

HAROLD GOTTFRIED CARLSON

In Memoriam

January 5th, 1972, marked the passing of a man who spent much of his adult life deeply involved in the analysis and interpretation of German's social, economic, political, and military affairs. Although this man will probably be noted primarily for the invaluable service he rendered to his country, his long sustained interest in German-American literature must also be recognized.

Dr. Harold G. Carlson was born on May 11th, 1904, in Middletown, Connecticut, where he attended Wesleyan University. In 1928 he received his M.A. from Cornell University. Winning the Germanistic Fellowship of America in 1930, Dr. Carlson was able to study for a year in Germany toward his doctoral degree, which was conferred upon him by Cornell University in 1932.

After teaching for twelve years, Dr. Carlson entered government service in 1941. Having worked for twenty-four years with the U. S. Intelligence Agencies, the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, and the U.S. Military Government in Germany, Dr. Carlson retired from government service in 1965 and returned to the teaching profession. During the last six years Dr. Carlson taught at Harker Prep School in Potomac, Maryland, and more recently at Luther Rice College in Alexandria, Virginia.

During his academic career Dr. Carlson wrote articles on German and American literature, language, and semantics. He

was also a contributing editor to *Words*, a journal published from 1934-1941.

German-American writer Eduard Dorsch, his life and works, was the topic of Dr. Carlson's M.A. thesis (Cornell University, 1928) and a topic in which he never lost interest. In "A Distinguished 48'er: Eduard Dorsch" (*Michigan Historical Journal*, 1935) Dr. Carlson pointed to the many-sided literary talents of Dorsch, emphasizing the poet's love lyrics, nature poems, and prose essays. These aspects of Dorsch's literary activity had not been considered by previous critics, who had seen in Dorsch a mere philosopher and poet of protest.

The article on Dorsch brought forth replies which led Dr. Carlson to discoveries of important Dorsch manuscript volumes. With these new materials Dr. Carlson was able to clarify many obscurities concerning Dorsch's life and especially to support further his evaluation of Dorsch as a major poet of German-American literature.

After retiring from government service, Dr. Carlson was able to devote more time to the Dorsch papers and composed his *Inhaltsverzeichniss zu Eduard Dorsch's literarischem Nachlass* (1966), an important bibliographic contribution to German-American studies.

The death of Dr. Harold G. Carlson marks the passing of a man with a profound and diverse knowledge of German-American relationships--a man whom German-American scholars will long remember for his perceptive publications and lifelong interest in the literary activity of Eduard Dorsch.

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