

As He Is Known, Being Brief Sketches of Contemporary Members of the Architectural Profession.



ALLEN BARTLIT POND

✓

ALLEN BARTLIT POND was born in Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1858. He was educated in the Ann Arbor schools and received his B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1880. After a period during which he taught Latin in the Ann Arbor High School and took a course in Real Estate and Contract Law, he came to Chicago and entered the office of S. S. Beman, where he remained in company with his brother, Irving K. Pond, for a year, entering then upon the partnership which has existed ever since.

In 1911 he was given an honorary M. A. at Michigan, in recognition of his many and varied services in behalf of the public, which have been continuous and arduous since his graduation. The president of the University, in conferring the degree, said, "He is commonly known as Chicago's most useful citizen." He was a founder and one time secretary of the Municipal Voter's League, a body which took and has held Chicago's City Council out of the mire, was chairman of the Political Action Committee, and vice-president of the Union League Club; was a founder and is now the president of the City Club, which devotes itself to the study of civic problems and the betterment of municipal conditions; has for many years been secretary of the Hull House Association; was an effective member for years of the Commercial Club Committee on Education, introducing the teaching of domestic science in the public schools, and, through the medium of the Merchants' Club, privately installed equipment and supported night classes. He was secretary of the American Institute of Architects Committee on Standard Documents, gathering and correlating the vast mass of data used by that committee.

He has made several trips abroad for the purpose of rest and study, being a delegate to the International Congress of Architects in Vienna, at one time sent by interested people to study and report on schools for sub-normal children, studying foreign methods and modes of city planning and municipal government.

No problem of Chicago life from the terminal situation through council activities, housing, city planning, education, and philanthropy has escaped the illumination of his clear and concise thought and direct act. To all this he has added a critical power of high quality, a thorough knowledge, love, and understanding of all worthy forms of art. He is more than an architect. He is an ideal citizen; giving of his time unselfishly, he is never too busy to help better the condition of those about him. — C. H. H.



CHRISTOPHER GRANT LA FARGE

RECENT architectural education has tended greatly to the development of ability to solve problems of design as matters of composition in plan, section, and elevation, sometimes to the neglect of the more subtle and personal qualities of the art. The highest satisfaction that can come from the practice of architecture is, I believe, reserved for those to whom the handling of the actual materials of the building possesses an interest beyond that of the formulation of the design. Grant La Farge unmistakably embodies this point of view and, in the selection and combination of elements that enter into his work, shows much of that exquisite sensitiveness in the matter of texture, combined with color, that gave distinction to the work of his father, John La Farge.

He was born in Newport, R. I., Jan. 5, 1862. His preliminary training was received at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and in the office of H. H. Richardson.

His work in partnership with George L. Heins, 1886-1907, includes the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and many other interesting ecclesiastical buildings, — graceful, refined, and picturesque in character — although many of them were designed during the period when the heavy type of Romanesque architecture, brought into vogue by the work of Richardson, still dominated the ecclesiastical thought of the country. The firm of Heins & La Farge may justly be regarded as among the pioneers in the most recent revival of the Gothic spirit freed from the limitations of the Gothic style. The buildings for the New York Zoölogical Society at Bronx Park were designed during the later years of this partnership.

His work in partnership with B. W. Morris, 1910-1915, includes the Morgan Memorial at Hartford, a work which might well bring distinction to any architect.

No sketch of his career would be complete without some reference to his other services to the profession and the public. A speaker and writer of unusual precision, simplicity, and vigor, he has brought these abilities to bear as President of the Architectural League of New York and the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, as Trustee and Secretary of the American Academy in Rome, and as a member of various commissions and committees for the improvement of his city and his profession.

His high ideals, imaginative vision, and deep sense of responsibility in all he undertakes render him one of the most useful members of the profession to-day. — J. M. H.