MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS CLARENCE OLSEN

Assistant Professor Clarence B. Olsen was educated at Wisconsin universities and spent his entire teaching career at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus. He earned his bachelor's degree at UW-Madison in 1931 and his master's degree in French at Marquette University in 1935. He joined the faculty of the Milwaukee State Teachers College in 1931, where he taught courses in German as well as in French. Olsen's specialty was in 17th century literature, and in 1939 he co-authored a monograph, The Sententiae in the Dramas of Corneille, but it was primarily as a teacher that he made his contribution to our university.

Olsen was dedicated to his students and expressed his concern for them in the high standards of work he expected, as well as in the great care he took in his own class preparations. He was a perfectionist and taught students by his own example to love their studies and to work hard. He maintained with his students a quiet, professional relationship, based on mutual respect, and is remembered by all who knew him as a gentleman.

Professor Olsen was a cultured man, well-read and especially knowledgeable in matters of art. He was a connoisseur of Chinese artworks, glass and procelain pieces, and of painting in general. He filled his home with his beautiful collection of art objects, and, as he was a very private person, his home was a haven of beauty and calm to which he retreated daily.

Clarence Olsen's life was thus characterized by two quite different and largely separate pursuits: he was a hard-working and respected teacher, and he was a private admirer and collector of art objects. It was in this way that Olsen not only taught his students to strive to perfect their skills and to pursue knowledge but also gave them the example of a gentle life dedicated to the pursuit of beauty.

He died on November 17 of a heart attack at St. Anthony Hospital in Milwaukee.

Martha Best
Martine Meyer
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