

ATHOLE B. EDWARDS
1879-1961

Mr. Athole B. Edwards, a past president of the society, died on November 29, 1961.

Mr. Edwards was born in Hemmingford, Quebec, on June 23, 1879. He attended Harvard College, and in his four years there majored in general science and economics.

From 1901 to 1917, Mr. Edwards worked on surveys for the Illinois Central Railroad and then for a short time was a salesman for a concrete products company. During World War I he was with the Ordnance Department of the U.S. Army, specializing on track layouts. For about five years, 1919 to 1924, he was city manager in St. Albans, Vermont.

It was in 1924 that Mr. Edwards started the career in which many of us remember him. On April 1 of that year he entered the employ of the Division of Metropolitan Planning as an assistant engineer. Planning was then in its infancy; the Division had been created only a year earlier, and was charged with transportation planning for the Metropolitan District, including railroads, rapid transit, air and water transportation.

Practically all of the highway and rapid transit improvements made during the life of the Division of Metropolitan Planning were recommendations of that Division. Mr. Edwards participated in many of them. To name a few: Southern Artery, Brook Farm Parkway, Concord Turnpike, East Boston Tunnel, the subway through Kenmore Square, Charles River Basin Development, and West Roxbury Parkway.

In September, 1941, the powers, duties and personnel of the Division of Metropolitan Planning were transferred to the State Planning Board. That agency was less oriented toward transportation, and Mr. Edwards' efforts were directed more to taxation and population studies. However, he never lost his interest in transportation, even after his retirement which took place on June 30, 1949. As long as he was able he appeared at every substantial highway or con-

struction project in Greater Boston, and he was frequently heard to say that he was the most faithful "sidewalk superintendent" in the region.

Mr. Edwards became a member of the Society in 1928, was elected a director in 1936 and president in 1942. He is kindly remembered by many of his friends in the society.