

The great gift of Thatcher Howland Guild to the college and university world through his "Illinois Loyalty" can never be measured. It was his contribution of melody to the then expanding University of Illinois, unconscious in 1906, of its real goal, of the ultimate achievements it might attain, and the standing it would reach, and permanently hold, in the fellowship of other American colleges and universities.

"Illinois Loyalty", especially as played under Director Harding for more than 40 years, proved the real stimulation, the spark-plug, for the arousing of the lofty ideals of what, after about 1906, began to constitute University life. "Illinois Loyalty", while a bleacher song of the highest type, and in no sense a musical classic, proved a benediction not alone to Illinois, but to the Youth of America as they gathered beneath a myriad of ivy-towers and jammed the Stadia

throughout the nation. College life in America has been enriched by Thatcher Howland Guild more than we can ever repay. The only way in which this obligation may be discharged is in a call to greater devotion, service and love to great and small educational institutions as they strive to teach, above all, and transcending all, the lessons of Freedom and Democracy--true and undiluted and unpigmented Americanism, in other words.

"Illinois Loyalty", in the fertile mind of Guild in the lower 1900s, was truly American in its concepts of campus life. Now, in 1951, this song has been mellowed and matured by 45 years of constant use. It remains, at the mid-century mark, a real contribution, to the Youth of America, to the manhood and womanhood who will carry on in perilous years ahead. The heart-felt singing of this inspiring song will go far towards attaining the goals of the genuine Americanism which have been established at the University of Illinois, and which, please God, may be taught throughout succeeding years.

After all, there is only one Americanism--the Americanism of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. The great and growing America which produced Guild and Harding over the turn of the present century was founded upon a rigid pattern of straight-forward Americanism without the inclusion of "isms" and "ologies" of any kind. The author of this volume carries no sympathy with any person, regardless of academic freedom, or any other idea, who may decline to take the full oath of allegiance of loyalty to the United States of America. Burford, following a lifetime on the Illinois campus, believes it is entirely begging the question for any American educator to feel that his academic freedom has been in the least infringed by an oath of loyalty to the best government which Almighty God ever gave to mankind--and such an oath should be taken without the slightest including of any pinkish strains whatever.

Thatcher Howland Guild.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, February 16, 1879, Thatcher Howland Guild was almost a year to a day older than Harding. Their meeting on the Illinois campus in 1904 proved a happy event, one of the auspicious circumstances in the history of the University.

Following attendance in the public schools and high school in his native city, young Guild enrolled in Brown University. This excellent old institution, founded in 1764, carried aloft the noble concepts of Roger Williams and the fine old Baptist denomination, so typically democratic. Guild received his bachelor's degree from

Brown in 1901, where he acquired the necessary scholastic proficiency to be admitted to Phi Beta Kappa, America's oldest campus society and the forerunner of all organizations recognizing superior academic standing. Guild was a member of Delta Chi, social fraternity. He remained at Brown the next year, taking his master's degree in 1902. The following year, 1902-1903, he served as instructor in English in his Alma Mater.

A scholarship in the Department of English, University of Chicago, lifted this brilliant young man from his New England moorings and established him in the Central West. In 1904, he received his second master's degree from Chicago. Then to the University of Illinois--in the fall of 1904--came Guild, as an instructor in rhetoric.

To the Illinois campus, Guild, then 25 years of age, brought a background of New England Culture, modified and exhilarated by a wholesome zest in life and in living and enriched not only by a love of literature, but also a highly developed interest in music. Guild was a pianist and a cornetist, handling each instrument with skill, with dexterity, with love. Best of all, he was young, ambitious, suave, dapper, charming, and above all other attainments, likeable, loveable, warm-hearted and large-hearted. His coming to the University of Illinois campus proved a blessing of the first dimensions.

Guild was at once attracted to the University Band. He loved to "sit-in" with the cornet section, where his personality was stimulating and his musical ability a real asset. Guild and Harding became warm friends immediately, as each was thoroughly devoted to the cornet as their choice musical instrument. Each loved the finest in music. Each carried within his own breast, unexpressed and unrealized at that moment, possibilities of musical expression for the University of Illinois they would have been amazed to see if their future attainments in campus music had been suddenly unfolded.

"Loyalty"--First Brown, Then Illinois

While a student at Brown, Guild had been flinging about in his brilliant mind, the words and melody of what seemed to him a song suitable for use on all occasions on a college campus. He had worked out part of the words, and especially the first line, which ran:-

"We're Loyal to You, Men of Brown".

Like Franz Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony", Guild brought with him from Brown University, through the interlude of the University of Chicago, the uncompleted song revolving in his mind.

Selfishly, jealously, it may be, we of Illinois are happy that the song was perfected not at Brown, not on the Chicago Quadrangle, but on our own Illinois campus. The song “Illinois Loyalty” became a classic, not of Brown nor of Chicago, but of the University of Illinois --we are happy to say.

It may be, that the completion of the song awaited the stimulation which Guild received as a youthful Illinois instructor. It may be, like the “Unfinished Symphony”, it might never have been finished if Guild had remained in New England or if he accepted academic offers from the University of Chicago. Perhaps it was Illinois--maybe it was us--perhaps it was the spontaneous spirit of campus life at Illinois, as distinguished from the more conservative background of Brown, or even of Chicago, which provided the last forward push in Guild’s mind for the completion of his famous bleacher song.

Death of Thatcher Howland Guild.

Tragedy stalked the campus of the University of Illinois one hot afternoon in 1914--July 21, 1914.

"Her sun is gone down while it is yet day", is a dreamy lamentation of the Prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 15:9). Thinking of Mr. Guild, we might paraphrase this sorrow to "His sun is gone down while it is yet day". At only 35--Thatcher Howland Guild, to his myriad of friends and admirers, seemed too young.

He had been retained as a member of the Summer Session faculty in 1914, offering courses in "Modern Drama" and "Oral English". His last class, as it proved, on the Illinois campus, convened at 9 a.m., Tuesday, July 21, 1914.

At Brown University, Guild had achieved fame not only in scholastic and musical endeavors, but as a brilliant tennis player. He loved the game and was happy to find it popular at Illinois, where he quickly and easily became known as one of our best tennis players.

The afternoon was hot and torrid. About four o'clock, he joined his friend, Dr. Charles T. Moss, Champaign-Urbana physician, and son of Professor Charles M. Moss, long-time head of the Greek Department at Illinois, in games, (with two other players, Newland and Fernandez.) Nine games had been played, with the tenth started, when Dr. Moss noticed Guild collapse and fall against the fence at the edge of the court. As a physician and as a friend, Dr. Moss rushed to his side. Only a faint heart flutter could be detected. The University pulmotor was called. Mr. Guild was rushed to Burnham City Hospital, where the lung motor from the Champaign fire department was used for 30 minutes, but to no avail. The lungs were restored to breathing but there was no heart action. Mr. Guild was pronounced dead and his body was removed to the Renner Funeral Home, Urbana. A Champaign County coroner's jury rendered a verdict that Mr. Guild had come to his death through over-exertion and the extreme summer heat. Dr. Moss, the chief witness, testified,

in his opinion as a physician, that death came practically instantaneously to Mr. Guild.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Friday, July 24, at the Guild home, 1108 West Oregon street, Urbana. Mrs. Guild and small daughter were called from their summer home at Manistee, Mich., where Mr. Guild had planned to join them following the termination of the Summer Session in August. Mr. Guild's death and funeral antedated by only a few days, the outbreak of the First World War in August, 1914. He was not to know that tragedy.

Officiating at the services were President Edmund Janes James of the University of Illinois and the Rev. James C. Baker, then pastor of Trinity Methodist church near the campus, (of which Mr. Guild was a member,) now Bishop of the Los Angeles area of the Methodist church. President James spoke of Mr. Guild's stimulating influence upon the literary, dramatic, musical and social life of the campus. The minister emphasized his personal ideals and church devotion. The Rev. James C. Baker became Director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Illinois, the FIRST religious Foundation for students of any denomination upon an American university campus. Another Illinois "FIRST". Baker served 21 years as pastor of Trinity Church and Director of the Wesley Foundation, then was elected a Bishop. His portrait, by Professor Earl Bradbury, University Department of Art, now hangs in the Wesley Foundation.

The services were informal and private--with only about 40 personal friends of Mr. Guild, attending. A quartet, composed of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Morey, Leonard Glover and Florence Kirkup, sang "Lead, Kindly Light" and "O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go". Casket-bearers were Frank W. Scott, Arthur Hill Daniels, P. L. Windsor, Daniel K. Dodge, Stuart Pratt Sherman and Evarts B. Greene, faculty members and friends of Mr. Guild (all deceased as of November 1, 1951, with the exception of Mr. Windsor, retired Head Librarian, University of Illinois).

The body was removed to Providence, where final funeral services were held. Mr. Guild's father came from Providence to Urbana, upon being notified of his son's passing and accompanied his daughter-in-law and granddaughter on the trip East. Professor Henry B. Ward, Head, Department of Zoology, who was doing Marine Biological study that summer at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, was designated by President James to represent the University at the Providence services.

In his native Rhode Island soil, and near his beloved Brown University, slumbers "ere the day breaks and the shadows flee

away”, Thatcher Howland Guild, through whose brilliant mind, while a student and an instructor on the Brown campus, the melody of a famous song--one might, indeed, say, the campus song of all campus songs--“Illinois Loyalty”.

In giving “Illinois Loyalty” not only to the students and alumni of the University of Illinois, but also its stimulating influence and satisfying musical influence upon many other educational institutions, Mr. Guild performed a great assignment exceedingly and exceptionally well.

Thatcher Howland Guild remains one of the Immortals of the Illinois campus. His “Illinois Loyalty”--in 1951, or 37 years following his passing--abides as one of the potent influences which has made his adopted University one of the greatest in the world. Youth of the future, who may know little of the career and of the ideals of Thatcher Howland Guild, and his brief, but brilliant life, will arise and call him blessed, for he has given them--and the entire University world--“Illinois Loyalty”.

Mrs. Guild later became the wife of Professor Jacob Zeitlin, for many years a member of the English Department, University of Illinois. He died December 8, 1937. Mrs. Zeitlin continues to reside at 703 West Nevada street, Urbana, Ill.