

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

I. JAMES QUILLEN (1909 – 1967)

I. James Quillen joined the faculty of Stanford University in 1936 and served until his death August 4, 1967.

He was born in Bishop, Maryland on February 9, 1909 and spent his boyhood on the Eastern shore. He enrolled at the University of Delaware and received an A.B. degree in 1929.

James Quillen was a lifelong student of American history. He entered Yale University and received his M.A. degree in that field in 1932. He then taught for two years in the schools of Selbyville, Delaware.

In 1934 he was invited to join the faculty of Colorado State College. Two years later he came to Stanford. During his early years at Stanford he also served as Director of Social Studies at the Menlo School and Junior College.

Then in 1939 James Quillen was granted a leave of absence to complete his doctorate in American history. His Ph.D. degree from Yale was completed with distinction in 1942. His dissertation won two awards: the George Egleston Historical Prize for the best historical research of the year and the Yale English Faculty Award for the best-written dissertation of the year.

Returning to Stanford he continued his career as a brilliant teacher and productive scholar. His course in "American Foundations of Education" was the high point in graduate study for hundreds of Stanford students in the School of Education. He was able to use his historical training to develop in students lasting insights into the American educational system.

James Quillen was recognized internationally for his leadership in developing social studies programs for the schools. He was elected President of the National Council for the Social Studies in 1944 and published extensively in the field. Not only did he write professional books for social studies teachers but he authored a number of texts which are among the most widely used in the schools of America. He also developed a well-known series of maps to guide instruction in history and geography. At the same time he labored with UNESCO to improve international understanding through the teaching materials used among the nations. He had helped to establish UNESCO and served in Paris for a year in 1948-49 as a member of its Secretariat.

In 1953 James Quillen became Dean of the School of Education. The School developed rapidly under his leadership. He guided the changing program from a general service program to one specializing in teaching and research at the graduate level. As the School concentrated on graduate study, its reputation grew. In the last year of James Quillen's leadership, the School was named in a nation-wide study as first in the quality of its graduate educational research training.

In addition to the leadership he gave to the School of Education, James Quillen contributed broadly to the University. He served over the years on the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee. He devoted himself generously to the welfare of students and faculty alike.

In all his service to the University and to the schools, James Quillen was joined by his wife, Viola. She is a trained librarian and served as his devoted research assistant. And since the Quillens enjoyed people, she opened their beautiful home freely to students and faculty with warm, generous hospitality.

James Quillen never lost his dedication to scholarship, to the schools, to the University. To the end, in the face of an illness from which he knew he could not recover, he maintained a devoted concern for better education in America and among the nations.

James Quillen is survived by his wife, Viola Lewis Quillen, and his sister, Kathryn Quillen Purnell of Ocean City, Maryland.

William J. Iverson, Chairman
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