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America Loses One of Her Most Skillful Engrossers

P. W. Costello is Dead.

P. W. Costello of Scranton Pa., who was one of the outstanding engrossers in America, died on May 20 after an illness of about three years.

Mr. Costello was born in Minooka in the coal regions of Pennsylvania in 1866. His early life was not one of roses for at the age of two he lost his mother. His father took him to England but they returned when P.W. was about ten years old. As a boy he lived near the steel mills and coalmines. Born of poor parents he at a very young age worked in a grocery store and also picked slate in the Coal Breakers.

It is said that from early school days he showed talent, yet as far as we know he received no special instruction in pen work except a few lessons from W. E. Dennis in 1903. At 19 he was appointed to a position in the Engineering Department of Scranton City where he was enabled to pursue his study of lettering during his spare time. His first job brought him \$25.00 and supplied the necessary inspiration for much continued study and work.

Mr. Costello was active in politics and held several such positions where he was respected for his thoroughness and honest endeavor to serve the people of his locality.

For several years Mr. Costello was engaged in the restaurant business. The place became famous because of the display of Mr. Costello's work of art on the walls. It was a favorite gathering place of stage stars and other celebrities. Mr. Costello sketched many of his distinguished visitors. These sketches were works of art and were highly prized.

Mr. Costello was one of the best friends The Educator ever had. He was a regular contributor until about three years ago when ill health called a halt to his activities.

P. W. Costello gained the love and admiration of the penmanship profession by his unselfish and untiring efforts to help others in the profession, for his carefully planned lessons, his masterful examples of engrossing and pen and ink drawings. His work is studied by both students and professionals. In his death we have lost a great engrosser, illuminator and pen artist-his work is done, but his masterpieces will live for future generations.

Mr. Costello leaves a family of seven children. One is a teacher and two have been influenced to follow art. Gerald is cartoonist on the Knickerbocker-Press, Albany, N. Y., and it is with keen delight that we are able to announce that Joseph W. is following in his father's footsteps. His engrossing work shows the careful training received from his father and we hope that he will serve the profession as well and unselfishly as did his father. Some of his work will appear in The Educator in an early issue.