

## FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 140: 1907 (FIRE RESISTANCE TESTING)

By Richard Schulte

One of the presentations made at the eleventh Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association held in May 1907 addressed the “fire problem” with seasonal hotels. This presentation entitled “The Season Hotel” was made by H. L. Hiscock. One of the topics addressed in this presentation was the construction of the hotels from a fire safety standpoint and included the following excerpt:

*“A well-known authority on fireproof construction has stated that the architect is very largely to blame for poor construction from a fire protection standpoint. As a general rule, the architect lacks the conservative instinct, and the architects of both the new and the old schools know less and care less about the fire protection element which enters into the construction of a building than about any other feature. Carelessness and ignorance in the matter of inspection are also largely responsible for the kind of work that is being put into modern fireproof buildings. **Another feature which is being criticised is the lack of systematic tests of methods and materials, the only ones made in this country being those by the New York Building Department, the Underwriters' Laboratories at Chicago, and at Columbia University. In the old country, the British Fire Prevention Society are doing good work in this direction.**”*

The conduct of fire resistance tests in the first decade of the twentieth century was relatively new. It is interesting to note that both the New York Building Department and Columbia University were involved in fire resistance testing at this point in time.

\* \* \* \* \*

Copyright © 2013  
Richard C. Schulte

**Source:** “*Proceedings of the Eleventh Annual [NFPA] Meeting*”, New York, New York, 1907.