

Each of these studies reveals a fine response to diverse literary texts, whether classical, medieval, or Renaissance. Never losing sight of the historical context, invariably William Nelson responded to the human impulse behind them, an approach he carried over into all of his activities, marking him out as a truly humane spirit. Inevitably, his death is a hard loss for all; it is especially so for a generation of students who worked with him closely on many different aspects of literary study. For them Spenser's elegiac line is particularly apt: 'The branch once dead, the budde eke needes must quail.'

Elizabeth Story Donno

Myron P. Gilmore

MYRON PIPER GILMORE was a founder member of the Renaissance Society and representative for history from 1959 to 1966; he joined the Executive Board in 1973. At the Society's annual meeting in 1978, the Council elected him Vice President (and President-elect) in recognition of his service to Renaissance scholarship. He died in Cambridge on October 27, 1978, five months before he would have begun his term as the Society's President.

The pattern of Myron Gilmore's intellectual interests was already visible in his doctoral dissertation (*The Argument from Roman Law in Political Theory, 1200–1600*, published in 1941) and in the first graduate seminars he gave when he returned to Harvard after serving in the Navy during the war: Renaissance political theory and practice (1947) and Erasmus (1948). For Erasmus he felt a special affection, and he studied him and wrote about him at regular intervals over thirty years. In 1963 he published *Humanists and Jurists*, six studies about the appearance during the Italian Renaissance of new ideas on the nature and uses of history. His Harvard lectures were among the most stimulating and popular to be heard there in the 1950's and 60's. His influential book of synthesis, *The World of Humanism* (1952), preserves much of their style and content.

Many teachers are learned, accessible, and generous to the young. Myron's special gift was to capture the imagination of his pupils, fire

their enthusiasm, and transform an incipient interest into a permanent vocation. He lured into his orbit and trained an entire generation of American historians of the Renaissance.

At I Tatti he played on a larger stage. One cannot imagine a temperament and talent more suited to directing the Harvard Center for Renaissance Studies established in Berenson's villa. His and Mrs. Gilmore's warmth, energy, hospitality, and discriminating patronage nurtured the work of an international group of young scholars. His efforts to help repair the ravages of the great flood of 1966 were indefatigable, and in that common enterprise he forged permanent links between I Tatti and the intellectual community of Florence. The University of Florence awarded him an honorary degree; the scholars who had been at I Tatti during his directorship presented him with a handsome two-volume festschrift at a ceremony in Florence in September 1978. These were not his only honors—Amherst had awarded him an honorary degree, and he was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Accademia degli Intronati of Siena—but they were honors which touched him deeply and gave him in his last years the enviable public confirmation that he had served, as he would have wished, the countries, causes, and persons he loved best.

A *Myron and Sheila Gilmore Publication Fund* has been established at I Tatti. Those who wish to make a contribution in Myron Gilmore's memory should make checks payable to 'Harvard University—Gilmore Publication Fund' and send them to Professor Walter Kaiser, 401 Boylston Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138.

Eugene F. Rice, Jr.