

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ARCHIVES. For information or study purposes only. Not to be recycled, quoted, or published without written permission from the AIA Archives, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Fifth Annual Convention

OF THE
Iowa Chapter of the American
Institute of Architects



THE TORCH PRESS
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
1907

In Memoriam

Mr. Seth J. Temple read the following tribute to the memory of Mr. Edward S. Hammatt, which was ordered spread on the records:

It is fit that we pause in our work to remember one of our number who can no longer be with us, one of the early members of this Iowa Chapter, and one whose life was thoroughly devoted to the principles which should control every member of the architectural profession—one who was interested in the welfare of the profession and who gave freely of his time to public interests. Since our last meeting Edward Seymour Hammatt of Davenport has passed away.

He was born in Geneseo, N. Y., Sept. 8, 1856, and had therefore nearly completed his fifty-first year. Early in his life the family removed to Rochester, N. Y., where his father was a successful business man. There he received his early schooling, which he followed with special studies selected by himself—elective courses not then having reached their present vogue—at Lehigh University and the Boston Institute of Technology.

The following eight years were spent with the leading architects of Boston and New York, four years with Ware & Van Brunt of Boston, and four with H. J. Hardenberg and Napoleon LeBrun of New York.

Mr. Hammatt came to Davenport in 1883, and opened an office in the Whitaker Building, which he occupied until he gave up his work a few months ago.

During the years that have elapsed since that time, his office has been the center of a large amount of work to which he gave the stamp of his thorough preparation, his native sense of the artistic, and his enthusiastic devotion to his profession.

Davenport has many buildings which will stand for a long time as reminders of Mr. Hammatt's career. A list found in his desk recently shows scores of residences of well known Davenporters, and dozens of business buildings, the plans for which had come from his draughting table. But a large portion of his work came from outside of the city, four school buildings in Rock Island, numerous business buildings in Moline, Episcopal churches in Creston, Mapleton, Washington, Oelwein, Boone, Algona, Ottumwa, Spencer and other Iowa cities, the Black Hawk Inn, and so on through a long list, showing how widely distributed was his clientele. A residence at Lake Challon, state of Washington, and another at York Beach, Maine, were probably the extremes of the territory covered by the commissions that came to him.

All this work came to Mr. Hammatt largely without solicitation. He was hypersensitive in his observance of the professional code of ethics, and it was a point with him never to seek a commission, particularly from anyone who had ever employed the services of another architect. The prior right of the latter to that man's business was always conceded by Mr. Hammatt. In him the professional spirit so largely dominated the

commercial that those who look over his record will find nothing in it which did not redound to its dignity and to his credit.

Mr. Hammatt's courage through the long period during which his illness gradually bore him down was an inspiration to all who knew him. Without an impatient word or a complaint through years of suffering and of increasing helplessness, he showed himself possessed of a spirit that was nothing less than wonderful. He kept up his work at his office until he could no longer go there, then directed it at his home, his draughtsman no longer ago than last November thus making the accepted plans for the Hotel Monte Colfax, at Colfax, Iowa, a magnificent structure that is to take the place of the former hotel of that name, burned a couple of years ago. With indomitable grit, Mr. Hammatt planned buildings, directed and corrected the work of his draughtsman for months when he was unable to stand and overlook the plans on the draughting board except with help.

His artistic sense lasted until the very end. Winter before last he went to the gulf coast of Florida for a few months, hoping for gain from the change. Pictures that he took with his camera there show a discrimination and sense of proportion that a professional could not equal without Mr. Hammatt's illuminating sense of the beautiful.

Mr. Hammatt was married June 7, 1888, to Carrie Rathbone Barris, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Barris of Davenport. It was an interesting coincidence that Mr. Hammatt's father, Edward Rumney Hammatt, was a vestryman in Bishop Lee's church in Rochester, before the noted churchman came to the Iowa diocese, and that later, at Rochester, Mrs. Hammatt's father was Bishop Lee's assistant. He came with Bishop Lee to Davenport.

The wife, who has given all her time and thought to her husband during his illness, survives him, and he has one brother, living at Jacksonville, Fla.

The broadness of Mr. Hammatt's interest in life is shown by his various associations with his social, church and professional friends.

He was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and a member of the Iowa Chapter. He was a vestryman of Grace Cathedral; a member of Trinity lodge, A. F. & A. M., one of the organizers and always interested member of the Contemporary Club; for years a member of the Irrawadi Canoe Club; long an active member of the Davenport Outing Club; an indefatigable worker for the Academy of Sciences, on its publication committee, and for four years president of the academy; and he was many years secretary of the Sons of the Revolution of Iowa. He was president of the Tri-City Architects' Association and he was actively interested in its organization. He was a trustee of St. Luke's hospital and for a number of years its treasurer and a trustee of the Iowa Christian Home.

His associations while at college were particularly fortunate in that he fell under the influence of some of the leading men of that time. A circumstance which he felt was of great value to him was that he was

employed on Trinity Church in Boston, then in course of construction, to model in clay for the carving of some of the architectural ornament and thus he had the frequent personal criticism of Richardson, who offered to take him into his office—a position which at the time he did not feel free to accept.

His true art instinct is perhaps shown as well as anything by the fact that he made a collection of Japanese prints twenty-four years ago long before there was any general appreciation of their beauty.

His fine personal qualities appealed so strongly to all who knew him that it is difficult to correctly judge his work. This was always strongly marked by the influences of his training. Many of his buildings were in the style which Richardson made popular and they show that he was in sympathy with that class of work. When he came west the style which he was bringing with him was a distinct advance and it fell upon him to educate the public taste to appreciate his efforts. How well he succeeded is shown by the number of prominent buildings of that time which came from his office.

Messrs. Taylor, Temple and Cox were made a committee to prepare suitable resolutions regarding Mr. Hammatt and to report to the convention at a later session.

The minutes of the Fourth Annual Convention were read in full and approved.

The Executive Committee having met at 10 A. M., all members being present, and having transacted their business, presented the following report which was approved:

Report of Executive Committee for the Year 1906-1907

New members received in November, 1906, Mr. Rudolph J. Clausen, Mr. Gustav A. Hanssen, Deat J. Harfst, and Geo. W. Washburn, whose names were included in published proceedings of last convention, and in April, 1907, Frank E. Wetherell.

Mr. Seth J. Temple has been admitted to membership in the Institute. We have lost one member by the death of Mr. E. S. Hammatt, August 24, 1907.

The roll now stands five Fellows and five Associates A. I. A. and seventeen Chapter members only, total twenty-seven.

Two others are taking steps for admission to the Institute and it is hoped still others will follow.

The Institute asked in the spring for the appointment of a committee of three to investigate the sentiments of the Chapter on Schedule of Charges. Messrs. Taylor, Temple and Heer were made the committee. Circular letters were sent to each member. The replies came in slowly and from but nine members; the other two-thirds paid no attention to the request. A synopsis of ideas expressed was returned to the Institute, but so late we fear as to cut no figure in the discussion.

It is to be regretted that the members do not reply and promptly if only by postal card to the secretary's communications. Simple thought-

fulness and courtesy in this would lighten the labors and greatly help the general work.

Let me bespeak for my successor remembrance of this point.

The secretary has replied to communications from various other Chapters and the secretary and committeemen of the Institute; has assisted in straightening out some misunderstandings between members and given information of assistance in matters of practice. These matters will become more numerous and chances for such help will increase.

Respectfully submitted,

EUGENE H. TAYLOR,
Secretary.

The Treasurer read the following report which was referred to an Auditing Committee composed of Messrs. Hallett and Wetherell:

Treasurer's Report for the Year 1906-1907

RECEIPTS.

By balance in treasury Sept. 19, 1906.....		\$ 147.56
By entrance fees five members.....	\$ 25.00	
By annual dues from Chapter members only.....	100.00	
By annual dues from A. I. A. members only.....	20.00	\$ 145.00
By interest on deposits at bank.....		1.78
		<hr/>
		\$ 294.34

DISBURSEMENTS.

To typewriting, stationery, postage and printing....	\$ 67.56	
To third payment on Octagon Fund pledge.....	50.00	
To contribution to Institute Convention expenses....	30.00	
To travelling expenses E. H. Taylor, delegate to Institute Convention.....	57.20	\$ 204.76
Balance on hand.....		89.58
		<hr/>
		\$ 294.34

Respectfully submitted,

EUGENE H. TAYLOR,
Treasurer.

Report of Delegate to Fortieth Convention

Your delegate was appointed alternate of Committee on Credentials and was, from the beginning, put in service. This gave opportunity to become acquainted, but, at the same time, prevented hearing much of the proceedings of the earlier sessions.

Following your instructions after consultation with older heads and some discussion on the floor which brought out the fact that there is wide diversity of opinion on the value of state license law, the wisest, as well

the "blue prints," Smith gets the job, X gets the material and the gullible committee or owner gets worked, for several times the amount of the legitimate architect's commission.

Other bumps, and variations of these, could be mentioned. They all show an utter ignorance of the niche in the affairs of the world you occupy.

As I understand it, it is partly the work of this Chapter (or at least its hope) to level off these bumps. You can do it—the process is gradual and requires years for completion, but you are doing it. Every time you are fortunate enough to be given a reasonable latitude in designing some work, your well studied plan or facade will exert a powerful influence for good, on the community. The eye of the layman is in time taught to appreciate proportion, scale and detail. He unconsciously observes that there is to him an indefinable difference between the vapid, faulty, ungrammatical work of the carpenter-architect, and the work of a man whose many years of careful training have given him the theory, as well as practice, in design and construction.

Collectively, the architects of this state can do much to hasten the arrival of an Utopian condition for the profession. Articles might be prepared for the press from time to time. A strong stand regarding competition can be taken and made known. By carefully guarding the membership of this Chapter, and maintaining a high standard of ethics, the public will in time learn to regard membership in it as a badge of high professional conduct, and will consider it a safeguard against unscrupulous practices.

Individually you can accomplish much by being a leader in various social, religious, political or civic improvement clubs. Much good will result from active participation in these public or semi-public bodies. Papers on professional topics of interest to the layman, should be prepared, and the usefulness and necessity of good architecture can be properly and strongly brought out from time to time, even when subjects of a kindred nature are treated. You are at times called upon by the press to furnish perspectives of a proposed building, of general interest to the public. Seldom do you get credit for the favor rendered. Make it a point to let your friend the editor (whose friendship you might seek to advantage) realize that he has assumed an obligation which can be discharged from time to time by inserting in the columns of his paper, literature which the Chapter Secretary stands ready to furnish.

Give the Art Department of your Women's Clubs access to your photographs and libraries, and suggest a line of subjects to them for a winter's study. If you succeed in interesting them, you may start something that will be far-reaching in desired results.

With patience and by persistent and well directed efforts, along the high plane only, which this Chapter is striving to maintain, you will see your hopes for a better condition in the profession realized.

Your reward cannot be measured by the financial tape line, but in the satisfaction you will take in seeing the architect in your community rank with the high men in Arts and Letters, its diplomats and statesmen; as he does abroad where his achievements are acknowledged as important as any in the other avenues along which brain workers direct their energies.

Resolutions on the Death of Edward S. Hammatt

The following was presented and adopted:

WHEREAS, On the twenty-fourth day of August, 1907, Edward S. Hammatt, of Davenport, Ia., passed away, and whereas, he was a charter member of this Chapter, a member of the American Institute of Architects, since 1884, Treasurer of the Architectural Association of Iowa which preceded the Iowa Chapter by some years, a man of wide public interests, an architect to whom is due all the credit of the privations and limitations of a pioneer in the practice of his profession in Iowa; and who by the charm and force of his personality and by the thoroughness of his preparation and by his native adaptability and fitness for the practice, overcame all obstacles and became one of the leading and best known architects of the state whose many prominent buildings are his best monuments,

THEREFORE; *Be it resolved*, that this the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects express its appreciation of the great loss it has sustained by this breaking of the friendly and personal relations which he always maintained toward each of our members, and by reason of the loss which has fallen upon the profession at large on account of the death of this man who always upheld the highest ideals in the practice of his calling.

Resolved; That we extend to Mrs. Hammatt, the brave wife who helped him so nobly in the long and unequal fight which he made against the gradual lessening of his physical powers, and who by her courage and good council kept up his own indomitable courage to the last, we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Resolved; That these resolutions be spread upon the records and that a copy suitably engrossed be sent to Mrs. Hammatt, and also that a copy be sent to the Secretary of the American Institute of Architects.

Signed,
EUGENE H. TAYLOR,
SETH J. TEMPLE,
FRED E. COX,
Committee.

A vote of thanks was passed by a rising vote of the visiting members to the local members for their many courtesies and entertainments.

The convention then stood adjourned.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, SEPTEMBER 19

The members again visited Omaha and were shown many fine drawings in Mr. Kimball's office and residence and were taken in autos by him