

*The Philosophical Society of Texas*

PROCEEDINGS

1952

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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
AT COLLEGE STATION  
DECEMBER 6, 1952

XVII

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DALLAS  
THE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF TEXAS  
1953

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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.*

*Offices and Library of the Society are in the Hall of State, Dallas 1, Texas.*

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# *The Philosophical Society of Texas*

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At the invitation of Chancellor Gibb Gilchrist, the 1952 Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Memorial Student Center on the campus of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas on December 6th. A tour of the campus was arranged for the morning, an informal session of members was held during the afternoon, and at seven o'clock President and Mrs. Ernest Lynn Kurth were hosts at the Society's annual dinner.

President Kurth was in the chair and Dudley Kezer Woodward Jr., first vice-president of the Society, acted as master of ceremonies. The invocation was given by Mr. Chief Justice Hickman of the Supreme Court of Texas.

Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lynn Kurth, Colonel and Mrs. William Bartholomew Bates, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Kezer Woodward Jr., Chancellor and Mrs. Gibb Gilchrist, President and Mrs. Marion Thomas Harrington, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Angell, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson Shuffler, Dr. and Mrs. Claude Carr Cody Jr., Chief Justice and Mrs. John Edward Hickman, Dean and Mrs. Willis Raymond Woolrich, Mr. Louis Wiltz Kemp, Dr. William James Battle, Dr. Ela Hockaday, Mrs. H. K. Thompson, Dr. and Mrs. Horace Bailey Carroll, Dr. and Mrs. Hyman Joseph Ettlinger, Dr. and Mrs. Radoslav Andrea Tsanoff, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Banks, Miss Winnie Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Gibson, Dr. and Mrs. Pat Ireland Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. Burke Baker, Mr. John Elijah Rosser, Judge and Mrs. W. E. Bell, Dr. and Mrs. Rupert Norval Richardson, Mr. Rupert Richardson Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Andrews, Chancellor and Mrs. James Pinckney Hart, Dean and Mrs. Charles Shirley Potts, Mrs. Frances Allen, Dr. and Mrs. Ira Kendrick Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Harrison, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Gambrell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Seale.

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

*Dudley Kezer Woodward, Jr.*

No one, it seems to me, could escape a feeling of appreciation and thankfulness for being in this presence tonight. To come into this beautiful setting as guests of a generous and discriminating host and here to spend an unhurried hour in quiet contemplation and with such kindred spirits is a privilege all too rare in these hectic days. We are guests tonight, as we were a year ago at Lufkin, of Ernest and Isla Kurth, two Texans who ennoble all endeavors of which they are a part.

Generations yet unborn will be grateful for his leadership in timber conservation and all who are privileged to be their contemporaries will continue mindful of their effective support of all that is best in our current living. For their charming hospitality we are most grateful.

It now becomes my privilege to present the speaker of the evening.

But there is something anomalous in undertaking to introduce him to any Texas audience and especially to one assembled here where everything we see and all that we enjoy bear the marks of his leadership and genius.

I am reminded of an occasion a few years ago when I was called half across the continent to introduce to an audience of savants and scholars, most of whom had never seen or heard of me, a distinguished author whom most of my hearers called by his first name. And I call to mind a conversation with our speaker in which I stated with some pride that I had been in every one of the two hundred and fifty-four counties of Texas only to be told by him that he had been in every court house in the State. And yet you must listen through his further introduction.

The University of Texas presents him with pride as one of her graduates—a circumstance not always properly appreciated in the Brazos valley.

By profession an engineer, he won early recognition in railroad and municipal practice and his appointment as State Highway Engineer at a critical period in the building of our highway system was recognized as a most fortunate one.

His foresight, his courage and his honesty set the pattern and created the ideals under which hundreds of millions of dollars of public money have gone into highway construction in Texas without a whisper of suspicion. No man has served more ably or with more lasting benefit to his state.

At the height of his career as State Highway Engineer he was called to A. and M. College as Dean of Engineering. He served in this capacity for seven years when he became President in 1944. When the far-flung activities of the College required the appointment of a Chancellor he was the unanimous choice of the Board of Directors, and I may safely say, of the people of Texas.

On his most fortunate day Vesta Weaver became his wife. They have one son, Henry, an honor graduate of both A. and M. College and The University of Texas and now a well-established lawyer at Dallas where he and his wife—a charming and gracious daughter of this community—are taking their rightful places in that great community.

No one in all its long and illustrious history has known A. and M. so well or led it so wisely and with more affection and understanding. He is of all the best qualified to present to us and to the people of Texas “The Texas A. and M. Philosophy” and I now present him to you—Gibb Gilchrist, citizen extraordinary.

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# *The Texas A. and M. Philosophy*

GIBB GILCHRIST

*Chancellor, Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College System*

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IN the invitation to speak on this program I was asked to discuss some phase of A. and M., being given the privilege of selecting the exact title myself. I chose "The Texas A. and M. Philosophy."

The word *philosophy* has many definitions, including, of course, the literal translation from the Greek, "love of wisdom." A simpler definition, more appropriate to this occasion, found in one of the smaller dictionaries, is: "A system of principles for guidance in practical affairs."

I have been at A. and M. fifteen years. The Texas A. and M. Philosophy is well known to me, but I find it difficult to translate into words for you my conception of this tremendous and vital driving force which has pushed this institution on and up through three-quarters of a century. I came into the A. and M. official family as a rank outsider. It has been my good fortune to be here long enough to study at close quarters that almost indefinable element which constituted the only truly permanent feature of the A. and M. structure—the Texas A. and M. Philosophy. Some people call it the "A. and M. Spirit," but this is only a part. Those who have attended an A. and M. school are quite proud of the fact, and justifiably so. Those of us who have come into the System without that background soon have become imbued with the spirit and philosophy of this great state-wide institution and have become a part of it. Some of our most ardent workers and supporters of the A. and M. System have not attended any of our schools.

Recently I inquired of a past president of the Association of Former Students of A. and M. College as to what year

he graduated here. He astounded me with the statement that he had never attended a class at A. and M. He had registered, was taken ill, spent a few weeks in the hospital, found it was too late to catch up, so went home and did not return, except as one of the most ardent supporters and valued former students of this particular school.

Since coming to this institution I have noticed that, while there is no fixed tenure policy for the faculty or staff, the actual tenure is far, far longer than at many places where such a policy exists. Few people, once associated with this great enterprise, ever leave, except of their own volition, and a remarkably small number choose to leave after having been here long enough to absorb some of the spirit of the institution.

Throughout this discussion the term "Texas A. and M." is used in preference to "A. and M. College," by intent. This college was the original seed planted by the people of Texas more than seventy-five years ago. From it and around it have grown up over the years three other colleges and five state-wide services which also bear the Texas A. and M. name, owe their origin to, and take their power from the same vital philosophy in many ways in many places throughout Texas, working together toward a common end.

Let me say now that the Texas A. and M. Philosophy is a great and vital asset. There have been times of high prosperity and of low depression during the life of this System. There have been uprisings and times of grave concern. There have been legislative investigations and proposals for closing the school. There was even one proposal, made on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives that the school be absorbed by the University and its buildings used to house an asylum for colored. But, make no mistake about it, the substantial core and the strong foundation of the Texas A. and M. System is to be found in the hearts of the people of Texas. There will always be problems to solve and difficulties to overcome, but with these seventy-five years



behind it, the people of Texas to sustain it and the Texas A. and M. Philosophy to give it vitality and drive, we have no fear but that Texas A. and M. will go forward from year to year. It is an institution of the people, taking its strength from the people and realizing fully that its purpose is to serve all the people, producing tangible evidences of progress year by year.

That basic core of ideas and principles forming the Texas A. and M. Philosophy is as indestructible and indomitable as Texas itself. This is true because the Texas A. and M. Philosophy came from the hearts and minds of the people of Texas in their earliest days and has been enriched and expanded from the same source throughout the years. Regardless of circumstances, regardless of misunderstanding or occasional ineptitude on the part of the men who might be charged with the operations of this institution, it will in the long run live up to and carry out the principles of this basic code. By the very nature of its origin and existence, Texas A. and M. can do nothing else.

One expression of this philosophy, as it applies to our colleges, comes from a formal statement of A. and M. objectives, made by our Board of Directors in 1944. These schools are expected to provide, the Board's statement said:

An environment for student bodies comparable to that which usually prevails in the substantial Texas homes from which these students come, superior instruction including requirements in the study of the national and state governments under which we live, with constant training in leadership, character, tolerance, clean living, and physical drill and development, at a cost alike to all at the lowest possible minimum commensurate with substantial living conditions and superior instruction; a staff of competent and worthy teachers and employees, supporters of our republican form of government and of the Constitutions of the United States and Texas, eligible and qualified by training and example to teach our students, to work in their interest and to work toward other declared objectives of the System.

And another, of equal importance, was the statement of

Governor Richard Coke, as he addressed the handful of students gathered on this campus on October 4, 1876, to become the first to enter our A. and M. College:

Let your watchword be DUTY, and know no other talisman of success than LABOR. Let HONOR be your guiding star in your dealings with your superiors, your fellows, with all. Be as true to a trust reposed as the needle to the pole, stand by the right even to the sacrifice of life itself, and learn that death is preferable to dishonor. Esteem a character above reproach beyond all the treasures of earth, and your honor priceless.

With such a heritage, perpetuated as it has been by succeeding governing bodies, small wonder that the A. and M. schools have produced solid loyal citizens, defenders of our form of government in peace and war. Small wonder that our problems of dealing with subversive influences have been minor, that false "isms" and ideologies have found no nesting place here.

It seems significant to me, in this same line, that the students of A. and M. College have chosen for themselves as an ideal that great Texan of the past who graced the presidency of their college at the turn of the century, Lawrence Sullivan Ross, and that on the masthead of their student newspaper they daily proclaim "Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Soldier, Statesman and Knightly Gentleman—Founder of Aggie Traditions."

Throughout the schools of the Texas A. and M. family you will find the influence of religion to be strong. Our student bodies hold regular and frequent devotional services of their own, say their own formal grace before each meal, open ceremonies, including football games, with prayer, and participate actively in religious work of the churches of all denominations which surround our campuses. As an example of the strength of this movement, it might interest you to know that the principle objective of A. and M. College's Association of Former Students at this time is the building of an all-faith chapel on this campus, a place of

dignity and beauty for meditation and prayer. In a state organization, often expected to be heartless and without religious influence, this may seem surprising, until you consider the fact that this organization is the creation and creature of a deeply religious people who send their sons and daughters to us from homes in which religion plays a vital role.

The birth certificate of Texas public education was written some twenty-five miles south and slightly east of here on a cold and disagreeable night, March 1, 1836, by a group of determined Texans working desperately against time. In a crude new frame building with little furniture and no fire they worked through the night while a cold, wet norther howled about them. The Texas Declaration of Independence was the result of their labors and you well know the particular grievance which was expressed in that document as to the failure of those who had governed Texas to establish any system of public education, reciting the fact that "unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberty, or the capacity for self-government."

Forty years later, as he formally opened the A. and M. College of Texas, Governor Richard Coke declared:

Every instrument of organic law ever framed and enforced in Texas, under Anglo-American domination, from the constitution of 1836 down to the one just adopted, has enjoined upon the government of Texas the duty of establishing a system of free public schools, and of founding a state university at the earliest practicable time, and has made munificent provision for its fulfillment out of the public domain. We are only following and carrying out the traditional policy of Texas, marked out and defined in the earliest infancy of her independent existence and adhered to every step of her progress since . . . [as] . . . today we dedicate and put into practical operation a branch of the university of Texas.

A. and M. College was the first "branch" or "department" of the University of the First Class provided for in the Constitution. The question as to what is meant by being a

“branch” of the University of Texas is not pertinent to this discussion. This could form a subject of another paper and might produce some debate. I believe it to be the opinion of the majority of the strong supporters of each school that their rivalry should be largely resolved on Kyle Field or in Memorial Stadium and should not creep into duplication or overlapping in the offerings of the schools. An amicable settlement and adjustment of the Available Fund was made in 1931 and when matters between the two schools really need attention and action their respective boards can be depended upon to represent the people of Texas first. I do not think it inappropriate to recall that in 1913 a proposal was submitted to the Legislature to consolidate the A. and M. College and the University of Texas in Austin. This was bitterly opposed, quite naturally, and the President of the Alumni Association of A. and M. College produced quite an argument against the consolidation of the schools in which he said: “There are men in Texas—men of some intelligence too—who honestly believe that the existence of the A. and M. College has kept the University a little more wide awake—a little more disposed to be of service to the masses of the people—than it would have been if it had had a monopoly in the field of higher education.” This statement might be equally true with the principals reversed.

In 1915 and 1919 constitutional amendments were proposed completely separating the institutions and these were defeated—properly, I think, because the people of Texas are interested only in seeing that these two institutions which with their various parts constitute the “University of the First Class” conduct their operations in a complementary way to the best interest of all the people. I give a special mead of praise to Dudley K. Woodward, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas, and to the late Judge R. L. Batts, who held this same position, for broad-gauged, unselfish and sincere belief in this theory and their willingness to help all along the line.

Many ask why Texas A. and M. College was located so far from the center of the State. At the time the committee sought a location for the school the construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad from Houston to Dallas was just reaching the latter city. San Antonio had no railroad, Austin was reached the same year, as was Waco. The Southern Pacific had been started a few years before the War Between the States and during that conflict had its terminus at Millican, fifteen miles south of College Station. The committee had very little choice and would likely have been justly criticized had it selected a location other than on the railroad between Houston and Dallas.

The records show that the first part of their state system of higher education created by the people of Texas and put into operation in 1876 was the Agricultural and Mechanical College. The immediate and obvious reason for this action came from the federal land-grant college law, known as the Morrill Act, through which the federal government offered to each of the states grants of land scrip for the "endowment, support and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts in such manner as the Legislature of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life." This Act was signed by President Lincoln in 1862, while Texas, as a member of the Confederacy, was ineligible for its benefits.

In 1866 the Legislature of Texas accepted the provisions of the Land Grant Act and in 1871 passed the law establishing the state's Agricultural and Mechanical College, appropriating \$75,000 for buildings. The 180,000 acres of land scrip we received as a grant under this act was sold at 87 cents per acre, the proceeds being invested in 7 per cent

gold frontier bonds. This became a permanent endowment of the college, interest only being available for support of the institution. According to a statement by Governor Coke in 1876, this interest amounted to \$10,962 a year, gold, equal to about \$12,000 currency.

The people of Texas in 1876 accepted wholeheartedly the basic philosophy of the land grant college. Evidence that this acceptance has continued through the years exists in the amazing growth of this college and the affiliated colleges and agencies which have grown up around it.

And what was the Land Grant College philosophy? First, it was a sincere belief in the importance of *every* individual in a democracy, a conviction that every youngster of every social and economic level should have an opportunity to fit himself to go as far as his ability, initiative and ambition would allow him, a recognition of the necessity for training and using the best talent from all sources in order to build the kind of democratic society of which Americans dreamed. Thomas Jefferson, who laid the groundwork for this revolutionary approach to education, expressed it when he said that the function of education in a democracy must be "to cull from every kind and condition of our people that true aristocracy of talent and virtue."

This was academic heresy in a day when higher education was confined to the ivory tower, devoted to a study of the classics for the sons of wealth and position who would follow the only recognized professions of letters, law, medicine and the ministry. This was the type of educational revolution growing naturally out of the American revolt of 1776.

To this, the experience of nearly an hundred years had added certain other factors. The American people had begun to realize that new skills and techniques would be necessary to build a great nation from the wilderness. They saw clearly that all types of their people must be better trained for all types of jobs; they began to view education as a practical instead of a purely cultural asset.

The American people had begun to acquire respect for all types of labor, such as had never before been held in this world. They considered farming, building and the crafts as suited to higher education as well as the limited list of "professions" of the past. In addition, they had begun to realize that the duties of citizenship would from time to time inevitably include the defense of the country, and accepted training of citizens in the science of war as a fitting and necessary part of college education.

The broad outlines of this part of our philosophy can best be given by quoting from John Milton, who in his *Tracate on Education*, said:

I call, therefore, a complete and generous education, that which fits a man to perform justly, skillfully and magnanimously all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war.

This was, in substance, the educational philosophy which Texans embraced and made a part of their own, giving it their own Texan interpretation and carrying it out in their own way. Thus it was that on October 4, 1876, Governor Richard Coke could say:

Hencetoward these halls are dedicated to the cause of liberal, scientific and practical education. The occasion is an interesting one and marks an era when Texas advances another step on the line of enlightened progress. Admonished by the teaching of history and the nature of our institutions, that an high moral and intellectual development of the masses of the people is a necessary condition to the stability and excellence of the government, as well as to the material greatness of the State, Texas is preparing, through her system of public free schools and through *this commencement of her University system*, to embrace and be worthy of the great destiny which the big years of the future have in store for her.

Every major development, every worthwhile accomplishment in the name of Texas A. and M. since that time can be seen simply as an expression of this basic philosophy. The creation of the Prairie View A. and M. College in 1878 to make this type of education available to all of the people of Texas, both white and black; the Agricultural Experiment Station in 1888 and the Engineering Experiment Station in

1914 to seek new knowledge applicable to the problems of Texas agriculture and industry; the Agricultural Extension Service in 1913 and the Engineering Extension Service in 1936 to carry the benefits of scientific research and accumulated knowledge to the fields and factories of the state in order to reach more of the people with useful information; the Texas Forest Service in 1915, expanding the combination of educational, research and extension services into a specialized field of importance to Texas and the addition in 1917 of the Tarleton State College at Stephenville and Arlington State College to make possible educational services of this type at the junior college level, are all expressions of this same philosophy. Each came about through legislative mandate from the people of this state to serve special purposes within our broad general field.

One of the cornerstones of this philosophy is the belief that there must be equal opportunities for all, with the limits of a youngster's education being set by his own talent, initiative and willingness to work and sacrifice. This imposes upon the state the obligation of making available, in the words of Richard Coke, "at the lowest possible cost, an education which is at the same time thorough, liberal and practical."

In the beginning, the A. and M. College of Texas went even further, offering to "meritorious young men of limited means" State scholarships, which cut the cost of an education by \$50. In their first year, Texans learned a bitter lesson which the nation would do well to remember today. The provision of scholarships is not a proper function of government.

In announcing the abandonment of this state scholarship plan and the accompanying reduction of all fees to take its place, the board of directors made this significant statement in 1877:

This is the first earnest practical step that our State has yet taken to afford, through an institution of its own, to the industrial classes



of limited means the opportunity for obtaining a collegiate education. . . . If success shall attend its efforts for the first years of its existence, the Board feels confident that the way will be opened that in the future, poverty will no longer bar the way of the poorest youth in the land who is capable of receiving a thorough education and whose breast is fired with an honorable ambition to obtain it.

Throughout the years all colleges of the A. and M. name have respected this principle and put it into practice. The cost of education has been kept at the lowest possible figure. While the colleges were small, it was possible to give most of the worthy boys who really wanted an opportunity for an education sufficient work to pay their college expenses. Many students have milked the cows, chopped the wood, mowed the lawns of the A. and M. Colleges to pay their expenses. When costs rose and the numbers of students exceeded the numbers of jobs available, student loan funds were created from gifts of former students and public-spirited citizens. In recent years even this has not been enough to bridge the gap. Intensification of college work has left less and less time for students to earn expenses. Costs of attending college have continued to increase while the competition for jobs has made it impossible for all to secure work.

In 1946 the Former Students of A. and M. College pioneered in a new field of college scholarships, creating the Opportunity Awards, offering to outstanding Texas boys the combination of financial aid and a chance to earn part of their expenses. This was no "free ride." Every youngster was required to pay as much of his own expenses as possible, and while no notes were signed and no repayments required, each boy helped under this plan assumed a moral obligation to help some other boy when he was able. Soon others saw the merit of this plan and it has grown amazingly in the short time since. Starting with 16 boys in 1946, the Opportunity Awards plan has grown until it is making it possible for 254 outstanding boys to attend the A. and M.

College of Texas this year who would otherwise have found the way barred by a lack of money. There are more than thirty boys and girls attending Prairie View A. and M. College this year under a similar plan and the idea is being spread to the other colleges of our family. We have not yet fulfilled that early dream completely, but we are on our way.

This is only one of the many examples of this philosophy in action which could be given, if time permitted. And now, what are the basic tenets of the Texas A. and M. Philosophy as it stands today?

*First*, that since the existence of an opportunity for development of every individual citizen to the highest point within his natural limitations is of primary importance to the future of the state of Texas, it is a proper matter of concern for, and a responsibility of, the state government to provide the best public facilities possible for the accumulation of useful knowledge and its diffusion among the people of this state who need it, in a form in which it can be put to use.

*Second*, that public education of the highest order is a necessity to the maintenance of the type of government under which we, as free men, choose to live. Such education can properly be expected to train the youth of the state for the responsibilities of citizenship in both peace and war, with a clear understanding of, and appreciation for, our government and political institutions.

*Third*, that the purposes of a democracy such as ours are best served only when an opportunity for education of the finest type exists for all, regardless of economic or social circumstance. This must apply to all races and conditions of men, and must include provision for carrying the benefits of accumulated knowledge into the field and home, the office and factory, for the benefit of adults who are in need of such services and are not free to seek them in the college classroom.

*Fourth*, that education is a practical as well as a cultural matter, being applicable in some proper form to all fields of endeavor and necessary to the advancement of Texas. This belief requires the practical training of those who will enter the professions as well as their liberal education, at the same time requiring the balancing of the briefer training courses in the skills and techniques of trades and crafts with a liberal background for full life and effective citizenship.

*And fifth*, that the institutions which bear the Texas A. and M. name were created by the people of Texas to accomplish this accumulation and diffusion of knowledge through teaching, research and extension in the broad fields of agriculture and engineering and such related fields as Texans have prescribed by law. They are simply instruments of the people for the accomplishment of a common good, their existence justified only so long as they accomplish the purposes for which they were created, and are accountable constantly to the people of this state for the effectiveness and economy with which these ends are met.

That, to me, is the Texas A. and M. Philosophy, the underlying force which has caused the tiny seed planted on this spot little more than seventy-five years ago to grow and flourish until it covers the state with its colleges and services. If we, on faculty and staff, who are responsible for carrying out this philosophy, are wise enough to administer the affairs of the A. and M. System with common sense and good judgment, and if the people of Texas continue the wholehearted interest and support which they have shown in the past, the good which should be accomplished for Texas in the years ahead is beyond your imagination and mine. There will be good times and bad, periods of high achievement and of stagnation, a great deal of encouragement and some opposition, but in the long run, down the years, Texas A. and M. cannot help but forge ahead under the guidance and inspiration of the Texas A. and M. Philosophy.

## BUSINESS PERIOD

*Mr. Woodward:* We pause to note the passing of those of our company who will return no more:

RABBI HENRY COHEN, of Galveston, "The Man Who Stayed in Texas," known and remembered wherever gentleness and charity and absolute courage are held most high;

DR. THOMAS WAYLAND VAUGHAN, born at Jonesville, Texas, but late of Washington, recognized authority in the fields of oceanography and geology;

WILLIAM WARD WATKIN, of Houston, talented architect whose genius has contributed for all time to the beauty of his beloved city; and

ALONZO WASSON, of Austin, statesman, journalist and philosopher extraordinary whose labors for the culture and progress of his beloved Texas were equalled by few and surpassed by none.

The world is better in that these men have lived.

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We greet those who have during the year come to share with us the privilege of membership in the Society:

H. BAILEY CARROLL, Professor of History, member of the Graduate Faculty, director of Research in Texas History of The University of Texas, Austin, known and respected wherever students of Texas history foregather, Managing Editor of *The Handbook of Texas* which is shortly to come from the publisher after twenty years of meticulous preparation under his direction;

CLAUDE C. CODY, JR., distinguished medical specialist and public spirited citizen of Houston who was a college classmate of our host of the evening:

E. WILLIAM DOTY, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, Professor of Music, member of the Graduate Faculty of The University of Texas, Austin, who has demonstrated that people of the Southwest have an enthusiastic interest in the Fine Arts and a determination to support them at the highest levels;

W. MAURICE EWING, born Lockney, Texas, distinguished graduate of Rice Institute, outstanding physicist and oceanographer at Columbia University;

IRELAND GRAVES, Austin, distinguished lawyer, judge, financier and citizen who was likewise a college classmate of our host;

THOMAS STEELE HOLDEN, born Dallas, Texas, but now of New York, distinguished architect and executive and President of F. W. Dodge Corporation;

ROBERT MARVIN KELLY, of Longview, inventor and industrialist, associated in the minds of many with the "Blue Kelly Plow" which made its significant contribution to Texas agriculture. Detained unavoidably from this gathering he has sent as his guests Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Harrison, of Longview, whose names are indelibly interwoven with the history of Texas prosperity throughout the last quarter-century and whom we welcome most cordially; and

W. R. WOOLRICH, Dean of the College of Engineering; Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Director of the Bureau of Engineering Research; member of the Graduate Faculty of The University of Texas, Austin, whose unusual qualifications have received national and international recognition for many years.

In electing these new members the Society has adhered to its most exacting standards and by so doing has added to its distinction and prestige.

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Mr. Rosser, in the absence of Judge Watkins, presented the report of the committee on nominations, which was adopted.

After appropriate remarks by President Woodward, the Society adjourned until December 5, 1953.

## N E C R O L O G Y

## HENRY COHEN

1863-1952

IN THE DEATH of Rabbi Henry Cohen, Texas has lost one of its most influential, scholarly, and humanitarian leaders. By any reckoning he was a great man, whether as student, whether as theologian, whether as public speaker, or whether as kindly advisor and friend. That he should have elected to have devoted sixty-two years of his fruitful life to Galveston and to Texas is a tribute to the high promise they suggested to him.

Born in London April 7, 1863, son of David and Josephine Cohen, Henry Cohen received his education in evening classes and hospitals of London, later receiving the Doctorate in Hebrew Law from Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati; the Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, from the Jewish Institute of Religion in 1939; and LL. D., *honoris causa*, Texas Christian University, in 1948. Ordained rabbi in 1884, following service in South Africa, he was pastor of a congregation in Kingston, Jamaica, till 1885, when he went to Woodville, Mississippi. He came to Galveston in June, 1888, and from that time on was an outstanding leader in community and state affairs. On March 6, 1889, he married his devoted wife, Mollie Levy, who died a year ago. His son, Harry, is a distinguished leader of civic affairs in Houston. His daughter, Ruth, unfortunately died in 1934.

It would be quite impossible to list all of the many activities in which Rabbi Cohen took an active part, and usually directed. These include the Lasker Home for Homeless Children, the Hebrew University, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Texas Creative Community Council, the Council of the Library of Southern Litergers, the Jewish Immigrants Information Bureau, the Texas Prison Board, the American Red Cross, the Open Forum, the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the American Council for Judaism, the Southwestern State Probation and Parole Conference, the Council on International Justice and Goodwill, the Federal Council of Churches, the Boy Scouts, the Texas State Recovery Board, and the National Commission on Interracial Cooperation. From most of these activities Rabbi Cohen re-

ceived many well deserved honors, and from many national humanitarian societies he received special certificates and commendations.

As a scholar the Rabbi contributed many writings on religious and historical subjects. He made special studies of prayer, Talmudic Sayings, and contributed to the *Jewish Encyclopedia* and to many other compilations. Rabbi Cohen issued for his friends several brochures of delightful verse, some of which have previously been published in newspapers. One of the most remarkable of the contributions is a metrical translation of the Lord's Prayer, which was made for a little girl neighbor.

Outstanding were Doctor Cohen's many charitable contributions. He was a regular visitor at the Galveston hospitals, cheering all who were undergoing treatment or who needed medical care. Special sums were distributed by him for the relief of the needy, without regard to race, creed or color. At the time of the 1900 Galveston hurricane, he was in charge of relief funds provided by the United States, for which no accounting was requested. Especially significant was Doctor Cohen's development of an immigration program whereby prospective immigrants to the United States were interviewed before leaving their homes abroad, so that direct placement was made for positions appropriate to their talents on arrival in this country. Arrangements were made for the entry of such immigrants through the port of Galveston, without any of the heartbreaking red-tape delays which made Ellis Island such a hell hole. This great service was interrupted by World War I. Doctor Cohen also had charge of United States refugees from Mexico during the period of strained relationships between Mexico and the United States before World War I. Instrumental in developing many reform programs for prison legislation, Doctor Cohen was also helpful in obtaining national legislation for many humanitarian purposes. Honored by his neighbors and fellow citizens for his continual service on their behalf, Doctor Cohen always maintained a modest and humble attitude, striving continually until the end of his life to be of service to his fellow men.

In Doctor Cohen's honor the Henry Cohen Community House was erected in 1928 to commemorate his forty years of continuous community service. Distinguished visitors who came to Texas called upon Rabbi Cohen and left many mementos or volumes with him. His extensive library was given to the University of Texas. In honoring the memory of Rabbi Cohen, Texas citizens are simply doing honor to themselves.

— C. D. L.

## THOMAS WAYLAND VAUGHAN

1870-1952

T. WAYLAND VAUGHAN, internationally famous scientist and long-time member of this Society, died in Washington January 26, 1952, at the age of 81. Born in Jonesville, Texas, September 20, 1870, he received his B. Sc. degree from Tulane University in 1889 and his Ph. D. at Harvard in 1903. After a distinguished thirty-year career with the United States Geological Survey, in 1924 he became director of the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography which, under his leadership, became the leading institution of its kind in the world.

The LL. D. degree was awarded him by the University of British Columbia and by the University of California; Tulane conferred the D. Sc. on him; he received the Agassiz medal of the National Academy, the Thompson and the Penrose medals of the Geological Society of America; and the newest and finest building at the Scripps Institution bears his name.

His scientific career is notable for its length—sixty years—but even more remarkable was Dr. Vaughan's unique ability to explore and master new fields of knowledge. After investigations of the geology of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains, he turned to Mexico, the West Indies and Panama and became the leading authority on the corals of those regions. He was 54 years old when he concentrated upon oceanography, the field in which he achieved his greatest distinction. In 1932-33, when he was near retirement age, he became an assiduous student of oriental art and language and for a few years lectured more extensively on those subjects than on his scientific specialties.

Upon his automatic retirement as director of the Scripps Institution when he reached 65, he declined to retain his professorship there in order to return to Washington and resume his paleontological research at the National Museum, which he continued for more than a decade.

Dr. Vaughan was married in 1909 to Miss Dorothy Q. Upham, who died in 1949. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. James H. Fortune, Jr.

He wore his many honors modestly and is gratefully remembered by thousands of younger scientists who received from him encouragement and sage advice. Although he had not lived in the



state since his youth, he was proud of his Texan heritage and was fond of recalling his association with the late Robert T. Hill in the early exploration of Texas.

The Philosophical Society of Texas records his passing with sorrow.

— W. E. W.; H. G.

## ALONZO WASSON

1870-1952

ONE of the Society's most distinguished members passed away August 11, 1952, Alonzo Wasson, former editor-in-chief of the *Dallas Morning News* who had lived in retirement on his farm near Austin since 1929.

Mr. Wasson was born at Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1870. He was educated at St. Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and began newspaper work in Texas in 1891. As an infant he had come to Texas with his family. He worked successively with the *Fort Worth Gazette*, *San Antonio Express*, *Kansas City Times*, *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* and began his long tenure with the *Dallas News* in 1905.

In 1906, a year after joining the *News* staff, he married Miss Loretto Smith of Austin. In that year also he bought the farm near Austin to which he later retired. With the *News* he served as reporter, telegraph editor, night editor, Washington correspondent, editorial writer and editor-in-chief.

In fact, he continued to write for the *News* until the time of his death. For years he had dreamed of retirement to his farm on the beautiful Williamson Creek south of Austin but, after a few weeks in complete retirement, he wrote the late G. B. Dealey, president of the *News*, that his happiness could be complete only if he could continue in some phase of editorial work. He was made Austin observer, and contributed to the columns of the *News* at his discretion.

A quiet, straightforward man and an omnivorous reader, Mr. Wasson was a scholarly type of newspaper man. He was an utterly devout man. He and his wife were members of the Catholic church. Their devotion to each other characterized their lives as much as anything else.

No better appraisal of his life and works can be had than the editorial which appeared in the *News* two days after his death:

"The *News* counts itself fortunate that over the long period of its history it has been served by men who brought keen minds and high ideals to the production of the daily newspaper. Their use of both left their personal imprint on the history of Texas. In the brilliant coterie of the last half century that included George B. Dealey, Colonel Bill Sterett, Tom Finty, William A. (Tudey) Thornton and others stood Alonzo Wasson, who died Tuesday morning in Austin.

"Reporter, Washington correspondent and long-time editor in chief, Lon Wasson decided in 1929 to call it a day and spend the twilight years in farming. Fortunately the twilight was to last almost a quarter of a century and a brilliant pen could not forget its editorial cunning. The little plot in South Austin became Mr. Wasson's Sabine farm from which he continued through the years to send editorial correspondence to the pages of the *News*.

"Lon Wasson was at home in the mazes of state finance. He had made himself a thorough student of the shifting transportation problem. He once said that he thought he knew a little about everything, but not enough about anything, a situation any harried editor could appreciate. But, once Lon Wasson turned the play of his keen intellect on a problem, he could solve its intricacies. In an editorial conference, he could sum up the requirements of an editorial so lucidly that it was difficult not to write it in his thoughts and his language.

"Mr. Wasson's integrity of character was matched by his plain human courage, never more evident than in the last decade of his useful life. In this, by sheer will power, he overcame the physical infirmities that hampered him and with dauntless heart forced an ailing body to carry on.

"A quiet man of dignity and gentle humor, a lovable man, Lon Wasson set his moral standards for private and public life high. He ranks among the great editors of his state and his country."

— S. MCG.

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## WILLIAM WARD WATKIN

1886-1952

WILLIAM WARD WATKIN died at Houston on June 24, 1952. To him his colleagues in architectural practice and education and his fellow-citizens of the Southwest may fittingly apply the finest epitaph an architect ever had, the inscription in St. Paul's Cathedral

commemorating Sir Christopher Wren, "If you seek his monument, look around."

Born in Boston, January 21, 1886, William Ward Watkin took his degree in Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, began practice with the famous firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson in 1908, and in this way became intimately associated and closely identified with the development and execution of architectural plans for the Rice Institute. To the new foundation and the rapidly growing community which it served he brought the highest standards, artistic and intellectual. As a member of the original Faculty of the Institute, he continued to have a main hand in its architectural development, and in formulating the policies of the Department of Architecture, which he headed from its inception; as a distinguished practising architect, he vitally linked the academic life with the widest interests of Houston, the State of Texas, and the Southwest.

Space fails to enumerate the important and distinguished buildings which bear the impress of his hand, or to indicate the wide extent of his professional and official connections. Suffice it to say that in Houston the Museum of Fine Arts, the Public Library, Christ Church Chapel, Palmer Memorial Chapel, the Methodist Hospital with its Wiess Chapel, the buildings on the Rice Campus, together with many others, evince his quality; as do still other works in Beaumont, Galveston, on the campus of Texas Technological College at Lubbock, and elsewhere. Professor Watkin never interpreted in a narrowly utilitarian way the obligations of his profession. The permanent record he has left us includes the achievements of his pupils, and in the midst of a busy life he found time to write important articles and books that reflect his historical and scholarly interests, including two outstanding works expressing his notable interest in ecclesiastical architecture, *The Church of Tomorrow* (1935), and *Planning and Building the Modern Church* (1951). The citation given him by the American Institute of Architects in 1949 attests the judgment passed on him by his professional peers:

"Head of the Department of Architecture of the Rice Institute since its opening thirty-seven years ago, he has rendered extraordinary service as an educator and has made notable contributions in his writings. His department has been so intelligently organized and conducted by him, and his devotion to architectural design has been so stimulating to his students that they have achieved high positions in the profession. He has maintained an active practice and designed many buildings of excellent quality. Because he has made notable

contributions to the advancement of the profession of architecture by achievements in educational service and in literature, he is advanced to Fellowship in the Institute."—*Journal of the American Institute of Architects*, XI (April, 1949), 173-174.

Professor Watkin married Annie Ray Townsend of San Antonio in 1914; she died at Paris in 1929, and in 1933 he married Josephine Cockrell Watkin of Dallas. He is survived by his wife and his three children, Annie Ray (Mrs. Carl Biehl), Rosemary (Mrs. Nolan Barrick), and Lieutenant Colonel William Ward Watkin, U. S. Army. A formal obituary can never cover fully the personal affections, or the great central force of family devotion; but it can be said here that William Ward Watkin always gave and commanded the deepest respect, loyalty, and affection, and that there was a distinguished personal quality in the great contribution he made to his place and time.

— A. D. MC K.

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