

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ALBERT LEON GUÉRARD (1880 – 1959)

Albert Leon Guérard was born in Paris, France, on November 3, 1880, and died in his home on the Stanford campus on November 13, 1959.

He was educated at the University of Paris and at the University of London and became an Agrégé at the Sorbonne in 1906. He held honorary degrees from Geneva College and from Brandeis University.

During 1904-06 he was a junior professor of literature and examiner in history at the Paris Normal School. He then came to the United States and served for a year as instructor in French at Williams College. It was in 1907 that he married Miss Wilhelmina Macartney. With his bride he came to Stanford University, and during the years 1907-13 he served as assistant and associate professor of French. He was professor of French at Rice Institute from 1913 to 1924 and at the University of California (Southern Branch), now the University of California at Los Angeles, during the following year. From 1925 to 1946 he was professor of general literature at Stanford University, serving as a member of the French and English faculties equally. He became professor emeritus in 1946. After his retirement he served in various capacities and for brief periods at Harvard, the University of Hawaii, Brandeis University, The New School for Social Research, Radcliffe College and, once again, Stanford University, where he reached his fiftieth year as a teacher.

His life was a busy one. Before his retirement he had taught during a total of eight summers at the Universities of California, Wisconsin, Chicago, Hawaii and Oregon. During World War I he served with the U. S. Army Intelligence and Liaison services; during World War II with OWI. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Delta Phi, Pi Sigma Alpha and the National Institute of Arts and Letters. He was a decorated Chevalier of the Legion of Honour (France) and received the decoration of the Crown of Rumania.

He published twenty-eight books. His additional publications, in the form of essays, reviews, and letters to the press on political issues, it would be impossible to enumerate. Two of the books were written and published in French, one was published in both French and English; the remainder were written and published in English, a language which he had acquired but which he had mastered perfectly except for one detail -- to the end of his life he retained, and doubtless by preference, a strong Parisian accent. Four of his books dealt primarily with literature; the rest with history, social ideals, and with related topics, and with literature only incidentally. His main interests lay in French history, European history, the hope of an international government and of an international language, in what he called "libertarian socialist", and in city planning, especially the planning of Paris. Four of his books formed an intellectual autobiography; these and four others were written after his retirement from his

professorship at Stanford; the day before his death he was working on an essay, and his notes were found on his desk the morning after his death.

In religion Professor Guérard was an Episcopalian; in citizenship an American; in conviction an internationalist. But he was, above all, an intellectual. He himself stated in his book Education of a Humanist: "Thinking has been my pleasure, my occupation and my dignity." This preeminence of thought in Professor Guérard's life also made him a man in the fullest, highest sense of the word. Indeed, we remember that when the French philosopher Pascal attempted to discover why man is an exceptional being, he came to the conclusion, after an anguished search, that "Toute sa dignité consiste donc dans la pensée."

Professor Guérard is survived by his wife, Wilhelmina Macartney Guérard, by his daughter, Therina (Mrs. Harold E. Pearson), and by his son, Albert J. Guérard. Mrs. Pearson and Albert J. Guérard are both graduates of Stanford and both hold Stanford doctorates, the former in medicine, and the latter in English. Mrs. Pearson's husband holds an M.D. from Stanford and is Professor of Bacteriology and Head of the Department of Public Health at the University of Southern California. Albert J. Guérard is Professor of English at Harvard and is the author of novels and critical studies. There are several grandchildren.

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