Edmund L. Freeman to be honored at academic festival

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Montana State University will be the scene of an academic festival from April 1 through April 8, featuring an eminent literary figure and honoring a professor of English for 40 years’ service to the University.

The professor to be honored in this novel fashion is Edmund L. Freeman. The literary critic and Harvard professor who will join Prof. Freeman's colleagues in their tribute to him is I. A. Richards. Prof. Richards will climax his participation in the festival with a public address April 8, according to Dr. Vedder M. Gilbert, chairman of the MSU English Department.

Prof. Freeman was born in Missouri. He took his bachelor's degree in English and mathematics at Missouri Wesleyan and his master's degree in English at Northwestern University. He studied for a time at California University and in 1928-29 was a fellow at King's College, University of London.

He joined the Montana faculty in 1919 after two years' war service. In 1917 he served with the British Y.M.C.A. in Ireland and England; in 1918 he returned to the United States and earned an ensign's commission in the U. S. Naval Air Service.

In his 40 years at MSU, Prof. Freeman has discharged many important committee assignments, including the chairmanship of the Budget and Finance Committee. He was the first president of the University's teachers union, and he is a past president of the Authors Club and the MSU chapter of the American Association of University Professors. He coached debate for four years and has given his time and talents to other student causes as well as to civic and state enterprises.

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He has made signal contributions as a scholar as well as a citizen. His primary academic interest is in 17th-century English literature, and he has published many articles on Baconian influence on English literature and other literary subjects. He is co-author of two anthologies of prose, published by Harper's. He has also made an intensive study of the history of the idea of war in English literature from the Renaissance to the present.

With all his research activity, Prof. Freeman remains foremost a teacher. He has imbued generations of MSU students with his own love of English literature, thereby adding an extra dimension to the lives of countless men and women.

Despite the demands of teaching and research on Prof. Freeman's time, he has often stepped down from the ivory tower to take an active part in organizations concerned with betterment of social and economic conditions. He has been consistently a man of unequivocal commitment to his convictions - and, perhaps, it is this quality more than any other that has earned him the affection and respect that prompted the forthcoming celebration in his honor.

Prof. Freeman has never sent to know for whom the bell tolls; he has never made a secret of his involvement with mankind. And wherever this involvement leads, Edmund Freeman always stands up to be counted.

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