

RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT
of
PROFESSOR VAN LORAN JOHNSON

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Tufts University wishes this day to mark its appreciation and respect for the long and distinguished career of Professor Van Loran Johnson of the Department of Classics at this institution.

Professor Johnson came to Tufts thirty-seven years ago, richly endowed: degrees from the University of Wisconsin, B. A., M. A., Ph.D.; degrees from Oxford University where for three years he had been a Rhodes Scholar; and finally, a year's fellowship at Berkeley. All he brought with him he has given freely and abundantly to his students and to his colleagues.

He has served the college and the university well, participating in the myriad committees which seem necessary to make them work, acting as Registrar of the School of War Service in the difficult years 1943-1946, and most notably as Chairman of the Department of Classics for seventeen years, 1952-1969. Under his strong and imaginative leadership, Tufts became one of the best known centers of classical learning in the country, its students welcome in prestigious graduate schools, its master's and doctor's candidates now upholding its good name. These are no mean feats, nor as well known as they should be, a source of pride to Tufts, and accomplished with slender resources.

Professor Johnson was the father of Tufts Overseas Programs. He took students to Cumae near Naples and showed them the physical realities behind the ancient texts, and, at the same time, he made the

experience more than a simply scholarly one, for the contact with the ancient and modern culture of Cumae and Naples, Rome and Sicily, was an extraordinary instrument in revealing to young Americans their own selves and their own culture.

Widely known and respected by fellow classicists, he has long played an active role in the local, regional, and national organizations of the classical profession, as a participant in their meetings, as an office holder, and as an editor of their journals. He also found time to compile a bibliography of over one hundred items, ranging from occasional Latin verse (Tenuis Musa, The Slender Muse), through reviews, literary criticism, translations from Greek and Latin, pedagogical articles, to a number of works on the Roman calendar, in which he is a recognized expert.

To all this wealth of activity Professor Johnson has always brought a keen, independent mind, a quiet, penetrating wit and a subtle sense of irony, the accompaniments of the complex and profoundly human personality of a man who has striven to practice the ideals of Greek and Roman thought which have been at the heart of his life's work as a teacher. At this point in a truly honorable career, the Faculty wishes him and his family well, in Minnesota where he will teach this spring, and in California where he, born in Medford, Wisconsin, having spent his career in Medford, Massachusetts, plans to settle.

Committee

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