH REGIONAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE . . . . .	<i>N. C. C.</i> 196
ARCHITECTURAL RELATIONS . . . . .	<i>Harry T. Stevens</i> 197
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS . . . . .	<i>Robert D. Kohn</i> 197
PUBLIC INFORMATION . . . . .	<i>John V. Van Pelt</i> 198
THE DEVELOPMENT OF WASHINGTON . . . . .	199
FROM OUR BOOK SHELF . . . . .	202
NEW MEMBERS ELECTED . . . . .	205
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . . . .	206
OBITUARY . . . . .	206
STRUCTURAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT . . . . .	207

Published Monthly by

**THE PRESS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, INC.**

THOMAS R. KIMBALL, Omaha, President; M. B. MEDARY, JR., Philadelphia, Vice-President; FREDERICK L. ACKERMAN, New York City, Secretary; BEN J. LUBSCHEZ, New York City, Treasurer; WALTER D. BLAIR, New York City; DELOS H. SMITH, Washington; S. F. VOORHEES; D. EVERETT WAID, New York City; F. R. WALKER, Cleveland, Directors.

CHARLES HARRIS WHITAKER, *Editor*

Publication Office, 305 Washington Street, Brooklyn, New York

Editorial Office, Fisk Building, 250 West 57th Street, New York, N. Y.

FIFTY CENTS A COPY. \$5 PER YEAR. (Foreign, \$6)

Checks or P. O. orders should be made payable to The Press of The American Institute of Architects, Inc., and all communications should be sent to Editorial Office.

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# THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

employed processes of waterproofing amount to any more than a ceremonial—it has the same effect upon a structure as the laying of a cornerstone or the dedication of the building. That is to say, some of the processes of waterproofing are traceless in their effect.

If such be the case, of course, it is well that we should be advised of it. For with the present cost of building imposing upon us and our clients, the elimination of much that makes for adequacy and durability, it becomes all the more important to know what is of dubious value or utterly useless. So this abstract may be carefully studied; it will well repay the effort.

A word also may be allowed concerning the significance of this study of the value of these compounds and processes. That so many of them should appear to be of no more value than the Bureau of Standards report indicates, that some of them should appear to be of no value whatsoever—all this points to the pertinence of some recent observations as to the needs of "debunking" the building industry.

"Debunking" is a new term and will be variously defined. Some will hold that "debunking" means clearing the decks of ignorance, petty concealments, deceit and fraud. This may be a good and accurate definition of "debunking." But "debunking," in the light of this abstract, may be viewed as a more difficult problem than clearing away qualities of human endeavor, difficult as that would be. Building is no longer the simple industrial process that it once was. It is primarily a matter of selling. And it is the activity of selling that accounts primarily for the scores of "alternate" or "substitute" materials and processes with which we have to deal. It is the activity of selling that accounts for the use of useless material in the first place, and it is alone the activity of selling that accounts for the continued use of a perfectly useless material. If we take the matter of "debunking" seriously, surely the first step is so to organize that decision with respect to the use of a material or a process will rest solely upon adequate scientific tests and not upon the glib talk of salesmen.

FREDERICK L. ACKERMAN.

## Obituary

Pierre L. Le Brun

Elected to the Institute in 1874

Elected to Fellowship in 1883

Died at New York City, 14 February, 1924

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture records the death of Pierre L. LeBrun with this tribute prepared by Mr. Julian Clarence Levi.

The simple facts of his life recorded in the archives of the New York Chapter epitomize to his friends and associates his sterling qualities. Son and brother of an architect, his entire manhood was given to the practice of that profession and to its advancement as an art. In partnership with his father, Napoleon, and his brother Michel, he contributed many notable buildings to the growth of New York City. The completion of the Metropolitan Life Tower in 1910, marking the close of a long and honorable career, became the occasion of the

award of the New York Chapter Medal of Honor to the brothers Pierre and Michel.

Mr. LeBrun's interests, however, were not limited to his practice. He was alive to the necessity of enabling the American architect to obtain a proper education. His extensive travels abroad aroused his sympathy for those, less fortunate than he, who were unable to see the monuments of European civilization. To mitigate this condition he formed the Willard Collection of Architectural Casts in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and later followed it by the gift of the Pierre L. LeBrun Library to that Museum. A similar gift to the Montclair Art Association established an Art Library in its Museum.

So did he labor to enable young America to learn of the beauties of the past, but still he remained unsatisfied for the inspiration of direct contact was lacking. After mature deliberation and careful study he achieved this end in the establishment of the Traveling Scholarship in 1910. The wisdom of his decision and its real value to the profession of architecture has been amply proved by the distinguished records of the LeBrun scholars.

His earthly labor are ended, but yet his work will go on. The kindly gentle spirit has flown, but its influence remains to help mould future generations. His fellows in the New York Chapter wish to record their respect for him as an architect, their affection for him as a man and their gratitude to him for the honor he bestowed upon their profession.

D. EVERETT WAID, *President.*

HOBART B. UPJOHN, *Secretary.*

Henry William Hill, F.A.I.A.

Elected to Associate Membership in 1884

Elected to Fellowship in 1887

Died 16 January, 1924

Henry William Hill, who practiced architecture in Chicago for thirty-nine years, died in Hamburg, Germany, 16 January, 1924, following an operation for appendicitis.

Mr. Hill was born in Elmshorn, Holstein, Germany, 29 January, 1852. After completing his studies at the Polytechnic School in Hamburg he came to Chicago in 1872, working for different architects until 1875, when he became the partner of James J. Egan, practicing as Egan & Hill, Architects. In 1881 he joined Augustus Bauer under the firm name of Bauer & Hill. When Mr. Bauer retired in 1894, Mr. Hill associated with himself Arthur Woltersdorf, which association continued in practice as Hill and Woltersdorf up to Mr. Hill's retirement 1 August, 1914. Immediately after his retirement he took up his residence in his birthplace, Elmshorn. Mr. Hill had not been in this country since his retirement. He was honorary member of the Chicago Chapter, A.I.A., and of the Illinois Society of Architects.

ARTHUR WOLTERS DORF.