

finally bowed to his physician's insistence and, giving up the directorship, left Virginia for Alabama. Still hopeful of serving Colonial Williamsburg, he agreed to travel and do research when his health permitted. He is survived by a brother, George B. Farish, a lieutenant in the Marine Corps, and by a sister, Mrs. A. H. Howard of Montgomery.

Farish first made the acquaintance of the American Antiquarian Society when he was writing articles for the *Dictionary of American Biography*. He was elected to membership in October, 1942, and had agreed to edit for the *Proceedings* our Peter Collinson letters.

C. K. S.

DIXON RYAN FOX

Dixon Ryan Fox was born at Potsdam, New York, on December 7, 1887, a son of James Sylvester and Julia Anna (Dixon) Fox. After graduating from the Potsdam Normal School in 1907 he entered Columbia with the Class of 1911, with which he took his B.A. Already his ability had attracted attention, and he was engaged as an assistant in history while working for his M.A. By the time that he received his Ph.D. in 1917 he was known as one of Columbia's favorite teachers. The appearance of his *Decline of Aristocracy in the Politics of New York* in 1919 marked the beginning of a most remarkable record of publication. In view of his many and varied activities, his colleagues could never understand how he turned out so many solid volumes of history. Equally impressive were his accomplishments in the thankless field of editing. Among the many tasks of the sort was his co-editorship of the *History of American Life* series and his editorship of the ten volume *History of the State of New York*. From its first appearance he was editor of *New York History*, the quarterly publication of the New York Historical Association.

The scope of the extra-curricular activities of Dr. Fox bewildered less active men. He was trustee and president of the New York Historical Association, trustee of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, president of the Conference of American Local History Societies, and active in the American Council of Learned Societies and similar organizations. He was no mere attender of meetings but an effective worker, taking the time to write long personal letters to drum up three-dollar subscriptions for *New York History* or to obtain reading matter for Julian P. Boyd who was, Fox feared, suffering from lack of intellectual nourishment when isolated by a Ticonderoga winter. His personality was suited for such service, for coupled with his great personal charm was a flair for delicate but firm salesmanship. At the shortest notice he could produce for a stranded program committee a speech which would delight and impress even professional historians, but which he would privately characterize as so much "hot air." At the April, 1932, meeting of the American Antiquarian Society, two years after his election, he delivered such an emergency address on "George Washington, Representative American." He declined to have it printed because he was too sound an historian to try to put on paper a speech which owed its enthusiastic reception less to its historical character than to his personal charm.

Having these obvious qualities, Dr. Fox was often spoken of as the next president of Columbia. It was Union, however, which called him from his Columbia professorship in 1934. The task to which he was called was big enough for him, comprising the presidency of Union College and the chancellorship of Union University, which includes the Albany Medical College, Albany Law School, Albany College of Pharmacy, and the Dudley Observatory. Besides strengthening Union, he introduced a system of government

service apprenticeships and a cooperative drama movement through the Institute of the Theater of the College and the Mohawk Drama Festival, of which he was vice-president. He was also president of the Schenectady Philharmonic Orchestra Society and of the Antique Collectors' League of America. Under his hand Union became the cultural center of its community.

While conferring with officers of the General Electric concerning the Company's support of post-graduate summer courses for high school science teachers, he suffered a heart attack of which he died on January 30, 1945. He is survived by his widow, Marian Stickney Osgood, and by two sons, Lieutenant Herbert Osgood Fox, U.S.N.R., and Ensign Harold Dixon Fox, U.S.N.R.

C. K. S.

PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS

Philip Ainsworth Means was born at Boston on April 3, 1892, a son of James and Helen Godell (Farnsworth) Means. He prepared for Harvard at Pomfret School, Pomfret, Connecticut, and at Noble and Greenough's. Travel in Europe stimulated in him a deep interest in French and Spanish literature and in anthropology. As an undergraduate at Harvard he specialized in the latter, in which his unusual facility in language gave him a wide margin of advantage over his rivals. While still an undergraduate he was chosen to accompany the famous Yale-National Geographic Society expedition led to Peru by Hiram Bingham. The adventures of those eight months were enough to make any young man who participated in them a life-long devotee of Peruvian antiquities.

In 1916 Means took his B.A. as of the Class of 1915, and the next year he received his M.A. His *History of the Spanish*

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