



### Albert Kelsey, F.A.I.A.

1870-1950

ALBERT KELSEY died on Saturday, May the sixth. Those who were honored by his friendship, and the many who knew him by his accomplishments, mourn the passing of a great and vivid individualist. As an architect, he was more interested in the intangible impressions, if you will, the abstractions of his art, than in their precise and academic forms. His interests were diverse, and his influence recognized in Europe, and in South America, as well as here.

At the turn of the century, when America was just awakening to the possibilities of large-scale city planning, he strove successfully for the inception of the first plan in this country of any magnitude, the Philadelphia Parkway. Through his efforts, partly as chairman of the committee of experts and as editor of the Architectural Annual, he succeeded in helping to make this dream a reality.

Just how great an accomplishment it was, may be difficult for this generation to realize. Fifty

years ago the interests of a great community demanded a champion of force and color. Albert Kelsey accepted this challenge, and largely through his individual efforts made possible this great gift to the people of Philadelphia; and as an example of civic planning, an even greater gift to the nation.

As an associate of Paul Cret in the winning of the competition for the Pan American Building in Washington, he brought an interest and vitality of unusual charm, attested by the continuous pilgrimage of visitors to the building, who show their love and admiration for it.

In later years his masterful direction as architectural advisor of the Columbus Memorial Lighthouse Competition, commemorating the landing of Columbus in Santo Domingo, was recognized by Alfonso XIII of Spain, an honor he vastly prized.

He was a Jeffersonian Democrat by conviction, influenced possibly by inheritance, so was appalled by the vulgarization in this country

JULY, 1950

of what he would have called ideals of citizenship.

A few men are known to posterity by their works, a few endear

themselves by their charm and character, but it is given to very few to live so fully and so well.

GRANT M. SIMON, F.A.I.A.

### Sir Patrick Again Sends Thanks

The Red House  
Aston Tirrold  
Didcot, England  
8th June, 1950

My dear Mr. President,

I am now returned home, after passing through France and Sweden, carrying safely with me the precious burden which you handed to me at your Convention Banquet: the Medal is now placed beside the only other possession which can rank with it.

Those glowing words on the scroll and the noble design of the Medal make me sensible that my speech did not express the depths of my feelings. But the occasion was so joyous, the spirit of architectural comradeship was so manifest that I felt impelled to speak in like vein and I hope that this did not conceal from you the emotion which was underlying. I therefore need not repeat what I have said to you in private, that this token of high regard from my brother architects in U. S. A. is something which I

hope I deserve and which I shall continue to endeavour to justify.

May I take this occasion of saying how much I enjoyed the visits which I paid to many of your cities and the contacts I made on my tour before the Convention. No-one could have been more thoughtfully and humanely looked after: the programmes arranged were varied, full of interest and never too exacting. I was architecturally exhilarated with what I saw and I sensed a real live spirit of architectural adventure. I believe I have made many friends on this tour—I know that I have been confirmed in my conviction that there are no pleasanter people in the world than architects and their wives!

The tour had its climax in the Convention at Washington where my daughter was able to join me in the fortunate position of guest of the First Lady—the President's wife. That week, in addition to its splendid programme, had the pleasure of letting me meet again

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