

MEMORIAL TO PROFESSOR ARTHUR CONSAUL WICKENDEN
THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF MIAMI UNIVERSITY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1967

Arthur Consaul Wickenden was born in Toledo, Ohio, April 24, 1893, sixth of eight children of Thomas Rogers and Ida Consaul Wickenden. After receiving his early education in Toledo, he entered Denison University in 1911, following family tradition. He was graduated from Denison University in 1915, and came to Miami University that same year as YMCA director.

He left Miami in 1917 with the 1st Division of the American Expeditionary Force to establish YMCA cantonments in France. That accomplished, he returned to this country to enlist. He went back to Europe almost immediately with the 4th Division as a sergeant in the 12th Machine Gun Battalion. He fought at Chateau Thierry and at Meuse-Argonne and was leading the battalion when wounded in action a week before the Armistice.

After release from the Army, he resumed his studies at the University of Chicago. He received a master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1920, then a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the same university in 1921. He married Ethel Frances Russell on June 30, 1921.

He remained in touch with Miami and with President Hughes through the next several years as he served as a Baptist minister in Owatonna, Minnesota, from 1921 to 1925, and at Mason City, Iowa, from 1925 to 1927. Then he was invited by President Hughes to return to Miami in 1927 to establish a Department of Religion. He remained chairman of the department which he established until September 1962, the beginning of his retirement year. He was director of campus religious activities from 1929 to 1952, and he was adviser to Miami fraternities from 1937 to 1945.

For many years he was responsible for bringing guest speakers to the campus for assembly programs. He frequently presided over those assembly programs in the absence of the president of the University. On occasion, he gave the meditation for the day himself.

A significant part of Dr. Wickenden's life was his continuing participation in Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He supervised chapters at Centre, Cincinnati, and Miami for six years as a District Chief. He had a prominent part in several of its conventions. In 1946, he set up a central clerical service which evolved into the present Beta Administrative Office on High Street. Shortly before his death, he completed the manuscript of a book bringing up to date the history of his own chapter at Denison, for its 1968 centennial.

From 1951 to 1955 the Beta magazine regularly carried a one-page meditation by Arthur Wickenden, along much the same lines as the brief talks he so often had made at Miami assembly programs. Many of these later became part of the book Time Out! which Dr. Wickenden published in 1960.

Miami students chose him "Dad of the Year" in 1962. When he was asked to deliver the baccalaureate address for June commencement of his retirement year, 1963, Miami conferred the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters upon him. Denison, having given him an Alumni Citation some years earlier, gave him the honorary degree Doctor of Divinity in 1966.

In retirement, he wrote and published through the Miami Alumni Association a biography of Miami's 13th president, Raymond M. Hughes: Leader of Men.

He also was author of Jesus and the Kingdom of God and of Youth Looks at Religion. With Eliot Porter, he was co-author of The Sabbath--for Man. He

was contributor of a chapter titled "The Director of Religious Life" in the book Religion in Higher Education, edited by M. B. Towner. He also contributed articles to Journal of Religion.

Dr. Wickenden had received the Ph. D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1931. He was a member of the National Council of the YMCA from 1939 to 1942, and again in 1944; chairman of the USO Committee of Oxford 1942-44, and president of the National Association of Biblical Instructors in 1954. His memberships included the Archaeological Institute of America, the American Association of University Professors, Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa.

Dr. and Mrs. Wickenden spent the winter of 1966-67 at a retirement community at Laguna Hills, California. They had returned to Oxford to sell their home with plans to take up residence permanently at the retirement community. He suffered a fatal heart attack June 7, 1967, while working in the rose garden of the home here.

Survivors, besides Mrs. Wickenden, include two sons, Herbert Russell Wickenden, Akron, Ohio, of Miami's Class of 1945, and Roger Consaul Wickenden, China Lake, California, of Miami's Class of 1948; a brother, three sisters and four grandchildren.

Arthur Wickenden's deep appreciation of Miami University was reflected in his selfless service to Miami across nearly six decades. Miami's debt to him results most of all from his introduction of religion as an academic subject accepted by all as a part of the curriculum of a state-supported institution. That his courses and his department were never questioned either within or from without the academic community is perhaps the greatest tribute to be made to the

unique personality of this man. Miami is the better for his having been among us, and we miss him.

Signed,

John E. Dolibois
Robert T. Howard
Harry M. Williams