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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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H.G. MERRIAM WRITES  
HISTORY OF UM

MISSOULA--

Dr. H.G. Merriam, former chairman of the University of Montana English department and presently a part-time lecturer at UM, has written the first book-length history of the University, from the time of its opening in 1895 through 1969.

The book, entitled "The University of Montana: A History," is available at the UM Bookstore in paperback for \$3.95 and will be available in hard-bound copies by Homecoming time, Oct. 29-Nov. 1.

"The UM has a turbulent history," Dr. Merriam said. "It's a very difficult one to write and maintain honesty. No man can write an objective history, but I tried to be fair."

Dr. Merriam began research on the book in 1968 with a commission from Robert T. Pantzer, University of Montana president. After 18 months of research, writing and editing, the University of Montana Press published the book.

"The University of Montana: A History," begins in 1895 and discusses the institution's first president, Oscar J. Craig, and the first teaching staff of five members. Dr. Merriam wrote the book chronologically by presidents and discussed each president's influence on the University.

The development of curriculum changes, student activities and attitudes, the campus, and enrollment growth and finances are discussed in Dr. Merriam's book.

"This book is basic to future histories," Dr. Merriam said. "Someday there will be a much fuller history written."

## H.G. MERRIAM WRITES HISTORY--2

Dr. Merriam was born in Massachusetts in 1883. He is a graduate of the Universities of Wyoming, Oxford (England), and Columbia. One of the first Rhodes Scholars, he taught at Whitman, Beloit and Reed Colleges and the Universities of Oregon and Colorado before his appointment as professor and chairman of the English department at UM in 1919.

He was department head for 35 years until retiring in 1954.

During his research for the book Dr. Merriam read all the minutes from UM faculty meetings dating to 1895 and from meetings of the State Board of Education. He also gleaned information from copies of the "Sentinel" yearbook and the "Montana Kaimin" (the student newspaper), Presidents' Reports and from former colleagues and students.

"No one has interfered with me in any way. There's been no dictation on what to write in the book," Dr. Merriam stated. "That's President Pantzer's attitude. He gives a man a job and expects him to do it."

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