IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR EMERITUS LEE E. LAWRENCE

Lee E. Lawrence, a member of the faculty of UWM and of one of its predecessors for 40 years before his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1975, died in La Crosse Hospital on July 24, 1978. He was 70 years old. He is survived by his wife Florence of West Salem, Wisconsin, and their three children, Judith (Mrs. Michael Boyce), Jane (Mrs. Allen Lillegard), and Scott.

Lee was born in the Madison suburb of Wingra Park and spent all of his life in Wisconsin except for service in the U. S. Army from 1943 to 1945 and temporary residence in Arkansas during retirement. He took all three of his degrees at the University of Wisconsin, a B.A. in 1931, a Master's in 1932, and a Ph.D. in 1936. His academic honors included election to Phi Beta Kappa and appointment as Charles Kendall Adams Fellow in history, 1933-34. During his graduate studies he specialized in the history of 19th Century England and the British empire, writing his doctoral dissertation under Paul Knaplund on the British administration of Cyprus.

From 1935 to 1956 Lee was successively Instructor, Assistant Professor and Associate Professor of history at the Milwaukee Extension Center of the University, as well as chairman of the Center's History Department, beginning in 1941. In 1958, after merger of 1956 creating UWM, he was promoted to Professor and from 1962 to 1966 he served as department chairman. Throughout his teaching career he consistently taught large classes in British and modern European history and was widely known by many students for his personal advice and counsel. His lectures, said to have shown the influence of Macaulay's style, were also marked by the poise, presence, wit and storytelling which characterized Lee's personal conversation. During his teaching career Lee was also active in state and local historical society activities as well as in professional organizations.

Lee's wide acquaintance among his faculty colleagues insured that he would be unusually active in committee work both in the Milwaukee Extension Center and after the 1956 merger, and especially in the inter-campus negotiations preparatory to the
merger itself. While himself a member of the University's "old guard," he strongly supported the newer generation of faculty and the concepts of a developing and expanding UWM.

The reality of Wisconsin as a cultural entity was found in Lee's affection for the Madison of his youth, including the University he had known as a student, and for the La Follette progressive tradition. In his fifties he also turned his scholarship to the Badger state; he researched the ice industry of Wisconsin and the midwest as he had learned of it from his father, George Scott Lawrence, president of an ice company in Wingra Park, whose photographs and business records contributed to Lee's major article on the subject in the Wisconsin Magazine of History in 1965.

But Lee's affection for Wisconsin probably showed most clearly in his forays into politics. His participation in Progressive Party politics in the 1930's was a prelude to his later association with liberal Democrats and his important role in the election of his former student Henry Maier as Mayor of Milwaukee in 1960; for some time after 1960 he remained an informal adviser to the Mayor. His only elective office was brief membership on the district school board in Genesee, the rural Waukesha community from which he commuted to UWM for nearly a quarter century.

In 1970 Lee suffered a stroke which largely limited his last five years at UWM to his classroom obligations. He never fully recovered his robust manner, and his health had seriously deteriorated shortly before his death.

James A. Brundage
Reginald Horsman
John W. Nash
Frederick I. Olson, Chairman