

WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL
MOUNT SAINT ALBAN WASHINGTON 16, D. C.
WOODLEY 3500

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

October 23, 1952

The Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1741 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

I have learned that Mr. Philip H. Frohman is being proposed to you for election as a Fellow of the Institute. Nothing could please me more than to hear of this proposal. Representing one of Mr. Frohman's principal clients, I would like to add to his other commendations our particular word of praise. One has only to step into the Cathedral to be immediately impressed with the great genius with which he has guided its construction.

We would indeed be happy to know of this new honor which it is proposed to render this distinguished architect.

Sincerely yours,

Francis B. Sayre, Jr.
Francis B. Sayre, Jr.,
Dean.

FBS:w

DELOS H. SMITH

Architect

808 Seventeenth Street, N.W.

Washington 6, D. C.

October 24, 1952

The Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
Octagon House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

I had today the pleasure of signing the application of Phillip Hubert Frohman for Fellowship in the Institute.

May I add that he is in my opinion most definitely qualified by character and accomplishment for this distinction.

Yours very truly,

Delos H. Smith

D. H. Smith

DHS:

S

LA BEAUME AND UNLAND
SUCCESSORS TO
LA BEAUME AND KLEIN
ARCHITECTS
ST. LOUIS 1, MO.

LOUIS LA BEAUME
T. F. A. UNLAND

October 27th, 1952.

Via Air Mail.

Jury of Fellows,
American Institute of Architects,
1741 New York Avenue, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:-

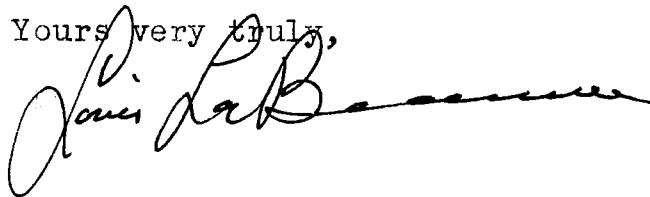
I deem it an honor and privilege to endorse the nomination of Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman for Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects. The high quality of Mr. Frohman's achievements in the field of Ecclestial Architecture surely entitles him to this distinction.

Reference to his present responsibility for the completion of the National Episcopal Cathedral in Washington is sufficient evidence of his eminence in our profession. The list of his other notable and important work is long and thoroughly familiar to your Committee.

The election of Mr. Frohman to Fellowship will not only honor a fine artist, but add prestige to the Institute itself by illustrating and emphasizing its high professional standards.

Yours very truly,

LAB:LD



L. M. LEISENRING - F. A. I. A.

Registered Architect

1777 CHURCH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

PHONE: NORTH 9395

October 28, 1952.

The Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to be one of those who now propose for advancement to Fellowship, Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman, member of the Washington- Metropolitan Chapter.

Mr. Frohman as the senior partner of the firm of Frohman, Rebb and Little, and later in his individual practice has been an outstanding exponent of and distinguished designer in the Gothic tradition, with examples in many American cities. With his design he has developed great inventive skill in the technical requirements of his buildings and their appurtenances.

Particularly I refer to his masterly continuing development of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral of Saints Peter and Saint Paul and the charming adjoining College of Preachers here in Washington,

He is a man of broad culture, particularly in those arts which relate to his chosen profession.

Yours sincerely,


L. Morris Leisenring, F.A.I.A.

MAURICE S. MAY

Registered Architect

Member
American Institute of Architects

1223 CONNECTICUT AVE., N.W. WASHINGTON 6, D. C.
Telephone REpublic 7-7854

The Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1741 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

January 11, 1954

Gentlemen:

It has been my good fortune this past year to have been associated with Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman in building the Church of the Annunciation in this city.

I have known him both personally, as well as, of course, by reputation, since before the first World War. My recent close contact with him on this commission has made me aware of his personal kindness and of his intense and conscientious efforts to achieve the best possible solution for every detail that the practice of architecture may require, no matter how trivial the detail may seem. All of us have been apt to overlook these qualities because of his concentration on his work rather than on good fellowship with other Architects.

I believe I speak for other members of the Washington Chapter of the Institute, as well as for myself, when I say I feel we have been somewhat unfair in so long delaying Mr. Frohman's nomination as a Fellow.

I hope that you at the national level will be in a position this year to correct our local delay for I am sure that if you had been working with Mr. Frohman as closely as I have, there would be no question of justifying his becoming a Fellow on the basis on his outstanding ability, integrity, cooperativeness and sincerity.

Sincerely yours,

Maurice S. May
Maurice S. May

MSM:gms

Administration Building
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.

March 18, 1954

The Reverend Canon Anson P. Stokes
Cathedral of Saint Peter and Saint Paul
Mount St. Alban
Washington, D. C.

Reverend Sir:

The Jury of Fellows of The American Institute of Architects is seeking authoritative information on the extent to which Mr. Philip H. Frohman, A.I.A., has been responsible for the design of the Washington Cathedral. In the building of so great an edifice a long span of time must elapse between the inception and the substantial progress of the work. The Jury would like to know whether the design of the Cathedral, as it stands today, can be attributed principally to Mr. Frohman or whether this honor must be shared largely with others.

We have been advised that you are well qualified to give us a fair appraisal of the extent of Mr. Frohman's authorship and we shall be most grateful to you if you will assist us by making a statement from your broad knowledge of the history of the Cathedral.

Assuring you of our appreciation of any help you may give us, we are

Respectfully yours,

THE JURY OF FELLOWS, A.I.A.


Albert Simons, Chairman

AS:G

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, 1741 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

March 30, 1954

Miss Florence H. Gervais
Secretary of the Jury of Fellows, A. I. A.
Administration Building
1735 New York, N. W.
Washington, D. C.


Re: Philip Hubert Frohman

Dear Miss Gervais:

Enclosed herewith is a letter from Mr. Waldron Faulkner in regard to Mr. Frohman's part as architect of the Washington Cathedral. May I ask that you file this with Mr. Frohman's nomination and call it to the attention of the Jury when they meet next year.

If any reply should be received from the Reverend Cannon Anson Phelps Stokes, I should like to receive a copy so that I may thank him.

Sincerely yours,


Albert Simons

AS:hp
Enc.

6 copies

FAULKNER, KINGSBURY & STENHOUSE - ARCHITECTS

1200 EIGHTEENTH STREET, N. W. - WASHINGTON 6, D. C. - TEL. METROPOLITAN 8-5382
WALDRON FAULKNER, F.A.I.A. SLOCUM KINGSBURY, A.I.A. JOHN W. STENHOUSE, A.I.A.
ERNEST D. STEVENS, A.I.A. THOMAS WILLIAMS, A.I.A. FREDERICK L. FRYER, A.I.A.

March 26, 1954

Mr. Albert Simons, F.A.I.A.
Simons and Lapham
17 Broad Street
Charleston 3, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Simons:

I was pleased to receive your letter of March 22 and wish I could have had the pleasure of seeing you while you were here. But I know also how pressed we all are for time on out-of-town trips.

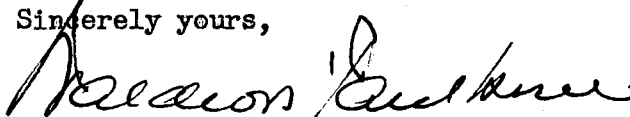
I am glad to have this opportunity to answer your letter about the architect of the Washington Cathedral. It has been my privilege to be connected with the Cathedral over a period of years. For several years I was on the Building Committee and was in a position to know the situation rather intimately. There were considerable difficulties with the architects, Frohman, Robb and Little at the time but most of these disappeared after Robb and Little died and Mr. Frohman became the Architect of the Cathedral.

In spite of all this, I have a high regard for Mr. Frohman's ability and I have said repeatedly that he is, in my opinion, the leading Gothic designer in this country today. I think it is also fair to say that he is a genius with many of the qualities that go with it.

I feel that it was only lack of understanding on the part of the guide who took you through the Cathedral that was responsible for the omission of the architect's name and not an indication of the feeling of the Cathedral authorities. I shall be glad to bring this matter to their attention and I appreciate your mentioning it to me.

Next time you are in Washington I would be happy to see you again.

Sincerely yours,



Waldron Faulkner

WF:hw

FACTUAL

April 8, 1954

Mr. Albert Simons, Chairman
The Jury of Fellows, A.I.A.
17 Broad Street
Charleston 3, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Simons:

Yours of March 30th is received, with which you have forwarded, for the official file here, letter from Mr. Waldron Faulkner, F.A.I.A., concerning Mr. Philip D. Frohman.

This correspondence is being placed in Mr. Frohman's file for the information of the Jury in 1955.

When we hear from Canon Stokes I shall be sure to send the letter on to you. About two weeks ago he was in Washington and he telephoned to me to say the letter you had written had just been handed to him. He was concerned about sending in the information you wanted in time for the Jury meeting. I explained the situation to him and he agreed it would be better to wait until he had returned to his office in New York before preparing and forwarding his response. He was apprehensive for fear he had been too late.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Florence H. Gervais
Secretary to The Jury of Fellows

ANSON PHELPS STOKES
LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

April 27, 1954

Mr. Albert Simons, Chairman
The Jury of Fellows, A.I.A.
Administration Building
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Simons:

I duly received your letter of March 18th, forwarded to me from the Episcopal Cathedral in Washington. It reached me as I was passing through the Capitol and I telephoned to your office stating that I would write a letter on my return to my New England home, but in the meantime the Institute might be interested to know that I had a very great respect for Mr. Frohman and for the work he did at Washington Cathedral. Your Secretary informed me that there was no hurry about my reply as no action would be taken in the matter for several months.

It is, I think, generally understood that the English Plan of Bodley for the Cathedral was accepted in 1907, and that Mr. Henry Vaughn, an American, and his pupil, was chosen as his associate. Mr. Vaughn died in 1917 and in 1920 Frohman, Robb and Litte were made the Cathedral architects, with Mr. Frohman as the resident representative of the firm. From that time to this, a period of over thirty years, Mr. Frohman has certainly been the person most responsible for working out the plans for the Cathedral and for its closely related structures.

I was not on the Chapter at the time Mr. Frohman succeeded his firm as Cathedral Architect, but I have been close to the Cathedral project since that time. Two or three things occur to me as worth mentioning, one shortly after I went to the Cathedral, which was in 1924. I wrote Mr. Frohman a letter making one or two suggestions - one to do with the arches upholding the roof of the apse, which seemed to me lacking in grace, and I remember he told me he had accepted his position as architect on condition that these would be changed, a matter involving thousands of dollars in expense. It seemed to me a vital matter in so far as the charm of the Cathedral was concerned, and Mr. Frohman was personally responsible for it.

Another incident may interest you. I remember one talk with Mr. Cram, when he was the architectural consultant. He told me that he thought that the chapel of Joseph of ^{Annunciation} ~~Annunciation~~ in the crypt of the Cathedral was one of the most beautiful structures designed by any modern architect. He gave full credit to Mr. Frohman for this and said that he, Mr. Cram, was in no way responsible.

There are all sorts of other little ways in which Mr. Frohman exerted his influence. For instance, I remember when he advised that the plans for the stalls of the apse be placed back, making the aisle broader. This was done and I am sure the results are much more satisfactory than would have been the case otherwise.

Again he opposed very strongly, and I thought rightly, Dean Bratenhl's plan for placing the ^{memorial to} ~~statue of~~ Bishop Harding in its present position in the Chapel of the Resurrection where it butts into the Chapel in a most unfortunate way. In fact, from my standpoint, it is the most serious minor error

Mr. Albert Simons, Chairman.

-2-

April 27, 1954.

made in connection with the development of the Cathedral. Unfortunately, he and I were unable to secure the placing of the tomb in a less prominent position because of commitments made to the Harding family. Of course, some day it will be moved. I mention it as an example of the judgment of Mr. Frohman on architectural matters which seem to me almost infallible.

Mr. Frohman had certain defects as an administrator. For instance one could not get into a discussion with him without his writing endless unnecessarily long letters on the subject, but this is a slight defect in comparison with the architectural vision that he had for Washington Cathedral and the architecturally beautiful way in which he was able to carry out his plan of giving us a very beautiful 14th Century English Gothic design.

You will see from the above that, although only a layman in architecture, I have a very great appreciation of all Mr. Frohman's services as the leading factor in the perfecting of the old Bodley Vaughn Plan and its execution.

I should add that I was Canon at the Cathedral for about ~~fifteen~~ years, from 1933 on, and that during the latter part of this time I was a member of the Chapter and came in close contact with Mr. Frohman.

Trusting that this informal note may be of some service to you,
I am

APS/F.

Sincerely yours,

Anson Phelps Stokes
Anson Phelps Stokes

*Should you wish further information I would suggest
communicating with Canon Montis at the Cathedral.
All the chapels, except Bethlehem Chapel, the development of
both the transepts, and, I believe, mainly Frohman's work, also the
Rood Screen, etc.*

FACTUAL

May 11, 1954

The Reverend Canon Anson Phelps Stokes
Lenox, Massachusetts

Reverend Sir:

You have been most kind and truly helpful to write to me at such length and so frankly about Mr. Frohman's decisive part in the creation of the Episcopal Cathedral in Washington. All of this information will be of the greatest value to the Jury of Fellows when they convene again next March.

During the last World War it was my lot to spend many months in Liverpool and thanks to the kindness of the Dean, the Very Reverend F. W. Dwelly, I had the privilege of meeting Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, the Architect of Liverpool Cathedral. This vast edifice had also been begun by Bodley and while I do not know what his designs might have been nothing could be finer than Sir Giles' great achievement.

Few Architects in this age are called upon to build such noble shrines and those who have succeeded in creating great and inspiring monuments deserve the homage of their colleagues.

Assuring you of my very real appreciation of your most gracious response, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Albert Simons

Dear Miss Gervais

AS:hp

I return Canon Stokes letter for the Octagon
file sincerely yours

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1954
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Ask each of 5
Sponsors just what
part of the Washington
Cathedral was done
by Frohman, what by
Vaughan, by Bodley, by
Robb

COPY

SIMONS AND LAPHAM
ARCHITECTS
CHARLESTON 3, S. C.

July 30, 1954

Mr. Louis Justement
Chairman, Washington Metropolitan Chapter
Committee
2011 K Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Justement:

At the request of Mr. Horace Peaslee I am sending to you herewith certain letters concerning the part played by Mr. Frohman in the design of the Washington Cathedral.

I might explain that my interest in this matter arose from the fact that Mr. Frohman's nomination for Advancement to Fellowship is now under consideration by the Jury of Fellows. Before retiring from the Jury at the Boston Convention it was my wish to leave all of the records of the nominees as complete and up to date as possible. With this end in view I had requested from Mr. Peaslee and others clarifying information on Mr. Frohman's authorship of St. Albans.

As Mr. Peaslee has requested me to do so I am forwarding these letters to you, but hope that they will eventually be sent to the Jury of Fellows, The Octagon, Attention of Miss Florence Gervais, Secretary, who will add them to our file on Mr. Frohman. All of this will then be brought to the attention of the Jury when they meet next March.

Sincerely yours,


Albert Simons

AS:hp

C.C. Mr. Horace W. Peaslee
Mr. William J. Bain, Chr. Jury of Fellows
Miss Florence Gervais, Secty. Jury of Fellows ✓

F A C T U A L

September 23, 1954

The Right Reverend Angus Dun, D.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of Washington
1702 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Right Reverend Sir:

Your letter of September 21st, addressed to The Jury of Fellows of The American Institute of Architects has been received, together with the letter from Mr. F. Morse Holcomb, A.I.A., which was addressed to Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, F.A.I.A. and relating to the part taken by Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman, A.I.A., in the design of the Washington Cathedral.

This correspondence is being placed with the nomination of Mr. Frohman which is being held for consideration by The Jury of Fellows at its next meeting.

The great care and attention which you and Mr. Holcomb have given to provide the Jury with this information will be highly appreciated and will prove of utmost interest and assistance to the members.

By direction of the Chairman,

Very truly yours,

(Miss) Florence H. Gervais
Secretary to The Jury of Fellows

Copies to: Mr. Justement
Mr. Peaslee



DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON
1702 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Office of the Bishop
Rt. Rev. Angus Dun, D.D., S.T.D.

Telephone EXecutive 3-7878

21 September 1954

Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects
Octagon House
1749 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

This letter is written in support of the nomination of Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman by Mr. Horace W. Peaslee for Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

I am filing this letter with you at the suggestion of Mr. Albert Simons of Charleston, South Carolina.

Enclosed is a letter from Mr. F. Morse Holcomb to Mr. Peaslee providing testimony as to the part Mr. Frohman has had in the design of Washington Cathedral.

While my active connection with the Cathedral dates from 1944, I have made careful inquiries as to the previous history and can state that there is nothing in Mr. Holcomb's letter which is not in accordance with my understanding of the architectural history of the Cathedral.

There are a few points I would be disposed to underline a little more strongly. First of all, the association of Dr. Cram with Washington Cathedral was actually much more remote and nebulous than is generally imagined. There are practically no important suggestions made by him which have been incorporated in the structure. One of the major exceptions to this statement, the location of Bishop Harding's tomb, is generally thought to be a rather serious mistake. Therefore one would not be far wrong in speaking of Dr. Cram's direct influence on the design as quite negligible.

So far as Dr. Bodley's design is concerned, I feel that not enough is made of the improvements wrought by the firm of Frohman, Robb and Little. Any comparison between the model in the Curator's office and the actual design would show even to a non-expert not only how substantial have been the changes, but how great have been the improvements

Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects

21 September 1954

and refinements. In addition to this the ridge line which was established by Dr. Bodley in the Apse has been gradually and imperceptibly raised so that in the Nave it is some seven feet higher than it is in the Apse. This has been accomplished in such a skillful way that it is hardly noticeable but the improvement is marked. Mr. Holcomb mentions the curvature of certain of the ribs and I understand these were changed at the time the vaulting of the Choir was put in.

I am not in a position to evaluate the relative contributions of Messrs. Frohman, Robb and Little respectively. However, it is my impression that some of the statements made by Mr. Holcomb could be reinforced to advantage. There now has been a fairly substantial amount of construction carried on under Mr. Frohman's sole direction following the deaths of Mr. Robb and Mr. Little. Included in this construction are numerous items -- some small, some substantial -- in which Mr. Frohman has had to exercise a high degree of creativity instead of merely developing and outlining designs already laid down. For example, some of the very satisfactory decorative treatment in the Lee-Jackson Chapels, details of the south gallery and minor revisions of the south facade all testify to Mr. Frohman's creative genius. If this creative genius is so evident following the death of his partners, it is also probable that it was equally present during their lives.

The design of the Wilson Memorial Bay, while still only in a design stage, is even more evidence of the superlative quality of Mr. Frohman's work when faced with the problem of a practically complete redesign of a substantial piece of the fabric.

Without claiming any expertness, I would consider it most suitable that Mr. Frohman's gifts and accomplishments should be recognized by the honor under consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Agnes Dinn

Bishop of Washington

AD:vp

F. M O R S E H O L C O M B
ARCHITECT A. I. A.
1741 DE SALES STREET N.W., WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

June 7, 1954

Mr. Horace W. Peaslee
1228 Connecticut Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Peaslee:

I hope the following will fulfill your telephone request as to "just who did what" in designing Washington Cathedral.

It is, in general, based on information from my old and intimate friend, Lawrence E. Wilkinson, who resigned from the Chicago firm of Hamilton, Fellows, and Wilkinson to join Mr. Frohman's staff long before my association with Mr. Frohman. Mr. Wilkinson was in the Washington office of Frohman, Robb, and Little when the revised 3/8" scale details of the Nave, side Aisles, and Clerestory were being made.

This information, as well as the account I have had from Mr. Frohman himself in an almost daily contact with him since 1945, I have verified and supplemented from a chronological account in Mr. Frohman's files which formed the background for an article written for the Saturday Evening Post.

At the inception of the project, consideration was given to Mr. George Post's design for a building based on Renaissance precedent, in order to harmonize with the capitol. In 1907, however, after some sketches and correspondence had been published, Dr. Bodley and Mr. Vaughan were retained as architects and the decision was made to follow the precedent of English Gothic.

These two architects prepared preliminary drawings which were accepted by the Cathedral Chapter and Bishop Satterlee. A model based on these designs is now to be seen in the curator's office at the west end of the existing foundation for the Nave. This design contemplated transepts with east aisles but without west aisles and the only crypt chapel contemplated was the Bethlehem Chapel now below the Apse.

The general cruciform plan with aisles has not been changed though, of course, as the work progressed, it will be noted that a great deal of change in detail was made from this early version shown in the model. An ambulatory around the apse was originally contemplated but this was left out as the Bethlehem Chapel and Apse with its free standing flying buttresses was built by Mr. Vaughan, who continued the work alone after Dr. Bodley's death in 1908.

June 7, 1954

Mr. Vaughan completed the Bethlehem Chapel and his office prepared working drawings for the Apse, though it is doubtful that he lived to approve the final drawings of its vaulting as it was found necessary to remove the Apse ribs after his death. Their radii were too great and caused them to obscure the Apse windows when viewed from the Choir.

Mr. Vaughan died in 1917 leaving the Apse and Bethlehem Chapel completed and the preliminary scheme before mentioned.

Mr. Frohman at the time of Mr. Vaughan's death, was stationed in Washington, having enlisted in the Army as a private, and was working on war construction. He attended the Cathedral services and met Mr. Edgar Priest, organist at the Cathedral. They had a mutual interest in church organs. Mr. Frohman had previously done some churches in California, one of which had been temporarily presided over by Canon Russell, a member of the Cathedral Chapter. This church was Trinity Church at Santa Barbara.

It was through Mr. Priest, who had been shown some of Mr. Frohman's work, and through Canon Russell, who admired Trinity Church in California, that Mr. Frohman's work came to the attention of Dr. Bratenahl who was Dean of the Cathedral and Chairman of the Building Committee.

The feeling of Bishop Harding, Dr. Bratenahl, and other Chapter members that Mr. Frohman's work (in spite of his being then quite young, thirty-one) promised a continuation of the spirit and scholarship of Dr. Bodley's and Mr. Vaughan's work lead to Mr. Frohman being retained to make illustrations of the Nave and choir of the Cathedral. This, in turn, when funds became available, lead to his being given authority to proceed with the construction of the Cathedral.

Mr. Frohman had employed Mr. Robb to render water color interiors of the Cathedral and his admiration of Mr. Robb's work induced Mr. Frohman to form the firm of Frohman and Robb and one year later to include Mr. Little, a friend of Mr. Robb's as a partner, forming the firm of Frohman, Robb and Little, located in Boston.

At Mr. Frohman's suggestion, Dr. Cram was at this time retained as a consultant. Dr. Cram's contribution to the work was limited by his absence in Europe for a great part of the time and aside from his partner, Mr. Fergesen, approving the work done by Frohman, Robb, and Little, Dr. Cram contributed but little other than the design of the Wilson Tomb now in the crypt of the Cathedral. He did propose locating the reredos further west than its present location but this suggestion was not accepted by the Chapter because the light from the two great apse windows would not fall on the altar as it now does.

Dr. Cram also recommended abandoning such medieval refinements as the inclination of the axis of the choir from that of the Nave and departure from the perpendicular of the face of the walls. This recommendation was rejected by the Cathedral Chapter and the refinements have been followed.

June 7, 1954

Over the phone you suggested that so far as possible I go into detail as to division of the work in the firm of Frohman, Robb, and Little with respect to the Cathedral. I agree with you that it is important here, because those of us who have the good fortune to delineate architecture pursue the practice of signing our work and although we generally add "del" after the signature with becoming modesty, we are apt to be credited with having designed the architecture as well as having represented it.

I know that I, having been familiar with the work of Frohman, Robb, and Little, and especially with Robb's effective renderings of the Cathedral, attributed the design to Robb and assumed that Frohman was a "business getter" or perhaps simply an able executive. I suspect that this assumption may have been partly the reason that Robb was made a fellow of the Institute, fortunately before his death in 1940, while Frohman, who told me at lunch one day a little ruefully that he had had some difficulty in persuading Robb to join the Institute, has not yet been made one.

No assumption could, of course, have been further from reality than that Mr. Frohman was not a designer, though I must admit it was an assumption. I blithely accepted until Laurence Wilkinson, while on vacation from the office of Frohman, Robb & Little, described to us at lunch in Chicago the methods used in the design of the Cathedral.

It was Mr. Frohman's approach he particularly mentioned, a process, once plan had been given consideration, of proceeding from detail to detail, yet keeping a coordinated general effect. He agreed that only a highly gifted person with a capacity for sustained visualization could succeed in that way.

I recently drew, under Mr. Frohman's direction, the full sizes of the South Transept Portal, developed from the last scale details made. They were studied and revised a great deal but only yesterday I noticed how like the executed work is to the Portal shown in an elevation rendered by Mr. Frohman in ink in 1944. Mr. Frohman, at the time we were working on the South Portal full sizes, did not even bring this study from the files.

As you know I have worked with Mr. Frohman only since 1945, but we have Mr. Frohman's own statement in the background material given Mr. Ulman for his article on the Cathedral in the Saturday Evening Post. This statement as to the division of work in the firm was in too great detail to interest Saturday Evening Post readers, I believe Mr. Ulman rightly felt, so he did not use it. Where a question of correctly attributing authorship for a work of art is most important, I am glad that Mrs. Willis, Mr. Frohman's secretary, was able to find it and I quote here.

"I had made practically all of the illustrations in pen and ink or pencil. It was my desire to have some of the illustrations of my revised designs for the interior of the Cathedral made in water color. Being aware of Mr. E. Donald Robb's ability and reputation for the beauty of his water color illustrations of the interiors of churches, I engaged his services to prepare the desired interior illustrations. In addition to his talents as a water color artist, Mr. Robb was an architect and architectural designer of distinction and was especially gifted in the design of ecclesiastical furnishings and carving and architectural decorations. As the result of esteem for his work, I took Mr. Robb into partnership some months later, thereby forming the firm of Frohman and Robb, Architects.

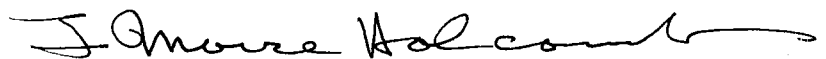
June 7, 1954

"A year later, we took into the firm Mr. Harry B. Little, who was a friend of Mr. Robb's and who was an architect and architectural designer of outstanding ability. Whether he was working on a colonial house or a Gothic Church, his work showed a degree of good taste and refinement which has been attained by few American architects or architectural designers. Unfortunately, Mr. Robb and Mr. Little died in the early 1940's and our profession thereby lost two of its most talented architectural designers. I have never known anyone who could draw Gothic carved ornament with Mr. Robb's speed and facility, nor have I ever known anyone who could make more painstakingly accurate and beautiful working drawings than Mr. Little, or excel him in refinement of details.

"Mr. Robb is responsible for the designs and detail drawings of a large amount of the carved furnishings as well as the design of much of the architectural stone sculpture of those portions of the Cathedral that were built from 1922 to 1940. Mr. Little is responsible for the accuracy and excellence of the working drawings and detail drawings for many portions of the Cathedral and especially for certain features of the North Transept. Insofar as was practical or seemed desirable, we endeavored to divide the work on Washington Cathedral equally between the three of us, although I am primarily responsible for the general revisions of plan and design that we followed, as well as for the design of certain parts of the structure, such as the Choir, the major revisions of the North Transept, the Crossing, the Norman Crypts and Chapel of St. Joseph of Aramathea, the Children's Chapel, the final design for the South Transept now under construction and for the future Nave and Central Tower."

Finally, while no one can assert that the death of Mr. Robb and Mr. Little was not a great loss to the Cathedral, I have seen its design develop under Mr. Frohman with no deterioration in its beauty so far as I am able to determine. The Font in the West Aisle of the South Transept, I believe, should be ample evidence of this.

Very sincerely yours,



F. Morse Holcomb

FMH:jw

JUSTEMENT, ELAM & DARBY, ARCHITECTS

2011 K STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C. NATIONAL 6920
LOUIS JUSTEMENT, F.A.I.A. BRANCH D. ELAM, A.I.A. JOS. HALE DARBY, A.I.A.

December 20, 1954

Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

ack 1/31
E

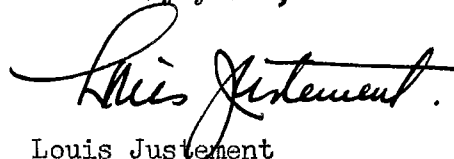
Gentlemen:

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Philip H. Frohman for advancement to Fellowship.

Mr. Frohman is best known as one of the several architects who have contributed to the design of the Washington Cathedral. His relationship to this project is the subject of a letter addressed to the Jury of Fellows by the Right Reverend Angus Dun, D.D. and I need not, therefore, do any more than call your attention to this letter.

I believe that Mr. Frohman's share in designing the Washington Cathedral is, in itself, sufficient reason for advancing him to Fellowship on the basis of outstanding merit in design.

Sincerely yours,



Louis Justement
Chairman, Committee on Fellows
Washington-Metropolitan Chapter

LJ:g

LEON CHATELAIN, JR., F. A. I. A.
Registered Architect
1632 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

December 30, 1954

Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Ave. NW
Washington, D. C.

arch 1/20
3

Gentlemen:

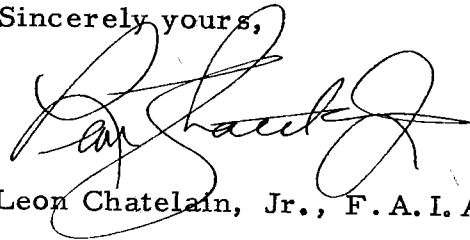
It has been brought to my attention that Mr Philip Hubert Frohman of the Washington-Metropolitan Chapter has been recommended for advancement to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

It have known Mr. Frohman for many years and consider him one of the outstanding architects of ecclesiastical buildings in this country.

Mr. Frohman has been the Architect of the National St. Alban's Cathedral under construction here in Washington for many years. His infinite care for the gothic details of this famous structure show graphically his skill and knowledge of the gothic styles and yet this skilled designer is equally versatile with the Byzantine, Georgian, Classical and similar periods.

It is a pleasure to recommend Mr. Frohman to you most highly.

Sincerely yours,



Leon Chatelain, Jr., F. A. I. A.

LC:hs

JAMES MORRIS MCHUGH
A.I.A. ARCHITECT
1605 NO. QUINCY ST., ARLINGTON 7, VA.

31 December 1954.

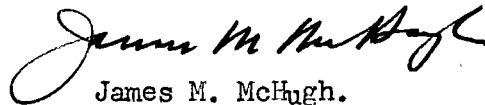
The Jury of Fellows,
The Octagon,
1735 New York Ave. N. W.,
Washington 6, D. C.

*ack 1/3
h*

Gentlemen:

As a member of the Executive Committee of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter, A. I. A. I wish to endorse the nomination of Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman as a Fellow of the Institute.

Respectfully submitted,


James M. McHugh.

BROCK AND JOHNSON • ARCHITECTS

159 BARR STREET

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

PHONE 2-8248

WILLIAM B. BROCK

ERNST VERN JOHNSON

FACTUAL

January
Third
1955

ack 1/18
B

Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
The Octagon
1741 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I wish to recommend that Mr. Philip Hubert Froham be advanced to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

Altho my practice is in a community that is located many miles from Washington, I am familiar with Mr. Forham's excellent work on the Washington Cathedral.

Mr. Froham has acted as a planning and design consultant on Christ Episcopal Church here in Lexington. It has been a sincere pleasure to work with him acting under his guidance in the preparation of plans and specifications. His sympathetic approach to the many problems encountered in our addition and alteration program plus his helpful suggestions and cooperation with our firm has established him in our minds as a gentleman of unusual knowledge and outstanding ability.

I request that the Jury of Fellows give due consideration to the advancement of Mr. Froham to a Fellowship.

Very truly yours,

BROCK AND JOHNSON, ARCHITECTS

BY W. B. Brock
WILLIAM B. BROCK.

WBB:e

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FACTUAL

6045 20th Road North
Arlington, Virginia

January 5, 1955

Jury of Fellows, A. I. A.
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ack 2/8
B

Gentlemen:

The necessity for this letter should not exist. It is in the interest of a fellowship for Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman, a master architect if ever there was one.

In my opinion "fellowship" in architecture must necessarily imply a superlative understanding of the meaning and intent of architecture, a superior talent in design and the ability to cause design to become a beautiful reality in structure.

For twenty years I have observed Mr. Frohman's remarkable proficiency in all of these and I do not hesitate to state that I believe he makes no mistakes. No work of his ever leaves the drawing board until he is absolutely certain that, from his efforts at least, a better thing could not result.

Washington Cathedral will undoubtedly become one of the worlds finest Gothic structures and yet this may result in a disservice to Mr. Frohman in this matter of a fellowship in that it is generally assumed that is somewhat of a copy. If so, of what is it a copy? I know from actual experience that it is in no sense a copy of anything, as I have had a hand in the development of several of its parts. It is also a fact that his work in styles other than Gothic discloses a fine understanding and ability to work in them so well.

Mr. Chas. D. McGuinness of Boston intimated some years ago that it was somewhat of an Institute disgrace that this fellowship had not already been granted. What more need be said?

Very truly yours,

Joseph A. Parks.
Joseph A. Parks

JAP:p

FACTUAL

Locust Lane Farm
Easton, Maryland
January 6, 1955

The Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1741 New York Avenue
Washington 6, D. C.

ack
2-1
J

Dear Sirs:

I am told that Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman, of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter is up for ~~fellowship~~ in the Institute. If a letter from a sculptor honorary member would be considered, I should like to say a word about his candidacy.

Mr. Frohman is the outstanding Gothic architect since Ralph Adams Cram. He is not a copyist, but one who works in the full understanding of the philosophy of the 13th Century Gothic.

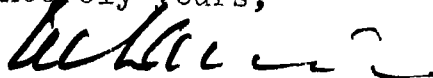
It has been many years since I first knew of Mr. Frohman. Back in 1923, I recall one day going into Bertram Goodhue's office and hearing the end of a conversation he was having over the telephone. After he hung up he turned to me and said:

"I was just talking to Cass Gilbert. He asked me how to address a bishop. I asked him what bishop. He said the bishop of Washington."

Goodhue was smiling. Some of you may be old enough to remember how Cass Gilbert dominated any architectural project of his day. Goodhue said "I told him to let those young architects, Frohman, Robb and Little alone. I said they know what they are doing and they are doing it well."

Washington Cathedral has been Mr. Frohman's life work. It is needless to speak of its excellence and grandeur to you, who of course are familiar with it. It seems to me, and I hope you agree, that there is every reason for Mr. Frohman's elevation to fellowship.

Sincerely yours,



Lee Lawrie

- H. LEO TUCKER . . ARCH. & ENGR.
- PAUL T. LINDBERG . . ARCHITECT
- DAVID H. CHAPMAN . . ASSOCIATE
- JAMES D. TITTLE . . ARCHITECT
- JOHN J. LUTHER . . ARCHITECT

*AIA NSPE
AIA*

T U C K E R & L I N D B E R G

ARCHITECTS & ENGINEER

161½ CEDAR ST.

ABILENE, TEXAS

PHONE 4-7523

JANUARY 6, 1955

JURY OF FELLOWS OF THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, 1741 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

*ack 2/15
B*

GENTLEMEN:

FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE HEARD OF THE FINE REPUTATION OF MR. PHILIP HUBERT FROHMAN, A.I.A.

DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS I HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH MR. FROHMAN ON A LARGE COMPLICATED PROJECT HERE IN ABILENE. WORKING WITH AND GETTING TO KNOW MR. FROHMAN PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE AND I APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF SAYING THIS WORD OF COMMENDATION FOR THE VERY EXCELLENT WORK AND CHARACTER OF MR. FROHMAN. HE IS VERY WORTHY OF BEING MADE A FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

SINCERELY YOURS,

H. Leo Tucker, A.I.A.

H. LEO TUCKER

HLT/bs

✓

WILLIAM HEYL THOMPSON, A. I. A.

A R C H I T E C T

FRANK R. WATSON, F. A. I. A., A. E. D.
WILLIAM HEYL THOMPSON, A. I. A.
1922 - 1940

WILLIAM E. GRANCELL, R. A.

1717 SANSOM STREET
PHILADELPHIA 3

January 7, 1955

Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
The Octagon
1741 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

*ack 2/15
S*

Gentlemen:

May I be permitted the privilege of placing before you for consideration, the name of Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman for advancement to Fellowship in the Institute.

Mr. Frohman is known nationally as the Architect for the Washington Cathedral, one of our most outstanding pieces of Ecclesiastical Work in this Country. As well, he has many outstanding pieces of Church work to his credit.

I have known Mr. Frohman personally for a number of years as a member of the Church Architectural Guild, and believe him to be worthy of the honor which the Institute can bestow upon him.

Respectfully yours,

William Heyl Thompson
WILLIAM HEYL THOMPSON

WHT: jm

cc: Mr. F. Morse Holcomb

JOHANNES AND MURRAY . . . ARCHITECTS

MEMBERS OF AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

DANA B. JOHANNES

LOREN L. MURRAY

855 PERSHING DRIVE
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND
JUNIPER 5-4011

January 7, 1955

Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ack 1/31
9

Gentlemen:

The name of Phillip Hubert Frohman has been placed in nomination for Fellowship in the Institute.

As a member of the Executive Committee of the Washington-Metropolitan Chapter, I am pleased to add my name personally to the endorsement of this well known architect.

His reputation, particularly in the ecclesiastical field is outstanding; an innate and devoted talent, unusual in the architectural field, is his as an organ expert. His outstanding work, particularly the Washington Cathedral, will reflect high credit on this gentlemen far beyond our time.

I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. Frohmans' nomination.

Sincerely yours,



DBJ:bs

FACTUAL

STUDIO OF
REYNOLDS, FRANCIS & ROHNSTOCK

DESIGNERS AND WORKERS IN
STAINED AND LEADED GLASS

ONE WASHINGTON STREET
BOSTON 14, MASSACHUSETTS

JOSEPH G. REYNOLDS
WILLIAM M. FRANCIS
J. HENRY ROHNSTOCK

January 17, 1955

Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ack 1/20
js

Dear Sirs:

Word has come to me that Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman, in recognition of his achievements in and knowledge of architecture, especially in the field of Gothic, is being considered by you for the honor of being made a Fellow of the Institute.

I have been asked, if I cared to do so, to write a letter of recommendation. This I am pleased to do.

I have known Mr. Frohman for more than thirty years and have had the privilege of working with him on various projects in stained glass, notably at Washington Cathedral and the Trinity Episcopal Church, Morgantown, West Virginia. In my opinion no living architect in this country has a more profound knowledge of the theory, science and practical application of the principles of Gothic architecture. He does not copy by the book but expresses his own emotions and exercises his creative imagination in all his work. Many believe that Gothic architecture like the classical Latin is a dead language or soon will be. This may well be true. But I believe that style is less important than the spirit and imagination which one puts into his work.

I recall the great Crucifixion window in the Cathedral of St. Pierre at Poitiers. This is acknowledged to be one of the three outstanding masterpieces of Mediaeval stained glass still surviving. It is known that this window was made at the very end of the 12th century or the beginning of the 13th. Yet its design and drawing is like the primitive and archaic work of the early Romanesque period. Here was a rank conservative working in an outmoded style of a hundred years before his time. Yet he created a masterpiece which has been carefully preserved through the centuries.

Washington Cathedral may be the last great Cathedral ever to be built in the Gothic style. Perhaps it will be one hundred years before it is completed and more than likely before it is finished the later additions will be conceived in terms of the then contemporary style. But if these additions are wedded harmoniously with the work now going on the result may be as effective and beautiful as some of the French

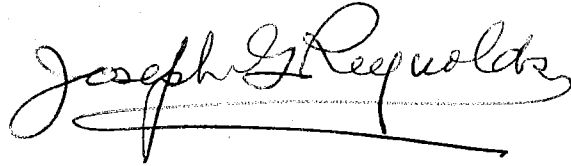
January 17, 1955

- 2 -

cathedrals which combine various styles. I realize I was not asked to defend Gothic as a style for our own day but I wished to make the point that in my opinion style is less important in any structure than the beauty, the majesty and the usefulness of the finished work.

I believe that Mr. Frohman's contribution to architecture in Washington Cathedral alone entitles him to be honored by the Institute by being nominated and elected to Fellowship.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph G. Reynolds". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

c.c. Mr. Justement

JGR/hom

✓

HAROLD E. WAGONER
A R C H I T E C T
RITTENHOUSE 6-4637

W. EARL BRICKER, R.A.
SIMON WASSERMANN, A.I.A.
RAY SCHALLER, A.I.A.

S U I T E 1 1 0 0
ARCHITECTS BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA 3, PA.

January 18, 1955.

Jury of Fellows of the A. I. A.,
The Octagon,
1741 New York Avenue, N. W.,
Washington 6, D. C.

Gentlemen:-

a ch' / se
B

It is with great pleasure that I add my name to the many others who admire and appreciate the work of Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman. My interest lies primarily in his ecclesiastical work. ~~An excellent example of his artistry is the well known Washington Cathedral, an edifice worthy of our national Capital.~~

For his devotion to the profession and his great success in achieving distinction in Architectural Design of the highest order I consider it a privilege and honor to present the name of Philip Hubert Frohman for elevation to Fellowship In the American Institute of Architects.

Sincerely yours,


Harold E. Wagoner

HEW:R

HOWE, FOSTER & SNYDER • • ARCHITECTS

1636 CONNECTICUT AVENUE • WASHINGTON 9, D. C. • HOBART 2-9193

GEORGE L. HOWE
Fulton, Md., Parkway 5-3463
WM. DEWEY FOSTER
J. ROWLAND SNYDER

January 21, 1955

FACTUAL

Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

ack 2/17/55


Gentlemen:

As a member of the Washington-Metropolitan Chapter Committee on Fellows I am writing to endorse the proposal to elevate Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman to Fellowship in the Institute.

Mr. Frohman's lifetime work in the field of Gothic architecture particularly as shown in his devoted connection with the Washington Cathedral in my opinion fully qualifies him for this honor.

I trust the Jury may act favorably on this proposal.

Respectfully,



Wm. Dewey Foster

WDF:b

JUSTEMENT, ELAM & DARBY, ARCHITECTS

LOUIS JUSTEMENT, F. A. I. A. BRANCH D. ELAM, A. I. A. JOS. HALE DARBY, A. I. A.

ROBISON HEAP, A. I. A., ASSOC.
JAMES P. CALLMER, ASSOC.

2011 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

FACTUAL

January 26, 1955

Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

ack 1/28
S

Gentlemen:

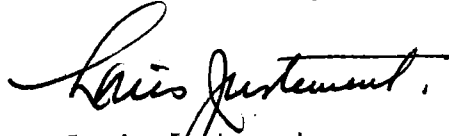
I am writing to endorse the nomination of Philip Hubert Frohman for advancement to Fellowship.

So far as I know, Mr. Frohman's nomination is based entirely on excellence in design. He rarely attends Chapter meetings and is not too well-known in his own Chapter to say nothing of other Chapters.

But the character of Philip Frohman's work in the field of ecclesiastical architecture is really outstanding and, by itself, fully justifies advancing him to Fellowship - unless, that is, excellence in traditional styles of architecture is ruled out as a basis of judgment.

I hope that the Jury will advance Philip Hubert Frohman to Fellowship.

Sincerely yours,


Louis Justement

LJ:g

FUGARD, BURT, WILKINSON & ORTH

ARCHITECTS

520 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

TELEPHONE
SUPERIOR 7-4418

JOHN R. FUGARD
PAUL G. BURT
GUSTAVE ORTH
JOHN R. FUGARD, JR.

CLIFFORD CARLSON
FRED L. STARBUCK
MOTT C. MONTGOMERY

January 26, 1955

The Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1741 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

ack 2/17
S

Gentlemen:

It has been brought to my attention that Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman, A.I.A. of Washington, D. C. has been proposed for Fellowship.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to address the Jury in behalf of Mr. Frohman, a distinguished architect known nationally and internationally for his work in ecclesiastical architecture. He is considered as an authority on Romanesque and Gothic architecture, the design of stained glass and church organs.

Mr. Frohman is a writer on subjects of ecclesiastical art and architecture. As a partner of Messrs. Frohman, Robb and Little a number of the most prominent examples of his work may be listed: National Cathedral, Washington D. C.; Maryland Cathedral, Baltimore and the Catholic Cathedral, Los Angeles.

It would seem that it will be an honor to the College of Fellows to elect to its membership such an outstanding architect as Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman.

Sincerely yours,

John R. Fugard
John R. Fugard

JRF:AH

✓

KEYES, SMITH & SATTERLEE • ARCHITECTS
FRANCIS D. LETHBRIDGE • • • • ASSOCIATE
THREE DUPONT CIRCLE WASHINGTON 6, D. C. HOBART 2-3515

ARTHUR H. KEYES, JR., AIA
CHLOETHIEL WOODARD SMITH, AIA
NICHOLAS SATTERLEE, AIA
FRANCIS D. LETHBRIDGE

January 26, 1955

Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ack 2/18
sb

Gentlemen:

The Executive Committee of the Washington-Metro-
politan Chapter has nominated Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman
for fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

Mr. Frohman has for many years directed the planning
and design of the National Episcopal Cathedral in Wash-
ington and has designed many other important ecclesiasti-
cal buildings. He has acquired an eminent position in
this field and is particularly outstanding in the Gothic
style of architecture.

As a member of the Chapter Committee on Fellows, I
wish to heartily endorse the nomination of Mr. Frohman
for consideration by the Jury of Fellows.

Very truly yours,

Arthur H. Keyes Jr.

Arthur H. Keyes, Jr.

AHK/sb
Copy to Mr. Justement

FUGARD, BURT, WILKINSON & ORTH
ARCHITECTS
520 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS

JOHN R. FUGARD
PAUL G. BURT
LAURANCE E. WILKINSON
GUSTAVE ORTH
JOHN R. FUGARD, JR.
CLIFFORD CARLSON

TELEPHONE
SUPERIOR 7-4418

January 27, 1955

FACTUAL

The Jury of Fellows
American Institute of Architects
1741 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ack 2/16
b

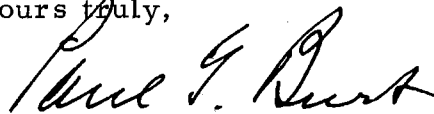
Gentlemen:

In connection with the proposed nomination of Mr. Philip Hubert Frohman for Fellowship, I should like to submit to the Jury a hearty endorsement.

Mr. Frohman is not known personally to the writer, but his work is, and the facts as to his full responsibility for the greatness of that work have been fully attested by close associates of both of us.

For the Institute not to recognize and claim as its own the creator of such work as Trinity College Chapel at Hartford, or the later portions of the cathedral at Washington, would be a reflection on all of us who are members.

Yours truly,



Paul G. Burt

PGB.dak