

Vice Admiral William S. Pye

PRESIDENT, 2 NOVEMBER 1942 - 1 MARCH 1946

Oil on Canvas

Stanislav Rembski, 1943

Gift of Mrs. William S. Pye

Ac. 1976.33.01



William Satterlee Pye (1880 - 1957) had a long association with the Naval War College dating back to 1913 - 1915, when, as a lieutenant, he served as a member of the College staff. Among his important early contributions were mathematical tables developed from the College's war games to assist the fleet in maneuvers. In 1920, while serving as Executive Officer of the battleship *Pennsylvania* (BB 38), he had been a member of the influential Knox-King-Pye Board that recommended a policy for advanced naval education. In 1934 - 1935, he attended the Naval War College as a member of the first Advanced Class. After being ordered to relieve Admiral Kimmel after the Pearl Harbor attack, he served briefly as the acting Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, from 17 December 1941 until Admiral Nimitz's arrival on 31 December. Keenly interested in the Naval War College and in the development of naval education, Pye had remained in close association with the College before he was appointed College president for the remainder of World War Two.

This portrait shows Admiral Pye in front of a diagram showing a move in a naval war game at Newport. It was painted in 1943 by Stanislav Rembski (1896 - 1998), who was born in Sochaczew, Poland, and studied at the Warsaw Technological Institute and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin. After painting German nobility, he left to establish a studio in New York in 1920 and became a U.S. citizen in 1929. His portraits include the posthumous study of Woodrow Wilson in the Wilson Museum in Washington and a portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt that Eleanor Roosevelt commissioned for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library.