

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ALEXANDER E. A. NAUGHTON (1905 - 1965)

Alexander E. A. Naughton was born in New York City in 1905. He received his early education there and later attended George Watson's College in Scotland, from 1920 to 1923. He received his B. A. in Romanic Languages at Columbia in 1927 and was awarded the degree of Docteur de l'Université at the University of Paris in 1929. In that year, his dissertation, "Le Tableau des moeurs dans les romans de Restif de la Bretonne," was published by Les Presses Modernes, Paris. From 1929 to 1932 he taught as an Instructor at Yale University. In 1932 he came to Stanford where he has taught courses in literature and language until the present time, successively as Assistant Professor and Associate Professor of French.

Dr. Naughton has served the University in numerous capacities, including a term as Acting Chairman of French Studies in the summer of 1963. He has a wide reputation as a scholar, having published a number of significant articles in leading professional journals, in addition to the book on Restif de la Bretonne and an edition of Voltaire's Zadig, published by Thomas Nelson & Sons in 1932. Among his varied contributions are fifty articles on French authors in the revised edition of the Grolier Society Encyclopedia. He was particularly noted as an expert on Paul Claudel, having published two major studies in Romanic Review and French Review, and had just returned from a research expedition to France, in preparation of a volume on Claudel, at the time of his death.

To quote one of his eminent colleagues who knew him well, Alexander Naughton had a "staggering knowledge of his field" and was, in general, a remarkably cultured man with a clear, keen judgment and delicate taste in literary matters. A modest and retiring man, to those who sought him out he appeared as a kind and courteous humanist of a rapidly-diminishing breed who could speak well on a great variety of subjects and who always expressed himself meticulously. He gave himself with warmth and understanding sympathy to students who shared his interests.

In his writings, Professor Naughton revealed himself to be not only a solid and extraordinarily erudite scholar but also a rarely accomplished stylist, a master of the English language, who exposed his subject with grace, charm and wit. His knowledge of, and ability to express himself in, the French language, was comparably profound. As a teacher, particularly in the graduate field, he was, to quote a former student who became a colleague, "effective in imparting information ... based on detailed examination and knowledge of the subject in questioned.

Dr. Naughton is survived by his wife, Helen, and his five children. To them we extend our deep sympathy and the expression of our sorrow at the loss of an esteemed colleague.

Robert G. Cohn, Chairman
Raymond Giraud
F.W. Strothmann