

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS  
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 12, 1936.

The fourth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1937 was held in its office in the Navy Department Building on Saturday, December 12, 1936. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,  
Mr. Clarke,  
Mr. Lawrie,  
Mr. Howells,  
Mr. Savage,  
Mr. Borie,  
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held October 23, 1936, were approved.
2. NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART: Mr. Moore said that he was anxious that the National Gallery of Art get under way. He informed the Commission that he had spent an hour with Mr. Mellon and had shown him the bill he had prepared to be introduced in Congress, which is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution be and they are hereby authorized to accept from the Trustees of the A. W. Mellon Educational and Charitable Trust a building to be known as the National Gallery of Art. Said building shall be located on the north side of the Mall (and in conformity with the plan thereof) between Fourth and Seventh Streets northwest, in the District of Columbia, Sixth Street shall be closed from Constitution Avenue to Independence Avenue, and Fourth Street and Seventh Street shall be widened throughout the Mall. The building space between Third and Fourth Streets on the north side of the Mall and directly east of the area mentioned above shall be reserved for future extensions of the National Gallery of Art. The design and materials of said building shall be subject to the approval of the National Commission of Fine Arts and the plans for the rearrangement of streets herein provided for shall be subject to the approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



SECTION 2. The Regents of the Smithsonian Institution are further authorized to accept from the said Trust the collection of works of the fine arts now in the possession of said Trust; also the income from an endowment fund to be set up and administered by said Trust, for the purchase of works of the fine arts to increase the collection of the National Gallery of Art; also the income of a trust fund similarly administered to pay the annual salary of a director and an assistant director of the National Gallery of Art, who shall be appointed by the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, subject to the approval of the trustees of the Trust. The upkeep of the building shall be provided for annually in appropriations to be made by Congress for the Smithsonian Institution.

SECTION 3. All Acts of Congress in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Mr. Moore said he had drawn the bill as simply as possible to avoid as few barnacles being attached to it in Congress.

Mr. Moore wondered in regard to the location of the art gallery what opposition there is going to be against the closing of Sixth Street. A single block is not large enough for the national gallery and the other is needed, but he felt it is really a question for Congress to settle. Mr. Clarke thought it would be better that the bill be introduced with the knowledge of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Mr. Moore said the bill as drafted will be introduced by the regents of the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. Howells remarked that there is a pretty good precedent for closing Sixth Street in view of the fact that 13th Street is closed. Mr. Clarke believed the Mall is better to have a few wide crossings than a lot of narrow ones. Mr. Howells thought this a good point.

3. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL: Mr. Moore said that the Jefferson Memorial Commission had a meeting a few days ago and the majority of the members appeared to be interested in locating the memorial south of the Washington Monument on the axis of the White House.



Mr. Borie said he had heard something about the matter and called attention to an editorial in the Washington Herald that morning opposing the location and suggesting a stadium in Anacostia Park for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Mr. Moore said there are some who want a stadium but that would not be a suitable memorial for Jefferson. The Plan of 1901 provides for a memorial to the Founders of the Republic and the Jefferson Memorial is in keeping with this idea. The Commission admitted, however, that there will be difficulties with foundations because of the great depth of bed rock below the surface.

The Commission inspected a plot plan made by the National Park Service showing the location of the proposed memorial. Mr. Clarke made the criticism that it is amorphous and uninteresting and should be further studied. The plan indicated that the contour of the Tidal Basin would be changed in connection with which the question has arisen whether a good part of the basin can be filled in and pumps used for pumping water into the Washington Channel (a necessary sanitary feature).

The Secretary was requested to ask the Roosevelt Memorial Association for prints of plans submitted by the artists who competed for the Roosevelt Memorial at this location in the competition of 1925.

Mr. Moore said that this Jefferson Memorial development should take the same amount of space as Lafayette Square and should not dwindle into a small thing. The memorial designed by Mr. Pope is in the form of a pantheon with a statue of Jefferson in the building. It would be built of Georgia marble and would cost \$3,000,000. This would be comparable to the Lincoln Memorial, which today would require \$5,000,000 to be rebuilt, including the landscape work. Hence, if \$2,000,000 additional should be needed for the Jefferson





Memorial, the total cost would not exceed that of the Lincoln Memorial according to present day prices. A rough estimate of the cost of landscape work including re-arrangement of the Tidal Basin made by the office of John Russell Pope amounts to \$1,500,000.

Mr. Moore said he wanted to bring up the matter of the location of the memorial to see if the Commission had any views on the matter or any opposition. He pointed out that the development of this space would bring nearer the completion of the Washington Monument grounds. He said the Jefferson Memorial Commission will have a meeting about the middle of January when it is expected that they will take final action in the matter of location.

4. U. S. EXPOSITION BUILDING, PARIS: The secretary reported that a few days ago he had been informed that the Government is to be represented at the Paris Exposition, which is to open in May 1937, by a building, and that the Department of State is arranging to have one built. The secretary stated further that Mr. Sterling, the Commissioner, had informed him he would have the plans ready for presentation to the Commission at the meeting. A telephone call to the Department of State revealed, however, that Mr. Sterling was in New York City for the day.

Mr. Borie said he had heard something about this matter and understood a modernistic building has been designed. He felt it important enough that the Commission give its opinion about the building, although it may be too late now to change the plans.

5. DELAWARE CENTENNIAL COIN: Under date of November 4, 1936, the Commission received the following letter from the Acting Director of the Mint, submitting models for the Delaware Memorial Coin:





November 4, 1936.

Hon. Charles Moore, Chairman,  
Commission of Fine Arts,  
Navy Department Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am submitting models for the coin authorized by Congress to be issued in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the landing of the Swedes in Delaware.

The models are submitted for your consideration as to their artistic merits.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) M. M. O'Reilly,  
Acting Director of the Mint.

Information concerning the models being considered incomplete, the secretary asked the Delaware Commission to submit further data, which was done. (Exhibit A)

Photographs of the models were submitted to Mr. Lawrie, who approved the models and concurred in the suggestion of the Delaware Committee as to changing the roof line; he also suggested placing the date, 1936, under the words, "Half Dollar". A report approving the models subject to these changes was sent to the Acting Director of the Mint. (Exhibit A-1)

6. ROANOKE ISLAND--VIRGINIA DARE COIN: Under date of December 7, 1936, the models for the Roanoke Island--Virginia Dare Coin were transmitted to the Commission of Fine Arts by the Acting Director of the Mint with letter as follows:

December 7, 1936.

Hon. Charles Moore, Chairman,  
Commission of Fine Arts,  
Navy Department Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:



This Bureau is in receipt of a plaster model executed by Mr. William Marks Simpson, Baltimore, Maryland, for the coin authorized by the Act of June 24, 1936, authorizing the coinage of fifty-cent pieces in commemoration of the 350th anniversary of Sir Walter Raleigh's colony on Roanoke Island, N.C., and the birth of Virginia Dare, the first child of English parentage to be born on the American Continent. It is understood that you have photographs of these models which may be used by you in considering the merits of this design and that it will not be necessary for us to present to you again the plaster model. This Bureau will appreciate your courtesy in advising us as to the artistic merits of the designs.

It is obvious that the name "Raleigh" as it appears on the model is incorrectly spelled. It is the opinion of this Bureau that the spelling should conform to the spelling used in the Act authorizing the issue of these coins.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) Mary M. O'Reilly,  
Acting Director of the Mint.

The secretary submitted photographs of the models to Mr. Lawrie, who reported that he thought the models very good, one reason being that they are so well covered by the design. The Commission also liked the design. The secretary stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Simpson, the sculptor, giving his reasons for spelling the name, Raleigh (Exhibit B). The Commission advised that Mr. Simpson should use the spelling as done in the United States and also to conform to the Act of Congress spelling, which is Raleigh. Understanding that the name and roof line would be changed, the Commission reported approval to the Director of the Mint. (Exhibit B-1) (Mr. Simpson is a graduate of the American Academy in Rome.)

7. NEW ROCHELLE COIN: Mr. Lawrie reported that Miss Gertrude Lathrop, sculptor, of Albany, New York, had been selected by the New Rochelle Memorial Committee to make a new design for their coin. The models can be expected in the near future.



8. GROVER CLEVELAND MEMORIAL: Under date of November 28, 1936, the following letter was received from Mr. Alphons Landa, attorney of 815--15th Street, Washington, D. C., submitting plans for a bench designed by Bryant Baker, which the Cleveland Memorial Commission proposes as a memorial:

November 28, 1936.

The Commission of Fine Arts,  
Navy Department Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Attention Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary.

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Grover Cleveland Memorial Committee, I desire to present to you photographs, blue print and estimate for the erection of a memorial in the form of a circular seat. The Committee feels that a memorial of this character is more appropriate to the memory of Grover Cleveland, than an athletic field or stadium, as suggested.

The proposed memorial has three figures representing Courage and Integrity at the entrance, and the figure at the rear, "In Memoriam" holds a medallion bearing the likeness of Grover Cleveland.

The Committee would like to be in a position to go ahead on this memorial, if a proper site can be obtained. There is a triangle at the corner of 6th and Penna. Avenue which we understand is available.

I would be glad to furnish any additional information that your Commission desires. The Committee hopes that it will have the benefit of the Commission of Fine Arts' attitude at an early date.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) DAVIES, BEEBE, BUSICK & RICHARDSON  
By Alfons B. Landa.

The Commission did not at all like the design, but decided to give no opinion as the design had not come through the proper channels--it should have been submitted by the architectural adviser selected by the Cleveland Commission, namely, Dean E. V. Meeks of the Yale School of Fine Arts.





The design was returned to Mr. Landa with the suggestion that it be submitted through Dean Meeks. (Exhibit C)

9. MEMORIAL BENCH AT ANNAPOLIS: The Commission inspected the design made by the Manning Company of Washington for a memorial seat at the Naval Academy at Annapolis, which the class of 1897 wishes to erect. Mr. Borie suggested that the insignia be lowered so it would not project above the back of the seat. Mr. Savage thought the insignia could be repeated underneath the fish at the ends. Mr. Howells remarked he had often seen the lettering on the back of a seat all the way around; as a whole the Commission felt there was nothing to motivate the bulge in the middle of the back of the seat and that it should be removed and the insignia placed on the back of the seat directly.

(The Manning Company prepared a revised design without the projection at the top. Mr. Moore approved this in behalf of the Commission as there is a great hurry about the erection of the seat.)

10. BRANCH LIBRARIES: Mr. Nathan C. Wyeth, Municipal Architect, submitted a design for a branch library to be built in Petworth. He pointed out that the design is extremely simple (Colonial style) because of the lack of funds. Mr. Borie thought it is just as well they do have to use the simpler colonial style of architecture; whereupon Mr. Wyeth informed him that long ago the Commission of Fine Arts had decided on that style of architecture for the District of Columbia public buildings.

As to the location of another branch library, Mr. Wyeth thought somewhere in the neighborhood of Farragut Square would be good, as this would be nearer the center of population, that is, centrally located in the northwest section of the city. Mr. Moore suggested 16th Street as a location



since it is a great axis or meridian of the city. The locations of both libraries were approved. Another location for a new main library building is also being considered by the D. C. Commissioners. The design was approved.

11. <sup>Pennington</sup> VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL: The Commission also inspected designs made by Mr. Wyeth for a vocational education school, 220 feet long, designed in the colonial style of architecture, to be located at 13th and Allison Streets, N. E. Mr. Moore remarked that the designer must have been to Williamsburg because he has incorporated a Williamsburg feeling. Mr. Borie asked about the inside lay-out in order to understand the exterior design. Mr. Wyeth said the people to occupy these rooms were quite particular about their arrangement; hence the whole thing was rather difficult to design. Mr. Borie called attention to the fact that the appearance of the building could be improved by increasing the wall space and reducing the number of windows. The Commission approved the design with the suggestion that the fenestration be studied further.

12. MUNICIPAL CENTER: The discussion of the art gallery location had brought up the question of the site for the Municipal Center. Mr. Moore felt that the Municipal Center is sufficiently important to come down to Pennsylvania Avenue. He pointed out that if the Coast Survey or some other small Government organization builds on the Avenue, the Municipal Center will be shut out by some less important building. Further, since the District Government is a really important part of the Federal Government, it should not be blanketed by some secondary government function. Possibly some day the district government will be recognized as of sufficient importance to have one Commissioner of cabinet rank. The Commission concurred with Mr. Moore in his opinion about the location of the District Government buildings.



When Mr. Wyeth appeared before the Commission later in the day he was informed of the feeling of the Commission as indicated above. Mr. Moore asked Mr. Wyeth what the District Commissioners feel about the Municipal Center project. Mr. Wyeth said the Commissioners are set on disposing of the two blocks because of their cost, and further the money from the sale could be used for other necessary items. Mr. Moore told him that there was an easy solution for the cost of these reservations to the District, namely, they could be turned into open-air garages. Mr. Moore said Senator Smoot helped obtain these blocks because he felt the District Government should have an important position in the city. It was regretted that the District Commissioners want to sell these blocks because nothing is ever gained by yielding to expediency. To this Mr. Wyeth replied that they want \$4,000,000 for the two blocks. Mr. Wyeth hoped that the District Commissioners would rename Judiciary Square John Marshall Square. In their designs for the buildings for this square, he said they are allowing space for a 50-year advance or a 900,000 population.

Mr. Moore asked that Mr. Wyeth keep this problem of the Municipal Center in mind. Mr. Wyeth replied that he was drawing sketches for the Municipal Center and would submit them to the Commission. The Commission reiterated its statement that the Municipal Center should be built along John Marshall Place facing Pennsylvania Avenue.

13. APEX BUILDING LANDSCAPE PLAN: Mr. Clarke made further inquiry as to the landscape plan for the Apex Building, which was considered by the Commission on October 23. A print of the design was shown to Mr. Clarke, who on inspecting it advised that a grass panel be used instead of a pool at the east end of the building and that the steps there be made parallel to the curb. The Commission concurred in these recommendations of Mr. Clarke and a report was sent to Mr. Simon accordingly. (Exhibit D)





14. CHAIN BRIDGE: Mr. Moore said that notwithstanding the action taken at the joint meeting of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on October 23, at which time the Commission under protest approved the overhead truss design for the bridge, the question is still open. He informed the Commission that subsequent to the October meeting Mr. Caemmerer had a competent Government engineer make a design for a continuous girder bridge drawn to scale and that a copy of this had been sent to Colonel Sultan, the Engineer Commissioner, who had agreed to confer with the consulting engineers, Modjeski, Masters and Case, about the matter; also in the meantime Senator Glass had requested a report from the Commission of Fine Arts about the design.

These developments since that time were discussed, the matter of number of traffic lanes on the bridge being considered. Mr. Clarke said the bridge ought to be a four-lane one as the three-lane bridge suggested by the District Commissioners is exceedingly dangerous. It was noted that making the bridge wide enough for four-lane traffic would double the cost; therefore, it was felt the safe thing to do now is to make the bridge two-way and then add to the piers later on and make the bridge a four-way one. Mr. Borie said he had pleaded at the joint meeting with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission not to approve the obsolete bridge design presented by the District Commissioners, for it is really an 1860 style. Mr. Howells had also objected to the truss design. A report was prepared and sent to Senator Glass. (Exhibit E)

15. BULFINCH GATEHOUSES AND POSTS: Mr. Moore asked Mr. A. B. Cammerer, Director of the National Park Service, if the Bulfinch Gatehouses could not be restored. The members of the Commission thought their restoration would be a fine thing in view of their historic interest. Mr. Cammerer said he would try to have it done. (Exhibit F)



16. ALTERATION OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION BUILDING (OLD PATENT OFFICE):

Mr. A. B. Cammerer had Mr. Guthridge in charge of space control of his office, presented a set of designs proposing an addition in the court of the old Patent Office Building designed by Robert Mills. Mr. Cammerer said the space requirements of the Government are very great, as \$2,500,000 a year is now being spent on rent. They put in estimates on the addition to the Patent Office in order not to lose their place on the appropriations. Economically this addition means an upkeep of \$3,000 a year whereas if this same floor space were to be put into a separate building the upkeep would be \$30,000. The Park Service views it as a practical proposition but there is a question whether or not it is right. The addition would be the same as in the Interior Building, Treasury, etc.

Mr. Howells thought such a move would be a pity because this building is one of the most valuable in the country. He felt that the court treatment of Mills is too fine to be spoiled and said such an addition would be a permanent mistake. Mr. Cammerer said the Civil Service Commission has been importuning them for years for more space--the building is old, high ceiled and the Civil Service Commissioners want more up-to-date quarters, which this wing would furnish. Mr. Howells likened changing this building to changing the Capitol, the White House, and even though an addition was put in the court of the Treasury, this building is far finer than the Treasury; in short, it should not be touched. Mr. Borie agreed with Mr. Howells and said that since the ceiling is so high on the top floor, balconies might be put in, thus giving more space, and the interior revamped in other ways. He made a number of other suggestions as to how the interior could be changed. Also the suggestion was made that a lot of files in the Civil Service Commission



building which now take up so much room, might be transferred to the National Archives Building. Mr. Borie said the court of the Patent Office ought to be landscaped, for which among other items he suggested big trees. Mr. Howells suggested that they might deepen the court and thus give the basement light so that it could be used for the cafeteria and other offices which now are so crowded in the building. Mr. Cammerer told Mr. Guthridge that since the Commission of Fine Arts would not approve a change in the Patent Office of this nature, he could not approve the plans.

17. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE STATUARY: Mr. Finnan explained the problem in connection with the contract made with Messrs. Fraser and Friedlander for the groups of statuary for the Arlington Bridge and Rock Creek Parkway entrances, and the enormously increased price of Mt. Airy granite, specified in the contract. They have found no granite that is cheaper. Mr. Lawrie thought that the increase from \$12,000 to \$39,000 for the granite was a tremendous jump and believed it might be broken down. Mr. Finnan said they had thought that perhaps marble could be used but while the cutting would be much less, the cost of the marble would more than offset this reduction. Mr. Finnan said that in his opinion the only relief is for Mr. Fraser and Mr. Friedlander to put in a claim for loss due to a delay of four years through impounding of the funds by the Bureau of the Budget. Mr. Friedlander, who was present for this discussion, said that in addition to the increase in the cost of granite there has been also an increase in the cost of carving from \$11 to \$14 a day. He believed he had got the marble people to a point where their marble price is about the same as that of the granite and if he could say that he could use Georgia marble, this might have some effect on the Mt. Airy people. Mr. Friedlander suggested that he and Mr. Fraser could make up the groups of





more and smaller pieces. The number of pieces he will use if granite is employed is seven--using smaller pieces would reduce the cost. Furthermore, there is the advantage that the smaller pieces of stone are more easily judged as to whether they have defects. Mr. Moore felt the only thing to do is to go to Congress and get more money. Mr. Finnan said that out of the total appropriation of \$14,500,000 that was authorized by Congress for the Arlington Memorial Bridge there can still be appropriated \$1,800,000 before the limit of the above authorization mentioned is reached. Mr. Friedlander said that he had made his original bid \$25,000 higher but he was persuaded to sign the contract as it is. Mr. Cammerer thought the thing to do is to go to the Comptroller General and explain the situation to him. Mr. Finnan said there are so many rulings about changes in prices of materials not affecting contracts that it would be hopeless, but Mr. Cammerer said there might not be a ruling about such a situation as this. It was decided that if it is proved that it is in the interest of the Government to use another kind of stone, then the contract could be changed legally. The Bureau of Standards states that Georgia marble will weather better than Mt. Airy granite. The Commission agreed that the matter should be taken up with the Comptroller General as suggested.

18. BOUNDARY CHANNEL BRIDGE: Mr. Finnan submitted a plan for a temporary bridge to cross Boundary Channel, which will connect Columbia Island with Virginia and in turn will connect with the George Washington Memorial Parkway leading to the Key Bridge and thence to the Lee Highway by way of the Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Finnan stated that his office believed it far more desirable to build a \$20,000 temporary bridge now instead of spending



four or five hundred thousand on a stone bridge to cross Boundary Channel. Their experience at the south end of Columbia Island with a stone bridge has been that the bridge has settled considerably during the last few years causing expense to the Government for repairs. The temporary bridge would serve while the ground settles at the north end of Columbia Island. Also this will leave enough money to build the additional span on the Virginia side of the Key Bridge under which the George Washington Memorial Parkway will pass. Mr. McNary of the Bureau of Public Roads was present and confirmed all this and explained details of the plan. The Commission concurred in this matter and approved the design for the temporary bridge across Boundary Channel.

19. LEE HIGHWAY: Mr. Moore called attention to the fact that Dr. Johnson, Director of the Lee Highway, had complained of a proposed cut in the hill on Route D just across from the Mary Baker road, which would spoil the view of the city on coming over the hill. Mr. McNary stated that the grading plan has been carefully worked out and that the cut is gradual (a 5 per cent grade) and by no means as deep as Dr. Johnson thinks. Mr. Clarke said he was familiar with the situation and confirmed the statement made by Mr. McNary, that this slight cut would not spoil the view of the city of Washington as Dr. Johnson had stated.

Mr. McNary was asked as to when the Lee Highway is to be completed by way of Arlington Cemetery over route D and he said that the money is available and the plans are all complete so that construction work can be underway as soon as Congress passes an act giving over the right-of-way of the Lee Highway through Fort Myer to the State of Virginia. The Secretary of War has already agreed to such a transfer.

20. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT REGULATIONS: The secretary brought to the attention of the Commission several communications from residents of the District



of Columbia requesting protection of their localities as is provided under the Shipstead-Luce Act for certain areas of the city. Among these was a letter from Major Totten, architect, and a copy of a protest recently sent in by several embassy officials residing on 16th Street, against an 80-foot apartment building at 16th and Fuller Streets. (Exhibit G). Also a letter was received from O. W. B. Reed of 16th Street, requesting that 16th Street be brought into the Shipstead-Luce Act area. (Exhibit G-1; see also G-2)

The secretary also called attention to the effort recently made by a slaughterhouse company to enlarge its building near the Anacostia Park. This enlargement would enable them to kill as many as 5,000 pigs a week. Mr. A. B. Cammerer, member of the Zoning Commission, stated that at a hearing held about two weeks ago certain amendments were made to the zoning regulations with a view to placing further restrictions on industrial areas, among which is the abattoir section. Mr. Moore said in behalf of the Commission that no slaughterhouse should be permitted in the District of Columbia. The following letter was received from the Executive Officer of the Zoning Commission, requesting suggestions from the Commission of Fine Arts as to desirable changes in the Zoning Regulations:

November 27th, 1936.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary,  
The Commission of Fine Arts,  
New Navy Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

The Zoning Commission in Executive Session, November 24th, 1936, adopted the amendments to Sections V and VI, of the regulations, as advertised and heard at the Public Hearing, without change.





In taking this action, they directed me to inform the Commission of Fine Arts that they did so because of the necessity for immediate safeguards against the establishment without regulation of noxious and hazardous uses in Industrial Districts, but that they will be glad to consider any constructive suggestions for further amendments to the regulations which your Commission may care to make.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) Hugh P. Oram,  
Executive Officer.

Mr. Cammerer said that zoning is a big subject and it is desirable to proceed slowly. It was generally admitted that large park areas should be admitted into the Shipstead-Luce Act supervision. The secretary stated that Assistant Secretary of State Carr had informed him that the Government owns \$12,000,000 worth of property abroad and that the State Department would like to see the Embassies given protection against encroachment by unsightly buildings in their vicinity, hence if this Government wishes its Embassies protected, it should reciprocate in kind. The State Department regretted very much to see the permit granted to build the 80-foot apartment building near the Italian Embassy. There are about 50 Embassy buildings in Washington, among them a number of very fine ones, as the British, Norwegian, Spanish, Japanese, etc. The Commission decided to give this matter very careful study. Mr. Moore said the question of amending the Shipstead-Luce Act is one for Congress to decide.

21. GARAGE AT 215--7th STREET, S.W.: The secretary submitted a design received from the Building Inspector (Application No. 604) for a garage to be built at 215--7th Street, S. W. The Commission took note of the fact that this building would be just south of the Mall. The Commission advised that whatever building is constructed in this region, should conform to the general architectural conditions imposed upon buildings facing public grounds as



fixed by the Shipstead-Luce Act map. Mr. May, the architect for the garage, was informed accordingly.

22. MARKERS IN NATIONAL PARKS AND MILITARY CEMETERIES: Mr. A. B.

Cammerer and Mr. Branch Spalding of the Historical Branch, submitted a number of designs for lettering of markers in the Military Parks. Mr. Cammerer said that when they took over the National Military Parks the markers were of all different sorts. Mr. Clarke, who has had considerable experience with signs, asked Mr. Spalding what his idea is of a permanent marker. Mr. Spalding replied that the simplest thing is painted wood. Mr. Borie thought cast iron would be better but Mr. Cammerer said they do not turn out so well because people will not get out to read them. Mr. Howells thought the letters as shown in the designs for the markers too small, but Mr. Spalding said they have tried this marker with this size of letter on the ground and it has proved quite legible.

Mr. Cammerer said that in the western parks the only signs are direction ones--green on white, the National Parks colors, but in the eastern parks it is a matter of history to be recorded. Mr. Clarke thought it would be a good idea if they could have a sign that would be distinctly significant of the National Park Service. It was noted that though the Park Service colors are green and white, it is not possible to get a green paint in this country that will not fade.

Mr. Borie said that in England a great deal of study has been made of lettering for visibility, legibility, types of letters, backgrounds, etc. and that they are ten years ahead of other countries. Mr. Borie said he would send a copy of a book on the subject of lettering to Mr. Cammerer. Mr. Cammerer said he wants something specific so that the field people will have to follow the wishes of his office.



New sketches for the markers will be made and submitted to the Commission. Samples of these will be made and set up in the parks and Mr. Cammerer said he would invite the Commission to inspect them.

23. TABLET FOR FORT WOOD, NEW YORK: The design which had been submitted by the National Park Service for a bronze tablet at Fort Wood was considered as also a revised design for general use. The design for the Fort Wood tablet was favored by the Commission as a standard for tablets in the National Monuments so far as the frame is concerned. The lettering is to be made the subject of further study with the special assistance of Mr. Borie, as in the case of the Military Parks markers.

24. PAINTING, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING: Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent of the Section of Painting and Sculpture, submitted the following letter with sketches for a painting to go in the Department of Justice Building:

December 12, 1936.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,  
The Commission of Fine Arts,  
New Navy Department Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am submitting herewith for the comment and advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, two sketches for a proposed mural for the Department of Justice Building, Washington, D. C.

These sketches are the work of Symeon Shimin and are the third of a series, "Emancipation of Man, Woman, and the Child," designed for the stairwell, lobby No. 9, of the Justice Building. The larger design is the preliminary design which was chosen from several hundred designs submitted in National competition by the jury of artists appointed by the Section for that purpose. The smaller design is a revised version of the larger and is the one under consideration to be carried out. The two previously accepted designs in this series were by Mr. John Ballator and Mr. Emil Bisttram.





I regret that Mr. Shimin's designs were not received in Washington until yesterday afternoon which prevented my getting them to you at an earlier date.

Very sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Ed Rowan,  
Superintendent,  
Section of Painting & Sculpture.

The sketches were submitted to Mr. Savage, who suggested that certain changes be made in the design. Mr. Clarke also suggested some changes in the landscape. The recommendations of the Commission were embodied in a report which was sent to Mr. <sup>Rowan.</sup> ~~Savage.~~ (Exhibit H)

25. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE BRIDGE, S. E.: The secretary reported that Colonel Sultan had informed him that he wished to submit plans for the new Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, S. E. The consulting engineers for the bridge are Parsons, Klapp, Brinckerhoff & Douglas, 142 Maiden Lane, New York City. The consulting architects are McKim, Mead and White. Colonel Sultan said it would be agreeable to him if the Commission would meet in the office of McKim, Mead and White, at which time also a representative of the engineering company would be present to explain the plans. Colonel Sultan was particularly concerned about the number of piers, saying there should be as few as possible because of the great depth of bed-rock below the surface, which is as much as 150 feet. The Commission decided to hold a special meeting in New York the latter part of December. (The plans for the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge were subsequently received and December 29, agreed upon as the date for the meeting.)

26. EXHIBITION AT THE CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART: The Commission inspected the exhibition of painting and sculpture by the Painting and Sculpture Section of the Procurement Division, Treasury Department, at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. The exhibition occupied practically the entire second floor. It included sketches of paintings for a number of public buildings throughout the states.



A few of the paintings were considered to be very good. In general it was thought the exhibition had this value at least, namely, that it brought to light some good artists hitherto unknown. In particular the work of Tom Lea of Texas was commended.

The Commission adjourned at 5:30 p. m.



# DELAWARE SWEDISH TRICENTENARY COMMISSION

1638 «» 1938

GEORGE A. ELLIOTT  
PRESIDENT  
JOHN P. NIELDS  
VICE PRESIDENT  
GEORGE H. RYDEN  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
ANNA T. LINCOLN  
RECORDING SECRETARY  
MRS. ALFRED V. DU PONT  
TREASURER

WALTER W. BACON  
PHILIP D. LAIRD  
EDWARD R. MACK  
RICHARD S. RODNEY  
HARRIS SAMONISKY  
CHRISTOPHER L. WARD

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

November 14, 1936

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer  
The Commission of Fine Arts  
Navy Department Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 12th instant, addressed to Delaware Swedish Tercentenary Commission. The Delaware tercentenary coin which you are considering may be described as follows:

OBVERSE: The ship Kalmar Nyckel, surrounded by the legend "Delaware Tercentenary 1638 - 1938", and having below it the words "E Pluribus Unum", "Liberty".

REVERSE: Old Swedes Church, Wilmington, Delaware, ~~surrounded by~~ sunburst and date "1936" <sup>above</sup> and beneath "In God We Trust", surrounded by the legend "United States of America", "Half Dollar".

I may say that the design of the ship is taken from a photograph of an accurate scale model of the original ship, secured from Sweden. The church is modeled after a photograph, but it is not accurate in one particular, namely, the ridge line should not extend back to the rear gable. It should break at the rear in a slant, so as to produce a hip-roof effect at the rear.

I suggest that the designer be requested to correct the design of the church according to the actual fact, and that the date of coinage be placed below the words "In God We Trust", which is a more usual position for such date, with a possible remodeling of the sunburst. If such changes are confirmed by your Commission, I would communicate with the





Mr. H. P. Caemmerer

(2)

November 14, 1936

designer with a view to effecting them upon the plaster cast.

The designer's name is Carl L. Schmitz. I thought it best to withhold information as to the result of the competition until the design had been passed upon by your Commission. I would, therefore, request that you keep the name confidential until your Commission's verdict has been rendered. I enclose with this, photograph of the two sides of the model, which may be convenient for you to have.

I would be glad to hear from you as to the suggested changes and as to your verdict on the design. Please address me at 318 Delaware Trust Building, Wilmington, Delaware.

Very truly yours,



Chairman Coin Committee.

CLW:EML  
Enc.



C O P Y

December 14, 1936.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 12, 1936, considered the models for the Delaware Tercentenary Coin.

The Commission suggest that the design of the church be changed so that the ridge line of the roof will not extend to the rear gable. It should break at the rear in a slant so as to produce a hip roof effect. The building is still in existence so that this suggestion is all the more important.

The date 1936 indicated at the top of the building should be placed in the space over the words, "Half Dollar".

Subject to these suggestions, the Commission approve the models.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,  
Acting Director of the Mint,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A-1



8 W. Mt. Vernon Place  
Baltimore, Maryland

December 11, 1936.

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary  
The Commission of Fine Arts  
Navy Department Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

In regard to the spelling of the name "Raleigh" appearing on the models for the "Sir Walter Raleigh-Virginia Dare" commemorative coin I am submitting today to the Commission of Fine Arts, may I present herewith quotations from eminent authorities as an explanation.

#### THE SPELLING OF RALEGH'S NAME

He himself signs himself once, in 1578, as Rawleyghe; then, until 1583, he usually signs Rauley. "From June 9, 1584, he used till his death no other signature than Raleigh. It appears in his books when the name is mentioned. Of the 169 letters collected by Mr. Edward Edwards, 135 are thus signed.

. . . The spelling Raleigh, which posterity has preferred, happens to be the one he is not known to have ever employed".

A deed signed by his father has Raleigh; and his brother Carew Raleigh signed himself Rawlygh.

"SIR WALTER RALEGH LAST OF THE ELIZABETHANS" by Edward Thompson

The name "Raleigh" is spelled likewise Raleigh by the WALPOLE SOCIETY of England, whose publication 1919-1920 is in the Library of Congress - Class N-12; Book W-3.

*The Walpole Society* Founded 1911 to further the study of the history of British Art. The 21 volumes issued are large quartos fully illustrated and dealing authoritatively with all of the aspects of art in England, excluding only the work of living artists.

The Honorable Secretary, J. W. Goodison, King's College, Cambridge.

*This* Quoted from the book called "THE YEAR'S ART, 1935" by H.C.R. Carter.

Very truly yours,





C O P Y

December 12, 1936.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 12, 1936, considered the models for the Sir Walter Raleigh--Virginia Dare Commemorative Coin by William Marks Simpson, sculptor, of Baltimore.

The models are satisfactorily designed but the Commission disapprove the spelling of Raleigh's name as Raleigh. In the opinion of this Commission the name should be spelled Raleigh as it is customary to do so in the United States and as it appears in the Act of Congress providing for this memorial coin.

Subject to this change the Commission of Fine Arts approve the models.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,  
Acting Director of the Mint,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B-1



C O P Y

December 14, 1936.

Dear Sir:

The photographs of a new design for the Grover Cleveland Memorial, which you submitted with your letter of November 28, were brought to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 12, 1936.

The Commission respectfully return the photographs to you with the suggestion that they be submitted to Professor E. V. Meeks, of Yale, who is the architectural adviser for the Grover Cleveland Memorial Committee, for his consideration prior to its submission to the Commission of Fine Arts.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Alfons B. Landa,  
c/o Davies, Beebe, Busick & Richardson,  
Bowen Building,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C



C O P Y

December 16, 1936.

Dear Mr. Simon:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on December 12, 1936, further consideration was given to the landscape plan of the Apex Building. The Commission approve the recommendation of Major Clarke that instead of a pool at the east end of the building there be a grass panel; also the steps at the east end of the building should be parallel to the curb. A print showing these changes is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Louis A. Simon,  
Supervising Architect,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D





C O P Y

December 14, 1936.

My dear Senator Glass:

As requested by you the Commission of Fine Arts respectfully submit a report on the width and design of Chain Bridge.

During several years the rebuilding of Chain Bridge has had continuous consideration of the Commission of Fine Arts in cooperation with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

This Commission recognize the practical necessity of a bridge in this location. The question therefore is first the adequacy of the bridge to carry the large and increasing traffic and secondly, the design of the bridge structure.

The plans for the rebuilding call for a bridge with a 29-foot roadway, providing for three lines of traffic. Members of the Commission who have had years of experience in bridge-building on the Bronx and other New York State parkways, have found that a three lane bridge is the most dangerous that has been built.

This Commission therefore favor a four-lane bridge with a 40-foot roadway, which is the best practice today.

If Congress does not now see fit to make an appropriation for a four-lane bridge, then the Commission recommend a 20-foot two-lane bridge to be built on the present piers. This recommendation is based on considerations of safety; also on the conviction that traffic requirements will soon call for a four-lane bridge, adequate for an indefinite future. Today on the average an automobile crosses Chain Bridge every few seconds.

The design of the bridge is important. A continuous girder should be used. The overhead truss bridge, such as the Highway Bridge and the Railroad Bridge, is offensive in appearance. It is an obsolete form not in good use in bridges of this character. When the two bridges above named were designed East Potomac Park had not as yet been reclaimed and on the Virginia side those bridges ended in Jackson City, a region of brickyards and the lowest class of dwellings. The high developments of the present time could not have been foreseen forty years ago. Else those bridges would not have been permitted.

EXHIBIT E



A design for a continuous-girder bridge, drawn by a competent Government engineer, is submitted herewith. It is accompanied by photographs of continuous-girder bridges in the United States and in Europe, taken from the library of the Bureau of Standards. The cost of a continuous girder bridge would be a little more, if any, than that of the overhead truss bridge.

The Commission have clearly in mind the fact that on the Virginia side Chain Bridge meets the George Washington Parkway now being developed to the Great Falls of the Potomac, and will be a large feeder to that parkway. While it is not recommended that Chain Bridge at present be raised to the dignity of a parkway bridge, at least in design it should not be offensive to the new parkway. Also it should be capable of enlargement as a parkway bridge.

Also the Commission recognizes the continuous high-class development of the Potomac River area in Virginia, which development takes advantage of the surpassing beauty of the river valley and is building accordingly. Chain Bridge accommodates the traffic to and from this region; therefore it should have as much amenity as is consistent with the reasonable expense of the rebuilding.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,  
(Signed) Charles Moore,  
Chairman.

Hon. Carter Glass,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.



C O P Y

December 23, 1936.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

You will recall that at the last meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts the members urged upon you putting in order the two old Bulfinch buildings at the corner of 15th and 17th Streets and Constitution Avenue and also the Bulfinch posts across the way. Now that the small parks have been put into such excellent order, thereby contributing vastly to the good appearance of the city of Washington, this Commission think that the area along 17th Street from the State, War and Navy Building to Constitution Avenue should be put in equally good order with the smaller parks.

So far back as 1901 the plans called for treating that area as shaded walks from the hot city to Potomac Park and while you were still connected with the Commission, trees were planted along the lines of the plan but the area was never properly cleaned out and as a result the walks are interrupted by various bushes that have outlived their usefulness.

The Commission suggest that following the procedure in the treatment of the small parks a plan be made also for this area. This plan would involve the elimination of all unnecessary shrubbery and trees in accordance with the original plan; also the restoration of the planting around the Butt-Millet Fountain and planting near (but not back of) the Second Division Memorial.

The Commission trust that a plan can be prepared in the immediate future.

Cordially yours,  
(Signed) Charles Moore,  
Chairman.

Hon. A. B. Cammerer, Director,  
National Park Service,  
Interior Department,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F









GEORGE OAKLEY TOTTEN, JR.

ARCHITECT

~~208 KENTON STREET~~

WASHINGTON, D. C.

REGISTERED ARCHITECT, DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA, NEW JERSEY AND FLORIDA  
NATIONAL 8656

2633-16th St. N.W.  
Dec. 9, 1936

NOTED  
DEC 10 1936

62 NORTH 11th STREET  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

The Fine Arts Commission of Washington, D.C.  
Navy Building  
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

May we ask you to recommend to the Zoning Commission the limiting in height of all structures to be erected on 16th Street between Kalorama and Columbia Roads to 60 feet as originally zoned.

This provision was viciated by a rider on all C-60 areas permitting 90 foot heights on all streets more than 110 feet wide, providing the area of the buildings were reduced in accordance with a certain formula.

That I am not speaking for myself alone is attested by a petition recently presented to the Commissioners (a copy of which was sent you) protesting against the erection of a 90 foot building on the corner of 16th and Fuller Streets.

This petition was signed by the Cuban, Polish and Italian Ambassadors, the Spanish Minister, the Mexican Charge d'Affaires, Mrs. Marshall Field and myself.

The property in this section is largely owned by foreign countries, the representatives of which have some hesitancy in personally protesting but I can assure you they feel none the less keenly the injustice of permitting the erection of the above mentioned cheap apartment house to this excessive height in this beautiful section.

Trusting you will use your good offices to aid us in this matter, I remain

Very respectfully

*Geo. Oakley Totten Jr.*

GOT/VG



November 9, 1936.

To the Honorable

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia,  
District Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We understand that an application for a permit for the erection of an 8-story apartment building on the southeast corner of 16th and Fuller Streets has been made to the Inspector of Buildings.

This portion of 16th Street has long been zoned as a C 60-ft. area and the imposing buildings in this neighborhood do not exceed that height; in fact, the majority of them are well under it.

As this immediate neighborhood is one of the finest in the city, we property owners and representatives of foreign governments respectfully request that you use your good offices to have any new structure erected on this portion of 16th Street limited in height to 60 feet, to which it is zoned.

We will thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

*George Oakley Totten*

*James*  
*Jerry Tottle*

*Richard O. ...*  
*... Counselor*

*...*

*...*  
*George A. ...*

*owner of 2633 16 St.*  
*Cuban Ambassador.*  
*Polish Ambassador*  
*Spanish Embassy*  
*Italian Embassy*  
*Mexican Embassy*  
*Mr. Marshall Field (R.)*





Washington, D. C.,  
7601 16th Street, N. W.,  
December 12, 1936.

The Commission of Fine Arts,  
Constitution Avenue & 18th Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

By way of introduction reference is made to the proverbial "Washington Beautiful", a descriptive term with a real meaning in the past, but may it not be suggested that the beautiful part of Washington is fast disappearing, due principally, it is believed, to unscrupulous, grasping, avaricious speculative builders and lack of their control from the District Government.

Home owners on Sixteenth Street and Massachusetts Avenue (the only two remaining boulevards and entrances to the city not yet entirely sacrificed to greed and avariciousness) feel that they are sorely in need of assistance from Congress, the District of Columbia Government and your most commendable body if the beauty of Washington is to be maintained.

Apparently the Commissioners of the District of Columbia feel that they are without authority under existing laws to properly supervise, curb and control private building enterprise in the District in such manner as to maintain "Washington Beautiful", and/or preserve in any manner existing property values. Is it not possible under the "Shipstead-Luce Act" of May 16, 1930, entitled "An act to regulate, the height, exterior design, and construction of private and semi-public property in certain areas of the National Capital", to extend within the meaning of said act a more complete control of the Commissioners over a larger area of Washington in the future than has been done in the past?

Sixteenth Street at various points, for instance, abuts directly on "Rock Creek Park"; it leads directly to the "White House" from the northern portals of the city (the "White House" and "Rock Creek Park" are both specifically mentioned in the "Shipstead-Luce Act"). Sixteenth Street abuts many other small parks and Federal Government Reservations, including Walter Reed Hospital and it is noted throughout the world for its foreign embassies and legations all of which tend to magnify its importance not only to the city of Washington but to the Federal Government and the Nation as a whole. Practically the same comments apply to Massachusetts Avenue and it is believed that complete regulatory control extending from the heart of the city to the District Line with respect to these two arterial highways should be lodged with the District Commissioners and your body acting at all times in an advisory capacity.

A large group of Sixteenth Street home owners, north of Walter Reed Hospital, whom the writer represents, have combined to fight the





#2.

inroads constantly being made or attempted by speculative builders. We have filed several suits against them and suits are now pending to enforce valuation covenants in deeds, which covenants run with the land. This is proving a great hardship on property owners both as to time and expense.

Just one specific instance will be cited here to illustrate our grievances. The illustration given is being repeatedly duplicated and we as private citizens (home owners) are endeavoring to "stem the tide". We are beginning to wonder why private citizens should be called upon to display more interest and civic pride in the city of Washington, the Nation's Capital, than does the Nation itself, through the Congress, the District Commissioners and yourselves.

The Building Inspector of the District of Columbia, acting under the Commissioners for the District of Columbia recently issued building permits for the erection of two so-called dwellings on Sixteenth Street, about two blocks south of Van Buren Street "to cost \$5000. each". Please consider the effect of this action with relation to previously established surrounding homes costing from \$25,000. to \$100,000. each (the latter character of homes prevail of course on Sixteenth Street generally as is well known to all).

May we have an expression of your opinion as to whether existing statutes are sufficient or whether further legislation should be sought.

Very truly yours,

  
O.W.B. Reed.



C O P Y

December 18, 1936.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of December 12, was presented at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on December 12, and had consideration. The strictures you make are appreciated by the Commission, which is trying to further such regulations as may be possible.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. O. W. B. Reed,  
7601--16th Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G-2



C O P Y

December 19, 1936.

Dear Mr. Rowan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on December 12, 1936, considered the sketches of a painting for the Department of Justice Building, entitled "Emancipation of the Child" by Mr. Symeon Shimin. The sketches were brought to the particular attention of Mr. Eugene Savage, painter member of the Commission.

The members of the Commission agreed upon the following criticisms of the subject matter: it being understood that the picture represents the regeneration and reconstruction of youth through social justice, the figures in the lower left hand part of the picture put too much accent upon what unfortunate conditions of children in America might be found, and the Commission ask that this part of the painting be modified somewhat.

The hill over the central figure at the top should be given a light value and the green in front of the athletes at the top right should be lowered in value and a light value arranged to meet the left side of the picture somewhere about the center of the composition as spoken of to you by Mr. Savage. The Commission recognize the ability of the artist in the interesting composition and disposition of its parts.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent,  
Section of Painting and Sculpture,  
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

