

Thomas W. Silk

March 24, 1904 — October 1, 1971

To the faculty, alumni and friends of the Cornell School of Hotel Administration, the news of Professor Emeritus Thomas W. Silk's passing on October 1, 1971 tolled the end of an era. In the three decades from his appointment in 1938 to his retirement in 1968, he taught the essential elements of accounting to thousands of students. Tom will be remembered especially for his enthusiastic ability to counsel and guide the students with whom he came in contact. He also was active as an adviser to the international students in the Hotel School.

Although Tom was often considered a native "easterner," he was born in Forestville, California, and spent his early years in the public hospitality industry working in hotels in the San Francisco area. Having received a B.S. degree from the University of California in 1925, he matriculated at Cornell in 1936 and received his B.S. in Hotel Administration in 1938. World War II interrupted his teaching career, and he saw active duty as a finance officer in the Air Corps from 1942 to 1946. He served in the continental United States and Korea. Tom then returned to the Cornell faculty and completed his M.S. in 1946.

Professor Silk is survived by his wife, Mary Dodge Silk, of Whitefield, New Hampshire, two stepsons and one stepdaughter.

Although he was responsible totally for the freshman accounting course, Tom continually sought involvement in many other areas. University committees on which he served, either as a member or chairman, were: Faculty Committee on Student Conduct (1949-53); National Scholarship Committee (1954-58); Committee for Undergraduate Education (1954-58); and the Administrative Committee for Unclassified Students (1954-57). For the School, he was an active member of the Admissions Committee and the Faculty Committee on Petitions.

Tom's academic accomplishments were attested to by his membership in both of the academic honoraries for which Hotel students are eligible: Ye Host Society and Phi Kappa Phi.

After Tom's retirement in 1968, he maintained an active interest in the management of the Mountain View House, in Whitefield, New Hampshire.

Tom always will be remembered fondly, respected deeply, and missed by all who knew him.

Myrtle H. Ericson, David C. Dunn, Paul R. Broten