

Andre Laurent Jorissen

January 17, 1913 — February 27, 1958

Andre L. Jorissen, Professor of Civil Engineering, died in Ithaca on February 27, 1958, after a short illness. His untimely death deprived the College of Engineering of the services of one of its most capable teachers and prominent engineers.

Professor Jorissen was born on January 17, 1913, in Liege, Belgium. He studied at the University of Liege and was awarded a civil engineering degree in 1935. Subsequently, he was elected a Fellow of the Belgian-American Educational Foundation and studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he earned a master of science degree in 1936. He returned to his Alma Mater as an assistant to conduct research and continue graduate studies in fluid mechanics, water power, naval construction and sanitary engineering until 1943, with time out for military service. In World War II, he served in his country's army as a Lieutenant with distinction. He was captured and held prisoner by the Germans for one year.

He was an Associate of the Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research from 1943-1949. He also was an Advanced Fellow of the Belgian-American Educational Foundation during 1946, charged with a study of American fluid mechanics laboratories and the design of a new hydraulic laboratory at the University of Liege. In 1947, the Laboratoire central d'Hydraulique of Paris, France, retained him as a scientific advisor on model studies of river and harbor installations. The Doctor of Science degree was awarded to him by the University of Liege in 1949.

The Pennsylvania State University invited Professor Jorissen to join its teaching and research staff in the same year. As Professor of Civil Engineering he was in charge of the hydraulic laboratory and taught undergraduate and graduate courses. In 1951, he was awarded a Hooker Fellowship by Cornell University in order to visit European laboratories and subsequently became Head of the Department of Hydraulics and Hydraulic Engineering in its School of Civil Engineering. At Cornell, Professor Jorissen devoted time and energy to the welfare of the school and its students. He worked and planned diligently to further and improve the aims and objectives of the institution through his active membership on many committees and by exhibiting quiet and genuine concern in student-faculty relationships. His temperament and wide experiences made him a particularly effective teacher and his advice was sought by many in planning their careers.

Because of his professional eminence and his engaging personality, Professor Jorissen was widely known and respected. His major research interests were in the field of fluid metering devices, which was reflected by the many

papers contributed to scientific journals. He was an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, participating prominently in research and standardization of fluid meters. In the American Society for Engineering Education he served as secretary of its graduate division. As a member of the International Standards Organization he served on numerous technical committees where his linguistic skills were an additional asset. He was also affiliated with the International Association for Hydraulic Research, the Association des Ingenieurs sortis de l'Ecole de Liege, and the Society Royal Beige des Ingenieurs et des Industrials. Professor Jorissen was a member of Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Chi Epsilon, and Pyramid. As a licensed Professional Engineer of the State of New York, he was called upon frequently for consultation and services. He became a United States citizen in 1954.

He had long harbored the hope to write a treatise on fluid measurements. The opportunity seemed at hand when he was awarded a Guggenheim Grant for his approaching Sabbatical leave. He and his family had planned to travel to Europe, where he was to lecture, study and write. Unfortunately, illness and death interfered.

His immediate associates will remember him mostly as one who sought and enjoyed the friendship of his colleagues and neighbors. He was a scholarly person interested in Napoleonic history and the history of the United States. He was an ardent stamp collector and very fond of travel. His home was open to his graduate students who valued his never failing ability to encourage the weary and to enthuse the capable. The scientific community will miss Professor Jorissen as one of its prominent members and more will share the sorrow of his wife, Lucy, and daughter, Anne.

P. G. Mayer, Carl Crandall, W. O. Lynch