

**Clinton Rossiter.** With the passing of Clinton Rossiter on July 10, 1970, the academic calling lost a distinguished and dedicated servant. A member of the faculty of Cornell University since 1946, and from 1959 the holder of its John L. Senior Chair in American Institutions, his death at the age of 52 brought to a close a life of extraordinary achievement.

As none of us need reminding, his intellectual contributions were conjoined with a literary craftsmanship that carried his ideas to a wide and admiring audience. Significantly, this reputation never diminished his stature in the world of serious scholarship. Thus while more than a million copies of *The American Presidency* were sold in drugstores and supermarkets, the American Historical Association awarded him its coveted Bancroft Prize for *The Seedtime of the Republic*. And if editors, publishers, and producers continually called upon him for articles, interviews, and television appearances, his peers in the American Political Science Association twice elected him to their Executive Council.

The very subjects of Clinton Rossiter's books testify to his breadth of knowledge and catholicity of interests. Among his nine published volumes were a biography of Alexander Hamilton, studies of the Constitutional Convention and American political parties, and analyses of Marxist and conservative thought. It was not surprising that a worldwide community sought his gifts of interpretation and analysis. Clinton Rossiter visited more than 200 academic centers within this country, as prepared to speak at a small black college in the South as to deliver the Walgreen Lectures for the University of Chicago. In the same spirit, he accepted invitations to institutions on every overseas continent, ranging from an afternoon at an obscure Indian university, to six weeks in the Soviet Union, and a year as Pitt Professor of American History at Cambridge University.

Clinton Rossiter would be the first to agree that he was a scholar of an older school. His approach to politics was founded on an understanding of history, with his greatest emphasis on the interplay of ideas. He had the courage to speculate on the serious issues of our own and earlier times. And as a superb intellectual craftsman, he realized a writer's obligation to express judgments despite insufficiencies of evidence, and preferring the power of prose to more schematized modes of expression. At the same time, Clinton Rossiter

was very much a political scientist, participating in the activities of the profession and in touch with developments inside the discipline. But his greatest strength was that he saw political science as a liberal art, indeed as central to the heritage of humane letters. This was his metier, and this was where he excelled. However his passing should not be signalled as the end of an era. The path he travelled will remain an enduring orientation to man's knowledge of himself and his universe. Coming generations of scholars will remember Clinton Rossiter, and many will carry on in the tradition he so eminently represented.

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