

Mr. Emanuel Dies; Was Distinguished Alumnus, Benefactor



Victor Emanuel, distinguished alumnus and benefactor of the University of Dayton, died at his Ithaca, N.Y., home Nov. 26. The chairman of the board of the Avco Manufacturing Corp. was 62 years old.

It was Mr. Emanuel who in 1927 gave the University \$300,000 for the construction of the Albert Emanuel Library as a memorial to his father.

During his lifetime, he became a legend on the University campus and elsewhere. The *New York Times*, in reporting his death, referred to the fact that "partly because of his name, the same as that of the late king of Italy, the fact that he shunned personal publicity and his interests in international business, he was regarded by some as a man of mysterious intrigue."

Mr. Emanuel was a native Daytonian. In 1910, he entered the University, then known as St. Mary's College, graduating with the high school class of 1915. He then went on to Cornell University, winning his degree there three years later. U.D. conferred on him the honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1928, and shortly thereafter named him to the Associate Board of Lay Trustees, on which he continued to serve until his death.

His rise to fame and fortune came early in life. He was only 29 years old when he built Albert Emanuel Library. At 30, he was reported to have a fortune valued at \$40,000,000, and at that young age was recognized as an outstanding leader in the field of public utilities and one of the nation's leading industrial financiers. The depression, however, and the subsequent collapse of his utilities empire decimated his personal fortune.

Then, in the later 1930's, he became associated with the Cord Corp., of which Avco was a part. In 1937, he gained control of the firm and guided it through the years, building it into the huge industrial complex it is today.

Throughout his life, Mr. Emanuel remained close to the University, particularly in his association with Brother William J. Wohlleben. One of his earliest expressions of this friendship for Doc Wohlleben was his purchase in 1929 of a valued set of *Annalen der Chemie*, the only complete set of this work available at the time in European markets. *Annalen* remains today among the most valued works in the chemistry department library. Later, he established two annual awards of excellence in the junior and senior chemical engineering classes memorializing his mother.

In 1956, he was very active in the campaign to raise funds for the new Wohlleben Hall and Sherman Hall on the campus. In fact, it was he and another distinguished alumnus, Dr. Carroll Hochwalt '20, who presented to the University a resolution to name that building in honor of Doc Wohlleben. His son Albert represented him at the dedication of the building in 1958.

During Doc's current illness (he's been a patient in the University Health Center for several months), Mr. Emanuel was extremely solicitous of his health and comfort, sending frequent remembrances to the ailing religious.

This "human" touch was typical of Mr. Emanuel's relationship with the University. Members of the staff who had contact with him are eloquent when speaking of his "kindness, consideration, sympathy, and understanding," qualities not always expected of a man of such high station.

Just a month prior to Mr. Emanuel's unexpected death, University President Father Raymond A. Roesch spent several hours with him in his New York City offices. Father Roesch remarked later that Mr. Emanuel looked haggard and showed the effects of overwork.

His wife Dorothy, two sons, a brother, and three grandchildren survive. Private funeral services preceded his burial in Valhalla, N.Y. □