IN MEMORIAM

EDMUND THORNTON MILLER

Edmund Thornton Miller was born in Fort Worth, Texas, June 6, 1878. He graduated from Weatherford College (Texas) with the degree of A.B. in 1897 at the age of nineteen, and subsequently enrolled at the University of Texas from which he received the degree of A.B. in 1900 and A.M. in 1901. Later he was a graduate student at the University of Chicago and at Harvard University, from which he received the degrees of A.M. in 1903 and Ph.D. in 1909. While at Harvard he held appointments as Austin Teaching Fellow and Henry Lee Memorial Fellow.

He began his academic career as a teacher of English and history in the Waxahachie High School. He became an instructor in economics at the University of Texas in 1904, an adjunct professor in 1913, and a full professor in 1917. This position he filled continuously for thirty-one years, going on modified service in 1948.

In 1913 Doctor Miller married Emily Maverick, a member of a colonial pioneer family of San Antonio. They became the parents of two daughters and a son: Emily Maverick Miller (now Mrs. Marshall F. Wells), Edmund Hollis Miller, and Mary Elizabeth Miller (now Mrs. Otis B. Gary). At the time of Doctor Miller's death there were four grandchildren.

As an undergraduate Doctor Miller joined the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Also as an undergraduate he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa society. In later years he became a member of the Knights of Pythias. His professional associations were the American Economic Association, the American Numismatic Association, and the Texas State Historical Association, of which he was a fellow. For many years he was a member of the Town and Gown Club. He was a faithful member of All Saints Episcopal Chapel.

As a writer Doctor Miller was best known for his Financial History of Texas. From the time of its publication in 1916 this has been the standard of work in its field. In recent years Doctor Miller was engaged in gathering material for a revised edition of this book. That he did not live to complete it constitutes a loss which all future students of the subject will regret. As the accompanying bibliography attests, he was also the contributor of numerous articles and reviews to historical and technical journals. One of his latest studies was a comprehensive review of the Texas state tax system, published in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly for July 1951. The Texas Chamber of Commerce had two thousand copies of this paper reprinted for the use of its members. An article on the money of the Republic of Texas appeared in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly for January 1949, and he was working on an expansion of this paper at the time of his death. All of this work was characterized by comprehensive scholarship, meticulous accuracy, and finished literary clarity.

Doctor Miller's standing as the leading authority on the public finance of Texas was recognized by his appointment in 1927 to the Texas Tax Survey Committee, and in 1949 to the Governor's Tax Study Committee of the Texas Economy Commission.

It was Doctor Miller's interest in monetary problems—with public finance, one of his two fields of specialization—that gave rise to his hobby, numismatics. He was an ardent collector of coins and paper money, especially those of the United States, including the Confederacy and the Republic of Texas, and over a period of many years he had built up an extensive and valuable collection.
During his long period of service Doctor Miller saw many changes, in the University as well as in economic affairs and economic thinking. Although he was conservative by temperament and conviction, he took a keen interest in all that was happening in the economic life of the nation and the world and in the world of ideas, as well as in all aspects of University life. It might be said of him that, though he loved the old, he did not hate the new. Thus the example which he set of a rare combination of stability and tolerance won the respect and affection of all his associates.

Doctor Miller's relations with his colleagues were characterized by gentleness, affability, good humor, and a high degree of friendly consideration and courtesy. From student days onward he cultivated close friendships and cherished them, corresponding with some of his classmates and fraternity associates until recent years. He was equally eager to help his present students and proud of the achievements of former students, many of whom are now teaching in colleges and universities, and are in the service of government and industry, throughout the country.

Early in January 1952 Doctor Miller notified his colleagues of his decision to retire from all teaching at the end of that long session. In recognition of his long and valuable service to the University the Board of Regents voted to confer upon him at that time the title of Professor Emeritus. This was the least of many honors, but he was not to assume the title until death came very suddenly on the 6th of May, while he was still actively serving the University to which he had been devoted, as student and teacher, for more than half a century. As the flags went to half mast on the middle campus, the entire community mourned the passing of an honored teacher, a distinguished colleague, and a cherished friend.

E. C. Barker
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C. E. Ayres, Chairman

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A.W.C., Manager