IN MEMORIAM

ERNEST RANDOLPH HARDIN

Ernest R. Hardin, retired Assistant Professor of Speech and Acting Chairman of the Speech Department from 1943 to 1945, died on June 5, 1987, at his home "Millbrook" in Austin, Texas. He is survived by a son, Kenneth Newell of Austin, and two sisters, Lucille Jones of San Antonio and Aleen Martin of Mexia. He was preceded in death by his wife, Maurine Pearce Underwood Hardin.

Born on September 13, 1902, in Granger, Texas, Professor Hardin grew up in Bartlett, Texas, where he graduated from Bartlett High School in 1921. He attended Southern Methodist University and Southwestern University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1927. He received his M.A. degree from Southwestern in 1929. He also attended Columbia University and Northwestern University. For his undergraduate degree, he majored in Speech and Drama; his graduate work was in English literature, philosophy, and education.

As a student, Professor Hardin was a member of Pi Epsilon Delta (National Collegiate Players fraternity), Sigma Tau Delta (Professional English fraternity), Pi Kappa Delta (Honorary Forensics fraternity), and Alpha Psi Omega (Honorary Drama fraternity).

Professor Hardin taught Speech and Dramatic Literature at Southwestern University as an Assistant Professor from 1928 to 1932. At The University of Texas at Austin, he was part-time Instructor in Speech and Interpretation from 1932 to 1942; from 1942 to 1964, he was an Assistant Professor, teaching courses in Speech and Interpretation. He retired from teaching in 1964.

For many years, Professor Hardin was active as a critic judge of speech contests throughout Texas for the University Interscholastic League. While at Southwestern University he directed many plays for the Mask and Wig Players; among them were Romeo and Juliet, A Doll's House, and Lady Windemere's Fan. Until the formation of the Department of Drama in the College of Fine Arts, students interested in stage performance, scenic design, lighting and other aspects of theatrical production found opportunities to develop skills in these activities in a student group called the Curtain Club. During his years at The University of Texas at Austin, Professor Hardin was faculty sponsor of the Curtain Club and directed the plays it produced. He directed numerous plays, including Holiday, She Stoops to Conquer, and Hay Fever.

During his tenure at U.T. Austin, Professor Hardin served on many university and departmental committees, including courses and degrees, book acquisitions, property, student discipline, radio, forensics, and public relations. He was chairman of the departmental New Courses Committee and the Committee on Teaching-Fellows and Assistantships from 1945 to 1949.

In addition to his teaching, Professor Hardin was an artist. He spent two years studying at the Chicago Art Institute and one year at the Sorbonne in Paris. This interest was reflected in his M.A. thesis, "The Relationship of Impressionism in Painting to Imagism in Poetry." He was invited to exhibit his work in the 1936 Texas Centennial, and is listed in Mallett's Index of National Artists.

As an example of his community service, he was United Fund Chairman for the Speech Department from 1961 to 1963. He also took considerable pride in being selected for many years to act as one of the judges at the Annual Beauty Review at his alma mater, Southwestern University.

William H. Cunningham, President
The University of Texas at Austin

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Beverly Martin (Chairman), Martin Todaro, and Lear Ashmore.