IN MEMORIAM

F. LOREN WINSHIP

Loren Winship was born May 30, 1904 in Denver, Colorado, the son of Frank David and Alice May (Hume) Winship. His childhood was spent in the mid-west, and in 1922 he graduated from University Place High School in Lincoln, Nebraska. From an early age he was fascinated with the theatre, and in 1925 he began learning his craft by working summers as a tent boy, actor and singer on the Chautauqua Circuit. During this same period he began his studies at Nebraska Wesleyan University in American history and speech, leading to an A.B. degree in 1928. Following graduation he entered vaudeville, but soon he turned to his true calling, that of educator and administrator, and took a position as a high school teacher of speech and drama.

On the 9th day of August 1929, Loren married librarian Margaret Reid, beginning the one great love affair of his life. During the depression, he taught and served as principal for the Pleasanton, Trenton and Central City, Nebraska High Schools. In 1920 Loren Winship received the A.M. degree from the University of Nebraska and it was during this period that he began to realize the error of teaching speech and drama as one subject matter. His experience in the theatre drove him, throughout the remainder of his career, to demand full academic recognition for the teaching of theatre arts. In 1935 he began further graduate study in theatre at the University of Michigan, where he developed a profound respect for the theatre artist and cultivated strong personal and professional friendships that were to last the length of his professional life.
The year 1938 brought new opportunities to Loren when he was offered the position of Director of Drama and Speech Activities for the University Inter-scholastic League. This move to Texas began a long and fruitful association between Loren and secondary school drama. During his first year with the League he reorganized the administrative framework of the One Act Play Contest. The structure he developed which remains today, stimulated interest in high school drama in Texas and resulted in a program of international acclaim. In part because of his interest in training teachers of drama, 1941 saw him appointed as an Associate Professor in the Department of Drama. He began at once to build an outstanding curriculum and program for the training of secondary school teachers which in years to come culminated in state and national recognition.

The beginning of World War II interrupted Loren's career at the University. He entered the Air Corps in 1942 and served with Special Services until 1946 when he was mustered out with the rank of Major. He returned to the University of Texas as a fulltime faculty member in the Department of Drama and was appointed Chairman in 1948, a position he filled with distinction until 1968. In 1951 he was called back to active service with The United States Air Force and served as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University for the duration of the Korean War. He returned to the Faculty as a Lt. Col. in 1953. That same year he was awarded the degree of Ed.D. in Drama Education by the University of Texas at Austin.

To his Chairmanship Dr. Winship brought a boundless energy, and incredible organizational skill and the warm personal manner which he used in his relations with administrators, fellow faculty and students. The hallmark of
his administration was an uncompromising demand that each member of the Department—student and faculty—devote himself fully to the ideal of "quality Theatre". His ability to recognize the theatre artist allowed him to gather a faculty of national renown. The quality of his faculty and students was a matter of intense personal pride, and he devoted himself tirelessly to creating a fertile environment for the creation and teaching of the theatre arts. He was, in fact, the catalyst.

In January of 1958 disaster struck the Department of Drama in the form of a devastating fire which destroyed the newly renovated Drama Building. In the face of the calamity Dr. Winship mobilized his strength and zeal to convince the administration and regents that a new and better drama facility was an essential part of a great university. With funds appropriated, his ideal and vision were manifested in his selection of a building site which would allow for future expansion of the facilities. This decision was made at a time when only Dr. Winship could foresee the developments of the next ten years. It was not until after his retirement from the faculty that his vision of a major new theatre would be realized. The three years following the fire taxed the Department of Drama fully but Dr. Winship sustained the department's forward thrust with his optimism. The dedication of the Drama Building on the 11th of November, 1962, would have capped the career of most, but almost at once he convinced a building committee to study the needs of the Department and create a building program including a major university theatre.

Concurrent with his struggles to develop, house and operate the Department, Dr. Winship devoted himself with equal energy to numerous other projects on the local, state and national level. He continued his long-time interest
in upgrading the quality of drama teachers. Largely through his efforts, channeled through the Texas Educational Theatre Association, Texas became the first state to adopt a certification program for high school drama teachers. He judged more than 230 high school and college play contests, staged numerous "Roundup Reviews" for the Texas Exes, co-founded the Texas Educational Theatre Association, was President of the Southwest Theatre Conference and Managing Editor of the Educational Theatre Journal from 1949 to 1951. His Chairmanship of the American Educational Theatre Association Academic and Production Standards Project from 1959 to 1967 resulted in the establishment of a national accreditation program for schools of theatre.

Dr. Winship's vision, courage, determination and enthusiasm enhanced educational theatre throughout the land and brought the Department of Drama to national prominence. Dr. Winship resigned from the Chairmanship of the Department in 1968 and returned to fulltime teaching. With so many years of leadership behind him, he characteristically refrained from any attempt to influence or comment upon the new directions inaugurated by his successor. He continued to teach and train teachers of drama until 1973, when he retired and was recognized for his service to the University by his promotion to the rank of Professor Emeritus.

The honors paid him by his friends, colleagues and students are many, but were only tokens of gratitude for his unstinting devotion to teaching and the theatre. He received the American Educational Theatre Association "Award of Merit" and was selected as one of only six Charter Fellows of that organization. He received the Founders Awards from the Southwest Theatre Conference, the Texas Educational Theatre Association and the Secondary School Theatre
Conference of the American Educational Theatre Association. He was an honorary member of the National Thespians and Theta Alpha Phi. He was selected by the Students Association of the University as "Best Teacher of 1958", and upon his retirement as chairman the students and ex-students honored him with the establishment of the Loren Winship Scholarship as a measure of their love and esteem. His alma mater, Nebraska Wesleyan University, bestowed upon him an honorary Litt.D.

In usual Winship fashion he approached the challenge of retirement with the same zest as he brought to his work. He devoted his time to his wife Margaret and daughter Sheila and found pleasure in his gardening, stamp collection and travel. After an illness of several weeks, Dr. F. Loren Winship died July 20th, 1978, mourned by all who knew him.

On February 9th, 1979, the Board of Regents of the University of Texas in special action accepted the petition of the Faculty of the Department of Drama, the Dean of the College of Fine Arts and the President of the University and named the Drama Building in his honor. All who knew him applauded this fitting tribute to a truly extraordinary man.

[Signature]

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
John R. Rothgeb (chairman), Francis Hodge, and Paul D. Reinhardt.