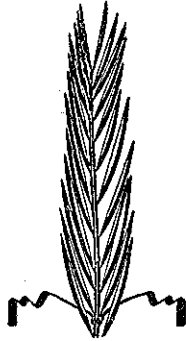


Murray Eugene Borish





In Memory of  
Murray Eugene Borish



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The College of William and Mary in Virginia  
WILLIAMSBURG

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COLLEAGUE: IN MEMORY OF M. E. B.

I.

*In war we are taught to grow used to the deaths of average people,  
The sons of mothers in distant states, young husbands from strange villages,  
Machinists, clerks, and farmers, chosen by the picture magazines,  
Young typical men, far from our daily breakfasts  
For these we grieve abstractly; we accept their deaths remotely;  
And in spite of the general sorrow, our lives are not disturbed.*

*But that the man we have loved, the meticulous kindly man,  
The specialist in our own subject, whom instinctively we turned to,  
Whom we all relied on, whose knowledge we took for granted,  
Whose smile over the filing cards his expertness gently loved  
Gave us the assurance we lacked in our own less certain exploring  
Into the past he cleaned for us, kept for us, made for us—  
That this man, this loving and learned man,  
Has performed his last act, and is lost in the anonymous sea,  
This we cannot get used to, can only with difficulty accept.*

II.

*We know nothing of what happened, or where it was or when;  
We can imagine very little of the final disastrous hour.  
And yet we know one thing: of one thing we are certain,  
Just as his own knowledge was always quietly certain.  
For if, before the last violence, there was something gentle to say,  
We who knew him, know he was sure to say it;  
And if there was anything brave to do, at the last,  
We who knew him, know it was done by him.*

THEODORE SPENCER

## *Biography and Bibliography*



Murray Eugene Borish was born in Philadelphia on December 18, 1903. In 1921 he entered Harvard University. He took his A.B. degree there in 1925, his A.M. in 1926, his Ph.D. in 1931. He was awarded a Traveling Fellowship by Harvard University, and spent the year of 1931-32 in Europe. Though he traveled in France and Germany, he spent most of the year in England, engaged in research at the British Museum and at the Public Records Office.

He was instructor in English at the University of Missouri from 1926 to 1928, and an Assistant in the Department of English at Harvard University from 1932 to 1935.

In 1935, he married Elizabeth Perkins, of Chicago.

He was appointed Assistant Professor of English at the College of William and Mary in 1935, and was made Associate Professor in 1939.

At the College of William and Mary, he was elected by the Faculty to its Nominating Committee, and to its Special Ad-

visory Committee for Conference with the Board of Visitors. He was appointed Chairman of the Library Committee by the President of the College. For two years, he served as Secretary of the local chapter of the Association of American University Professors; in 1940-41, he was President of the Chapter. In 1941, he became a member of the Staff of Student Counselors.

The following is a list of his published writings:

"HOLLAND'S LIVY (1600) AND THE 1686 VERSION,"

*Modern Language Notes*, XLVIII (1934), 457-59; with  
W. R. Richardson.

"JOHN DAY'S 'HUMOR OUT OF BREATH',"

*Harvard Studies and Notes*, XVI (1934), 1-11.

A MAPBOOK OF ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Henry Holt and Company, 1936. With J. D. Briscoe  
and R. L. Sharp.

"SOURCE AND INTENTION OF 'THE FOUR ELEMENTS',"

*Studies in Philology*, XXXV (1938), 149-63.

"JOHN DAY'S 'PEREGRINATIO SCHOLASTICA',"

*Modern Language Notes*, LV (1940), 35-39.

"TRANSLATIONS FROM FRENCH INTO ENGLISH, 1660-1800," AND

"TRANSLATIONS FROM ITALIAN INTO ENGLISH, 1660-1800,"

*The Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature.*

The Macmillan Company, 1940.

## *Appreciation*



In the fall of 1942, Murray Eugene Borish took leave of absence from the College of William and Mary in order to enter the United States Army Intelligence. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in November, and left Williamsburg at once for special training. After a very few weeks in camp, he was assigned to foreign duty. In May, 1943, the War Department announced that he had been missing in the North Atlantic since January.

The announcement meant to his colleagues that the College had lost one of its most valuable members. During his seven years as member of the Department of English, he had established for himself an inalienable place as scholar, as teacher, and as participant in the whole academic life of the community. He had cultivated the life of the mind with singular devotion and intensity.

When War came, it was inevitable that he should seek a part in it. For devotion and intensity characterized his attitude toward whatever he believed was good. He believed in the ne-



cessity for intellectual freedom; and, inescapably, he believed in the necessity for economic and political freedom. Even in his most academic years, he was never apart from the battle for these freedoms; he contributed to it as he could. The opportunity to become a soldier meant to him an opportunity for full dedication to the cause he had always served.

He will be remembered at William and Mary for his distinguished scholarship and his distinguished teaching. In both, he was equally remarkable for his scrupulousness and for his range. He was a philologist and linguist, familiar with primitive, classical, and modern tongues. His special field in literature was Elizabethan drama, and he had worked for years toward a definitive bibliography of sixteenth-century plays. But he seemed equally at home in medieval and in contemporary literature, in continental literature and American. He was, further, a serious student of philosophy and the fine arts, of economics and politics.

In the classroom and out, he was the foe of facile generalization, of placid superficiality. His very presence was astringent to less firm-minded associates. His modesty and his fear of pretentiousness made him chary of publication; so the list of his

writings is no index of his capacity. His prose is reluctant, hard, and unadorned, revealing some of his attributes and concealing others. It gives no hint of the warmth with which he participated in discussions where point of fact or point of value was at issue.

He will be remembered at William and Mary for his disinterested generosity. His intellectuality did not repel people; it attracted them. Students and colleagues sought him out not only for his learning, but also for his ardor, his assurance, his clarity. The Faculty trusted his sturdy, unqualified devotion to any duty he undertook: it relied upon his independence of spirit, his superiority to expediency or pressure. Students trusted him as friend and as counselor. Since the extent of his liberality was matched by his reticence, it will never be possible to compute the indebtednesses which survive him.

CHARLES T. HARRISON

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