



Harry J. Carman
1884-1964

A Tribute to Dean Carman

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only a few Woodrow Wilson Fellows. He talked with faculty, lunched with department heads, and encouraged and challenged them to get more of their students interested. The next year the City Colleges won two or three times as many fellowships. In 1965 we were proud to have thirty and to be fourth in the country in number of awards. This illustrates the way in which his enthusiasm and knowledge of the academic world helped to bring the city colleges into the main stream of education.

What did he mean to the rest of the city and to the country? Harry Carman was awarded honorary degrees by seventeen colleges. He was a trustee of eight different institutions and a member of the boards of innumerable charitable, educational, and labor groups. But the unusual thing about this busy man was that he did more than lend his name to these organizations. He worked for them actively. Much of the credit for the way in which he was able to use his time, even up to a few weeks before his death, should go to his wife Margaret Carman, who acted as his secretary and untangled a formidable engagement calendar, briefed him, kept his commitments running smoothly, yet could always find a free hour for him to answer an emergency call for help, or to counsel a young student, or advise a troubled faculty member.

An editorial in the *New York Times* of December 28, 1964, summarizes very well the rich life of the man whose name will be given to Harry J. Carman Hall.

It will be hard for many to believe that Harry J. Carman, that seemingly inexhaustible fount of creative vitality, enthusiasm and wisdom, is dead. At Columbia College, which he served so long as professor and then dean, he will be remembered as a great teacher and innovator. Historians will mourn the passing of a pioneer in evolving present attitudes toward American history. In wider fields, he contributed enormously to many and diverse educational areas, including the growth and development of this city's municipal university and the introduction of imaginative programs for enriching the lives of union members and educating them in civic responsibility. But those who knew him personally will revere him primarily for the warmth of his personality, the generosity of his friendship and the goodwill and good sense he brought to the solution of every problem.

At its April meeting the Board of Higher Education, at the request of the Hunter College Faculty, voted to name the new classroom building on the Bronx Campus "Harry J. Carman Hall." A paragraph from the resolution of the Faculty Council was especially moving:

Dr. Carman's devotion to Hunter and to all of the colleges of the City University earned for him the admiration of faculty members generally, and the warm personal friendship of many among us; and

We earnestly desire to keep ever in our memories and in the minds of those who come after us the recollection of this good, gentle, and liberal man and of the values by which he lived.

Harry Carman served on the Board of Higher Education for twenty-seven years, many of them as chairman of the Hunter College committee. He brought to the Board contact with the academic life of the nation. There were few administrators or professors over the country whom he didn't know and count as warm friends. His influence raised our educational thinking from purely local and city considerations to the broader intellectual life of the university world. Dr. Carman became the Board's chief reliance in searching for new presidents and among others to whom he called our attention were George Shuster, Harry Gideonse and Buell Gallagher. A number of years ago when he became a National Representative of the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation he was disturbed because he felt that our faculties were not fully aware of the possibilities of helping students to win these sought after fellowships which provided a year of graduate study for young people expecting to become college teachers. That year we had