

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
DOUGLASS MARCEL ROGERS**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Douglass Marcel Rogers, Professor Emeritus, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIAM
DOUGLASS MARCEL ROGERS**

Douglass Marcel Rogers was born in 1925 in Albany, Wisconsin. He grew up in Oberlin, Ohio, where his father was a long-time faculty member at Oberlin College. In high school, Douglas played in an award-winning clarinet quartet. He also played amateur jazz piano, saxophone, and Spanish guitar. In 1943, after graduating from high school, he was drafted into the Navy in which he served as a sonar operator while on convoy duty in the North Atlantic. After his discharge in 1946, he returned home and enrolled in Oberlin College on the G.I. Bill. Graduating from Oberlin in 1951 with a major in Spanish and a minor in French, he then began graduate studies obtaining his M.A. in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin in 1954, and his Ph.D. in 1964. He had already accepted a position in Romance Languages at The University of Texas at Austin in 1958. In that same year, he married Shirley Anne Vogt, a fellow Wisconsin graduate student and teacher.

At The University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Rogers taught a wide variety of courses in Spanish literature; he was also known as a very dedicated and effective teacher of Spanish grammar and composition. Always active in departmental service, he contributed greatly as a course coordinator and graduate advisor in Spanish. His research, publications, and presentations at professional venues focused principally on two areas. One was the generation of Spanish poets which arose after the Spanish Civil War (1936-39); the other was the nineteenth-century novelist Benito Pérez Galdós, considered the greatest of Spanish novelists after Cervantes.

Highly respected for his scholarship and publications, Dr. Rogers earned a reputation in Spain as well as in the United States. His dissertation on the emerging Spanish poets of the 1940s and '50s, the so-called post-war generation, influentially explicated the attributes and contribution of a new poetic movement whose significance had previously not been fully recognized. An article, "Time in the Poetry of José Hierro," published in 1961 by Oviedo University's College of Philology is an early example of his influential work in this area. His edited collection of critical essays on Galdós, first published in 1973 and subsequently meriting a second edition in 1979, is still referred to by specialists and is regarded as one of the crucial turning points in the emergence of contemporary Galdós criticism and scholarship. Continuing to publish throughout his career, Dr. Rogers saw his work appear in some of the most prestigious Hispanic publications, including *Hispanic-American Notebooks*, issue #206 (1967), which contains his article on "Language and Personality in Galdós."

Dr. Rogers retired from full-time service in January 1991 at the age of sixty-five. However, he continued working in his field and with students for several years. Additionally, he taught a course in Austin's Lifetime Learning program on Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, and one on Early American Jazz. His younger colleagues, now senior members of his department, fondly remember him for the courtly generosity he showed in mentoring them and sharing his wisdom and his erudition. Always an enthusiastic and resourcefully supportive colleague, he was particularly impressive for the breadth of his learning, which went far beyond his specialty. His legacy is marked by his exemplary engagement with intellectual inquiry and debate, his genuine love of literature, and his inspiring dedication to the department's teaching mission.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Michael P. Harney (chair), Dale A. Koike and Madeline Sutherland-Meier.

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