

Ruth J. Scott

July 23, 1893 — May 1, 1972

Ruth J. Scott came to Cornell University to serve as a clothing specialist in home economics in 1922, following graduation from Teachers College, Columbia University. The next year she became an instructor in the resident program of the School of Home Economics that was then within the College of Agriculture. Soon after Home Economics was organized as a separate college with departments, Miss Scott was promoted to assistant professor in the Department of Textiles and Clothing. She was later promoted to associate professor. On July 1, 1953, she retired after thirty-one years of service to the College and the University and was named professor of textiles and clothing, emeritus, leaving a legacy of creative and organizational skills that her colleagues appreciated with increasing awareness as time went on.

Ruth Scott will be remembered most for her special talents that contributed to the making of a strong Department of Textiles and Clothing. Her creative ability in apparel design was a motivating force for many students working to further their personal and professional development. Her exceptional understanding of the creative process, coupled with her teaching ability, resulted in experiences for her students that were in advance of traditional educational programs.

To enrich her own professional background she followed the recommended program of study esteemed by the educational leaders of the day. She studied art, specializing in fashion design in various art schools including The Academie de Coupe de Paris, and she did graduate work at Columbia University.

Professor Scott was one of the first in the department to successfully engage in an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving. She and Professor Marie Fowler, head of the Department of Family Life, collaborated in studies on the role of clothing in a child's development. Observations of children in the Cornell laboratory nursery school and estimation of children's clothing needs and design characteristics led to Miss Scott's using innovative ideas in clothing prototypes for children of nursery school age.

During the period when she was studying nursery school children, Ruth Scott attended the first White House Conference on Child Health and Protection (1930). She was the author of *Clothing for Children*, extension bulletin 328, published in 1935. Written for consumers, it offered information about styles of children's clothing that might aid in the physical, mental, and emotional growth of the child. Many of the concepts regarding children's clothing

developed by Miss Scott with the aid of Miss Fowler are still sound today. Their work has provided guidelines for recent studies undertaken in the Department.

Ruth Scott was one of a group of dedicated faculty members who gave of themselves unsparingly for the development of the College of Home Economics that was to become known nationally and internationally as a place where young people of proved intellectual ability could receive higher education of the finest quality. Perhaps her greatest satisfaction came from the knowledge that she could point with pride to many graduates who had gained economic and personal independence and had contributed vastly to the welfare of families. In large measure this was due to the dedicated efforts of Professor Scott and others on the faculty who were her contemporaries.

Born in Vicksburg, Michigan, Ruth was the eldest of a large family of children. Her dentist father died young and she spent years helping to put the younger children through college. She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Dorothy Horst and Frances Scott, both of 295 Panoramic Highway, Mill Valley, California 94941

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