

RAYMOND GANO GUERNSEY

1878 - 1959

With the death of Raymond Gano Guernsey on May 19, 1959, a name long associated with the affairs of Vassar College takes an honored place in the annals of this institution. Mr. Guernsey served Vassar as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1923 to 1940. The esteem in which he was held by his colleagues on the Board is shown by the many duties they assigned to him. In 1925 he was appointed legal counsel to the College, and he continued in that capacity until the time of his death. In 1928 he was made Treasurer of the College; he filled that responsible position for 12 years. He became a member of the Executive Committee in 1925 and a member of the Committee on Investments and Finance in 1928. In addition he served shorter terms on the Committee on Grounds, the Committee on Budget, the Committee on Physical Education, the Committee on music and Musical Equipment, the Committee on Buildings, and the Sub-Committee on Expenditures.

Upon his retirement in 1940 President MacCracken said: "Our June meeting marks the termination of one of the most valued terms as trustee in the recent history of Vassar College. Mr. Raymond G. Guernsey . . . is a friend of innumerable students and of all the faculty, and with his mother and sister will always remain our most honored guest. Whether umpiring a faculty-student baseball game or wrestling over a knotty legal problem involving the relations of the college, Raymond Guernsey is always the self-forgetful and devoted friend of Vassar."

Raymond Guernsey was a native of Poughkeepsie, the son of Stephen and Marianne Hicks Guernsey. He was educated in local schools and at Yale, and was graduated from the New York Law School in 1905. After 5 years in New York he came home to join his father in the practice of law, and he continued his own practice until the time of his death. Mr. Guernsey served his church and his communities generously as he served Vassar, in a list of offices too long to enumerate here. The many tributes paid him by his fellow citizens are not down in the local press. With this minute the Trustees of Vassar College record their tribute to an honored friend and benefactor of the College.

Minutes of Executive Committee

May 25; 1959