

Frederick O. Waage

October 7, 1906 — January 28, 1985

Throughout much of Fred Waage's long and notable career on the Cornell faculty, he served the University in two separate though related roles, in classics and in the history of art, combining the two harmoniously and fulfilling both with great distinction. His initial appointment at Cornell, in 1935, was as an instructor in classical archaeology in the Department of Classics, and he continued to serve as a professor of classical archaeology until his retirement. In 1938 he was appointed assistant professor of the history of art and archaeology and was the founder, in 1939, of the Department of Fine Arts, which became, in 1962, the Department of the History of Art. Fred Waage served as chairman of that department for twenty-two years and was successively an associate professor (1941) and a professor (1945) of the history of art and archaeology until his retirement in 1972, when he was appointed professor emeritus.

Born in Philadelphia, he received his primary and secondary education in El Paso, Texas, and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He attended Muhlenberg College and the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated, with the degree of A.B. with honors and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, in 1928. After earning an M.A. at Princeton he was appointed a Special Fellow of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, where he was one of that eminent group of American archaeologists who were active in what is generally regarded as the most celebrated and significant excavation of a classical site by American archaeologists, the Agora of ancient Athens. He also participated in several campaigns (1933, 1937-39) of the Princeton excavation of Antioch on the Orontes, serving as recorder for these campaigns. After returning to Princeton as a Jacobus Fellow for a second master's degree, (M.F.A. with honors, 1935), he came to Cornell, where he remained on the faculty for the rest of his career. His Princeton Ph.D. degree in art and archaeology was conferred in 1943.

While his early experience was in archaeology and he continued an active interest in this field all his life, his great contribution to Cornell was undoubtedly his work in the Department of the History of Art, to which he contributed both superb leadership and great energy. At its outset, the department had a faculty of two offering nine courses; at his retirement it had grown to a department of eleven faculty members offering forty courses with a total enrollment of about sixteen hundred students. Along with his manifold activities as a dedicated and skillful administrator, Fred never ceased to be a devoted and very successful teacher, both in his large and highly regarded lecture courses (his course Fine Arts 101-102, a survey of the history of art, was one of the most popular courses in the college) and in his advanced courses in such special fields as numismatics and Greek pottery.

Along with his demanding program of teaching, administration, and scholarly productivity at Cornell, he served for twenty years as a visiting lecturer at other institutions: at Elmira College from 1952 to 1958 as a lecturer in art and at Ithaca College from 1958 to 1972 as a visiting professor of art. He served a term as chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Andrew Dickson White Museum of Art and was a member of the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

Waage's publications reveal a breadth of talents and interests paralleling his career as a teacher. His early work consisted of a number of detailed and specialized articles resulting from his field experience in excavations in Greece and the Near East. These studies were principally devoted to art objects discovered in the excavations; one of the chief among these is his 1935 monograph *Greek Bronze Coins from a Well at Megara*. He was coeditor of several volumes of a major archaeological publication, the six-volume series recording the excavation of Antioch on the Orontes, which was issued in the 1930s and 1940s. Waage contributed several studies in the series and was the principal editor of *Ceramics and Islamic Coins*, which constituted part one of volume six, published in 1948. In a totally different sphere is his *Prehistoric Art*, published in 1967. This book was designed to meet the needs of a general survey course in the complex and varied subject of the art of prehistoric cultures. It was the fruit of many years of experience and of Waage's career-long concern as a teacher to achieve breadth of coverage and yet to avoid superficiality of treatment. He had, moreover, a strong conviction of the serious educational value of the study of the history of art. As he puts it in the preface to this book, "The aim of the history of art in education is primarily to enlarge one's knowledge of man and not merely to supply examples of his works for 'appreciation.'" The wide acceptance of this book testifies to his success in achieving his aim.

Soon after his retirement from teaching at Cornell, in 1972, he settled in Pittsboro, North Carolina, near Chapel Hill, where he was able to enjoy to the full his beloved hobby of gardening. He also remained active in his profession and was a visiting professor of art at Warren Wilson College, North Carolina, from 1973 to 1975. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, who shared Fred's professional interests and is herself an archaeologist and a major contributor to the Antioch series. He is survived also by his son, Frederick, of Johnson City, Tennessee; two grandchildren; and a brother, Karl, of New Haven, Connecticut.

Those who knew Fred Waage well were conscious of the close and harmonious family relations he enjoyed. By a wide circle of friends in the Cornell community as well as by his more immediate colleagues he was held in high esteem and much affection as a person ready to enjoy conversation on just about any topic. Though by nature of a reserved and dignified manner, he was generous with advice and help, when they were wanted, for his students

and his colleagues alike. A man of firmly though quietly held convictions, he was also a man of great courtesy, a cooperative colleague, and a sympathetic friend.

Knight Biggerstaff, Albert S. Roe, John W. Wells, Gordon M. Kirkwood