In Memoriam
DeWitt T. Starnes

DeWitt T. Starnes, Professor Emeritus of English, died on March 29, 1967. In his seventy-ninth year Dr. Starnes had been ill for some time. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy (Bray) Starnes, by a sister, Mrs. S. T. Brumley, of Atlanta, Georgia, and by a brother, Raymond Starnes, of Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Starnes was born at Baileyton, Tennessee, July 2, 1888. Receiving his initial education in his home state, at The University of Chattanooga, he attended the University of Chicago, where he gained the M.A. in 1916, the Ph.D. in 1920. As Professor of English in Texas he spent five years at Rice, and in 1926 he joined the English staff at The University of Texas, which he served until his retirement in 1959.

As teacher and as scholar Dr. Starnes attained a rare eminence. His special field was English Renaissance literature, and within this area he has become widely recognized, especially as authority on the history of English dictionaries. In his honor a volume of essays written by fellow scholars from various universities is shortly to be published.

His service to the Department of English and to the University at large embraced wide areas: for years a member and later chairman of the Budget Council and the Committee on Graduate Studies, editor of Studies in English, Graduate Adviser in English, member of Committees on Fellowships and Scholarships, on Degree Requirements, Teaching Assistants, Rhodes Scholarships, University Research Council, Rare Books. His deep interest in humanistic scholarship and his encouragement of younger men were evident in his constant support of the Fortnightly Club, of which he was an active member.
Personal qualities of Dr. Starnes have been set forth by Professor James H. Sledd, who under his supervision gained the Ph.D. at The University of Texas at Austin. The following sketch is to preface the forthcoming Festschrift for Dr. Starnes.

A little shy, a little formal, impeccably honest, a devoted scholar, tough on phonies, incapable of meanness, wholly capable of generous affection: D. T. Starnes.

He was born in Baileyton, Tennessee, on June 2, 1888, and after graduation from the Wesleyan Academy entered the University of Chattanooga, where he took his A.B. in 1911. Fifty years later the University of Chattanooga honored him with a Litt.D. Already in 1911 he began to teach at the Athens School in his native state; and after his A.M. and Ph.D. at the University of Chicago (with six months out for military service), he joined the faculty of the University of Texas. With the exception of five years at the Rice Institute, he has stayed at Texas for forty-seven years.

His books, his typewriter, his university, his students, his friends, his beautiful and witty wife, his own disciplined and inquiring mind: the world of a brave, just, kindly, and learned man. The pettiness and spite of academics have never touched D. T. Starnes. Sixty years in universities; and everyone who knows him honors him, and those who best know him love him. It has been a quiet career, from instructor to professor and Chairman of his Budget Council, from graduate fellow to distinguished scholar, with more than the usual burden of com-
mittees and vexing chores carried uncomplainingly. A
department, a library, a university are the better for
that career; and probably only Dee knows how many human
beginnings have reason to think of him with gratitude.

Norman Hackerman
Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Eugene N. Nelson
Secretary of the General Faculty