

IN MEMORIAM
CHARLES WILSON HACKETT

On February 26, 1951, death terminated the fruitful scholarly career of Charles Wilson Hackett, Distinguished Professor of Latin-American History and of the Institute of Latin-American Studies, after an association of years with the University as student and teacher.

Dr. Hackett was born on a farm near Chilton, Texas, June 19, 1888. His father, James Franklin Hackett, was descended from an English family that settled in Maryland in the Seventeenth century. His Mother, Mittie Matilde Greer, came from a pioneer Texas family.

The youthful Charles, fourth in a family of six children, attended school first at Chilton and then from 1903 to 1905 high school at Marlin. In the fall of 1905 he entered The University of Texas, becoming one of the fabled number who lived in Old B. Hall. His interest in history, which was to give purpose to his entire life, soon became manifest. He served as student assistant in history 1908-09 and as a fellow for the next two years. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1909.

After one year of graduate study at The University of Texas, Charles W. Hackett transferred to Stanford and the University of California. It was at The University of Texas that Dr. Herbert Eugene Bolton, then a young professor of medieval history, embarked upon a new and distinguished career in the field of Latin-American history. His contagious enthusiasm attracted the impressionable young Charles Hackett. Accordingly, when Dr. Bolton moved to Stanford and later to California, the young Texan followed him like a university student of the medieval period who moved with his professor.

He received his Master's and Doctor's degrees at the University of California in 1914 and 1917, respectively. The subject of his doctoral dissertation was "The Revolt of the Pueblo Indians in New Mexico in 1680." It was during the period of his graduate studies at Berkeley that Charles Hackett married, on June 30, 1915, Miss Jean Nette Hunter of Austin, Texas. Two children,

Frances Blackburn Hackett (Mrs. Whitmell T. Rison) and Charles Wilson Hackett, Jr., were born of this union.

Dr. Hackett returned to The University of Texas in 1918 as adjunct professor of history, beginning a continuous association of service to the University, which was to endure for thirty-three years. Dr. Hackett progressed rapidly up the academic ladder. In 1923, he was made an associate professor of history; and in 1926, he became professor of Latin-American history. In 1944, he was appointed distinguished professor of Latin-American history in recognition of the eminent position he had attained in his chosen field.

As a teacher, Dr. Hackett combined the rare abilities to present his subject in methodical, painstaking, and accurate detail, and yet to stimulate the enthusiastic interest of his students. Many were induced to make Latin-American history their career. The exceptional ability of Dr. Hackett in graduate direction is evidenced by approximately seventy Master's theses and thirty-five doctoral dissertations.

His very extensive contributions to Latin-American history are revealed by the extensive list of publications, translations, and editings of numerous volumes, articles and pamphlets (available from the Office of the General Faculty upon request). They reveal a deep interest in his subject, persistent research, and sound scholarship. His most extensive works are his and translations of the Bandelier documents relating to New Mexico (three volumes), Pichardo's Treatise on the Limits of Louisiana and Texas (four volumes), and the documents on the revolt of the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico (two volumes). He was for several years an associate editor of Current History and was on the editorial boards of several historical reviews, notably the Hispanic American Historical Review.

Realizing that graduate studies are conditioned by the adequacy of our library resources, Dr. Hackett lent his support over a long span of years to the development of our Latin-American Collection. He was largely instrumental in facilitating arrangements for the purchase of a number of valuable collections-- notably the Genaro Garcia, the Garcia Icazbalceta, and the William B.

Stephens collections of Mexican historical materials, and the Gondra collection relating to Paraguay. In no small measure, the Latin-American Collection of The University of Texas, a worldwide magnet for scholars, is a monument to the foresight and genius of Charles Wilson Hackett.

The Institute of Latin-American Studies is another of Dr. Hackett's permanent contributions to The University of Texas. After several years of effort, an area program organized on new and novel lines were approved by the Board of Regents, and the Institute was formally established in September, 1940. After serving as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Institute, Dr. Hackett was appointed its Director in 1947. The fact that the organizational the Institute -have been widely adopted by other institutions, plus the undoubted successful operation of the Institute, are testimonials to the wisdom and skill which attended the organization and subsequent development of the program.

Dr. Hackett was the recipient of many honors, awards, and testimonials, which attested both to his scholarship and his stature in the field of Latin-American history. He was elected to honorary membership in a number of learned societies both in the United States and in Latin America. He served on a large number of governmental and educational committees and councils. He was visiting professor at Harvard in 1925-26 and at Stanford in 1929-30. He acted as leader of the Latin-American round tables at Williamstown, Massachusetts, in 1928, and at the University of Virginia in 1935. He was an official delegate of the United States government to the Pan American congresses held at Panama in 1926 and at Lima, Peru, in 1941.

Although his academic interests were always paramount in Dr. Hackett's concern, he nevertheless found time for the management of business interests, fishing outings, and social activities. He was a member of Town and Gown Club and the Austin Club. The Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, which was organized on the campus with Dr. Hackett's active assistance, was always an important object of his interest and support. However, he would never allow his family obligations to be subordinated to any other interests, social or academic.

His genial spirit and good humor endeared him to all who knew him. His death is a great loss to his students and colleagues and also to Latin Americanists who recognized him as a pioneer leader. Although he will be missed, he will not be forgotten because of his enduring contributions to the development of Latin-American studies.

E. C. Barker
C. E. Castaneda
M. R. Gutsch
J. R. Spell
J. L. Mecham, Chairman

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A.W.C., Manager