



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City

THE CITY OF
Edmonton

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James Adam

(1868-1946)

James Adam was the first professor of drawing and descriptive geometry at the University of Alberta.

James Adam was born on August 8, 1868 in Paisley, Scotland. He completed coursework in Glasgow and London before obtaining his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta in 1912. That year, he also received the Alexander Cameron Rutherford Gold Medal and in 1915, he obtained his Masters from the University of Alberta.

James Adam began his career at the University of Alberta in 1911 when he served as an instructor of drawing. He went on to become a lecturer of drawing in 1912, an associate professor in 1914, an associate professor of drawing in 1919, and a Professor Emeritus in 1936.

During his time at the University of Alberta, Adam served as a member of the University Dramatic Society and as a member of the Philosophical Society for which he was president in 1912 and 1913. He was also member of the Senate from 1929 until 1932.

Outside of his University activities, he was a founding member of the Edmonton Museum of Art and held a life membership in recognition of his services to the museum. He was also a board member of the Alberta Music Festival.

James Adam passed away on August 18, 1946 in Victoria, British Columbia.

*Written by; Danielle Ferchoff
June 2013*

CITATION ON FILE

“Prof. J. Adam, 78, Dies at Victoria,” Edmonton Journal, 20 August 1946, City of Edmonton Archives. Clipping Files.

University of Alberta Centenary. “James Adams”. Accessed 28 June 2013.

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Ancestry.com. *British Columbia, Canada, Death Index, 1872-1990* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2001.

Original data: British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency. British Columbia, Canada. British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency: P.O. Box 9657, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9P3.