

Memorial Resolution on the Death of

Lillian Gay Berry

In the death of Lillian Gay Berry on June 1, 1962, the University Community and the teachers of Latin throughout the state felt the loss of a remarkable woman. She was an example of what a person of humble beginnings but with ambition, vision and energy could achieve in a life of her own making. From her early years she had a love of learning and above all endeavored to instill this love in her students.

Throughout the years many young women beginning their college education with limited funds lived in her home. Here they learned not only good study habits but also good manners, thrift, an appreciation of the finer things and the ability to associate graciously with others.

Young men, too, were helped in various ways, by loans of money, by invitations to meals and by gifts of clothing, but all given in such a way that the recipient was never embarrassed but pleased and filled with gratitude. She continued to keep in touch with her students long after their graduation and was instrumental in placing many of them in positions for which they were qualified. And always these former students felt free to call upon her for advice and help.

As a teacher of Latin she felt that a study of the Romans limited to their literature was insufficient, and insisted on some knowledge of their private life and of non-literary Latin. Because of this attitude her favorite course of all the courses that she taught in the University was Latin Epigraphy.

In keeping with this desire that students have a complete picture of the Romans she wrote a textbook to be used in the second year of high school Latin. Containing not only what might be called the essentials and selections from Latin literature, through numerous illustrations it gave visually some idea of what the grandeur of Rome really was. The excellence of this book caused it to be a financial success. Since students of Latin had been instrumental in its success, Miss Berry thought that they, too, should profit financially from it and established a scholarship fund in the I.U. Foundation for worthy students of Latin.

Miss Berry loved to travel and travelled extensively in the Western Hemisphere and in Europe and Africa. Her use of information thus gained about Rome and the narration of incidents that occurred during these journeys enlivened the interest of her students in the Classics and extended their intellectual horizon. While on these trips she associated with people in all walks of life and made friendships that were world-wide.

Miss Berry was born on a farm near Wabash, Indiana, July 14, 1872, making her almost 90 years of age at the time of her death. After the public schools her education was continued at Indiana State Normal College, Terre Haute, from which she was graduated in 1895. From Indiana University she received the A.B. degree in 1899 and the A.M. in 1905. Further graduate work was done at Cornell University and from 1905 to 1907 she was a Fellow in Classics at the University of Chicago. Rome was the locale of her studies on three different occasions, in 1907, 1926, and 1930.

Her teaching career, begun in the public schools of Indiana, ended after 41 years on the faculty of Indiana University. Beginning as an instructor in Latin in 1902 she rose to the rank of Professor in 1924, and was head of the Department of

Latin and Greek during the academic year 1942-43, retiring on July 1, 1943 with the title Professor Emeritus of Latin. In 1955 the University recognized her long service by conferring on her the Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 1957 Indiana State College presented her its Alumni Award for outstanding professional achievements.

Miss Berry was a member of American Association of University Women; American Classical League; American Association of University Professors; American Philological Association; Classical Association of the Middle West and South; Phi Beta Kappa; Eta Sigma Phi; Pi Lambda Theta; Mortar Board; N. E. A.; Womens Faculty Club (I.U.); and the Language Club (I.U.).

In recognition of her service to the University and to the cause of the Classics in education, be it resolved that the Faculty extend its sympathy to her sister and her niece and nephews and that copies of this resolution be sent to them.

Norman T. Pratt, Jr.
Albert L. Kohlmeier
Verne B. Schuman