

**SYMPOSIUM: DANTE SIX HUNDRED
YEARS AFTER: THREE ADDRESSES
READ BEFORE THE CHICAGO
LITERARY CLUB, MONDAY
EVENING, JANUARY 3, 1921**

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Symposium: Dante Six Hundred Years After: Three Addresses Read Before the Chicago Literary Club, Monday Evening, January 3, 1921 by Chicago Literary Club

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CHICAGO LITERARY CLUB

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Symposium:
Dante Six Hundred Years
After

THREE ADDRESSES

Read before the

Chicago Literary Club

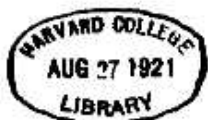
Monday Evening, January 3
1921



CHICAGO LITERARY CLUB
1921

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Merritt Starr
Chicago

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By MERRITT STARR

DANTE AND ITALIAN POLITICS

By PROFESSOR KENNETH MCKENZIE
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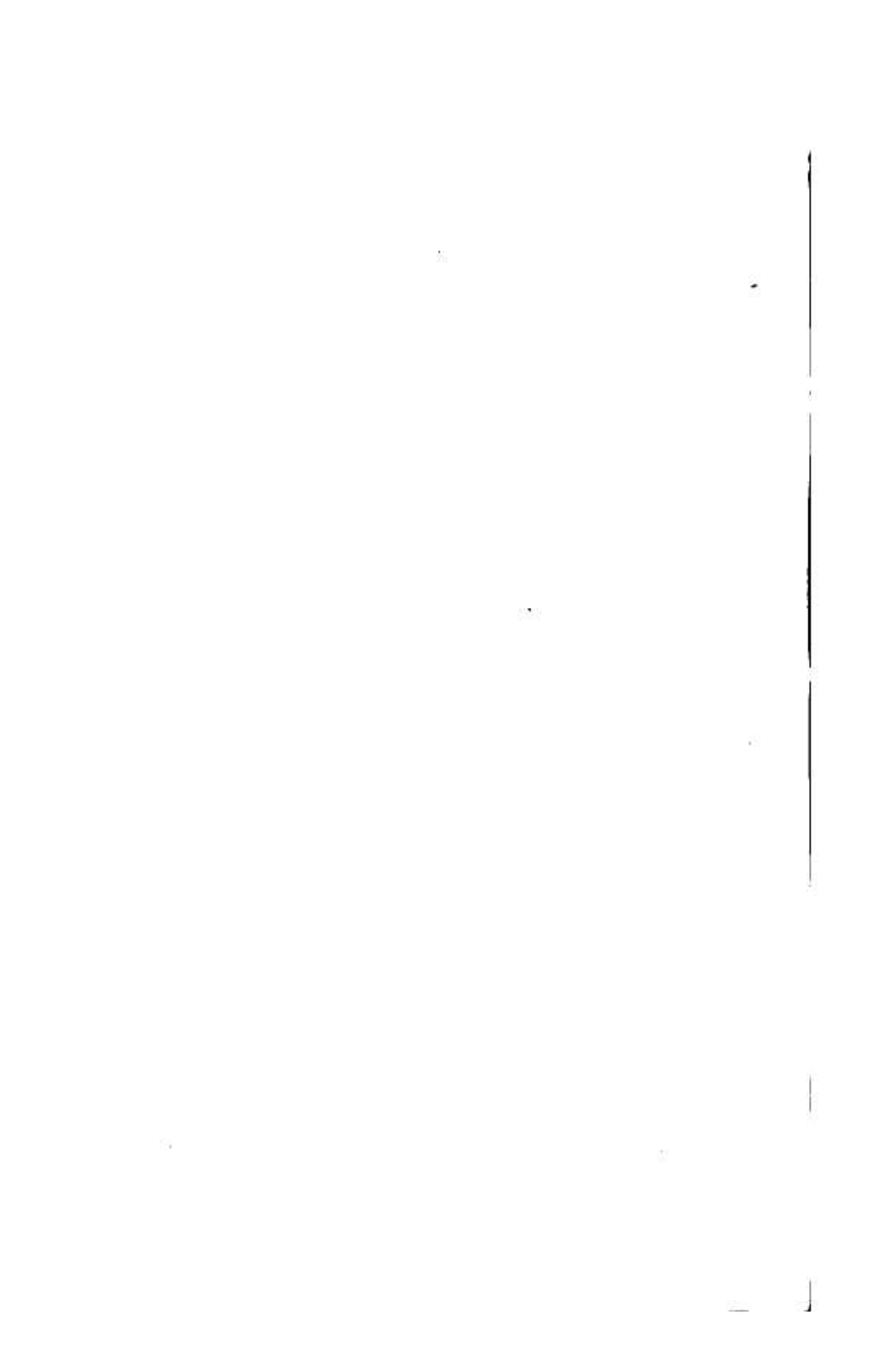
By PROFESSOR ERNEST HATCH WILKINS
of the University of Chicago

Also a Synopsis of an Illustrated
Address

DANTE: THE MAN AND HIS WORK

Delivered *Ex Tempore* on the
Same Evening

By DOCTOR THEODORE W. KOCH
of Northwestern University



FOREWORD

As the Chicago Literary Club will hold no meetings in September next, in which month falls the anniversary we now celebrate, the Committee on Arrangements and Exercises set apart the first meeting of the year 1921 for our Dante Memorial.

While the Club rarely goes outside of its membership for contributions to its programs, it seemed wise to do so on that occasion.

The leader of the meeting, Mr. Merritt Starr, accordingly invited three eminent Dante scholars of the Middle West to take part: Dr. Theodore W. Koch, of Northwestern University; Professor Kenneth McKenzie, of the University of Illinois; and Professor Ernest H. Wilkins, of the University of Chicago.

Dr. Koch's address, illustrated by lantern slides, was delivered *ex tempore*, and therefore cannot be included herein. A topical outline, however, will be found on page 51. The Introduction and the other two addresses form the body of this publication.

The Chicago Literary Club and all four participants in this Symposium are members of the Dante Society of Cambridge, Massachusetts, founded by Charles Eliot Norton. This Society has to its credit the complete Concordances of Dante's works, and thirty-eight annual reports with accompanying monographs.

Dr. Koch, besides being the author of the important compilation mentioned near the end of the Introduction, was, before assuming the responsibilities of his present position of librarian of Northwestern University, librarian of the Fiske Dante Collection of Cornell University, a collection largely augmented during his administration.

Professor McKenzie was awarded the Dante Society prize in 1894 for his essay on the *Sweet New Style* in Italian literature, and its development up to the time of Dante.

Professor Wilkins, a member of the Dante Society for twenty-four years, is the author of an excellent outline bibliography of Dantesque works, prepared especially for students of Italian literature.

The Dante Memorial Meeting was inspiring and profitable. The Chicago Literary Club welcomes this opportunity of honoring Dante's memory by publishing these papers, well aware that thereby it honors itself.

May, 1921

INTRODUCTION

We memorialize tonight the six-hundredth anniversary of the completion of the life of Dante Alighieri. In so doing we commemorate the greatest man of letters who ever trod the footpaths of Italy, or walked the Roman streets. In saying this we do not forget that our terms include Vergil and Horace, Milton and Goethe.

Our hero was a poet having the seeing eye and the singing voice, who molded from the common speech of the people a marvellously beautiful casket to enshrine the illumination which flooded his vision. He was a man of affairs, who fought in battle, ruled the State, negotiated treaties, and planned a league of nations.

Forerunner of Rienzi, Lorenzo, Mazzini, Garibaldi, and Cavour; theologian, man of science, reformer, apostle, and prophet of new Italy; lover, husband, father; most masculine of men, he yet saw in the faithful love of woman the type of redeeming love with which "God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him might not perish but have everlasting life."

And seeing this and devoting himself to singing the praise of divine love so embodied, he studied to the utmost of his power, so that it pleased God to prolong his life and enable him to say of her what was never said of any woman (*V.N.* XLIII).

And of his Divine Comedy when finished he wrote: "But the aim of the whole, and of each part," he tells Can Grande, "is to remove those living in this life from a state of misery, and to guide them to a state of happiness."

He proclaimed the need of civil government on the one hand, and of religious government on the other;