

HOWARD D. MARSHALL

1924 - 1972

Professor Howard D. Marshall was born on April 9, 1924 in Poughkeepsie, New York. His parents were Smith and Florence Drake Marshall. He grew up in Dutchess County and attended local schools. He served in Japan and Okinawa in the United States Infantry in 1946.

Professor Marshall attended Columbia College where he received his B.A. in 1947, his M.A. in 1949, and his Ph.D; in 1954 in Economics. He came to Vassar College as an instructor in 1949 and served on the faculty continuously from that time until his death in August, 1972. During his time at Vassar he took several research leaves and spent the year 1955-56 as a Visiting Professor at Wesleyan University. He was promoted to Assistant Professor at Vassar in 1954, to Associate Professor in 1959 and became Professor in 1967. He was Chairman of the Department of Economics a number of times. In fact, there were many who thought of him as almost the permanent chairman because of his leadership of the Department. He taught a wide-ranging number of courses, and was competent in a surprising number of fields including Labor, History of Economic Thought, Money and Banking, Corporate and Government Finance and Economic Theory. His strong sense of independence kept him from ever succumbing to the "fashionable" in the academic marketplace. His high standards for academic excellence were evident in his writings and in his teaching. He provided great balance in the Department through the years, not only through his breadth of interests but also through the sense of continuity he gave even while welcoming change.

He published a large number of articles in his fields and, at the time of his death had completed five books: The Mobility of College Faculties; The Great Economists; The History of Economic Thought; Business and Government; and Collective Bargaining. Several were jointly authored with his wife, Natalie Junemann Marshall.

He was deeply committed to problems of the labor movement and particularly brought his insight to bear on the problems of education and educators. At the time of his death he was working on a study of the labor market for public school teachers.

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He was active at Vassar on a number of committees. And he was not only a staunch member of the AAUP who applied his professional interest in the mobility of college professors to the local situation, but a past president of the Vassar Chapter.

Howard Marshall was one of those rare faculty members who grew up in the Vassar area. Throughout his life he chose to maintain close contact with the community from which he came.

He was very active in the Dutchess County and Poughkeepsie community, both in a professional capacity and with respect to community organizations.

Howard Marshall's interest in and love of the community led him to a variety of undertakings. He was Chairman of the board of directors of the Hudson Valley Council on Economic Education. He was a member of the New York State Council on Economic Education. He gave a course in Business Economics for several groups at IBM and in 1955 and 1958 gave a series of lectures for the Cornell Extension Service on "Current Problems in Labor Relations." At the time of his death he was engaged in producing an index of business conditions for the local area.

Howard Marshall was actively involved with many of the business and community leaders and always encouraged the Vassar students to undertake studies of the community and to supplement their classroom knowledge with field work in local banking and investment institutions. In addition, he was the director of the Vassar-Wellesley Summer Internship Program in Washington, D. C. in 1961. This program provided an opportunity for juniors to learn about various aspects of national government by working in offices in the nation's capital. He was a well known figure in economics, and was listed in a number of directories including "Who's Who in America," "Contemporary Authors," "American Men of Science," and "Who's Who in Education."

He was a member of a number of professional organizations including the American Economic Association, Industrial Relations Research Association, and the National Tax Association.
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He was a devoted family man who gave much to his wife, Natalie, and two children, Alison and Frederick Smith. His love of congeniality and friends brought many members of the Vassar community to his home, and we will long remember friendly evenings at Howard's. He had many friends from the Poughkeepsie community at large and those of us who joined him in gatherings at his home always knew that our circle of friends would be widened as we met persons from all walks of life outside the academic community. Thus Howard served in many ways to narrow the gap between town and gown. Many of us now cherish friends we first met at Howard's home. But more than that we remember his warmth and friendliness, the good humour, kindly concern and understanding he brought to any situation, and the breadth of his knowledge as he talked with ease on many different subjects.

Howard Marshall's home, located for many years across Raymond Avenue from the Main Gate of Vassar College was an important part of the Vassar community in another way. In it, he exemplified the role of the devoted teacher-scholar in a residential college. Senior seminars, picnics for majors, parties at gradu-

ation, and gatherings after visiting lectureships were often held at the Marshalls. Here, as well as in the classroom, he imparted to generations of Vassar economics majors his values, an inner peace, a strong sense of justice, and a deep respect for life.

Perhaps the most remarkable quality which Howard Marshall had was his courage and tenacity which let none of us at Vassar know how hard it must have been for him to carry on a more than full load of teaching, advising, departmental chairman and college activities cheerfully and with no sense of anything but all the time in the world when we came to him as friends and colleagues to discuss professional or other problems. His illness never curtailed his interests, nor his zest for life. There was a heroic quality to the way he refused to come to terms with the restraining demands of his illness. For Howard Marshall insisted upon living fully to the very end of his life -- without compromise. It was a victory he won through struggles that probably few of us know.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Johnson, Chairman
John Glasse
Henry Albers
Lawrence Herbst
May 16, 1973