



EMIL A. GRAMSTORFF

EMIL ANTON GRAMSTORFF

1892-1964

"No bubble is so iridescent or floats longer than that blown by a successful teacher." Sir William Osler.

Emil Anton Gramstorff was born in Everett, Massachusetts on April 23, 1892, and received his early education in the Everett Public Schools and later at the Chauncy Hall School in Boston. He earned the Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1917 and later received the M.S. in Civil Engineering from the same institution.

During World War I Grammy saw service as a Lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve. Following discharge, he was superintendent of construction for a private engineering firm in Boston.

He accepted an appointment to the faculty of Northeastern University as an instructor in civil engineering in September 1921 and thus began a long career of distinguished teaching. No bland personality, Professor Gramstorff generated many emotions among his students but never indifference. He knew what he knew and deeply wanted his students to want to know. He sternly demanded a great deal from his students and expected them to rise to his level. Woe to the student who didn't respond, for Grammy had many ingenious ways to prod a reluctant student to begin to climb. Along with this, he had the gift of wisdom in counselling and an infinite capacity for friendship.

Professor Gramstorff served with distinction as Chairman of Department from 1939 to 1954 when he was made Dean of the Graduate Division of the College of Engineering. Under his direction the division expanded its offerings, flourished and reached its present position of influence in the community. With his retirement in 1962, he ended more than forty years of dedicated service to the University.

He served his profession admirably as president of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and through chairmanship and membership in innumerable committees of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society for Engineering Education and the American Society for Testing and Materials.

He served his community unstintingly as a member of the City of Boston Planning Board, the Massachusetts Scientific Advisory Committee on Selective Service, in Civil Defense, and many other areas.

On September 1, 1964, he closed a long life of duty, devotion and dedication.

He leaves his wife, Pauline (Manning) Gramstorff; three daughters, Mrs. Howard (Catherine) Munday of Topsfield, Mrs. Clinton (Jane) Gove of Northfield, and Mrs. E. Henry (Ann) Anderson of Andover; and nine grandchildren.

The quality of a man is not to be judged by a chronological list of events, or honors, or distinguished posts or outstanding deeds. The quality of a man is best judged by his impact on society and, if he happens to be a teacher, by his impact on eternity. Gram will be remembered as he would have wanted, as a loving husband, a devoted father and an inspiring, dedicated teacher.