Journal of the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

William Rutherford Mead

E, the Trustees of the American Academy in Rome, long used to the guidance of our President, William Rutherford Mead, which throughout the eighteen years of his incumbency has ever more closely touched our hearts, must now meet the sad duty of recording his death. And we would strive, by the setting down of words, to say what the loss means to us, even though those words cannot but fail.

Beyond a doubt, the first thought to arise in the mind of each one of us, is that there has been taken out of our lives the presence of a man whom to know was inevitably to love. We think first of that dear friend, so acutely that it is with an effort we turn to the contemplation of him in his official capacity. We think of his modesty, of how the piled up honors of an illustrious career made no slightest difference in his bearing toward no matter whom; of his quick sympathy; of his generosity that hid itself with such disarming fear of laudation. We think of what he signifies as one of that association of three men who mark a great era in American art, and whose contribution to their exalted profession was so profound, so far reaching, of such value to their country, that were our public more sharply sensitive to true values, it would be to them, to such as they, the commemorative monuments would arise. We think of him as an American, devoid of boastfulness, gentle in demeanor, considerate of others, shrewd with the native wisdom of the New England that produced him, true son of her ancient hardwon soil in his shyness that was like the New England springtime. An American gentleman; in its finer aspects there is none finer. And then we think of his loyalty.

It was loyalty that led him to assume the burden of the presidency of the Academy in Rome; loyalty to the person of his late partner; loyalty to the enthusiastic glowing vision of Charles McKim. The burden was heavy. That vision was splendid, so splendid that it must be many a long year before our public could accustom their eyes to it and see it for what it is; the project was ambitious, so ambitious that to realize it by means of an agency constitutionally made up of a heavy preponderance of the professional elements commonly esteemed to be unpractical visionaries, was a task to give pause to the stoutest heart.

He had one. Today the American Academy in Rome isa great institution, established upon a firm basis, proven the worthy recipient of the rich support that has been given it in increasing measure. Year by year it grows, and is destined to grow, in the direction of the high ideal that called it into being. Year by year it reaches farther into the understanding of our community; ever more clearly their eyes see what the vision of McKim holds for our arts. All those who have toiled for the achievement thus far attained, must feel deeply how their labors rested upon the loyalty of William Rutherford Mead.

Full of years, unswerving to the last, to the end unchanged, he is gone from us to his eternal rest. There is sorrow in our hearts, but in them there is also great pride, because of what he was and because of what has been our privilege.

C. GRANT LAFARGE, Secretary.

William Rutherford Mead, senior member of the architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White, New York City, died June 21, at the Grand Hotel in Paris, in his eighty-second year. He was buried in the Protestant Cemetery at Florence, Italy, beside his brother, Larkin G. Mead, sculptor.

Mr. Mead was born in Brattleboro, Vermont. After college, he entered upon the study of architecture in the New York office of the late Russell Sturgis in 1868. In 1871 he went to Florence, Italy, and continued his studies in architecture there for a year, followed by six months in other European countries. He began the practice of his profession in 1872 with the late Charles F. McKim in New York. The late Stanford White became associated with them in 1878.

Among the notable buildings for which the firm has been architect are the Agricultural and New York State buildings at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893; the Boston Public Library; Rhode Island State Capitol; the old Madison Square Garden; the Columbia Library and other buildings of that university; the library and other structures at the College of the City of New York; the University of Virginia; the University, Century, Metropolitan, Harvard and Racquet Clubs of New York; the War College at Washington and the reconstruction of the White House; the General Postoffice in New York; the Municipal Building, the Pennsylvania Station, Bellevue Hospital, additions to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Madison Square Presbyterian Church, Bank of Montreal, Knickerbocker Trust Company, and the National City Bank, New York; and the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Mead was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and president of the New York Chapter in 1907 and 1908. In 1913 the American Academy of Arts and Letters, of which he was a member, awarded him its gold medal of honor "for distinguished service in the creation of original work in architecture," an honor then conferred upon an architect for the first time.

He was an academician of the National Academy of Design. In 1902 King Victor Emmanuel conferred upon him the decoration of Knight Commander of the Crown of Italy, in recognition of his pioneer work in introducing the Roman and Italian Renaissance architectural style in America.

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after Congress has confirmed or amended these estimates and set the amount of its own contribution. Taxes are covered into the U. S. Treasury and Congress votes out the entire appropriation.

Dr. Schmeckebier outlines the powers and duties of the Board of Commissioners (two of whom are appointed by the Presidant from the residents of the District of Columbia and one of whom is detailed from the Engineering Corps of the U. S. Army). Accounts are given of the various Offices, and Officials of the District and their functions.

This volume will undoubtedly occupy the place of the authoritative history and description of the governmental machine up to the year 1928. No one can read the nine hundred odd pages without being impressed with the fact that the governmental machine has been tinkered with, repaired and kept in running order with replacement of parts. Never have we purchased outright a new governmental machine with all the modern improvements, placing responsibility and authority in hands clearly designated by the constitutional sources of power.

It is understood that a second volume may make recommendations for a reorganization of the government of the District of Columbia, but the wisdom of issuing this fact-finding survey in a separate volume makes it available without prejudice to all groups, present and future, who may wish to make recommendations for improvement in the government of the District of Columbia.

Architects will be particularly interested in the functioning of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and in the Board of Examiners and Registrars of Architects, both the result of legislation supported by the Institute. The planning of the District of Columbia and its environs should prevent a repetition of most of the unintelligent destruction of landscape in recent years and with added powers of architectural control placed in the National Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the future development of Washington may be less marked by sharp contrasts than it has been in the past.

HARLEAN JAMES,
Executive Secretary, American Civic Association.

OBITUARY

Theophilus P. Chandler
Elected to the Institute in 1873
Died Ithan, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, August
16, 1928

Frederick Wainright Perkins

Elected to the Institute in 1894 Died while traveling abroad, July, 1928

BOUND VOLUMES OF THE 1927 JOURNAL

Many members of the Institute maintain in their libraries bound volumes of The Journal. Those who do not should begin now.

A special price for the binding of the twelve numbers of The Journal for 1927 has been secured, as follows:

In red Russia leather, title and volume reference on back, in gold \$4.50 per volume In black Morocco leather, title and volume reference on back in gold \$5.00 per volume

Missing indices will be supplied free of charge.

These prices are close to cost and include return transportation from The Octagon.

Volumes for binding should be sent to the Executive Secretary, at The Octagon, Washington, D. C., with a letter of transmittal definitely stating the kind of binding preferred and shipping instructions for the return of the book.

In the absence of definite instructions volumes will be bound in black Morocco, at \$5.00, and will be returned prepaid to the address of the owner, as it appears in the Annuary.

Members are advised that there are few surplus copies of The Journal for any one of the months of 1927, and, therefore, the Secretary's Office cannot attempt to make up broken sets. In case one or two numbers are missing a letter of inquiry should be sent before the incomplete set is forwarded.

Frank C. Baldwin, Secretary.

Full Price for Back Numbers of The Journal

To the Membership:

There has been an unusual demand for certain numbers of The Journal issued since December. At The Octagon we find the surplus stock for three months in 1928 reduced to file copies.

Members who do not maintain bound volumes of The Journal can render a service to the Institute by returning to The Octagon copies of the numbers indicated below.

For each of the first twelve copies, returned in good condition of the Journal for January, April or June, 1928, a remittance of seventy-five cents a copy will be made. Any copies sent in after the first twelve are received will be returned prepaid to the senders, unless it is found that they can be used, in which event full remittance will be made.

Very truly yours,

Frank C. Baldwin, Secretary.

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APPLICATIONS FOR MEM-BERSHIP

October 15, 1928.

To the Members of the Institute:

CLEVELAND CHAPTER. James H. Duthie
FLORIDA CHAPTER. T. M. Bryan, Henry L. Taylor
HAWAII CHAPTER. Marcus C. Lester, Robert Miller
Indiana Chapter. Francis W. Kervick
MINNESOTA CHAPTER. Louis C. Pinault
NEW JERSEY CHAPTER. James Holt, Brown Rolston,
Abraham Slavin

New York Chapter Rudolf H. Blatter, Victor A.

DeProsse, Arthur Paul
Hess, Raymond J. Martin,
Fritz Muller

NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER... William Crumley Holleyman

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER. Will M. Bliss
OREGON CHAPTER. William Hamblin Crowell
PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER., Frank P. Chambers,
Philip H. Johnson.

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER Robert C. Smallwood SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER . . . William Hughes Caldwell

You are invited, as directed in the By-Laws, to send privileged communications before November 15, 1928, on the eligibility of the candidates, for the information and guidance of the Members of the Board of Directors in their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request within the thirty day period an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

Yours very truly,

FRANK C. BALDWIN,

Secretary.

OBITUARY

J. W. C. Corbusier Elected to the Institute in 1917 Died, Hudson, Ohio, June 8, 1928

George Frederic Hall
Elected to the Institute in 1912
Died, Providence, R. I., September 5, 1928

FROM OUR BOOKSHELF

Paris, a Century Ago

Portraits of cities when done by artists with a sense of the pictorial are always fascinating. They also become interesting and valuable documents in time, for the faces of cities change even faster than the faces of our friends. This book of Thomas Shotter Boys' lithographs* is the reissue of the second of two books left by him. The other volume pictured London. The twenty-six plates are done in full color by the half-tone process, considerably smaller than the originals and with an unavoidable loss of color and tone, but well done nevertheless. The original lithographs are getting very scarce and more and more expensive as the recognition of Boys as a draftsman is growing, and certainly this compilation of reproductions is most welcome.

Mr. Chancellor has wisely included a reprint of the original publisher's note describing the lithographic process originally employed. Where, for instance, can one find a more lucid statement of the marvels of lithography than in the following quotation from this publisher's note: "They are Pictures drawn on Stone, and reproduced by printing with colors; every touch is the work of the Artist, and every impression the product of the press"? Also it is interesting to note that, "This is the first, and, as yet, the only attempt to imitate pictorial effects of Landscape Architecture in Chroma-lithography; and in its application to this class of subjects, it has been carried so far beyond what was required in copying polychrome architecture, hieroglyphics, arabesques, etc., that it has become almost a new art."

There is an informative introduction and each plate is accompanied by a page or two of comment by Mr. Chancellor. As a collection of beautiful pictures of urban life and street scenes, or as a basis for comparing the aspects of great continental cities a century ago with those of today, or merely as a beautiful book, this reprint will be treasured by the many of us to whom the originals cannot be accessible.

B. J. L.

Estimating Building Costs

This little book† is intended to be a concise and handy guide to scientific estimating of costs for contractors, material men and technical students interested in building operations of moderate size. It is valuable more for the lucid exposition of the first principles of cost estimating, rather than for definite information.

Most of the tables are empirical and based on unit prices which may be easily used as basic factors, rather than actually conforming to facts, but in so being simpli-

T'Estimating Building Costs." by William Arthur—A Concise and Handy Guide for Contractors. Building Tradesmen, Material Men, and Technical Students. Scientific Book Corporation, New York.

[&]quot;Picturesque Architecture in Paris, Ghent, Antwerp, Rouen, etc. Drawn from Nature on Stone by Thomas Shotter Boys, 1839," printed in colors and with Descriptive Notes and an Introduction by E. Beresford Chancellor, M.A., F.S.A. The Architectural Press, London.

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"Also please note that applications must be on file with the Jury of Fellows at least twelve months prior to final action being taken by the Jury."

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

November 15, 1928

To the Members of the Institute:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee for action on their admission to the Institute and, if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

You are invited, as directed in the By-laws, to send privileged communications before December 15, 1928, on the eligibility of the candidates, for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors in their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request within the thirty day period an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

Yours very truly,

FRANK C. BALDWIN, Secretary.

Thumb Tack Club Exhibition

Plans for the Sixth Annual Architectural Exhibition of the Thumb Tack Club of Detroit have been formulated and what promises to be the most successful exposition ever known to the Club will take place in the New Detroit Institute of Arts December 3rd to the 9th, inclusive.

Work shown will not be limited to local exhibitors and an invitation is extended to all architects to submit their finest work. All further information and entry blanks may be secured from the Club, whose exhibition headquarters are established at 615 Stevens Building, Detroit, Michigan.

OBITUARY

Fred B. Hamilton

Member 1874, Fellow 1889 Died, Los Angeles, August 18, 1928

Samuel L. Sherer

Honorary Member, 1927 Died, St. Louis, September, 1928

Charles Wiley Tufts

Member 1927 Died, Pittsburgh, Pa., August 30, 1928

William H. Crocker

Honorary Member, New York Chapter, 1928 Died, Orlando, Florida, October 21, 1928

