

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 223: 1917 (AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS)

By Richard Schulte

The twenty-first Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held in Washington, D. C. in May 1917. Among the various subjects presented and discussed at this meeting were reports from various organizations, including the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The following is a transcript of the report presented by representatives of the AIA at this meeting.

***“Report of American Institute of Architects.*”**

Mr. D. Knickerbacker Boyd (Editor Structural Service Department, Journal of the Institute): The American Institute of Architects has a committee on fire prevention, the members of which are Mr. Robert D. Kohn, Chairman, Mr. W. L. Plack, Mr. G. C. Nimmons, Mr. John R. Rockart, Mr. Charles H. Bebb and Mr. Lyman A. Ford. I am going to read a paragraph from a brief report of the activities of the new committee, made by the Chairman, Mr. Kohn, for the Journal of the American Institute of Architects:

*"Under the past chairmanship of Mr. Julius Franke of New York, the committee distributed to the architects throughout the country valuable information on the subject of fire protection. The new committee just organized has not yet had time to plan its campaign. **The Chairman realizes that the enlightenment of the average architect on the subject of fire-protection design is a mighty difficult job. A plan is being considered at present whereby the Committee, in co-operation with other organizations, might publish a series of structural-service sheets or details showing clearly the methods of fire-resistant construction in all types of buildings and in all parts of buildings.**"*

You have already heard reference made to the work of the Journal of the American Institute of Architects, the last two numbers of which have been devoted to the subject of fire prevention. It was my pleasure to emphasize in that number the fact that so few architects supported the National Fire Protection Association, only 50 architects being members, and the Journal proposes to keep on emphasizing that fact in the hope that more and more architects will realize the enormous amount of good work which this Association is accomplishing for better standards in building construction, and support it through associate membership. (Applause.)

Although practicing architects may not have exhibited much interest in building fire safety and fire protection, the American Institute of Architects was an active participant in the activities of the National Fire Protection Association in the early days of the Association.

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