MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR PROFESSOR J. HOMER HERRIOTT

Dr. J. Homer "Junk" Herriott, Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Portuguese, died on January 3, 1973, in his 78th year. He had been teaching at UWM since 1966 on a part-time basis following his retirement from the Madison campus. According to his usual custom, he was in his office even during the vacation period, and succumbed at home shortly after returning from work.

After his service in World War I, as ambulance driver and then as pilot, he stayed on in France to study at the University of Grenoble, returning home to complete the B.A. and M.A. at the University of Kansas, where he also taught for several years.

He went to Madison in 1925 as graduate student and Instructor in Spanish and Portuguese, and left forty years later as Professor, having been Department Chairman, Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Dean of the College of Letters and Science.

Study abroad in Mexico and Spain, and a research appointment at Princeton marked his earlier career. His administrative positions in later years also took him to Venezuela on program development projects, and a Fulbright research grant enabled him to return to Spain just before his appointment at UWM.

Dr. Herriott's research interests covered a number of aspects of medieval and Renaissance studies. Textual and paleographical papers together with folklore studies, both of which would prove indispensable for his later projects, were typical of his first published items, dealing with Marco Polo and with King Alphonse X of Spain. Lexicological research from his earlier career is still proving to be basic for the work of other scholars. His master project, a critical edition of the fifteenth century Spanish masterpiece, La Celestina, which was nearing completion at his death, drew necessarily on the wealth of knowledge about life and thought in Renaissance Spain that he had been accumulating over a lifetime of scholarship. His research on La Celestina alone had produced a book, several articles and more than a dozen reviews. Upon his retirement from Madison, an Homenaje volume of articles by leading scholars in medieval and Renaissance studies was published in his honor.

His appointment at UWM coincided with the development of graduate studies in Spanish on this campus; his experience
in all aspects of graduate program development and operation at Madison were essential in guiding the beginning program here. Although he had been appointed only for teaching and research, he moved immediately to oversee the growth of the UWM chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish honor society, of which he served as adviser until his death; the annual Spanish Carnival was a tribute to his interest in students. His personal library of books on early Spanish literature and history was sold to the UWM Library, which became overnight an important repository for research materials in this field. He played an active role in all functions of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

But more than his long career as distinguished scholar, inspiring teacher and effective administrator, more than his dedication to the support of Hispanic studies and his devotion to the State of Wisconsin, his adopted home, more even than his role in training several generations of scholars and teachers, more than all of this stands the man, and the sense of honor and dignity that he represented.

Gerard C. Flynn
Oliver T. Myers
Marguerite C. Suárez-Murias
Pierre L. Ullman