

Clarence Augustine Martin

September 29, 1862 — January 5, 1944

Clarence Augustine Martin, Professor of Architecture, Emeritus, died at Sarasota, Florida, January 5, 1944, being 81 years old.

For thirty-six years he served Cornell University and the College of Architecture, unremittingly and with distinction. As Assistant Professor, Professor and Dean he gave his best and his all. To every associate from janitor to the President of the University he was a faithful and helpful friend, sparing neither his time, his strength nor his material resources.

To many generations of students he was familiarly known as "Pa." As is so often the case this nickname reflected something real and deep-seated. To hundreds he was in fact a father-away-from-home. The standards, academic and ethical, which he set for them were high and sound. His completed record is one of kindness, loyalty, and rugged integrity.

Born in Medina County, Ohio, in 1862, he prepared there for entrance to Cornell University where he was a special student from 1886-1888. This short but rigorous training was then followed by apprenticeship in some of the leading Architects' offices. His early experience included an apprenticeship to the difficult and exacting trade of the wagon builder. This early mastery of tools gave him the foundation on which he built a rare understanding and appreciation of the fine craftsmanship which must underlie accomplishment in Architecture. For years this was the key to his contribution to the College as well as to the development of individual students. He would pass his hand over a finely finished piece of wood and convey more understanding by a gesture than often goes with many words.

During his service, it is now clear, the College was largely formed around his standards and his ideals. Also during those years the College rose to a position of recognition and distinction.

In 1899 he published a volume on "Details of Building Construction" that reflected clearly his high standards of workmanship and sound procedure. For years it was not merely a college textbook but the standard reference book, familiar to draftsmen in hundreds of offices throughout the country. It remains today a sound and useful manual on the subjects covered.

His work was also known and appreciated in the profession at large. He was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and one of the founders of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. He was for a long time

secretary of that Association and an author of its "Standard Minima." In 1918, he was honored by having Colgate University confer on him the degree of Doctor of Science.

He gave of his time, his energy and his resources to all sorts of individuals and institutions. To his church, his fraternity and to the civic life of his community he consistently contributed whatever, at the moment, was most needed.

Throughout his career as a teacher he carried a small amount of professional practice without ever allowing it to take precedence over or to interfere with the needs of the school or the students in his charge.

During World War I, at the age of 57, he not merely held together, almost single handed, the remnants of his College but he played a useful part in a difficult and unprecedented project of building reinforced concrete barges for war use.

When, in the course of time, his retirement from teaching became mandatory, he accomplished that difficult transition gracefully and effectively. Re-establishing himself in Florida, he resumed professional practice to a moderate extent and at the same time continued his contributions to civic and community life in his new environment.

In 1942, at the age of 80, and in the emergency of a new war, he again put on the harness and assumed full time responsibilities in cantonment construction.

Full of years, and of accomplishment to the full, he has passed on. But his kindly view of life and his high professional ideals will live on in the life and work of hundreds of those whose good fortune it was to spend a few of their formative years under his beneficent influence.