In Memoriam

James Robert Holmes, Sr.

Associate Professor James Robert Holmes, Sr. died August 14, 1988 in Austin, Texas at the age of 77. He had been in ill health for the last several months. He was an active teacher at The University of Texas at Austin for 35 years prior to his retirement in 1976. He is survived by one son, James Robert Holmes, Jr., two daughters, Abigale Barnabas (formerly Marion Granberry) and Suzanne (Holmes) Tucker, three grandsons and three granddaughters.

Professor Holmes was born July 17, 1911 in Corsicana, Texas. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Holmes of Dallas and he married Ruth Henneberger of Austin. He attended The University of Texas at Austin where he received the degrees of Bachelor of Interior Architecture in 1936 and Master of Science in Architectural Engineering in 1956. As an undergraduate he was elected to the honor societies of Tau Sigma Delta and Sphinx.

Following graduation from The University of Texas in 1936, Professor Holmes was employed as a draftsman and commercial artist for a number of people and companies, among whom were Petty Geophysical Engineering Company and the Texas State Highway Department.

In the fall of 1941 he was employed by The University of Texas at Austin as an Instructor to teach in the Engineering Graphics Department. At that time this was a separate department in the College of Engineering. All students in Engineering were required to take courses in Drawing and Descriptive Geometry. Also, the department gave a course for Geology students, another for Interior Design students, and two for Architecture students. As Professor Holmes’ strongest forte was as a commercial artist, he
was particularly well suited to teach the Architecture and Interior Design students, and he did so for many years. He was a talented artist, a good teacher and well liked by his students. He was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1946 and to Associate Professor in 1959.

After his retirement in 1976, Professor Holmes continued to teach Engineering Graphics courses on extended service basis. During that time he also worked on projects sponsored by the University's Academic Development Program. The projects involved preparation of teaching aids for the courses on Drawing for Interior Design and Engineering Graphical Communication. The last classes he taught on extended service were given in Fall 1985, when he chose to retire for the second time.

Throughout his years of teaching at The University, Professor Holmes found time to do an enormous amount of art work consisting of maps, charts, book illustrations, graphs, hand lettering, etc. Much of this work was done for the publications of the faculty in the College of Engineering.

His publications include the following books, articles, and book illustrations.

(a) Books:


(b) Journal Articles:

(c) Book Illustrations:


William H. Cunningham, President
The University of Texas at Austin

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professor Davor Juricic and Professor Emeritus James Dorr McFarland and and Associate Professor Emeritus Margaret R. Baker.