

## ELEANOR DENISON

1902 - 1969

Eleanor Denison, Director Emeritus of Scholarships and Financial Aid, died on March 1, 1969, after an illness of only a few days. Since retiring from Vassar in 1967, she had lived in Andover, Massachusetts, in order to be near a much-loved cousin and her family. Here Eleanor found herself a part-time job in a bookshop, which she greatly enjoyed. With her usual vigor and sense of community obligation, she was soon active as a volunteer in the local Red Cross Chapter, and in Christ Episcopal Church. Her letters to her friends at Vassar showed clearly that she had made a place for herself in the Andover community, and was leading a busy and happy life. Born and brought up in Brookline, Massachusetts, Eleanor graduated from Vassar in 1924. Thereafter, she was engaged always in school or college work - teaching history and Latin at Bradford Academy; Assistant to the Director of Admission, and then Acting Director of Admission at Vassar from 1927-1932; secretary to the headmistress of the Girls School at Milton Academy; and from 1937 to 1942, Headmistress of the Vail-Deane School in Elizabeth, New Jersey. For the next 19 years, she was Director of Admissions at Wells College, and in 1961, she returned to Vassar as Director of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

All that she did was marked by unselfish devotion of time and energy and meticulous attention to detail, which she herself attributed to having been a history major under Miss Lucy Salmon. During her tenure as Director of Scholarships, she was obliged to handle an increasing number of financial aid cases, and Vassar's participation in several new federal aid to education programs added new complexities to her work. She made a real contribution to the College by educating students, parents and alumnae in the philosophy and the procedures of a sound college financial aid program. A facet of her job that particularly interested her was the history of Vassar's many endowed scholarship funds. She was always delighted when she was able to find just the right student who fulfilled the conditions for receiving aid from a particular scholarship fund.

ELEANOR DENISON (continued)

Eleanor's enthusiasm, and her enjoyment of people brought her many friends of all ages. After her death her cousin wrote to a friend here: "People that I don't know stop me on the street to talk about her. I am overwhelmed by the number of people who belonged to her circle of friendship." A former member of the Wells College faculty recalls being welcomed to Aurora by Eleanor bringing a bouquet of flowers; and when his first child was born, it was Eleanor who had the college chimes played in honor of the event.

These acts were typical of the warmth, generosity, and thoughtfulness so characteristic of her, and they are part of the legacy of happy memories she has left to those of us who were her friends and associates.

Margaret M. Allardyce

Thomas J. McCormick

Vera B. Thomson, Director

Emeritus of Admission

Mary-Alice Hunter