

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HARDIN CRAIG (1875 – 1968)

On October 13th Hardin Craig died in Houston, Texas, at the age of ninety-three. He came to Stanford University as Professor of English in 1928; he retired in 1942 at the age of sixty-seven, the third faculty member at that time in the history of the University to be asked to teach beyond the normal retirement age of sixty-five. His fourteen years at Stanford had a major part in the development of humanistic studies in the University, but they were only a minor part of his rich career of sixty-five years as a college and university teacher. In fact, his life as a scholar almost epitomized the development of advanced studies of English literature in American universities.

He was born on June 29, 1875, on a farm near Owensboro, Kentucky. After receiving his A.B. degree from Centre College, Kentucky, in 1897, he began graduate study in 1898 at Princeton University, where he worked under Thomas Marc Parrott and took his Ph.D. degree in 1901. During two summers he studied also at the University of Chicago, working with John Matthews Manly. He remained at Princeton until 1910, except for a year of study at Exeter College, Oxford. In 1905 he became one of Woodrow Wilson's first group of preceptors. From 1910 to 1919 he was on the faculty of the University of Minnesota. During the first World War he was an officer in the United States Army, and even at Stanford he still relished being addressed as Major Craig. In 1919 he went to the State University of Iowa, where he founded the Philological Quarterly and became chairman of the English department.

The festschrift Renaissance Studies in Honor of Hardin Craig that was published jointly by Stanford University and the University of Iowa at the time of his retirement from Stanford proved actually to mark not so much the end of his scholarly career as the beginning of a new one. But the death of his wife Gertrude in 1941 made his remaining years less happy, and his friends felt that he sometimes tried by scholarly work to compensate for the loneliness that he inevitably felt. From Stanford he went to the University of North Carolina as Professor of English, remaining there until a second retirement in 1949. He then became Visiting Professor of English at the University of Missouri, and his third retirement in 1960 was duly commemorated by a second festschrift, Essays on Shakespeare and Elizabethan Drama in Honor of Hardin Craig. But the habits of a lifetime remained strong, and he worked on as Scholar-in-Residence at Stephens College and then at Centre College until he completed sixty-five years of teaching in 1967.

His scholarly career was as productive as his teaching career was long. It began with his first article in 1901 and his first book in 1902, an edition of Two Corpus Christi Plays published by the Early English Text Society. His last book, A New Look at Shakespeare's Quartos, appeared in 1961. But even the current issue of the bibliography of Renaissance literary studies which he founded in 1925 and continued to edit until 1950, lists an article of his, as do all the recent issues but one. Altogether he wrote or edited some twenty-five or more books, and published almost innumerable articles. Though he was best known as a Shakespearean scholar, his most important books were probably The Enchanted Glass: The Elizabethan Mind in Literature (1936) and English Drama of the Middle Ages (1955). His Shakespeare: Historical

and Critical Study with Annotated Texts of Twenty-One Plays (1932) set an altogether new standard in college textbooks and stimulated a major series of imitations and rivals. Craig's scholarship was at its best, however, as he introduced new points of view and new scholarly techniques to his graduate students and stimulated them to develop the seeds that he had planted into important work of their own. At times, perhaps, he wrote too fast and too much, spurred on by the excitement of new ideas or new discoveries. But these are the faults of a leader, and a leader he remained throughout his long and incredibly rich career. What Shakespeare wrote in tragic summary of King Lear, we may say proudly and even triumphantly of Hardin Craig, the student of Shakespeare:

*We that are young
Shall never see so much, nor live so long.*

Virgil K. Whitaker, Chairman
Herbert D. Meritt
George F. Sensabaugh