

FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 179: 1922 (IRA WOOLSON)

By Richard Schulte

Prior to presenting the report of the Committee on Building Construction at the twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association, the Committee took the time to honor the chairman of the Committee, Ira Woolson. The following is an excerpt of the comments made paying tribute to Professor Woolson:

"The President: The next report is that of the Committee on Building Construction, Prof. Ira H. Woolson, New York, Chairman.

Mr. H. V. Thayer, Boston: Before the chairman of this committee proceeds, may I ask the privilege of the floor for a moment?

The President: If there is no objection.

Mr. Thayer: While it is, of course, true that it is a secretary's function to be visible but inaudible; just at this time I have something special to say. Mr. Woolson has been the chairman of our committee for 10 years; he has served the Association in a remarkably efficient manner; his service has been devoted and effective, and as an evidence of the esteem in which he is held by his fellow members on the committee, they have asked me to make this somewhat incoherent speech and hand him this token of our regard (displaying a handsome clock). (Applause.) There is a little label on the back which reads, "1922; to Ira H. Woolson. from his Committee on Building Construction of the National Fire Protection Association." (Applause.)

Mr. H. W. Forster: I presume that the clock is five minutes fast to indicate that Brother Woolson is always ahead of the procession. (Laughter.)

Mr. Thayer (Continuing): "With sincerest appreciation of his ability, achievements and inspiring personality." This clock is supposed to be somewhat indicative of the traits of the committee, inasmuch as it is said to strike four times an hour and it does not chime at all! (Laughter and applause.)

The President: I am sure we can now give Prof. Woolson the privilege of the floor, the secretary having spoken."

Professor Ira Woolson was one of the leading engineers in the fire protection field during the formative years of the field. Woolson's work still influences the fire protection field today-75 years after his death.

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Richard C. Schulte

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