IN MEMORIAM

CALEB PERRY PATTERSON

Caleb Perry Patterson was born in Saltillo, Tennessee in 1880 and died in Austin, Texas in 1971 at the age of 91.

After graduating from high school, he received B.S. and B.A. degrees from Southern Normal University in Tennessee, Masters degrees from Vanderbilt University in 1911 and from Harvard University in 1916, and attended the University of Chicago for one year. He received the LL.B. degree from the University of Memphis in 1913 and from the University of Texas in 1921. In 1923 he was awarded a Ph.D. by Columbia University. While at Columbia and Harvard Universities, he studied under the leading authorities at that time in the field of Constitutional History and Law.

Patterson's life was devoted to teaching. He began in the public school of Western Tennessee, but his extensive education delayed the beginning of his career in college teaching. He came to the University of Texas in 1919 at the age of 38 as an Instructor in Government. His career ballooned quickly and few educators have cut a wider swath in the intellectual life of Texas than he did during the early twenties. He was promoted to Professor of Government in 1925, was subsequently Chairman of the Department for some eight years, and became Professor Emeritus in 1955.
Patterson was instrumental in founding Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honorary society for political science students, and lived to see the establishment of chapters of the society in most of the colleges and universities in the United States. He was present at the founding of the Southwestern Political Science Association (now Southwestern Social Science Association), was its first secretary-treasurer, subsequently its president, and for ten years the editor of its journal.

During his first decade at the University, he was in great demand as a public speaker and made many addresses favoring entry of the United States into the League of Nations, with the result that he came to be known as "League of Nations" Patterson. Active in the reform movements of the time, he advocated the abolition of Lame Duck sessions of Congress and the reform of the Electoral College System.

In the 1920's the Department of Government at Texas was smaller than today and had no Ph.D. program, but was distinguished by its pre-legal curriculum and the large number of its undergraduate students who became leading scholars and practitioners of political science. Many of these have credited their interest in politics and public affairs to Patterson's inspirational teaching. It was not only the content of his courses that challenged students, but Patterson's histrionicism. He would begin his classes in a slow modulated tone, augmented with thrusts of wit, and questions to students, and mount to an animated, fervent, stentorian conclusion. Some students loved him, a few disliked him, but none ever found his classes dull.
Patterson moved into a new phase of his career with the coming of the New Deal and testified before congressional committees against President Roosevelt's Court "Packing" proposal. In a book entitled *Presidential Government in the United States*, he summarized his opposition to the New Federalism: Powers centralized in government would be centralized in Washington and, ultimately, in the Presidency to the eventual destruction of States Rights. The threat to traditional institutions which he saw in the New Deal now dominated his teaching in the way international and governmental reformism had at an earlier period.

Patterson's prolific authorship is shown in the appended list of his publications. He was author of Secondary School and College tests in American Government and co-author of a text on the government of Texas that went through several editions. Yet, he would undoubtedly have regarded three books as his major contribution: The first was his *Administration of Justice in Great Britain*, written after a year in England on a Carnegie grant. The second was his work on the presidency mentioned above. Thereafter, he became interested in Thomas Jefferson and *The Constitutional Principles of Thomas Jefferson* was the result.

Patterson was in his younger years a golfer and a fisherman. Perhaps his greatest joy, however, came from his membership in Town and Gown, whose meetings he frequently addressed even during his later years.

Patterson's wife, whom he had married while a graduate student, pre-deceased him by several years. They had no children and he is
survived by two nieces and a nephew. He will long live in the fond memories of hundreds of men and women who heard him lecture, wrote theses or dissertations under his direction, or sat as students in his exciting classes.

Stephen H. Spurr
President of the University of Texas at Austin

Forest G. Hill
Secretary of the General Faculty

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Books
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Co-Author

1. Recent Political Theories (Macmillan).
2. Civil Government of Texas (Bobbs-Merrill).
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Articles

5. "Training for Public Service in Europe and the United States" (two articles), Social Forces (University of North Carolina), 1926.


This Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Barnes F. Lathrop, Emmette S. Redford, H. Malcolm Macdonald, Chairman.