

In Memoriam

Erwin G. Gudde

Dr. Erwin G. Gudde, associate professor of German emeritus at the University of California at Berkeley, a founder of the American Name Society and first editor of *Names*, died at the age of 80 on May 7, 1969 in Oakland, California. Dr. Gudde received his doctorate from Berkeley in 1922 and remained on the faculty until his retirement in 1956.

His career as an onomatologist began in 1943 when he was invited to write a volume on California place-names by the University of California Press. Of this place-name study, he wrote, "I have never felt the satisfaction of creative scholarship more keenly than in those years. It was a great pleasure for me that the book was generally well received." Twenty years later he and Mrs. Gudde were to be honored with the University of California's Centennial Award "for distinguished achievements and notable service to the University," mainly for this and other work in California history.

He was editor of *Names* from its beginning in 1953 until 1956; at the time of his death he had just completed a book on California gold camps and his work on California place-names was undergoing its third printing. His other published works are numerous and extend over the areas of literary criticism, philology, onomatology and folklore.

In a self-portrait, "Vita Nostra Brevis Est," (*Names*: 7.1, March, 1959), written on his seventieth birthday, Dr. Gudde stated, ". . . my life like that of all my fellow human beings has been brief, too brief to comprehend and enjoy it in all its fascinating aspects and forms. Yet I have lived it intensely and happily, and I have made at least some use of my modest talents. . . . From my study I look over centuries-old oaks, over acacias and pines, ceanothus and Fremontia which I once started from seed; I see the hills and dales of one of California's beautiful broad valleys. When this picture some day will fade I hope I shall leave the world with this thought in my mind:

You happy eyes!
Wherever you were,
Whatever you saw -
It was bonny and fair."