

humane qualities made him an amiable colleague and a successful mentor of students. He died in Chapel Hill on May 1, 1990.

Edwin H. Cady

VERNON DALE TATE

Vernon Dale Tate, archivist, librarian, and pioneer in microforms, was born in Mount Carmel, Illinois, on January 3, 1909, the son of Alvis and Ida May (Short) Tate. His higher education was at the University of California in Berkeley, from which he earned election to Phi Beta Kappa and took a bachelor's degree in 1929, a master's in 1930, and a Ph.D. four years later. After a series of fellowships and project positions, he went to work for the National Archives, where he served as chief of its Division of Photographic Archives and Research from 1935 to 1946. From there he moved north to become director of libraries at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which post he held from 1948 to 1955. After spending a year as a State Department consultant in Italy, he became librarian, with the rank of professor, at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. After leaving the librarian's post in 1967, he remained at Annapolis for two years as the academy's archivist.

During his library career, Tate was active in organizations involved in the rising technology of micrographics. In 1938, he published *The Present Status of Equipment and Supplies for Microphotography* and in that same year became editor of *The Journal of Documentary Reproduction*. He was for many years after 1952 executive secretary of the National Microfilm Association and, beginning in 1970, archivist of the Archive of Micrographics.

Tate was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society at the meeting in April 1955, no doubt in part because of his acquaintance with such persons as Clifford K. Shipton and

Alden P. Johnson, both of whom were themselves becoming deeply involved in the reproduction of historical sources through micrographic means. He was not, alas, especially active, attending only two widely separated meetings, but he did steer the occasional piece of research material the Society's way.

Tate married Katherine Anne Moore on June 10, 1931. They had two children, Vernon Rodney and Charlotte Anne. Vernon Dale Tate died on September 30, 1989.

John B. Hench

WILLARD THORP

Willard Thorp, an eminent figure in American literary studies, died in Princeton, New Jersey, on February 15, 1990, at the age of ninety. Born in Sidney, New York, on April 20, 1899, he grew up beside the Susquehanna's banks, not far from Cooperstown and in country dotted with burial mounds of the late Iroquois people. After attending schools in Sidney, Willard earned degrees from Hamilton College and Harvard University in 1920-21, taught at Smith College until 1924, then received a Princeton University doctorate in 1926 and served on the Princeton faculty until retirement in 1967.

After writing his first books on Elizabethan and Restoration drama, Willard turned to American literature and produced the first fully annotated editions of Melville, *Herman Melville: Representative Selections* (1938) and *Moby-Dick* (1947). During the dark years of World War II, he coauthored with another member of the Society, Robert Spiller, and edited the monumental *Literary History of the United States*, a three-volume work that affirms the vigor and elasticity of national expression and adds to its traditions the impact of Modernism and New Criticism. His other major works

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