

IN MEMORIAM
ARTHUR EDWARD MURPHY

Professor Arthur Edward Murphy was born in Ithaca, New York, on September 1, 1901, the son of Edward Charles Murphy, a highly esteemed civil engineer and Emalie Atkinson, school teacher. His academic precocity remains engraved in a Phi Beta Kappa key dated 1922, his junior year at California (Berkeley), and on a handsome gold medal struck one year later honoring him as "the most distinguished student of the (graduating) class of 1923."

Two and a half years later he received his doctorate along with an instructorship at California. In 1927 he went east to Chicago; went on to Cornell in 1928 as an assistant professor; returned to Chicago in 1929 as an associate professor, and in 1931 was called to Brown as a full professor at the age of thirty.

The next twenty years added administrative, to an ever-increasing academic, distinction. In 1939, Professor Murphy became Chairman of the Department at the University of Illinois, and in 1945 he returned to Cornell, serving as Susan Linn Sage Professor and Chairman from 1946 until 1953. During the following five years, he held the Chairmanship at the University of Washington in Seattle. He accepted a Visiting Professorship at the University of Texas for 1957-1958, and the Chairmanship here beginning in September, 1958.

Periodicals, annuals and books carried more than fifty of his essays. The very mention of some of these titles--"Objective Relativism in Dewey and Whitehead," written when only twenty-six; "The Rewards of Learning," 1945; his Presidential Address to the American Philosophical Association in 1951, "The Common Good," and his last one: "Jonathan Edwards on Free Will and Moral Agency," 1959--is enough to evoke anew the feeling of stirring import he so ably communicated. The *Philosophic Review* (1949-1953) and the Prentice-Hall Philosophical Series from 1936 until his death, gratefully utilized his capacity for accurate philosophical and editorial appraisal.

Taxed throughout his life by a serious cardiac condition, Professor Murphy generously

risked the additional burdens of joining or chairing a number of committees concerned with the improvement of philosophical research and teaching or with the proper understanding of education as a philosophical problem. The enduring effectiveness of his class-room and seminar performance remains deeply impressed on those, once his students, later his colleagues and friends, who added to a literally coast-to-coast demand for him as a visiting professor or public lecturer.

Reviews, essays, class-room and public lectures, the editing or co-editing of publications and a heavy and often demanding correspondence left him with only two books wholly his own. One, The Uses of Reason, first printed in 1943, will soon be re-published by Prentice-Hall. The other, The Theory of Practical Reason will be the Tenth in the Carus Lecture Series and is now with Open Court. That it got there in its complete form was due to Professor Murphy's courageous resolve not to allow even a rapidly consuming and incurable disease to cheat him of his single, sustained and creative contribution.

Filling the gap between his first and his last substantial pieces of writing will be: Reason and the Common Good: Selected Essays, also soon scheduled for publication by Prentice-Hall.

A single-eyed devotion to philosophy and to philosophers inspired Professor Arthur Edward Murphy wherever he moved, whatever scholarly, administrative or public tasks he undertook. This was his life; these, preeminently were his people. And this because he was so profoundly convinced that this was the work, and these the workers, upon whom depended so much the "achievement of the ends of community." Indeed, the whole merit of his life, as he would have viewed it, lay in his stubborn refusal to alienate that properly philosophical function, the uses of reason, from whatever was decently human. Those who knew him most intimately also best understood that this was the very tap-root of the rich, warm good-sense that made him, man and philosopher, unus ex millibus.

A. P. Brogan, Chairman
E. W. Doty
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