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Remembering Arthur B. Foye.

Michael N. Chetkovich
John W. Queenan
Dr. Howard A. Rusk
Luis Nieto
Gordon M. Hill
John L. Carey

The death of Arthur B. Foye on June 18 last, only two days before his eighty-third birthday, marked the passing of a man who left an indelible impression on Haskins & Sells and the public accounting profession. He was one of those rare individuals for whom retirement simply meant moving into a new phase of service to the profession, the community and the nation.

Born in Brooklyn and educated at New York University, Mr. Foye joined H&S in New York in 1918 and was admitted to partnership in 1923. During World War II he served as acting managing partner, and was managing partner from 1947 until his retirement in 1956.

He was the recipient of Distinguished Service Awards from the American Institute of CPAs and the New York State Society of CPAs after having served both professional organizations as president.

Always interested in international affairs, Arthur Foye was president of the Eighth International Congress of Accountants held in New York City in 1962; was a member of the task force on overseas economic operations of the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of Government from 1954 to 1956; and was a member of the United States National Commission for the United Nations Economic and Social Council and chairman of the eighth annual conference of the Council, held in New York City in 1959.

His wide-ranging interests and activities encompassed New York University, his alma mater, the National Association of Manufacturers and the YMCA, as well as church and community organizations.

Mr. Foye died in Ridgewood, New Jersey, where he and his widow, the former Emma Graham, made their home.

The real measure of any man lies in the memories he has left behind with his family, his friends and his associates. Following are statements from individuals who knew Arthur Foye well as a man and a leader in his profession. Their words speak more eloquently than any formal eulogy.

It is difficult to find words to say about Arthur Foye that have not been said before. He lived a long and productive life, during which he touched the lives and hearts of many people, each of whom had a special reason for his or her regard for him. Most of them found their own unique ways of expressing their admiration and affection. I have heard many of these expressions and, through my own associations with the man, could understand and appreciate each of them.

Arthur was a man of many great qualities. The Firm and the profession will be eternally grateful to him for his leadership and his devotion, as will the many civic and charitable organizations he served so well. His was a competence and an ability to lead given to few, and he used these talents to great advantage for the benefit of many.

Two qualities that impressed me earliest, and perhaps most, were his dignity and his warmth—by warmth I mean his interest in and concern for the individual, for *each* individual who crossed his path. Dignity and warmth are qualities not often found in common, certainly in such a degree; for dignity often tends to be associated with reserve, if not aloofness. Arthur was the most dignified of men; yet he always felt and conveyed an interest in and a concern for everyone he met.

We shall miss him greatly, and I doubt that we shall see his like again. All of us whose lives he touched are better for having known him.

Michael N. Chetkovich
Managing Partner

I had the privilege of knowing Arthur Foye from the first day of my employment with the Firm on July 1, 1927 and the pleasure of working with him for ten years prior to his retirement in 1956. He was a friend and an inspiration.

Arthur Foye was a man of great energy with many talents and interests. He was dedicated to the Firm and to his profes-

sion. He had an insatiable interest in international affairs and a broad understanding of them. He also had a deep interest in his fellow man, which led to the development of a prodigious memory for names and faces. He used all of his talents and interests for the good of the Firm and his profession.

Mr. Foye became managing partner of the Firm in 1947 after serving as acting managing partner for the duration of World War II. Arthur was aware of the deep wounds in the Firm's organization due to the stringent measures necessary to survive during the depression years of the nineteen thirties.

His energy was expended unsparingly in rebuilding the organization. His leadership instilled in our Firm a friendly spirit of cohesion which has permeated it since that time. Haskins & Sells became a group of leaders working in close cooperation for the benefit of our clients, the Firm and the profession. Our partners became aware of the importance of human relations in building and maintaining a strong young staff—aware of the fact that recognizing the dignity of the individual brings out and accentuates the values in that person. The improved quality of the staff was translated into an increased number of partners and a considerable expansion of the practice.

During this period also the Firm stepped up its participation in professional organizations, particularly in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

In 1947 Arthur Foye attended his first Institute annual meeting in Los Angeles. He and I shared a suite, and, since he was not well acquainted with his fellow professionals outside of New York, we arranged a series of small receptions in our suite so that he might meet many of the Institute members. The receptions were a success. He not only met a great number of the members, but he never forgot them.

I learned during that experience that his memory was not just a natural talent but one at which he worked constantly to improve. Each night after the receptions

he would list the names (and certain identifying comments) of those people he had met that day, and at breakfast the next morning he would ask me to review the list for any names he had omitted. Omissions were rare indeed. That nightly listing of names was a regular routine for most of his life.

It is not surprising that six years later, in 1953, he was elected president of the Institute and served with the same distinction that marked his leadership of our Firm and every activity in which he participated.

Nor is it surprising that three years later he accepted the presidency of the New York State Society, and that in 1962, when the Eighth International Congress of Accountants was held in New York, it was Arthur Foye who presided over the Congress.

The fact that the American Institute gave him its Distinguished Service Award seems only a logical development for one who had become a legend for his interest in people, his profession and international understanding.

John W. Queenan
Former Managing Partner, H&S

It was my great good fortune to meet Arthur Foye when I first came to New York University to establish and direct the Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine more than twenty-five years ago. He and Emma have been our cherished friends through all of these years. His leadership in establishing the Gallatin Associates of New York University brought not only financial help to the University but also an understanding and warm friendship between faculty and friends of the University that previously had not existed. Much of this great contribution emanated from his warm, friendly spirit and his deep dedication. Through the years his friendship for the Institute helped us to assist a larger number of severely disabled patients than otherwise would have been possible.

The world has lost a great gentleman, and the people have lost a champion who never failed in his quiet way to bring succor to the aged and sick and help to the helpless. His great spirit is timeless, and his caring we shall never forget.

Dr. Howard A. Rusk
*Director of the Institute
of Rehabilitation Medicine
New York University Medical Center*

I shall never forget the first time I met Arthur Foye. It was in September 1953, when he was managing partner of Haskins & Sells. I had just a month or so before resigned as a junior assistant with DPH&S Mexico in order to accept the opportunity to improve my English and to obtain training in the United States as an internal auditor for Reynolds Aluminum Co. in Richmond, Virginia. A subsidiary of Reynolds was a client of our Mexico City office.

When my boss at Reynolds told me he had been requested to permit me to go to New York to talk to Mr. Foye, I could not believe it; me, a 23-year-old ex-junior of a foreign office being called in for an interview with that giant named Arthur Foye. But it was not until I stepped into his office and he looked at me that I experienced his true greatness—his clear eyes and soft voice made me feel at home as if I were talking to my own father. It only took him five minutes to convince me that I should rejoin H&S. And then I realized it—his great personality was full of true, honest and sincere love for the human race.

The memory of such a great man, great husband, great father, great accountant and great friend will never die; his eighty-three-year lesson of love to the human race will live with us forever. No, I shall never forget the first time I met Arthur B. Foye.

Luis Nieto
*Partner in Charge, Mexico City
Deloitte, Plender, Haskins & Sells, S.C.*

I believe that Arthur Foye was an outstanding leader because he had every quality required by a leader. He had a brilliant mind. Some people are not aware that aside from his professional work he was a fine chess player and an excellent bridge player, for example.

After he was president of the AICPA he accepted the presidency of the New York State Society. I was on the board of directors of the state society at the time, and one of the men said: "Will he feel that this is much of an honor now, after he has been president of the AICPA?" Well, he did, absolutely. He accepted and devoted himself to it, and then he accepted such jobs as chairman of the 1962 Eighth International Congress of Accountants that was held in New York, and that was a terrific task involving a great deal of work. He made quite an addition to his already well-established record by the way he handled that.

Back in the thirties he was president of the Far East Council for Commerce and Industry for several years. It was a very prominent organization in relation to our commerce and the establishment of industry in Japan and China. One night he presided over a dinner-meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. There must have been forty people on the dais, and thirty of them had Chinese or Japanese names. Arthur that night gave the most involved introduction by a chairman of the people at a head table you could think of. He just started out and rattled those names off as though they were old friends of long standing and whom he knew intimately, giving their names and official positions and the country from which they came. When he finished an absolutely flawless performance the audience applauded him wildly.

He would be astonishingly well informed about the men in the uptown office, although you might think he had little contact with them because he was downtown in Executive Office. And he was very good at picking people for new responsibilities. He had a remarkable memory for incidents, and for what was in the files that he would look at when you would discuss an individual with him. You'd soon become aware that he had read that man's file and was well informed about what had been put in writing as well as what he had heard.

He was an excellent speaker, had a good sense of humor, and always included

anecdotes or stories in his serious talks. He was a careful speaker—his diction was excellent and the clear way he spoke was just another sign of the meticulous way he did everything. He was a man of very broad interests that reached into just about every field. And whatever he did, he did well.

Gordon M. Hill
Retired Partner, H&S

My first thought of Arthur Foye is kindness. To many of those who knew him this quality may have been less visible than his spectacular achievements. But I worked closely with him over many years, and was often alone with him. I learned how often he visited the sick, how often he wrote notes of encouragement to those who worked for him or with him, how liberal he was with thanks and credits, how he spared no effort for the comfort and pleasure of his frequent guests. With many others I was the personal beneficiary of all these kindnesses.

The amazing thing is how he found so much time to give of himself privately to individuals while carrying a load of public responsibilities under which most men would stagger. Managing a great accounting firm would be enough for many. But he did this superbly while also actively serving his university, his church, his community, his government, and most of all his professional societies.

It was possible because of his boundless energy and rigid self-discipline. He seemed tireless, and he never wasted a minute. He read widely. He knew how to delegate without losing control. He never yielded to self-indulgence that would impair his effectiveness.

My memories of Arthur are too numerous to recount. One that will never fade is his flawless performance as president of the Eighth International Congress of Accountants, over four eventful days, while suffering the nagging pain of an ulcerated tooth.

Arthur Foye was a man of many parts, a man for all seasons, and one by whom I am proud to have been accepted as a friend.

John L. Carey
*Former Chief Executive Officer
of the AICPA and author of
"The Rise of the Accounting Profession"*

Arthur B. Foye



