

NECROLOGY



Robert Forte Smart
1905 - 1997

Academy Fellow, former Academy President, distinguished educator, college Dean and Provost and community leader, Dr. Robert Forte Smart, died August 25, 1997. After earning his Master's from Harvard, and newly married, he started a teaching career at the University of Richmond which continues until his retirement in 1972. An expert on fungi and slime molds, he received his Ph.D from Harvard in 1935. During his distinguished teaching and research career at the University of Richmond, he took on administrative duties such as department Chair, Dean and the Provost.

Dr. Smart was the 1944-45 president of the Academy and one of the major driving forces in the growth and development of the Academy. He was also one of the trustee's of the Virginia Institute of Scientific Research and, in 1974, was elected Fellow.

As community leader, Dr. Smart was a 19 year member of the Henrico County School Board (five years as chairman), president of the Robert E. Lee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and Board member of J. S. Reynolds Community College. Dr. Smart also served as a deacon and on the Board of Administration at River Road Baptist Church. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa and Beta Beta Beta Biological Society.

Dr. Smart's wife, Eleanor Ferguson Smart died in 1992, a son, Robert, died in 1984. He is survived by his daughter, Tucker Smart Paxton, a brother, C. Murray Smart, and seven grandchildren.