IN MEMORIAM

EDUARD MÍČEK

Eduard Míček was born August 19, 1891 at the town of Frýdek in Czechoslovakia and died in Austin June 25, 1962. After attending the public schools he studied four years in a teachers' college, specializing in Czech and German and later passing examinations qualifying him to teach these languages in the junior high schools. While serving his country in World War I he suffered severe lung damage, which eventually shortened his life. In 1920 he entered Charles University in Prague, and in 1924 was granted the doctorate, one term having been spent in King's College, London. In the same year, he came to the University of Chicago to study. In 1926 he was appointed instructor at the University of Texas to establish the teaching of Czech, which was at first partially financed by the Czech people of Texas. He was made associate professor in 1929 and professor in 1945. When the Department of Slavonic Languages was created in 1929, he became its chairman and served in this capacity until reaching the age of automatic retirement from administrative duty. With the introduction of Russian into the curriculum he strove diligently to promote the study of it.

Professor Míček was at some time a member of the following organizations: The Comenius Institute in Prague, The Masaryk Institute in New York, The Czech Historical Society, The Czech Ex-Students Association of Texas, The American Association of University Professors, The Fortnightly Club, and the American Association of Teachers of Slavonic and Eastern European Languages. In the last named organization he held the various offices of vice-president, president, and chairman of the Executive Council. At the Paris Peace Conference in 1929 he was an
expert on Silesian matters, a field related to his doctoral studies. He served in 1948 as adviser to the U. S. Armed Forces on the selection of Russian textbooks. For five years beginning in 1954 he was president and organizer of the colorful Czech Majales Festival, held on the University campus each May.

He wrote a considerable number of articles on various aspects of American life, and Czech life in America. Most of these appeared in Czechoslovakia, but some of them appeared in the Czech-language newspapers of Texas. Two books by him on American education were published in Prague. From 1949 to 1960 he contributed a weekly series of Czech reading lessons for Vestník, published in Temple. He was the author of four Czech readers, each bearing the name of one of the seasons. Professor Míček was proud of having met Tolstoy on a trip to Russia as a young man. He became deeply interested in the great philosopher and wrote several papers concerning him, as well as two small volumes, The Real Tolstoy and Tolstoy the Humanist.

Throughout his entire academic career Professor Míček worked hard in a variety of ways to develop and increase an interest in his subject. He will be remembered as the founder of the Department of Slavonic Languages and as chief exponent of the Czech language at the University of Texas.

Joseph A. Smiley, President
The University of Texas

Eugene W. Nelson, Secretary
The General Faculty

The Resolutions were prepared by a Special Committee consisting of M. I. Smith, Chairman, Carl M. Rosenquist and E. Taborsky.