IN MEMORIAM

ERNEST JAMES LOVELL, JR.

Born in Roanoke, Virginia, on August 28, 1918, Ernest James Lovell, Jr., was the elder of the two sons of Ernest James and Virgie Figgatt Lovell. The family moved, first, to Richmond, where Ernest attended Richmond Normal School, and later to Raleigh, North Carolina, where he was president of his high school senior class in 1935. He took an A. B. from Duke University in 1939, an A. M. from Cornell University in 1940, and a Ph. D. from Princeton University in 1946. His interest in English literature had finally focused on the Romantic Period in general and the work of the poet Byron in particular.

While an instructor in the English Department at the University of Mississippi in 1941-1942 he met Calista Belle Biles, whom he married on August 5, 1943, after serving for two years in the United States Army. He taught for a year at Texas A. & M. (1943-1944), and after receiving his doctorate he was department head for a year at King College in Bristol, Tennessee. In 1947 he came to The University of Texas at Austin as an assistant professor of English. He became an associate professor in 1951 and a professor in 1962. In looking back over Professor Lovell's career, the then-chairman of the department, who interviewed him at the Modern Language Association before his appointment, recalls: "My first impression was good, very good, and this tended to increase over the years. He impressed one immediately as attractive, clean-cut, active, bright-eyed, capable and intelligent. He seemed to possess restrained energy. He was somebody who was going places."

Ernest Lovell was a teacher and a scholar in the best sense of both
terms. He was more concerned with educating his students than with entertain-
ing them, but he was also popular with his students and made lasting friend-
ships with many of them. There was a touch of old-fashioned Southern courtli-
ness in his classroom manner -- "Ladies and Gentlemen," he always addressed a
class -- but on the other hand his relationships with individual students were
personal, often warmly so. When the wife of one of his graduate students had
a baby a few years ago, he sent her flowers and offered them the loan of one
of his cars for as long as it was needed.

In and out of class he never lost sight of his high academic standards.
Over the years he taught courses in the Romantic poets, in modern poetry and
drama, and (for the Plan II program) in comparative literature. Whether a
class was on the freshman or the graduate level he strove to communicate to his
students not merely an enthusiasm for the work but also a respect for scholas-
tic excellence. In the deliberations of groups of his colleagues, too, his
chief concern was always for the standing of the English Department in the
world of scholarship. As a scholar himself, he attained distinction early, as
was evidenced by the visiting professorships he held at Columbia University in
1955-1956 and at the University of North Carolina the following summer. His
publications include many articles and a number of notable books concerned
principally with the life and work of the poet Byron, but his interests were
wider than this fact would indicate. At the time of his untimely death he was
at work on what might well have been his major work, a study of the nature and
theory of romanticism as an element in the work of writers up to our own time.
He left the manuscript complete except for the verifying and assembling of the
documentation, and it is to be hoped that the book can be completed and pub-
lished.
In 1966 Professor Lovell became Executive Editor of *Texas Studies in Literature* and *Language*, a position he held until his death. Upon this quarterly journal of the humanities he imposed the same standards of strict scholarship that he applied to his own work. He was for many years a member of both the Modern Language Association Committee on Research Projects and the Modern Language Association committee to revise and update *The English Romantic Poets: A Review of Research and Criticism*. He was a member of the Keats-Shelley Association and of the American Committee of the Byron Society (of England). Periodically he acted as a consultant to various university presses. He was listed in *Who's Who in America, Directory of American Scholars, Contemporary Authors, International Scholars Directory, Dictionary of International Biography*, and other publications of the kind.

In addition to his teaching and scholarly work Professor Lovell played a vigorous role in the Budget Council of the English Department until the departmental organization was changed in 1968. After Dean John Silber's departure from the University in 1970 he served on the committee that administered the College of Arts and Sciences until the appointment of Dean Stanley Werbow as Dean of Humanities.

A highly sociable man, with a wide circle of friends in various departments of the University and in various circles of the community, Ernest Lovell together with his wife was hospitable far beyond the call of courtesy. In addition to formal entertaining, the two of them often went out for Dutch-treat dinners with congenial groups, who soon made a standing joke of Ernest's dislike of carrying anything in his pockets -- even spending money -- so that when the waiter brought his bill he always passed it on to his wife as the family financial officer. He was a notably devoted father who was actively
involved at every stage in the growing up of his two children, Anne Figgatt (now Mrs. Frederick Albert Matsen III) and James Lloyd (now a physician serving his residency at a group of hospitals connected with The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

Perhaps the most salient, certainly the most moving, of the qualities that unmistakably endowed Ernest Lovell with what is known as character was the courage with which he carried on his work, kept up with the affairs of the University, and maintained among his friends a lightness of spirit right up to the day before his death, knowing as he had for his last two years that his illness was terminal. He died on June 22, 1975.

A bibliography of his publications is appended.

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 Gerald Langford (chairman), Clarence L. Cline, and Charles E. Lankford.
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