

John William Hebel

Professor of English

April 1, 1891 — February 7, 1934

John William Hebel was born in Auburn, Indiana, April 1, 1891. He graduated from the University of Indiana in 1912, and received his Doctor's degree at Cornell in 1920. He had also studied at the University of Jena in 1910, and at the Sorbonne in 1919.

When the United States entered the World War, he enlisted as a private in the 151st Infantry of the National Guard. He attained the rank of Captain, served in various Divisions, went to France with the American Expeditionary Force and, after the Armistice, to Germany with the Army of Occupation.

Beginning as Instructor of English at Cornell in 1914, he became Professor of English in 1929.

His great interest was in English poetry, particularly that of the spacious times of Elizabeth and of the Seventeenth Century. He edited Drayton's *Endymion and Phoebe*, 1915; and (with Hoyt Hudson), *Poetry of the English Renaissance*, 1929; John Donne's *Biathanatos*, 1930. His finest and most scholarly work was an edition in five volumes of *The Works of Michael Drayton* which he prepared for the Shakespeare Head Press in England. Of this four volumes have been published and have established Professor Hebel's reputation as a scholar both in England and America. His future held great promise.

His loss to the University is both professional and personal. He was an allround man, a scholar without being a pedant. He loved life, and he knew how to make wise use of its good things. It was because of this combination of humanness and true scholarship that he was a fine teacher. Students found in him a man helpful and sympathetic; one who made them feel that literature was not a mere dust of words but a thing vital, joyous, inspiring. Hence his large following, and his effectiveness as a teacher.

Although burdened with his own work he was never too busy to give time to his Department and to committees of the Arts College and the University. In all this his energy, his geniality, and his sanity made his opinions valuable and his influence great.

This work outside his Department made him known to men in his own and other colleges, and whoever knew him became his friend.

In his passing the University has lost an able and lovable figure. As Professor Hebel he will be greatly missed in the world of scholarship and in this institution. But it is Bill Hebel whom those who knew him will chiefly mourn.

Source: Fac. Records, p. 1831 Resolutions of the Trustees and Faculty of Cornell University, April, Nineteen Hundred And Thirty-Four