IN MEMORIAM

RANDOLPH ARNOLD HAYNES

Dr. Randolph Arnold Haynes, Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Romance Languages, died in Austin on February 5, 1985, at the age of 92. He received the Bachelor of Arts and the Master of Arts degrees from The University of Texas at Austin, his doctorate from the University of Chicago, and taught in Austin for nearly forty years before his retirement in 1959. In 1962, in his seventieth year, he was appointed Associate Professor Emeritus.

Because of a childhood accident which left him sightless, Randolph A. Haynes was enrolled in the Texas School for the Blind at the turn of the century and began his formal education in Austin. His inclination toward the study of English and foreign languages was manifested early. Instead of learning a manual trade, young Haynes decided to become a teacher of Spanish and, ultimately, a university professor. In graduate school, he concentrated on Spanish philology, with emphasis on lexicography and etymology, a scholarly area difficult and demanding enough for the sighted, and one which would seem very nearly out of the question for a person deprived of his eyesight. Randolph A. Haynes' achievement of his personal and professional goals in spite of his handicap is in every sense an academic success story.

The son of John F. and Helen Morrel Haynes, he was born on August 25, 1892, in Milford, Texas, in Ellis County. The accident which cost him his eyesight resulted from the six-year-old's getting too close to a man chopping wood; a flying splinter put out an eye; improper medical attention thereafter caused the loss of the remaining one. In 1901 he came to Austin and entered the Texas School for the Blind, where he began his elementary education and learned to read, using a system similar to
Braille, the so-called New York Point, which was to serve him throughout his life. In the high school, which he entered in 1907, students were offered, along with academic subjects, the chance to learn such practical skills as tuning pianos and making cane bottoms for chairs. Indeed, Haynes later worked summers as a piano-tuner to supplement his income at the start of his career. But his high school studies of Spanish and other languages were his chief interest when he graduated from the Texas School for the Blind in 1911. The following year he enrolled at The University of Texas, where he was to spend six years, two of them working toward a law degree — he was President of the Middle Law Class in 1915. Leaving the law degree unfinished, he ultimately decided to major in Spanish, with minors in German, French and English. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa in 1918, the year he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

In 1918 he was awarded a University Fellowship in Romance Languages and continued in that department, working for the Master of Arts degree, which he received in 1919, completing a thesis on a play by Lope de Vega. He then began full-time teaching in the Department of Romance Languages as a Tutor (four classes per semester) in 1919; after one year he was appointed Instructor, a rank he held from 1920–1936. With a fellowship from the University of Chicago, Instructor Haynes took leave in academic year 1923–24 to work toward the Ph.D. In 1930 he took another semester of leave to complete residence requirements in Chicago for the doctorate, which was awarded in 1931. Among professors there who influenced him he has listed: Karl Pietsch, W. A. Nitze, E. H. Wilkins, C. C. Marden, and Hayward Keniston. His doctoral dissertation was directed by Professor George T. Northup and was titled Negation in the Quijote; it was published privately in Austin in 1933. Broader in scope than its title might suggest, it was in its time a useful basic work on negation for scholars interested in the general field of Spanish syntax. The following year, with W. A. Whatley, Haynes edited La Locura de Amor, a nineteenth-century Spanish play edited with introduction and notes,
published by Silver, Burdett, New York, 1934. In 1937 he was appointed Assistant Professor, a rank he held until 1946, when he became Associate Professor. He was a member of the Linguistic Society of America, the Modern Language Association, and the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Professor Haynes' major research project was unfortunately not crowned with the success that he had hoped for. In 1941, at the request of the World Publishing Company, Cleveland, Ohio, he had contracted to compile a comprehensive English-Spanish and Spanish-English dictionary that would go beyond existing books. Possibly the small-gauge project he originally planned with his publisher had grown by 1948 into a much vaster one, which, finally, proved beyond his powers to complete. Possibly there were health reasons. Haynes himself refers only to "a coincidence of untoward circumstances beyond my control" that obliged him to abandon his lifelong project. His lexicographical investigations were, nevertheless, a continuing source of inspiration and enrichment to Professor Haynes in his teaching. Besides undergraduate courses in basic Spanish and in Spanish grammar and syntax, he gave graduate courses in the History of the Spanish Language and Spanish Medieval Literature, the latter from the standpoint of philology.

Teacher-class evaluations did not exist during Randolph A. Haynes' tenure at The University of Texas. Luckily, a number of his former students have come forward to report on what was no doubt the salient aspect of his career: his success as a classroom teacher of Spanish. He held that the best way to learn it was immersion, as nearly total as possible, in the target language, through travel in foreign countries (in Haynes' case it was Mexico, which he visited several times) or through the recreation of a foreign cultural atmosphere, in one's home, if necessary -- this was the case with Haynes and his own family. He also spoke of having learned a great deal of colloquial Spanish conversing with Mexican railroad workers near his home in Milford when he was a boy. Certain of
Professor Haynes' students recall that he was a stickler for grammatical correctness and sought to be a near-native model for his students. Dynamic in class, he was a demanding professor, although he was considerate and diplomatic in pointing out students' shortcomings. Until he learned their voices, he depended on a seating chart, which wasn't for long. He had a retentive memory and, in the judgment of other professors, a remarkable command of his subject. His graduate classes were highly organized; he often read from his notes in New York Point, with a "wealth of information at his fingertips, literally as it were," in the words of a former student, who added, "Professor Haynes was so precise that as he read his notes, he would punctuate by saying: 'Comma, colon, period.'" His teaching was characterized by great patience, cultivated, in that former student's discerning view, "through years of dealing with his disability." Asked what was his outstanding quality as a teacher, another who had sat in several of his classes replied, "His inquiring mind, he always wanted 'to learn some more,' he was never satisfied."

Throughout his life Professor Haynes paid tribute to his wife for her invaluable assistance with his career. She was Marie Brundrett, whom he married June 23, 1920, at the Brundrett family home in Austin. They had two children, one, a surviving son, Randolph Arnold, Junior, born in 1925, who later received the Master of Arts degree in English from The University of Texas, and a second son, Carl Brundrett, who died in infancy. Haynes met Marie Brundrett through the latter's mother, who was partially blinded and also attended the Texas School for the Blind. They were of English extraction and came from a ranching family in South Texas. Like her husband-to-be, Marie Brundrett was a Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the Department of Romance Languages. She also worked occasionally as a Tutor in the department. After their marriage, it was she who read him his students' papers, written examinations, and a multitude of books that could not be reduced to the New York Point system. Professor Haynes stressed that he himself was responsible for judging students' performances and awarding grades. At the
University of Chicago, Mrs. Haynes attended all classes and lectures with him, although she made it clear he was an efficient typist who always did his own typing, even his dissertation.

Professor Haynes loved music, singing, composing songs, and playing the piano — and he was of course able to tune the instrument. Though to his close friends he revealed a sense of humor and was a good conversationalist, Professor Haynes struck many people as somewhat shy and retiring and as "sensitive" about his lack of sight. For that reason, according to friends, he strove especially hard to be independent and self-sufficient. He prided himself on never using a cane or a guide dog. He depended on his sense of touch, which was highly developed, to orient himself in his office building, Batts Hall, or in walking outdoors, sometimes at the elbow of a companion. A colleague recalled his "marvelous, unhesitating skill" in getting around. He was physically strong and loved the outdoors. He enjoyed gardening, carpentry, even such heavier chores as building walkways, and wasn't averse to climbing trees if they needed pruning. He once changed a flat tire unaided for a fellow professor during a certain automobile trip en route to a scholarly conference. It was in a collision with another person in a crowded corridor of Batts Hall that he suffered the broken hip that forced his retirement in 1959. Happily, in later years his hip mended, he recovered mobility, and he was able to enjoy, with Mrs. Haynes, additional useful years of life. They were a devoted couple whose lives truly complemented each other. She died in 1982, preceding her husband in death by three years.

Professor Randolph A. Haynes was above all an outstanding teacher of undergraduates and graduates in his field. The fruits of his research, rather than being made available to a wider public through extensive publication, served principally to enrich what he taught his students. One recalls the gratitude expressed to him by Dr. Harry H. Ransom, who wrote of "a long and distinguished record of service to The University." Randolph A. Haynes refused to be circumscribed by his lack of sight. A
multifaceted man with a fine sense of equilibrium in his life, he was able to balance the demands of good teaching, painstaking research, and devotion to family. He found artistic expression in music, along with his love of the outdoors and his cultivation of his physical skills and powers. His was a memorable and exemplary life. In an interview in the Austin American in 1949, he said: "The blind person has to work harder than the one with normal sight, due to his handicap. I wanted to excell, to have extraordinary skill; I wanted to make myself exceptional." Those who knew Professor Haynes as students, fellow professors, or friends all agree that he succeeded.

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 Fred P. Ellison (Chairman), Joseph H. Matluck, and Fritz Hensey.