

Julia Blundell Adler

October 17, 1912 — April 17, 1976

Mrs. Julia Blundell Adler came to Cornell in 1957 as assistant professor in the Department of Housing and Design (now Design and Environmental Analysis), College of Home Economics (now the College of Human Ecology). She readily found her place at Cornell, and as a valued member of the department was promoted to the associate professorship in 1960. She continued as a member of the faculty until 1965, when she was forced to retire due to reasons of health.

Mrs. Adler was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi. She was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree by Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia, in 1933, and then moved to New York City where she pursued her interest in the field of design. She studied at Parsons School of Design, 1934; Cooper Union, 1937-38, 1939-40; and at the University of the State of New York. She received the Master of Arts degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, in 1955.

She had a varied background of experience in both the practice and the teaching of design. As a designer, she worked with designer Scott Wilson, New York City, 1934-36; with designer Paul Snow Tilden, New York City, 1938; and for nine years, 1940-49, was assistant designer at Bertha Schaefer Interiors, New York City, as well as working as a free-lance designer during this period, designing fabrics, wallpapers, packaging, and displays. During the years 1953-57 she was design instructor at The Art Career School, Department of Interior Design; The City College of New York, Department of General Studies; and The Art School of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. In the summer of 1959, Mrs. Adler assisted the director of the Bertha Schaefer Gallery and was in charge of the gallery while the director was in Europe. In 1960 she was design consultant for Chemstrand, New York City; Noyes Lodge (redesign of interiors), Cornell; for Ithaca Hotel (lobby), Ithaca.

Mrs. Adler's strength and academic contribution to the Department of Housing and Design at Cornell lay in her professional point of view, her interest in students, individually, and in the quality of her teaching. She came to us with considerable teaching experience, as well as specialized training for the teaching profession. Both undergraduate and graduate students enjoyed working with her and sought out her classes and her supervision. She had the ability to bring out the strengths in each one, as well as to press students toward better scholarship and accomplishment. Mrs. Adler was interested in the professional future of her students and often kept in touch with them after they were graduated.

Mrs. Adler is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Graham of San Francisco, California, and Mrs. Conklin of Moscow, Idaho; a grandson, Michael Graham; a brother, Dr. George P. Blundell of Rockville, Maryland; and a sister, Mrs. Julius Allen of Kensington, Maryland.

Kenneth W. Evett, G. Cory Millican, Virginia A. True