

# Max Adams Shepard

*May 8, 1907 — June 28, 1939*

Max Adams Shepard, assistant professor of Government, was killed in an automobile accident on June 28, 1939. At the time of his death he was thirty-two years of age.

The son of distinguished parents, Max Shepard may well have derived his ability as a student of government from his father, Walter James Shepard, an outstanding political scientist who was for some years dean of the college of arts and sciences of the Ohio State University. After completing his undergraduate work at that university Professor Shepard entered the graduate school of Harvard University, where he received the degree of doctor of philosophy and remained to serve as fellow and tutor. Even at this early state he showed wide knowledge of his chosen subject, the theory of law and government, and unusual power as a critical thinker. He won general recognition as one of the best young scholars in his field upon the appearance of his first essays and articles; notably a study entitled *William Occam and the Higher Law*, and a discussion of the political and constitutional theory of Sir John Fortescue, which was printed among the *Essays in Honor of Charles Howard McIlwain*.

On coming to Cornell in 1935 Professor Shepard took up a full program of teaching in the department of Government, specializing in the exposition and criticism of the more recent theories of politics and law. He was a lively, provocative teacher, so successful in stimulating thought among his students that many a discussion begun in the classroom was continued in his office and even adjourned to the luncheon or supper table. On the campus Professor Shepard was rarely alone.

The fertility of suggestion and good humor which he carried into teaching also marked Professor Shepard's participation in committee work and discussion with his colleagues. By temperament he was an experimenter and liberal reformer in matters affecting educational method. Like his father he took keen interest in university administration. His help was a prime cause of the introduction and success of the co-operative seminar established in 1938 for students majoring in Government, Economics, Philosophy, and History. He had an active part in preparing the first syllabus for a general introductory course in the Social Studies.

No mere recital of achievements can convey the sense of loss which his students and colleagues have suffered. For them it is not so much that a career full of promise has been cut short as that a lively, warm-hearted friend has vanished.