

IN MEMORIAM

HORACE BAILEY CARROLL

Much of the current upsurge of interest on the part of Texans in their State and local history can be credited to the work of the late Dr. H. Bailey Carroll. Throughout the past two decades he was a prime mover in stimulating popular interest in this field, training able and intelligent leaders, and providing the necessary source materials for research and writing.

For the twenty-four years in which he served, first as Acting Director, then as Director of the Texas State Historical Association, Dr. Carroll was at the focal point of public interest in Texas history. By his consuming passion for uncovering and preserving in print previously unknown items of historical significance and his impatience with trivia or undocumented "facts," he set a pattern for the recording of valid history in an area notoriously beclouded with myth and legend.

Dr. Carroll's principal endeavor as Director of the Association was his editorship of The Southwestern Historical Quarterly. The bound files of the Quarterly, of which he edited more than a third of the total run, is unquestionably the richest published source of reliable information on Texas and Southwestern history. He was justifiably proud of the fact that the Quarterly, under his editorship, more than doubled the volume of material published annually prior to that time. His unlimited patience in helping beginners to polish worthwhile material into publishable articles resulted in the development of more new historical writers through the Quarterly than through any other publication in the region.

One of the most striking accomplishments of the Association under the leadership of Dr. Walter P. Webb and Dr. Carroll was the publication, in 1952, of The Handbook of Texas, a two-volume 2,000-page encyclopedia of Texana. As managing editor, H. Bailey Carroll was responsible for the organization, compilation and publication of this work, which is a requisite tool for all who, write or study in Texas subjects. It will, with occasional revisions, remain so for many years.

The publications program of the Association under his direction has made possible the publication of many county and local histories. Dr. Carroll considered the publications funds, along with other funds of the Association,

an inviolable trust and a personal responsibility. He was proud of the fact that the net worth of the Association grew-from around \$20,000 at the time he first became Acting Director to approximately \$200,000.

Dr. Carroll's work as Director of the Association and editor of the Quarterly steadily increased the numbers of laymen throughout Texas devoted to the cause of their State's history. Stimulated by his contagious enthusiasm for the preservation of their heritage, many of these became the leaders of local projects, which made significant contributions through creating and sponsoring local publications, preserving or restoring historic landmarks, and developing local historical organizations. Dr. Carroll personally encouraged and fostered the development of many local and sectional historical associations and societies, giving generously of his time and talent to their work.

The one project in which Dr. Carroll took the greatest personal pride was the continued development of the Junior Historian movement in Texas. He was involved in the original organization of this statewide group and maintained a close relation to it throughout the remainder of his life. The group's pioneering publication, The Junior Historian, has been used as a model in many states, and from its early contributors have come some of the best-known Texas historical writers of today.

An avid and discerning collector of Texana, Dr. Carroll was keenly aware of the necessity for establishing at the University a reservoir of source material for research and study in Texas subjects. He was active in seeking collections of rare Texas books, documents and relies for the University libraries, archives and museum, Much credit is due him in the acquisition of such major holdings as the Vandale and Caldwell collections.

A frequent contributor to sectional, state, and national historical Journals, Dr. Carroll was from 1951 to 1954 regional editor of American Heritage. His book, The Texan Santa Fe Trail, published in 1951, resulted in his being made a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of England. In 1963, with Frances Nesmith and Mary Jane Gentry he wrote The Story of Texas, designed for supplementary reading by Texas high school students.

Books compiled or edited by Dr. Carroll included Guadal P'a, the Journal of Lieutenant J. W. Albert, 1941; Three New Mexico Chronicles (with J. V. Haggard), 1942; Texas County Histories: A Bibliography, 1943; The Handbook of Texas (with W. P. Webb), 1952; and Texas History Theses (with Milton R. Gutsch), 1955.

As a result of his contributions to their work, Dr. Carroll was recognized by a number of organizations with honorary life membership. These included the Texas Genealogy Society, Coryell County Historical Society,

San Antonio Historical Society and the Sons of the Republic of Texas. He was an active member of and held numerous offices in The Texas State Historical Association, Royal Geographic Society, Panhandle Plains Historical Society, Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the American Association for State and Local History, the Texas Folklore Society, Bibliographical Society of the United States and Canada, Society of American Historians and the Philosophical Society of Texas.

Dr. Carroll's most lasting contributions were as a teacher of Texas history. He joined the University faculty in 1942 as an Associate Professor of History, becoming a professor of History and Director of Research in Texas History in 1946. His former students are today in positions of responsibility, in this field throughout the State. He fired his students with his own zeal for ferreting out the facts, carefully documenting them and determining their significance in the Texas story.

As one former student put it, "he had a gift for the graphic example, the understandable explanation that humanized the topic and made you remember it. When you were entangled in a tough problem, he would take you by the hand, lead you through to the solution, and make you feel that you had reached the answer on your own. No one whoever sat in his class was ever quite the same thereafter."

Horace Bailey Carroll was born near Gatesville Coryell County, Texas, April 29, 1903, the son of J. Speed and Lena O. (Russell) Carroll. After his public school education at Gatesville, he attended Southern Methodist University, MacMurry College and Texas Technological College receiving both his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the latter institution in 1928. He took his Ph.D. in History, with emphasis on Texas History, at the University of Texas in June of 1935. Mr. Carroll was a member of the first class to graduate from Texas Technological College. He was the first to receive a Masters degree from that institution.

He taught Texas History from 1928 until 1942 at Texas Technological College, University of Texas, Texas Wesleyan College, Lamar Junior College, Hillsboro Junior College, Eastern New Mexico College -and North Texas Agricultural College with rank ranging from instructor to professor. In 1942 he joined the faculty of the University as Associate Professor in the Department of History and in 1946 attained the rank of Professor.

On June 3, 1935, Dr. Carroll was married to Mary Jo Durning. She and one son, Joe Speed, and a grandson Charles Durning Carroll, survive him.

Dr. Carroll suffered a cerebral stroke in April of 1961, from which he never fully recovered. During the next five years he was able to resume his work for the Association and in the classroom, but was under constant medical care. Near the end of 1965 his health declined sharply, with a series of heart' attacks. He died at his home in Austin on attacks. He died at his home in Austin on May 12, 1966.

An anonymous donor has established, through the Texas Historical Association, the H. Bailey Carroll Award, in his honor. The award, in the amount of \$100, will be made each year for the next five years for the best article to appear in The Southwestern Historical Quarterly.

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