IN MEMORIAM

MAURINE BERZETTE AMIS

Maurine B. Amis, retired Assistant Professor of Speech, died on February 24, 1984, in Irving, Texas. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. William B. Connell of Irving, and four grandchildren.

Professor Amis was born on October 2, 1906. She attended public school in Emory, Texas, and graduated from Emory High School in 1926. She attended Wesley College, from which she received an A.A. degree in 1928. In 1941, she received a B.A. from East Texas State University in Commerce. Her graduate study was done at Texas State College for Women, Northwestern University, and The University of Texas at Austin, where she received a Master of Education degree in 1948. Her undergraduate major was speech; in graduate school, she was an education major.

Her teaching was frequently recognized by students and colleagues as dynamic and innovative. Upon her retirement, Provost Stanley R. Ross joined others in commending her for her "long and faithful service" to The University. Dean Wayne Danielson, School of Communication, wrote to President Spurr that "Mrs. Amis has been a spirited, effective teacher ... for many years."

In addition to her teaching, Professor Amis served The University, the School of Communication, and the Department of Speech Communication on many committees. Among them were: the University Disciplinary Committee, the Housing Committee, the School of Communication Teaching Excellence Committee, departmental course committees for Business and Professional Speaking and Speech for the Classroom Teacher.
Professor Amis was also active in state and national professional organizations. She was one of the organizers and a charter member of the Texas Speech and Hearing Association. She served as Historian of the Texas Speech Association. She was Vice-President, local chapter, of the International Council of Exceptional Children. She also served for three years on the Resolutions Committee of the Texas Speech Association. Professor Amis was regular in her attendance and participation at the annual conventions of the professional organizations to which she belonged.

She took great pride in her service to students, and they responded with honors such as making her a Faculty Fellow at Littlefield Dormitory. In 1960, she took a group of 29 students on the first Texas Union Tour of Europe. In 1972, she accompanied students to Lima, Peru. She was one of the faculty members on Project Information. She was an adviser for undecided majors (a University-wide project). She was faculty adviser for Challenge 1969, and a member of the Central Round-Up Committee.

In the community outside the University, she was equally active and productive. She usually spoke to 2,000 to 3,000 people a year on subjects having to do with effective oral communication skills, including listening. She often spoke on interviewing skills. Professor Amis was a communication consultant for Leadership Conferences sponsored by the Junior League in San Antonio, Midland, San Angelo, and by the Texas Power and Light Company of Dallas. She was also widely known as a book reviewer.
Among her many non-academic pursuits she probably took greatest pride in her collection of Magi. A writer for the American-Statesman said, "In Amis' collection, the kings sometimes appear on wall hangings, or on stamps or even on magazine covers." She owned "kings handcarved from mahogany from Haiti and kings fashioned from tin from Nuevo Laredo." She owned more than 30 sets. They came from Cape San Blas on the coast of South America, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Denmark, Peru, and Taiwan.

William H. Cunningham, President
The University of Texas at Austin

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Beverly Martin (Chairman), Martin Todaro, and Lear Ashmore.