

were annoyed because Wilson published facts they wanted kept secret.

His steadfast refusal to do more or less conventional research increasingly set him apart from his profession. And the more he was ostracized the more he turned his attention to his own concerns and to those of his students. Unquestionably he was injured by the rejection and he did not share equally the rewards and recognition that came to other scholars and teachers. But his life had been full of personal tragedies and he covered the scars he got from ostracism as he did the wounds he got at fortune's hands.

Wilson tended to be self-deprecating about his teaching, often referring to himself as "just a school marm." And in fact he was not a rousing lecturer; his approach was low-key. He was at his best in dealing with individual students, and he made lasting impressions on a legion of them. He continued to teach them after they left Princeton in the course of a vast correspondence he carried on with numerous former students. One of those students, now a college president, has said that Wilson had "made us think. . . . He taught us by example. His stubborn intellectual integrity, his insistence on discussing essential and critical issues, his moral courage, his steadfast and unwavering adherence to some basic (even conservative) values of human rights and civil liberties had an impact on his students and friends, at Princeton and elsewhere, that is profound and enduring."

Duane Lockard  
Princeton University

### Robert Renbert Wilson

Robert Renbert Wilson, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of Political Science, died on April 29, 1975, at the age of 76. He was born in Hillsboro, Texas in 1898. He received his undergraduate degree from Austin College, which later awarded him an honorary degree, an M.A. degree from Princeton University and, in 1927, the Ph.D. degree from Harvard University. He felt that each of these institutions had made significant contributions to his academic development. Edward S. Corwin at Princeton and George Grafton Wilson at Harvard had a particularly deep influence on his subsequent career.

Robert Wilson came to the newly founded Duke University in 1925 and became the first chairman of the Department of Political Science when it was separated from the Department of Economics in 1934. He served from 1934 to 1948 as Chairman of the department and subsequently for some years as the Director of Graduate Studies in Political Science. In 1948 he also began teaching in the Duke University Law School. During this long time span, he functioned in many administrative and advisory capacities in the University. He was a visiting professor in a number of leading American universities, including Texas, Stanford and North Carolina. In 1951-52, he was a lecturer at the University of Istanbul Law School in

Turkey, an experience which he always fondly recalled.

Beginning in 1931-32, Professor Wilson served in a number of capacities in the U.S. Department of State. He later became a full-time advisor on commercial treaties in 1944-46, and a consultant from 1946-1953. During these years he was a member of a number of U.S. delegations to negotiate commercial treaties. He was, as one competent observer recalled, "the architect of the precedent-making China treaty" of 1946. He was a meticulous worker and his role as a negotiator and treaty drafter bore the imprint of these qualities.

Robert Wilson took an active interest from the beginning in the affairs of the Southern Political Science Association and the American Political Science Association and attended the various meetings with regularity. In 1940, not long after it had been organized, he was elected President of the Southern Political Science Association. In 1938-41, he was selected as a member of the Executive Council of the American Political Science Association. He was frequently requested to read and approve articles, submitted for publication by the *Journal of Politics* and the *American Political Science Review*, on which he served as a member of the Editorial Board in 1943-45. His appraisals always served to provide authors of rejected articles, particularly young authors, with detailed criticisms and suggestions which could only be viewed as constructive. But Robert Wilson's primary professional loyalties were to the associations and publications in his special field of international law. He was a member of the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law for terms in 1929-32 and 1936-39 and of the Board of Editors of the *American Journal of International Law* for many years after 1937. In this capacity, he joined in that year such scholars as Edwin M. Borchard, Clyde Eagleton, Charles G. Fenwick, Charles Cheyney Hyde and Quincy Wright. In 1954-55 he was elected Vice President and in 1957-58 President of the American Society of International Law. His professional colleagues in the international law field always viewed him with admiration and respect.

Professor Wilson's numerous writings evidence the variety of his interests during the period prior to World War II; during the World War II years, topics dealing with the law of war received primary attention. During the two decades after the war, he paid special attention to the law of commercial treaties (*International Law in Treaties* in 1949, *The United States Commercial Treaties and International Law* in 1960), "a new branch of international law" to which Professor Wilson's analysis "made an indispensable contribution" according to Professor Wolfgang Friedmann. In the late 1950s, Professor Wilson concentrated his research on legal problems involving the Commonwealth of Nations and its individual members. Under his editorship and the auspices of the Committee of the Center for Commonwealth Studies, of which he served as Chairman from 1960 to

1966, several volumes of note were published (*The International Law Standard and Commonwealth Development* in 1966, *International and Comparative Law of the Commonwealth* in 1968, and *International Law and Contemporary Commonwealth Issues* in 1971). He continued his research to the end, and his last editorial comment was submitted for publication in the *American Journal of International Law* a few days before his death.

One of his students, in appraising the foundations that undergirded the teachings and writings of Professor Wilson, concluded that:

Three stand out. One of these is humanism—the proposition that law and political science deal in the last analysis with the human individual and his problems. Another is empiricism—the proposition that deduced legal rules and hypothetical principles pass the test of human experience. But the test of human experience is not sufficient in itself. For the third and architectonic proposition concerns the function of law and that function is to serve as a standard for human conduct.

Robert Wilson was, above all, a great teacher and happily devoted endless hour to discussions with his students. Indeed, his first commitments were to his students, after those to his family and his church. They came to appreciate his depth of scholarship, his knowledge of the literature, his disdain for the superficial, his insistence upon seeking and checking the original sources, and his encouragement and respect for an independence in point of view. He aided all of his students in every way possible and followed their careers with almost the dedication of a parent. In consequence, I know of no political scientist who was held in higher esteem by his students. The Festschrift by his former students, *De lege pactorum, Essays in Honor of Robert Renberg Wilson* (1970), gives evidence of this respect and affection. As the late David R. Deener, then Provost of Tulane, concluded in his preface to that volume, "International law and political science owe many debts, then, to Professor Wilson, but ne'er so many as do his students. For his students, these essays attempt to acknowledge those debts. They also say: Pro meritis, magistro."

R. Taylor Cole  
Duke University

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The Association maintains a Registry of Retired Professors. The Registry serves as an information exchange for retired professors who wish to teach one or more courses on a one-semester or one-year basis, and those institutions desiring to make such appointments. Any retired professor wishing to be listed in the Registry should contact the Association to receive an application form. Depart-

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