

### In Memoriam

#### Henry Russell Spencer

On October 29, 1970, the "founding father" of the Department of Political Science at The Ohio State University and former President of the American Political Science Association died at Columbus, Ohio. Born in Foxborough, Massachusetts, on January 22, 1879, he received his A.B. degree at Colby College in 1899, his A.M. degree and Ph.D. degree at Columbia University in 1901 and 1904. In 1950 he was granted the LL.D. degree by The Ohio State University and the Litt.D. degree by Colby College. His teaching career, which extended well over half a century, began in 1899 at Coburn Classical Institute and continued beyond his retirement at The Ohio State University in 1949 until 1955. In addition to service on the summer faculties of Columbia University, University of California at Los Angeles, Stanford University, Reed College, and West Virginia University, he also taught at Tulane University in 1949-50 and 1951-53 and at Princeton University in 1906-1907. With the exception of these interludes and time out for war service in 1917-1918, his lifework as a teacher and scholar was uniquely associated with The Ohio State University. Coming to this school in 1903 as a young instructor in History and Political Science, he continued on until 1949 when he retired as Professor Emeritus.

When a separate Department of Political Science was established in 1909, he became its chairman and remained in that post until 1947, when he resigned to devote full time to his teaching duties. During the thirty eight years of his chairmanship the qualities of mind, heart and spirit of this high-minded, scholarly man left a lasting impression upon his colleagues in the department and the University, as he moved as best he could (with necessarily limited resources) to build a department that would reflect his own rigorous search for excellence. Drawing to the department a small but able company of political scientists, he developed a working environment of great warmth, congeniality and common interest in scholarly accomplishment. Included in this company (to mention only the few who were to serve, as he himself did in 1948, as President of the American Political Science Association) were Francis W. Coker, Walter J. Shepard, Clarence A. Dykstra, Peter H. Odegard and James K. Pollock.

It was as a scholar and teacher, however, that generations of students remember him. Steeped in the classical tradition, captivated by the study of languages all of his life, possessed of a rich historical scholarship, he became increasingly

interested in International Relations and Comparative Government. This interest is reflected in several of his books, such as his *Government and Politics in Italy* (1932), and *Government and Politics Abroad* (1936), and various other contributions. It is also reflected in innumerable speeches, papers, and articles, published and unpublished, which are being gathered together for the University Archives. To read excerpts from these materials which date from 1903 to the present, affords a remarkably interesting picture of the range of his interests, as well as a fascinating picture of the changing pattern of the political process in the fast moving Twentieth Century world as viewed by one perceptive scholar.

These, then, are the barebones of the full life of a gifted man of high character, who was a scholar of great depth and richness, a teacher of memorable eloquence and influence, who became a legend in his own lifetime; a great gentleman in every sense of the word, whose modesty and reserve concealed a great warmth and sensitivity and a great capacity for enduring friendships; and above all a generous, wise counsellor of youth who gave unforgettable lessons in the ways of excellence to the young men who sat before him. And so at the age of ninety-one, his task completed and "the long day done" his students, friends and colleagues can look with great appreciation upon a well ordered life of high accomplishment. For if a man's lifework may be measured by the good he has done, the example he has set, the inspiration and hope he has provided for others, his has been a very good life indeed. If we agree with Montaigne, when he said in the words of Solon, "that no man should be called happy, however kindly Fortune might smile on his until the last day of his life was over," we can also say that this good life was a very happy one.

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