

Milton H. Hodge

The following biographical sketch of Dr. Hodge's career was adapted from a letter written by his Department Head recommending him for the position of Emeritus Professor when he retired in 1992. Dr. Hodge died on June 8, 1996.

Following graduation from high school, Dr. Hodge served in the United States Air Force for three years (1946-1949). He then enrolled at the University of Virginia where he earned the B.A. degree in 1953, the M.A. degree in 1955, and the Ph.D. degree in 1957, all in Psychology. His Ph.D. degree was in generalexperimental psychology, and it encompassed studies in learning theory, sensory psychology, comparative and physiological psychology, history and systems of psychology, and quantitative methods.

Dr. Hodge's first academic appointment was as Assistant Professor at Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia where he remained for two years before coming to the University of Georgia in 1959. He rose through the ranks in a timely manner, and attained the rank of Professor in 1968. Therefore, upon his retirement, he had given The University of Georgia 33 years of service, 24 at the rank of Professor.

Dr. Hodge was one of the most important guiding members of the faculty in the Department of Psychology as it went through a rapid period of growth from eight faculty members when he arrived in 1959 to approximately 40 faculty members by 1969. He coordinated the planning for the present Psychology Building which was built in the late 1960s and occupied early in 1969. He was closely involved in the planning and development that resulted in the department's five doctoral program specialties in the early 1970s, a number that increased to the present six in 1987. Dr. Hodge served the department and University in numerous capacities including a two-year term as Department Head in the middle 1970s.

In this, his retirement year, 1991-92, he chairs as he has done for many years two very important standing committees. They are the Quantitative Methods Committee which oversees graduate studies in that area, and the Research Participant Committee which oversees the policies, procedures, and management of the use of undergraduate students in psychological research as research subjects. He has long been an active contributing member of the local chapter of The Society of the Sigma Xi. This year he served as Program Chair and he had the honor of being nominated for President.

As a research scholar, Dr. Hodge's published writings are noted for their high standards of quality in experimental design and written presentation. He has not published at a high rate, but he has always published in the most exacting journals. His experimental research has been primarily in the area of human memory, and he has also made important published contributions concerning methods of teaching and quantitative methods.

His classroom courses in quantitative methods are legendary for their comprehensiveness and rigor. He presents systematic, well organized lectures that provide his students with useful knowledge for years to come. Over the years, he has taught hundreds of graduate students about research design and analysis. A common occurrence is to have a former student return and report that she or he was quickly recognized and sought out for advice by their new departmental colleagues for their competence in research design. Dr. Hodge also taught a variety of other courses, all with a commitment to thoroughness and excellence. Of this I can speak first hand, because as a graduate student, I took courses from Dr. Hodge in statistics, vision, and human learning and memory.

Finally, over the years Dr. Hodge served as Major Professor to 14 M.S. degree and 13 Ph.D. degree recipients, all of whom regard him with both respect and affection. Dr. Hodge served the Department of Psychology and The University of Georgia, faithfully, conscientiously, and capably for 33 years. He has earned well the high honor and the rights and privileges of being Professor Emeritus. It is an honor for me to be in the position of presenting this formal recommendation.