

DR. WIEMAN DIES AT 90

The Register's Iowa News Service

GRINNELL, IA. — Dr. Henry Nelson Wieman, 90, a noted American theologian and philosopher died Thursday at his home in Grinnell.

A native of Richhill, Mo. Wieman was a graduate of Park College in Parkville, Mo. in 1908 and did graduate work at San Francisco Theological seminary where he was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1910.

Wieman taught philosophy at Grinnell College in 1955. He received his Ph.D. degree in philosophy of religion from Harvard University in 1917.

Dr. Wieman taught at the University of Chicago divinity school from 1927 to 1947 when he was elected professor emeritus. He also taught at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale from 1956 to 1966 and lived in Grinnell from 1966 until his death.

In 1964 he received an honorary doctor of letters degree from Grinnell. In 1960 he won the Philosophical Library award for the best published work on the theme philosophy and religion in time of stress and is best known for his books "The Source of Human Good" and "Man's Ultimate Commitment."

Survivors include his wife, Laura, two sons, three daughters, 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Private memorial services are pending. Dr. Wieman willed his body to the University of Iowa College of Medicine.

Henry Wieman,
philosopher, ^{6/19}
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Henry Wieman

Dr. Henry Nelson Wieman, 90, noted theologian and philosopher who has been a resident of Grinnell since 1966, died at his home here Thursday, June 19.

Professor emeritus of the philosophy of religion at the University of Chicago, Dr. Wieman taught at Grinnell College for one year, 1955-56, and received the honorary doctor of letters degree from Grinnell in 1964.

Prof. Wieman was recently announced as the winner of the 1975 Unitarian-Universalist Association award for distinguished service to liberal religion. The award, scheduled to be granted on June 26 in Minneapolis, will be made posthumously.

Books Authored

Author of many books and articles, Prof. Wieman is best known for the volumes "The Source of Human Good" (1946) and "Man's Ultimate Commitment" (1958). He won the 1960 Philosophical Library award for "Intellectual Foundations of Faith" as the best published work on the theme of philosophy and religion in time of stress.

Robert W. Bretall, editor of "The Empirical Theology of Henry Nelson Wieman" (Macmillan, 1963), said: "It is quite possible that Prof. Wieman may be what his students have almost unanimously acclaimed him—the most comprehensive and most distinctively American theologian of our century."

Born in Richhill, Mo., Aug. 19, 1884, Prof. Wieman was married to Ann M. Orr in 1912, who preceded him in death in 1931. In 1948 he married Laura Wolcott Matlack of Grinnell, who survives. Five children from Prof. Wieman's first marriage also survive, including Robert M. Wieman who taught at Grinnell College in 1950-51.

Harvard Doctorate

A graduate of Park College, Parkville, Mo., in 1907 Prof. Wieman received the Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1917. He studied in Germany in 1910-11, and was the recipient of many awards and honorary degrees in addition to the one from Grinnell.

In 1927, following ten years of teaching at Occidental College in Los Angeles, he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago. He retired from his position as professor of the philosophy of religion in the Divinity School in 1947.

Beginning a new career after his retirement from the University of Chicago, he taught at the University of Oregon, 1949-51; University of Houston, 1951-52; Grinnell College, 1955-56; and the University of Southern Illinois, 1956-66, where he was named professor emeritus. The Wieman archives of his philosophical and theological writings are housed at S.I.U.'s Morris Library in Carbondale.

Lectures

A distinguished lecturer as well as author, Dr. Wieman delivered the Ayer Lectures at Colgate-Rochester Seminary in 1947, the Carew Lectures at Hartford Seminary in 1938, the Nathaniel William Taylor Lectures at Yale in 1930, and was lecturer at Meadville Theological School, Chicago, 1962-64, and Starr King School for the Ministry, 1968.

Private memorial services have been arranged. Prof. Wieman willed his body to the University of Iowa College of Medicine.