

Annette Warner

January 18, 1860 — November 10, 1949

Annette Warner, a teacher and administrator in the field of housing and design at Cornell University for sixteen of the formative years of home economics educational work, died in Santa Barbara, California, November 10, 1949.

Professor Warner was born in Granby, Massachusetts, on January 18, 1860, the daughter of Eli and Samantha Cornelia Warner, whose forebears had settled in Massachusetts in 1632. Ingrained in her character were the values forged in this New England setting. Her resulting interest in civic affairs endured throughout her lifetime and found expression in participation in many public projects.

In the spirit of the times, her precocious bent in childhood was recorded in her reading of Latin and Greek at an early age. As she grew older and her interest in art began to be defined, she sought out, with courage for a young woman of that day, some of the best teachers in the country under whom to study. She received diplomas or certificates from the Normal and Training School at St. Cloud, Minnesota, the Cowles Art School in Boston, the Massachusetts Normal Art School—the first school in this country to train teachers of art—the New York School of Fine and Applied Art, summer schools at Harvard University, and the Arthur Dow Summer School. She worked in the studios of William M. Chase, Denman W. Ross, Charles Hubert Woodbury, and other artists of note. She also took advantage of lecture series by such educators as G. Stanley Hall and George Herbert Palmer. Her active professional years included three periods of foreign travel and study in England, France, Italy, and Greece.

Before coming to Cornell University, Miss Warner had become an outstanding figure in art education in the State of Massachusetts, which then held the position of leadership in developing art education in the public schools. She had been Supervisor of Drawing in the city schools of Pittsfield, and Director of Arts at the State Normal and Training Schools in Fitchburg. In addition, she had been Director of Drawing and Manual Arts at the Normal and Training School in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and Principal of the John Herron Art School in Indianapolis, Indiana. At Cornell University she was appointed Assistant Professor of Home Economics in 1913, Professor in 1920 and head of the Division of Housing and Design as it was then designated in the School of Home Economics, Head of the Department of Household Art when the College of Home Economics was created in 1925, and Professor Emeritus upon retirement in 1929.

Miss Warner was a charter member of the Eastern Arts Association, and long a member of the American Federation of Arts and of the College Art Association of America. She was appointed a member of the American Committee to

attend the International Art Congress at Prague in 1928. She was a member of the National Education Association and of the American Home Economics Association. She was active in the Campus Club and the University Club of Cornell University, contributing generously of her talent in the furnishing of the University Club of that time. Aside from these professional affiliations, she had the honor of being at one time President of the Fitchburg Woman's Club.

While at Cornell, she was the author of several bulletins widely used in resident and extension teaching—*Artistry in Dress*, *The Decorative Use of Flowers*, and *Economics of Good Furnishing*. A manuscript for a book on design in dress unfortunately remained unfinished.

In her teaching, her public and professional commissions, her dress, and her writing, she was a perfectionist, lavishing labor, talent, and time upon each undertaking.

For a host of students and friends, Professor Warner opened up a lifelong appreciation of the elements of beauty. She had the gift of helping others to strive to create beauty in their surroundings with even the simplest materials. Her philosophy of the contribution of art to the wholeness of life made its lasting impression on all who worked with her.

Cornelius Betten, Helen Canon, Dora Erway