

A Memorial to Mrs. Depew Head 1886-1962

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Founder and Honorary President of this Library

IT IS WITH MUCH SADNESS that I write a memorial to my good friend, Florence Head, who passed away April 26, 1962. She was a woman of culture and rare gifts whose literary background was outstanding. She had a wide acquaintance, and all who knew her respected her abilities and admired her mental capacities. Her zest for life gave buoyancy to all her activities.

Coming to Columbus from Marion, Ohio, Florence made early use of her talents in her work with the Ohio State Library. It was during the period that she was serving as its Field Representative that we first met. Having decided to make a collection of books by Ohio Authors to house in the Governor's Mansion, and having planned to promote the works of our Ohio writers and musicians as far as it was possible for me to do as the wife of the Governor, I was in need of someone to help in this project. Many people had been considered but none had qualified. Upon becoming acquainted with Florence Head at a literary display of the Federation of Women's Clubs in Dayton, I discussed the subject with her and found her enthusiastic. Though still connected with

the State Library for sometime afterward, she gave unstintingly of her time and interest in helping with this Ohioana Collection. We went into an uncharted field together—much of it by trial and error—but we worked closely and in harmony.

Florence Head brought to her work vision, an alert creative mind, and an unusual knowledge of books, authors, and relevant facts about them. Many Ohioana projects were initiated and brought to fruition through her efforts—the final one being *Ohio Authors and Their Books*, started by Ernest Wessen and completed by Dr. William Coyle. It is sad to know that Florence Head could not have been present when Dr. Coyle was honored at a meeting shortly after her passing. This book is one of her memorials, of which she has many, as her time and thought were devoted to inspiring people with the worthwhile things of life.

We, of the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library, owe much to this outstanding woman. Her passing is a great loss to her family and her many friends. Our gratitude to her is great and we say of her life—"Her works speak for her. She has accomplished much and will not be forgotten."