MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN--MILWAUKEE
ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS F.E.J. WILDE

The death of Professor F.E.J. Wilde, on June 22, 1960, saddened many of his former students and associates.

Mr. Wilde was born near Freistadt, a community settled, in the late 1830's, by Lutherans who had migrated in protest over Calvinistic innovations in the Prussian State Church.

Mr. Wilde's elementary and secondary school education was obtained in the Milwaukee Public Schools. The University of Wisconsin granted him an A.B. degree in 1911, an A.M. in 1912. Between 1912 and 1914 Mr. Wilde was Harrison Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania; during this phase of his life he had the privilege of working in the library of the late Henry C. Lea, the historian of the Medieval Inquisition. Between 1914 and 1918 Mr. Wilde pursued his studies at Wisconsin. His favorite teachers were the late Dana Carleton Munro and George Clarke Sellery.

After two years at the Lakewood High School, Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Wilde became chairman of the Department of History at the Kenwood Campus. Between 1920 and 1956, the date of his retirement, Mr. Wilde devoted his time and energy to his students and to his department. His influence upon undergraduates was quite remarkable. Students in all teaching divisions imbibed wisdom; not a few were inspired to pursue graduate studies in their chosen fields. His course on the Intellectual and Social Life of Europe furnished the vehicle for his most effective work; his course on the French Revolution, taught during an age of revolution, conveyed an understanding of the true nature of revolutionary phenomena. His lectures were enlivened by sallies of ironic humor - often so subtle as to be understood only later; he identified himself so completely with his classroom that he took it hard when the press of numbers brought about the divorce of classrooms and offices.

Mr. Wilde was a member of the American Historical Association and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

Mr. Wilde was a man of educated tastes in food as well as in the fine arts and literature. Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wilde love to recall the exquisite dinners served at the town house on Palmer Street or in the country house which he maintained on land belonging to the family estate.

During the course of his life Mr. Wilde collected one of the finest private libraries in Milwaukee; moreover, he read widely; his many interests made him a very fine conversationalist; he was intrigued by the lives of significant individuals; one aspect of his character is revealed by the fact that he read virtually everything published by and about Henry Adams.

Another phase of Mr. Wilde's life is revealed in the circumstance that he was a very devout member of the Lake Park Lutheran Church; one of the Pastors there was a special friend. As befits a son of the Freistadt district, Mr. Wilde retained his faith in doctrine as understood by Martin Luther; he had little regard for theological innovations; nor did he have approving words for Pastors whose energies were too much consumed in promotional activities. In his last years Mr. Wilde was wont to read aloud from the Psalms; a frequent interlude the memory of which brings Mrs. Wilde her most nostalgic moments.
Mr. Wilde's friends would insist upon mention of his individualism, for he had none of the traits of the present day monstrosity styled "the organization man" even though he might admit that the phenomenon is a recurring one in human history. At times, he felt that the activity of said "organization man" was the prelude to an inevitable decay of western culture; during more optimistic moments he felt that the organizers were becoming so entangled in red tape that the individual might follow his bent serenely; it is the measure of the man that was Mr. Wilde that he succeeded to the nth degree, in being himself.

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