

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HOYT HOPEWELL HUDSON (1893 – 1944)

Hoyt Hopewell Hudson was born in Norfolk, Nebraska, on July 6, 1893. His father, a minister of the gospel, moved from place to place during the boy's youth but Hoyt grew to young manhood in that great Middle Western country which was just at that time developing so rapidly. He inherited much of the largeness and friendliness of that country. He was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Huron College (South Dakota) in 1911. He received the Master's degree from the University of Denver in 1913. During 1916-17 he was engaged in graduate study at the University of Chicago. In 1923 he received the Ph.D. degree from Cornell University. Huron College conferred upon him the Litt. D. degree in 1938.

From 1913 to 1920 he taught in high schools successively at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Duluth, Minnesota, and Cleveland, Ohio. He held an instructorship in Public Speaking at Cornell University from 1920 to 1923, while he was completing work for the doctorate. He was Assistant Professor of English and Public Speaking at Swarthmore College from 1923 to 1925. In 1925 he accepted a professorship in the English Department at the University of Pittsburgh and remained there until 1927. In that year he accepted an Associate Professorship in Public Speaking at Princeton University. In 1931 he was promoted to a Professorship and in 1933 he was named professor of Rhetoric and Oratory and Chairman of the English Department. The Huntington Library awarded him a Research Associateship and he spent the year 1934 in research at that institution. In 1942 he accepted an appointment as Professor of English Literature at Stanford University and joined the faculty of the English Department in the autumn of that year. He had taught in summer terms in the following universities: Cornell University, 1924, 1925, and 1929; University of Colorado, 1935; Harvard University, 1937; University of California at Los Angeles, 1938; Northwestern University, 1939 and 1940; and Stanford University, 1941.

He was sought for these many positions, and others that he could not take, because the Nebraska lad, grown to manhood, had made of himself one of the foremost American scholars in the field of Renaissance English literature, and because he was one of the most inspiring, one of the best teachers in the literature field.

He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and of various scholarly organizations and learned societies, including the Modern Language Association and the National Association of Teachers of Speech. Among his various research papers and publications are several scholarly editions, such as Thomas Moffet's Nobilis, edited in collaboration with Dr. Virgil B. Heltzel, published in 1940; and Erasmus' Praise of Folly, published in 1941. He was author and editor of various texts in the field of public speaking and literature, including the widely praised and used Poetry of the English Renaissance, edited with his friend and former colleague, the late Dr. J. W. Hebel. From 1933 to 1935 he was editor of the Quarterly Journal of Speech. In 1930 he was managing editor of The Step Ladder and was an associate editor of that publication from 1931 to his death, his

untimely death on June 13, 1944, left unfinished his great work on the epigram to which he had devoted many years of study.

Hoyt Hudson was not narrowed in his interests to the single field of Renaissance English studies. He had taught the whole range of English literature and had given devoted end pleasurable study to the ancient classical literature, Greek and Latin. He was passionately devoted to poetry and had over the years assembled an outstanding collection of American published verse and poetry. He believed that great poetry represented the highest of the arts and that in great poetry lay true wisdom. For him the great poet was truly prophet and seer. But his interests were not circumscribed within the field of literature only he was almost equally devoted to music and the graphic arts. He had a real acquaintance with painting and sculpture and loved them. Many in the English speaking world knew and honored him for his studies in poetry but only his intimate friends knew of the poetry of his own writing. He had published only some few of his finer things and his death left unfinished a volume in preparation.

When one thinks of Hoyt Hudson, the man, and tries to picture his attributes, there comes to mind the term "largeness of spirit". This quality included a human warmth and friendliness that attracted immediately all who knew him. Though he had been a member of the Stanford faculty only about two years, his circle of friends and close acquaintances was campus-wide.

Coupled with that great gift for making friends of those who knew him, and indeed a part of it, was the sincerity and integrity of his personality. Men who could not trust or agree with each other could trust and agree with Hoyt Hudson. That is why here he could not wholly escape administrative duties even though he might have wished to do so. In the English Department at Stanford he was an outstanding leader, both in his teaching and in his assistance with administrative duties. Last autumn he was appointed chairman of the university Committee on Undergraduate Studies. In that position he was engaged with his colleagues in a careful examination of the entire undergraduate training at this university.

He had the gift, too, of seeing others somewhat as they saw themselves, of placing upon others something of the same valuation which they placed upon themselves. He had sympathetic insight into, and understanding appreciation of, those whom he knew. Man for him was indeed the image of God, of God who had something of that simplicity of the Quaker faith which Hoyt Hudson professed.

His fame as a teacher was nation-wide, not alone because he was master of his subject and had devoted careful study to the art of teaching, but also because he was to his students guide, counselor and friend as well as instructor. Those who came under his tutelage will pass on to future men and women something of his knowledge and wisdom, something of his method and training. From his spirit and personality they derived, as did his other friends, something of even more worth than knowledge and training -- a faith in living, a belief in the goodness of life, and a zest for the full life.

Be it resolved, therefore, that we, the Academic Council of Stanford University, express our appreciation of the useful services of Hoyt Hopewell Hudson to the University and of our high regard for his accomplishments; further, that we record in the minutes of the Council this memorial to an outstanding scholar and teacher; and that a copy of this statement be sent to his wife, together with an expression of the sympathy of the Council.

John W. Dodds
Willis H. Johnson
Herbert C. Heffner, Chairman