

**ELLA FLAGG YOUNG AND  
A HALF-CENTURY OF THE  
CHICAGO PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS**

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Ella Flagg Young and a half-century of the Chicago public schools by John T. McManis

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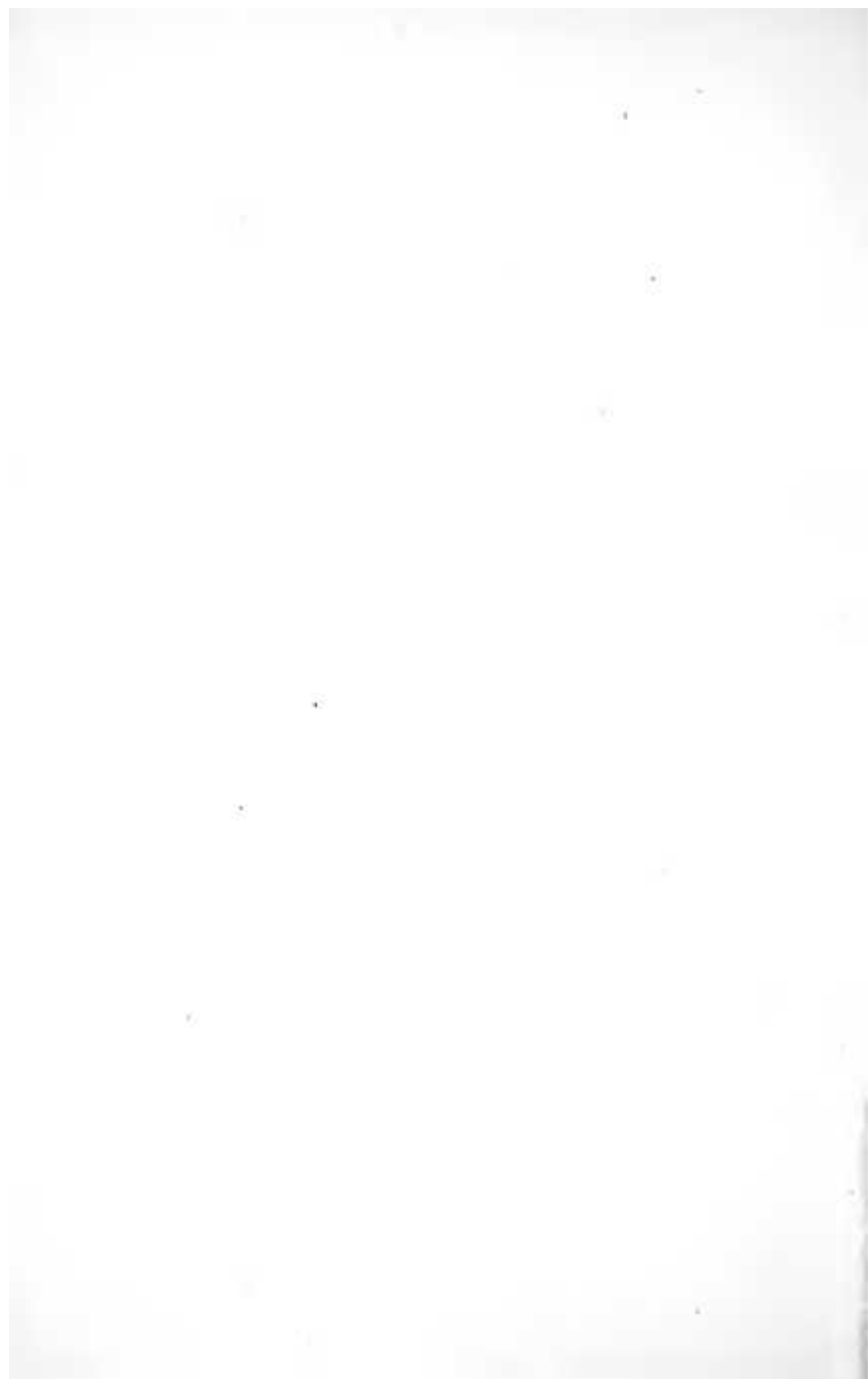
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**JOHN T. MCMANIS**

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CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Ella Flagg Young

*And a Half-Century of the  
Chicago Public Schools*

BY  
JOHN T. McMANIS, Ph.D.

*PORTRAITS, ETC.*



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## PREFACE

THE difficulties encountered in writing the life of another are more than technical difficulties. To interpret the spirit so as to make it common property requires sympathy, grasp, and insight, balanced with a judgment of values that is rare in all of us. In the case of Mrs. Young the difficulties are particularly great. Almost no help in such an undertaking can be derived directly from her or from her immediate friends. In the one case, her interest is in her work and not in herself, making it impossible to secure personal touches needed to understand the meaning of her acts; in the other, friends are jealous of relationships and guard them closely. Many persons, however, have placed their best efforts into this work and made it possible to write her life. To such I am under the greatest obligation and should like to acknowledge their sympathetic and invaluable help.

It must be evident that the worth of any benefactor of the race is to be found in the principles for which he has stood rather than in merely personal facts and peculiarities. I have endeavored to write of the forces and the interests for which Mrs. Young has labored, and only secondarily of the persons who have worked with her. If I have succeeded, in any measure, in the following pages in showing the strength and the human effectiveness of Ella Flagg Young, it is due more to a sympathy for her efforts for the children of Chicago than to any other qualification. "Institutions are but the length-

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*Preface*

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ened shadows of great men," and it is to the institutions that we must look for the test of the part played by each human being. Judged by this test, Mrs. Young should have a high place among those who have touched the bonds of ignorance and tradition and loosened the spirits of the youth of a great city. Her real biography is written in the hearts of those with whom she has striven to make the public schools democratic in reality and truth.

J. T. McM.

JUNE, 1916.

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