

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ARTHUR GARFIELD KENNEDY (1880 – 1954)

The death of Arthur Garfield Kennedy on April 21, 1954, brought a deep feeling of loss to his colleagues at Stanford.

Born in Weeping Water, Nebraska, on June 29, 1880, he received the A.B. degree from Doane College, Nebraska in 1902, a college which in 1933 honored him by conferring upon him the degree of Doctor of Letters. For two years after his graduation he taught at Chadron Academy, Nebraska. His early inclination to take up graduate work is shown by his entering then the University of Nebraska, from which he received the A.M. degree in 1905. His growing interest in language may be seen in the facts that upon receiving the A. M. degree he taught Latin and English at the Norfolk (Nebraska) High School until 1908 and that he then taught German in the State Normal School at Spearfish, South Dakota, from 1908 until 1912. In this period, in 1910, he married Bertha Miller, also a Nebraskan, and in the summer of 1912 they moved to Palo Alto where he continued his graduate work at Stanford. After studying here for two years, under George Hempl, Oliver M. Johnston, and particularly Ewald Flugel, Stanford's first Professor of English Philology, he completed his Ph. D. In the year of Professor Flugel's death, 1914, he was appointed Instructor in English Philology, and the remainder of his distinguished professional career was spent at Stanford. In 1920 he was promoted to Assistant Professor, in 1926 to Associate Professor, and in 1929 he became Professor of English Philology, the position held by his former teacher Ewald Flugel. In 1941, following the death of Professor William Dinsmore Briggs, Professor Kennedy was made executive head of the English Department, which place he held until his retirement in 1945.

In 1911, even before completing his graduate work, Professor Kennedy had published, in collaboration with James C. Lindberg, an English grammar for secondary schools, and he had also published on English spelling and on the substantivation of adjectives in Chaucer. His Stanford dissertation, *The Pronoun of Address in English Literature of the Thirteenth Century*, was published in 1915, and in 1927 appeared his monumental *Bibliography of Writings on the English Language*. In the same year, with J. S. P. Tatlock, he completed a most ambitious project on which Professor Flugel had been working and which had its inception as early as 1872, *A Concordance to the Complete Works of Chaucer*. With G. P. Krapp he compiled an *Anglo-Saxon Reader*, published in 1929. In 1935 appeared his very thorough survey of the language of the present, *Current English*, in 1940 his *English Usage*, and in the same year his *Concise Bibliography for Students of English*, revised and amplified in a second edition in 1945. Until the time of his death he was preparing a supplement to his widely noted *Bibliography*. The importance of these works to English scholarship is very great.

Yet important as are his publications, they are only a part of what he had to give and did give -- his sincere interest in the founding and continuity of the English Review Club, a graduate student organization which met for many years at his home and which is still in flourishing condition; his willingness to share liberally his time and learning even during days of declining

health; the graciousness with which he made available for use his many rare books and his extensive bibliographical files.

A man of great scholarly productivity himself, he was at the same time able to impart to students the very salutary understanding that the best accomplishment comes from prolonged and quiet reflection rather than from momentary pressures; he never seemed hurried in the scholarship which he accomplished, but one always knew that quietly unassuming he was constantly keeping at the fulfillment of scholarly pursuits. During his career as a teacher, various attempts at new ways to interpret the structure of English were proposed; with all of these he familiarized himself, recognizing what was good in them but never being swayed to give approbation to a trend merely because it seemed to be in fashion.

His information about all aspects of English philology was unusually extensive, and any one who brought to him queries about problems of English was certain to be rewarded with enlightenment. His many years of bibliographical work made his mind a repository of pertinent points of reference, and his sound and conservative judgments upon matters of English were recognized as authoritative.

The last years of his life were saddened by the death of his wife in 1952. As a memorial to her he made to the Stanford Library a gift of many rare books. Professor and Mrs. Kennedy are survived by a son, James, and a daughter, Katherine, both of whom are graduates of Stanford.

His carefully planned writings, his well considered and unhurried approach to matters both administrative and scholarly, his genuine interest in learning and teaching, his generous and kindly help to those who sought it of him in any way -- traits and accomplishments such as these made him a distinguished scholar and a highly esteemed man whose passing is indeed deeply regretted.

Herbert D. Meritt, Chairman
Robert W. Ackerman
F. W. Strothmann