

# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Vol. V

MARCH, 1917

No. 3

## 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.

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APRIL, 1917

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## Shadows and Straws

THERE SEEMS TO BE A DIFFERENCE of opinion on the merits of the last exhibition of the Architectural League of New York. Perhaps an effort to analyze the differences may be of avail in throwing light upon a subject which is of constant interest and in which so many potentialities are thought to reside. There are those who accord the highest praise to the particular exhibition to which we refer, just as there are others who point out what they consider to be its glaring defects. The line of cleavage seems to be fairly clear and to be confined pretty closely to the question of the architectural value of an undertaking of this kind. Mr. Cortissoz, in the *New York Tribune*, deprecates the mixed character of the League exhibition and reaffirms his conviction of last year by challenging architects to an exposition of their work which shall be intimately architectural and not lost or hidden among the work of the painters, the sculptors, or the decorators.

While one may well hesitate to question the criticism of so competent an authority, grounds for taking issue in this particular instance might well be found in the avowed purpose of the League itself, which, as we understand its name to imply, is not wholly devoted to architecture but to the other contributing arts, the products of which in the League exhibition seemed, to Mr. Cortissoz, to obscure those of architects. Upon such a premise it ought to be possible to build a sound defense for the recent exhibition. Yet the vital question is not to be disposed of in that way, for it would not effectually answer the challenge to produce a real architectural exhibition.

ON FIRST THOUGHT it would seem just as reasonable to undertake an exhibition of newspapers as it would to assemble an exhibition of architecture. The world is so full of buildings of every conceivable kind that one might well ask why it was necessary to have an exhibition of architecture. If a man cannot be interested in the infinite variety of structures among which his daily life is cast, then how is he to be interested in the pictorial presentation of those and other buildings. The test of architecture is the building. It is not the drawing, nor the rendering, nor the photograph. To really study architecture, one must study buildings. To study it seriously, one must look behind the pleasing or displeasing façade and consider the purpose, the facility which the building offers for carrying out that purpose, and the plain facts of soundness, durability, and income-producing value.

This last factor is apt to be something of a shock to the academician, and yet that is the most insistent test to which modern architecture has to respond. It is idle to ignore it, futile to dismiss it. Study the architecture of the past as we may, enjoy it as we do, be inspired by it as we must, we cannot get away from the bald fact that the modern builder wants a fair return on his investment. We may except certain kinds of structures, where the return is of an indirect kind difficult to evaluate, but we shall still find ourselves confronted with the vast volume of building undertaken as a business investment. Is it not in this field that we find the incongruous jumble which makes the modern city so intolerably ugly? Ought an exhibition of architecture to exert a corrective

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Louis, and Granger & Young, 332 South Michigan Avenue Chicago.

Furness, Evans & Co., of Philadelphia, announce their removal to the Franklin Bank Building of that city.

Mr. W. Carbys Zimmerman, Chicago, announces the new firm of Zimmerman, Saxe and Zimmerman, with offices at 64 Van Buren Street. The new partners are Mr. R. W. Zimmerman and Mr. Herbert Moore Saxe.

## Annual Meeting of the Fire Protection Association

The annual meeting of the National Fire Protection Association is to take place in Washington, May 8, 9, and 10. The Committee on Fire Protection of the Institute will be represented and will doubtless, as usual, take a serious part in the discussions that take place during these three days of the meeting. The Committee wishes it were possible to get every member of the Institute to attend one of these meetings of the National Fire Protection Association. It is certain any such attendance would prove of the greatest possible value to the architects themselves. The subjects on the program are frequently of the highest technical value to a professional man. Unfortunately the representation of architects is usually small and one of the favorite topics of discussion

at these meetings is: "How can we make the architects of the country realize their responsibility and know their power in this matter of fire protection."

At last year's meeting in Chicago there was a most valuable and interesting discussion between Mr. Ittner of St. Louis and Mr. Snyder of New York, both members of the Institute, on safe design of school buildings. Equally interesting and important items will be found on this year's program. Every member of the Institute is welcome at the meeting in Washington on May 8, 9, and 10, as the Institute is a constituent member of the National Fire Protection Association. Detailed programs of the sessions may be had on application to Franklin H. Wentworth, Secretary, 87 Milk St., Boston.

## The Omnibus Public Buildings Bill

On Tuesday, April 3, being the second day of the present session of Congress, Mr. Clark of Florida introduced another Omnibus Public Buildings Bill, apparently the exact counterpart of the Omnibus Bill which was passed by the House at the last session but which failed to be acted upon by the Senate. It scarcely seems possible that the nation will permit a bill of this kind to be enacted at such a moment in its history, but we shall report further on this particular attempt in the next Journal.

## Obituary

### \*Levi T. Scofield

Many of us will miss the familiar figure of Captain Scofield at future Institute conventions. He was the first Cleveland architect to join the Institute, and as there was no Chapter in Cleveland at the time, he entered through the Cincinnati Chapter and remained a member of it during his life.

Mr. Scofield was born in Cleveland on November 9, 1842, and died in his seventy-fifth year. He received his early education in the public schools of Cleveland and then took up the study of architecture and engineering, working with his father, Wm. B. Scofield, who also was an architect. In 1860 he removed to Cincinnati and continued his studies there, but at the outbreak of the Civil War he returned to Cleveland and enlisted. Captain Scofield had a brilliant military record, and on account of his engineering work in the army, he was affectionately called "Old Topog" by his comrades.

There are many works in Cleveland and throughout the state of Ohio as evidence of Mr. Scofield's activity as an architect, but his Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in the Public Square of Cleveland best illustrates his character. To this monument he devoted seven and one-half years as architect, engineer and sculptor, without compensation, and when at the end the county refused to cooperate in defraying expenses, he gave from his private fortune to do so!

Besides being a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, Mr. Scofield was a member of the Architectural League, of the Loyal Legion, the Army and Navy Post, and the Grand Army of the Republic.

\*First notice appeared in March.

Mr. Scofield married Miss Elizabeth Clark Wright on June 26, 1867. Mrs. Scofield died a little more than three years ago. Two sons and a daughter survive him. Until his retirement from active practice, about a year and half ago, Mr. Scofield was associated with his sons in business.

### \*Austin Allen

Mr. Allen was born in Philadelphia, August 8, 1880, and moved with his parents to Joplin, Mo., at the age of ten. There he received his common and high school education. He was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with the class in Architecture of 1902. He was always prominent in athletics and represented the University of Pennsylvania at the English games held during the coronation of King Edward VII. It was after this that Mr. Allen spent some time in travel and study in Europe. On his return to this country, he worked in the office of the late Bruce Price, of New York, and later in the office of Hunt and Hunt, of New York. In 1905, Mr. Allen opened his office in Joplin, and about three years ago he opened another in Kansas City, dividing his time between the two cities.

Mr. Allen designed many of the most prominent buildings in Joplin, and his work was marked by a chaste dignity and scholarly restraint. Mr. Allen was a member of the Kansas City Chapter and very much interested in the work of the Institute. He was a delegate at the Minneapolis Convention of the Institute and one of the tellers. He also took part in the California excursion two years ago.

Eleven years ago, Mr. Allen married Miss Belle Taylor, of Joplin who, with three children, survives him.