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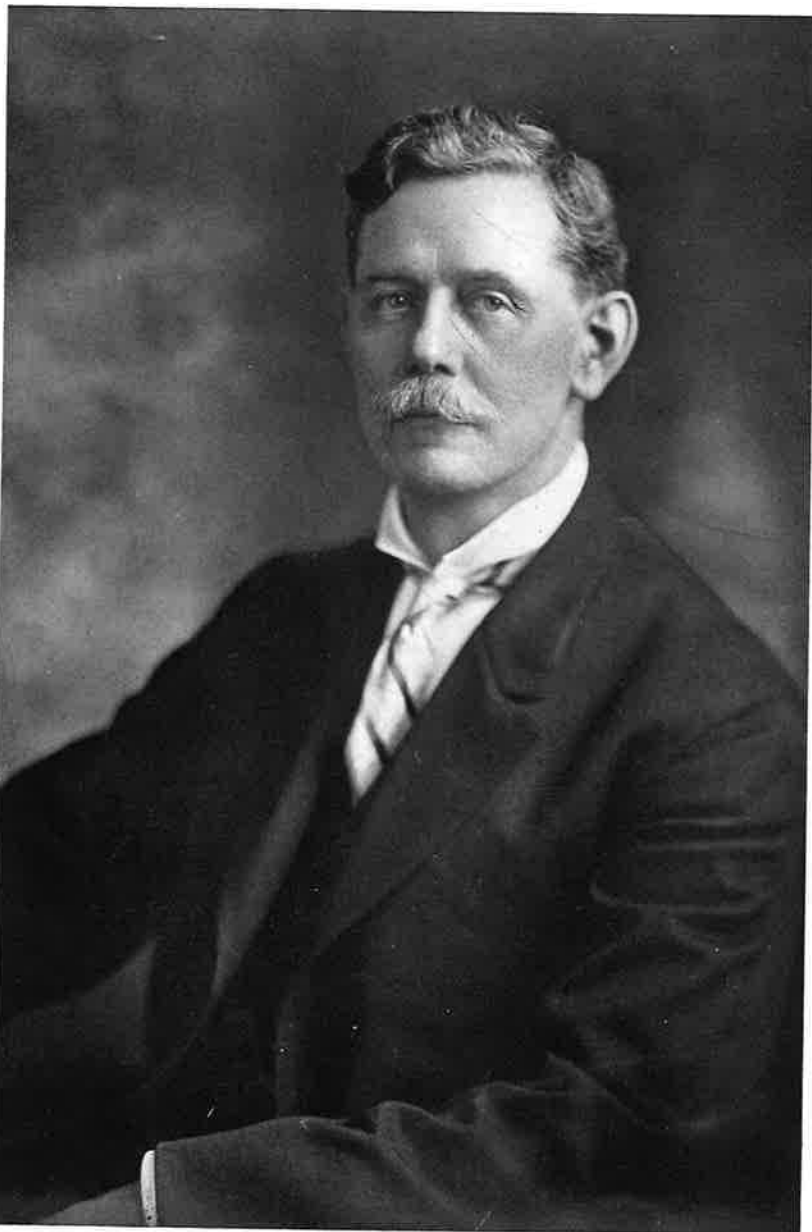


Photo by Harris & Ewing, Washington, D. C.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James A. Paulding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PRESIDENT, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 1910 AND 1911.

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
FORTY-FOURTH  
ANNUAL CONVENTION  
OF THE  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS

Held in the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco,  
January 17 to 21,

Palo Alto, Monterey, Santa Barbara,  
January 21 to 23,

Los Angeles, Cal.,  
January 23 to 25, 1911.

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PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, A. I. A.  
GLENN BROWN, EDITOR.

which will compel them to take action in behalf of the public against the pressure of selfish interests and the inertia of ignorance and indifference. Upon us, at any rate, lies a grave responsibility in the matter of bringing about this reform because it is so obvious that our clients, the public, look to safeguard their interests and health in all departments of building construction.

I would suggest that some immediate action be taken in the Institute recommending such simplifications as it is now prepared to make and that also a Committee be appointed by the President to investigate the situation and report their findings with recommendations for further action in the direction of simplicity at the earliest possible moment. In the meantime I have prepared a simplified plumbing code which is a modification of codes I have been asked to prepare for the use of a number of cities, and which have been in part adopted by them, after conservatism had, however, exchanged several provisions for simplification which seemed to me to be among the most important.

This code together with some observations and demonstrations in sanitary plumbing giving in some detail my grounds for the recommendations I have made in this paper, which the limit of time allowed me has prevented my even briefly reviewing here, form the substance of a little book to be published by Doubleday, Page & Co., of New York, which I have dedicated to the Boston Society of Architects in recognition of their conscientious efforts in revising the building laws of our city. I refer to it as a means of filling out some of the defects of omission which, however, are very likely the least of the defects you may find in this paper.

The President: The next item of business is the report of the teller's.

Mr. Wheelock: The tellers report that the total number of votes cast is 91 for officers and directors of the Institute, as follows:

For <i>President</i> .....	Irving K. Pond.....	91
<i>First Vice-President</i> .....	Walter Cook.....	91
<i>Second Vice-President</i> .....	E. M. Wheelwright.....	91
<i>Secretary and Treasurer</i> ...	Glenn Brown.....	91
<i>For Directors</i> .....	B. S. Hubbell.....	4
	Thomas R. Kimball.....	67
	Wm. R. Mead.....	33
	Milton M. Medary.....	66
	D. H. Perkins.....	36
	A. F. Rosenheim.....	52
	T. C. Young.....	14

Therefore:

Irving K. Pond is elected President.

Walter Cook is elected First Vice-President.

E. M. Wheelwright is elected Second Vice-President.

Glenn Brown is elected Secretary and Treasurer.  
 Thomas R. Kimball is elected Director for three years.  
 Milton B. Medary, Jr., is elected Director for three years.  
 A. F. Rosenheim is elected Director for three years.

The election for Fellows of the Institute is as follows: 86 ballots were cast for the seventeen Fellows nominated by the Board of Directors, resulting in 16 being duly elected, the names are as follows:

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Chapters.</i>
Arthur B. Benton.....	Southern California.
Harry J. Carlson.....	Boston.
John A. Dempwolf.....	Southern Pennsylvania.
Frank W. Ferguson.....	Boston.
Thomas M. Kellogg.....	Philadelphia.
Robert D. Kohn.....	New York.
Arthur Little.....	Boston.
Robert Maynicke.....	New York.
Milton B. Medary, Jr.....	Philadelphia.
George C. Nimmons.....	Illinois.
John Beverley Robinson.....	New York.
Phillip Sawyer.....	New York.
William B. Stratton.....	Michigan.
D. Everett Waid.....	New York.
W. R. B. Willcox.....	Washington State.
Charles H. Bebb.....	Washington State.
	H. B. Wheelock,
	F. H. Holden,
	Fernand Parmentier,
	<i>Tellers.</i>

The President: The report of the tellers is received and placed on file. I wish to announce that Clay Street wharf is the place and 9:30 the time of the meeting to-morrow morning, to take the trip across the bay. At the conclusion of the paper which follows, certain remaining business of the convention will be attended to. There are important resolutions to be presented, so I hope that the delegates will not leave the hall and leave us without a quorum. We will now listen to the reading of the paper on the "Missions of Upper California" by Mr. Arthur B. Benton, of the Southern California chapter, a newly elected Fellow.

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WALTER R. B. WILLCOX.



WILLIAM EMERSON.

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The life of Walter R. B. Willcox presents an example of a personality led by an innate force toward its most congenial and effective field of activity, enlisting therein for devoted service all subsequent efforts. Well established in a business career, he forsook it for the uncertain life of an architect and began at the bottom of the ladder in an architect's office in Boston, solving with untrammelled drawing implements the mysteries of the order, eager to grasp every phase of architectural art. His age, with like unimportant details, deserves no mention; it is sufficient to say that he brought to architecture unimpaired enthusiasm and devotion which have constantly been with him. Beginning with the rudiments in the Boston office, he continued his studies in the School of Architecture of the University of Pennsylvania. A visit to Burlington, Vt., disclosing an attractive field, he began there an active practice; residences, schoolhouses, universities, buildings, hospitals, and commercial structures throughout that section of the country, several won in competition, marked the extent and character of his work.

His nature devoted to the highest ideals of his profession, it was natural that he should early affiliate himself with the American Institute of Architects, and in 1907 was entered as a member. With difficulties largely overcome and a secure position gained, an attractive home, reflecting also his business quarters, his own architectural taste, it might have been supposed that his goal had been reached. This was not to know the man. The same quality that impelled him toward architecture made him seek a wider field for his efforts where he perhaps could have what he so much desired, more association with his fellow workers. Terminating his business in the West, he made a tour abroad; then, with an earlier associate, Mr. William J. Sayward, he began, unheralded and unknown, a new practice in Seattle, Washington. In this field he displayed his customary energy in professional and also in public affairs. He was active in the establishment of the Seattle Architectural Club and served devotedly the Washington State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects as its secretary and president. Sensitive to the high importance of a city plan, he became its earnest advocate and was active in securing for the city a Municipal Plan Commission. As a member of this Commission, representing his Chapter of the Institute, he became the Commission's architectural vital force and the right hand man of the distinguished engineer employed as expert. Mr. Willcox became a Fellow of the Institute in 1910; has served on important committees, and in 1913 was elected to the Board of Directors.

A striving to realize the highest ideals of his profession and of community life, freedom from restricting precedent in design, with admiration for the best that had gone before, these may characterize the most significant traits of his life and work. — C. H. A.

MR. EMERSON once told me that when his father was casting about for the best method of fitting his son for the profession of architecture, he sought the good offices and counsel of his friend, the late Professor Ware. "What should an architect know?" was his straightforward inquiry. "More than any one else about everything," was the equally straightforward reply. Not too terrifying, perhaps, for the brother of a great American philosopher and man of letters, but the genial professor promptly resolved his great truth into something compassable within a lifetime and a little more promising of an eventual practice.

Of course Mr. Emerson would be the first to admit his failure to attain the happy (?) state prescribed by Professor Ware. He probably would not even be willing to admit that he knew as much about any one thing as did someone else (he is far too modest), but I think that a number of his friends would immediately protest that it would not be easy to excel him in the use of brick, for which simple, ancient, and honest material he has a great affection and appreciation. (It is, of course, a pleasure to record such a fact in THE BRICKVILDER.) Its variation of texture, color, and bond appeal to him and his mastery of the material is shown in many city dwellings and tenements, and in a recently completed public bath for the city of New York.

He has also just completed the North River Homes, in New York City. To this undertaking he has brought much patient study and a keen sympathy with the effort to improve the housing conditions in our large cities. The result of his labors will contribute greatly to the betterment of the living conditions of low salaried workers, while other housing problems which are already engaging his attention will add largely to the knowledge of this important subject.

He was graduated from Harvard University, with honors, in 1895. Then to Columbia University for two years under Professor Ware and so to the Beaux Arts, which he entered in 1898, and where he remained, with one absence, until 1901. Returning to New York City, he entered the office of William B. Tubby, and later, that of York and Sawyer. For six months he was chief designer for the Board of Education of New York City, finally entering business for himself in 1905.

To the profession of architecture he is a loyal and devoted servant, giving of himself with a generosity and an enthusiasm which seem to flow from inexhaustible sources. The Society of Beaux Arts Architects counts him as one of its most active workers. For two years he was Chairman of the Committee on Education and was later Chairman of the Paris Prize Committee. The New York Chapter and the Institute are both the richer for his labors. No task seems too large or too small to enlist his effort to set a higher standard. Happy the profession which can claim such practitioners. — C. H. W.

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Night Message	Nite
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E C KEMPER

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THE OCTAGON WASHINGTON DC

FOR YOUR INFORMATION WILLCOX IS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT TO A H ALBERTSON ARCHITECT IN CHARGE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS PUGET SOUND NAVY YARD FOR BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

G C FIELD

JULY 9 1918 7AM

Team  
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✓

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D.C.

COPY

Willcox

2-3

July 9th-1918.

Dear Mr. Field:-

Thank you for your telegram with regard to the appointment of Mr. Willcox. Your similar message to Mr. Whitaker has been forwarded to him at Brandon, Vermont, and I know he will be delighted just as I am.

This recognition of Mr. Willcox is a deserved one which will bring splendid returns to the Department of Labor.

Am also advising President Kimball.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. G. C. Field,  
727 Henry Building,  
Seattle, Washington.

E:B

Copy to Mr. Kimball  
Copy to Mr. Whitaker

13-March-23

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Kemper:-

How do you do? How sails the old craft, the Institute? It has been some time since I have had the pleasure of observing. Now, I have it in mind to pay headquarters a visit next convention time. Mentioned it to Lawrence and he suggested that I get switched to the Oregon Chapter, so that, in case they are shy of delegates, I might be put to such use. What is necessary to be done? Can you attend to the business? At once? Is there anything I have to do in connection therewith? - have none of the "rules and regulations" at hand so that I am at a loss.

Hope you are well and enjoying life as much as a human being reasonably can. Let me hear from you at your early convenience and oblige,

Yours cordially,



*Mrs. M. has noted.*

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

March 20, 1923.

Dear Mr. Willcox:

It was a great pleasure to hear from you again. I was afraid you had stricken the Institute from your list.

The matter of transfer is easily arranged. If you will have the Secretary of the Washington State Chapter send us the routine letter required in the marked copy of the By-laws herewith we will transfer you immediately to the Oregon Chapter.

We are trying to arrange for a real Convention, with the soft pedal on business and lots of architecture in place of the customary grind. It is not an easy thing to bring about.

Looking forward to seeing you in May, I am as ever

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox,  
764 Mill Race Drive,  
Eugene, Oregon.

K:C

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COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

213

April 25, 1923.

My dear Mr. Willcox:

In accordance with correspondence received from Mr. Monke, this is to formally advise you that you have been transferred from the Washington State Chapter to the Oregon Chapter as an Institute member in good standing therein, effective May 1, 1923. The Secretaries of the two Chapters concerned have been notified to this effect.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary,

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox,  
764 Hill Race Drive,  
Eugene, Oregon.

K:B

Incl.

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COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER



23  
8-May-23

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
Octagon House, WASHINGTON, D. C.



Dear Kemper:

I have the copy of your letter to Menke explaining the machinery of a member's transfer from Chapter to Chapter. I am a little hazy as to how my own transfer was finally effected, - there seems to have been much ado about it, but I am afraid my joking letter to Alden put you to the trouble of the explanation. Please forgive me. You see, I was once a Director and Charles frequently advised me as to what the Board should do, so I thought I'd just take that chance to "get even" with him. Now, my little fun comes back as a sort of boomerang.

I had an idea that I should be with you at convention time, but when I thought of the three or four weeks absence, the probable spell of hot spring, or early summer weather, that it would have been wholly a pleasure trip, I decided, - in view of the fact that I am occupied with a very interesting job, - that I would do better to tarry this side of the Cascades. My loss is that I shall miss seeing old friends, if only for a few minutes.

In my letter of a few days ago, I spoke of "our" Miss Leach. Sunday, somebody had a little write-up about her in the University paper, the Emerald. I send it to you as a further tribute to a dear soul, thinking it will interest you after my own comment.

Hoping that the Convention and Pageant go off well,  
I am,

Yours truly,

## Paisley Shawls: A Little Sketch

6 May 23.

A paisley shawl—a diminutive sunshade—white crocuses with delicate touches of lavender—small gold eardrops—are symbols of the personality that is Miss Camilla Leach, identified with the University of Oregon since 1897. It is in her honor a memorial library of art books has been founded. Miss Leach is a familiar figure to the students at Oregon and especially to those of this school of architecture and allied arts who know her as an art librarian.

One's first impression of her is a sense of her beauty—as a fragrance of mint and of young blossoming things—a beauty both outward and inward. She

should be painted against a background of pale gray from which her small figure would stand out with the distinctness of porcelain—in a black dress that she sometimes wears which accentuates the whiteness of her abundant hair, or in the little brown cape she wears which so amazingly is suited to her. Her face shows wisdom and penetration in the brown eyes behind her spectacles, and in the small pointed nose between round cheeks of a fresh rose pink. And she has withal a sense of humor, quaint and captivating.

The keenness of her mind is evident in the way she is relied on for every reference, and her command of the files. One of the professors of fine arts likes to tell the story of how he mispronounced "Giotto" and found that Miss Leach knew even the pronunciation of old Italian names even better than he did. He immediately ordered the art dictionary that she uses and considers best.

"I have known Camilla Leach for 18 years," said Mrs. P. L. Campbell, wife of the president of the University, "and I know she is a friend to tie to."

COPY

Not.

W. R. B. WILLCOX--ARCHITECT  
1272 KINCAID STREET--EUGENE, OREGON

11-July-25

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS  
JUL 18 1925  
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E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon House,  
WASHINGTON. D. C.

Dear Kemper:

I don't know whether the matter of delegate rebates runs through your hands, but I wish you would straighten out a mix-up I am in on that business.

I sent my expense account to Mr. Kendall and find that I made no allowance for deductions arising out of my service as delegate from the Oregon Chapter. I believe I registered as such.

It seems that the Chapter voted that all rebates should be turned over to James, in order that he might attend the convention, so I suppose the portion of the rebate which, ordinarily, would come to me, should be deducted from my charge as member of the Jury of Fellows. It's kind o' tough, but I doubt if the Board would feel justified in making any other settlement.

You see, the arrangement, so far as James is concerned, was based on the proposition that he could not afford to attend if the full rebate was to be divided between delegates, nor unless the full delegation attended. Since I was supposed to attend the Jury of Fellows, it was taken for granted, I suppose, that my expenses would be paid. Unless I had registered as delegate from the Chapter, the full rebate would not have been forthcoming, and the answer is that I make my little contribution to James' trip out of my expense account for serving on the Jury, which sticks me aplenty.

At the time I decided to attend the Jury meeting, Lawrence was expecting to go as Chapter delegate with James and what the Chapter decided to do with the rebate was their own affair, but when Lawrence could'nt go, and thus put the full rebate in jeopardy, I took his place, with the outcome as stated. The trouble arises from the impropriety of my receiving expenses for both attendencies. What one man's share of the Oregon Chapter's rebate amount to I don't know, but will you take hold of the business and fix it up for me, and oblige,

Yours truly,

How goes the world and the Institute? I notice that the Board has voted to delegate to the Executive Committee all power to act on all matters of Institute business at all times. I would like to record my

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*Willcox*

*It's kind o' tough*

*A*

W. R. B. WILLCOX--ARCHITECT  
1272 KINCAID STREET--EUGENE, OREGON

view that this is a serious error and one subversive of the best interests of the Institute as a National organization. It begins the process of centralizing, again, the management of the organization and will tend to disintegration of its membership. We have worked for years to spread the management over this broad land to bring about, so far as possible, the sense of unity, but if, now, management in fact is to be placed in the hands of a small group, named by the President, or even elected by the Board, (and they would undoubtedly act favorably upon his suggestions) it means that the President, with that self-chosen group, will be in position to dictate the policy without reference to any large view of Institute members. I cannot tell you how harmful I feel this new arrangement to be.

I have not looked up the constitutional provision for the creation of the Executive Committee of the Board, but I seriously question the right of the Board to delegate their duties, to which the full convention has elected them.

I realize the seeming necessity for such action, but economy, or expedition, are not sufficient excuse for disregarding the intent of our arrangement of having a fairly good sized Board, drawn from our now segregated Districts, decide matters of greatest moment to the profession and Institute. Why have such a Board, if that Board is immediately going to turn its collective responsibility over to five or six men? Why not, if that is to be done, not put the new arrangement directly up to the Convention to say whether the Institute membership wants to have its business directed in that fashion? Has the Convention not the right - is it not its business - to say what changes shall be made in the arrangements it has made for conducting the business of the organization during the interim between conventions?

You can see that this scheme is bound to bring back the old question of non-representation of many districts, and to cut out from any part in the direction of Institute affairs, many districts far removed from whatever happens to be the economical center. Since it is one of the most important things that a sense of touch with the management be continued throughout the whole country, I have been inclined to write a letter to the JOURNAL and submit the matter to the whole membership. I think it is a sad lapse, which will cause trouble. Am I all wrong?

WRBW.

(5) W R B Willcox

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

No. 2.

(2)

COPY

July 17, 1928.

Dear Mr. Wilcox:-

Yours of July 11th was received yesterday, and I am responding this morning with a fresh mind - I hope.

Perhaps the response will be clearer if seriatim:

The rebates to delegates do not go through this office. We collect the tax from the Chapter, and make to the Chapter the refund to which it is entitled. The distribution of the refund by the Chapter is entirely a Chapter matter, so we do not know what individuals receive <sup>the</sup> rebates.

With regard to your own case, if the Chapter paid the entire refund to Mr. James, I should think the Institute could with propriety pay your full expense account in attending the meeting of the Jury of Fellows. It certainly seems to me that the Institute should pay the difference involved before you should. Your voucher on account of the meeting of the Jury of Fellows will come through the Chairman of the Jury, Mr. Kendall, with his approval, so I take the liberty of sending him a copy of your letter in order to save time. Immediately upon receipt of the voucher from him we will submit a check to Mr. Ittner. As the check will be in a comparatively large amount we may have to delay payment until Mr. Ittner returns from abroad about September 1st, but this delay will not occur if we have sufficient funds on hand to meet the item when it comes up.

\*including the postscript

The postscript of your letter is to me one of importance, for I have long been cherishing the thought that of all the national organizations I know about, the Institute is by far the most democratic - in principle and in practice. This impression is based on a careful reading of the Constitution and By-laws; on a knowledge of well established customs; and on the fact that the Institute moves so slowly in making decisions of major policies. In other words, the Society has all the symptoms of a democracy, but these may be misleading, so I have checked up a bit as follows:

Referring to the Annuary, the powers of the Board of Directors are set forth in the By-laws, on page 106, under Section 2,

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-2-

Duties of the Board. It is interesting to note that the very first sentence provides for government by the Board of Directors "in the interim between Conventions", thus placing complete and final authority in the hands of each annual Convention. The spirit of this seems to pervade the entire section. In the second paragraph of this section, second sentence, appears a provision for the election of an Executive Committee and the direction that the Board shall "formulate a plan of action for itself and for said Committee".

The Executive Committee, having been elected by the Board, is described in Section 3, page 108.

The powers and duties of the Executive Committee, in detail, are laid down by the Board, and usually in the form set forth in the Minutes of the April meeting to which you refer.

This form is more or less inherited and gives the Executive Committee power to act for the Board in any matter in which the Board has jurisdiction - except in disciplinary matters which must come before the Board.

On the face of the record this places in the Executive Committee a very great power. Technically speaking, it can do anything the Board can do, except disciplinary acts. In practice the Executive Committee, at least since my experience began in 1914, has almost entirely confined itself to minor decisions. In various instances, where important decisions were required, a referendum of the entire Board of Directors has been ordered.

The real business of the Executive Committee is to clean up small issues which arise between Board meetings, leaving to the Board the more important things. This does not always work out in practice, for the Board sometimes insists on wasting its time on unimportant things. But that is no fault of the Executive Committee.

In checking back on Section 2, above mentioned, I find that the provision for an Executive Committee, with delegation of power to act for the Board, has existed in the By-laws of the Institute during the past 35 years (since 1891). Since 1914 I cannot recall any instance in which the Board found that the Executive Committee had used its authority in an unauthorized, arbitrary, or injurious manner.

Fortunately the question of economy no longer cramps the Institute as seriously as it did a few years ago. Under a new policy each Regional Director is expected to visit every Chapter in his district once a year at the expense of the Institute.

This year the entire Board of Directors will meet on the Pacific Coast in connection with the situation out there, and in general the whole tendency has been to keep the governing powers in close contact with the membership.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

-3-

The sending of the Minutes <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ every Member is evidence of a sense of responsibility, and is something which no other professional society does, so far as I know.

The plan of Chapter visits by Directors, and the regional meetings, under which the Board or Executive Committee meets with representatives from all of the Chapters in a given district is all new development, and I think in the direction of democracy.

It may be that the Executive Committee, under a blanket delegation of power, of the kind now given each year, has a technical power wider than the principles of representative government recognize. If so the simplest and quickest way to cure the evil is to modify the delegation of power. It could be done with a simple limitation to the effect that the Executive Committee shall make no major decisions of Institute policy or government without first referring to the entire Board of Directors - or something to that effect. Personally I do not believe there is any danger in the present arrangement, for the Institute is almost like a college fraternity, in having so many of its members devoted to its welfare and giving so freely of their time, energy and money for the sake of the thing itself and for no tangible reward.

You received a copy of the new Manual. It was written in this office and was sent to every architect in the United States - more than 11,000 in all. The statements on pages 4, 5, and 6 is an effort to boil down the story of Institute organization and government, and to show that we have a real democracy. If you can spare a moment will you not read it?

As you know my great interest <sup>in the</sup> ~~and~~ welfare <sup>I</sup> in the A. I. A., I hope you will answer the above, telling me unofficially how it strikes you, and wherein you think I might work for the correction of any wrong principles that may be in operation now. I am not one of those who think or say that the Institute is perfect. All that I can say is that I believe it is moving slowly in the right direction, and that it has a great field of usefulness which remains to be cultivated.

Sincerely yours,

(s) E. C. KEMPER  
Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. R. B. Wilcox,  
764 Mill Race Drive,  
Eugene, Oregon

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3  
No. 3.  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS  
AUG 12 1925  
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W. R. B. WILLCOX---ARCHITECT 1272 KINCAID STREET---EUGENE, OREGON

7-August-25

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon House,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Kemper:

Thank you for your very full discussion of the question I raised in my last to you. I must accept your interpretation of the situation, you are better informed than I of the facts, but, not having read with care recent minutes of Board or Executive Committee meetings, the form of the resolution empowering the latter committee caught my eye, and it was so general in character, and so unlike what I recollected as enacted during my days on the Board, that I was rather shocked. I could almost swear that, in my day, the Executive Committee was distinctly limited to 'routine business'. I think this should be so, formally, by passage of a By-Law. As I see it, if the Committee has power to transact any business at any time (not required to come before the Convention) what purpose does the balance of Board serve? Do they not, consequently, occupy an anomolous position? If important matters relating to policy are discussed by the Committee, they certainly reach conclusions and gather information often in advance of the rest of the Board, and the latter is placed at a decided disadvantage in making wise decisions. I think something like this situation was present in the long drawn out impasse with respect to the Press. Certainly there appeared to be a woeful lack of information as to that situation on the part of some of the non-Committee members of the Board, which I learned from more than one such member.

I agree with you that the Institute is quite as democratic as any other national institution. Things finally are settled by convention, but the convention, not always, but usually, follows the Boards suggestions. Issues are discussed with more thoroughness there than is possible in convention. Since that is so, the discussion should be shared by all Board members (matters of policy) and not, I feel, by part of them. It places the balance of the Board in the same relation to the subject that the Convention sustains, and is not equally equipped with the Committee to reach wise decisions. They are better equipped, certainly, than the convention, but not as well as the Committee members.

I suppose that the Board members are informed of all actions of the Committee, ofcourse, but notice of formal action is quite different from sitting in on a discussion, where one may get the effect of personal feeling, -can get the color of each speaker's mood. I think, in order to convey something of the true atmosphere, it would be a fine thing to have discussion reported verbatim. It would certainly enhance the feeling of responsibility of Committee, and Board members, to know that their speech was to be put on permanent record.

I am well aware that the Board frequently wastes much time over non-essentials, but if there were a definite limit

Steno report

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Kemper (2)

to the Committee's activities to 'routine matters', would there not be greater willingness to ignore the many minor matters, leaving them quite freely in the Committee's hands? With no limitation, the Board has to review everything to know what is being done in its name,- to learn if important matters have been under consideration by the Committee; the Board has that responsibility and cannot properly dodge it, it seems to me. If, on the other hand, the Board knew that the Committee could only transact business of a minor and urgent character, it would, I believe, be glad to vote the Committee blanket approval of its acts.

Let the Committee take care of routine business needs, and leave all larger issues for discussion before the full Board. It would, I think, be an efficient segregation of the work of the two bodies. It would be similar to the relation of the convention to minor business of the Institute; it does not concern itself with the payment of the water and light bills, salaries, supplies, taxes, and all that sort of routine. It does go into the important matters of policy respecting the work of Committees, disposal of property, etc. The convention feels inclined that way, because it knows that Board cannot act without its consent in such matters. I think the same feeling would exist among Board members, if it was explicitly stated somewhere that the Executive Committee could act only to dispose of business routine affairs, and that all important matters were to be left for Board meetings. Would such an arrangement not cut down the time of both bodies, the Board and the Committee? Would it not be a step toward greater efficiency,- real efficiency?

You say, on the second page of your letter, sixth paragraph, that the 'real business' of the Committee is just this sort, but while you add that if the Board wastes its time on routine it is not the Committee's fault. But may it be both the Committee's and the Board's fault, if the Committee 'wastes' its time on matters which, properly, should be discussed only by the full Board?

I had read the new Manual interestedly before I had your letter. I think it an excellent publication and am glad it was so widely distributed. I know it has awakened interest among non-Institute practitioners. I compliment you on the thing, appearance and substance. Good work!

You ask me to write you, or hope I will, and I have at too great length, I fear, but I know well your interest in the Institute; I hope I have no less, though I cannot spend much time with it these days. I worry sometimes about its cohesive qualities. Serious conditions are present in some localities.. It looks as if a bad ruction is on the way in Southern California; Oregon Chapter is moribund, and not a friendly feeling exists between the men. Why not see that the Ex. Com. visit the whole Coast on its vsist next month? It would be a grand thing to do. It should be done in the interest of the Institute.

With kindest regards, Yours

(S)

*W. R. B. Willcox*

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*"unofficially", you may so regard this communication - W.R.B.*

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-8  
COPY

no 4.

(4)

COPY

August 12, 1925.

Dear Mr. Wilcox:-

Yours of August 7th is at hand this morning and I can understand very fully your point of view, the reasons for it, and your desire to safeguard the welfare of the Institute by means of complete representative government by the Board of Directors. While I still feel that the history of the past ten years shows exactly what you have in mind to have been at least 95% accomplished, the fact remains that technically the Executive Committee has all of the powers of the Board - except those disciplinary.

As you suggest, a remedy is readily available by amendment to the By-laws; or the alternative which I suggested, a modification of the delegation of power by the Board to the Executive Committee. Of course such delegation would have to be renewed each year by means of a formal resolution.

The thing which concerns me most in your letter is the reference to conditions on the Pacific Coast and the dissatisfaction with the Institute which seems to exist in some of the Chapters there.

I know that the President has in mind the calling of a meeting of the Board of Directors with the Washington State and Oregon Chapters in advance of the meeting in California. What his decision will be I do not know, but I would like very much if you would permit me to send the latter part of your letter of July 11 (the postscript); my response of July 17 (excluding the two paragraphs about travelling expenses) and your present letter of August 7, to the President for I am positive that he would welcome your discussion of this important thing and that your comments on the situation on the Coast would be helpful to him in arranging the Board schedule.

In fact it might be helpful to send the correspondence as a confidential matter to each member of the Executive Committee (Messrs. Waid, Garfield, Steele, Brown and Hammond). If this were done there would be time for these Officers and Directors to think over the situation and to have some discussion of it at the December meeting of the full Board of Directors.

COPY TO

FILES    PRESIDENT    SECRETARY    TREASURER

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

So much seems to be accomplished by bringing a problem of this kind under the combined thought of men charged with the leadership of the Institute and really devoted to its ideals. Let me know if I may follow this procedure, as at your direction.

With reference to a verbatim stenographic report of Directors meetings, there are two things to be considered.

1. Board meetings usually run about two days and one evening. The discussion is informal and on a friendly, confidential, man-to-man basis. The instant an official reporter is brought in the atmosphere changes. The Director speaking is less honest. He is talking for the record. An atmosphere of formality develops and there is a suppression which certainly does more harm than good, although it may save a little time. My judgment is that a verbatim stenographic report which would become available for examination by any member of the Institute would lessen the spirit of team work which usually exists at Board meetings, would suppress suggestions which are valuable or which lead to valuable suggestions and would increase the factor of organization politics.


For example, I think it would be most unfortunate to have a verbatim stenographic report of everything that was said at the Convention Board meeting during the discussion of the affairs of the Press; and during the discussion of the question of Fellowships.

I may be wrong in this position and am elastic enough to want to see it tried - and would work to that end, if you will take the initiative by addressing a communication to the Secretary asking that a stenographic report be ordered.

2. The item of cost is important. Now that the nine Directors are to visit their Chapters, with all expenses paid, and in view of the custom of holding Executive and Board meetings in distant parts of the country, every \$100.00 that can be saved is a great help. Without getting estimates, I believe a stenographic report would cost in the neighborhood of \$150.00 to \$200.00. As there are five meetings in all the total would be large.

Let me know your wishes about sending our the correspondence in confidential form, and looking forward to seeing you in December, I am,

Sincerely yours,

  
~~Executive Secretary~~

Mr. W. R. B. Wilcox,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

K:VB

COPY TO

FILES    PRESIDENT    SECRETARY    TREASURER

COPY

5 No 5.

W. R. B. WILLCOX---ARCHITECT 1272 KINCAID STREET---EUGENE, OREGON  
20-August-25

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS  
AUG 25 1925  
RECEIVED

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon House,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Kemper:

Certainly distribute my observations to the members of the Executive Committee, as you propose, if you think it desirable. The only objection I could possibly raise is to the errors of fact about past resolutions of the Board to the Committee, which your investigation uncovers. All I can say to that is that whether the limitation to 'routine business' was recorded, it certainly is my recollection that it was always clearly understood. I still feel that it should be a definite limitation. I have tried to find my old mimeographed copies of Board meetings to see if I could not find a resolution so worded, but have failed.

However, what do you think about this distribution being something of a case in point - why not make distribution to all Board members? This concerns important policy of the Institute and, if the Executive Committee, why not the Board, have acquaintance with the proposal? In such case, some Board members might be moved to express their views to the Committee by letter.

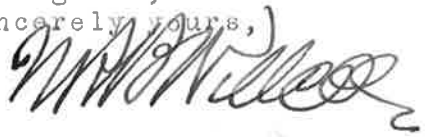
Your point about the stenographic record of Board sessions may be well taken. Your objections thereto are quite comprehensible. Whether things said in the privacy of unrecorded debate are always beneficial and truly constructive, or may at times be subversive of facts and the best interests of the Institute, is really the question, is it not? Definite responsibility for utterance is a great safeguard against introduction of the personal element. Your remarks, however, have, I believe, left my mind quite open on the subject.

I sincerely hope that sessions of the Board may be held with the Oregon and Washington Chapters. I trust it is not impertinent to offer a suggestion born of a similar experience when I was on the Board. After the Board's visit I heard considerable criticism because, it was said, the Board members did all the talking, instead of making of the meetings an opportunity to hear what views the men up and down this coast held of the Institute, its work and methods. They didn't want to be preached at, but to inform the Board - to supply it with illustrations of their own point of view. Times may have changed since then, but it might be wise to encourage that sort of a program,- what do you say?

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

(5)



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Plus

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

23 34  
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CONFIDENTIAL

*Recd*  
*For*  
*copies see*  
*minutes of the Bd -*  
*and Mr. Wilcox*  
*U.S.*

August 28, 1925.

To each Member of the  
Board of Directors.

Dear Sir:-

Mr. W. R. B. Wilcox, of the Oregon Chapter, and formerly a Director and Vice President of the Institute, has read with some concern the resolution in which the Board of Directors delegated its powers to the Executive Committee (see page 13 of the Minutes of the April meeting of the Board of Directors).

He has had some correspondence with the Secretary's office concerning the significance of this customary resolution, the question of stenographic reports of Board and Executive Committee meetings, and related matters, including the desirability of meetings of the Board with the Washington State and Oregon Chapters.

With his approval, and with the approval of President Waid, there is sent herewith to each of the Directors copies of the following letters:

- Mr. Wilcox to E. G. K. July 11th; E. G. K. to Mr. Wilcox, July 17th;
- Mr. Wilcox to E. G. K. August 7; E. G. K. to Mr. Wilcox, August 12th;
- Mr. Wilcox to E. G. K. August 20th.

The questions of delegation of power to the Executive Committee, and of stenographic reports of meetings, and Mr. Wilcox's letters will appear on the schedule of the meeting of the Board of Directors, to be held on the Pacific Coast on December 3-5.

President Waid has been giving personal attention to the question of meetings with Pacific Coast Chapters and information about this will come to you later.

There will be opportunity for a full discussion of these various matters at the December meetings of the Board. In the meantime the President suggests thoughtful consideration of the issues involved, and a free interchange of views among the Directors.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Copy also sent to Mr. Willcox.

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COPY TO

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# American Institute of Architects

## Inter-Office Communication

*File  
with Mr. Keller's letter  
about Payne Court  
and train K-*

Subject

From

To

Date

September 25, 1925

AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS  
SEP 26 1925  
RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Kemper:

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of  
September 23rd with its enclosures.

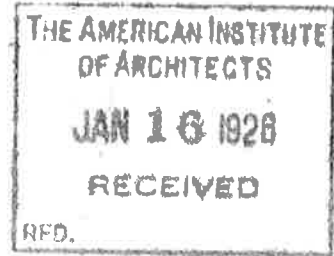
Sincerely yours,



W. R. B. WILLCOX---ARCHITECT 1272 KINCAID STREET---EUGENE, OREGON

10-January-26

E. L. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon House,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



Dear Kemper:

I seem to remember a note from you among those received during the holidays, though at the moment I am unable to find it. If not a note, I shall assume that you may have cast a thought in my direction. I wish you a Happy New Year. If you don't believe it, I want to demonstrate the fact. You, of course, are never happier than when explaining difficulties which beset the Institute, and smoothing out the rough places for it and its members - as well, I trust, for those who may wish to become members. I have an interesting letter which I wish you would comment upon, - copy inclosed.

I happen to know this chap. Have known him ever since I went to Seattle in 1908. Brought up in a family where interest was felt in the Arts, - his father was in the interior decorating business in New York, - some large and wellknown concern, - he was first connected with an architectural firm in Chicago (this fellow). There he developed an aptitude for architectural engineering, which after a while he engaged in on his own. Moving to Seattle about the time I did, he undertook to conduct such a business. I employed him on my work for the years I was there. He was competent, in my judgment. I never discovered him in any shady practices. I liked him then and like him now, and I doubt if, innocent as I may be, I could have been deceived throughout all those years of intimate contact.

He found comparatively little work to do for architects, - they got along as best they could without engineering assistance, and the work required little in most cases, since most of it was of such size as to make small difference in total costs. That is, a man could 'put in plenty' to be safe and not seriously increase structure costs. He chaffed under the fact that architects did not employ engineers. He began to take on architectural work, saying frankly that if he could'nt get engineering work from architects, he would have to get architectural work in order to do the engineering. I confess I did'nt blame him. His experience warranted him, I thought, in undertaking architectural work, and his buildings were every whit as satisfactory as many turned out by members of the Institute.

Naturally bright, he made head in the work. He has built up a large business. Architects - many of them good friends of mine, with whom I have had many arguments over his case - immediately complained that they would not employ him for engineering services 'if he was going to take architectural work'. You get the situation. So far as that employment went, the situation was no different; he had not been employed before by the very men who said that they would'nt employ him if he took on architectural work.

These friends of mine have repeated case after case

Kemper (2)

where he was accused of 'cutting rates', or practicing all kinds of chicanery. I finally got from them - on a trip to Seattle a year ago - what they claimed were definite evidence of his price-cutting proclivities. I went to him - he had been asking me how he could get into the Institute - and told him of what he was accused of doing. He called his bookkeeper and asked for his contracts. When brought he tossed the receptacle containing them across the table and said I could read any and all of them. I picked out the jobs referred to and read his contracts carefully. I was rather surprised to find that I had never seen stiffer contracts with respect to his remuneration, nor conditions generally. His standards of business were beyond criticism, so far as I could make out. I reported the result of my investigation and was met with the remark that his contracts might be alright but that did not prevent his having secret agreements with owners, which from my point of view is foolish. A man could not carry on a business, if to protect his reputation, he had in all cases to commit chicanery with every client, - clients would have something to say. One friend said that if this chap were admitted he would quit the Institute. There you go!

I went into the situation with respect to the Steel Co. which before he took to architecture he had organized in order to increase his income. It has, I believe, been successful, and gives many a chance to hang complaints upon him. Some of his contracts explicitly stated that his company would not supply steel on his work.

The fact is, I think, that jealousy, conscious or unconscious, animates much of the objection to him. I think he would be a man whom the Institute would, ordinarily, be glad to have as a member. Read his letter to me and tell me what perhaps I should know, how he can become a member? I do not think his Chapter would vote for him, and since I see that I have mentioned going to Seattle in this connection, I will say that the Chapter is my old one, the Washington State. I wish I had had this letter before your recent visit, - you might have made helpful inquiries. But for the present, I wish you would not refer the matter there. Later, it may seem best to initiate an inquiry.

Now, will this not contribute to the happiness of the New Year? I was so glad to have you out here. You will have a different idea of this part of the country I take it than you had before. I hope it will not be a worse one. Hope your visits south were to some purpose, and that conditions may improve there for the profession.

Yours as ever,  
WRB.

P.S. By the way, the man is a registered architect, under the law of the State of Washington. I urged that it could not be withheld since he was doing architectural work before the law went into effect. One of my best friends was on the examining Board and he has complained ever since that he wished he had not voted to pass him, but - y'understand, - it was my fault - he did it for me, - consarn him!



COPY:

December 22nd. 1925.

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

Dear Willcox:

Merry Christmas.

I would like to join the American Institute of Architects without being passed on by the Washington State Chapter, as I don't think I would have a Chinaman's chance at the hands of some of my competitors.

I feel the necessity of being identified with the Institute, because some of the fortunate ones who are members never lose an opportunity to point out the fact that I am not in the covenant on account of my lack of professional ethics.

As a matter of fact, Willcox, I have always tried to be as considerate as possible towards every one and still remain in business. Many criticisms have been made of my business ethics, but none of them can be proved.

Most of the criticism is directed against my association with the Washington Concrete Steel Company. However, it has always been my belief, and I am quite sure that I am correct, that as long as I keep the steel business separate from the architectural business, and not allow the company to furnish steel on buildings for which I have made the plans, there could be no conflict between good business and good ethics.

I have been accused of designing buildings and then redesigning them so that the steel could be furnished by our company at a handsome profit. I hope you realize that ~~xxx~~ such stuff is all untrue, but some people like to say it and others like to hear it.

I have no objection to associating with the local Chapter, but I haven't the courage to try and be turned down, as might be the case.

Your opinion and advice will be very much appreciated.

And a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Signed.

Regards to Mrs. Willcox and to Miss Porter.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

January 18, 1926.

Dear Mr. Willcox:-

I was glad to get your letter of January 10th, although it does contain a bit of a problem, and to have the opportunity to post you on the out-look as I see it for the architect and engineer who has been too successful in Washington State.

Theoretically there ought to be some way to get justice for him, but as old Grover Cleveland said "we are confronted with a condition and not a theory".

There are two things that prevent his election, or even consideration of his name by the Institute - unless he can get the approval of the Washington State Chapter.

The first of these is the long established custom that the Institute Board will not pass an applicant who is not satisfactory to the local group to which he would be assigned upon election. This is a sort of self-determination policy which the Washington State Chapter was not the least in building up. It is well established and no doubt has worked injustice in individual cases. In general it is a good thing.

The other stumbling block is the very definite procedure of the Board of Examiners which meets in Washington once a month and which is governed by general directions of the Board of Directors. Under this procedure an applicant must be approved by the Chapter to which he is to be assigned, and it has thirty days in which to register any objections; and under a new order, passed by the Board at the Los Angeles meeting, the application must bear a statement by the President or Secretary of the local Chapter acknowledging that he is aware officially of the pending application.

Of course this is not constructive. What I would like to do would be to find some way to help out the man you write about, but there is not any such way. His only chance is to get the approval of the Washington State Chapter.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Convention, and with best wishes and reaffirming the confidence which we both hold for the future of architecture, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

COPY TO K-G

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER  
P.S. (over)

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

- 2 -

P.S. - The trip to the Pacific Coast did me a world of good. It not only gave me a better and clearer point of view in Institute work but it made me a better American. I hope that the Portland men found some stimulation from the meetings with the Board. At least, the Board wanted to be helpful and to see eye to eye the difficulties with which the northwest is confronted. My impression of the whole journey is that it did a great deal of good and proves the old contention that one personal contact is worth a hundred letters.

I did think of you and Lawrence at Christmas time and send you cards from Atlanta on my way to spend Christmas with E. C. K. Jr. Please insist that he come with you to the Convention. This one is going to be really important.

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THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2 3  
COPY

*Files*

February 2, 1926.

Dear Mr. Wilcox:-

With reference to previous correspondence and your suggestion that a verbatim stenographic report be made of the proceedings of the Board meetings, I am writing to advise that at the meeting in December the suggestion was carefully considered.

No formal action was taken, but it was the sentiment of those present that the disadvantages of a stenographic report out-weigh certain obvious advantages.

The disadvantages having to do with the losses of informality and confidential exchange of ideas were considered important. Furthermore, there would be invariably requests for executive sessions during which time the reporting would be suspended. This would result in a record which would not contain everything said - and therefore incomplete like present records.

Trusting you will agree with the wisdom of the above, and

By direction of the Acting Secretary,

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. R. B. Wilcox,  
764 Mill Race Drive,  
Eugene, Oregon.

K:S }  
Copies sent to CC3.  
& E. F. Lawrence }

Copy of a letter sent from office Zantzinger, Borie & Medary



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS  
FEB 17 1926  
RECEIVED

February 16, 1926.

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox,  
764 Mill Race Drive,  
Eugene, Ore.

My dear Mr. Willcox,

Last night I read your remarks addressed to the Board of Directors of the Institute and the members of the Oregon Chapter, dated December 5th, 1925, - Kemper having sent me his copy.

I am writing to you for permission to publish your remarks, either in whole or in part, and over your signature, in connection with the Secretary's Page in the April number of the Journal.

I believe that what you have to say is essentially editorial matter that should come before the Profession on the Secretary's Page, in the hope that it may be read and bring out discussion of the very important points raised.

I am not sure that the editor of the Journal will allow all the space which would be required for the publication of the whole speech. There are perhaps certain parts that could be left out but I like the whole so much that I do not wish to attempt to edit it. How do you feel about it? Will you help me?

Sincerely yours,

C. C. Zantzinger,  
Acting Secretary.

J

CC Mr. Kemper

Seen Post  
W. R. B. WILLCOX--ARCHITECT 1272 KINCAID STREET--EUGENE, OREGON

21-February-26

RECEIVED

FEB 26 1926

ZANTZINGER, BORIE & MERRAY

Mr. C. C. Zantzinger,  
112 South Sixteenth Street,  
PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Zantzinger:

Yours of the sixteenth just reached me last evening. I think it would be worth while if the attention of the Institute membership could be directed to the points raised in my spiel before the Portland Chapter and the Directors there present, and I am agreeable to its publication in whole or in part as you folks may think best.

While a casual reading might persuade one that I advocate definitely, methods mentioned in the paper by way of illustration, I am not convinced of ~~of~~ their efficacy myself, but I do feel that a fresh reconsideration of practices which have become fixtures in our thinking would well be worth while. My whole purpose was to jar us loose from old, and perhaps by now, outworn habits of thought.

My aim, I think, was in the right general direction, but that I had the final, particular target in view, I trust I may still be permitted to doubt.

With pleasant recollections of your visit to the Coast, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Secret z

D. EVERETT WAID, PRESIDENT, NEW YORK  
ABRAM GARFIELD, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT, CLEVELAND  
WILLIAM L. STEELE, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT, SIOUX CITY, IOWA



C. C. ZANTZINGER, ACTING SECRETARY, PHILADELPHIA  
WILLIAM B. ITTNER, TREASURER, ST. LOUIS, MO.  
EDWARD C. KEMPER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 26, 1926.

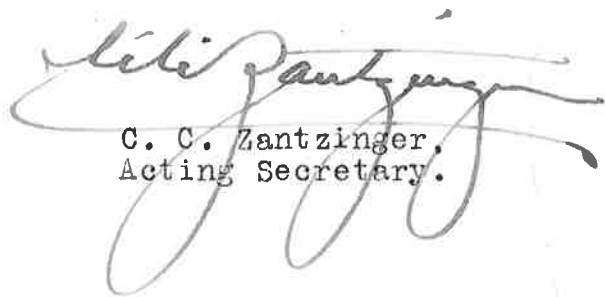
Mr. E. C. Kemper,  
The Octagon House,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kemper,

As one of the matters to be considered by the Executive Committee, I wish to suggest the publication in the Journal of Mr. Willcox's paper, delivered at the Oregon Chapter Meeting when the Board of Directors were present. Let me know if you have a copy; otherwise I shall bring mine along.

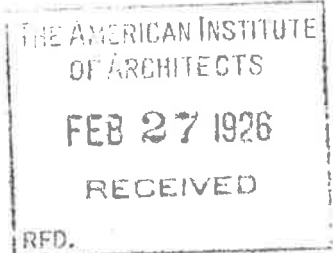
Mr. Willcox has expressed his willingness in his letter which I enclose.

Very truly yours,

  
C. C. Zantzinger,  
Acting Secretary.

J

Enclosure



# American Institute of Architects

## Inter-Office Communication

23

*Mark E. P.*

Subject *add*

From

To

Date

E. C. K.

Mr. Zantzinger

2-27-28

Dear Mr. Zantzinger-

Responding to yours of the 26th, I have one copy of Mr. Willcox's paper and will bring it to the Executive meeting. Please bring your copy also.

Sincerely yours,

K:VB



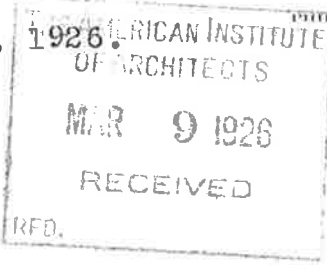
OFFICE OF  
ZANTZINGER, BORIE & MEDARY  
ARCHITECTS

G. C. ZANTZINGER  
C. L. BORIE, JR.  
M. B. MEDARY, JR.  
FEALA

112 SO. 16TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

*File*

March 8, 1926



Mr. E. C. Kemper,  
The Octagon House,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kemper,

Mr. Zantzinger instructs me to return to you the enclosed copy (your file copy) of the famous "Willcox Paper", our own copy having now come to light, and to thank you for letting him borrow it.

Very truly yours,

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Secretary to Mr. Zantzinger.

J  
Ebel.

File Under Principles of Practice  
DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE AND MEMBERS OF THE OREGON CHAPTER

That what I have to say may not be thought to be result of personal pique, or momentary annoyance with the Institute, I have undertaken a written statement of what, it seems to me, are persistent obstacles in the path of the Institute to entire respect of the public - that public we are always hoping to win to an appreciation of our altruism and importance, - and the entire loyalty and admiration of its members.

I do not intend to speak about fees, as such, nor competitions - age-old subjects of more or less acrimonious debate - about which diversity of opinion may be taken as a permanent condition. I do not intend to speak about particular troubles of any member, from which, as directing authority of the Institute, I expect you to extricate him, or upon whom I seek to have you impose a penalty.

I would like to shift attention from present ways and means of handling professional issues, to the broader field of the effectiveness of the machinery in vogue. Within the profession of architecture many and rapid changes are taking place in the ideas of men as to what things are desirable to improve certain conditions. For some time the Institute has been using machinery set up long ago, and settlement of new issues by it is not undertaken with a confident spirit. It may be that - as often happens - our old rules and regulations have become a sort of dogma - are treated as axiomatic principles from which all reasoning properly proceeds, whereas the situation suggests a look at the bases of our present formulae.

By way of illustration, ten or a dozen years ago the reasonableness of having representation on the Board of Directors distributed about the country was accepted and a proposal for Regional Districts and Regional Directors was approved, as a step towards securing representation of national scope. In operation, however, the Institute in convention decides upon who in a given district shall represent the Institute on the Board of Directors.

The machinery produces a man from a certain district to represent the Institute on the Board, while democratic machinery would produce a man from a certain district, nominated and elected by that district, to represent its own professional viewpoint under instructions to the Board of Directors, as delegates may be instructed by Chapters to present Chapter views to conventions.

This new machinery, however, involves and requires Regional conventions. Regional conventions are possible and may be something more than fiction where Regions are geographically restricted, but where they embrace wide areas, such as are now allotted to some Regions, they become little more than a joke. Regional District No. 8, which includes Oregon, extends from Alaska to New Mexico. If we omit far off Alaska, it reaches from the Canadian border to Texas. District No. 7, reaches from Georgia and Florida to the western boundary of Texas. That such widespread territories can constitute a district of anything like common thought in connection with treatment of local profession conditions is absurd; and to think that the whole Institute membership is equipped to select a Director sufficiently informed to represent the viewpoints of the various sections of such a district, seems to me to be equally absurd.

The present situation naturally raises the whole subject of the theory of Institute government. Should it be still more democratic? If so, - and I am aware of arguments in opposition to the idea, - there must come replacements in

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our present machinery. Democratic government is founded upon local self-government. Local self-government awakens a live interest in local conditions, since rules under which a community lives are of its own creation, and are not imposed by some, seemingly, outside authority. It is all very well for us to remind ourselves that we, ourselves, are the Institute, but the subconscious idea prevails, that the Institute is some outside authority afar off. I am not speaking of the feeling that we, at the western edge of the country may, quite naturally have, but of that which many individuals in the east and middle west have indicated to me that they also have.

Those who feel thus complain that they are expected to abide by rules and regulations which - whatever may be said to the contrary - do not help to improve conditions in the profession locally, and which have been enacted by the majority of the Institute membership which happens to live in centers of large population. Such and such is the edict of the Institute; if it does not fit our conditions, so much the worse for us; we will have to wait for the ten or twenty years to pass which shall bring us abreast of conditions enjoyed by more advanced communities.

Now, upon what theory have our rules and regulations been built? Upon a theory of professional conduct which is conceived of as arbitrarily right or wrong everywhere, regardless of the youth or age of various sections within its sway: regardless of a varying degree of so-called culture, enlightenment of publics, economic conditions, or anything else. What constitutes proper conduct differs in the minds of people in different localities. Where a law is enacted by mistakenly delegated authority, - a law felt by many to be unreasonable, or inapplicable, it will be disregarded. If you doubt it, I need but mention disregard for the prohibition amendment to the national Constitution. Many regard imposition of what they believe to be a limitation of freedom as worse than absence of any explicit law, & that disregard of it leads to disregard of all laws. Thus, an explicit rule or law of professional conduct, which many may accept as inoperative, will be disregarded if consequences of violation can be avoided. It is, therefore, the consequences of violation that must be made certain.

Are they certain today? Everywhere one hears of violations of rules of conduct by this or that individual. He cuts rates, he submits free sketches, he enters questionable competitions, he tries to get work where another architect is being considered, he disparages another architect in his own interest. I speak not of conditions here-about only, but of those which the retailed experiences of man east and west indicates to be more or less general.

The machinery which is supposed to work to stop such unprofessional practices is our judicial system; our system of explicit and individually brought charges of misconduct in connection with some definite rule of conduct. It requires of individuals the personal accusation of another and the submission of conclusive evidence, which, from service on the Institute judiciary committee, I judge to be next to impossible. The natural hesitancy to accuse - a most lovely trait of humans, - the infrequency of convictions, the unavoidable delay in reaching decisions on the part of men delegated to the unpleasant task of trying a fellow-architect and who have no lively concern with the immediate effects of their decision, prevent charges being made, where well they might be. Members, I have ample reason to believe, have withdrawn from the Institute for no reason, other than disgust at the failure of Institute machinery to produce the results aimed at by its use. To start it, a man must take upon himself the sure personal enmity of a fellow, by attempting to bring him to judgment, which, I am sure he will seldom do unless aroused by sense of great personal injury. Our machinery is calculated to operate only with personal anger,

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jealousy, pride, or loss as energizers, and I take it that they are not nice energizers of human conduct.

But more, - if once started, the outcome is a mess of counter-accusation, of vindictive gossip, and general disruption of friendly relations where the thing is tried. I have known of incidences where whole Chapters have been thrown into what was little less than civil war over such a matter, and the effects upon the profession have not been dissipated for years. The fact of its tardy utilization and the harmful consequences of its operation, strikes me as sufficient evidence that our machinery does not work as it should, or as it is expected to work, for the good of the whole profession.

What we should desire and seek, is machinery which will operate to strengthen the Institute in every sort of community, - increase its numbers, by making membership a thing to be prized; a power for good in every community and a power to be feared by any who, because of inertness of present machinery, are willing to take chances in conduct, so long as they may profit personally thereby.

We should desire and seek machinery which would tend to arouse live interest in the profession, in high professional conduct, - which would cause Chapters to feel that they are custodians of professional conduct in their own territories, - that it is up to them to jealously guard it in order to build up public respect for the profession of architecture. Sense of this responsibility seems lacking today. An architect said to me not long ago: "A man cannot bring charges against a whole chapter because every one in it makes free sketches and cuts rates if the situation seems to demand it; all he can do is to do likewise or starve. 'When with the Romans, do as the Romans do'". Such a point of view, I think, arises from the feeling that the Institute's pronouncements are not adapted for universal application, and that it is wise, nay, necessary at times to ignore them and to forget about disciplining anybody.

The machinery creaks. One of the wheels in the machinery is the final authority in disciplinary matters of local concern now vested in the committees and officers of the national body, exercised in accordance with rules which are subversive of effective discipline. Instead of continuing membership in the Institute being based upon the probable - and perhaps, laudable - unwillingness of men to bring personal charges against another; upon the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory proof of unprofessional conduct; upon appreciation of the deterrent effect which the unavoidably slow processes of the Institute has upon a possible accuser; instead of present rules of procedure, it might be worth while to consider what might be accomplished for good by mere weight of public opinion.

Suppose continuing membership in the Institute were dependent upon an architect sustaining a general reputation for honorable practice in accordance with the Code of Ethics? If a man made a practice of cutting rates to obtain a commission, if he made a practice of submitting free sketches, if he made a practice of entering improper competitions, if he made a practice of disparaging fellow-architects, if he connected himself with business prejudicial to the position an architect should occupy, if he made a practice of any of the things which are regarded as professionally improper, let there be provision whereby, by a vote of so large a majority of of his Chapter brothers - or any authorized subdivision thereof - as would discount intrigue or substantial error, he could be ousted from the Institute, without explicit charges, without attempted proofs, without trial, without appeal. Such action would amount to professional ostracism and the sufferer could not plead personal and individual enmity as a cause of his plight.

COPY TO

FILES    PRESIDENT    SECRETARY    TREASURER

-4-

I have been led to believe that a certain prominent architect might have been so ostracised by a large eastern Chapter, could a vote have been had upon the wholesomeness of his general professional reputation, long before the courts found him guilty of worse than unprofessional conduct, and that his membership was the cause of refusal of better men to come into the Institute.

I believe such a remedy would do much to cure the Institute of some of the worst ills which afflict it; that it would bring into the Institute many good men, that it would increase the respect of many young practitioners, who excuse themselves for lax practice by the example of Institute members of unsavory reputation, that it would quicken Chapter interest in professional matters, that it would help to produce conditions which any honorable man desires for himself - conditions in which high professional conduct obtains. The great rank and file of the membership would have naught to fear, while to those who, for personal gain, cared to risk acquirement of a shady reputation, professional ostracism would be none to severe a penalty.

In offering this statement, I hope to open to frank discussion throughout the Institute, our present, universally accepted formulae of government and procedure with respect to Regional Districts and Directors, final disciplinary authority as vested in committees and the officers of the national body, and present rules of judicial procedure.

W.R.B. Willcox,  
Portland, Oregon.  
5 - December - 25.

S

W. R. B. WILLCOX---ARCHITECT 1272 KINCAID STREET---EUGENE, OREGON

18-April-27

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



*File  
Bryant*

Dear Mr. Kemper:

Just for fun I inclose the postal cards received some time ago. I could'nt make the date required even by Air Mail, and it did'nt matter anyway, since the information you had was all right. I wonder how the rest of the membership on the Pacific Coast made out? It's the same old difficulty, -it takes ten days for a round trip of mail, including the time it takes to frame a letter on most subjects involved. We are a long ways off.

Makes me think of the Octagon Building Committee business. The brochure arrived, -I notice it is the work of the Committee, but some of us knew nothing more about it than that the Chairman was to prepare a statement. Was it circulated to the membership entire, or only to committeemen and Chapter officers? To my mind, -and i have so expressed myself to the Chairman, -it would be a mistake to try to obtain final action at this convention, so long as the membership as a whole know so little about the situation as was evidenced at a meeting of the Portland Chapter. The brochure does not give a true indication of the strong opposition of an earnest minority, -how large, I do not know, - to certain features of the program as it has been developed to date. To speak frankly, there is an impression in some quarters that the program, including Assembly Hall, is going to 'railroaded' through, because of the lack of all information by Chapters, whose members may vote under the enthusiasm of the moment at the convention. My own view is that the subject should have been presented through our JOURNAL, or else that a pro and con statement be printed for circulation to every member. There would seem to me to be no other way, if a fair consid eration is to be given the matter.

In that connection, there is another point of much importance as I see it. Casual reference was made in a letter of the Chairman to the probability of a meeting of members of the committee who were conveniently near together, to consider the business, before the general, or full committee could meet.

If you cared to refer back to a parallel situation, when it was intimated that it would not be necessary for Board members from the Coast and other distant pnts to attend Board meetings, you will find that such a proceeding was disposed of for good, as I hope. I was on the Board at that time and had something to do with that business. I believe correspondence between Mr. Mauran, who was, as I remember, Treasurer, at that time, and myself, must be on file in the Octagon. You don't need to refer to it to get the point. Involved in it is the status of distant constituents of the Institute. They are either full-fledged members in equal standing and bearing equal responsibilities, or they are not, and any doubt of

which it is should be removed once and for all.

I have no objection to a committee deciding the matter of delegating power and authority to any certain number of its membership, but for any few of that committee to decide such a matter without consultation with all, is to assume an authority with which they have never been clothed.

If you should think that this is captious criticism of an unimportant possibility, I would like to say that while such practices may continue for some time without objection being raised, they are bound to create dissatisfaction. It was just such disregard of membership rights and responsibilities that led to the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast along about 1910, which brought the President and Vice President of the Institute (Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Pond) hurrying out here to quiet an unrest which was culminating in a separate organization and withdrawal from the Institute. Whether that would have followed I cannot, of course, say, but there were many who were sick unto the death of the attitude of many of the eastern members, that they - because they were conveniently located near together - were the Institute. The outcome of that squabble is to be found in Regional Directors and equalization of expenses to Conventions and all that, with which I had something to do.

From interviews and correspondence, I think I sense a feeling of apprehension among many Institute members, that that sort of consideration is not being shown to divergent views and interests of members everywhere, which is the very foundation of a satisfied and loyal personnel. This last, I feel is more important than putting through any particular program, because thus may the real, honest, opinion of the membership be had, and apathy follows the promulgation of views by a few when represented as being the voice of all.

You see I got started and so I have discussed matters with which I should have troubled Baldwin, instead of you, but if you will please let him have a look at it, it will be all right with me and I hope with him.

Just now I hope to get to the Convention, but cannot finally decide for a couple of weeks.

With kind regards,

Yours truly,

WRB.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-13  
COPY

April 27, 1927.

Dear Mr. Willcox:

Yours of April 18th:

Please excuse a brief response because we are in the midst of pre-Convention work.

I know that the return date on the Annuary cards did not really give enough time to the Pacific Coast members. In fact we waited almost ten days after March 10th in order not to do an injustice.

We do try very hard at The Octagon, in <sup>all</sup> ~~many~~ of the communications which are issued, to give ample time for the Pacific Coast members. In fact, since my visit to the coast, more than a year ago, I never fail to think of the Chapters out there and the handicap which distance imposes upon them. Now and then the time limit does not work out as it should, and when that happens we tack on enough time at the end.

You can depend upon me always to see that the Pacific Coast is not slighted. For me it is just as integral a part of the organization as is the Atlantic Coast.

With regard to The Octagon brochure, I believe it would be better if I turned your letter over to Mr. Baldwin. He is familiar with all of the facts and can respond more freely than I.

With best regards and looking forward to seeing you at the Convention, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

K-G

COPY TO

FILES    PRESIDENT    SECRETARY    TREASURER



W. R. B. WILLCOX--ARCHITECT 1272 KINCAID STREET--EUGENE, OREGON

1-August-29

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary, A.I.A.  
The Octagon, WASHINGTON, D. C.



Dear Kemper:

Do I get a copy of the 'Proceedings'- and when?

Hope you are enjoying the hot weather at some cool beach. Or do you prefer the mountains? Ofcourse, this being the celebrated Pacific Northwest, we never have it hot - oh no!- only about 90 for a day or two, but, to be fair, that's 'unusual', for the most of the time it is 'just right'- comfortable for a Palm Beach during the day and calling for a blanket o' nights.

Give my kindest regards to Baldwin and believe me,

As ever, truly yours,

WRB.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

August 15, 1929.

Dear Mr. Willecox:

Please pardon the delay in responding to yours  
of August 1st.

The Proceedings should be ready by the end of  
the month and we will send you a copy, without fail.

We are much depressed here by the death of Mr.  
Medary. His passing is a great loss to the whole  
country, as well as to the architectural profession,  
and the Institute.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. W. R. B. Willecox,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

K/MEY

COPY TO

FILES    PRESIDENT    SECRETARY    TREASURER

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

W. R. B. WILLCOX--ARCHITECT 1272 KINGAID STREET--EUGENE, OREGON

18--January--30

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Kemper:

This from an old stager! Casting my eye over the Institute business noted in the December Octagon, a certain tendency has awakened apprehension for the highest welfare of the organization; just straws that tell the way the wind is blowing.

Revision of Constitution and By-laws: I do not have a copy of the present Constitution and By-laws at hand, but such a comprehensive redraft of these documents would not be put before the convention for action, in the form of the 'full report' mentioned, before every member, at least every Chapter, had ample time for thorough consideration and criticism?

Committee Reports-Procedure: The April meeting of the Board 'directed' that committee reports were to be left entirely at its disposal. I think power to suppress reports, which inheres in such a ruling, is bad business, whether it were ever so used or not.

The 'lack of continuity' in Committee work is troublesome and, of course, inefficient to a degree, but could that not be corrected without a 'continuity of personnel' which promotes a dead conservatism against a perfectly free injection of new ideas?

Annuary and Proceedings-Distribution: I do not think \$1,100 is a saving to be sought against the loss of contact with the Institute which the mere receipt of those documents by every member, whether he thinks he wants them, or will read them if received, must occasion. Many a man who might say he did'nt care for them, would undoubtedly look them through if received and be impressed, at least, with the importance of the work the Institute is engaged upon. How does he know whether or not he would like a copy?

With the JOURNAL gone, Committee reports in a position to be discontinued, and the merest allusion to Institute business contained in the Octagon, and only partial distribution of the Proceedings, what is shortly to remain to interest the great rank and file of members, who never get to conventions, in the Institute? And yet, I notice the recurring purpose to increase membership! Just tell men they should belong to their professional organization? That the Institute is doing great work?

I am aware that the motive for becoming a member of the Institute is in the best sense, to be in a position to do something more effectively for his profession, but many men want evidence of possible benefits to themselves and are not impressed with the indirect, almost impersonal benefits which flow from it.

The things I have mentioned are all in the direction of curtailment of evidence of contact with the Institute,-the increased centralization

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

Mr. Kemper (2)

of authority and information in the hands of the Board, a small number, all in the name of efficiency and economy. Have these things a broadening, vivifying influence? Why, I should say that for increasing membership, for instilling loyalty and pride in the membership, for spreading broadcast the feeling that every responsible architect must, due to his position in his community, be a member, nothing, within the range of possibility so far as such things are concerned, could be done more effectively than by an increased distribution of the Proceedings, of Committee reports, -not only to every member, but to every possible candidate for membership. What better publicity than to let every member, every possible candidate for membership, and through them their friends and acquaintances, have such evidence of the important work the Institute is organized to perform? Today, outside of Chapters, the Institute is scarcely known, and even by those in allied businesses it is but a mythical institution about which, and its work and accomplishments, they know nothing. And this holds true for many within the organization.

So much in Committee reports and, surely, in the Proceedings, -there is so much which is of interest to many laymen, in no way connected with the building business, that their more general distribution would 'advertise' the Institute and its truly important undertakings as few other things would do. Instead, a growing curtailment of all such visible evidence of it and its work is gradually brought about!

Don't we make a terrible potter about having the name of the architect appear under the picture of a building of his in the papers? About notices that such and such Chapter met and discussed this and that? And depriving even a small part of the public of information of what we really are, what doing, and even large numbers of the membership itself?

However, I suppose it is all a sign of the times; centralization and efficiency as against the live interest of every member, the informed desire of every responsible architect to become a member, and the genuine awareness of the public to our existence and to the importance of our service to it. But we should be very sure that our efficiency is real and not simply a form and method of procedure. Is it desirable that we follow the rapid strides our government is taking in the direction of Socialism, socialistic authority and socialistic controls? Despite all, I still believe in the health and efficacy of a genuine democracy.

Now, I have got all this out of my system, -I trust it has not bored you overmuch, -if there are any who might be interested in a certain point of view among your Institute acquaintances, I should be glad to have their views to correct, shall I say? my own.

With kindest regards and the seasons best wishes to you, I am,

Yours truly,  
WRB.

W. R. B. WILLCOX---ARCHITECT 1272 KINCAID STREET--EUGENE, OREGON

26-June-30

Mr. E. M. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Kemper:

I want very much to have Mr. Kenneth Hamaker, a student of mine for the past four years, to meet you and have you take time off to show him over the Octagon, and do what you are so well equipped to do, reveal the Institute to him in all its Glory.

I am sure you will be glad to do this, as well as to assist him, a stranger to Washington, in such little ways as he might ask,-- I know him to be reasonably modest in his demands.

Lest you or Baldwin be away, I am writing both of you for Hamaker, and I shall venerate you for any favors to him.

Sincerely yours,



Introducing Mr. Kenneth Hamaker.

August 24, 1951.

Dear Mr. Willcox:

I have recently had the pleasure of a visit from one of your students, Mr. Kenneth Hamaker.

We did not talk much about the Institute, but we did talk much about the success which you are having with the School of Architecture at Oregon, and about a lot of other new things which we found mutually interesting.

We also talked about Juniorship, and Mr. Hamaker says that he will be in line next year for the affiliation.

It was a pleasure to have him come in, and I hope you will not fail to send to the Octagon any of your students who are in the East.

Will also look forward to seeing you <sup>in person</sup> personally at the time of the next Convention.

The dates are April 27, 28 and 29, and the place is Washington, D. C.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

ECK\*B

W. R. B. WILLCOX---ARCHITECT---1272 KINCAID STREET---EUGENE, OREGON

7--January--33

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon, WASHINGTON, D. D.



Dear Kemper:

Inclosed is check for my dues for 1933.

I have not as yet had time to hear from all of my old committee group, but will probably do so before long, when I can make definite announcement to Mr. Russell.

Before we have time to make our report, however, it may be that the "Technocrats" will have us! How the population do seize upon anything that is vague and is set forth in unintelligible language, - unintelligible to them, that is.

I suppose that group have very definite ideas but do not feel that the time is here to make them clear to the common run of mortals. They should not hold off too long, because we have'nt much time to wait. They sure have thrown a scare into many of our whilom leaders, however, which should have some effect. They, or somebody has scared our State legislature to such an extent that they met in special session and adjourned, not daring to do a thing, which, too, may be a good thing, because they promised to shut up the University and College and three normal schools. But, -with wishes for a less foggy 1933, I am,

As ever,

WRB.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

23  
COPY

January 16, 1933.

Dear Mr. Willcox:

This is a brief note to acknowledge yours of the 7th and check covering 1933 dues.

We will look forward, in due course, to receiving from you or from Mr. Russell the personnel of the Special Committee on Taxation.

I think the smartest thing the technocrats did was to pick out the word, "technocracy."

Einstein's "relativity" is another good illustration.

How we earthworms do love the mysterious - and how blind we are to that which is simple and obvious!

However, this technocracy stuff may be just the kind of yeast that is needed, and I am for anything that encourages either thinking or action.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox, Chairman,  
Committee on Taxation, A.I.A.,  
1212 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

ECK\*B



W. R. B. WILLCOX---ARCHITECT---1272 KINCAID STREET---EUGENE, OREGON

8--May--35

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon, WASHINGTON, D. C.



Dear Kemper:

Thanks for forwarding Mr. Brett's request for a copy of the little old 1932 report. I wrote him as per your suggestion. His comment that it was a "fundamental document" was a fresh repetition of similar comment from many another. I'm almost persuaded to think that, perhaps, it is!

No, I'm not coming to Milwaukee, despite the fact that I should like to see some of my old friends who may be there, -but they pass on, do they not?

It should be great sport to witness the jamboree over the Code, NRA, etc., etc., which have nothing to do with understanding why buildings are not being built, which I never cease to wonder is a subject which seems not to interest architects, although it seems to interest a lot of other people.

Incidentally, I'm dead against this enlargement of the Institute. A small concerted voice, I feel, will do more to influence the standards of the profession, than having numbers, which will constitute the Institute merely a cross section of the populace. I'll be sorry to see this action taken, but I suppose it is in the cards; some have an idea that numbers are more effective, whatever they stand for, than higher ideals which a few will make sacrifices to sustain. However, it is a time of change, so there's no hope for it, I imagine.

But why, with the NRA taking its last plunge, should the Institute get mixed up with it? Or, does the rank and the file of the profession, as represented by Institute membership, intend to boost for a Fascist regime?

What a fine time Magonigle is having stirring the brethren to take pot shots at anything that shows its head, - Registration, Education, Modern Art, and each other! But, - what else is there to do - there's no business!

Tell my friend Harry Cunningham, that though I don't see why he should want to take on the burdens of the Secretaryship, I'd be tickled to vote for him.

Please perceive my good humor in this. I'm as happy as a man may be, considering he has too much to do, and observes the sufferings of too many good fellows.

Cordially yours,

WRB.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

23  
COPY

May 16, 1938

Dear Mr. Willcox:

The disappointing thing about your letter of May 8th is the statement that you are not going to be at the Convention.

I have no idea what the fate of the proposed unification amendments will be. The issue has become highly controversial - and that usually means delay or compromise.

We will try to give you a clear picture of the Convention in the pages of the June Octagon, and to that end have asked Harry Cunningham to write his "impressions", and am hoping that Ripley will do the same thing.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

K/G

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox, F.A.I.A.,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

W. R. B. WILLCOX---ARCHITECT---1272 KINCAID STREET---EUGENE, OREGON

27--August--35

M. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon, 18th and New York Avenue,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Kemper:

Are you too busy with affairs of state -  
or the Institute - to show my young friend, Paul  
Richardson, through The Octagon?

You should be especially good to him,  
because his father, Paul Richardson, is junior part-  
ner of our former Director, A. H. Albertson, of  
Seattle.

Young Richardson is planning to go to  
school to me, one of these days, and is travelling  
through the east and south, seeing all he can of  
the work of the cream of the profession.

It will be a pleasure, and an honor,  
too, to meet you who have stood at the helm of the  
Institute for so many years; then, he may be a  
future secretary of a chapter, who knows!

Any courtesies at your hands will be  
sincerely appreciated by another past-director,

Yours sincerely,  
WRB.

P.S. When are we architects going to do something  
to really help ourselves? Or, am I to believe that  
that is none of our business? What fun we could  
have doing it!

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

October 2, 1935.

Dear W. R. B.:

It was a pleasure this morning to get your note of introduction of August 27th - presented by Paul Richardson.

I thoroughly enjoyed his visit, we found a number of things in common, and I sent you a message - with particular reference to the 1936 Convention.

Sincerely yours,

P. S. Apparently milestones for architects, like those for humanity, are ten miles apart.

ECK\*B

Mr. W. R. B. Wilcox, F.A.I.A.,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

W. R. B. WILLCOX--- ARCHITECT --- 1272 KINCAID STREET --- EUGENE, OREGON

6--January--37

Mr. E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary  
The American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon, WASHINGTON, D. C.



Dear Kemper:

Belated greetings of the season and check for my dues.

Don't repeat the following to any one whose feelings might be hurt, but how in the devil did the Board come to think that the elaborate advertising of the "Book-keeping for Architects" -- or whatever it was called -- was worth the money it must have cost in this day and age of small incomes?

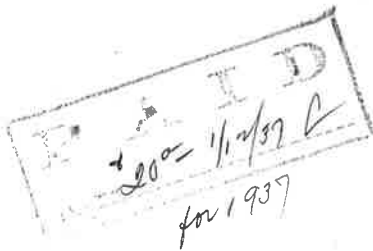
From remarks I have heard among several young architects, I judge that it, nor the prospect of requiring such an elaborate system of accounts to keep on living, was good advertising for young architects, or rather for the Institute, so far as they are concerned.

Life seems hard enough for many of them without having their attention called to such unsuspected difficulties ahead of them in the practice of the profession.

I hopefully trust that my comment will not disturb you, because, really, I am not desperately unhappy about it -- in fact, it brings a chuckle to my soul. Life, in parts, is just that funny!

With the very best of wishes for the New Year,  
I am,

Cordially,  
WRB.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

*File*

January 14, 1937.

Dear Mr. Willcox:

Responding to that portion of your letter of January 6, with regard to the brochure advertising the Accounting System, we must assume full responsibility here.

The Board thoroughly considered the Manual and the Accounting Forms, endorsed them as Institute documents, and placed upon the office of The Secretary at The Octagon the duty of putting the Manual and the forms before the profession.

It seemed to us that this should be done in the best way, and the only feasible way, which was to visualize the whole Accounting System to the Architect.

The illustrated brochure does that and we believe that in the long run it will justify the expense, and will establish the Accounting System in the offices of many architects.

When that day comes, the profession will have definite information on the costs of the Architect and his profits (if any). It does not have that information now, or any approach to it.

I hope there will be an opportunity to supplement the above at the coming Institute Convention, in Boston, during the first week in June. Why not renew old Institute friends and make this New England party? It will be a grand one.

Sincerely yours,

ECK\*B

Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox, F.A.I.A.,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

COPY TO  
FILES

PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER

W. R. B. WILLCOX --- ARCHITECT --- 1272 KINCAID STREET --- EUGENE, OREGON

11--January--38



*File*

American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Kemper:

My kindest remembrances at this time of the year.

Sincerely,  
WRB.

**PAID**  
DATE 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1938  
1-17-38

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30

13

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

August 15, 1940

Dear Mr. Willcox:

We are in receipt of your application for retirement and election as a Member Emeritus of The Institute.

Your application will be submitted to The Board of Directors of The Institute at its semi-annual meeting in November or December for consideration and action.

As soon thereafter as possible you will be advised of the action taken.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox, F.A.I.A.,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Portland, Oregon.

K/g



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

August 15, 1940

Dear Mr. Tucker:

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox, a Member and Fellow of The Institute assigned to the Oregon Chapter, has filed an application for retirement and election as a Member Emeritus, which would have the effect of exempting him from the payment of further dues to The Institute and the chapter.

Mr. Willcox' dues to The Institute are paid for 1940. Will you please let us know whether his chapter dues are paid for the current year, also?

The application will be submitted to The Board of Directors of The Institute at its semi-annual meeting in November or December for consideration and action.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary

Mr. Ernest Tucker, Secretary,  
Oregon Chapter, A.I.A.,  
1938 N. W. Irving Street,  
Portland, Oregon.

K/g

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

*Willcox*

*Ernest Tucker*

September 4, 1940

Dear Mr. Tucker:

We thank you for your prompt response to our letter of August 15, informing us that the dues of Mr. W. R. B. Willcox are paid for the current year.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary

Mr. Ernest Tucker, Secretary  
Oregon Chapter, A.I.A.  
1938 N. W. Irving Street  
Portland, Oregon

K/fs

W. R. B. WILLCOX---ARCHITECT---1272 KINCAID STREET---EUGENE, OREGON

4--January--41

Mr. E. C. Kemper  
The Octagon  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

P E R S O N A L.

Dear Kemper:

Just a line to thank you for the thought which prompted sending me the Christmas card; I appreciate it, and think you a very kind gentleman. I might say, also, that notice of my elevation or demotion, whichever it is, to member emeritus, arrived a few days ago; which is much more warmly received than the usual bill! I'm glad to feel that my check less will not seriously inconvenience the Institute!

This year I distributed to the students my twelfth annual Christmas card, got out for their particular interest -- usually a "preachment" of purport for the susceptible -- and would send you one were my stock not depleted. In place of such, I think I will inclose a copy of a letter to one of this State's congressmen which should amuse you for a minute -- the thought that I still ride my hobby as persistently as ever. Well, one might have a much less worthy steed, I believe you will agree. By the way, did I ever mention that somebody sent Fortuny's publishers, Inc., a copy of my little book which they asked to put out commercially? In the face of my expressing wonder at their idea such a book would sell in sufficient numbers to pay them for publishing it, they have brought it out under the new title, THE CURSE OF MODERN TAXATION, with quite highfalutin encomiums on the jacket, rather embarrassing to one so modest!

But with sincere wishes for your peace of mind and reasonable comfort through this and future years, I am,

Cordially yours,  
WRB.

THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
1941 JAN -9 PM 4: 05  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

C O P Y.

4--January--41

THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1941 JAN-9 PM 4:05

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Honorable Walter Pierce  
United States House of Representatives,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In view of the undemocratic powers conferred upon the president, and the advocacy of war upon the part of many prominent citizens, may the writer respectfully ask if you still hold the opinion expressed in your letter of August 7, 1940: "I do not fear dictatorship and I do not feel that we are headed for war."?

Due to apparent absence of that "intelligent discussion and thought" to which as you said in an earlier letter "any solutions will ever come in a Democracy, the writer lacks your faith. He wants his country defended to the utmost from external enemies, but he also wants it defended from taxation which is impoverishing our own people as it has impoverished the people of Germany and Italy; impoverishment which, as simple-minded children, we hope will bring revolution there, but not here. Who in the administration or in congress is giving thought to this line of defence - to taxation, except to increase it?

May the writer suggest that it is an axiom of business that costs of services rendered must be recovered in the prices paid for these services or disaster ensues. In the case of private business, that of individuals, partnerships, private corporations and so-called public corporations (power, light, transportations companies, etc.,) the costs of services are recovered, and are expected to be recovered, in the prices paid to enjoy the services they render; which is in accordance with business principles universally acknowledged to be intelligent, efficient and just.

On the other hand, disregarding such business principles, governmental corporations (towns, cities, counties, states, the nation, etc.,) do not, and are not expected to, recover the costs of services they render in the prices paid to enjoy these services. Were they so recovered, or were they expected to be so recovered, these prices would be paid to the governments rendering these services.

Instead of this, these prices (the Rent) are paid, and are expected to be paid, to only that portion of the 40 per cent of the population which holds titles to areas of land whose holdings are in use; titles which would be worthless were it not for the services which governments render.

It would seem that attention should be given to this situation when one observes the following facts and circumstances:

- (1) Areas of land deprived of governmental services are undesirable as places for people to live and work, hence, Rent is not paid for land, but only for the enjoyment of advantages rendered by governments.
- (2) Those who hold titles to areas of land neither finance nor own governmental services, hence, their claim to Rent can be based only on the irrelevant circumstance that they have paid to possess the titles involved, yet the sole function of title is to assure possession of land under governmental protection.
- (3) Because of failure to recover costs of services in the prices paid to enjoy them, governments always are "in the red," hence, are compelled to exact taxes of all of the people to make up deficits thus incurred.
- (4) There is no law which prevents governments, any more than there is a law to prevent individuals, from recovering the costs of services rendered in the prices paid to enjoy these services.

Were governmental costs thus recovered, taxation of every description could be abolished, and the country be put in a fair way to defend itself against external enemies and internal revolution, since the impoverishment of the people would cease; so it seems to this writer.

Respectfully yours,

W. R. B. Wilcox.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

January 13, 1941

Dear W.R.B.:

Your letter of January 4 much appreciated.

Congratulations on breaking into the citadel  
of conservatism! We are getting a copy of "The  
Curse of Modern Taxation."

It will be grand to see you at the convention  
in Yosemite Valley in May. See the notices to  
appear in THE OCTAGON.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox, F.A.I.A.,  
1272 Kincaid Street,  
Eugene, Oregon.

ECK:LF

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COPY TO

FILES

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3

COPY

*Willcox*

January 22, 1941

Gentlemen:

We understand that Fortuny's Publishers, Inc. has issued a brochure, entitled "The Curse of Modern Taxation" by W. R. B. Willcox of Eugene, Oregon.

Mr. Willcox is a distinguished member of this society, and was, for many years, Chairman of a committee which dealt with taxation problems.

We understand that some of the material in the brochure above mentioned is based upon investigations made in connection with the committee work.

Can you favor us with a copy of the brochure and quote a price for at least a dozen copies.

Also, we would like to make a reference to it in the monthly journal of this society which goes to its members throughout the United States.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Fortuny's Publishers, Inc.,  
87 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

ECK:LF

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

*Willcox*

*file*

May 7, 1942

Dear W. R. B.:

Yours of April 25 - with enclosed statement for The Board:

*(on agenda  
John Ed)*

We will not fail to bring that statement before The Board at the pre-convention meeting in Detroit. That meeting will be at the Statler Hotel on June 20 and 21.

The Convention dates <sup>19</sup> are June 23, 24 and 25. Is it possible that you can make the Convention?

It was good to see you for about two minutes at the Yosemite meeting a year ago, but there was no opportunity for conversation.

Washington is indeed a bedlam and once again the architectural profession undergoes the crucifixion which seems to be its lot under every war and every depression.

However, I refuse to be completely discouraged, for long experience in working for architects convinces me that they are the World's most durable idealists.

In any event, I believe that the post-war program of reconstruction will improve the position of the profession.

I know this is not in line with some of the thoughts in your paper addressed to The Board - which will not in the least prevent diligence in bringing that report to the attention of the Directors, and along with it the two documents which you mention on your page 2, second paragraph.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Mr/ W. R. B. Willcox, F.A.I.A.  
1272 Kincaid Street  
Eugene, Oregon

ECK:MSD

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COPY TO

FILES

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

2-3

Willcox

W. R. B. WILLCOX---ARCHITECT---~~1272 KINCAID STREET~~---EUGENE, OREGON  
764 MILL RACE DRIVE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1942 AUG 10 AM 10:25

4--August--42

WASHINGTON, D. C.

*File*  
*Willcox*

Mr. E. C. Kemper.  
1741 New York Avenue, N. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

My dear Kemper:

Thanks for the little note informing me of the attention given to my letter to the Board, and matters pertinent thereto. I hope too much of the Board's time was not given to what, from my experience, some architects would regard as irrelevant discussion. To tell you the truth, I think that at the time I wrote it, I had a sardonic grin on my face; but from that same experience, I still believe that architects could serve their professional interests much better than they have, could they have found, in any considerable numbers, a deeper insight into the meaning of my several deliverances. However, too many men in various walks of life have come to realize that the subject of them lies close to the foundation of a decent social order, for me to have become altogether a grouch due to the failure of others -- and those, professionally, dear to me -- to do so.

This very day I have a letter from an architect who, speaking of correlative matters, writes: "My experience has taught me much. It has not enhanced my long held opinion of engineers a bit. It has expanded my feeling of pity for those poor, misguided colleagues called architects. They have brought much suffering upon themselves and most of them deserve it." If I say it with a smile, do you mind if I recall the old advice, that when a man finds himself with the majority, he better begin to suspect he is wrong? I think of it to day with the announcement of the President's "War Service Board;" the vast majority of people are for totalitarianism. When shall we consider making operative Secretary of State, Cordell Hull's enunciation of a principle of freedom? Do you recall it in his radio address a few days ago? "Assurance, for all alike, of an opportunity to work as free men, in the company of free men; to obtain through work the material and spiritual means of life." That will require brains, not beef, thinkest not so?

As a sort of vacation relaxation, I am inclosing copies of some letters of mine which a correspondent of mine in the east has thought of sufficient merit to reprint for wider distribution. In some interlude in your exacting duties, you might get a bit of fun from reading them, and speculating on the possible embarrassment of some of our Servants of the People who failed to acknowledge their receipt! So far, I have not been able to feel guilty, as charged by a jocular friend, that one of these letters hastened the death of Pat Harrison!

Well, if you will believe it, this is all by way of pleasantry, and just to assure you that you are often in my memories of happy days when I saw too little of you.

With kindest regards,  
WRB.



W. R. B. WILLCOX, ARCHITECT : : : : EUGENE, OREGON

With the written permission of Mr. Willcox, this copy of his letter is printed and distributed at expense of Edmund J. Burke, 26 Dunster Rd., Chestnut Hill, Mass., June 10, 1942.

THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1942 AUG 10 AM July 2, 1941

HONORABLE ROBERT L. DOUGHTON, *Chairman*,  
Ways and Means Committee, House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Current papers bring reports of "new or increased excise taxes" proposed by your committee to finance the defense program. Since the committee has been investigating possible sources of public revenue, may the writer respectfully ask if it has considered collecting the Rent which people pay solely that they may live or work where PUBLICLY PROVIDED SERVICES can be enjoyed; but which is not received by the government?

That you may not confuse this suggestion with the "single tax", a frequent mistake, the liberty is taken to expand the idea by means of a few hypothetical questions, as follows:

IF the activities of government were your own private business,

- (1) Would you finance and maintain police, military and naval forces and equipment to protect individuals in the peaceful pursuit of their personal affairs and not collect Rent for this service?
- (2) Would you finance, construct and maintain streets, highways, bridges, dams, sewer, water, fire, postal system, schools, libraries, hospitals, harbors, docks, lighthouses, etc., etc.,—and not collect Rent for these services?
- (3) Would you provide security of possession and unmolested occupancy of areas of land within your jurisdiction, for those who hold titles to areas of land and their tenants—and not collect Rent for this service, either directly or through some duly authorized intermediary?

IF the activities of government were your own private business,

- (4) Would you provide all such services and not collect the Rent on the grounds that those who did *not* hold these titles owed you nothing; and that those who did hold titles to areas of land, and the land itself, under your protection, were not indebted to you because they had, as is said, "bought the land"? Would you consider that the mere act of holding titles, *however obtained*, cancelled their indebtedness to you for services rendered?
- (5) Would you, at the same time, ignore the fact that those who hold titles to areas of land actually collected and appropriated to their own uses the Rent which other people willingly paid *them* to enjoy the very services you had provided; since none would pay Rent (the measure of their worth) were these services lacking?

Furthermore, *if* you found yourself "in the red" and unable to pay the costs involved in providing these services from your legitimate earnings, the uncollected Rent,

- (6) Would you consider it businesslike to resort to the *taxation* of *all* of the people (on what they earned and on what they spent, without regard to any intelligible relation to the worth of services individually enjoyed) to reimburse you for these costs?

Since it is impossible to imagine any reputable business man attempting to conduct his own business in this ridiculous fashion, would it not be pertinent to inquire into the reasons that the government conducts the PEOPLE'S business in this identical fashion?

Why should the government not collect in full its earnings, the Rent, from EVERY inhabitant, whether or not he holds titles to areas of land? What, indeed, has holding titles to land to do with the obligation of *EVERY* inhabitant, title holder or not, to pay Rent to the government for the governmental services he enjoys? How otherwise escape the progressive destruction of democracy in our country by *Taxation*?

Very respectfully yours,  
W. R. B. WILLCOX.

W. R. B. WILLCOX : : ARCHITECT : : EUGENE, OREGON

THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1942 AUG 10 AM 10:26

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
December 14, 1940

COPY

HONORABLE PAT HARRISON, *Chairman, Senate Finance Committee.*  
United States Senate,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In view of recent announcement of the president's proposal of a "revolutionary tax system" an inquiry seems pertinent: "*WHY, in attempts to solve governmental revenue problems, is no heed given to business principles universally acknowledged to be intelligent, efficient and just?*" To justify this question, may the writer submit the following facts?

Costs of all services must be recovered in the prices paid for these services, if the business rendering them is to remain solvent. All services, the costs of which must be, and are expected to be, recovered in the prices paid for them, are services rendered by

- (1) Individuals (workers of all kinds.)
- (2) Partnerships (lawyers, architects, etc.)
- (3) Private corporations (manufacturers, merchants, bankers, etc.)
- (4) Public corporations (power, light, transportation companies, etc.)

On the other hand, with respect to  
(5) Governmental corporations (towns, cities, counties, states, the nation, etc.)  
the costs of services *are not*, and are not expected to be, recovered in the prices paid for them. Were they so recovered, or were they expected to be so recovered, they would be paid to the governments rendering these services.

Instead of this, these prices are paid, and are expected to be paid, to people who neither render nor own the services for which these prices are paid. They are paid to only that portion of the 40 per cent of the population which holds titles-of-possession to areas of land in this country whose holdings are in use; titles which would be worthless were it not for the services rendered by governments.

Certainly, the business of the people (the entire population) who pay, *and who should be paid*, for social services in the prices paid for these services (services impossible of enjoyment without governmental instrumentalities) should be managed according to business principles of unquestioned sanction; otherwise, as is evident, deficits unavoidably are incurred which compel governments to resort to *taxation*.

So long as deficits result from indefensible business methods, taxation (while legal) is an unjustifiable governmental exaction having no intelligible relation to services rendered either in price or on business principles; it is nothing less than confiscation of private wealth.

Payments for services rendered by society are no more of the nature of taxation than are payments for services rendered by individuals; and there is no law which prevents governments, any more than there is a law which prevents individuals, from recovering the costs of services rendered in the prices paid for them. Yet, ignoring the most elemental of business principles, governments resort to *taxation*.

Did governments conduct the people's business intelligently, they would recover the costs of services they render in the prices paid for these services—that is, they would recover the particular Rent which is paid *only* to obtain the benefits of social services available where people live or work.

To resort to taxation to finance governmental services that increase this Rent, and not to recover this Rent in the prices paid to enjoy these services, obviously, is a cruel absurdity; an absurdity which promotes the insidious, malignant power of tyranny and the vicious, if unwitting, means to the people's enslavement—a result which all history proves is inherent in *taxation*.

Very respectfully yours,

W. R. B. WILLCOX.

W. R. B. WILLCOX — Architect — Eugene, Oregon

Honorable Robert L. Doughton, Chairman,  
Ways and Means Committee, House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
1942 AUG 10 AM 10:25  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
May 42.  
OPEN LETTER.

Dear Sir:

Governmental financial policies seem to indicate that members of the Congress believe that services which the government renders and makes available to the people of this country are worthless. If governmental services were thought to be worth anything, some among these members would be sufficiently familiar with elementary business principles to know that if the government renders services of value, the government, like any other creditor, should collect all that these services are worth in the open market; and should collect this from individuals in proportion to the worth of the services of which each individual avails himself.

Surely most other people appreciate that governmental services are worth something. Some of them always and inevitably pay the price of these services, the Rent; while others collect this Rent because of the things the government does. From available evidence, the Congress considers only how to **tax** the people in order to **finance** governmental services; it seems never to think of collecting into the public treasury the Rent people pay, solely for the purpose of enjoying the convenience and use of services rendered and made available by the governments, federal, state and local. Do not members of the Congress realize the impetus which this ruinous policy gives to inflation and towards national bankruptcy?

Recently, the Agriculture Department announced that the "value of farm real estate" (a meaningless term, by the way, since "real estate" includes both the land which is not, and improvements which are, the product of labor) increased last year \$2,360,000,000. Upon inquiry, the same Department reported that 70 per cent of this increase was in the "value of land," as was said, although the land was unchanged in area, quality or location. So it appears that for the avowed purpose of raising the prices of farm products, all of the people were **taxed** to pay some people for not cultivating the soil; with the result that not only were people **taxed** to **finance** this boost of farm products prices, but paid higher prices to obtain farm products; and in addition, if people would cultivate the soil, they must pay in a 6 per cent market a \$99,120,000 annual increase in Rent.

Do members of the Congress pretend that this increase in farm products prices, or Rent, reaches **tenant** farmers; or is it fair to assume they suspect that it goes to those whom people call "land-owners" to whatever extent the latter holds titles to the land of this country? But what of the government! The government protects farmers in possession of land and in security of titles at the cost of armies, navies and police (financed by cigarette and other taxes;) the government serves them with ever more and better roads (financed by the gasoline tax;) the government aids them with mail delivery service, and the Agriculture Department itself, with information on soils, seeds, fertilizers, etc. These and other services are **financed**, not with the government's legitimate earnings, the Rent, but by **taxes** (now taxing man's ingenuity to devise) exacted of all the people without any intelligible relation to benefits individually received.

Do members of the Congress really believe, as their acts imply, that services such as are rendered and made available by the government are worth nothing to anybody? Is this the reason no move is made by any of them to see that the government collects the Rent paid by some people to other people for the convenience and use of these very services and for nothing else?

May the writer respectfully ask: On what intelligent, even plausible, grounds is there such disregard of foundation principles of business efficiency in establishing the financial policies of this nation?

Very respectfully yours,

W. R. B. WILLCOX.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3  
COPY

Willcox

*file*

March 11, 1943

Dear W.R.B.:

Your two letters of March 3:

First let me say how sorry I am to learn of your great loss. But it is good to note that your fine philosophy of life keeps you going and still keen to make some contribution to humanity.

The next meeting of The Board will be held in Cincinnati on May 22, 23 and 24, at the Netherland Plaza hotel immediately in advance of the 1943 annual meeting of The Institute. I am saving your leaflets "What Goes On Here?" until then and will see that a copy is in the agenda of the meeting as furnished to each Director.

If at all possible it will be good to see you at the Cincinnati meeting.

With very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. W. R. B. Willcox, F.A.I.A.  
764 Mill Race Drive  
Eugene, Oregon

ECK:ER

W. R. B. WILLCOX--ARCHITECT--764 MILL RACE DRIVE--EUGENE, OREGON

27--August--45

~~3/4~~  
THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary  
The American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon, WASHINGTON, D. C.

1945 AUG 30 AM 9:51

2-3

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Willcox

Dear Kemper:

The enclosed excerpt from a letter just received from a student who was drafted from the School and wants to get back as soon as possible suggests this to you. He writes:

"It has occurred to me that you and the rest of the profession might be able to help all of us in obtaining early discharges. Of course, undoubtedly, the men who are practicing will be hesitant about creating opposition and competition, but perhaps there are some who are not too short sighted."

Seems to me I have seen some notice of efforts being made to accomplish that very thing. It seems sufficiently desirable for "the profession," as well as mighty helpful to many young men, that whatever may be, should be done to save the latter time lost in the service, now that PEACE has been restored **\*\* (or has it?) \*\*** to the world.

Was much amused and at the same time properly disturbed by the article in the last JOURNAL anent present licensee laws. Complaints, and justifiable ones, on this score are so plentiful today that, if I were a youngster I should gang up on the oldsters (there are more of the former) and get correction of the trade-union features of these licensing laws.

Just think! Richardson did Trinity of Boston at 35; McKim did the Public Library in Boston, at 42; Renwick was in his middle twenties when he did Grace Chapel, New York; John Root, who did the early skyscrapers in Chicago in the late 80's, died at 41; Sullivan did the Auditorium, Chicago before he was 30, and so on and so on, and licensing laws had not been dreamed of. The public did not have the government standing by as a wet nurse to see that it did not get into trouble, then, and I, for one, have always opposed such business. And, the joke of it! Registered or not, every architect today has to have some building department pass upon his work -- the registration ostensibly meaning nothing!

But this last word -- degrees among the licensed! And according to the cost of structure! As though it took more brains and imagination to do a two-story \$100,000 loft building, than to do a \$10,000 house! What, I wonder, is the mentality of those who aspire to the profession in the minds of its present practitioners, if the former are not credited with enough intelligence to equip themselves, directly or through organization, to do any building that comes their way, just as is the case with present practitioners. After all, I guess we have too little faith in our own abilities and capacities to trust the individual to his own devices, so we institute more and more of these authoritarian controls, even for "us educated architects"! Hurrah for the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave!

By the way, Mr. Saylor has my permission to quote me as per below pencilled arrow, if he thinks such comment sufficiently dignified for the JOURNAL. It might, at least, snap it up a bit!

With kindest regards,  
Cordially,

WRB.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

5  
Henry Saylor

September 5, 1945


Dear W.R.B.

Your letter of August 27th is of great interest. Am making it available to the Washington Representative of The Institute, Major Edmund R. Purves, who has been working for months to secure the early release of students and architectural draftsmen from military service. Recent developments in the Pacific have reinforced his efforts!

Also, to Henry Saylor, Editor of the Journal.

With best regards and joining you in sympathetic amazement at the human race, I am,

Sincerely yours,



ECK:eg

Mr. W. R. B. Willecox, F.A.I.A.  
764 Mill Race Drive  
Eugene, Oregon

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moore  
News Bureau - UO  
4/21/47

Willcox, Walter R.B.

Biographical  
Archives

For the Journal of the American Institute of Architects:

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, April (Special) - Walter Ross Baumes Willcox, 77, professor emeritus in architecture in the University of Oregon and member of the staff for more than 21 years, passed away early Sunday morning, April 20, at his home in Eugene.

Well-known in architectural circles on the Pacific coast, Mr. Willcox had practiced actively in Washington and taught in the university since 1908, when he first started his practice in architecture in Seattle, Wn.

Born in Burlington, Vt., August 2, 1869, he received his education at Kalamazoo college, Michigan, and the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Following this he entered the practice of architecture in Burlington, Vt., from 1894 to 1906. The year 1907 he spent traveling and studying in Europe, and returned to start his practice in Seattle, Wn., in 1908. He was in active practice there until 1922, when he came to the University of Oregon as professor of architecture. He was retired to emeritus status in 1943.

Mr. Willcox was active in professional organizations and in municipal affairs during his career. He was a member and fellow of the American Institute of Architects, held offices as secretary and president of the Washington Chapter of A.I.A., and was a director of the national group. He was a member of the Seattle Planning Commission and of the Eugene Planning Commission, worked with the U. S. Housing Bureau at Bremerton, Wn. He was a member of the Jury of Competition for the Kansas City Peace Memorial, and the Honolulu War Memorial. He was architect for the Scottish Rite Temple in Portland, Oregon.

The university professor wrote extensively for journals of architecture.

He was married to Evelyn Porter Willcox, who died in 1942.

Journal of The A. I. A.



# Journal of The American Institute of ARCHITECTS



INIGO JONES

August, 1947

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What Does the Homebuilder Want?

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A Reporter's View of Courtrooms

---

Building a Satellite City

---

Five Publications on Hospitals

---

The Architect and the Hospital Program

---

Walter R. B. Willcox, F.A.I.A.—1869-1947

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Contemporary Architect & His Education—II

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35c

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.



JOURNAL OF  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

AUGUST, 1947

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that we are allowing the tail to wag the dog. In many recent designs for hospitals, excellent as they otherwise are, the distances which doctors, nurses and help have to travel are far from minimum. It would seem, therefore, that we cannot be reminded too often of the difficulties in administration this brings about. Only in the rare hospital with unlimited funds at its disposal does the architect dare to forget this. And it is on this account that it should be emphasized again and again in all publications on hospital planning.

For any architect, reading books on hospital design is not a substitute for visiting existing hospitals and talking to their staffs. This could likewise be put the other way

round. It is encouraging, therefore, that together with the many excellent articles which have recently appeared in the magazines we have these five publications to use as source material. Written as they are by men with recognized reputations in hospital planning and administration, it is to be hoped that they will have a far-reaching influence. The design of a modern hospital is one of the most difficult problems an architect has to solve. Like that of any complicated building, it means not only time and effort spent over the drafting-table but hours of study and research. For this last I can think of no better place for the architect to turn than to the pages of these books.



## Walter R. B. Willcox, F. A. I. A.

1869-1947

**T**HE life of Walter Willcox, which ended on April 20th, left a notable record of service and accomplishment from which The American Institute of Architects, his Chapter in Washington State, and communities and individuals coming within the scope of his in-

fluence, profited to a marked degree. He will be held in affectionate remembrance by the many who were privileged to know him.

Leaving what appeared to be a promising business career in his early life, architecture made to him so strong an appeal that he

made a new start in the architectural field. Beginning as a student in an architect's office and in the School of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, he afterwards began practice in his native city of Burlington, Vermont, where his energy and determination brought abundant success. Not satisfied with this and a pleasant home life, he longed for struggles in a wider field and contacts with others in his profession in a more progressive community. He found this in Seattle, where he made a new start unheralded and unknown with a partner, William J. Sayward, who came with him from the East and later returned to become prominent in Institute service from the South Atlantic District. On their arrival in Seattle, in 1907, building opportunities in the Pacific Northwest were at a particularly low ebb, and while endeavoring to build up an architectural practice Walter Willcox immediately began to take a lively interest in the Chapter and in the community, where his work might be effective.

In the Chapter he gave valuable service as Secretary and President and was its first delegate to an Institute Convention. So strong was the impression he made on his fel-

low architects in The Institute, that he was elected a member of the Board of Directors and afterwards Vice-President. His efforts were effective in making The Institute a truly national organization and, with his unselfish viewpoint, harmonizing local antagonistic differences. He was made a Fellow in 1910. Early realizing the importance to Seattle of a city plan, he was its earnest advocate, and when a plan was successfully provided for by the Municipal Plans Commission of 1911, represented the Chapter as a member of this Commission. Here, as a fellow worker with Mr. Bogue, the expert engineer who was the author of the plan, he was the architectural influence.

He later applied himself successfully in a new field when, in 1922, he was prevailed upon to head the School of Architecture at the University of Oregon. Here his personality and sympathy with the students were impressive in his courageous departure from the usual methods of teaching. His earnest promotion of his own lofty ideals was inspiring, and made a strong impression on all with whom he came in contact, however different their opinions might be in architectural education

and in the field of economics to which he became subsequently devoted.

He has left behind him an im-

pressive record of unselfish service and devotion to ideals with worthwhile results.

CHARLES H. ALDEN, F.A.I.A.

## Honors

WELLS I. BENNETT, F.A.I.A., Dean of the College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan, has been honored by Syracuse University with the Degree of Doctor of Fine Arts.

Admiral BEN MORELL received from Princeton University, at its final Bicentennial Convocation in June, the degree of Doctor of Engineering. The citation: "A brilliant engineer both ashore and afloat, whose scholarly and ener-

getic application of the engineering approach has produced significant technological advances of a high order. Organizer and first in command of the Seabees, whose fabulous exploits and achievements played so substantial a part in the victory of the Pacific."

WAYNE F. KOPPES has been appointed head of the Department of Architectural Design and Housing Research of the John B. Pierce Foundation.

## News of the Chapters and Other Architectural Organizations

NEW YORK CHAPTER has sponsored, jointly with the Store Modernization Show held in Grand Central Palace, a competition for the modernization of a shopping center. The jury, consisting of Morris Lapidus, Morris Ketchum, A. Gordon Lorimer, Thomas H. Creighton, John Ragsdale and Henry Wright, awarded

first place of \$250 to a Cornell team: Blake Allen, Olaf W. Shelgren, Jr., Alberta J. Cassell and Eugene M. Bertin. Second place (\$150) went to Edward L. Friedman, of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. Third place (\$100) was won by H. B. Grant, of Carnegie Institute of Technology. Two Honorable Mentions, each bringing \$50, were

AUGUST, 1947



FINE ARTS CENTER, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.  
THE MAIN ENTRANCE  
JOHN GAW MEEM, HUGO ZEHNER & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS  
*Photograph by Laura Gilpin*



ESTABLISHED 1847

## BURLINGTON SAVINGS BANK

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February 11, 1975

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
1735 New York Avenue NW  
Attn: Librarian or Archivist  
Washington, DC 20006

Gentlemen:

We are researching the background and career of the American architect, WALTER R. B. WILLCOX (or Wilcox). Mr. Willcox designed our unique bank building about 1899 as well as other prominent buildings in our city.

It is believed that he left this state after the turn of the century for the west coast, possibly the Seattle area.

We would appreciate any material which you might have on this man--his personal background, career, writings, etc. We would gladly reimburse you for any reasonable copying fees.

Very truly yours,

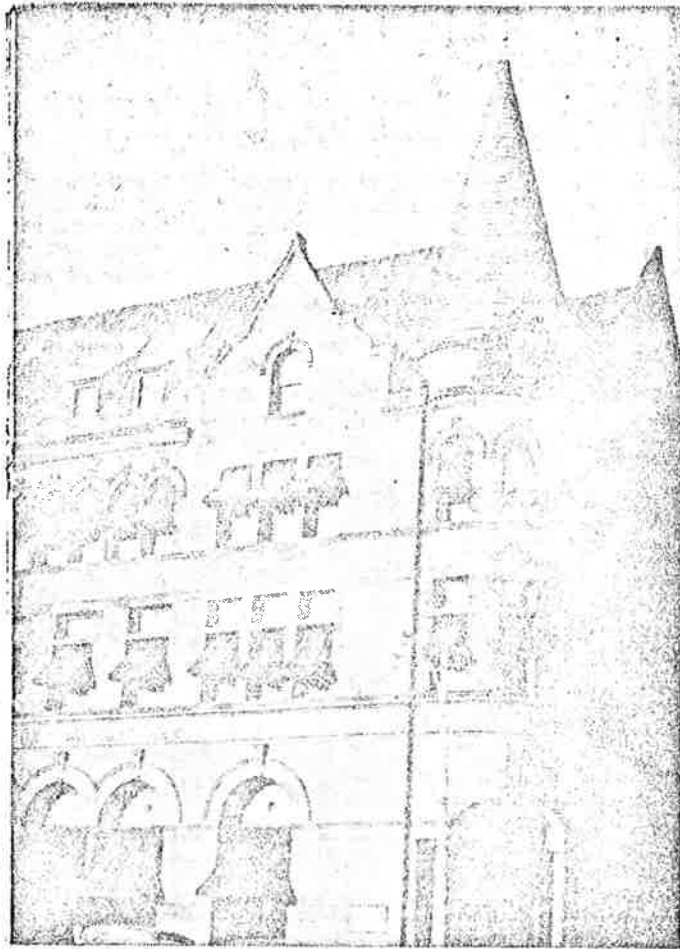
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Vice-President & Archivist

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Architecture by W. R. B. Wilcox.

## W.R.B. Wilcox, Architect, Left Lasting Impression on Burlington

By MADELEINE MAY

A young man by the name of Wilcox left a lasting impression in Burlington.

W.R.B. Wilcox, architect, designed several major buildings here just before the turn of the century.

One prominent example of his work is the Burlington Savings Bank.

It's "richified" red brick has remained unpainted. It was completed in 1900 and follows Flemish Renaissance style.

The building, with its jutting towers and arches, bears a close resemblance to the old guild houses in Brussels and Antwerp.

The interior was described by Levi Smith Sr., as "extremely adaptable."

"That corner was a savings bank for more than 100 years," Mr. Smith said. It used to be the site of the Bank of the United States when the federal government had many local banks.

The towering structure with its bright green awnings has been relatively unchanged in the last 57 years.

Some similarity in style may be detected in the other Wilcox buildings which include the Fletcher Free Library, the Medical College building at the University of Vermont and the Edmunds High School building.

Wilcox came to Burlington as a young man. He moved to Seattle and became a member of the American Academy of Architects.

*Institute*

Willcox, Walter  
R.B.

February 14, 1975

Mr. Leo A. Fleury  
Vice-President & Archivist  
Burlington Savings Bank  
148 College Street  
Burlington, Vt. 05401

Dear Mr. Fleury:

We are enclosing copy of an obituary of Walter R. B. Willcox that appeared in the AIA Journal 8:64-66 Aug. 1947. We have located some other biographical references, noted herewith, which give little additional information.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie R. Biographical dictionary of American architects (deceased) Los Angeles, 1956. (From obit above)  
Who Was Who vol. 2  
The Brickbuilder 24:234, 1915. This sketch is signed C.H.A., same initials as author of obit, so probably the same.  
Pretty much a duplicate. Does have portrait.

As to architectural works we have located the following credited to Willcox and Sayward.

Residence of Leroy D. Lewis, Seattle Architectural Record  
36:360-364 Oct. 1914  
Retaining walls along Queen Anne Boulevard at Eighth Place  
West and West Lee Street (Steinbruck, Victor Seattle  
Cityscape. Seattle, 1962. p. 139)  
Casino A.Y.P. Exposition  
Department of Medicine, University of Vermont  
Tower - Cathedral School, Burlington, Vt. (These last three  
are from Seattle Architectural Club. Yearbook, 1st, 1910)

We have located only one writing of his, listed in the Catalog of the Avery Architectural Library.

A symbol of Louis H. Sullivan - in memoriam by W.R.B. Willcox  
[1927?] 442-448 p.

He was elected a member of the AIA in 1905, a fellow in 1910, and served as a director from 1913-1916, and as second vice-president 1916-1918.

Mr. Leo A. Fleury

February 14, 1975

2

Although I imagine that further references to the work of the firm and possible articles by Mr. Willcox might be found in magazines of the period, this would involve extended research. Possibly either the University Library or the Library of the Architectural School at the University of Oregon might have additional information on his late career.

We hope that this information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

George E. Pettengill, Hon. AIA  
Librarian Emeritus & Archivist