



THE SPRINGFIELDER

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IN MEMORIAM



DR. ERICH H. HEINTZEN

On Monday, September 27, 1971, Dr. Erich Heintzen entered forever the stream of the history of the Church. For thirteen years he had helped the students of Concordia Theological Seminary understand the march of God's people through the ages. Suddenly, with only a moment's notice, he became part of the chronicle.

Students and faculty will appreciate the fact that Dr. Heintzen died quickly and quietly in the midst of delivering a faculty study paper on the history of the seminary. In a style which was uniquely his own, he had kept the entire faculty spellbound with his inimitable wit and humor. We would do well to remember that his last words were typical of the gentle, yet penetrating, humor which we came to expect of him. With a heart full of love and compassion he helped us to laugh at our own foibles. He had the gift to probe with a gentle needle and to make us ask, even while we were laughing, how we could be such fools.

How do you characterize such a man? He was "exceedingly wise, fairspoken, and persuading." But how he would have hooted at such a solemn definition of his personality! He would have said: "Why don't you write that I was just me?" Our reply: "Dr. Erich, we must insist that you were just you—tender husband, exemplary father, capable scholar, scintillating lecturer, and child of God. We'll hold that definition in the memorial chambers of our hearts."

RICHARD J. SCHULTZ
President

ERICH H. HEINTZEN, Ph.D.

Born in New Orleans in 1908, and baptized into the Body of Christ, Dr. Heintzen fulfilled his commitment to enter the pastoral ministry upon his graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1932. He served as Assistant Pastor in Baltimore until 1934, and then as Pastor in Coal Valley, Illinois, from 1934 until 1941.

In 1941 he began 17 years of service as the first full-time Pastor of the University Lutheran Chapel at the University of Illinois. In 1958 he was called to teach Church History at the Springfield Seminary. He achieved the M.A. degrees at the University of Illinois while he served as campus pastor and his Ph.D. degree while at the Seminary. Through the years he rose to the rank of Full Professor and served the Seminary as a member and chairman of important committees—as chairman of the Department of Historical Studies, the Academic Policies Committee, the 125th Anniversary Committee and Editor of *The Springfielder*, the Seminary's theological journal.

Beyond the Seminary, Dr. Heintzen served both his church and his discipline. He served as a member of the Commission of Church Literature of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He was a member of the American Historical Society, Society of Church History, Concordia Historical Institute and the Lutheran Academy of Scholarship.

Dr. Heintzen is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, his sons Erich, Walter and Robert, and his daughter Caroline Tucharadt, as well as by three brothers, one sister and eight grandchildren.

The entire faculty and student body of Concordia Theological Seminary, a host of alumni in the pastoral ministry, and colleagues on the faculty of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, as well as leaders and executives of his church body mourn his passing and in steadfast faith in the power of the Resurrected Christ look forward to enjoying his gracious and faith-powered presence in the glories of eternity.

R. I. P.

REMINISCENCES ON AN EDITOR: "E. H. H."

DR. ERICH H. HEINTZEN, late professor of historical theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, was the founding editor of *The Springfielder*. At this statement the historical purists will grasp their chests in horror. Before 1959 *The Springfielder* was a combination student publication, alumni newspaper, and faculty announcement sheet. The former president of the seminary, Dr. George Beto, decided that the seminary faculty should step forth into the synodical scene for the purpose of making a theological impression. Part of Dr. Beto's overall plan was to make *The Springfielder* into a theological journal with responsibility being given to the faculty. The person chosen as the editor with the task of initiating *The Springfielder* as a theological journal was Dr. Heintzen. He served in this capacity till September 1969 and continued as associate editor of the seminary's journal till his death on September 27, 1971.

Perhaps no one but Dr. Heintzen knew the work that went into getting *The Springfielder* off the ground as a theological journal. During those ten years, he continued a normal class load without any reduction in the number of lecture hours. At the same time he did not relinquish his assignments on such faculty committees as the Academic Policy Committee and the Synod's Church Literature Board. He received all articles and prepared them for the printer. When the printer was ready, he proofread the galleys and the page proofs—without the benefit of a secretary! Working on a shoestring there were some real "goofs," but he shared with me his philosophy of never checking through the journal when the copies arrived back in the seminary mail room for envelope stuffing. Three years ago, when he threw the editor's mantle in my direction, he gave me a gentle warning about the synodical brethren who read through *The Springfielder* circling typographical errors. Dr. Heintzen mentioned that one group of men even made wagers on the number of errors that could be found. But this was all part of the game! *The Springfielder* was a home grown product and perhaps this was its saving grace.

Dr. Heintzen's labors received recognition at the Denver 1969 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. You won't find his name in any resolution. Through some type of amendment from the floor (I was not there and must rely on the reports) *The Springfielder* became an official theological journal of the Synod. The step-child had moved into the same category as the child of promise, the *Concordia Theological Monthly*, whose forebearer was Walther's *Lehre und Wehre*. Two years ago Dr. Heintzen gave up the reins of the fledgling theological journal to the undersigned. For ten years he had helped prepare other people's writings, now he wanted to con-

centrate on some of his own publications. At his death two rather long works wait for printing, an extensive study of Wilhelm Loehe, the founder of the seminary, and a history of the seminary. On the last Monday in September, the "historian" also became part of history, one more link in the 125 year old chain that help make Concordia Theological Seminary what it is today.

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