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## LIBRARY NOTES

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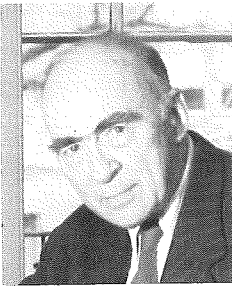
### Au Revoir

In April we of the Library staff, as well as others of the Institute staff, were faced with the necessity of saying goodbye to a well-loved colleague and friend. Henry Hodgman Saylor FAIA, who had been part of the Octagon scene for over twenty-one years, had decided, after several months of ill health, that it was best for him to relinquish his Washington home and to return to Long Island where he would be nearer his daughters. It was with an especial sorrow that we learned of this decision, for the Library owes much to Mr Saylor. It was he who had first taken about half the books out of storage in the old stable and made them available in the Hunt bookcases which he had had installed in the dining room of the Octagon. He added his own library of several hundred volumes to the collections which had been received in 1925, thus strengthening the library for publications since that date. Also, it was he who amplified the simple author catalog, which had been prepared in earlier days as a work project, by making a subject approach to the books. Later when his informal service as librarian, in addition to his more formal duties as editor, was terminated by the appointment of a full-time librarian, he proved to be a helpful mentor.

Subsequently, when a Library Committee was appointed, Mr Saylor was named staff adviser to the Committee and served faithfully in this position, contributing freely of his knowledge and ideas. More recently his office has been in the Library, and we have had the opportunity of seeing him daily.

However the Library and its affairs were but a part of the activities of this versatile man. Mr Saylor had come to the Institute late in 1943 to start, in January 1944, a new *Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, which for thirteen years in its handy pocket size well performed the function as set forth in its masthead, "With the aim of amplifying as through a microphone the voice of the profession." As with any publication which is essentially a one-man operation, it reflected his personality and feeling for the profession. Performing all functions—editorial, circulation, advertising and business—with the help of one secretary-assistant, he brought it forth regularly, with many articles of interest.

For many years Mr Saylor has also had much to do with the care of the Octagon and its garden. Serving as staff executive to the Octagon House Committee, he has endeavored always to do what he could to make this a truly important part of the Institute. As self-appointed guardian of the Octagon House, he has been concerned lest changes occur that would be detrimental to its character. During this period he spent many hours of his Saturdays bestowing T.L.C.



on the garden, which helped to make it the charming spot it is today.

But what of Mr Saylor's earlier career? It is not surprising to learn of his interest in the Library when one considers that almost his entire career has been spent in the world of publishing. Following his secondary school preparation at the Hill School, he studied architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but it was not long before he had assumed the duties of editor of the *Architectural Review*, published in Boston. After this position he served variously on the staffs of *Country Life in America*, *American Architect*, *House and Garden* and with publishing houses such as McBride, Nast & Co, and Doubleday, Page & Co. In 1914 he went back to the magazine, *Country Life in America*, as editor. Then in 1926 he returned to architectural journalism, in which he since has spent most of his time, by becoming editor of *Architecture*, from whence he went to *American Architect* following the consolidation of the two. He next turned his hand toward publishing his own magazine, the *Architect's World*, in which he used the format he later employed with the JOURNAL. The next step was to the *Architectural Forum*, followed by war work supervising the construction of war plants for Albert Kahn and then to the AIA JOURNAL.

Over the years Mr Saylor has written or edited some dozen volumes ranging from "Bungalows" in 1910 to "The AIA's First Hundred Years" in 1957. Probably his most important publication is "Dictionary of Architecture," issued in 1952 and recently released in a paperback.

In addition to his more formal duties Mr Saylor has for many years been responsible for the preparation of the Institute's citations and has done the sketches for the lettering for the Gold Medal tablet in the lobby of the administration building. An amateur photographer as well as journalist and architect (he has several country houses on Long Island to his credit), the Institute has been indebted to him for many of the pictures taken of the Octagon and its garden. These have been used in the Octagon leaflet, which he wrote, as well as for the slides on sale in the Octagon.

Mr Saylor received the Kemper Award of the Institute for distinguished service by a member in 1954. Since his retirement as editor he has been serving on the Commission of Fine Arts' Board of Architectural Consultants for Old Georgetown, a service calling for tact among other virtues.

Certainly Mr Saylor will be missed. When he came back to pack up, after his six months' absence, it was almost as if he were holding court. The Institute staff, old and new members, came down to greet him and to bid him farewell. One can readily say that he has been the best-loved member of the staff—and undoubtedly it is due, partly at least, to his qualities of gentleness and courtesy. As was said to me recently, "He is a gentleman of the old school." So Mr Saylor, hail and farewell, with thanks for your contributions to the Library and our best wishes for many happy years among the scenes of your earlier years.

G. E. PETTENGILL, HON AIA