

IN MEMORIAM
SAMUEL EDWARD GIDEON

The General Faculty wishes to record its deep regret at the death of Professor S. E. Gideon and its appreciation of his many years of valuable service to the University of Texas and the State.

Samuel Edward Gideon was born in Louisville, Kentucky, December 9, 1875, the son of Louis Gideon and Henrietta Brooks. After attending grammar school, he graduated at the Manual Training High School of Louisville and then studied Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Attracted to teaching rather than the practice of architecture, he came to Texas in 1900 as an instructor at the Agricultural and Mechanical College and served two years. Then for a year (1902-1903) he was supervisor of Manual Training and Drawing in the public schools of Columbus, Georgia. In 1902 he returned to the A. & M. College and again served two years. Then for eight years (1905-1913) he taught with his alma mater, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1913 he came to the University of Texas as Associate Professor of Architecture and here, except for the year 1923-1924, which he spent in Southern California, he remained till his death, August 13, 1945, in his 70th year. In 1927 his work was specified as Architectural Design and History, and in 1939 he was advanced to the rank of Professor. During the First World War he taught in the University's School of Military Aeronautics, his maps and notes for aviation students being published by the government. In the Second World War also he did war service as teacher of a Curtiss-Wright class in the Elements of Aircraft Drafting and acted as both teacher and educational supervisor for a number of courses in the Engineering Science and Management War Training Program.

Not content with his training as a student, he did summer work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at Harvard University, and spent the summer of 1923 at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Fontainebleau, France, where he was given the award of *Diplomé* for meritorious

work in Architecture. In 1911 he traveled and studied in Italy, France, Holland, and Belgium and later made repeated journeys to Mexico.

His professional standing was evidenced by many memberships and offices. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects, President of the Central Texas Chapter, and member of the national Committee on the Preservation of Historic Buildings. He was President of the Texas Alumni Association of the Ecole des Beaux Arts at Fontainebleau. He was Technical Adviser to the National Youth Administration on Research in Early Texas Architecture.

As an avocation Mr. Gideon loved to paint in watercolors and in this field attained rare skill. His sure hand in drawing, his delicate sense of color, his grasp of composition won him much appreciation and sundry prizes came to him.

Another avocation of Mr. Gideon was the study of the life and surviving buildings of old Texas. He was unwearied in visiting and photographing buildings of historic or artistic interest. He made a study of the houses connected with the life of O. Henry in Austin, and it was largely through his endeavor that O. Henry's home on East Fifth Street became the O. Henry Museum. He was in demand as a lecturer on such subjects as Landmarks of Texas, Early Art in Texas, Early Texas Life, Fredericksburg, and Castroville.

For a long time, articles on the life and art of Texas appeared regularly in a number of leading Texas papers. Pictures and articles were often contributed to architectural and art magazines. Among his separate publications in this field may be mentioned: Landmarks of Austin, 1925 (a brochure of drawings and descriptions of Austin buildings), and Fifty Years of Friendly Service, 1940 (a history of the Austin National Bank). He had begun work on other subjects and left two manuscripts almost completed, one dealing with O. Henry, the other with Admiral Timitz. So widely known was his work on old Texas buildings, and so effective his efforts to preserve them, that his interment in the State Cemetery was recognized as a well-deserved tribute.

Mr. Gideon's lectures and writing were not confined to old Texas. Some of his other subjects were French Art, The Gothic Cathedral in Europe, French Gardens, Italian Gardens, Composition in Photography, A Tour of Mexico, Negro Philosophy and Folk Lore.

Nor was his work in Art confined to his teaching and to his own painting. He was active in the Texas Fine Arts Association and the Southern States Art League. For years he supervised art contests in the Texas Interscholastic League. He actively assisted the Visual Instruction Bureau of the University's Division of Extension. He was an advisor in the National Soap Sculpture Contest, Chairman of the Texas Section of Nation Picture Week. Above all, he loved to assist young artists, giving them sound counsel and imbuing them with his own high standards.

On the 6th of June, 1908, he married Miss Sadie Griffin Cavitt, of Bryan, Texas, who survives him. Their household was a center of hospitality, especially for his students, their life together singularly happy, though there were no children.

Mr. Gideon was of a retiring disposition. Especially in his later years he avoided large gatherings. Yet his was an essentially kindly nature. He loved his students, associated with them on intimate terms, helped them when they were in trouble. Of course they loved him in return and wrote him long letters after leaving the University. In the achievement and affection of his students was for him the main justification of his life.

Samuel Edward Gideon Memorial Resolutions Committee

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M. K. D., Manager