

HARDING LAUDS WORK OF LINCOLN ARCHITECT; In Bestowing Institute's Gold Medal, He Says Designer Has Perpetuated Lincoln's Spirit.

1923

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WASHINGTON, May 18.-The Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects was presented tonight by President Harding to Henry Bacon, architect of the Lincoln Memorial. In bestowing this honor, the highest in the gift of the Institute, the President expressed the hope that in the building of the institutions of America there may be a fidelity comparable to the ideals which guided Lincoln in his great work for the country.

The exercises which marked the closing of the fifty-sixth annual convention of the American Institute of Architects was held in the Lincoln Memorial, Chief Justice Taft sharing the honors of the occasion with the President. Drawn across the reflecting pool on a barge of honor, Mr. Bacon was greeted at the Memorial by the President and the Chief Justice, following which there was a procession including the best known architects, engineers, painters and members of trades and crafts in this country. Slow burning torches and rockets added color to the picture.

President Harding said "no man could have seen in his mind's eye the vision of this supremely appealing structure, or could have conceived it as the most appropriate memorial to the life and work of Lincoln, unless he was so fortunate as to sense the genius, the character, the simple aims and unquestioning integrity which were the dominant traits of the Emancipator."

"It is part, and a great part, of the debt which as a nation we owe to Lincoln, that because of his service and devotion we are a nation capable of bringing forth such genius in conception, such capacity for realization, as are here attested. The place of Lincoln in the affections of our people has no doubt been determined in large part by that idealism which cynics are wont to call sentimentalism, but which is so vital a factor in the national character."

"We may readily enough convince ourselves that Lincoln, the Lincoln of flesh and blood and human emotions, if he could view this memorial, would find his chiefest satisfaction, not in the recognition which it bespeaks for him, his life and his labors, but in the thought that the nation he loved and served has vindicated his aspirations for it, by bringing forth such a proof of lofty aim

and capacity for achievement. For that, after all, is the thing which is memorialized in this nobility of design, this purity of detail, this perfection of execution."

The concluding sessions of the Institute of Architects were held today in the Corcoran Gallery of Art. William B. Faville of San Francisco was reelected President.