IN MEMORIAM

MINNIE LEE SHEPARD

Minnie Lee Barrett Shepard, who was an Instructor and Assistant Professor of Classical Languages at The University of Texas at Austin from 1934 until her retirement in 1957, died in Austin on July 13, 1979.

Mrs. Shepard is remembered as an unusually capable teacher of undergraduates in Latin language and literature. She impressed upon her students the value of time and was keenly responsive to every spark of interest shown by each student. She was quick to claim that ability to inspire students in the study of one of the more difficult subjects of the college curriculum was largely due to the inspiration she herself received from her students. From this rapport of teacher and student joined with her intense devotion to her subject came her remarkable ability to establish vital points of connection between Roman civilization and important aspects of our heritage.

Upon graduating with highest honors from Bonham High School, Mrs. Shepard came as a student to The University of Texas and received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1915. Between 1906 and 1927 she taught English, Latin and German in the Texas high schools of Channing, Luling, Bonham and Cisco. In Luling she was the first woman superintendent of a school in the state. She was manager of the Free Textbook Division of the State Department of Education from 1919 to 1922. In 1929 she received the Master of Arts degree from Texas Technological College and was a special instructor in English at that institution in 1931-1932. She continued graduate study at The University of Texas and attended the American Academy in Rome in the summer of 1939. Her

experience in both high school and college teaching equipped her admirably to meet the needs of undergraduate students.

During her years of teaching at The University of Texas she served as secretary for the Department of Classical Languages, was an associate editor of the University's Latin Leaflet (editor of its Latin Week numbers between 1945 and 1949), a teaching guide for the promotion of classics among secondary school Latin teachers throughout the state and beyond. She was college sponsor for the Texas State Junior Classical League, Chairman for Texas of the Latin Week Committee of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, an active participant in the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, in the Alpha Sigma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, in the Texas State Teachers Association (for which she was Secretary-Treasurer in 1947), and in the Texas Classical Association.

Impeccably groomed with taste and distinction she presided over the teas given by the Department and Department members. Her social poise gave students a model to follow. She was always ready to counsel students in both their academic and their personal affairs. In 1954 in recognition of her success as a counselor of students, she was awarded scholarships from the Edward W. Hazen Foundation and the Hogg Foundation for Mental Hygiene to attend a Conference for Counselors at Pennsylvania College for Women in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1955 she received a Bromberg Memorial Faculty Award in recognition of her excellence as a teacher.

The University of Texas Press published in 1953 her translation from the Latin of Francisco Cervantes de Salazar's Life in the Imperial and Loyal City of Mexico and New Spain and the Royal and Pontifical University of Mexico

(with introduction and notes by Carlos Eduardo Castañeda).

Mrs. Shepard was also a poet who not only wrote poetry of real merit but appreciated the poetry of others and founded the Austin Poetry Society. She won poetry awards from the Southwest Writer's Conference, the Texas Poetry Society, and the Austin Poetry Society. After her retirement from teaching, she gathered her numerous poems, published over the years in various periodicals including classical journals, and published them in a volume printed by the Von Boeckmann-Jones Press of Austin in 1967 under the title: In Classic Mood and Other Poems.

For a number of years after her retirement while her health permitted Mrs. Shepard continued active participation in the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at The University of Texas and in the Texas Classical Association.

Peter T. Flawn, President of
The University of Texas at Austin

Bill D. Francis, Secretary
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of James A. Hitt (Chairman), Leo Hughes, Amy Jo Long, and Oscar Reinmuth.