

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William ("Billie") Baxter Owen, Professor of Latin Languages and Literature, was born in Wysox, PA, on September 13, 1843, the son of Samuel and Mary Flower Owen. In 1867, Owen entered Lafayette College, where he studied under Francis A. March. Owen excelled at Lafayette, graduating first in his class. A member of Zeta Psi fraternity, he was one of the originators of the first college paper, *The Lafayette Monthly*, begun in 1868. He was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and, upon graduation in 1871, secured a position as Tutor in Greek at Lafayette. From 1874 to 1882, he served as Adjunct Professor of Greek; from 1882 to 1886, Professor of Christian Latin and Greek; and from 1886 to his retirement in 1917, Professor of Latin Language and Literature.

Owen published several books, including *The Humanities in the Education of the Future and Other Addresses and Papers* (1912), which includes memorial tributes to Francis A. March. He also published editions of *The Ecclesiastical History of Eusebius: The First Book and Selections* (1874) and M. Tulli Ciceronis *De oratore liber primus* (1895). In 1887, he was awarded an honorary Ph.D. by Princeton University, in 1911 a Litt.D. degree by William and Marshall.

Owen was married to Evan F. C. Peters. He died at his home in Easton on December 4, 1917, and is buried in Easton cemetery.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Owen papers (1 box; .5 linear ft.) include reviews of Owen's books and news articles by and about him. Documents date ca. 1879-1920, although the bulk remains undated. A number of Owen's publications, in classical studies and the humanities, are available in Lafayette College's Special Collections.

INVENTORY

Box 1 of 1

Folder

- 1 Newspaper clippings by and about Owen, 1879-1903; n.d.
- 2 Newspaper clippings re *The Humanities in the Education of the Future*; two clippings on
- 3 Owen's edition of Cicero's *De oratore*
- 4 Letter to Owen from James McKeen Cattell, June 6, 1884
- 5 Memorial tributes, including newspaper clippings upon Owen's death
- 6 Correspondence with Mrs. Owen re Owen's death, 1917, 1918; one letter from John R. Crawford re Owen's collection of coins, July 24, 1920
- 7 Manuscript: Phi Beta Kappa charge, n.d.

- 8 Manuscript: Owen's shorthand symbols, n.d.
- 9 Manuscript: Inventory of Chapel Talks, n.d.
- 10 Manuscript: Ps. XXVIII.1, "Be not silent to me"
- 11 Manuscript: Phil. IV.6,7, "Our Inheritance Suited to Our Deepest Need," n.d.
- 12 Manuscript: Luke XV.17, "and where he came to himself," n.d.
- 13 Manuscript: II Kings II.15, "and when sons of prophets," n.d.
- 14 Manuscript: Is. XXX.15, "For Jesus said," n.d.
- 15 Manuscript: Mat. IX.9, "And he said," n.d.
- 16 Manuscript: II Cor. XII.10, "for when I am weak," n.d.
- 17 Manuscript: I Kings VIII.18, "And the Lord said unto David," n.d. (also typescript)
- 18 Manuscript: Gal. 5-6, n.d.
- 19 Manuscript: "Napoleon," n.d.
- 20 Manuscript: "Roman Oratory," n.d.
- 21 Manuscript: "Socrates," n.d.
- 22 Manuscript: "Silver Age: 14AD-117AD," n.d.
- 23 Manuscript "Revival of Learning," n.d.