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Obituary notice

Willis A. Baird

It is with saddened hearts and a realization of an irreparable loss that we learned of the recent death of our friend, Willis A. Baird, the master engrosser and illuminator of Brooklyn, New York. He died August 10, 1954.

We met him for the first time in 1907 when he enrolled in the Zanerian College, where we studied and worked together. He was a leader among the boys who admired him for his ability and fine character. It was an inspiration to watch him work.

Few men have had the training and close association with leading engrossers and illuminators of the entire profession. Mr. Baird's Engrosser's Script writing, early in his career, reached a degree of perfection and beauty equaled by no other penman - he was the king of scriptwriters.

As an all-round engrosser and illuminator, his masterful, accurate work earned for him a position ranking with the work of the all time great masters.

From the Zanerian, Mr. Baird went to New York City to work as an engrosser. His work attracted the attention of that lovable and great penman and engrosser, W. E. Dennis, who persuaded him to join the Dennis Studio. The result was the development of the Dennis and Baird Studio and a long and close friendship. After Mr. Dennis' death, Mr. Baird continued the studio that grew in fame.

Willis A. Baird, above all, was a gentleman, always willing to help others. The profession has suffered a tremendous loss but his work will live on to influence future generations.