

In Memoriam

Wilbur G. Gaffney (1906-1986)

Wilbur Gaffney, Professor of English, University of Nebraska - Lincoln and a long-time member of the American Name Society, died in February, 1986, after a short illness. Professor Gaffney received his B.A. from Nebraska in 1927, his M.A. in 1928, and a B.S. in Library Science from Columbia University in 1933; he held a teaching fellowship at New York University in 1929 and 1930. From 1933 until 1945 he worked in publishing and editing outside the academy, joining the faculty of the University of Nebraska in 1949. He edited *Twelve Hundred Years: the Literature of England* (1949), and published many articles and poems; but he was especially well known among his colleagues and successive generations of students as a superb teacher of writing. He received a Distinguished Teaching Award in 1974, and later endowed the Department of English award program in expository writing.

For *Names* he wrote "Mark Twain's 'Duke' and 'Dauphin'" [14.175-8]; reviews of *Our Names* and *The Book of Place-Names* [9.138-43]; "Tell Me Your Name and Your Business: or, Some Considerations upon the Purposeful Naming of Children" [19.34-42]; and "Gaffney's Law" [9.109-10]. He also served the Society as a regional secretary and in other capacities. His papers read at annual meetings were usually reprinted in newspapers and widely publicized. He maintained a lifelong interest in the study of names.