

rebus)—while his counsel was ever sought, particularly by those of us seeking the meaning of the historical complexities of our profession and the boundaries of our discipline—and that, for instance, he had an apparent satisfaction in the tedious chore of translating and abstracting to fill the greater part of his revived department in the *American Archivist* attested not so much to an acceptance of his particular situation as to a readiness, even an eagerness, to serve the lowliest of us.

When I heard that he had died, unexpectedly, on October 7, my mind was filled with all of the thoughts I have expressed above—but not immediately. My first thought, rather, was of his devotion: as a man bereft by the untimely death of his wife who for more than a quarter of a century was preoccupied with bringing up, with love and with self-sacrifice, his only son, now established in his own career. The visible pursuit—as classical scholar, teacher, archivist, diplomat, editor, and librarian, with Ohio State University, George Washington University, the Historical Records Survey, the United States Military Government in Germany, Unesco, the International Council on Archives, the American Embassy in Manila, and the Library of Congress—productive and meaningful though it was, must be seen, as undoubtedly it was seen in his own mind, as secondary to his role as a father. Many who thought they knew him well never saw, beneath an innate dignity often misinterpreted as stiffness, the man himself.

KEN MUNDEN
American Film Institute

CHRISTOPHER CRITTENDEN
1902–1969

Christopher Crittenden was an active founding member of the Society of American Archivists in 1936, and he became one of its most prominent and beloved leaders. The Society's loss in his death is greater than perceived by most present members. Dr. Crittenden was a Council Member for 7 years, vice president for 1 year, and president from 1947 to 1949. He was one of the first group of Fellows of the Society, named in 1958. His career spanned the years in which the profession grew from a scattering of substantial institutions, among which North Carolina was already outstanding, to a well-established body with an active professional organization. His own contribution to this development was notable.

In his presidential address, "The Archivist as a Public Servant," (in *American Archivist*, 12:3–8; Jan. 1949), Dr. Crittenden recognized that although governmental archivists had for the most part been educated to do research in history, they had to adapt themselves to the concept of an archives as an agency of government, with a wide range of duties. He was "not in the least perturbed" by new developments, including the administration of records in the creating agencies. He felt that these new phases gave us an opportunity to enlarge and to broaden our services and our professional standing.

In this address Dr. Crittenden proposed that the Society establish a long-range planning committee, and he soon became the committee's chairman. He was an assiduous worker for the Society and a valued friend to all who knew him.

His leadership in the historical field was also seen on a national scale in the American Association for State and Local History. He was the last chairman of the Conference of Historical Societies, and when that body transformed itself into the Association in 1940, Dr. Crittenden was elected its first president. After it became an important national body, the Association in 1963 voted him its first Award of Distinction.

His colleagues throughout the country recognized the devotion that North Carolinians had for him, prompting one editorial writer to say that he had probably done more for the preservation of North Carolina history than any other person. He came to that work with the best of professional standards. After earning an A.B. and M.A. from Wake Forest College he obtained his Ph. D. from Yale University. He taught at Yale, 1924-25, and at the University of North Carolina, 1926-35. His many publications included a book, *The Commerce of North Carolina, 1763-1789*, and in 1944 he compiled a volume, *Historical Societies in the United States and Canada, a Handbook*. He was also editor of the *North Carolina Historical Review* until his death.

Dr. Crittenden was appointed director of what was soon to become the North Carolina Department of Archives and History in 1935, and this was his main activity until his death, although he retired formally in 1968. Under his leadership the Department fulfilled his ideal of public service and became one of the leading State agencies in the country. Early in his years at Raleigh he guided two important listings of sources as the State's head of the Historical Records Survey and the Survey of Federal Archives. He was on loan to the National Archives as Assistant Director of the World War II History Project, 1946-47. As the Department of Archives and History grew, he voiced for many years his dream of a new building, which was finally realized, as a result of his leadership of a long and carefully planned campaign, only a few months before his death.

Dr. Crittenden's scholarly traits did not prevent his encouraging the historical interests of school children and the general public. He was proud of the Hall of History, an exhibit area that gives children, particularly, a visual portrayal of the State's past; he was active in producing an outstanding historical marker program so that the public could appreciate the historical importance of the places they visited. He took part in many organizations and meetings in which he personally told of North Carolina's history and made it live.

Christopher Crittenden manifested an unusually fine combination of knowledge, judgment, determination, and a leveling sense of humor that deflated the pompous and brightened the weary. He had a broad vision of the appreciation of history not as an abstract study but as something of and for real people, with real places, and real events. Few of our group have served the fields of archives and history, and their fellow man, more effectively.

PHILIP C. BROOKS
Harry S. Truman Library