IN MEMORIAM

GOLDWIN GOLDSMITH

Goldwin Goldsmith, emeritus professor of architecture at The University of Texas, died in his ninety-second year at Fort Worth, Texas, on January 7, 1962. He was born in Paterson, New Jersey, on June 12, 1871, the son of James Charlton and Alice Evelyn (Westervelt) Goldsmith.

Professor Goldsmith, or "Goldy" as he was affectionately and widely known among his many friends, received his early education in the public schools of New York City and of Oakland, California, and his secondary education at the Woodbridge Preparatory School in New York. Following his graduation from Woodbridge, he served for two years, from 1898-1890, as a draftsman in the offices of the noted architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White of New York City.

While with this firm he became embued with the desire to become an architect and accordingly entered the School of Architecture of Columbia University. He was graduated in 1896 with a Ph.D. degree, and immediately married Gertrude Relief Sumner--a descendant of John and Priscilla Alden, who were among the Pilgrims settling at Plymouth, Massachusetts, and left with her on a year's honeymoon in Europe; he to pursue graduate study at Atelier Dusay in Paris. During the long and frequent vacations from study, he and his wife toured France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Holland, and England on a tandem bicycle which is now in the Smithsonian Institution.
In the fall of 1897, after an idyllic year abroad, he returned to New York City to practice his profession as a member of the firm of Van Vleck and Goldsmith. He continued his membership in this firm for sixteen highly successful years, from 1897-1913. Among the most noted buildings planned and supervised by his firm were the Montclair Methodist Church of Montclair, New Jersey, which was widely known for its circular auditorium and domed ceiling, and the Copper Queen Hotel in Bisbee, Arizona.

In 1913 he withdrew from this firm to accept a call from the University of Kansas to establish a Department of Architecture in its School of Engineering. While at Kansas, he continued his private practice as an architect and served as supervisor of construction of Camp Funston, Kansas, during World War I.

He remained at Kansas as Professor and Head of the Department of Architecture for fifteen years, until 1928, when his success with that department led to a call from The University of Texas. He was charged at Texas with building the existing Department into a School of Architecture. He promptly did this. Within three years after his arrival at Texas, the requirements for a degree in architecture were increased from four to five years' study; and two years later, in 1933, the Department of Architecture was established and housed in a new building.

Having accomplished his mission, he voluntarily resigned the Chairmanship in 1935 to return to his professorship that he might devote his 'few'--as he thought--remaining years to teaching and writing. The "few remaining years" turned out to be twenty-seven, which was fortunate
for him, the University, his profession, and his many friends as his most important book, which went through a second edition, and most of his many professional papers were published after he had laid aside his administrative duties.

The royalties from his book, *Architects Specifications: How to Write Them*, 2nd ed., 1948, were assigned to the American Institute of Architecture, of which he was a Fellow, a Life Member, and an ardent supporter throughout his life. He served the A.I.A. as a member of the Advisory Council on Construction Specifications in 1911; as president of the Kansas Chapter from 1923-1925; vice-president of the Southern Texas Chapter from 1929-1930; Special Lecturer in the Southwest from 1931-1936; and as president of the Central Texas Chapter from 1938-1939.

His services to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture were equally long and ardent. He was vice-president of this Association in 1925-1927; president, 1927-1929; chairman of the executive committee, 1929-1931; and secretary-treasurer, 1936-1940. At the annual meeting of the Association in May 1959, the Directors made him an honorary member "in recognition of his meritorious work in the field of specifications."

In addition to these organizations, he was a member of President Hoover's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership in 1931-1932; of the National Committee to Survey Schools of Architecture in 1939-1940; of the Advisory Council of the Construction Specifications Institute, Inc., 1945; vice-president and director of the Family Service Society, 1936-1945; and a director of the Maternal Health Clinic, Austin, 1939-1947.
Giving liberally and unspARINGLY of his time and energy to organizations of his interest were "Goldy's" most outstanding characteristics. The extent and breadth of his activities after leaving the metropolitan area were merely the projections of those begun in New York City. During the years that he maintained his architectural offices and practice in New York, he was an active member of the Society of Columbia University Architects, its president in 1909-1911; and he served his college fraternity, Delta Upsilon, which he joined while a student at Columbia, for many years and in many capacities. For five years he was the secretary of the National Convention; for seven years editor of the Delta Upsilon Quarterly; for seven years chairman of the Executive Committee; and for one year, 1913, National Historian. He held several of these positions concurrently.

When he accepted the call from Kansas and was about to leave the area of the central offices of the Fraternity, he was presented by the New York Delta Upsilon Club the Fraternity's "Recognition Shield," being the first recipient of this honor. His interest in his Fraternity was abiding; it continued through his life. He was active in and largely responsible for the establishment of the Kansas and Texas Chapters of which he was successively faculty advisor for many years. In 1954, he was presented the "Meritorious Service Award" by the National Organization.

"Goldy" was a life-time member of the Congregational Church. During his youth, he served as an assistant to the pastor of the "Church of the Strangers" in New York City and for two years worked in its City missions.
He was a member of the following honorary and professional societies: Scarab (Architectural, honorary); Tau Sigma Delta (Architectural, professional); Sigma Tau (Engineering, honorary); King's Crown (Columbia, honorary); and the following organizations: Forty-Niners; Mason (Blue Lodge); and Scholia.

Since 1915 his name has been listed in the following compendia: Who's Who in America; Who's Who in Engineering; Who's Who in American Education; Who's Who in Texas; and World Biography.

Professor Goldsmith's influence is widespread. Many of his students are now teaching in the various Schools of Architecture in the country and a great many of them are practicing their profession in Texas, Kansas, and other states in the Union. Due to the enlightened system of retirement at Texas, his services as a teacher were available to the students in the School of Architecture until June, 1955, when he accepted, at the age of eighty-four years, retirement to the rank of Emeritus Professor of Architecture.

To this rich record of public and professional services and honors a somewhat more personal note ought to be added—a sort of grace note, as it were. Ample material for this note may be found in a little volume published by Professor Goldsmith in 1953 in loving memory of his life-long companion. The book contains selections from stories, essays, sketches, and poems written by Mrs. Goldsmith over the years from girlhood to old age, many of them obviously autobiographical, and published in well-known magazines. Included also are copies of their Christmas time verses for their friends. For years there were joint compositions. After the death of Mrs. Goldsmith, these were continued at the express
wish of the departed companion. Here are two examples illustrative of both companionship and friendship:

1942

We think it's fun to scribble verse
Although it does not pay our debts;
It nothing adds unto our purse;
    We've tried, with nothing but "regrets."
But still it's fun, say once a year
    To wangle out a little rhyme
Which may amuse, or even cheer
    Our many friends, come Christmas time.

1961

Another Christmas is in sight;
That means another verse to write,
Expressing Christmas joy and cheer,
And happiness the coming year.

But in my heart there is desire
To sit before a Christmas fire
And in the friendly, flickering flames
See our friends, recall their names.

For twenty years we did our best;
Those twenty years just make a score.
We think we have a right to rest--
For now there won't be any more.

This note was prophetic as thirteen days after Christmas he achieved the rest for which he longed.

Joseph R. Smiley, President
The University of Texas

Eugene W. Nelson, Secretary
The General Faculty

These Resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors L. L. Click, Hugh L. McMath and Karl M. Dallenbach, Chairman.