IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES ELMER ROWE

Charles Elmer Rowe, Professor Emeritus of Drawing, died March 20, 1965 in Austin, Texas at the age of 85. He had been an active teacher at The University of Texas for 55 years prior to his retirement in June of 1960. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ada May Rowe, two brothers, W. E. Rowe and Tom E. Rowe, all of Austin; one son, Richard S. Rowe of Palm Desert, California, and a nephew, Dr. W. E. Rowe, Jr., of Tyler, Texas.

Professor Rowe was born near Round Rock, Texas September 20, 1879, the oldest of six children of Charles Wesley Rowe and Mary Caroline (Evans) Rowe. He attended The University of Texas in 1896-1898, and The University of Colorado in 1898-1900, where he received the B. S. degree in Civil Engineering. From 1900-1902 he continued his studies at the Colorado School of Mines where he received the E. M. degree.

Following graduation he was employed from 1902 to 1905 by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co., the Victor Fuel Co., and the American Smelting and Refining Co., all of Colorado. His work with these companies consisted of surveying, mapping, designing, railroad engineering, and construction. It was during this period that he met and married Mary Jane Schermerhorn. His only child, Richard Schermerhorn Rowe, was born of this union.
In 1905, Professor Rowe was employed by The University of Texas as Instructor in Mining Engineering, and was promoted to Adjunct Professor in 1908. The enrollment in mining courses was small and the work was discontinued in 1913. In 1912 he began teaching courses in engineering drawing, in which area he continued until his retirement in June 1960. For a brief period in 1917 and 1918 during World War I he also served as instructor in the School of Military Aeronautics and the School for Radio Mechanics. He was made a full professor in 1927 and served as chairman of the Department of Drawing from 1927 to 1932 and again from 1937 to 1941. From 1944 until placed on modified service in 1950, he also served as Assistant Dean of the College of Engineering.

After the death of his first wife Professor Rowe married Ada May Van Gundy in 1951.

In his long period of service with The University, Professor Rowe not only distinguished himself as an educator in the field of graphics but he also contributed to the life and welfare of the community of Austin in many ways. He was a member of the Board of Stewards of the University Methodist Church for almost 40 years. He served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the University Co-operative Society from 1930 to 1935, and as President of the Society from 1936 to 1941. He was President of the University Club for two years. As a member of the Engineering Building Committee he originated and drew the preliminary design plans ultimately adopted by the architects for the engineering building now known as Taylor Hall. He designed most of the desks and equipment cases now in use in the Drawing Department, and designed and helped to construct most of the models used in the department as teaching
aids. These models are unique and are considered by most teachers who have seen them as being perhaps the most outstanding collection to be found in any graphics department in America.

In addition to his teaching, Professor Rowe made extensive contributions to the literature on graphics. He was co-author of a textbook and four workbooks on descriptive geometry, and wrote numerous papers on the subject. His service to the Graphics Division of the American Society for Engineering Education includes that of chairman of the 1938 National Drawing Competition Committee, member of the Faculty of the 1946 Drawing Summer School held at St. Louis, and member of the Executive Committee from 1949 to 1954. His work for the Society and his stature as an educator were justifiably recognized in June of 1959 when he received the Distinguished Service Award of the Graphics Division of the American Society for Engineering Education. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi, and is listed in Who's Who in Engineering.

As a teacher, Professor Rowe's competence in subject matter was beyond question. He was intrigued by all sorts of problems on graphics; and being the perfectionist that he was and of an inquisitive nature, he was never satisfied until he had solved these problems as they arose. His wide experience in surveying, mapping, designing, railroad engineering, construction, mining, and architecture broadened his viewpoint on things of an engineering nature and made him a more effective teacher. His ability, foresight, patience, kindly disposition, and his willingness to help his students and the members of the staff with whom he was
associated, enabled him to make a significant contribution to the advancement of learning, and endeared him in the hearts of all who came in contact with him.

Norman Hackerman  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Eugene W. Nelson, Secretary  
The General Faculty

The Resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors C. W. Chance, Raymond F. Dawson, B. N. Gafford and J. D. McFarland, Chairman.
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED WRITINGS
OF CHARLES ELMER ROWE

Books

Articles

Research Bulletin