

IN MEMORIAM
DAVID YANCEY THOMAS

David Yancey Thomas, visiting professor of government at The University of Texas at the time of his death in Austin, Texas, on April 18, 1943, was born in Fulton County, Kentucky, on January 19, 1872, and was the son of James Fuller and Eliza Ann (Ratliff) Thomas. He attended Marvin Training School, Clinton, Kentucky, from 1888 to 1890 and Emory College, Oxford, Georgia, from 1890 to 1894, receiving the degree of A.B. in the latter year. After two years of further study at Vanderbilt University, he received the degree of Master of Arts from that institution in 1898. During the summer sessions of 1899 and 1900 he studied at the University of Chicago. He continued his graduate work at Columbia University, where he held a university fellowship in history for the year 1901-1902, and from which he secured the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1903. From 1898 to 1905 he served, successively, as professor of Latin and Greek and professor of history and political science at Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas, after which he was employed for two years as professor of history and political science at the University of Florida. In 1907 he began his long career as a member of the faculty of the University of Arkansas, where he held the ranks of associate professor (1907-1913) and professor of history and political science (1913-1940). He was also head of his department from 1913 to 1940. After his retirement in the latter year he served for one year as Assistant State Supervisor, W. P. A. for Arkansas. During the long session of 1941-1942 and that of 1942-1943, until his death, he was visiting professor of government at The University of Texas. In addition, he was a member of the summer faculties of Peabody College for Teachers (1917), and of The University of Texas (1924, 1930, 1940).

Dr. Thomas was a member of the American Political Science Association, the American Historical Association, the Southern Historical Society, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the Southwestern Social Science Association, and the Arkansas Historical Association. He was a member of the executive council of the American Political Science Association from 1916 to 1920, president of the Southwestern Social Science Association during

1930-1931,

and

editor

of

The Arkansas Historical Quarterly at the time of his death. Dr. Thomas was also a member of the American Association of University Professors, the Arkansas Educational Association, Phi Beta Kappa, and Delta Tau Delta.

At the University of Arkansas Dr. Thomas was regarded for many years as a leading member of the faculty and was greatly respected as a teacher and a scholar. Because of the short period of his attachment to our faculty here, he was not personally well-known to many of his colleagues outside the Department of Government, although some members of the Department of History and of the other social science departments knew him either by reputation or because of occasional contacts with him at the meetings of the Southwestern Social Science Association or of the various historical societies to which he belonged. As a scholar, Dr. Thomas was painstaking and thorough. He was tireless and persistent, and until his last brief illness, in spite of advancing years, he was constantly engaged in some project of research or writing. The volume of his published work was considerable, consisting of a half-dozen books and many articles which appeared over a period of nearly forty years in such periodicals as the American Political Science Review, the Yale Review, the South Atlantic Quarterly, and the Southwestern Social Science Quarterly. He was also a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica (14th Edition), the Encyclopedia Americana (1940 Edition), and the Dictionary of American Biography. His interests and knowledge were broad; he wrote in the fields of American foreign policy, Southern history, and Arkansas history and government. His One Hundred Years of the Monroe Doctrine is well-known, and he was regarded as perhaps the outstanding authority on the history of Arkansas.

Dr. Thomas was married in 1905 to Miss Sarah Elizabeth Janney of Conway, Arkansas, who survives him. Their two children are Miss Mary Elizabeth Thomas, instructor in history, Peace Junior College, Raleigh, North Carolina, and Lt. Albert J. Thomas, who is with the U. S. Air Force in India.

Dr. Thomas was a man of fine character. He had a pleasing personality, was quiet and retiring in disposition, was respected by all, and beloved by those who enjoyed the privilege of really knowing him.

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