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The Forthcoming Publication of a Monograph on the Octagon House

EVERY member of the Institute and its Chapters who has had the good fortune to ramble through the Octagon House has fallen a willing captive to the dignity and charm which pervade it, and has carried away a feeling of deep satisfaction in the knowledge that this historic building should have fallen to the possession of the American Institute of Architects. In a country which may scarcely be said to have cast aside its swaddling clothes, and which has already seen so many of its historic buildings fall a victim to that breathless expansion which changes the character of things over night, a building possessing the historic interest and architectural charm of the Octagon becomes a peculiarly rare and precious possession.

As a fragment of one of the most romantic periods of this country's developments, its atmosphere is quietly reminiscent of the life of a gentleman of the eighteenth century. One cannot enter it without unconsciously peopling its rooms with the gracious men and women of that day,—there may come even a lingering regret over the changes which seem to have made that life no more than a memory,—and there will surely come the devout wish that the whole may be jealously

guarded and preserved as an inspiration to future generations.

The Monograph on the Octagon House, of the intended publication of which a notice appeared in the Journal for June, will be cordially welcomed. The careful studies and detailed drawings which have been made under the supervision of Mr. Glenn Brown have already been greatly admired, and the Monograph will offer an opportunity which should be doubly welcome to every architect. First, because of the possible possession of a work of the greatest historic and architectural value, and, second, because the profits derived from the sale of the Monograph will be devoted to the preservation of the Octagon property. We believe there are few members of the Institute and Chapters who will not find a great pleasure in seizing upon such an opportunity.

The reproductions of some of the detailed drawings which appear on the two succeeding pages will, in themselves, speak for the character and interest of the others. Mr. Brown has also prepared a brief account of the history of the building itself.

A detailed circular of information, and subscription blanks, will be issued without delay. The fact that the edition is to be limited will suggest prompt subscriptions.

Obituary

John W. Alexander

Elected to Honorary Membership in 1899
Died in New York City, May 31, 1915

Mr. Alexander was born in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, fifty-eight years ago, and his whole life may be said to have been devoted to painting. Under the advice of Edwin A. Abbey, who quickly recognized his ability, he went abroad and studied at the Royal Munich Academy and later in Italy. His most notable achievements were in decorative portrait and figure painting. He labored faithfully and earnestly in the field of public art, and during his five years' presidency of the National Academy of Design he worked energetically toward the project for providing a central building where should be adequately housed the various national art societies of the country. His honors were many, and his death will be widely mourned.

Hugo Kafka

Admitted to the Institute as a Fellow, 1876
Died at New Rochelle, N. Y., April 28, 1915

Mr. Kafka was born in Austria-Hungary in 1843. He was graduated from the Polytechnikum in Zurich, studying under the well-known Professor Gottfried Semper. He was called to Philadelphia in 1874 to work in connection with Mr. Hermann Schwartzmann, architect-in-chief for the buildings of the Centennial Exposition. He practised in New York City from 1877 to 1903, when he was obliged to retire from active work on account of ill health.

Ernest Vincent Richards

Admitted to the Institute in 1913
Died at Galveston, Texas, April 7, 1915

Mr. Richards was born at Oxford, England, in 1859, and came to America in 1877.

Before leaving England he learned and practised the art of wood engraving, working principally for the English humorous weeklies. On coming to America, he engaged in the design and manufacture of stained glass, and later devoted much attention to modeling and carving.

About 1900, Mr. Richards established himself in practice at Bennettsville, S. C. He devoted himself almost entirely to residence work, and designed many very charming village and country houses for the wealthy planters of that and neighboring counties. Through all his career he was devoted to

art. In every field in which he employed his talents he did creditable work, and each change of occupation marked a distinct step toward a finer and higher development.

In January, 1915, Mr. Richards removed to Galveston, Texas.

Mr. Richards was a member and officer of the South Carolina Association of Architects, and became the Vice-President of the South Carolina Chapter upon its organization.

Mr. Richards stood always for the highest ideals of his profession, and enjoyed to a singular degree the confidence and esteem of the architects of South Carolina.

William Robert Ware

Admitted to the Institute. 1859
Died June 10, 1910

William Robert Ware, Professor Emeritus of Architecture in Columbia University, since his retirement from active service in 1903, died at his home in Milton, Massachusetts, June 10, at the age of eighty-three. He was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 27, 1832; was graduated from Harvard University at the age of twenty, one year in advance of his life-long friend, ex-President Eliot of Harvard, and, after a course of study in the Lawrence Scientific School, began his architectural career in 1856, as a student draughtsman in the office of the late Richard M. Hunt, in New York. In 1860 he began practice in Boston, and soon after associated himself with the late Henry Van Brunt in a partnership which was dissolved, when in 1881 Professor Ware was called to New York.

While the firm of Ware & Van Brunt built up an excellent and varied practice, and acquired an enviable reputation, it is as an educator that Professor Ware has been most widely known for the past forty years.

To him belongs the distinguished honor of having organized the first school of architecture in the United States—that of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in 1866; of having been the first professor of architecture in this country, and of having organized the School of Architecture of Columbia University in 1881, at the head of which he continued to serve the profession until he retired as emeritus professor in 1903. He was also, for over twenty years, a leader in the reform of architectural competitions, of which he successfully conducted a remarkable number. He was the author of "Modern Perspective" (1884); "The American Vignola"

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(1902-1906), and "Architectural Shades and Shadows" (1912), as well as of many articles in the professional periodicals. He was an active member, and for some years Secretary, of the American Archæological Institute, and an honorary corresponding member of the Royal Institute of British Architects; a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Harvard bestowed the degree of LL.D. on him in 1886. He was never married, and since his retirement from Columbia had been living with his sister, Miss Harriet Ware, in their charming cottage at Milton, diverting himself, as the infirmities of age increased upon him, with various literary pursuits, and delighting above all in the visits of his many friends, both old and young.

A more detailed sketch of his life and labors will be published in the August number of the Journal.

Douglas H. Thomas, Jr.*

Admitted to the Institute in 1899
To Fellowship in 1909
Died at Baltimore, June 10, 1915

Carl F. White*

Admitted to the Institute in 1913
Died at Cleveland, April 26, 1915

Albert F. Norris*

Admitted to the Institute in 1912
Died at Montclair, N. J., May 18, 1915

*Fuller notice to appear later.

Town Planning and Housing

GEORGE B. FORD, (M.), ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Seventh National Conference on City Planning

The Seventh National Conference on City Planning, which has just taken place in Detroit, was the most successful of all the conferences that have been held. The attendance was larger than ever before and more varied in character—real-estate men and property owners taking a very prominent part in the proceedings. The papers and the discussions were complete and convincing, due to the fact that most of the papers had been prepared with a great deal of care, and thoroughly weighed and examined by a committee before they were put into final form for presentation.

The paper on The Constitution and Powers of a City-Planning Authority, which was prepared by Dr. Robert H. Whitten, Secretary of the City-Plan Committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of New York City, brought out a very general discussion, which lasted not only through the morning session, but through the afternoon as well. This record was beaten, however, by the session on the best methods of land subdivision, where the report of the committee, as presented by Mr. E. P. Goodrich, the Consulting Engineer of the Borough of Manhattan, New York, called forth a discussion which lasted through three long sessions. Some of the real-estate men said very frankly that the architects and the landscape architects needed a very close following up on the part of the real-estate men; otherwise, they were bound to be carried away by

some beautiful but impracticable idea. Of course, this called for a very general discussion, which brought out many points that gave most of the people there an entirely new conception of the subject.

President R. Clipston Sturgis spoke at the opening session of the Conference, and as his paper is presented in full elsewhere in this number, it will be allowed to speak for itself. It was most enthusiastically received.

At the session on Tuesday evening, under the head of City Planning and Civic Design, Mr. Frederick L. Ackerman, Chairman of the Committee on Public Information of the Institute, read a splendid paper on the Education of the Public to an Appreciation of Civic Design. Mr. Arthur A. Stoughton, Adviser to Greater Winnipeg Plan Commission, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Dean of the School of Architecture, University of Manitoba, read a most interesting paper on Architecture in the City. Mr. George B. Ford gave a talk, illustrated with a number of lantern-slides, on the Principles Underlying Civic Architectural Treatments. All of these papers will later be presented in the Journal.

At the opening session, Mr. Edward H. Bennett showed a number of interesting slides of his work for the City-Plan and Improvement Commission of Detroit. His address appeared in the June number of the Journal, as did also the opening address by Mr.