

## **ROBERT EMMETT WHITE, JR.**

Mr. White was a former editor, publisher and owner of the Oxford Press. He was known for the theatrical review and was a keeper of local and regional history. He attended school in Norwood and was a Graduate of Sycamore High School. During his high school years he attended Hessler Studio of Dance in Mt. Adams at the same time as Doris Kappelhoff (Doris Day) and Vera Ellen, his dance partner, who later became successful actresses. Through out his high school years, he was an usher at the Taft and the Albee, and he eventually decorated his home with the dressing mirror and side lights, a crystal and bronze chandelier and other object's. In 1944 he received his Bachelor of Science in Education Degree from Miami University, and he obtained a Master of Arts in 1948. He spent the next year in New York trying out for dance roles in stage productions. He returned to Oxford for his Master's Degree and upon graduation he opened a dance studio in uptown Oxford.

He taught English for several years at Miami University. In 1948 he began his career with the Oxford Press as a writer, photographer and as owner. A few highlights of Bob's career were in 1959 he wrote and narrated "Of Thy Glory" where he portrayed Harry S. Thobe, a colorful Miami and Cincinnati Reds booster and in 1960 he purchased the Oxford Press. In 1976 he wrote and edited the comprehensive Bicentennial Series on Oxford History. For several years he was an emcee for Miami University Higher Society. Bob often described his own collection as "as eclectic as they get". His friend Helen Hayes once quoted Bob as saying, "I love all my things but I can no longer give them the care that they require".

Bob was a major supporter of the arts and theatre, which he regularly visited in New York City, and London. He met and interviewed, or knew, many noted performers throughout his career, such as Margaret Hamilton (Witch in the Wizard of Oz) and Katie Lee who was married to singer Billy Joel. Through his support of the visual arts from his collecting, he was instrumental in the Miami Museum.

Bob will be remembered eternally for his tireless work, his compassion and dedication to Miami University and his beloved friends throughout the United States and Europe.