

IN MEMORIAM

Prepared by Robert Hastings Nichols

LEON ARPEE

Leon Arpee, a member of our Society since 1915, was born on October 18, 1877, at Bardezag, Turkey, fifty miles from Istanbul, of an Armenian family. His father was pastor of an Armenian congregation in Bardezag, and later a missionary in Istanbul. The son graduated from Robert College in 1896. Moving to the United States, the family changed its name from Tchorigian to Arpee. Leon Arpee graduated from Auburn Theological Seminary in 1900. After serving churches at Albany and Monument, in Oregon, in 1902 he was ordained to the ministry by the Presbytery of Willamette. He was pastor of Presbyterian churches in Richwood, Nelsonville, Delaware, and Upper Sandusky, all in Ohio, then of the Marquette Park Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Compelled by physical weakness in 1930 to give up active ministry, he went to live in Athens, Ohio, with his sister Sirouhee, an instructor in music in Ohio University. For eight years he was stated clerk of the Presbytery of Athens.

From an early time in his ministry, Mr. Arpee studied the history and literature of Armenian Christianity, and also theology. In 1909 he published *The Armenian Awakening* and in 1932 *The Atonement in Experience*. In his limited strength after his retirement, and even in his last four years of invalidism, he continued his work on the church life of his own people. In 1944, *Church History* contained a learned article from him on medieval Armenian devotional and theological writings. In 1946, he published *A History of Armenian Christianity from the Beginning to Our Own Time* and *A Century of Armenian Protestantism*. To the end, feeble bodily, he lived in cheerful intellectual activity and Christian confidence. He died at Athens on November 24, 1947, survived by his sister and a brother.

SHIRLEY JACKSON CASE

Shirley Jackson Case was born in 1872 at Hatfield Point, New Brunswick. After graduating from Acadia University he entered the Yale Divinity School, and received the degree of Ph.D. from Yale under the direction of B. W. Bacon. Subse-

quently he studied at Marburg. Appointed in 1908 to the New Testament staff of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, he taught in this field for fifteen years. "During this period, around the first World War," writes Professor Harold R. Willoughby, "S. J. Case achieved and elaborated his characteristic social-historical perspective concerning Christian origins that was his major gift to theological thinking in America." This was stated principally in his *Evolution of Early Christianity* (1914 and later editions), and also in other works appearing in this time and afterward, *The Historicity of Jesus* (1912), *The Revelation of John* (1919), *The Social Origins of Christianity* (1923), *Jesus: A New Biography* (1927), and *Experience with the Supernatural in Early Christian Times* (1929).

For ten years from 1933 Professor Case was chairman of the church history department of the Divinity School. Under his leadership the faculty of the department was enlarged to become a group of church historians famous for its strength and influence. During the next five years he gave original and powerful direction to the Divinity School as its dean. On his retirement in 1938, a testimonial volume written by his colleagues and pupils, *Environmental Factors in Christian History*, was presented to him.

After his life in Chicago, he spent active years as dean of the School of Religion in Florida Southern College at Lakeland, where he died on December 5, 1947. Among the marks of his versatile productivity later than those already mentioned were *The Social Triumph of the Ancient Church* (1933), *Makers of Christianity from Jesus to Charlemagne* (1934), *Highways of Christian Doctrine* (1936), and *The Christian Philosophy of History* (1943).

Dean Case's abundant services to the American Society of Church History call for grateful record. A member of the Society from 1916, he was in its Council from 1917 to 1936, and was its president in 1924. He contributed many papers to its meetings and was a leader in all its affairs. He and Professor W. D. Schermerhorn were a deputation of the Society which in 1931 at the instance of Dr. John R. Mott visited theological seminaries and training schools in the Orient with a view to strengthening their teaching of church history. He is remembered as "an exemplary scholar, a superb teacher, an effective administrator, and the very kindest of friends."

JOHN COMIN

John Comin was born on May 10, 1869 at New Concord, Ohio. He had his education at Muskingum College, the University of Berlin, and Andover Theological Seminary. Ordained to the ministry in 1898, he held pastorates in Presbyterian churches at Chamberlain, South Dakota, Des Moines, Iowa, New Lincoln, Wisconsin, and Three Rivers, Michigan. For twenty-two years from 1917 he was superintendent of Presbyterian home missions in Michigan, and in 1924 was moderator of the Synod of Michigan. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In 1939 he became honorary curator of the Michigan historical collections at the University of Michigan. He was an authority on the history of the state and particularly of Presbyterianism in it. He died at Ann Arbor, where he had lived for thirty years, on December 31, 1947.

EVARTS BOUTELL GREENE

Evarts Boutell Greene, a member of our Society since 1922, was born in 1870 in Japan, the son of Daniel Crosby Greene, an eminent Christian missionary. After attending Northwestern University for three years he went to Harvard University, receiving there his B.A. in 1890 and his Ph.D. in 1893, and then spent a year in study in Germany. For twenty-nine years from 1894 he taught in the University of Illinois. As professor of history and head of the department, and as dean of the arts college, he contributed much to the strength of the institution. From 1923 to his retirement in 1939 he gave distinguished service as professor in Columbia University. His work lay chiefly in American history, and here particularly in the colonial period. Among his books were *The Provincial Governor in the English Colonies of North America* (1898), *Provincial America* (1905), and *The Revolutionary Generation, 1763-1790* (1943), in the Fox-Schlesinger *History of American Life*. He illuminated American church history by *Religion and the State in America* (1941). Professor Greene was long active in the affairs of the American Historical Association, and was its president in 1930. He died on June 24, 1947 at Croton-on-Hudson, New York, where he has spent his latter years.

DIEDRICH HINRICH KROMMINGA

Diedrich Hinrich Kromminga was born on October 20, 1879 at Oldersum bei Emden, Germany. In his childhood his parents settled on a farm in Lincoln County, Iowa. He spent seven years in Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, and attended Princeton Theological Seminary for a year. He held pastorates in the Christian Reformed Church at Bunde, Minnesota, Lafayette, Indiana, and Ackley, Iowa; taught for six years in Grundy College, Iowa; then again served as pastor at Peoria, Iowa and Grand Rapids. From 1928 to his death on May 19, 1947 he was professor of historical theology in Calvin Seminary. In his last four years he published *The Christian Reformed Tradition, A History of the Christian Church*, for high school students and laymen, and *The Millennium in the Church*, a history of Christian chiliasm.