

William Cook Andrae

July 30, 1894 — June 27, 1965

William Cook Andrae was appointed Professor Emeritus of Engineering June 12, 1962. He had served Cornell for more than four decades. He died suddenly June 27, 1965.

Professor Andrae's early training was at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, from which he entered Cornell with advanced standing. In 1915 he obtained his Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering after three years study. After a period of service as chief draftsman at the National Bureau of Standards and in research in various industrial organizations, he earned a Master's degree in mechanical engineering in 1924.

While working for his Master's, Professor Andrae held the Edgar J. Meyer Fellowship for one year and was an instructor in experimental engineering from 1921 on. He was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor in 1927. His promotion to Associate Professor came in 1944, and he was made Professor of Mechanical Engineering in 1961.

During the three years of his high school career he served as an assistant scout master in Baltimore. His interest in scouting came to the fore again during the period from 1936 to 1946 when he was a member of the troop committee 1 in Ithaca. He was also a member of the scouting leadership committee for a year during that period, and served as an instructor of first aid for the American Red Cross.

Professor Andrae's church interests were centered in the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca. In the period 1929-1946, he was elected to three four-year terms as deacon. He was then elected elder in 1948 and served actively for four years. He also took part in many other activities in the church.

Professor Andrae's professional life during all but the first of his years at Cornell was devoted to the Department of Experimental Engineering, which later was merged with the Heat Power Department to become the Department of Thermal Engineering. His teaching was mainly of testing and laboratory methods in mechanical engineering and of the application of thermodynamic principles to operation of equipment in practice. He also taught during two years of World War II in Ground School Aeronautics, Civilian Pilot Training.

In 1930 Wiley and Sons published a valuable work of reference known as *Experimental Mechanical Engineering* which was the joint effort of Professor Andrae and a former dean of engineering at Cornell, Professor Herman Diedrichs. This book was widely acclaimed and was used in the world of engineering for many years. Other

publications included several articles for the *Sibley Journal* and an article “Measurement of Power by Means of Dynamometers” for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Power Test Code. In 1959 he published in photostat form, mainly for the use of the department, “Reference Tables of Thermal Properties of Fluids.”

Professor Andrae was a member of the American Society for the Advancement of Science, and he served for a time as chairman of a subcommittee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Test Code Committee. He was active in an organization for foreign students in Ithaca known as the International Association of Ithaca.

Masonic activities were one of Andrae’s interests for some 49 years of his life. He attained the position of Master in the Hobasco Lodge and was Assistant Grand Lecturer for three years.

Professor Andrae was married to Ida Harris Reed of Ithaca on June 21, 1920. His family consisted of a son, Reed who was a 1944 graduate of the School of Hotel Administration, is now purchasing agent for Northern Illinois University and a daughter, Marjehne Reed, a 1945 graduate of the School of Liberal Arts (Mathematics). Marjehne married Albert Hoefer, Jr., and lives with her family in Ithaca. Among the favorite family occupations were travel and camping and Professor and Mrs. Andrae visited many parts of the country during vacations and leaves.

David Dropkin, Dennis G. Shepherd, Frederick S. Erdman