

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

EDWARD MASLIN HULME (b. 1868)

The recent death of Edward Maslin Hulme, Professor Emeritus of History, has produced a profound sense of loss to Stanford University, the History Department, and Professor Hulme's former students and friends.

As one thinks back over Professor Hulme's achievements they become even more significant when viewed in the light of the obstacles which beset the course of his education. Born in England in 1868 and brought to the United States at an early age, he was compelled after only five years of schooling to take employment, first in Arkansas and thereafter in Portland, Oregon. But even during this period the latent qualities of the scholar were in some degree manifest. While employed as a shipping clerk, an interest in the theatre and an inherent critical judgment led him into dramatic criticism, and finally, unable to stifle the desires for further education, the enticement of the newly opened Stanford University with its goal of providing education for the poor boy was too strong to be resisted. Despite his lack of formal secondary education, Edward Hulme was permitted to enter by the personal decision of President Jordan, who presumably recognized his inherent abilities. Despite the need to earn his way Edward was successful in completing his college course and graduated with the class of 1897. The memory of these years, the purpose of the founders of the university, and what it meant for him was always a fond and vivid recollection, and this was reflected in later years in his friendly and sympathetic interest in students, particularly those handicapped as he had been.

Several years as a high school teacher permitted Edward Hulme to acquire the financial support for further study, first at Harvard, then Cornell and at Paris. Professor Hulme's first teaching appointment was at the University of Idaho where his abilities and his sympathetic interest in students led to his appointment as Dean of the College of Letters and Science. In 1921 he returned to Stanford where he remained until his retirement in 1937.

Professor Hulme's interests were exceedingly wide, embracing history, literature, the fine arts, music and the theatre. His breadth of interest and knowledge, coupled with his intimate acquaintance with Europe and his abiding sympathies and enthusiasms made him a remarkable teacher. He was able to attract to his classes large numbers of students from all departments of the university, and the inspirational quality of his lectures was such as to be retained by audiences for years thereafter. These abilities were widely recognized and led to many invitations as visiting professor in leading universities.

As a scholar Professor Hulme was held in high regard. His textbooks on the history of England and on the Middle Ages were well received. His work on the Renaissance and Reformation was acclaimed both in America and in England and for many years was the most popular text in the field. Unerring critical judgment led him to translate and publish Emile Gebhart's Mystics and Heretics in Italy, while among his essays that on "The Confession of Lelio Sozzini" was received throughout America and Europe with the highest commendation. It was

therefore fitting in view of his achievements that Professor Hulme should be honored with the presidency of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association.

The passing of this teacher and scholar is felt as a great loss by his colleagues, fellow historians, and former students. An even greater loss, however, has been sustained with the death of Edward Hulme, the kindly and sympathetic friend, the jovial companion, and the inspirational guide. As a teacher no one has better advocated the worth of humanism, and as a man no one has more honestly and consistently practiced its virtues.

Charles O'Malley
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