

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

RALPH HASWELL LUTZ (1886 – 1968)

Ralph Haswell Lutz, Emeritus Professor of History at Stanford University, died in Palo Alto, California, on Monday, April 8, 1968. With his passing the Stanford community lost a true old-timer who, with short interruptions, labored on the Farm for sixty-six years. He was a witness to the great 1906 earthquake that damaged the University's physical plant, and he was a member of the team of Stanford educators and administrators who led the University toward its present prominence.

Professor Lutz was born on May 18, 1886, in Circleville, Ohio, but in early boyhood took part with his parents in the great move West. He received his grammar and high school education in the state of Washington and came to Stanford as a freshman in 1902. Here he caught the sharp eye of Stanford's president, David Starr Jordan, who later made him his personal assistant. He was a member of the class of 1906, which graduated in dramatic commencement exercises on an earthquake-damaged campus, then moved to the University of Washington to take a law degree, with international law as his specialization. He was admitted in 1907 to the bar of the State of Washington and briefly practiced law in Seattle.

It was the study of international law that directed him toward the scholarly field which was to become his life-long occupation, love, and passion: modern history. He went to Germany, to the universities at Bonn and Heidelberg, to study the changing relationships between nations long before "international relations" became a subject in the university curriculum. He was awarded a doctor's degree in history, magna cum laude, by the University of Heidelberg in 1910. His dissertation reflected his interest in international affairs: The Relations Between Germany and the United States During the Civil War (Die Beziehungen zwischen Deutschland und den Vereinigten Staaten während des Sezessionskrieges).

Returning from Germany, Professor Lutz started his career as a lecturer in history at the University of Washington (1911-1915). But in 1916 he was back at Stanford as an assistant professor of history and personal assistant to President Jordan in his perennial search for effective avenues to peace. In 1916-1920 he was assistant professor of history at the University of Washington.

Professor Lutz's sincere interest in peace did not prevent him from answering his call to serve in the Army when the United States entered World War I. His last military assignment, as a first lieutenant, was with the American Mission in Berlin in 1919, after the Kaiser's Germany was forced to capitulate. In August of that year a telegram from General Pershing reached him in Berlin, ordering him to report to Herbert Hoover in Paris on a special assignment as a member of Hoover's team that was gathering the Hoover War Collection for Stanford University. Professor Lutz's studies in history and international law, his knowledge of the French and German languages, his participation in Dr. Jordan's peace research--all qualified him as a member of the team of historical sleuths enlisted and directed by Herbert Hoover and Professor Ephraim D.

Adams from Stanford's History Department. His first collecting trip took him to Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. After his return to Stanford in 1920 as associate professor of history, he became co-director with Professor Adams of the Hoover War Collections at Stanford and, after Adams' retirement in 1925, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hoover Library, a post he held until sudden illness forced him to resign in 1943. It was during the years under Professor Lutz's direction that the small "war collection" grew to become a center of documentation and research of national and international renown.

Simultaneously with his intensive work for the Hoover Library, which led him to five collection trips to Europe, Professor Lutz was a dedicated teacher of modern history, specializing in Western Europe. He guided a phalanx of Ph.D. candidates toward brilliant scholastic careers, using Hoover collections for their research training.

But these taxing commitments did not interfere with his generous participation in administrative work, both at the University and in American learned societies. He was Dean of the Graduate Division (1933-1947) at Stanford and served on several University committees. He was elected to various offices of the American Historical Association and its Pacific Coast branch, the Social Science Research Council of the Pacific Coast, the American Association of University Professors, the Belgian-American Educational Foundation, the American Political Science Association, and several other societies.

Effective September 1, 1952, Professor Lutz retired, but shortly after he returned to the campus and the Hoover Tower to continue his research and writing. Until the brief illness that felled him he was ever generous in sharing the knowledge obtained from his experiences with the Director of the Hoover Institution and its staff. He was a member of the Institution's Advisory Board.

Besides the dissertation that appeared in print in Heidelberg in 1911, Professor Lutz was the author, editor, or co-editor of eight volumes of documents on Germany's collapse in 1918 and on the organization of American relief in Europe in 1918-1919. He also co-authored the first published bibliography on the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. A list of his articles in scholarly journals, reports in annual publications of scholarly societies, and book reviews includes more than one hundred items. In 1966 the Hoover Institution published his last documentary volume, The Political Institutions of the German Revolution, 1918-1919, prepared jointly with his son-in-law, Professor Charles B. Burdick. Professor Lutz's scholarly achievements were rewarded with a doctor's degree in law, honoris causa, from the University of Southern California in 1942. The Hoover Institution honored him by establishing the Ralph Haswell Lutz Memorial Endowment Fund, whose income is being used for book acquisitions.

Professor Lutz is survived by his wife, Margaret Longyear Lutz, three daughters, and four grandchildren. To his host of Stanford friends, and especially to his family, the members of the Academic Council extend their deepest sympathy.

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