

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE RAPALL NOYES

THE DEATH of Professor George Rapall Noyes, the founder of the Department of Slavic Languages at the University of California, on May 5, 1952, means the loss not only of an eminent scholar and a pioneer in the field of Slavic studies but also of a wise and kindly friend always willing to help those in need of his advice.

Born at Cambridge, Massachusetts, April 2, 1873, Mr. Noyes spent his student days at Harvard, where he specialized in English philology and received his Ph.D. degree in 1898. It was during his graduate work at the University that he became interested in the Russian language and literature. Prompted by this interest he wended his way to Russia and attended the University of St. Petersburg, 1898–1900.

From 1901, when Professor Noyes joined the faculty of the University of California, and until the time of his death, his life had been devoted to fostering the studies of major Slavic languages.

His intellectual activity was many-sided and his contributions in his chosen field would fill several pages of bibliography (see *Slavic Studies*, Cornell University Press, 1943, pp. 230–42). As a scholar Professor Noyes has left behind a brilliant record of solid achievements; his numerous translations from all major Slavic languages, his articles and reviews appeared in many leading publications. His work on Dryden, his book on Tolstoy, a volume of representative Russian plays, a volume of poems of Adam Mickiewicz—these works have won him a well-merited recognition among the scholars in the United States and abroad.

With his translations, which were done either by himself or in collaboration with his colleagues and students, Professor Noyes performed a pioneering task and opened up to American students new horizons and paved the way for the younger scholars in the field of Slavic studies.

To the very end he kept alive a keen interest in literature and creative writing. His last work, a biography of Dositej Obradović, will appear posthumously in the University of California Series in Modern Philology.

To those of us who have come from the other shores and have a Slavic background, Professor Noyes was the embodiment of the very best cultural traditions of American democracy. His patience and perseverance, his modesty and seemingly inexhaustible energy inspired one with profound admiration. It was largely for this reason that, when Professor Noyes was chairman of the Department,

the spirit which prevailed among the colleagues was that of fellowship and cooperation.

Although restrained and reticent in manner, Professor Noyes proved to be a faithful friend, and a friend in need. During those trying years when both his colleagues were critically ill, it was Professor Noyes, who, although frail and not too well himself, never failed to visit his stricken friends and bring warmth and encouragement. His gentle spirit was reflected in the kindly twinkle of his eyes; and his silent handclasp spoke more eloquently of his sympathy and understanding than perfunctory words of indifferent callers.

Professor Noyes's passing leaves a deep void in the lives of those of us who were among his friends. To have known him and to have been associated with him has been a great privilege. He will remain for us a source of inspiration in the years to come, not only as a scholar and teacher but as a human being of moral strength and integrity.

LUDMILLA A. PATRICK