

P R O C E E D I N G S

SIXTY-EIGHTH CONVENTION

of

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Old Point Comfort  
and  
Williamsburg, Virginia.  
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## THURSDAY EVENING SESSION

May 7, 1936

The Sixth session of the convention convened at nine o'clock on Thursday evening, in the New Chamberlin Hotel, Old Point Comfort, Virginia, Louis LaBeaume, First Vice-President, presiding.

CHAIRMAN LaBeaume: Ladies and Gentlemen, and fellow delegates of the American Institute of Architects: We are meeting together this evening, in this dimly lighted room, to consider the very important questions which have been obsessing the Committee on Education of the American Institute of Architects.

This committee claims itself to be, and we all acknowledge by acclamation, its prerogative to be considered the most important committee of the American Institute of Architects. The general subject of education is one which entails and has held the interest of the profession for many, many years, and under the able leadership of the Chairman of that Committee, Mr. William Emerson, and his fellow members of the Committee, steady progress has been made in raising the standards of architectural education throughout the country.

Mr. Emerson will refer to the report which has been submitted to the Board of Directors, and which the Board has

approved and commented upon in the papers which have been read before you, since the opening of this session of the convention.

Preliminary to calling upon Mr. Emerson to submit his report, and comment upon the work of the Education Committee, I have been asked to make an announcement, which is directly applicable to the work of the committee, and which evidences in the most emphatic and concrete manner, the appreciation which the other members of the Institute and the public at large feel toward the work of this committee.

The membership of the American Institute of Architects will be gratified to learn that the work of the committee over the past years, has attracted increasing attention and interest on the part of our colleagues.

A member of the Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapter recently left us a large sum of money by bequest with the definite stipulation that the income from this fund be devoted to the cause of architectural education. At a meeting of the Board in December, a formal resolution was adopted accepting the gift and the bequest of Edward Langley, deceased, in the previous year in 1935.

The Secretary reported that certified copies of the resolution be delivered to the Institute Counsel with other data requested by him in connection with the settlement of the estate.

Under date of March 10, 1938, the adjudication of Mr. Langley's estate was confirmed, copies of which were received through Counsel. A balance of one hundred and nineteen thousand, nine hundred and thirty dollars and fifty-four cents in cash remained after payment of various bequests and devices.

The court impounded the sum of fifteen thousand dollars pending the settlement of Federal and State Income taxes. Accordingly, a balance of one hundred and four thousand, nine hundred and thirty dollars and fifty-four cents was ordered to be paid to the American Institute of Architects and a check for this amount has been received and has been deposited.

The Secretary reviewed that portion of the will of Edward Langley setting forth the purposes for which the gift was made and the conditions of its administration as follows: "All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, real, personal and mixed, wherever situated at the time of my death, I hereby give, devise and bequeath unto The American Institute of Architects, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, its successors and assigns, for the establishment of an architectural scholarship, to be known as the 'Edward Langley Scholarship'. My said estate so devised and bequeathed to The American Institute of Architects shall be invested and kept invested by the said American Institute of Architects and the principal thereof shall be maintained in perpetuity, and

the income to be derived therefrom shall be used for scholarship purposes and particularly in the aid of students, residents of the United States and Canada, in the study of architecture, and said fund to be administered by a committee to be appointed by the Board of Directors of The American Institute of Architects, from the said Board of Directors."

Ladies and Gentlemen, I submit the announcement of this very happy news to you as evidence of our efficient service of our Institute committee on Education. (Applause)

This request has come, undoubtedly, from the Committee in charge of this session tonight.

Mr. Edward Langley was born in 1873 in Toronto, Canada, and he spent his early youth in California and returned to Toronto at the age of 18, where he was articled in the office of his cousin, Edmund Burke, living in Toronto.

Some years later he moved to New York and entered the office of Little and O'Connor of that city. He later travelled abroad returning again to the office of Little and O'Connor and eventually settled in the City of Scranton in Pennsylvania.

He was a gentleman of wide interests and an active member of the Scranton Chapter. His interest ranged from music to a love of other forms of art, and he was an excellent musician himself, an enthusiastic sportsman, and an

architect of distinction in the city of his adoption.

If you will pardon me just a moment, I will read an editorial from one of the Scranton papers, written at the time of his death so that you may know of the esteem in which he was held in the city of his adoption.

"Years in fair number had elapsed since the late and talented Edward Langley of this city practically gave up his work as an architect with offices here. Most of his time since was spent in travel. Often this peregrinating tendency took him into places remote from where ordinary man travels, and he became a true cosmopolite. Nevertheless, he never forgot the years he spent among us. On occasion he returned to renew old acquaintances.

"In this city were attachments and symbols for Mr. Langley that are breath to every artist, for that is what Edward Langley was, to the end of his fingertips. The most attractive of our institutional buildings erected in the last twenty-five years include many of Mr. Langley's.

"One of the buildings he designed and in which he took pride was that of the Young Women's Christian Association, to which he makes a bequest of \$5000. Similarly, his testament bequeathed to the First Presbyterian Church \$3000.

"By these remembrances Mr. Langley has posthumously

evidenced what he often expressed, namely, that this of all the places his travels took him to, was the place nearest to his heart. And he was a man who had looked upon the most beautiful and the most ugly cities of the civilized and a goodly part of the ancient world!

Thus spoke his fellow citizens in Scranton.

When his fellow citizens and fellow members of the American Institute of Architects, may more touchingly accept the bequest which he has left to us, because it is evidence that he held in his heart the ideals which The American Institute of Architects stands for, and wished to express his appreciation of those ideals by this contribution to the cause of architectural education.

It may interest you to know that our former Secretary, Mr. Frank Baldwin, had some personal connection with Mr. Langley, and it was largely through this personal connection of Mr. Baldwin's that his interest in The Institute was made manifest as evidenced in this bequest. I should like at this moment to ask Mr. Baldwin to speak just a word about his contact with Mr. Langley. Mr. Baldwin! (Applause)

MR. FRANK BALDWIN: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid if I am going to comply with your request I am going to be a little bit personal. I will have to boastfully claim the good judg-

ment of having a Scranton girl, and on my wedding trip she took me to her home town, and introduced me promiscuously to all of her girlhood and boyhood friends among whom was Edward Langley, and at that time I was also Secretary of the Institute, and Langley had taken a great deal of interest in the work of the Institute, and its ideals, and had carried the Institutes banner in his chapter, the Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapter, and therefore, he sought an opportunity to ask my advice and he told me then that he proposed to draw a joint will with his mother, and after they had appsed away to leave the Institute a nice little sum and he didn't say how much and I rather hopefully thought that it might be ten or fifteen thousand dollars, and he asked me particularly what sort of a set up we had that would insure the safe-guarding for perpetuity of whatsum that he might leave.

Well, it so happened and you may all recall that at that one convention we had quite a wrangle in revising our by-laws occurred, in such a way as to meet the requirements of somebody who hoped some time to leave us a large sum of money. We spent a day here revising our by-laws to suit this gentleman's attorney's of what we should do and we had just completed that job and the convention had set up a set of by-laws to meet such cases when Mr. Langley asked me that question, and I was in a perfectly splendid position to show him convincely that it



would be a safe thing for him to do.

Time went on and I forgot all about it, and I met him once or twice after that, and last year I was rather saddened by learning that while we were in Milwaukee that he had passed away, and that his executives would like to see me, and I was passing through Scranton on my return from the Milwaukee trip, and I had a conference with them and you have heard the rest. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN Labeaume: I well remember the day in June in 1935, when a hurried meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute was called in Washington. It was difficult to secure a quorum but a quorum was secured, and the matter of this Langley bequest was presented to us by President Voorhees. At that time, as Mr. Baldwin has said, in June of 1935, we thought of ourselves as fortunate in receiving a bequest in the cause of architectural education, but at that time, as I remember, the President stated that the bequest would probably amount to about fifteen thousand dollars.

Now, this sum has grown to something over seven times that amount, and when I realized that this meeting was called for the discussion of spiritual values, and <sup>while</sup> we should not grow too jubilant over the size of this bequest, I cannot help but note that we may derive some satisfaction from that increase

when we realize that this sum offers new opportunities to the Committee on Education, and when you have heard the report of that Committee, from Mr. Emerson's lips, as you have only read excerpts in the Board's report, you will be convinced that this legacy will be devoted intelligently to the purposes which Mr. Langley had in mind.

It gives me great pleasure to have Mr. Emerson corroborate the statement that I have just made. (Applause)

MR. WILLIAM EMERSON: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: Certainly no committee ever made a report under pleasanter auspices than those that have characterized this evening's session so far. That the Committee on Education will do its best to fulfill the new obligations which have been imposed upon it in this way, and that the open field for helping the architect that will take our places before many years have passed, is something that we all share in common, and while the committee has at the moment at any rate the impression that its time is pretty well occupied, it will certainly so organize itself as to do full justice to the new opportunity that has been placed upon it.

In coming before you tonight, the Committee on Education is conscious of the fact that it is not the only committee that has to meet tonight, and there are other problems before