keep track of. The vistas opened by Cain and his associates led their graduates to government and industrial service at many levels and in many places. One or more of them are now present in decision-making posts as well as in many strategic academic positions.

Maybe this very rewarding time of teaching, traveling, counseling, and part-time official service should be called the blue period, for the serenity of its endeavours and the unobstructed clearness of its design. And maybe the more recent Washington tenure can be labeled the gold period?

In a time of political and social tragedies, the integrity of all men is at stake. Those who occupy high office are sorely taxed in their efforts to define their own jobs and to put into practice the idealism that made them assume public responsibility. There will be old friends who will not approve, there will be new friends who must be kept at arm's length. There will be many insidious pitfalls. Stanley Cain was moved to accept the assignment of Assistant-Secretary of the Interior at a time of great confusion when nothing was needed more than clear thinking, solid knowledge, broad views, and a capacity to work with others.

His term of office also coincided with the greatest change of academic orientation in a generation: the full recognition of the academic in industrial and government circles was about to be followed by a similar openness of the university itself. Whereas we should deny that the university is apart from the "real world," that it indeed offers an irreplaceable form of social living, it is true that its part in community, national, and international affairs outstrips the polite messages of an earlier day and soon will consist in full participation. Stanley Cain is likely to stand out, once more, as one of the "new men" who occupy this frontier and who direct its traffic.

I therefore return to the imminence of Stanley Cain, always a coming man, a man of many situations who will never lose the thread of a golden purpose nor break his trust in those who has led and cherished. In awarding him the title of eminent ecologist his fellows acknowledge a debt which they can never repay.

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

Robert Ervin Coker
1876-1967

The death of Robert Ervin Coker in his ninety-second year on October 2, 1967, at his home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, brought to a close a life of distinction in science that was dedicated to the service of scholarship to his university, and to mankind. He left an indelible mark as teacher and writer, as organizer of new endeavors, and as a leader among a nation of scholars.

As an undergraduate he earned membership in Phi Beta Kappa, and was graduated from the University of North Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1896 and a Master of Arts degree in 1897. After four years of public school instruction, he entered the Graduate School of Johns Hopkins University to start work for the doctoral degree. From 1902 to 1904, while still a graduate student, he held the position of "biologist" at Beaufort, N.C.

1Adapted with permission from the J. Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society 84: 332-337.

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for the North Carolina Geologic Survey. In this capacity he conducted an oceanographic survey of winds, tides, currents, and the multiplicity of factors related to growth and productivity of marine life in the sounds and estuaries of the North Carolina coast. Fundamental data from this research were used to demonstrate that commercial shellfish could be grown in abundance. On the basis of these data changes were suggested for existing state laws governing oyster culture and the North Carolina General Assemblies of 1905 and 1907 passed legislation that has permitted a thousand-fold increase in harvest from North Carolina's marine resources.

After receiving the Ph.D. degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1906 Robert Coker declined a post-doctoral fellowship at Hopkins to accept an appointment by the Peruvian Government to investigate the decline in nitrate productivity of its coastal islands. He brilliantly met the unparalleled challenge to analyze the complex interrelationships between organism and environment that were responsible for Peruvian nitrate production and made recommendations for conservation that are still the valid basis for laws that have assured nitrate harvest without depletion. This advice was based on a thorough recognition and understanding of the ecological components in the food-chain of productivity that begins with microscopic plants in the mineral-rich antarctic waters of the Humboldt current that sweep the coast of Peru, and ends with sea birds in countless thousands from prehistoric times that have fed on schools of fish and have deposited their guano wastes at rookeries and nesting grounds on the coastal "bird" islands of Peru. Adoption of his recommendations resulted in a three-fold increase in the number of sea birds and a five-fold increase in nitrate production.

From 1910-15, he directed the Fairport, Iowa U.S. Fisheries Biological Laboratory. In 1915 he returned to Washington, D.C. and served for seven years as Chief for the Division of Scientific Inquiry in the Bureau of Fisheries. During the last two of these years he was Director of the U.S. Fisheries Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass. He also served as Chairman for the International Marine Fisheries Commission, 1920-22.

In 1922, at the age of forty-six, he resigned as Director of Fisheries and began a second career of distinction as Professor of Zoology at the University of North Carolina. At Chapel Hill, one hundred and eighty miles from the coast, problems of fresh-water biology gradually gained ascendency, and Robert Coker became an expert on the plankton of ponds and streams and soon gained international recognition as an expert on the copepod crustaceans.

In 1935 Robert Coker was appointed Chairman of the Department of Zoology, a position he held for twenty years until his retirement in 1947. In the years of his chairmanship in Zoology, he also achieved unquestioned distinction among the national community of biologists. His stature was recognized by appointment to the Section for Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council on which he served from 1926 to 1941; during the years 1936 to 1940 he was chairman of the section. He was elected president of four national societies: The Ecological Society of America, 1937; the Limnological Society of America, 1937; the American Society of Zoologists, 1941; and the American Biological Society, 1939 (later named the American Institute for Biological Sciences).

In 1947, at the age of seventy-one, Robert Coker retired as Chairman of the Department of Zoology at the University of North Carolina. At this
age and with illustrious achievements behind him, he began a third career that may, in the long view, prove to include his most enduring achievement.

In the year of his retirement, his book The Great and Wide Sea was published. The book appeared for popular consumption in paperback form in 1962. It was translated into German under the title Das Meere—Der Groste Lebensraum in 1967. A Spanish translation is currently in progress.

In 1954 a companion volume on fresh-water biology, Streams, Lakes and Ponds, was published. It was reprinted in paperback and appeared in that form in 1968.

He also founded the Institute of Fisheries Research in 1947, which is located on Bogue Sound in Morehead City, N.C. and served as its first Director.

Robert Coker again retired in 1953. However, within less than a year and at the age of seventy-eight he accepted an appointment at the University of Puerto Rico as Visiting Professor of Marine Science, a position he held from 1954 to 1962. As consultant for that university, he played a dynamic role in the founding of a new laboratory, the Institute of Marine Biology, at Mayaguez. He also was a leading spirit in organizing the international Association of Island Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean, an association of ten independent marine stations under the flags of five nations located on the islands of Bermuda, Curacao, Santa Domingo, Caracas, Bimini, Punta de Piedras, Barbados, Cumania, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica.

The academic honors that came in his emeritus years include an honorary Doctor of Science awarded by the University of South Carolina in 1948 and a Doctor of Laws awarded by the University of North Carolina in 1959. His Alma Mater has also appropriately named the new research building at the Institute of Marine Science (formerly Institute of Fisheries Research) the Robert E. Coker Hall in his honor.

He was a kindly man of quiet good humor, a man of determination and vision, possessed by a clear sense of humanitarian responsibility. He is remembered for the joy he took in the success of others, for his tireless dedication to scholarship, and for the indelible mark of his creative efforts on men and institutions. He inspired lasting respect and affection.

H. Eugene Lehman
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

STEPHEN SARGENT VISHER
1887-1967

Stephen Sargent Visher, Professor Emeritus of Geography at Indiana University, died at the age of 79 on October 25, 1967 in Bloomington, Indiana, where he had lived and worked during the last 48 years of his life. However, while he spent a major portion of his active years in Indiana, Dr. Visher was a product of many environments and broadly varied experiences.

Born in Chicago on December 15, 1887, he migrated as a boy with his parents to South Dakota where he grew up close to nature in the wide open spaces of the Great Plains. He returned to Chicago for his high school education completing the course in three years and becoming valedictorian of his class. He entered the University of Chicago in 1906 on a very special schol-