

TRUSTEE HENRY M. ROBINSON DIES

On November third, death came to Henry M. Robinson, 69, famed banker, philanthropist, and adviser to Presidents.

The story of his life is a fascinating one, ranging from the economic development of Southern California to the peace conference at Geneva. Born in 1868 in Ravenna, Ohio, he attended Cornell and then practiced law in Youngstown. During the formation of United States Steel Corporation by the Morgan interests, Mr. Robinson was so successful in conducting merger negotiations that at the age of 39 he was able to retire a wealthy man.

It may be said that his retirement was but the beginning of his real service to humanity. For many years he was chairman of the board of directors of the Huntington Library and Art Gallery. He was also chairman of the board of the Huntington Memorial Hospital now being established in Pasadena.

Mr. Robinson, always interested in education, was for many years a trustee of the California Institute of Technology, Vice-President of its Board and a member of its Executive Council. It is to him that our scientific school owes much of its present eminent position, for his keen judgment and financial guidance have been of inestimable value in the development of the California Institute.

Mr. Robinson exerted a very vital influence in the decision to go ahead with the new 200-inch telescope project at the California Institute of Technology when the Rockefeller group had agreed to be responsible for the construction of that enterprise if the Institute would become responsible for its operation when erected. At the time of his death, Mr. Robinson was the only layman serving on the Observatory Council of the Institute, which has charge of the 200-inch telescope project. He had been a very interested and active member of this Council from its inception.

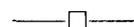
In business, Mr. Robinson was exceedingly active and his interests were widespread. He played an important part in the building of the Southern California Edison Company, the Union Oil Company and the California Redwood industry, and was also engaged in the merger that created the present Southern California Telephone Company. In the 1920's he became President of the First National Bank of Los Angeles, which later merged to become part of the present Security-First National Bank, of which he was Chairman of the Board of Directors at the time of his death.

Mr. Robinson was an officer of the French Legion of Honor, a Commander of the Crown of Belgium, an officer of the Crown of Italy, and a persona grata with the nations of Europe because of his outstanding work at the Peace Conference, at the Spa, and at Geneva. He was named by President Coolidge as the only joint member of the two American committees that set up the so-called "Dawes Plan."

He served on many other international and national committees such as the International Chamber of Commerce, the National Drought Relief Commission, and President Hoover's Organization on Unemployment Relief.

At the time of his death, he was Chairman of the Board of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company and of the Security-First National Bank, and was a director of the General Electric Company, the Union Oil Company of California, the Southern California Edison Company and the Pacific Lumber Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Robinson have presented the California Institute with the Charles Arms Laboratory of Geological Sciences now being erected on the campus. In his will Mr. Robinson left an additional \$50,000 as an endowment for Physics. Also, after certain other bequests, the balance of the residue of the estate at Mrs. Robinson's death has been given to the California Institute for the maintenance and operation of the 200-inch telescope at Palomar.



A TRIBUTE BY DR. MILLIKAN

No more staggering blow could come to this whole community than the loss of Henry M. Robinson. He has been an altogether outstanding factor in its development in a great number of directions. I have never known a man who combined so conspicuously soundness of judgment with disinterestedness of purpose and complete devotion to public service. His scholarly, painstaking approach to all his problems; his understanding of human motives, his grasp of the fundamental elements of our social problems, his statesmanship in handling exceedingly difficult situations, his poise, integrity, and his greatness of soul, were all so extraordinary that there are very few men in the United States who could be called his peers. I saw him throughout the war rise by the sheer weight of his intelligence and character from a position of insignificance in public affairs to one of commanding importance in the councils of the nation; but despite the weightiness of his responsibilities and the difficulties with which he was all the time struggling, I never found him unwilling to lend an ear to and give sound judgment upon my smaller problems and perplexities. Without his guiding hand, the development of the California Institute of Technology to its present position would have been completely impossible. But this is only one of a group of public institutions which bore a similar relationship to him. The world suffers from his loss more seriously and more fundamentally than from the loss of any man that I have ever known.

—Robert A. Millikan.