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for five years as chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Like many other historians of science at small colleges, Robert wore many hats and taught a wide variety of courses, including at least seven different offerings in the history and philosophy of science over the years. He continued to teach right up until the last month of his life.

His final professional act saw him wearing yet another hat as coordinator of the award ceremony for Gerald Holton, who received the Joseph Priestley Medal of the American Chemical Society at Dickinson in early October 1994. With typical generosity, Robert had asked me to share in the process of choosing a distinguished historian of science to receive that award on an occasion of local historical interest, the two hundredth anniversary of Priestley's move from England to central Pennsylvania. For the events of that

day, Robert had written a brief lecture on Priestley's natural philosophy and an introduction for Holton, neither of which he was well enough to deliver in person. I visited him for the last time at his home a few hours before the award ceremony. In spite of his great disappointment at missing out on the day's activities, and although he faced his own impending death, Robert was in very good spirits, and he looked forward to hearing an audiotape of Holton's address. When he heard that tape, he also heard the standing ovation given to him at the start of the ceremony by hundreds of colleagues, students, and friends in the audience. It was a fitting tribute to a fine scholar and an even finer human being.

EDWARD B. DAVIS

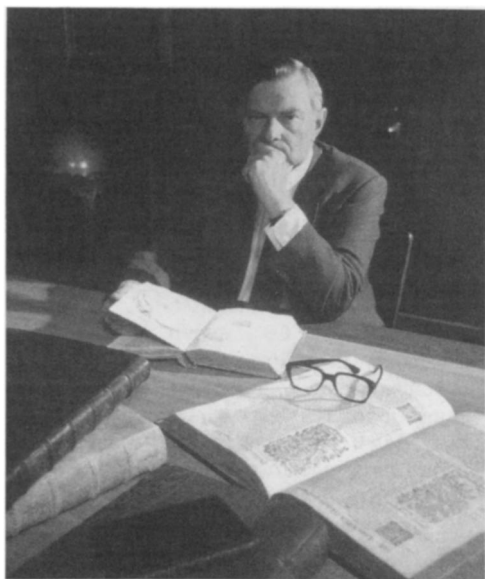
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DUANE HENRY DUBOSE ROLLER, 14 MARCH 1920–22 AUGUST 1994

Duane Roller, McCasland Professor Emeritus and David Ross Boyd Professor Emeritus of the History of Science, Curator Emeritus of the History of Science Collections, of the University of Oklahoma, died at his home in Norman, Oklahoma, on 22 August 1994.

Born in Eagle Pass, Texas, on 14 March 1920, he spent most of his youth in Norman, where his father, Duane Emerson Roller, taught physics. Like one of his favorite characters, the humorist and actor Will Rogers, Duane H. D. Roller retained much of the flavor of the Southwest throughout his life. He became interested in history of science through his father and the works of James Bryant Conant, whose *Science and Common Sense* (1941) and *On Understanding Science* (1947) remained a persistent influence on his teaching. A number of his early publications were in collaboration with his father in connection with Conant's *Case Histories in Experimental Science*; another supplied historical critique and background for *The Foundations of Modern Physical Science* (1958), a physics textbook written in collaboration with Gerald Holton.

In 1941 he obtained an unusual B.A. in history of science from Columbia University. He then served in the navy as a radar officer



from 1941 to 1946, reaching the rank of lieutenant commander. His M.S. in experimental physics from Purdue University (1949) qualified him, like so many of his academic generation, as a retreaded scientist when he became one of the first post-World War II professionally trained historians of science.

Duane Roller first went to Harvard as a visiting fellow in General Education in 1949/50 and returned to join the graduate program in History of Science and Learning. He obtained the Ph.D. in 1954 with a dissertation published in 1959 as *The De Magnete of William Gilbert*. He immediately accepted a position at the University of Oklahoma, where he essentially remained until his death.

Although Roller was to publish a number of papers and edit two *Landmarks of Science* microprint series, his greatest gifts were for teaching and as an institution builder. He created the undergraduate and graduate programs in history of science at Oklahoma, always sharing in the teaching himself and adding staff as these programs became increasingly popular. He also taught occasional classes for schoolchildren. His associates and students, undergraduates and graduates, attest him to be the best teacher they ever met. An unrivaled raconteur, he educated while he charmed with his stories. With his wife, Marjorie, he established an extended "family" of colleagues and students that continued beyond formal association with the university.

He was a member of some fifteen professional organizations, including the Academie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences (corr.), the History of Science Society, Phi Beta

Kappa, Sigma Xi, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (fellow), but probably his greatest loyalty was to the Mid-West Junto, the first regional associate of the History of Science Society, of which he was a cofounder in 1957. The Junto is still imprinted with characteristic Roller qualities: relaxed good fellowship, stimulating conversation, total lack of front, absence of politics, and concern for students.

With knowledge, skill, and devotion, Roller nurtured the development of the History of Science Collections at the University of Oklahoma. He actively sought contributions, monetary and bibliographic, for it and personally toured bookshops in the United States and Europe to obtain desirable selections. In 1954, at his arrival, the collections numbered about five thousand volumes. At his death there were over eighty-one thousand volumes in a history of science library that is surely the finest in the United States and may well equal or surpass any in the world. Not satisfied simply to obtain major collector "scalps," Roller added contemporary associated and even peripheral materials to round out the intellectual context for scientific activity. The University of Oklahoma has placed these books in a splendid setting, providing ideal conditions for the researcher and a fitting lasting memorial for Duane Roller.

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