

interest us, and we were unwilling to agree to devote a room to the display of it. Our later activities in this connection were devoted to the effort to find a more suitable home for the collection, and we were recently pleased to hear that the Metropolitan Museum of Art, of New York City, had obtained it.

Heart trouble caused Mr. Morse to retire in August, 1938. He then acquired one of the Federalist mansions on High Street, Newburyport, and at once plunged into the life of that town. However, the doctors made him spend his winters in Florida, where he put his paintings into exhibitions and served as president of the Sarasota Art Association and treasurer of the Florida Federation of Art. He was home when he died suddenly on June 22, 1950. He was unmarried but left two brothers, Lee C. Morse, of St. Louis, and Matthew F. Morse, of Clayton, Missouri. C. K. S.

CARL CLINTON VAN DOREN

Carl Clinton Van Doren was born on a farm at Hope, Illinois, on September 10, 1885, a son of Charles Lucius and Dora Anne (Butz) Van Doren. As a child, he was directed toward his future career by the gift of Green's *History of the English People*, and few writers have had better claim of being Green's American counterpart than he. From Thornburn High School, at Urbana, he went to the University of Illinois, where he was graduated in 1907. After a year as assistant in rhetoric there, he entered the graduate School of Columbia University, where he took his Ph.D. in 1911. For five years he served as instructor and assistant professor of English, but in 1916 he became headmaster of the Brearley School, in New York. He did, however, remain attached to Columbia as an associate in English until 1930,

a period and an office in which he had a profound influence upon many of his students. In 1919 he left the Brearley School to become literary editor of *The Nation*, and in 1922 he moved on to the *Century Magazine* where he held the corresponding position until 1925. Much of his best teaching was done in these editorial positions which brought him into contact with large numbers of young writers.

In 1926 Van Doren became an editor of the Literary Guild, but an ever greater portion of his time was spent on his own writing. After his first book, the *Life of Thomas Peacock* (1911), he devoted himself more generally to literary criticism. The most popular of his many writings in this field was *The American Novel* (1921 and 1940). In 1936 he had reached years and stature which justified an autobiography, and his *Three Worlds* was one of the most charming and successful books of that kind to appear in recent years. The portions relating to his childhood on the Illinois farm has been published separately, and is regarded as a minor classic.

At this stage in his career Van Doren shifted his interest from literature to American history. His *Benjamin Franklin* won a Pulitzer prize and the Franklin medal of the American Philosophical Society. During the next dozen years he wrote voluminously on the same period, his major volumes being the *Secret History of the American Revolution* (1941), *Mutiny in January* (1943), and *The Great Rehearsal* (1948).

Van Doren was elected to this Society in 1942, but although he was very kind and friendly, our association was not close. The general, critical, type of history he was writing was drawn from source material readily available in New York City, so he had no need to visit the Library. Poor health several times prevented his participation in our meetings. He died in the hospital at Torrington, Connecticut, near his country home at Cornwall, on July 18, 1950,

after a month's suffering with a heart ailment complicated by pneumonia.

In 1912 Van Doren married Irita Bradford, the present editor of the Book Review Section of the *New York Herald Tribune*. He is survived by their three daughters, Mrs. Jerome Davis Ross, Mrs. Tom Torre Bevans, and Mrs. Spencer A. Kaw, and by seven grandchildren. In 1939 he married Jean Wright, who died in 1945. C. K. S.

DIXON WECTER

Dixon Wecter was born at Houston, Texas, on January 12, 1906, a son of John Joseph and Eugenia (Dixon) Wecter. When he was four his father, an employee of the Southern Pacific Railroad, died. His mother raised the family by teaching school. Dixon took his B.A. at Baylor in 1925 and moved on to Yale, where in 1926 he took his M.A. and won a Sterling Junior Research Fellowship. With the aid of a Rhodes Scholarship he went in 1928 to Merton College, Oxford, where he rowed and took a B.Litt. degree in 1930. He returned to the United States to become an instructor in English at the University of Denver, whence, after a year, he removed to the University of Colorado, where he was assistant and associate professor in English until 1939. During those years he took his Ph.D. at Yale and married one of his students, Elizabeth Farrar. In 1939 he moved to California where he became a research fellow at the Huntington and an assistant professor at the University of California at Los Angeles. During the year 1945 he had the stimulating experience of teaching at the University of Sidney, the first professor of American history in Australia.

Wecter's background and his crossing of the fields of literature and history gave his writings a quality unique in

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