IN MEMORIAM

CLYDE PHARR

Clyde Pharr was born on February 17, 1885, at Evans Point, Texas, a small rural community in Hopkins County two and one-half miles east of the town of Saltillo. He was the son of Samuel Milton and Josephine Fleming Pharr. He had five brother and five sisters. He attended a rural school at Evans Point and as a teenage boy was so inspired by a country school teacher named Martin that he followed him to the rural community of Peerless, also in Hopkins County, to continue his studies. Later (1902), he was graduated from Saltillo High School and when the family moved to Ridgeway, Texas, nine miles east of Commerce, Clyde entered what is now known as East Texas State University at Commerce. While attending college in Commerce he became close friends with Sam Rayburn, later to become famous as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

He was graduated from East Texas State Teachers College with the B.S. in 1903, then earned the A. B. in 1905. He went to Yale University in that year and received the B. A. degree there in 1906. Then as Abernethy Fellow at Yale for the years 1907-1910, he earned his Ph.D. degree in 1910. He was attending the University of Berlin in 1910 and was awarded an Archeological Institute of America fellowship to the American School of Classical studies in Athens, 1910-1912. Later he attended the Summer School at the University of Besancon, France, and spent 1920-1921 as an American Field Service Fellow, the University of Paris.

In the meantime he served as Assistant Professor of Latin and Greek at Ohio Wesleyan University, 1912-1917; and at Southwestern Presbyterian University, Clarksville, Tennessee, 1918-1920. He returned to SPU (1921-1924) as Professor of Classical Languages. The years 1924-1950 were spent at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, as Professor of Latin and Greek and Head of the Department of Classics.

Coming to the University of Texas at Austin in 1950 as Visiting Professor of Classics, he became Research Professor in 1952 and Emeritus

Research Professor of Classics in 1966.

Learned and Professional Organizations:

Member of Managing Committee, American School of Classical Studies, Athens, Greece;
American Philogical Association;
Archaeological Institue of America;
Classical League (Secretary-Treasurer 1941-50);
American Historical Association;
Mediaeval Academy of America;
Linguistic Society of America;
Classical Association of Midwest and South (President 1943);
Southern Classical Association (President 1937);
Phi Beta Kappa;
American Association of University Professors;
Eta Sigma Phi.

The marriage of Clyde Pharr and Mary Brown (herself a classical scholar) was celebrated in December, 1945. As husband and wife, they worked for many years on the massive task of translating the Theodosian Code. Their close association in life continued to the very end. Mary's death came on Sunday, December 24, and Clyde's the following Sunday, December 31, 1972.

Clyde Pharr is remembered by some of his students as "a slight, smiling professor with a Phi Betta Kappa key who managed to bring light and understanding to the study of Latin" and who with that same smile, kindly skeptical, liked to repeat, "Oh, the infinite resistance of the human mind to the penetration of knowledge!"

Clyde Pharr spent several summers in walking tours in various parts of Greece and Israel. The story of the kindly American professor who spent three days in discovering the owner of a woman's purse which he had found near the hamlet of Figalia in the Peloponnesus, is still told in the area.

His scholarly research was not confined to, but was heavily concentrated upon, Roman Law, and he was recognized as one of the leading authorities in the field.

Stephen H. Spurr

Stephen H. Spurr, President of
The University of Texas at Austin

Harold C. Bold

Harold C. Bold, Secretary
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Oscar W. Reinmuth (chairman), Ernest F. Haden, and Thomas J. Gibson III.

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