

## GEORGE SHERMAN DICKINSON

1888 - 1964

On November 6 of this year, George Sherman Dickinson passed away in his home at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he had lived since his retirement from Vassar College in 1953. Mr. Dickinson spent the greater part of his teaching career at Vassar, where he was a member of the faculty for thirty-seven years. For twelve of these years he was Chairman of the Department of Music. Before this, he had taught for six years at the Oberlin Conservatory, where he had received the greater part of his professional training. Oberlin College conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Music on him in 1935. Mr. Dickinson was generally regarded as one of the most distinguished teachers on the Vassar faculty, and his activities during his long period of service here were manifold; many of them continue to affect the course of the work in music at Vassar in both direct and indirect ways. He was personally responsible for planning, as a whole and in detail, Skinner Hall of Music, which was finished in 1931; and time has proved the soundness as well as the constructive imagination of his planning. In addition to his teaching, Mr. Dickinson was also the Music Librarian of the College, and it is he who developed the Music Library (which is appropriately named after him) into one of the finest college libraries of music in the United States. There are thousands of Vassar alumnae who still remember him gratefully and affectionately as the professor of Music 140, a course that he developed in unusually effective ways, and which served as a model for similar courses in other colleges and universities. Mr. Dickinson was widely known for his scholarly writings in the fields of music theory, music aesthetics, and music as a subject of study in higher education. In his books and articles in these areas he revealed a first-rate mind at work, and whatever he treated was done so with originality. Like the man who wrote them, his books were keen, forthright, and incisive. He left a completed manuscript at the time of his death - A Handbook of Style in Music - which will soon be published, partly through the aid of the Salmon Fund of Vassar College. He was a man in love with books, and he had concern not only for what the book said but how the book said it; his hobby was typography, and he personally designed many of his published works.

GEORGE SHERMAN DICKINSON (continued)

Those who knew Mr. Dickinson will never forget his intelligence and forcefulness, his quick wit and humor, and the essential kindness of the man. Vassar is the richer because this devoted teacher and able scholar chose to spend the greater part of his active career here.

Carl Parrish