charted, but Dr. Gowans, supported by much recent scholarship, has
made a good try.

In discussing the emerging concept of an "original" American
architecture exemplified in the work of Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd
Wright, and the "progressive" men of their time, he pays just and
long overdue tribute to the craftsmen who made their achievements
possible. The author rightly notes the survival of late Victorian
clecticism in the 1920's and he gives an absorbing account of the rise
of Modernism in this country since 1929.

Physically the book is not unpleasant, but this reviewer admits
to a prejudice against double columns. The illustrations are good and
well chosen, but the presence of large blocks of explanatory captions
make the book difficult to read; one has to hunt from page to page
for his "place" in the text.

Dr. Gowans has ably demonstrated how history has shown itself
in American architecture, but one is always left with the question of
just how American it is. On the last page of his text, the author has
a note of skepticism about American potentialities, but we prefer to
take Dr. Gowans in the text itself, at the top of his stride — "But
perhaps the answer is . . . that an 'American style,' if there is one,
must be sought not in the realm of the forms but in spirit. What is
American about architecture in the United States is in fact precisely
that spirit of eager experimentation which we see at its best in the
mid 20th century — the conscious, continuous, restless search for new
ideas and new expressions that proceed from life, liberty, and the
pursuit of happiness in a free society."

*Carnegie Institute of Technology*

**JAMES D. VAN TRUMP**

**American State Archives. By ERNST POSNER.** (University of Chicago

With the aid of a grant from the Council on Library Resources,
Inc., a project has been conducted to determine the status of archives
in each of the fifty states of the Federal Union and its territories, with
the purpose of measuring their attainments against a set of realistic
standards. The result of this project is Dr. Ernst Posner's compre-
hensive book entitled *American State Archives*. The opening chapter
gives an account of the beginnings of state archives in this country.
This is followed by the largest section of the book which contains in-
individual essays on the archival conditions now found in each state and in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Comments in the form of specific suggestions for improved conditions are included at the end of each essay. A summary of findings based on information furnished in the state essays is then given, pointing out some general conclusions on the present legal basis, organization, and programs of the state archival agencies. This is followed by the concluding chapter which sets forth standards for state archival agencies in regard to proper organization for archival service; to their archival function in the matter of assembling, preserving, and serving the permanently valuable records of the state; and to their responsibility in carrying out adequate records management programs. Appendices deal with meanings of terms used; with budgets and professional salaries of archival agencies, and with the extent of record holdings of the various agencies. There is a basic bibliography of writings on public archives administration in the United States, and an index.

In the state essay on Pennsylvania, Dr. Posner cites as noteworthy the work of the Pennsylvania Division of Public Records in the arrangement and description of provincial papers, 1650-1776; Revolutionary papers, 1776-83; post-Revolutionary papers, 1783-ca.1793; so-called Governors’ papers, 1790-1838; road and turnpike papers, 1790-1839; county documents; military papers; and passenger lists. In the same essay, the new Archives Tower at Harrisburg is described as having offices, work areas, a research room, and a reference library at its base and 17 windowless stack floors above. A basement provides space for common-use facilities and 10,000 square feet for the records center. Stack floors one through five will be used for general archives storage and floors six through eight for the storage of restricted material, such as Governors’ papers. Floors eleven through seventeen are to be equipped for records center use, while floors nine and ten are reserved for future records center purposes. Pennsylvania is to be congratulated for providing this fine building for its archives.

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