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Letter from Walter W. Horn to Alfred L. Shoemaker, October 7, 1959

Walter W. Horn

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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DEPARTMENT OF ART
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

October 7, 1959

Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker
Pennsylvania Folklife Society
218 W. Main Street
Kutztown, Pa.

Dear Dr. Shoemaker,

Thank you ever so much for your kind letter of September 30. I was well acquainted with your book on the Pennsylvania Barn, and in fact have used a number of slides, made after its reproductions, to demonstrate the difference between the California Barn and the Pennsylvania Barn.

I do not think that the Pennsylvania Barn has made any deep impression upon the West. I remember having seen some isolated specimens, here and there, in my travels west of the Rockies, but they are rare - and since my studies were concerned with a different type of structure, I did not take any notes on them. What I refer to as the "California Barn" - or as the "Western Barn" in general, is a three-aisled structure, in which the cattle are ranged lengthwise in the aisles, or all around the center space in aisles and under the leanto's, the nave in general being used for the storage of hay. This structure is not subdivided into a lower and upper floor, but is open from the floor to the ridge. I have dealt with the European prototype of this building type briefly in an article entitled "On the Origin of the Medieval Bay System", Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Summer 1958, pp. 2-23, with 43 reproductions and I shall be dealing with this subject extensively in a book on "Aisled Medieval Halls and Barns in Timber", on which I have been working for some time. I am unfortunately out of all of my offprints of the article in the SAH Journal, but you may be able to obtain one by writing to the editor, Paul F. Norton, Department of Art, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.

If you ever come West, I hope you will get in touch with me.

With the warmest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Walter W. Horn
WALTER W. HORN, Chairman
Department of Art

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