

# THE SENIOR CLASS BOOK

1911

*Ralph E. Smalley*

Architecture.

Prepared at Mechanical Arts High School, St. Paul, Minn.

Thesis Subject: A Civic Theatre.

Secretary Atelier (4).



Ralph Emerson Smalley, or our "Esma," was born October 26, 1887, in Caledonia, Minnesota. When he opened his baby blue eyes upon the unsuspecting world his first thought must have been one of reformation. His later years proved this for he tried to "slip one over" the Ancient Greek Architects by inventing a new moulding. Of course it is nothing to us to know that the same moulding had been invented before the Pyramids were ever conceived.

"Esma's" early education took place in the Webster Grammar School and the Mechanical Arts High School of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota. He graduated in 1906 and after a year of recreation started to study Architecture at the Armour Institute. Esma has been a "crackerjack" at Design, but "Oh, you Math." We give it to him there, for he is a sticker. Three times and out has no charms for him for he has just killed Calculus on the fifth shot.

Smalley says that his chief ambition is to go on the stage. Now for this he is getting excellent training, as we see the same slight form every night in a super's part on the Auditorium stage during the grand opera season. We do not know whether he wants to be a grand opera star or the "villain" in a melodrama. Whichever it is, he will be great at it.

Ralph has taken advantage of the exhibition and lectures more than other Architects, and it is this development that has been such an inspiration to him. This is plainly seen from his designs, for all show the classic influence. In his Sophomore and Junior years, Esma developed into an idealist and even Rebori himself has not been able to break the spell.

Let us hope that when he returns to his home town the inhabitants will honor him by building the Civic Theatre which he is designing for their benefit as his thesis.

*"All the World's a Stage."*