

# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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## Shadows and Straws

TO those to whom art has a deeper interest than is aroused by its consideration as a vague and detached element in the extraordinary intensity of modern life—a sort of esthetic debauch suitable for emotional vacations, or a decorative appendage to something useful or practical—the increasing volume of writing which deals with art as something born and nourished in great communal transformations and aspirations may be of deep import. The war has been a great stimulating factor in the appreciation of spiritual values. It has led to searching questionings—to penetrations into unexplored depths of the spirit—to outpourings of poetry in which battle no longer passes as the field of super-glory, but as a dire symbol of the somber failure of humanity. There are those who believe that, as one of the results of this frightful upheaval, art will again burn with a steady and glorious flame; that mankind shall once more be guided by that flame in its quest of the answer which war has shown not to lie in the direction we have been going. Others look for a new religious awakening, of which art shall be one resultant. Among these we may perhaps place Mr. Cram, who writes in the February *Atlantic* on “The Second Coming of Art.”

His passionate arraignment of the nineteenth century is painted in broad strokes. One reads with the sensation of being carried from pinnacle to pinnacle, of looking down from great heights upon a world lost not only in the service of Mammon, but

“in the painting of crazy *isms*, in the architecture and crafts called *l'art nouveau*, in the drama of Broadway and the ‘movies,’ in the music of Strauss and Schönberg and

their like, viciousness, deliberate and bold, covering its technical incapacity with the cloak of esoteric superiority. The taste of the Tired Business Man,” says Mr. Cram, of the drama, “is now the standard and the directing cause of whatever is produced; and whenever his fancy rises a degree above the silly and the humorously salacious, it soars only into the dubious realm of pathology plus pornography. No catastrophe so complete, no débacle so humiliating has ever been recorded in any art in so brief a space of time.”

LET THOSE WHO REBEL at the severity of these indictments—and architecture, painting, and sculpture come in for their share—turn to the article by Theodore Dreiser, on “Life, Art and America” in the *Seven Arts* for February.

Here the sensations of precipitous heights are reversed. One walks on the low levels and looks up at the pinnacles as they rise sheer above the “limbo of nothingness or failure,”—the scrapheap into which hypocrisy, conventionality and a flabby educational system have combined to pitch all the creative and imaginative qualities of men and women. For Mr. Dreiser’s indictment of America is no less.

“America could be described as the land of Bottom the Weaver,” says Mr. Dreiser. “And by Bottom I mean the tradesman or manufacturer who has accumulated wealth and, in consequence and by reason of the haphazard privilege of democracy, has strayed into a position of counsellor, or even dictator, not in regard to the things about which he might readily be supposed to know, but about the many things about which he would be much more likely not to know: art, science, philosophy, morals, public policy in general. . . . All merchants, judges, lawyers, priests, politicians—what a goodly company of Bottoms they are. Solidified they are Bottom to the life.”

However acute may have been Mr. Dreiser’s resentment over the suppression of “The Genius,” one feels sure that it was not that

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for dedicating the Octagon as a memorial to Charles Follen McKim; the call for better Government architecture; a constructive discussion of architectural education and its needs; the town-planning movement and its relation to the architect; and other subjects of vital interest to the Institute.

If it was your good fortune to attend the Convention this suggestion is indeed unnecessary.

The Annuary appears in about the same style as heretofore.

It should be borne in mind that in a membership of approximately fourteen hundred it is impossible to record accurately, even for twenty-four hours, the correct address of each and every one. Any changes necessary should be sent to the Executive Secretary at the Octagon, where the official records of the Institute are maintained.

In the Annuary, as a permanent place of reference, will be found the following official documents of the Institute: Information Concerning Requirements for Institute Membership.

Constitution and By-Laws (as adopted at the Fiftieth Convention).

The Circular of Advice Relative to Architectural Competitions.

The Principles of Professional Practice and the Canons of Ethics.

The Schedule of Charges (as amended in form by authority of the Fiftieth Convention).

Copies of any of these documents in separate form may be obtained on request to the Executive Secretary, the Octagon, Washington, D. C.

## New Members Admitted

This is a partial list of the members elected at the January meeting of the Board of Directors. Under the requirements of the Institute By-laws, no letter of notification is sent to a successful applicant until he has paid the preliminary fee. Hereafter the Journal will publish only the names of those who have paid this fee and have received the formal notification from the office of the Secretary.

A number of those elected at the January meeting have not sent the preliminary fee, though duly elected and qualified as Institute members in all other respects. It should not be presumed from the omission of the name of an applicant in this list, or from subsequent lists which may appear in the Journal, that such applicant failed of election.

Badgley, Sidney R. . . . .	Cleveland, Ohio
Baker, Cecil Franklin . . . . .	Chicago, Ill.
Balch, Harold C. . . . .	Madison, Wis.
Beer, George Wm. . . . .	Cleveland, Ohio
Brown, Clifford C. . . . .	Dayton, Ohio
Cahill, Paul T. . . . .	Cleveland, Ohio
Cramer, Edwin C. . . . .	Milwaukee, Wis.
DeGolyer, Robert S. . . . .	Chicago, Ill.
Dercum, Hermann . . . . .	Cleveland, Ohio.
Dippold, Albert P. . . . .	Chicago, Ill.
Ferrand, Gabriel . . . . .	St. Louis
Fontaine, W. F. . . . .	Woonsocket, R. I.
Hallberg, Lawrence G. . . . .	Chicago, Ill.

Hill, Arthur E. . . . .	Providence, R. I.
Johnson, Reginald D. . . . .	Pasadena, Cal.
Judell, Walter W. . . . .	Milwaukee, Wis.
Kuehne, Hugo Franz . . . . .	Austin, Texas
Law, James Richard . . . . .	Madison, Wis.
Lippert, G. Henry . . . . .	Madison, Wis.
Marx, Samuel A. . . . .	Chicago, Ill.
Matteson, Victor Andre . . . . .	Chicago, Ill.
Overbeck, H. A. . . . .	Dallas, Texas
L. Baylor Pendleton . . . . .	St. Louis
Pingrey, Roy E. . . . .	Chicago, Ill.
Saunders, Walter J. . . . .	Los Angeles, Cal.
Schaeffler, Joseph C. . . . .	New York, N. Y.
Schlacks, Henry J. . . . .	Chicago, Ill.
Shaw, Russell Hobart . . . . .	Providence, R. I.
Simons, Albert . . . . .	Charleston, S. C.
Snock, Curtis P. . . . .	New York, N. Y.
Swern, Perry W. . . . .	Chicago, Ill.
Teich, Fred C. . . . .	Houston, Texas
Timlin, Ray Irvin . . . . .	St. Louis, Mo.
Todd, Robert C. . . . .	Charleston, S. C.
Van Ryn, Henry J. . . . .	Milwaukee, Wis.
Wahrenberger, James . . . . .	San Antonio, Tex.
Walker, F. R. . . . .	Cleveland, Ohio
Walsh, Dennis Robert . . . . .	Austin, Texas
Wedemeyer, William . . . . .	St. Louis, Mo.
Weeks, Harry E. . . . .	Cleveland, Ohio
White, Thomas E. . . . .	Lansing, Mich.
Wolf, Alexander C. . . . .	Cleveland, Ohio

## Obituary

### Frank H. Martin

Elected to the Institute, 1912.

Died at Providence, R. I., February 2, 1917.

Mr. Martin was born in Rhode Island in 1863, and was a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Lowell School of Design. He was in the employ, at one time, of John LaFarge and of Renwick, Aspinwall & Russell of New York. In Providence he was first in the office of Stone, Carpenter & Wilson, but in 1893 he formed, with Mr. George F. Hall, the firm of Martin & Hall, which had continued up to the time of his death.

At a special meeting of the Rhode Island Chapter, held on February 2, resolutions were adopted by which the chapter recorded its sense of loss, and "an appreciation of his worth, of the rare skill which beautified all it touched, of the solid professional attainments, and of the virtues which advanced his character as a single-hearted Christian gentleman."

### Levi T. Scofield

Elected to the Institute as a Fellow in 1870.

Died at Cleveland, Ohio, February 25, 1917.

### S. E. Desjardins

Elected to the Institute in 1885; to Fellowship in 1889.

Died at Cincinnati, Ohio, November 2, 1916.

### Austin Allen

Elected to the Institute in 1916.

Died at Joplin, Mo., March 1, 1917.