IN MEMORIAM

LEE M. HOLLANDER

Born on November 8, 1880, in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of Samuel Hollander and Amelia Herstein, both of Baltimore, Lee Milton Hollander belonged to a family that had preserved strong links with its former homeland, Germany, from where his grandfather had emigrated to the States in 1848. Young Hollander spent his early years in Baltimore, until the death of his father in 1886. The mother decided to take her sons, Lee and his older brother Charles Samuel, back to Germany to live with relatives in Frankfurt am Main. There Lee attended primary and secondary school from 1886 to 1897, when he left the Obersekunda of the Realgymnasium at the age of seventeen to return to the States. Back in Baltimore, he enrolled in the College at Johns Hopkins University and obtained his B.A. in 1901, with a major in Germanic Philology and minor in English and Comparative Philology. He then went on to the Ph.D., working under Henry Wood on a history of prefixal -s- in Germanic, a dissertation that was published at Hermann Collitz' personal encouragement. Having obtained his doctorate in 1905, young Hollander undertook a trip to Norway, Sweden and Denmark, where during these Wanderjahre he learned the Scandinavian languages and read their literatures. He developed a great admiration for Petter Dass, the author of Nordlands trompet, and always felt extremely proud that his article in the Aftenposten in 1906 was instrumental in restoring the poet's home at Aistahaug in Helgeland beyond the Arctic Circle. While in Scandinavia, Hollander visited scholars young and old in the universities, listened to Otto Jesperson, Moltke Moe, and attended Sophus Bugge's seminar on the Edda in Oslo; and here he became acquainted with the scholars who continued to maintain Oslo's pre-eminence in Germanic philology, especially Magnus Olsen and Carl Marstrander. But he mainly availed himself of the opportunity to read and study at the Royal Library in Stockholm, as well as in the rich libraries of the University of Oslo and of Copenhagen, where he devoted special time and attention to the Arnamagnaean Collection.

After two years abroad he returned to the States in 1907 and became an instructor in German at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. While teaching the beginners' course in German, as well as some Norwegian, he published the first of an impressive series of translations in Poet Lore. After three years he transferred to the University of Wisconsin, where he also taught German and Norwegian at the beginner's level and where he started more substantial research that led to various articles, mainly on Scandinavian literature, in Modern Language Notes, Scandinavian Studies, Arkiv för nordisk filologi, and other publications.

Anti-German sentiment brought on by the First World War deprived him of his job at Madison. The blow was particularly hard as he had married Jean Wright Fisher (1880-1965) in June of 1912. For quite a while he devoted
the better part of his time to compiling files of clippings about the war
from the chief newspapers of England, Germany, and the United States. He
thoroughly disliked the job, but was, nevertheless, grateful to Librarian
Smith of the University of Wisconsin, for having created it for him so that
he was not dismissed outright like most of his colleagues, who were accused
of a double allegiance because of their bilingualism. It was during this
parlous time also that Hollander utilized a long-standing interest in geology:
He actually taught an introductory course in it and worked up reports on parts
of Wisconsin. Throughout his life Hollander collected geodes, rocks and
mineral specimens.

In 1920, when events finally took a turn for the better, Hollander came
to the University of Texas as an adjunct professor of Germanic languages. By
that time the study of foreign languages had begun to revive and the chairman
of the Department, Dr. Johannes Lassen Boysen, who had been forced to teach
French during the lean years, now had more students than he could handle.
For the brilliant young scholar this appointment marked the beginning of a
career spanning half a century at The University of Texas.

Those were fruitful and happy years. The University was growing and,
being a successful teacher and a productive scholar, Lee Hollander was soon
promoted to associate professor and in time to professor. In 1929 he took
over the chairmanship of the Department of Germanic Languages, a post he
held until attainment of the age limit in 1946 necessitated his retirement
from this administrative position. Apart from unselfish devotion to the
task of building up the quality and reputation of his Department, Hollander
continued to work strenuously in his chosen field of research: Excellent
scholarly studies and translations followed each other in quick succession.

While still in Oslo, Hollander had first become aware of the intellectu-
al and spiritual significance of the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard.
In 1906/07 in Ann Arbor he translated some of Kierkegaard's writings, but
being unable to find a commercial publisher, he kept the manuscript in his
desk drawer until Howard Mumford Jones, then a professor of English at Austin,
suggested printing it as a publication of the University. In 1923 it came
out as Selections from the Writings of Kierkegaard, University of Texas
Bulletin Nr. 2326, Comparative Literature series Nr. 3, 239 pp. Although
Kierkegaard had already become widely known by then, chiefly through German
translations, the publication received next to no attention in this country.
It was not until 1960, when Doubleday reprinted this translation with a 33-
page introduction, that Hollander was acknowledged as the pioneer translator
of the Danish philosopher into English. A vast number of articles and minor
translations demonstrates how much time and effort went into the preparation
of the major works--The Poetic Edda (1928), Old Norse Poems (1936), The Skalds
(1945) and Heimskringla (1964)--in which he tried to recreate the tone of the
original in his very personal style and diction. Five years after relinqu-
ishing the chairmanship of the Department of Germanic Languages Hollander
had to go on modified service, but while weaker and less devoted souls would
have indulged in the fallacious peace of serene retirement, he became more active than ever, continuing enthusiastically his university teaching until 1968 and his research until the very day of his death. He went on guiding students in Germanic studies, he published additional valuable articles on problems of Old Norse and excellent translations of sagas. Meanwhile, having become the Nestor of Scandinavian Studies, he was made Knight of the Order of the Icelandic Falcon, Member of the Norsk Videnskaps Akademi, President of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, and Honorary Life Member of the Viking Society for Northern Research. But perhaps no man in the world was less concerned about such honors than Lee Hollander: He simply remained faithful to his grande passion—Old Norse literature and mythology, and his unwavering devotion to it left no room for smaller ambitions.

Yet, Hollander was not and never had been the remote scholar, withdrawn from the business of the world, the community, the neighborhood. He played tennis and rode his bicycle to the campus long before considerations of health and pollution were popular. He was an accomplished musician who played the violin in the first University Symphony and the early Austin Symphony orchestras, in the organization of both of which he was active. Many years later he donated his valuable instrument to a deserving and gifted student in the University String Project. Music pervaded the very life of the Hollanders: Mrs. Hollander, a highly talented pianist, often played for appreciative audiences: gatherings at the Hollanders were never without a musical component. Always a devoted gardener, for years Hollander also kept bees. Many friends remember jars of honey that arrived at Christmas with the label "From the Hollanders and the bees."

Throughout his adult life Hollander favored and engaged in liberal thinking and politics. He frequently contributed to The Nation and was a vigorous supporter of the dismissed President of the University, Homer Rainey; he never tired of aiding the University Y.M.C.A. Even at 90 he kept a regular schedule at the Austin Human Rights Center where he helped high school pupils who were having trouble with their English. Nor should Hollander's sharp wit and tongue-in-cheek humor go unmentioned. He brightened many a dreary day for colleagues and students by his cogent remarks. They also make his extensive and primarily scholarly correspondence a delight to read. And Hollander corresponded with leading scholars in this country and abroad, such as:

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<th>Roy Bedichek</th>
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<td>Helmut de Boor</td>
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<td>Foster Blaisdell</td>
<td>Walter Baetke</td>
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<td>Reidar T. Christiansen</td>
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<td>Ludwig Holm-Olsen</td>
<td>Edwin Zeydel</td>
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<td>Otto Höfer</td>
<td>Ole Widding</td>
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Friedrich Bruns
Oskar Lundberg
Carl Selmer
Aage Kabell

and many more.

Until its demise in the late '60s Hollander was an enthusiastic member of the Fortnightly Club, a group of scholars from all departments of the University who met for the discussion of their research papers. But he probably enjoyed most intensely his sponsorship of the departmental Journal Club, where "Vortragshalter" young and old, local and visiting from all over the world would present papers and answer questions in open discussion under Hollander's masterful leadership.

In honor of Hollander's 85th birthday a symposium was held, the theme of which dealt with the subject matter of his life's work--Norse literature and mythology. The speakers were Margaret Arent-Madelung, Einar Haugen, Paul Schach, E.O.G. Turville-Petre, and Erik Wahlgren. An impressive volume, edited by Professor Polomé (who also had led the symposium) resulted. When Hollander turned 90, Professor Edgar Polomé commemorated the occasion with a lecture entitled "Approaches to Germanic Mythology," and the Department published a Festschrift, edited by Professor John Weinstock and distributed by the Pemberton Press, Austin. Unfortunately it did not come out in time for the honoree to see it. He died on his way home from the campus on October 19, 1972. His ashes were placed beside his wife in a plot overlooking the ocean at Woods Hole, Massachusetts. He is survived by his three children, Willard F. Hollander, Professor of Genetics, of Ames, Iowa; Elizabeth H. Nelson of Austin, Texas; and Miriam Lee Hollander Hoyt of Winchester, Massachusetts.

Lee M. Hollander's bibliography constitutes part of the official version of this memorial resolution. It is arranged in chronological order and contains 16 books and monographs, 22 translations, 88 articles, and 157 reviews.

Lorene L. Rogers, President of The University of Texas at Austin

John R. Durbin, Secretary The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of George Schulz-Behrend (chairman), Winfred P. Lehmann, David L. Miller, and A. Leslie Willson.