

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
JOHN E. ARNOLD
1913-1963

John Edward Arnold was born on March 14, 1913, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He received his B.A. in 1934 from the University of Minnesota and his M.S. in 1940 from M.I.T. He joined the Stanford faculty in 1957 serving jointly as Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Professor of Business Administration. He directed the Design Division of the Mechanical Engineering Department. Before coming to Stanford he taught at M.I.T. from 1942 to 1957. On September 28, 1963, he died while traveling in Italy. Educator, engineer, philosopher, consultant to industry, amateur printer, outdoorsman—John Edward Arnold was many things. Statistics do not measure the man nor assess the community's loss at his death.

John Arnold was, perhaps, best known for his contributions to educational philosophy in engineering design. In an era of analytical technological revolution he was an outspoken advocate of synthesis in technology. He felt that a thorough understanding of the creative process was essential in life, and particularly in engineering. How else but by creative synthesis and daring design could mankind meet the needs and challenges of this modern age? He believed in generalism—his concept of the "ultimate designer" stressed fluency of thought and zest for technology on a broad spectrum.

John Arnold's concepts of life and man were reflected in his deeds. A prodigious worker, he was full master of nearly every task he undertook—and these reflected an extraordinary breadth of interest. Following his graduation from Minnesota he owned and operated a local garage. He was an engineer and designer in industry both before and after obtaining his M.S. from M.I.T. On first joining the M.I.T. faculty he taught courses in Engineering Mechanics, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His interests in teaching turned toward engineering design and he soon built a worldwide reputation as an innovator in educational philosophy. His courses and summer institutes in Creative Engineering serve as clear landmarks—they were the first substantial efforts at developing the creative potential of engineering designers. He directed the educational television program for two years at M.I.T., appearing in or directing more than a hundred broadcasts. He was President of the M.I.T. Faculty Club. Concurrently with these activities he himself built a substantial portion of his charming home in the suburbs and perfected his skills as an amateur printer and photographer. A yearly event for his colleagues was the spring day he brought to market the fleeces he had shorn from his sheep the previous weekend. He was in great demand as a consultant to industry and to governmental agencies, where he promulgated his ideas of creativity in engineering.

John Arnold joined the Stanford faculty six years ago. Between then and now he built the Design Division of the Mechanical Engineering Department into a nationally recognized position of excellence in education. He initiated courses in the Management of Research and Development—hallmark courses in training the managerial leaders of our nation's growth in technology. The areas of his interest are, largely by his efforts, among the fastest growing in the University.

John Arnold was a visionary thinker. Not one to follow, he set trends in design education. Not one to command, he led colleagues by his example. Not one to falter, his firm pace forward in lecture and laboratory motivated students to give more than minimum efforts. Warmly human,

an outstanding and articulate speaker, he was sought by many groups to contribute to their programs. Reflecting on our remembrances of him we know—John Edward Arnold was an uncommon man. His death is noted with melancholy and sadness.

William M. Kays, Chairman
Peter Z. Bulkeley
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