

ROBERT SNOWDEN DEMAINE

President November 1952 - May 1954

Born 23rd February 1895 at Canterbury, Victoria, Robert Demaine attended Canterbury and Melbourne Grammar Schools before becoming articled to the architectural firm of Bates, Peebles and Smart in 1913. His concurrent studies at the University of Melbourne were interrupted by the First World War. On his return from war service Demaine sat for and passed the Special War Examination of the R.V.I.A. in 1920. In 1937 he began a practice, now under the name of R. S. Demaine, Russell, Trundle, Armstrong and Orton, which has given Victoria some fine hospitals and office buildings.

Admitted as an associate of the R.V.I.A. in 1921, Robert Demaine became a Fellow of that body in 1936. Fellowship in the R.A.I.A. came in 1943 and in the R.I.B.A. in 1951. In 1937 he was elected to the council of the R.V.I.A. and was its president in 1945-7. He was a councillor of the R.A.I.A. between 1946 and 1954, during the last two years of which he was its president. During these years he served as honorary secretary and honorary treasurer of the R.V.I.A. and as chairman of the Joint Board of Architectural Education of the R.A.I.A. in 1951-2. It was largely due to the efforts made by Robert Demaine that the Chair of Architecture at the University of Melbourne was established, that the influential R.V.I.A.-Age Small Homes Service was begun and that the profession in Victoria was unified when the Victorian Society of Architects amalgamated with the R.V.I.A. in 1946.