

FRED NORRIS ROBINSON

Fritz Robinson, the beloved "Uncle Fritz" of generations of scholars, was the second senior member of this Society at the time of his death on July 21, 1966. He was born at Lawrence, Massachusetts, on April 4, 1871, a son of David Franklin and Eliza Ann (Norris) Robinson. From Lawrence High School he went to Harvard, where he took his B.A. in 1891 and his Ph.D. in 1894. Having for one year given the courses in Early English, in 1894 he went abroad as a Travelling Fellow, his chief goal being the study of Celtic at Freiburg.

In 1896 Mr. Robinson began his teaching career at Harvard as an instructor in English and Celtic. In 1906 he received his professorship, and faithfully through the years until his retirement in 1939 he carried on administrative duties at both Harvard and Radcliffe. Never one to give thought to earning a scholarly reputation for himself, he devoted much of time to homely but necessary chores such as the preparation of the *Annual Report of the Dante Society*. He wrote many articles on Celtic and Early English topics, but his great monument is the complete Chaucer which he brought out in 1933.

Mr. Robinson was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1920. He was then President of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, and in 1923 President Waldo Lincoln's proposal that our two societies be merged caused him to shy away like a dowered maid from a too aggressive suitor. Thereafter, although he was a most generous friend, he rarely attended our meetings. Our chief contact with him for decades was his companionship with our successive delegates to the American Council of Learned Societies. A very clubable as well as lovable man, he was at his best in small groups like the Colonial Society and the Club of

Odd Volumes, rather than in the American Academy of Arts & Sciences or the Massachusetts Historical Society. Best of all was the circle of former students and colleagues at his home in Longfellow Park, a circle all the dearer to him after the death in 1931 of Mrs. Robinson, the former Margaret Brooks. He never did receive his just recognition in the world of scholarship outside his own area of linguistics, and his only honorary doctorates were those from Bowdoin and the National University of Ireland. By his will he left Harvard University a very considerable sum to endow a professorship in Celtic.

C. K. S.

THOMAS JEFFERSON WERTENBAKER

The death of Mr. Wertenbaker at Princeton, New Jersey, on April 22, 1966, closes the record of the school of historians who dominated the American scene forty years ago. He was one of the younger members of that group, having been born at Charlottesville, Virginia, on February 6, 1879, a son of Colonel Charles Christian and Frances Thomas (Leftwich) Wertenbaker.

His family connections were with the University of Virginia, where he took his B.A. and his M.A. in 1902. After working for a time as a member of the editorial staff of the *Baltimore News*, he went to the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, where he served as associate professor from 1907-1909. He then returned to the University of Virginia as an instructor in history, and there took his Ph.D. in 1910. That same year he became one of the tutors in Woodrow Wilson's significant educational experiment at Princeton, and in that university he taught for thirty-seven years. His courses on American Colonial History, called "Pots and Pans" and "House and Gardens" by the undergraduates, marked the introduction there of what that

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