

NOTED LITTERATEUR

Sir Archibald Strong

DEATH FOLLOWS STROKE

Professor Sir Archibald Strong, Jury professor of the English language and literature, died yesterday at Ru Rua Hospital, following a stroke last week. He was in his 54th year.

Sir Archibald was born in Melbourne, the son of Professor H. A. Strong, of the chair of classics in the University of Melbourne, and subsequently Professor of Latin in the University of Liverpool. Sir Archibald went to England as a child, and was educated at Sedbergh School, Liverpool University, where he was



Sir Archibald Strong

Baring prize-man in Greek, Oxford University (Exhibitioner of Magdalen College), and the University of Marburg, Germany. He also entered as a student of the Middle Temple, of which he was a member at the time of his death.

On returning to Australia in 1902, he was for several years engaged in teaching and lecturing, and eventually joined the staff of the Melbourne University as a tutor in English language and literature. Subsequently he was made Associate Professor. While at Melbourne University he graduated as a Doctor of Letters on a thesis he had written. He was president of the Melbourne Literature Society, and the Melbourne Shakespeare Society, was one of the founders of the original Melbourne Repertory Theatre, and a member of the Adelaide branch of the Royal Society of St. George.

He enlisted for military service in the Great War, but was rejected, and then he gave his services to the Federal Government in the direction of publicity work. He was also engaged in propaganda work in connection with Commonwealth war and peace loan issues. During the war he contributed largely to the press on current topics of European interest. He was appointed Commonwealth Film Censor, which position he resigned to assume the duties of Professor in the Jury Chair of English Language and Literature at the Adelaide University.

He came to Adelaide in March, 1922, Sir Archibald Strong proved to be a valuable member of the staff of the University. He published several books after his return to Australia, including two volumes of original verse, a translation of "The Ballades of Theodore de Banville," and a volume of essays on Shelley, Wordsworth, and Meredith. He also wrote a short history of English literature. He was recently in England on a year's leave of absence.

It would be impossible to over-estimate the value of the humanities in the University curriculum, and no man was a more valiant stickler for this than Sir Archibald. He had a great love for our language, and he rightly held that a study of it should be the foundation of the education of every good Englishman. Sir Archibald was steeped in Elizabethan lore, and with the aid of an exceptional memory, could quote at length from the authors of that period.

Since coming to reside in Adelaide he had taken an active part in all University and literary affairs, and his help will be sadly missed in many quarters. He had the gift of winning friendships. Adelaide will be the poorer for his passing.

Members of the Council, professors and lecturers of the University are informed that carriages will leave the University for the funeral at 3.40 p.m. and 30, Robe-terrace, Medindie, at 4 p.m. to-day, for the North-road Cemetery.

Vice-Chancellor's Regret

Deep regret was expressed by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell) at the death of his eminent colleague.

He said Sir Archibald Strong had a distinctive and charming personality which was of the greatest value to his students as well as to his colleagues. Everyone who knew him had learned to love and respect him.

The Jury Chair of the English Language and Literature, said Sir William, was established as the result of the donation of £12,000 to the University by Mrs. G. A. Jury, who desired to perpetuate the memory of her husband. Previously the chair combined History and English, and was held by Professor Henderson, who was then able to confine his attention to history. Sir Archibald Strong developed the study of the English language as well as of literature, and as the result two full-time lecturers were required. Many would remember his two extension lectures this year on the Japanese drama. He represented South Australia at the conference on education in Vancouver early last year, and made a great impression among the delegates in an address. It had been his intention during the long summer vacation to visit Christchurch, New Zealand, and deliver lectures at the invitation of the University authorities there. He recently signed a contract for the publication of a book. He was also looking forward to the publication of another work which would no doubt be put in hand later.

"Sir Archibald was the most beautiful speaker of English in Adelaide," declared Sir William. "He had a clear intonation and a sympathetic voice. His criticism was always appreciated, and he never lacked a sense of humor. It had been said that he was invariably the centre of attraction in intellectual company, those present preferring to hear him than to speak themselves."

LECTURES POSTPONED

Owing to the death of Professor Sir Archibald Strong there will be no lectures at the University to-day. The examination in chemistry I. has been postponed for a week.

The Adelaide Repertory Theatre has postponed until next Wednesday the performance arranged for to-night of "The Man With a Load of Mischief." Sir Archibald Strong was president of the Repertory Theatre.

DEATH OF SIR ARCHIBALD STRONG

"Brilliant Scholar and Good Citizen" Passes

South Australia lost one of its truly great men today, Sir Archibald Strong, M.A. (Oxon. and Liv.), Litt.D. (Melb.), professor of English at Adelaide University, author and lecturer, died in Ru Rua Hospital this morning, after a stroke on Friday.

"He was one of the most virile forces in Australian University life," said the Hon. L. L. Hill (Premier and Minister of Education).

His death is a calamity—and a loss not only to South Australia, but to the Commonwealth," declared Sir William Mitchell (vice-chancellor of the University of Adelaide).

Mr. S. Talbot Smith said that Sir Archibald was a brilliant scholar and a good citizen.

"The death of Sir Archibald Strong has removed a notable figure from the educational world of South Australia," said Mr. Hill. "He exerted a wide influence in his position at Adelaide University, and his place will be hard to fill. He was an outstanding figure in literary circles."

"I feel that I have lost a friend as well as a colleague," said Mr. S. Talbot Smith (vice-president of Adelaide Repertory Theatre, of which Sir Archibald was president).

"He was not only a brilliant scholar but

least of this distinguished scholar's services to literature was the great influence that he wielded over the younger generation, and his unflinching interest in the work of young writers."

Sir Josiah Symon, K.C., said that it was with great regret that he had learned on calling at the hospital this morning that Sir Archibald had passed away.

"The late professor," he said, "was a man of very strong and wide literary instincts, who had many remarkable literary gifts. He also was a poet of no mean order. His death is a keen loss to literature in Australia."

Born at Melbourne in 1876, Sir Archibald was a son of the late Herbert A. Strong, M.A., who was for many years professor of classics at the University of Melbourne and afterward professor of Latin at Liverpool University.

Sir Archibald received his preliminary education at Sedbergh School, after which he went to Liverpool University, where he took his Master of Arts degree. He also attended Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was an exhibitioner in classics, Marburg University, and the Middle Temple.

He was appointed lecturer in English at the University of Melbourne in 1913, and was acting professor from 1916 to 1919. In the latter year he was chief censor of cinematograph films for the Commonwealth. He was literary critic on "The Herald," Melbourne, for many years, and his book reviews were awaited eagerly by readers in all parts of Australia. In 1910 he was president of the Melbourne Literature Society and of the Melbourne Shakespeare Society in 1913.

SCHOLARLY THESIS

A scholarly thesis on literature won him his Doctor of Literature degree at Melbourne.

Three years after Sir Archibald came to Adelaide he was knighted. He took an active part in all societies for the encouragement of literature, and was popular with his students. In April last year he attended the International Education Conference in Canada. He was a great lover of the drama, and took a particular interest in the activities of the Repertory Theatre.

Sir Archibald was a bachelor, and practically his only hobby was work. He was a deep thinker and an idealist. He was widely known as an author. As early as 1905 he published "Sonnets and Songs."

Among his other works are "Nature in Meredith and Wordsworth" (1910), "Peradventure" (critical essays, 1911), translation of Banville's "Ballades," with critical essay (1913), "Sonnets of the Empire" (1915), "Australia and the War" (1916), "The Story of the Anzacs" (1917), "Poems" (1918), "A Short History of English Literature" (1921), "Three Studies in Shelley" (1921), "A New Anthology of English Verse and Prose," in collaboration with Prof. R. S. Wallace (1923).

Mr. Aylmer Strong, who is attached to the British Embassy at Warsaw, is a brother.



SIR ARCHIBALD STRONG

Jury professor of English language and literature at the University of Adelaide, who died this morning.

a good citizen," he continued. "Adelaide University did very well when it acquired him. On account of his vast experience in repertory work I asked him, as soon as he came to Adelaide, to take over the presidency of the theatre. He declined for several years, until he knew local conditions and people better. He has been a tower of strength to the movement, and I have been proud to serve under him."

Tribute to Sir Archibald's studentship which ranked high in the Empire, was paid by Mr. A. M. Bonython (president of the Poetry Society).

VERSES OF HIGH ORDER

"Sir Archibald Strong did everything in his power to forward the interests of the Poetry Society," he said. "His great knowledge, his love of the best in literature in general, and of poetry in particular, will be sadly missed in South Australia."

"His own verses were of a high order, and his volume of interpretation of Beowulf will be of undying use. Not the

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THE LATE SIR ARCHIBALD STRONG

THIS young community can ill afford to lose men of the type of Sir Archibald Strong, whose untimely death will be everywhere regretted. The wide outlook and deep culture of the Professor were felt far beyond academic circles, and were allied with a singular modesty and gentleness of disposition which did much to commend to a Philistine world the ideals of scholarship and beauty which were dear to him.

The wide humanity of Professor Strong was shown in his many interests outside the University and particularly in his zeal for the drama; he was the least Academic of Professors and the last to mistake for the world the serene air of the classroom. His published work in his own special field, particularly his translations of French

poetry, enjoyed a high fame overseas; but Australians will also remember gratefully his generous appreciation of every sign of a budding literature in our own country. His own imagination was most happily at home in the spacious days of the Elizabethans, when the study of poetry was fitly pursued in the midst of high adventure; but his love for that period was never accompanied by a scorn of the world in which he lived.

Austere in the expression of his passion for poetry, Sir Archibald Strong neither preached nor persuaded his fellows, but his life, in its single-minded devotion to its own ideals, was in itself an expression of Arnold's plea for "more sweetness and light" in our world.

Burial Of Sir Archibald Strong

Professor Sir Archibald Strong, Jury professor of the English language and literature, who died on Tuesday, was buried yesterday at the North Road Cemetery. It was a simple but impressive ceremony.

The head master of St. Peter's College (the Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth), assisted by the Rev. H. P. Finnis, officiated at the service, which was largely attended.

The Governor was represented by his private secretary (Mr. Legh Wuiser).

Among those present were the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray), the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell), Sir Langdon Bonython, Sir Douglas Mawson, Sir Henry Nowland, the Director of Education (Mr. W. J. Adey), and other members of the University Council; and Professors R. W. Chapman, McKellar Stewart, Kerr Grant, A. L. Campbell, A. K. Macbeth, C. S. Hicks, J. A. Prescott, and J. A. Fitzherbert.