

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HAZEL D. HANSEN (1899 – 1962)

Dr. Hazel D. Hansen, Professor of Classics, died December 19 at the Palo Alto Stanford Hospital of a heart condition which had troubled her in the last two years,

She was a native of San Mateo, studied at Stanford, got her Bachelor's degree in 1920, and her Master's degree in 1921. Her Master's thesis was a "Study of the Persians of Aeschylus." From 1922 to 1925 she continued her graduate studies at the American School of Classical Studies, Athens, Greece. After her return to Stanford she earned her Ph.D. degree in 1926 with a thesis "Early Civilization in Thessaly." A book with the same title was published in 1933. A. T. Murray, known for his translation of Homer, was her inspiring teacher; and in later years she worked with him as a collaborator.

The year 1927-28 was spent again in Greece; that year she held the Alice Freeman Palmer Fellowship of the American Association of University Women. After her return to Stanford in 1928, she became an Instructor in the Department of Classics, in 1931 she became Assistant Professor and in 1935 Associate Professor. Her promotion to full professor in 1940 was based on her recognized standing among the classical archaeologists, especially in the field of Aegean prehistory.

At that time Dr. Hansen was already deeply involved in a project which remained unfinished when she died: "The Early Civilization in Skyros." Skyros is a small island in the Aegean Sea, where she spent many summers cataloguing the excavated material (vases, bones, etc.). The Greek government recognized her efforts, made her an honorary Greek citizen, and gave her permission to publish her findings. Later the Archaeological Service of the Greek Ministry requested that she write a guidebook for the Skyros Museum.

The American School of Classical Studies in Athens appreciated the work of the former student; she was invited to teach there in her sabbatical year 1956-57. She became a member of the managing committee of the School and served on its executive committee for several years.

At Stanford Dr. Hansen gave with enthusiasm her courses in Greek language and, particularly, Archaeology. She was an excellent undergraduate teacher and a popular undergraduate adviser. She took a personal interest in her students and enjoyed being a Faculty Associate in student residences.

Dr. Hansen also contributed much to Stanford and Stanford students through the "home project" to which she devoted much time in the Stanford Museum. This supplemented her Skyros studies, centering as it did on reconstructing the Stanford Museum collection of Greek vases and figurines of the Bronze age. These had been part of the well-known Cesnola

Collection, badly damaged in the 1906 earthquake; and the shards had long been kept in a room of the basement of the Museum. After attempting for many years to get access to this material, Hazel Hansen started in the Museum an archaeological laboratory of a special kind, in which students helped her to reconstruct many of the vases. In October 1962 she gave a lecture to the Research Club of the Stanford Faculty, in which she described this work, done without any funds, under uncomfortable circumstances, but with the aid of enthusiastic students.

Many Stanford and Palo Alto associates of Dr. Hansen knew her as an excellent organizer. Whenever she agreed to take an office in a society or club, she took her duties very seriously and put thought and initiative into her work. One of her latest organizational ventures was the founding of the Stanford Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (membership passed the 100 mark in the second year). She had been active in the parent Archaeological Institute for many years before she started the local Society.

Dr. Hansen has been President of the Research Club of Stanford University several times; and she has recently been an active member of the Faculty Club. Until a few years ago Stanford's Faculty Club was open only to male members of the faculty. In those years of the "Man's Club" Dr. Hansen felt it desirable that the female members of the teaching faculty should get acquainted and she started a monthly luncheon in the Garden Room of the Old Union. During the following years she saw the number of women on the faculty grow; and in November 1962 she spoke briefly in the Faculty Club about this historical development and about the fact that women are now teaching in a wide variety of fields.

Hazel D. Hansen was a strong, witty personality with definite opinions, which she was ready to defend. She belonged to that small circle of character personalities at Stanford who are widely known and will be long remembered. The Stanford community will miss her as a teacher, researcher, and above all as a human being.

She will be missed no less by the people of small Skyros, who knew they could turn to her for understanding and help with their problems. She was so well acquainted with their affairs that the mayor once asked her to represent him during a week's absence. She was the sole support of a Greek war orphan who grew to maturity on this island.

Let us hope that it will be possible to make her lifetime work on Skyros' archaeological material accessible to the public.

Dr. Hansen is survived by two sisters, Mrs. J. D. Taylor of San Mateo and Miss Edna Hansen of San Francisco and a brother Edwin, also of San Francisco. To them we of the Academic Council extend our deepest sympathy.

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