



Main entrance, facing Massachusetts Avenue, of the new headquarters building of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. To celebrate the completion of the building a special scientific program on the uses and effects of atomic radiation was held today at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, followed by a dedication ceremony and open house at the new AAAS building. Speakers at the program and the dedication were Caryl P. Haskins, Carnegie Institution of Washington; Shields Warren, New England Deaconess Hospital; L. C. Dunn, Columbia University; Lawrence R. Hafstad, General Motors Corporation; Detlev W. Bronk, Rockefeller Institute; Willard F. Libby, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission; Laurence H. Snyder, University of Oklahoma; and Paul B. Sears, Yale University. [Photo by Davis Studio, Washington, D.C.]

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Cornerstone

During the course of planning the AAAS building, the architect asked if we wanted a cornerstone. Practice varied, he told us; we could have an elaborate one with an enclosed copper vault in which we might bury selected mementos of science or the Association; we could have one without enclosures but with any inscription we chose; or we could have none at all. The one thing he warned us not to do was to forget to carry to completion whatever plans we agreed upon—a lapse that left another Washington building with a cornerstone that bore only the inscription *Cornerstone*.

We decided not to have any, chiefly because the limited space usually results in paying honor to the few persons who were prominently involved during the limited segment of time when the building was being constructed, while neglecting the many others whose earlier work was of at least equal importance. With more words available here than could be inscribed on two or three square feet of granite, let this editorial recognize the many builders of the AAAS building.

When it became apparent a dozen or so years ago that the Association could no longer continue as a guest of the Smithsonian Institution, F. R. Moulton, who was then Administrative Secretary, and the officers began to look for a suitable site on which the Association could eventually erect its own building. The site we now occupy is the one they selected. Dr. Moulton dreamed of a large building that would serve as a center for many scientific activities and organizations. His dream impressed many as an excellent and a feasible idea, but the cost, and the difficulties of securing permission to erect such a building in an area not zoned for office buildings, persuaded the Association's officers to adopt a less ambitious plan.

The definite decision to build was made during Howard Meyerhoff's term as Administrative Secretary, and most of the necessary money was accumulated during his years of careful management of Association affairs.

Plans became final during the years that E. U. Condon and Warren Weaver served as chairmen of the Association's Board of Directors, and were drawn up under the guidance of a Building Committee that consisted of John R. Dunning, Wallace R. Brode, Detlev W. Bronk, Paul E. Klopsteg, Laurence H. Snyder, and Warren Weaver.

The Association was fortunate in obtaining the services of the architectural firm of Faulkner, Kingsbury and Stenhouse, a choice originally made by F. R. Moulton; the general contractor, William P. Lipscomb Co.; Knoll Associates, who helped plan interiors and supplied the new furniture we needed; and A. Gude Sons Co., who landscaped the grounds. F. P. H. Siddons, chairman of the Association's finance committee, has for many years been a much valued financial adviser. The legal advice of Arthur B. Hanson has helped us repeatedly.

The Association is grateful to its members and friends whose gifts—as small as a dollar and as large as \$10,000—have now reached a total of \$157,831. That amount plus savings from past years sufficed for all but \$175,000 of the total cost. The American Security and Trust Company provided the remainder through a mortgage.

The officers and staff are proud of a building that is new, handsome, and efficient. If the building had a cornerstone, we would want it to bear the names of all the contributors who made the building possible.—D. W.