



SAMUEL HAZZARD CROSS
July 1, 1891—October 14, 1946

IN MEMORIAM

Samuel Hazzard Cross

DEATH always leaves emptiness, but some deaths leave a vacuum that can never be filled. Such was the death of Professor Samuel Hazzard Cross, our Managing Editor, which occurred suddenly following a heart attack on October 14, 1946. He died in his 56th year.

Dr. Cross was not only an outstanding Slavic scholar and eminent educator, but also a person possessing an unusual breadth of understanding. Having devoted his life to the promotion of Slavic studies in the United States, he brought to the chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, which he had occupied since 1931, the fruits of his long experience and the warmth of his generous heart. At the time of his death he was the only one among American-born Slavists who had known pre-revolutionary Russia where he spent a whole year in 1913–1914 as a special student at the University of St. Petersburg (Leningrad). This experience gave Dr. Cross an invaluable perspective in evaluating the progress of the Soviet Union which so many of our younger scholars are unfortunately lacking.

The multi-faceted talents of Professor Cross made him an authority not only in matters Russian but in those of the entire Slavic field. In addition he was a classical scholar and a mediaevalist of note, translator and annotator of the *Russian Primary Chronicle*, and Managing Editor of *Speculum*, the learned journal of the Mediaeval Academy of America. Furthermore he was a German scholar of great eminence occupying the position of Chairman of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature at Harvard University from 1935 to 1939. Prior to his devoting himself entirely to academic and scholarly work, Dr. Cross had a practical experience in economics, having served as Trade Commissioner and Commercial Attache at Brussels and The Hague. But above all he was a vigorous promoter of the understanding and better relations between the Slavic and the Western Worlds.

At the time when *The Slavonic and East European Review* could not continue publication in England because of the exigencies of war, Professor Cross was elected the first Managing Editor of the American Series of this Review and he continued in this capacity when the Review resumed publication in England and *The American Slavic and East European Review* was born.

As one who has been closely associated with his work during the last four years and who has been the recipient of his warm and unwavering friendship, I want to end this inadequate tribute to a great scholar, a great educator, and a great man by a solemn promise, in which I am sure all those who knew him will join me, that his never-ending labors in promoting and advancing Slavic Studies in America for a better world understanding will not have been in vain and that we shall continue them to the best of our ability guided by his memory and inspiration.

Leonid I. Strakhovsky.