

*The Philosophical Society of Texas*

PROCEEDINGS

*1960*

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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
AT FORT CLARK  
DECEMBER 9, 10, 11, 1960

XXIV

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DALLAS  
THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF TEXAS  
1961

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THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF TEXAS *for the Collection and Diffusion of Knowledge* was founded December 5, 1837, in the Capitol of the Republic of Texas at Houston, by MIRABEAU B. LAMAR, ASHBEL SMITH, THOMAS J. RUSK, WILLIAM H. WHARTON, JOSEPH ROWE, ANGUS McNEILL, GEORGE W. BONNELL, JOSEPH BAKER, PATRICK C. JACK, W. FAIRFAX GRAY, JOHN A. WHARTON, DAVID S. KAUFMAN, JAMES COLLINSWORTH, ANSON JONES, LITTLETON FOWLER, A. C. HORTON, J. W. BUNTON, EDWARD T. BRANCH, HENRY SMITH, HUGH McLEOD, THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAMBERS, SAM HOUSTON, R. A. IRION, DAVID G. BURNET, and JOHN BIRDSALL.

*The Society was reconstituted on December 5, 1936. Membership is by invitation. Active and Associate Members must have been born within, or must have resided within, the boundaries of the late Republic of Texas.*

*Officers and Library of the Society are in the Hall of State, Dallas 26, Texas.*

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# *The Philosophical Society of Texas*

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THE 1960 ANNUAL MEETING of the Society, marking the 123rd anniversary of its founding, was unique in many respects. For the first time, the meeting was held in a secluded place and those attending gave their exclusive attention to prolonged discussion of important questions.

Meeting place was historic Fort Clark near Brackettville. Sessions began Friday afternoon, December 9, and lasted through dinner on Sunday, December 11.

Immediately after adjournment of the 1959 Meeting at San Antonio, President McGhee began planning for the Fort Clark meeting. After extensive correspondence with the members as to the type of program and meeting place preferred, he created a program committee which considered the suggestions of the members and announced a general theme for the 1960 Meeting.

"Texas in 1960, and Where she Should, or Could, be in 1970" was the topic selected. Four members of wide experience and special competence in various spheres of Texas life were asked, and generously agreed, to prepare papers which would serve as the basis for discussions at the meeting. The specific topics were:

"The Heritage and Goals of Texas," by W. St. John Garwood.

"The Economy of Texas," by E. B. Germany.

"Education and Culture in Texas," by Harry H. Ransom.

"The Wealth of Texas and How it is Used," by Allan Shivers.

The importance of the topics considered, the authority with which the writers marshalled and analyzed their data, and the permanent value of these essays to all serious students of present day Texas made their publication in book form for general distribution seem desirable. Accordingly arrangements have been made for the volume to be published for the Society through the Southern Methodist University Press.

The papers were distributed to the members in advance of the meeting and were not read at the Fort Clark sessions, thus making available the full time for an exchange of thoughts by those present

on the various topics. A three-hour session was devoted to a consideration of each paper.

The response of members to the preliminary announcement of plans for the three day session at Fort Clark was overwhelming. Preliminary reservations exceeded those of any previous meeting. But as the time for the meeting neared, members were confronted by unforeseen conflicting commitments. On practically every campus some "command performance" took place which required the attendance of faculty and trustees; many boards on which members of the Society serve held emergency meetings. Events at Austin, El Paso, Lubbock, Dallas and College Station required the presence of members who had planned to participate in the meeting.

Then, for a week preceeding the meeting dates and throughout that week-end, the heavens opened and the cold drizzle descended all over the state. Highway travel was hazardous and air transportation almost impossible. Approximately half of those who had made preliminary reservations were able somehow to get to Fort Clark, and these hardy souls entered heartily into the discussion of the papers. Messrs. Germany, Brown and Davis generously furnished planes to bring members from Dallas and Houston.

After cocktails and dinner Friday evening, Judge Garwood's essay on the Heritage and Goals of Texas was considered. Mr. Windsor, Mrs. Tobin and Mr. Francis led the discussion. Next morning discussion of Mr. Shivers' paper on the Wealth of Texas was led by Messrs. Anderson, Bates and Tips. The Economy of Texas, by Mr. Germany, was subjected to especially spirited analysis with Mr. Davis in the chair and Dr. M. King Hubbert as guest panelist.

An informal talk by Mr. Schiwetz, and a showing of his sketches and watercolors of Texas scenes, was the feature of the Saturday dinner meeting.

Final session on Sunday morning considered Mr. Ransom's thoughtful paper on Texan Culture and concluded with a brief business session.

Members and guests attending the Fort Clark meeting included: Miss Winnie Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Dillon Anderson, Mr. Philip G. Atkins Jr., Mr. J. T. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Burke Baker, Captain B. B. Baker, Mr. Hines H. Baker, Colonel and Mrs. W. B. Bates, Judge and Mrs. Robert Lee Bobbitt, Mr. and Mrs. George R. Brown, Dr. and Mrs. H. Bailey Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan J. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Gerry P. Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. William Hollis Fitch, Mr. Charles I. Francis, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Gambrell, Judge W. St. John Garwood, Mr. E. B. Germany, Mrs. George A. Hill Jr., Mr. and Mrs. George A. Hill III, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hill, Dr. M. King

Hubbert, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Harris L. Kempner, Mr. Frank H. King, Mr. W. A. Kirkland, Mr. and Mrs. George C. McGhee, Mrs. George S. McGhee, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Randall, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Redditt, Dr. Rupert N. Richardson, Dr. M. E. Sadler, Mr. Buck Schiwetz, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Shepherd Jr., Dr. John W. Spies, Colonel C. R. Tips, Mrs. Edgar Tobin, Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Tucker, Mr. W. C. Windsor Jr., Mr. and Mrs. B. N. Woodson, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley K. Woodward Jr.

The election of these Texans to membership was announced:

George Carmack of Houston

Carey Croneis of Houston

William C. Finch of Georgetown

Harris L. Kempner of Galveston

D. Ray Lindley of Fort Worth

W. O. Murray of San Antonio

French M. Robertson of Abilene

E. M. (Buck) Schiwetz of Houston

Joseph R. Smiley of Austin

Edward B. Tucker of Nacogdoches

The names of nine valued members lost by death since the last meeting were read and committees were appointed to prepare notices of them for *Proceedings* (see pages 6-18).

The report of the committee on officers was read and unanimously adopted (see page 19).

Immediately after the election of officers it was learned by radio that the Regents had designated President Ransom as Chancellor-elect of the University of Texas.

## N E C R O L O G Y

## KARLE WILSON BAKER

1878 - 1960

KARLE WILSON BAKER died November 8, 1960, in Nacogdoches. Mrs. Baker was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, October 13, 1878. She attended the Little Rock Academy, University of Chicago, University of California, and Columbia University. After moving to Nacogdoches, Texas, in 1900, she married Thomas E. Baker in 1907 and became the mother of two children.

One of Texas' most distinguished citizens, Mrs. Baker contributed immeasurably to the cultural life of the state, and was one of the first Texas writers to receive national recognition. Her first book, *Blue Smoke*, published by the Yale University Press in 1919, was followed by a variety of works both poetry and prose, notable for their quality. Her list of publications includes *The Garden of the Plynck*, *Burning Bush*, *Old Coins*, *The Texas Flag Primer*, *The Birds of Tanglewood*, *Dreamers on Horseback*, *Family Style*, and *Star of the Wilderness*. In addition, Mrs. Baker contributed poems and articles to *Harper's*, *Scribner's*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Century*, *Yale Review*, and similar publications.

From 1925 through 1934 Mrs. Baker taught in the English Department of Stephen F. Austin College, exerting through her personal contact an unforgettable influence upon her students. Closely associated with the life of the College during its early years, her distinguished example set a high standard of achievement. She wrote and presented to the College for its use her poem, "The Pine Tree Hymn."

She served the cause of literature in the Southwest by filling many speaking engagements, often giving readings from her work. She was a charter member of the Texas Institute of Letters and served as its president in 1938-39, later being elected a Fellow of the Institute. She was also a member of the Poetry Society of America, the Poetry Society of Texas, and Phi Beta Kappa. She received an honorary Litt.D. from Southern Methodist University in 1924.

Her abiding interests—in people, in nature, and in the history of the region in which she lived—are recorded for posterity in her work. She was an artist who lived her art, establishing deep roots in East Texas soil and producing rich fruit for the world's spiritual nourishment.

— R. W. S.

**DR. CLAUDE C. CODY, JR.**

1884 - 1959

DR. CLAUDE CARR CODY, JR., of Houston, president of the Texas Medical Association in 1946-1947, died December 30, 1959. He had retired from practice in 1955 following a cerebral vascular accident.

Well known in medical circles, both at the local and national level, the 75 year old physician was a native of Georgetown. His father was professor of mathematics at Southwestern University and dean from 1905 to 1915. His mother was Martha R. Hughes.

Dr. Cody was educated in the Georgetown public schools and Southwestern University from which he received a bachelor of arts degree in 1904 and a master of arts degree in 1905. In 1910 he was graduated in medicine from Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore, and served as an intern and as house surgeon for the First Surgical (Columbia University) Division of Bellevue Hospital at New York.

Dr. Cody practiced medicine at Houston from 1913 until 1917, when he was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the Army Medical Reserve Corps, and saw overseas service in France. He held the rank of major when he was discharged in 1919. Returning to his Houston practice, Dr. Cody limited himself to the specialty of otolaryngology, attending the Graduate Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania for a year. He received further training in Vienna in 1931.

One of the founders of the Houston Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital, Dr. Cody also served on the staffs of four other hospitals and as professor and head of the department of otolaryngology at Baylor University College of Medicine. For 21 years he was a trustee of Southwestern University and served as chairman of the board. The library at Southwestern is named for his father.

Dr. Cody served as president of the Harris County Medical Society in 1923 and for years was a trustee for the Houston Academy of Medicine. He did much to develop its library and was active in planning its present building. He had helped establish the Harris County Medical Library in 1919. He was a past president of the Texas Ophthalmological and Otolaryngological Society and the Houston Academy of Medicine and was a diplomate of the American Board of Otolaryngology. A fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology and the American College of Surgeons, he was particularly proud of his membership in the American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otological Society, American Laryngological Association, and American Otological So-



ciety, as he was the first person in Texas to belong to all three. He was chairman of the Section on Laryngology, Otology, and Rhinology of the American Medical Association from 1942 to 1944.

Serving continuously from 1924 to 1932 as delegate to the Texas Medical Association, Dr. Cody had been a member of this organization since 1914. He served as a member of the Council on Medical Economics from 1936 until his election to the office of president-elect in 1944, being chairman of the council from 1938 to 1944, and in 1950 was elected to emeritus membership.

Dr. Cody published valuable contributions in his specialty and was awarded honorary doctorates from Southwestern University in science and from Baylor University in law. He became a member of this Society in 1952.

He was elected a director of the Houston Chamber of Commerce in 1946 and for more than 30 years served as a steward of St. Paul's Methodist Church. He belonged to the River Oaks Country Club of Houston and was one of the organizers of the Doctors Club in Houston.

Members of the family who survive include his wife, the former Miss Florra Root, whom he married in 1917, and a brother, Derrell Cody of Gainesville, Florida. Dr. Claude C. Cody, III, and Dr. Melville Cody of Houston are nephews.

— E. R. JR.

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## FRED FARRELL FLORENCE

1891 - 1960

FRED FARRELL FLORENCE, chairman of the executive committee of the Republic National Bank of Dallas, passed away on December 25, 1960, after being hospitalized for several weeks. Mr. Florence, a financial statesman, enjoyed an illustrious career of more than a half-century in banking, and his passing ended a lifetime filled with outstanding achievements.

As a young lad, he started to work for the First National Bank, Rusk, in 1907, sweeping floors, sorting checks, and doing odd jobs. The following years saw him rise steadily to become chief executive of the South's largest banking institution. While achieving that position of importance, he was also honored by being selected to serve four terms as president of the Dallas Clearing House Association, by being chosen president of the Texas Bankers Association, and signally honored by being elected president of the American Bankers Association.

Mr. Florence was born November 5, 1891, in New York City, the son of Mose and Celia Florence and moved with his parents to Rusk in 1892. Although his formal education ended at an early age, Mr. Florence was recognized as a genius in his understanding of economics and finance and their effects upon the business life of the nation. For his various accomplishments, he was awarded degrees as honorary Doctor of Laws by Westminster College, Oklahoma City University, and Texas Technological College.

He was an officer of banks in Rusk and Ratcliff, and later became vice president and then president of the Alto State Bank. After service in the aviation corps of the United States Army, he returned to Alto to resume the presidency of the bank, and shortly thereafter, was elected Mayor of that town. On February 14, 1920, the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company of Dallas (which later became the Republic National Bank of Dallas) was organized, and shortly thereafter, Mr. Florence became its first vice president. He was elected president in 1929, and chairman of the executive committee in 1957. Mr. Florence also served as a director of many leading business corporations and trade associations.

His contributions to the civic, cultural, educational and religious life of Dallas, the Southwest and the nation brought him increased recognition as a leader and earned him many important awards. In 1956 Mr. Florence served as chairman of the nation's banking committee in President Eisenhower's "People-to-People" Program to promote international understanding and friendship, and in 1959 received the Benemerenti Medal from His Holiness Pope John XXIII, the highest decoration that can be awarded by the Roman Catholic Church to a non-member. In every relationship of life and in every task to which he set his hand, he was an extraordinary man.

Mr. Florence was active in many organizations, such as the American Heritage Foundation, Dallas Citizens Council, Hebrew Union College, St. Paul's Hospital, Southern Methodist University, Southwestern Medical Foundation, Southwestern Legal Foundation, the State Fair of Texas, and the Dallas County Chapter of the National Foundation, to mention only a few.

He is survived by his wife, the former Helen Lefkowitz, a son, David, a daughter, Mrs. Gene Gall, four grandchildren, and a sister, all of Dallas.

## ERNEST LYNN KURTH

1885 - 1960

THE RECENT PASSING from the Texas scene of Ernest Lynn Kurth, noted industrial leader and outstanding citizen, leaves a regrettable void. The remarkable growth and development of the East Texas Pineywoods region was largely due to Kurth's vision and leadership. No man ever had greater faith in the ultimate progress of the important hinterland of the great pine and hardwood forests of the state. It was chiefly due to the tireless efforts of Ernest Kurth that the huge newsprint plant near Lufkin is operating profitably ever since January 1940. It was the happy meeting of Kurth and the late, great, Charles Holmes Herty, pioneer paper research chemist of Savannah, Georgia, that Texans and other people at long last were aroused to invest capital in a newsprint mill. The remarkable success of that mill has encouraged the erection of a dozen other paper mills in Texas and the Deep South and brought millions of dollars annually to a region not long ago considered as markedly backward.

Dr. Herty's discovery and proof that Southern yellow pines — shortleaf, longleaf, loblolly and slash — did not carry prohibitive amounts of resin, found a ready believer and champion in Kurth. Those Texans who were active in the early efforts to interest local capital in the investment of the necessary funds in building the great Southland Paper Mills at the little town of Herty in the midst of the East Texas pine forest, will recall the bitter disappointment and near frustration which for several years baffled Kurth's pioneering. The unfailing devotion, persistence, courage and faith, as well as the affability and good nature of the departed East Texan timber magnate, in the end triumphed outstandingly. What had at one time been regarded as a futile dream became a monument to the remarkable qualities which characterized Ernest Kurth. Because of his tireless pursuit of a logical and practical program, tens of thousands of skilled and unskilled workers throughout the vast Pineywoods of East Texas and the Deep South enjoy a high degree of stable employment and profitable return.

Kurth was one of the first large timberland owners to undertake scientific reforestation and reclamation of cut-over forests as a dependable source of an annual crop of pulpwood. His successful example encouraged others to follow suit, thus establishing a new type of economy based upon the rapid growth of young pine trees as needed industrial raw material. Large areas of denuded land overnight became a mighty asset, attracting not only pulp and paper

mills but related chemical plants giving employment to an impoverished people in a region confronted with ghost towns. At a time when the number of farms and farmers in the nation has shrunk alarmingly, this enlightened program can well serve as a stimulating incentive in other areas.

Kurth loved East Texas, its pineywoods and its people. He was a true Texan and American. His geniality, generosity, open mind and ready accessibility to all who approached him, earned him the lasting esteem of all. Although sadly stricken at the height of his powers by an ailment which cost him his normal voice, Ernest Kurth manfully carried on, retaining to the end his able and progressive management of farflung properties.

To his fellow members of the Philosophical Society of Texas the passing of Ernest Kurth is a great loss, His outstanding character and worth, however, are permanently enshrined in the hearts of his friends and admirers.

— V. H. S.

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## JOHN TIPTON LONSDALE

1895 - 1960

JOHN TIPTON LONSDALE was born at Dale, Iowa, November 8, 1895, son of John Dye and Eva Mary (Connor) Lonsdale. He received his B.A. degree at the State University of Iowa in 1917, having been field assistant with the Iowa Geological Survey in 1914 and with the Colorado Geological Survey in 1915. He served in World War I, attaining the rank of First Lieutenant and receiving a citation for bravery. He was also cited by the Italian Government. At the close of the war he returned to Iowa State University as graduate student assistant and in 1921 received his M.S. degree. He then went to the University of Virginia as assistant professor of geology and as assistant geologist on the Virginia Geological Survey and was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree at that University in 1924.

Dr. Lonsdale went to the University of Oklahoma in 1924 as assistant professor of geology and served as field geologist for the Oklahoma Geological Survey in the summers of 1924 and 1925. From 1925 to 1927 he was associate geologist on the staff of the Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas and was geologist on that staff from 1927 to 1928. From 1928 to 1935 he was professor of geology and head of the department at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and was also geologist for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. From 1935 to 1942 he was head of the

geology department of Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa. When World War II broke out he returned to service in the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel and advanced to the rank of Colonel. From 1945 to 1953 he worked actively in the Army Reserves.

In 1945 Dr. Lonsdale became Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas, a position he held at the time of his untimely death on October 5, 1960.

Dr. Lonsdale served on numerous committees, among which were committee for nomination of fellows, Mineralogical Society of America; committee for stratigraphic nomenclature, as representative of the American State Geologists; research, business, and well sample committees, American Association of Petroleum Geologists; policy and administration, the Geological Society of America; mapping committee, Texas Water Conservation Association; geology and minerals committee of the Arkansas, White, and Red River Basins Interagency Committee; Texas Advisory Committee on Conservation Education; and Texas Mapping [Topographic] Advisory Committee.

Dr. Lonsdale wrote widely on mineralogy, sedimentation, ground water, petrography, economic geology, and meteorites. He was known throughout Texas as the expert on the complex geology of the Big Bend region. A man of broad information and scientific ability and of personal warmth, he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and his many friends.

— E. H. S. °

°Professor Sellards prepared this tribute to his friend and colleague shortly before his own lamented death in February.

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## JOHN HATHAWAY MCGINNIS

1883-1960

Asst. prof. English, Southwestern University, 1907-14; assoc. prof. English, Southern Methodist University, 1915-16, prof. since 1916. Literary editor, Dallas News, 1916-19, 1923-48; adv. editor, Southwest Review, 1924-28, editor (with various colleagues) 1928-42; sr. editor, Univ. Press in Dallas (pub. div. So. Methodist U.).

THAT IS THE COMPLETE occupational record of John H. McGinnis as recorded in *Who's Who in America*. It is factually accurate but it gives no hint of the man's career and his preoccupation, or the quality of his personality, or the impact he had on the Southwest. His business in life was discovering latent talents in youngsters, convincing them they could do creative things they never dreamed of attempting, and showing them how.

Born in Pennsylvania on December 21, 1883, as a child he spent a wonder-filled year in Europe, then grew up in Marshall, Missouri, where his father was professor of languages in Missouri Valley College. There he was graduated B.A. before proceeding to the University of Missouri. In 1907 he came to Texas and, except for a year at Columbia University, there he remained and there he built a very real, if intangible, monument.

He was selected for the original faculty of Southern Methodist University by President R. S. Hyer long before the institution began operation in 1915. Hyer had first employed McGinnis at Southwestern and as he watched his performance as a teacher, his early exasperation at the young man's eccentricities changed to admiration for the way he had of turning unpromising youngsters into potential scholars and convincing even athletes that Shakespeare was interesting and important. And so he brought him to the new university. McGinnis was the first faculty member to arrive on campus and he served the institution longer than any other professor.

As a teacher he was unsystematic and unpredictable. He had a way of relating whatever he was teaching to whatever was going on in the world of action or of the intellect. His students either adored him or they cordially disliked him; but all of them learned from him. He hated sham, schedules, dead-lines and clocks. He had no sense of time. He was a teacher teaching twenty-four hours a day, whether in classroom, on lecture platform, in a coffee shop or in his office, whether he was dealing with a hundred people or one person. His technique was to raise questions rather than to answer them; to subtly convince students and others that they wanted to find answers in the recesses of their own minds or in the library; and to cause them to demonstrate to themselves that the answer to every question opens up a galaxy of new questions that need answering. In his more than thirty years on the campus McGinnis was a living legend, of which fact he was not oblivious.

Beyond the campus he became a sort of literary arbiter. Through his page in the *Dallas News* and through the *Southwest Review* he was a pioneer exponent of restrained and sensible regionalism. He blessed nothing simply because it was of the region, but he felt a missionary urge to bring regional writing up to universal standards of excellence, rather than merely to increase its quantity. Probably a hundred writers could testify that it was McGinnis who made them write, and re-write, and re-write, until they produced something passable if not earth-shaking. And his disciples in whom he discovered scholarly promise are today teaching in universities from Harvard to California. But literature was not his only interest. He

was midwife to all the arts and some of the crafts, and the *Southwest Review* under his direction published material in practically every field that intelligent men are interested in. He was never concerned if the *Review* came out a month or two late, only that what it contained should be intrinsically worth publishing and written in civilized English.

His *alma mater* made him a Doctor of Letters on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his graduation; his disciples presented him a gold watch (save the mark!) on his fiftieth birthday; he was elected an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa; and for twenty years was an honored member of this Society. But the award that meant most to him was his vicarious satisfaction in the careers of those whose minds he had quickened and whose techniques he had helped perfect.

No university could survive a faculty made up exclusively of McGinnises; but any region which has not at least one McGinnis is indeed the poorer for it.

— H. G.

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## JOHN ELIJAH ROSSER

1881 - 1960

JOHN ELIJAH ROSSER, a scholar and educator turned textbook publisher, was responsible for much of the printed material on which millions of Texas school children cut their mental eye teeth. As Southwestern representative, first for Houghton Mifflin, then for the World Book Company, he took the role of such a middleman in his stride. He was fully as much the creative editor as an accomplished salesman. He brought quality as well as honesty to the products which he sold in profusion to textbook adoption authorities.

Born at Covington, Georgia, March 19, 1881, he was the son of John Elijah and Julia (Pace) Rosser. He was graduated from Emory University with a Ph.B. degree in 1902. He was a fellow in English and history at Vanderbilt University in 1905-06, and he continued graduate work at the University of Chicago in 1905-06.

John Rosser became a teacher in the Sparks Collegiate Institute in Georgia in 1902. After serving as superintendent of schools at Nashville, Georgia, he moved to Texas in 1907 to become principal of the high school at Nacogdoches. In later years he served as a member of the governing board of his *alma mater* in Georgia.

In 1909 John Rosser was named Secretary of the University of Texas, a post of rather poorly defined duties at the time. He resigned from it the following year after a letter he had written to a member

of the football squad of Texas A. & M. College caused a new high tension between college and university authorities. The letter, charging in effect that A. & M. followers had stacked their team with professional players, was made public at College Station shortly after the University of Texas team had suffered a crushing defeat, the first in eight years, at the hands of their arch football rivals.

After a brief turn as State Registrar of Vital Statistics, then as Austin correspondent for the *Houston Post*, John Rosser entered the textbook field. Before his retirement in 1953 he had served as president of the Texas Bookmen's Association and was acclaimed the patriarch of "Textbook Row" on Dallas' South Browder Street.

A playful if at times sardonic wit added charm to his easy if somewhat formal manner. He wrote as well as edited a number of textbooks. He was also a prolific writer of light verse, humorous sketches and other contributions to various periodicals, including *Judge*, the original *Life* and the *Smart Set* in its heyday under George Jean Nathan and H. L. Mencken. He contributed frequently to Bert Lester Taylor's column in the *Chicago Tribune* and Franklin P. Adams' in the *New York Herald Tribune*.

John Rosser is remembered fondly by members of the Society, not the least as the perennial chairman of its nominating committee. On being taxed on one occasion for his part in what was described as a "steam roller" election of officers, he replied whimsically that it made little difference for the Society was a kakistocracy — or, as he had to explain to his less learned friends, "one ruled by the worst people."

In addition to this Society, he was a member of the English-Speaking Union, the Newcomen Society, the Authors League and the Authors Guild of America, the Texas Bookmen's Association and the Sigma Nu fraternity.

John Rosser married Miss Angie Ousley, daughter of Col. and Mrs. Clarence Ousley of Fort Worth, in 1913. They had two children, John Ousley and Paula Clare, the latter now Mrs. W. O. Hamm, Jr. of Fort Worth. On his death in Dallas on March 22, 1960, he was survived by his daughter and one grand daughter.

— S. H. A.

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## ELIAS HOWARD SELLARDS

1875 - 1961

ELIAS HOWARD SELLARDS, born in Kentucky of Scotch stock, moved to Kansas during his youth, was educated at the University of Kansas (B.A. and M.A. degrees) and then was awarded the Ph.D. degree (paleontology) from Yale University in 1903. After a full and rich life of nearly 86 years he died on February 11, 1961, in Austin where he had lived for 43 years. He became a valued member of this Society in 1939.

Doctor Sellards first outstanding achievement was the discovery during his graduate work at Kansas of about 6,000 specimens of Permian insects. This was credited with being much the richest find of its kind. Many specimens were well preserved even as to color.

His geological work then hopped to Florida where he was State Geologist for twelve years altogether. He attended the first Conference for Preservation of Natural Resources in Washington (1908), which was presided over by Theodore Roosevelt himself.

In 1918 he came to Texas, in the Bureau of Economic Geology, and in a few years had distinguished himself in connection with a government suit to establish the boundary line between Oklahoma and Texas. Oklahoma claimed the Red River Valley, Texas claimed that its boundary extended to the middle of the river channel. Dr. Sellards was employed by the Texas Attorney General's Office and produced scientific evidence concerning the habits of the river in shifting and building its valley, which caused the suit to be awarded to Texas. This decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Texas is enormously rich in fossil remains and much credit is due Dr. Sellards and his crews for their explorations, using as some earlier writer said "pick, shovel, trowel and toothbrush." His finds included early sculpture in the form of three "stone faces" in East Texas estimated to be about 25,000 years old, relatively recent (Pleistocene) deposits in Bee County containing the fossilized remains of elephants, camels, giant wolves and three-toed horses, a deposit 50 miles from the Gulf Coast from which the fossil remains of 15 shovel-jawed mastodons were removed, and many other fossil finds including a 25 foot sea lizard, a 12 foot seagoing fish (near Dallas) and Brontosaurus tracks 40 inches wide by 52 inches long. He was the author of many writings; one of the most important was *Early Man in America*. He was widely honored professionally and brought distinction to himself and to the State where he labored so long and in such a distinguished way. It is evident from the

extent of his findings and writings that he lived a full life and those who knew him recognized in him a sweet-spirited man who got great satisfaction out of life and out of his work.

He survived his wife only a few years, is the father of two married daughters, Mrs. F. H. McGowan and Mrs. H. A. Hemphill of Houston.

— R. J. W., S. P. E.

## TOM DOUGLAS SPIES

1902 - 1960

KEEN OBSERVATIONS made locally, even in such a small place as Ravenna, Texas, may be beneficially applied everywhere in the world. As a child, Tom Douglas Spies was disturbed by the devastation of pellagra, "the poor man's disease," which has taken millions of people all over the world. It was his devoted persistence that led to an inexpensive cure for the disease. For this he received acclaim the world over.

Tom Douglas Spies was born in Ravenna, September 21, 1902, son of John Earl and Mary (Love) Spies. He received a B.A. degree from the University of Texas in 1923, and an M.D. degree from Harvard in 1927. As an intern in Boston and later in Cleveland, Doctor Spies found many cases of pellagra among alcoholics. He showed that it was due to vitamin deficiency. Meanwhile nicotinic acid had been shown to be an important constituent of the Vitamin B complex, and effective in experimental diseases related to pellagra. Doctor Spies promptly studied it clinically. The effective reporting of the successful use of this drug dropped the death rate of around 50 per cent among pellagrans to zero.

At the University of Cincinnati during the depression, Doctor Spies continued his studies on deficiency diseases, and organized the Nutrition Clinic at the Hillman Hospital in Birmingham with support from the Cincinnati group. In 1943 the Spies Committee for Clinical Research was organized by our country's leading industrialists. Doctor Spies and his staff developed many Vitamin B constituents as cures for various kinds of anemia, eye disorders, tropical sprue, and certain types of mental illness. He considered all disease as disturbances in chemistry. He always emphasized the importance of a well-balanced diet as an important factor in maintaining optimum health.

Doctor Spies was a devoted physician. A bachelor, he called home any hotel room in any city where he might be working. Never did

he accept a fee from a patient. He went through school on borrowed money. Although he knew hardship, he always maintained a cheerful attitude in his approach to life. During World War II he was a Consultant on Tropical Medicine to the Secretary of War, and he was a member of the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council. He was given honorary degrees by the University of the South and the University of Havana. He received the distinguished Service Award from the American Medical Association and the John Phillips Memorial Award of the American College of Physicians. In 1957 Congress passed a joint resolution commending Doctor Spies for his "outstanding contributions to the knowledge of the science of human nutrition." His special work in Puerto Rico, linking nutritional deficiencies with certain tropical diseases, was honored by the Puerto Rican government and by the Presidency of the Southern Medical Association. In 1959 he received the American Therapeutic Society's Oscar B. Hunter Award for outstanding achievement in experimental therapeutics.

At the time of his death from cancer at the Memorial Center for Cancer in New York City, Doctor Spies was Professor of Nutrition and Metabolism and Chairman of the Department at Northwestern University Medical School where he had worked since 1947. He was Director of the Nutrition Clinic of the Hillman Hospital in Birmingham, and Visiting Professor of Medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine. He was the author of many books and articles on clinical medicine and nutrition, and was a prominent member of the American Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine.

Honored in all nations as well as in his own, Tom Douglas Spies was an outstanding example of determination and pluck in the face of all kinds of adverse circumstances and discouragements. Never did he lose his good sense of humor or his resolve to carry his work forward for the benefit of humanity. The Philosophical Society of Texas has lost a distinguished member in his death.

— C. D. L.

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ELMER SCOTT  
JOHN THADDEUS SCOTT  
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LESLIE WAGGENER  
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ROYALL RICHARD WATKINS  
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