HENRY A. POCHMANN IN MEMORIAM



On January 13, 1973 emeritus professor Henry A. Pochmann passed away at his home in Nacogdoches. Texas. He was one of the world's greatest authorities on American and German-American literature and culture. Born on January 5, 1901 in Round Top, Texas, Dr. Pochmann received his B.A. from Southwest State College in 1923, an M.A. from the University of Texas in 1924, and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in 1928. A recipient of numerous honors for his schol-

arship, he also studied at the British Museum and at the Universities of Heidelberg and Munich. He taught as a member of the faculties of Stephen F. Austin State College, the University of North Carolina, Louisiana State University, the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State College, and from 1938 until his retirement in 1971 at the Madison Campus of the University of Wisconsin. In addition to his service as dean of the Graduate School of Mississippi State College, Dr. Pochmann was a fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation in 1936-37 and 1939, and of the Huntington Library in 1947. He served as visiting professor at Southwest Texas State Teachers College, the University of Iowa, and at the Graduate School of New York University.

In recognition of his contributions to the study and teaching of American literature, Dr. Pochmann was named chairman for 1966 of the American Literature Group of the Modern Language Association, which he had helped organize. In 1970-71 he was a senior fellow at the Institute for

Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin. A recognized authority on Washington Irving, he served as the General Editor of the first three volumes of that writer's collected works being compiled under the aegis of the University of Wisconsin Press and the Center for Editions of American Authors.

Among Dr. Pochmann's monumental works are:

German Culture in America: 1600-1900 (1957);

New England Transcendentalism and St. Louis Hegelianism (1949);

Masters of American Literature (2 vols., 1949) edited with G. W. Allen:

Bibliography of German Culture in America to 1950 (1953) compiled and edited with A. Schultz.

Dr. Pochmann is survived by his wife, the former Virginia Ruth Fouts, his daughter, Mrs. Theodore Weis, and two grandchildren. Although this editor did not have the privilege to meet Dr. Pochmann in person, I did have the honor of having him review the ms. to my forthcoming biobibliographical dictionary of German-American authors which Dr. Pochmann recommended for publication shortly before his demise. Dr. Henry Pochmann's dedication and invaluable contributions to knowledge will serve not only as great milestones in the history of academics and scholarship, but also as an inspiration to the scholarly world to close the gaps of knowledge remaining in the field of German-American literature so that this body of writing may take its rightful place in the annals of literary creativity rooted in American soil.

R. E. W.