

FRANK LUTHER MOTT

Frank Luther Mott, the historian of American journalism, died at Columbia, Missouri, on October 23, 1964, aged seventy-eight. Dr. Mott was born at What Cheer, Iowa, on April 4, 1886, the son of David C. and Mary (Tipton) Mott. His father was a country newspaperman who trained the son to follow in the craft. After graduating from the University of Chicago in 1907, young Mott returned to Iowa where he assisted his father in editing the family newspaper. The scope of Mott's interests was demonstrated in 1917 when he ran on the pages of the *Grand Junction Globe* a series on midwestern literature which was later collected as *Six Prophets out of the Middle West*, his first book.

1917 also marked a turning point in Mott's career, for he came East then to attend Columbia University where in 1919 he took a master's degree in philology. (He received his Ph.D. in 1928, also from Columbia.) Returning to Simpson College at Indianola, Iowa, where he had spent some undergraduate years, he began a new career as a teacher which he followed until retirement in 1951. Mott moved to the State University of Iowa in 1921 and was appointed director of its School of Journalism in 1927, serving there until 1942 when he became dean of the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri, retiring in 1951 as Dean Emeritus. His impact as a teacher and friend was marked by close and long relationships with students and colleagues. In addition to his academic duties, Mott was exceedingly active in professional circles and yet found time for imaginative and scholarly writing. He was co-editor of *The Midland*; published a collection of short stories; and wrote a fine book on American popular fiction, as well as several other books. After retirement he wrote a charming autobiography in which he describes his youth.

Of most importance to this society was his splendid *History of American Magazines, 1741-1905*. The first volume, covering the years 1741 to 1850, was published by D. Appleton & Company in 1930. Volumes two and three, 1850-1885, were published in 1938 by Harvard University Press and were awarded the 1939 Pulitzer Prize for history. Volume four, 1885-1905, was also a Harvard book, issued in 1957. I understand that some twenty sketches of individual periodicals were completed before his death for the next volume of the series.

In recognition of his scholarship, Dr. Mott was elected to membership in this society in October, 1941. He attended two meetings and at the latter one he addressed the members on the subject of "The Magazine Revolution and Popular Ideas in the Nineties." Simpson College, Boston University, Temple University, and Marquette University all awarded him honorary degrees.

In 1910 Dr. Mott married Vera H. Ingram who preceded him in death on September 13, 1964. Their daughter, Mrs. Waldo R. Wedel, of Washington survives and has indicated to us that books from her father's library dealing with the history of American journalism will be placed here in his memory.

M. A. McC.

HERMANN PORTER RICCIUS

Hermann Riccius was born in Millbury, Massachusetts, a son of Gustav A. and Ida (Barton) Riccius, who moved to Worcester in 1895. There Hermann graduated from English High School in 1900 and immediately became an office boy in a woolen mill. He had become its manager when in 1910 it was incorporated into the George E. Duffy Manufacturing Company, of which he was secretary and assistant treasurer when he retired in 1960.

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