

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

PERCY ALVIN MARTIN (d. 1942)

Percy Alvin Martin, for nearly thirty-five years a member of the Stanford faculty, died at Laguna Beach on Sunday, March 8, 1942. A graduate of Stanford, with a major in Romanic Languages, in 1902, he held also the Master's Degree from this institution. As a graduate student in languages and in history, he studied at the University of Paris, the Universities of Berlin and Leipzig, as well as at Harvard University, where he held a fellowship in history and was granted the Doctorate in History in 1912. He served one year as professor of history at Whittier College. Except for this, and visiting professorships in the University of Washington, the University of Hawaii, the National University of Mexico, George Washington University, the University of Michigan, the University of California at Los Angeles, and the University of British Columbia, he was continuously a member of the Stanford faculty after his return in 1908.

At Harvard the center of his graduate interest was in medieval history, his early teaching was in that field. In 1913 his interest turned to Latin America and from that time forward his teaching and his writing were in that field. He was the author of numerous monographs, notably one on the "Causes of the Collapse of the Brazilian Empire", which brought him wide recognition at home and abroad. With Professor H. G. James, he published The Republics of Latin America, and he was the author, among other books, of Latin America and the War, the Albert Shaw lectures at Johns Hopkins, and of Simon Bolivar the Liberator. He planned and edited the monumental Who's Who in Latin America.

Percy Martin was greatly influenced by the training of his preparatory school years, the interest of his father in the Chautauqua summer sessions, and the experiences on several trips to Europe as a young man. In the years that followed his trips as a graduate student, he was four times in Europe, visiting in northern Africa and the Near East, including Egypt, and on his last trip of fourteen months covering a great deal of middle-Europe and northern Africa. He made three trips to South America, the first of these in 1913 with our own Dr. John C. Branner, an association which helped inspire him to pioneer in this almost unknown field; in 1925-26 he was sent as a research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington to study the government and institutions of Uruguay, and in 1937 he spent four months in the Argentine and Brazil. He was keenly interested in travel and all of this experience was greatly used by him in his teaching.

His interests were wide, and in history were influenced by his studies in Europe, especially by study with Karl Lamprecht. He read widely, particularly in biography and contemporary non-fiction. He greatly enjoyed dramatic and epic poetry. Much interested in symphonic music, he was particularly fond of Beethoven, Brahms, and Wagner. His interest in the history of art was pronounced, particularly in the Renaissance period. During his early years at Stanford he taught a course in the Renaissance. Closely akin to his love of travel was his keen interest in outdoor life, in camping, hiking, and mountain climbing.

Professor Martin had a wide circle of acquaintances in Latin America and Europe and throughout the United States. In fact, he was unquestionably the best known North American

historical scholar in the Republics to the South. Nor were these acquaintances confined to the members of his own profession. Keenly interested in people, he had a very unusual capacity to make them feel his interest in them and his interest in life. He planned his professional life with care, and it can be said that he did the things that he most wanted to do in that world.

Because of his contributions to the field of the history of Latin America, he had been honored by membership in sixteen Spanish and Latin American historical societies. A stimulating teacher, an incisive critic, and an effective speaker, he will be remembered for all of this; and as a buoyant companion and an ever-helpful friend.

Be it resolved by the Academic Council of Stanford University that our deep sympathy be extended to the members of his family and that a copy of this memorial be sent to them, and that a copy be spread upon the minutes of the Academic Council.

William Henry Sloan
Graham Henry Stuart
Edgar Eugene Robinson

Stanford University, California
April 3, 1942