

Obituaries

HERBERT EUGENE BOLTON

The death of Herbert E. Bolton at his home in Berkeley on January 30, 1953, removed a great figure from the stage of American historiography, but probably will only quicken the "Bolton school" of scores of Doctors of Philosophy, hundreds of Masters of Arts, and thousands of readers who owe their training in history to him. To him, more than to any other teacher, is due the fact that today the orientation of the perspective of a large segment of the historical profession of the United States is toward Spain and her American possessions, rather than toward the thirteen English colonies on the Atlantic seaboard.

Bolton was born in Wilton, Wisconsin, on July 20, 1880, a son of Edwin Latham and Rosaline (Cady) Bolton. He entered the University of Wisconsin with advanced standing from a normal school in 1893 and graduated with a degree in Literature in Civic History in 1895. On August 20, 1895, he married Gertrude Janes of Tunnel City, Wisconsin, and launched the laudable project of raising a family of seven children; but the next year found him in Frederick Jackson Turner's seminar with Carl Becker and Guy Stanton Ford. In 1897 he won the coveted Harrison Fellowship in history at the University of Pennsylvania, and there he took his Ph.D. under John Bach McMaster in 1899. He began his teaching career at the Milwaukee State Normal School, but in 1901 went to the University of Texas. His training had been largely in the Medieval field but, although he did not then know Spanish, he found no difficulty in turning his attention to the research materials close at hand. For years

he spent his Summers in the Mexican archives and among the Indians whose history he was tracing for the United States Bureau of Ethnology.

In 1909 Dr. Bolton was called to Stanford, from which he moved in 1911 to the University of California, where he taught and served as Director of the Bancroft Library until his retirement in 1940. It was the ideal place for him because of his attitude toward history as well as because of his field of interest. To a region which had hitherto been noted more for its physical achievements than for its intellectual activities, he brought a fierce devotion to pure scholarship and an enthusiasm which fired his students. He used to say that he had in his time opened a million bundles of manuscripts in various archives in Europe and America, probably more than any other researcher in all history. He traveled the trails of the explorers about whom he wrote, and camped where they had. With his devotion to scholarship was coupled a reverence toward the men of whom he wrote, a sympathy which was refreshing in a generation of debunking, and which won the hearty appreciation of the Roman Catholics, on whose historical societies he had a profound influence. After the appearance of his *Rim of Christendom*, a study of Father Kino, his students found it natural to call him Father Bolton; but instead of coveting the cloth for himself he used to call his historical work a pagan's appreciation of the great friars.

A bibliography of Bolton's prodigious output or a list of his honorary degrees would serve no purpose here. Over and above the honors which any great American scholar might expect, such as the presidency of the American Historical Association (in 1932), were decorations from Italy and Spain, and the knighthood of St. Sylvester, which was conferred on him by Pius XII in 1949. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in October, 1913, when

his distinction was first becoming apparent. Distance from the Library, and our own calculated withdrawal from activity in the Spanish-American field, kept his activity as a member at a minimum, although he sometimes sent us copies of his books.

C. K. S.

ANDREW KEOGH

Andrew Keogh, Librarian of Yale, was born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on November 14, 1869, and educated there at Rutherford College and Durham College of Science. In 1892 he entered the service of the Newcastle Public Libraries, in which he became Reference Librarian. Six years later he came to America, and in 1899 was placed in charge of the Linonian and Brothers Library, then essentially the undergraduate library of Yale University.

It was difficult, in those days, for anyone not born to the Blue to get far in Yale society; but Mr. Keogh had, besides a great knowledge of books, the charm of the ideal English gentleman, and an unusually large share of tolerance and wit. It was typical of him that he was one of the six original incorporators of the Elizabethan Club. He was given an M.A. in 1904, apparently a degree of the legitimatizing kind customarily awarded by Oxford and Cambridge to their teachers and librarians who have the misfortune to have graduated from the wrong university.

In 1900 Mr. Keogh became Reference Librarian, and in 1916 he was appointed University Librarian. During his regime, the Yale library grew from less than a quarter of a million volumes to more than two million, becoming one of the great libraries of the world. Through these years he served actively as a teacher in the University, from 1902 to 1924 as Lecturer in Bibliography, and thereafter as Sterling Professor of Bibliography. In 1913 he was president of the

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