

Alexander Duncan Seymour, Jr.

February 1, 1884 — August 25, 1957

Alexander Duncan Seymour, Jr., Emeritus Professor of Architecture, died in 1957 at the age of 73, after a long and varied career as an architect and teacher and an equally active one in the world of yachting.

In the profession of architecture, he distinguished himself as a designer by placing prominently in several national architectural competitions, as a painter by his sketch water colors and oils, and as a teacher by gifts of wisdom and humor which are today present in the colorful traditions of the College of Architecture at Cornell University.

Evidence of his interest and activity in yachting is carried by Lloyd's Register, which notes that his private signal has flown from the yard arm of seven different power or sailing yachts. Although for many years he was a member of a number of distinguished yachting associations, his most dynamic interest was most obvious in the activities of the New York Yacht Club and the Cruising Club of America.

The richness of his contributions to the art of teaching and to the worlds of culture and yachting are only eclipsed by the esteem in which he was held by those friends who were privileged to enjoy his charming and stimulating company beside the flowing bowl and at the board of gourmets. Full of irrepressible and spontaneous good humor, gentle and provocative satire, ribald and mirthful reminiscences, the "Skipper" or the "Admiral", as he was known to his intimate friends, was a rare and delightful companion.

Duncan Seymour joined the faculty of the College of Architecture as a Visiting Critic in 1926, became Professor of Architecture in 1928, and in 1940 was elected Andrew Dickson White Professor of Architecture. He retired in June of 1950 and became Emeritus Professor.

During the years following his retirement from teaching, he revived and enhanced his skill as a painter of water colors. After his health forced him to give up yachting, he devoted most of his time to this hobby. The collection of these paintings which he left, especially those done in Mallorca, Spain and in the Boothbay area of Maine, bear witness to his delight and skill in the field of the graphic arts.

For a list of those conventional honors which the "Skipper" regarded and frequently alluded to as his "vanities", his biographers refer you to Volume #28 of *Who's Who*.

S. M. Barnette, B. K. Hough, F. M. Wells