OCTOBER BOARD MEETING IN CHICAGO

On October 1, 1988, the NAOP Board of Trustees convened to welcome new Board members and to plan the agenda for 1989. The meeting was well attended and among those present was Charlotte Olmsted Kursh, daughter of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and one of the National Advisors for the NAOP. The Chicago Friends of the Parks sponsored a tour of parks in Chicago including: Riverside, Grant, Jackson, Washington, Hamilton, Ogden, Sherman, and McKinley Parks, and Cornell and Davis Squares.

An annual Board Meeting and Conference is planned for Spring 1989 in Baltimore, cosponsored by the Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks and Landscapes. The program is still in the planning stages, but will include an exhibit of the History of Baltimore Parks and Recreation 1900 - 1960, tours of the park system and squares and private estates, private residential developments designed by the Olmsteds, and the status of the Wyman Park Drive/33rd Street ASLA community-based CAT project. Complete details and a registration form will be included in the spring newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP RATES TO INCREASE IN OCTOBER

As of October 1988, the yearly membership dues will be raised as follows:

- Student/Senior: $15
- Individual: $30
- Contributing: $75
- Non-profit/Government: $100
- Corporate/Business: $200
- Patron: $250
- Benefactor: $1000

(Photograph by Haimes and Associates)

Pictured above is a plaque commemorating Frederick Law Olmsted, installed at Mount Royal Park. The Quebec Association of Landscape Architects, the Parks Department of the City of Montreal, and the First Quebec Corporation jointly sponsored a plaque in memory of Frederick Law Olmsted who designed Mount Royal Park in Montreal. The photograph was supplied by Eugene Reisman, First Quebec Corporation.
NEWS AND NOTICES

Seattle: The Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks are sponsoring a reception followed by a lecture by Arleyn Levee on John Charles Olmsted at the Seattle Aquarium Auditorium on Nov 3, at 7:30 P.M. These activities are part of a symposium on historic landscapes, jointly sponsored by the American Society of Landscape Architects and the National Park Service, which will be held in Seattle on Nov 3 and 4. The Friends will be conducting two tours, one on the Olmsted parks and boulevards and one on Olmsted residential designs and will present a slide show of current and historical slides of parks and boulevards.

The perennial conflict between two public goals, recreation versus water quality, is in full flower at Ravenna/Cowen Parks in Seattle. The parks comprise one of the last Olmsted designed wilderness areas in Seattle. The landscape includes Ravenna Creek, a natural sulphur spring site, a heavily wooded ravine including giant redwoods, western red cedars and Atlantic white cedars, and abundant wildlife. The wilderness area is the proposed site for a storm water management control project planned to alleviate uncontrolled storm water flows. The project is also planned to improve the water quality at Green Lake, an Olmsted designed park and one of the most used recreational areas. State environmental law requires that an environmental impact statement be prepared which includes the proposed route and two alternative routes. The Seattle Friends are working with other community groups to represent Olmsted Park interests and concerns.

The Washington Park Arboretum and Lake Washington Boulevard are original parts of the 1903 Olmsted Park Plan for the City of Seattle. The Arboretum Foundation is supporting a bicycle/pedestrian trail to link the Boulevard and the Arboretum with the Burke Gilman Trail, an extensive regional trail. Seattle Friends and the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation and the Seattle Engineering Department are working with the Arboretum Foundation to establish a trail that provides access to the Arboretum but does not endanger the plant collection or disrupt circulation patterns within the Arboretum grounds. The environmental impact statement for the project will include four alternatives, three of which were proposed by the Engineering Department, and the fourth by the Broadmoor residential neighborhood.

On a more cheerful note, the Seattle Boy Scouts are conducting their major service project with Volunteers for Outdoor Washington (VOW) at Interlaken Park in order to qualify for their Eagle Scout Award. The work includes trail reconstruction, 26 steps using railroad ties, the entrance to the park, a new section of trail to complete a loop, and erosion control, rebuilding a boardwalk bridge, and a 20 foot footbridge across a wetland area.

Atlanta: The Atlanta City Council voted 10-1 to intervene in the condemnation request filed by the Department of Transportation to take public land for the proposed parkway to the Carter Presidential Library, including sections of parks along Ponce de Leon Avenue in Druid Hills designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and his successors. Mayor Andrew Young vetoed the Council's action. On Sept 6th, the Atlanta City Council failed by a 11-1 vote to override the Mayor's veto. Still in question was the amount offered by the state for the land. It is thought that the offer of $817,000 may be too low. In other developments, Superior Court Judge Clarence Seeliger of DeKalb County ruled on September 22 that until the condemnation hearings scheduled for January 9-20 are held that the injunction on building on parkland within DeKalb County stands. He instructed both sides to mediate.

Baltimore: The Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks and Landscapes (FMOPPL) are hard at work locating local documents. Friends Vice President, Kurt Kugelberg, has volunteered to search and document drawings by F.L. Olmsted and Benjamin Latrobe at the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks. A seed grant from the Municipal Art Society has enabled FMOPPL to assume this task. The Friends have printed and distributed the inaugural issue of their newsletter, "The Olmstedian."

Rochester, New York: The NAOP Board of Trustees responded to an urgent request from the Olmsted Conservancy in Rochester to write a letter supporting the efforts of the Conservancy to preserve the Olmsted heritage in Rochester. The plans for expansion of the Zoo in Seneca Park are moving forward. The enclosure will double the indoor space for elephants and
visitors. In February of 1987 New York State declared Seneca Park eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The state historic preservation office has the right to review any work that is paid for with federal or state funds or involves a federal or state permit. Whether or not Monroe County chooses to accept a $100,000 state grant will determine the involvement of the state historic preservation office. The Rochester Olmsted Conservancy is opposed to any infringement on the local Olmsted legacy and to the expansion of the zoo outside its current confines. Seneca Park was designed by Olmsted and his firm in the 1890s. The park was intended to preserve both sides of the Genesee River gorge below the falls; the design for the northern section, where the zoo is now located, included a five-acre lake, picnic areas, and naturalistic drives.

Washington, D.C.: On October 5, President Reagan signed rails-to-trails legislation which would assure the recapture of federally-granted rail corridors for public use. The National Trails System Improvement Act of 1988 repeals an old statute which gave away the government's interest in the 30,000 miles of railroad rights-of-ways granted by the federal government over public land. Under the new law, the federal government will take back these corridors, upon abandonment for rail use, and convert them to recreation trails and greenways.

CONFERENCES


February 1989: Historic Landscape Preservation Workshop, Winnipeg. Intensive three day training program will offer preservation theory and practical technology. Contact: Historic Landscape Preservation Workshop, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2N2.

June 1989: Annual Conference for the Alliance for Historical Landscape Preservation to be held in Quebec City. Contact: Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, 470 Laurier Avenue West #1002, Ottawa Ontario K1R 7W9.

REORGANIZATION PLANS FOR NAOP OUTREACH

At the October Board Meeting, Katy Jo Johnson, Vice-Chair, presented a reorganization proposal designed to improve communications between individual and group members and to identify potential constituents throughout the country. The plan was approved by the Board.

The NAOP will have five regional divisions, northeast (including eastern Canada), mid-Atlantic, south, midwest (and central Canada), and west (including western Canada). A Board member from each region would serve as liaison between the region and the Board, would be responsible for compiling and keeping current a list of individuals and groups in that region who are affiliated with NAOP or are potential members, would communicate officially twice a year with those in the region and would publicize well in advance all NAOP activities and workshops. The regional structure would enable NAOP to rotate workshops around the country. A detailed listing of the regions and the Board Member liaison will be in the spring newsletter.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

The Editor would like to encourage letters which, if of general interest, will be included in the letter section. All correspondence should be directed to NAOP, 5010 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Room 308, Washington D.C. 20016.

The newsletter is published three times a year with regular issues in fall and spring and a summer update. The Editor welcomes feature articles, news items and announcements, notices of forthcoming events and programs, as well as ideas for topics to be covered, and books to be reviewed. Copies of the newsletter are available at a cost of $3.00 per issue.

Editor: Piera M. Weiss
BOOK REVIEW

To Dwell is to Garden: A History of Boston's Community Gardens with Portraits and Reflections of Boston's Gardeners by Sam Bass Warner, Jr., in a Portfolio by Hansi Durlach, Northeastern University Press.

The latest of Sam Bass Warner's books, To Dwell is to Garden, is excellent reading for New Englanders, gardeners, admirers of the photography of Diane Arbus, social historians, and readers who like a little bit of everything from photographs to vegetable lists.

The first section, A History of Community Gardening, provides historical background. Warner's implied thesis, that gardens are necessary for the healthy functioning of urban society, is supported by thought provoking social histories of community gardens of nineteenth century England and the United States. Careful treatment is given to the Enclosure Acts of eighteenth century England, the Post World War II suburbanization in the United States, and the role of gardeners in the American protest movements of the 1960s, among other historical processes. The parallel between the inevitable loss of undeveloped city land and the accompanying poverty and malaise in the United States and England is fascinating, if sad, reading.

Since the book is divided into three sections, however, those who wish to skip background material can go directly to the second section, the photographs. This is not your weekend suburbanite gardener, station wagon in the driveway, pointing proudly to the roses climbing the garage wall. These gardeners of all ages and races are defiant survivors of Boston's poverty zones; practicing the gentle art of gardening appears to give them some independence and control over their inner city surroundings. The photos have captured an almost hostile quality that the benign words of the interviewees contradict. Enough is shown only to hint at more: wrinkled faces of embattled gardeners clutching garden implements. Whatever their stories, it is clear that they require a special strength to survive inner city life.

Ethnic gardens and the vegetables found therein form the third section. The author has brought together Hippocrates' opinions of certain varieties of onions, the likely components of an Afro-American garden, detailed descriptions of dozens of vegetables with correct Latin names, as well as gardening tips for all gardeners. Although too small to be counted among the ranks of coffee table books and without the glorious color photographs, To Dwell is to Garden makes for excellent browsing while guests wait for dinner, although a more meticulous reading will uncover the counterpoint of an urban/agrarian theme.

Anita Baldwin

READINGS AND REFERENCES

In order to broaden the scope of this column, the editor invites readers to provide citations (and, if possible, photo copies or offprints), as well as recommendations for books to be reviewed for future issues.

The Buscaglia-Castellani Art Gallery of Niagara University's catalogue, "The Distinctive Charms of Niagara Scenery: Frederick Law Olmsted and the Niagara Reservation". It contains articles by Francis E. Kowsky and Charles Beveridge, and is illustrated with twenty-one historic plans and views. Copies are $8.00. Contact Sandra Olsen, Buscaglia-Castellani Art Gallery of Niagara University, 3100 Lewiston Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14305.

"City and Suburb" special issue of American Quarterly, Bibliography Issue 1985. Nine articles which expand the limits of "urban" history/studies to include "suburb" and "region".

May Woods and Arete Swartz Warren, Glass Houses, A History of Greenhouses, Orangeries and Conservatories, Rizzoli, New York 1988, $45.00. A history of the architecture designed to house the bounty of nature. As interest in plants changed to include exotics from all reaches of the planet and collectors debated on how to keep the plants alive and healthy, architects had to revise and rethink their designs. Glass Houses traces the history of buildings for plants from the gardens of the Ancient World, through the golden age of the greenhouse (1715-1800) and ends with new botanical conservatories built in the 1980s.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will be publishing in November the sixth in their Building Watchers Series: Landscape Architecture: Designers
and Places, edited by William H. Tishler. There will be 42 essays by different authors and will include the three Olmsteds. The cost is $9.95 plus $3.00 for postage and handling. Checks should be sent to: The Preservation Press, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC, 20036.

The Olmsted Papers has published four volumes, which, as our readers may already know, are for sale through the NAOP. There are 12 volumes planned in the series. Volumes 5 and 6 are well underway with publication dates in the near future. We offer our readers a preview of Volumes 5 - 12, which has been kindly provided by the Olmsted Papers.

Volume 5: The California Frontier, 1863 - 1865

As general manager of the Mariposa Estate, Olmsted undertook to run the largest gold-mining operation in the country at that time. While there, he carefully observed frontier society and the stages of its development. His letters contain many vignettes of frontier life, as do two previously unpublished works -- "The Pioneer Condition and its Influence on American Civilization," and "A Pioneer Community of the Present Day: Account of Mariposa and its Inhabitants." His letters and journals describe summer camping trips to Yosemite Valley and his work as head of the first commission for managing the public reservation there. The volume also contains the four reports that Olmsted wrote for major design projects in California: The Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Trees Reservation, a park system for San Francisco, Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, and the campus of the College of California in Berkeley.

Volume 6: The Era of Olmsted, Vaux and Company, 1865 - 1874

The volume will contain letters and a dozen reports on parks, park systems and city planning written during the partnership of Olmsted and Vaux— including reports for Newark, New Britain, Hartford, Albany, Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, Fort Greene and Tompkins Parks in Brooklyn, and Union Square in Manhattan, and correspondence relating to such other projects of the Olmsted-Vaux partnership as Prospect Park and adjoining parkways in Brooklyn, the Buffalo park system, the Chicago South Park, and work on Central Park in the period 1865 - 72. Also, correspondence about the suburban communities of Riverside, Illinois, and Irvington and Tarrytown, on the Hudson above New York City, the report concerning the planning of national agricultural colleges that Olmsted and Vaux presented with their plan for the campus of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The volume will also have letters concerning the early stages of Olmsted's work on the U.S. Capitol grounds and on Mount Royal in Montreal.

Volume 7: The Late New York Years, 1874 - 1882

The volume will also present documents relating to Olmsted's work while he was living in New York following his partnership with Vaux. There will be reports for the design of Riverside and Morningside parks, Tompkins and Manhattan Squares in Manhattan, correspondence relating to his work on regional plans for Staten Island and the 23rd and 24th Wards of New York City (the Bronx), material on the U.S. Capitol grounds, the New York State Capitol, Mount Royal in Montreal, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, the Cornell University campus and insane asylums in Buffalo, Poughkeepsie, and Boston. The volume will also include the detailed journal that Olmsted kept of politics and patronage in New York, Albany and Washington during the mid-1870s, and his intense exchanges with E. L. Godkin, Samuel Bowles, and Charles Eliot Norton about Reconstruction policy. The volume ends with Olmsted's dismissal as landscape architect of the New York parks department at the beginning of 1878 and his move to Brookline, Massachusetts, soon after.

Volume 8: The Early Boston Years, 1882 - 1888

The volume follows Olmsted's career as he establishes his home and office in the Boston area and the formation of a partnership with his stepson and pupil John C. Olmsted in 1884. The principle focus of the volume will be the major public design work that Olmsted initiated during the period in Boston's Back Bay, Riverway, Arnold Arboretum, and Franklin Park. It presents documents relating to Olmsted's collaboration with Henry Hobson Richardson, who died in 1886. Also, the design for Belle Isle in Detroit, in Olmsted's later work on Mount Royal and the U.S. Capitol grounds. Other documents will deal with
his leading role in the campaign to create a public reservation at Niagara Falls and his planning with Calvert Vaux of the reservation area in 1887. There will be documents on his plans for the campuses of Lawrenceville School, Trinity College in Hartford, and Amherst College.

Volume 9: Expanding Horizons, 1888 - 1891
The volume will deal primarily with the work of Olmsted and his firm outside Massachusetts, in several instances involving a return to cities where he had worked previously with Calvert Vaux. Included will be reports on designs for Morningside Park, South and Cazenovia Parks in Buffalo, Cadwalader Park in Trenton, Downing Memorial Park in Newburgh, parks in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and Hartford, Connecticut. There will also be reports and correspondence for the later elements of the Boston park system: Charlesbank, Marine Park, and Wood Island Park, proposals for treatment of the harbor islands and an encircling parkway system from Franklin Park to the harbor, and the completion of the Haverway system. In addition, there will be material on subdivision design, especially in Buffalo and Boston, numerous private estates including several in Lenox, Mass, and Shelburne Farms in Vermont, and the Vanderbilt Mausoleum in New Dorp, Staten Island. Other documents will chronicle the planning of the Stanford University campus, and the beginnings of Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, and the Rochester, New York, park system.

Volume 10: The Last Great Projects, 1891 - 1895
This, the last chronologically arranged volume in the series, will present the last stage of Olmsted's career, with a firm that included (sequentially) his former students Harry Codman and Charles Eliot as partners, and during which he concentrated his energies on his last two great commissions, Biltmore Estate in North Carolina and the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. There will also be considerable correspondence concerning the development of the Rochester, New York, park system, and the other park systems in whose creation Olmsted was involved during the last years of his practice: Louisville, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Essex County in New Jersey and Kings County in New York, as well as the Exposition. The volume will also present Olmsted's continuing discussion of society, politics, religion and art with his old friends Charles Loring Brace, Frederick J. Kingsbury and Charles Eliot Norton, and will include some of the remarkable retrospective letters that he wrote in the 1890s to Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer and his son, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.

The volume will include updated manuscripts and fragments on general design topics on which Olmsted worked over many years, but that he never brought to completion -- a legacy of thought and theorizing that will here reach its intended audience for the first time.

Volume 11: The Major Public Design Reports, 1865 - 1895
The volume will consist of the reports that Olmsted wrote explaining his major plans for parks, parkways, and park systems during the final thirty years of practice following the Civil War. The reports to be published are listed below, preceded by a tentative chapter-heading that indicates the particular topic and significance of each report or groups of reports:

A "Classic" Park Design:
Plan for Prospect Park, Brooklyn (1866)
The Psychological Effect of Park Scenery:
Address to the Prospect-Park Scientific Association
The Concept of the Parkway:
Proposed Parkways for Brooklyn (1868)
A Model Suburban Residential Community
Report on Riverside, Ill. (1868)
The First Park System:
Plan for the northside Buffalo Park System (1869)
Parks and City Planning:
Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns (1870)
Regional Landscape Themes for the Middle West:
Report on Chicago South Park (1871)
Completion and Protection of the Greenward Plan:
Review of Changes and Projected Changes in Central Park (1872)
The Policing of Urban Parks:
Instructions to the Central Park Keepers (1873)
The Role of Parks:
"A Consideration of the Justifying Value of a Public Park (1880)
How to Design a Mountain:
A Report on Mount Royal, Montreal (1881)
A Forest and Water Park and the Structures Appropriate to It:
A Report on Belle Isle, Detroit (1882)
"Belle Isle: One Year After" (1884)
Preserving Watercourse in Urban Areas as Public Open Spaces:
3 Reports on Back Bay and Riverway, Boston (1880, 1881, 1882)
Preservation of Natural Scenery:
Report on the Niagara Reservation (1887)
Designing A Second Park for a City's Recreation System:
Plan for South Park, Buffalo (1888)
Parks and Parkways in Relation to City Planning:
Approaches to South Park in Buffalo and Laying Out of the 13th Ward (1888)
The Last Attempt to Explain the Purpose of Parks
Report to the Cincinnati Park Commission (1894)

Volume 12: Plans and Views, 1858 - 1895
The volume will be in large format, so that the details of the plans will be clear enough for reference purposes. There will be topographical plans, preliminary plans, planting plans and working sketches. There will also be photographs that show the projects at various stages of progress, and, in particular, that show the realization in later years of the original design intent. By using photographs in addition to plans, the editors intend to provide visual documentation of the whole range of landscape effects that Olmsted attempted to achieve. The plans will also document the variety of the projects that Olmsted undertook.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE NAOP.

NAOP is offering its members the opportunity of buying the following books at a 40 percent discount. Price includes 40 percent discount plus $3.50 shipping and handling fees.

- copies of Volume 1, The Formative Years @ $21.50
- copies of Volume 2, Slavery and the South @ $21.50
- copies of Volume 3, Creating Central Park @ $20.60
- copies of Volume 4, Defending the Union, The Civil War and the U.S. Sanitary Commission @ $27.50
- copies of The New Urban Landscape, The Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth-Century America, David Schuyler @ $23.70

NAOP is offering the Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857 - 1950, for a cost of $14 plus $2 mailing fee to its members. All others pay $18 plus a $2 mailing fee.

Name___________________________
Address_________________________
City, State and Zipcode___________

Please send to: National Association for Olmsted Parks
5010 Wisconsin Avenue
Room 308
Washington DC 20016

MEMBERSHIP

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Membership Rates: Please Circle One.
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- Non Profit/Cov't Inst. 100/yr
- Corporate 200/yr
- Sustaining 250/yr
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