

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ELIOT GRINNELL MEARS (b. 1889)

On Sunday night, May twenty-sixth, our colleague, Eliot Grinnell Mears, died suddenly from a heart attack, at Middlebury, Vermont, where he was engaged in writing a book in his chosen field. Doctor Mears had been on sabbatical leave during the present academic year, and was planning soon to return to his home on the Stanford campus, where he had resided for the past quarter century.

Eliot Grinnell Mears was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, February 1, 1889. He was the son of the Reverend David Otis Mears and Mary Grinnell Mears, the latter being one of the organizers of the national parent-teacher association; he was the grandson of the Reverend Josiah Bushnell Grinnell, founder of the town of Grinnell, Iowa. After completing a preparatory course at Albany Academy, he entered Harvard College from which he received his bachelor's degree in 1910. Then began his life-long association with the fields of oil commerce and business administration. Entering the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, he obtained the degree Master of Business Administration in 1912, and remained for the following four years as secretary of the Business School and instructor in public utility management.

Professor Mears launched early upon the work which was to prove the beginning of a distinguished career in the fields of geography and international trade. In 1916 he entered the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, where during the following four years he served successively as Chief of the Foreign Service Division, American Trade Commissioner in the Near East, and Commercial Attaché to the American High Commission in Turkey. During 1919 he was also Economist to the Harbord Military Mission to Armenia and Transcaucasia.

In 1921 Professor Mears came to Stanford University as a member of the faculty of the Department of Economics. Four years later he joined the staff of the newly organized Graduate School of Business as Professor of geography and international trade. He also served the University in many other ways during his quarter century at Stanford; especially worthy of mention is his service as director of the University's summer quarter from 1932 to 1943, and as a director from 1924 to date of the Hoover Library on War, Revolution and Peace.

In addition to his numerous activities at Stanford, Professor Mears devoted much time to writing and to travel. He visited many foreign countries, became the friend of their scholars and statesmen, lectured in their universities, and received high honors at their hands. He was visiting professor during 1929-30, and lecturer during 1938, to the Institut Universitaire de Hautes Etudes Internationales, Geneva, and Carnegie visiting professor during 1930 to the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Vienna, Istanbul, Athens, Palestine, and Beyrout. He delivered the Greek Centenary inauguration address at Athens in 1930, and was honored by being decorated an Officer of the Order of the Redeemer by the Greek Government. He was American Delegate

to the International Chamber of Commerce meeting in Amsterdam, Holland, in 1929, and an official delegate from the United States to the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History at Lima, Peru, in 1941. The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him by Grinnell College in 1932.

Professor Mears was not only a member of various professional and scientific associations, but participated actively in their programs. He was a member of the Institute of World Affairs (member of its executive committee), American Geographical Society, American Economic Association, American Statistical Association, Association of University Professors, Association of American Geographers, Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (past president), California Academy of Sciences, Institute of Pacific Relations, (delegate to Honolulu Conference, 1927), Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., California Historical Society, Sociedad Geográfica de Lima, New York Academy of Sciences, and the American Geophysical Union. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Royal Society of Arts, and the Royal Economic Society.

The list of books, monographs and contributions on economic and geographic subjects, bearing his name, is most impressive with respect both to quantity and quality. His "Pacific Ocean Handbook" (1944) was widely used by our armed forces in the Pacific theatre, while his monographs, "A Trade Agency for One World" (1945) was distributed to all delegates, consultants, and advisers at the United Nations Conference in San Francisco by the Citizens' Conference on International Economic Union. Other major writings to come from his pen include "Modern Turkey" (1924), "Principles and Practices of Cooperative Marketing" (co-author, 1926), "Resident Orientals on the American Pacific Coast" (1927), "San Francisco's Trans-Pacific Shipping" (1929), "Greece Today" (1929), and "Maritime Trade of Western United States" (1935). He had in preparation at the time of his death a volume on "The Economics of Geography", scheduled to be published in the Stanford Business Series.

As a member of the Stanford faculty Eliot Grinnell Mears was an author and scientist of the first order, a stimulating teacher, a jovial and kindly companion, and a true friend. His counsel and wisdom will be greatly missed by all of us who have had occasion to work and be associated with him.

To his wife, Gladys Chute Mears, to his three daughters, Helen, Dorothy, and Julianne, and to his two sons-in-law, we extend our sincere sympathy in their bereavement and great loss.

We request that this memorial resolution be incorporated in the minutes of the Academic Council, and that copies be sent to the members of Professor Mears' family and to the Board of Trustees of the University.

George W. Dowrie
Eliot Jones
J. Hugh Jackson, Chairman