



Dr. Blegen accepted a pin from Mr. Fridley as Mrs. Blegen watched.

Theodore C. Blegen (1891-1969)

DR. THEODORE C. BLEGEN'S long and fruitful labors in the "house of history" (a phrase he used) ended on July 18 with his death at the age of seventy-eight. For "Mr. Minnesota History," a title he richly deserved, the house offered many outlets. One was as a history professor at Hamline and at the University of Minnesota, where he also served as dean of the graduate school for twenty years before he retired in 1960. Another was at the Minnesota Historical Society, as assistant superintendent, then superintendent from 1931 until 1939.

There were other outlets, too, but the most important to the Dean — at least in getting the story of the past to the people — was the field of publication. He wrote or edited more than two dozen books on many subjects and contributed nearly a score of major articles to *Minnesota History*. He

edited the quarterly from 1923, when he took over from its founder, Dr. Solon J. Buck, through 1939. Under Dr. Blegen's editorship, much of which was in close association with Bertha L. Heilbron, his successor, the magazine's already sound reputation grew, and it gained recognition as one of the leading state historical journals.

Dr. Blegen's retirement as a research fellow for the society was announced at a reception only ten days before he died. His wisdom and wit were in evidence as he accepted a pin from director Russell W. Fridley (above) for twenty-five years of service to the society. Then he posed (below) with his three successors as editor of *Minnesota History*. The photograph symbolizes a legacy he both preached and practiced — that whoever is editor should dedicate himself to keeping history scholarly and readable.

Dr. Blegen is shown with three successors as magazine editor: Bertha L. Heilbron, who had a hand in all but two of the magazine's first thirty-seven volumes before she retired at the end of 1960; Rhoda R. Gilman, who was editor the next seven years; and Kenneth Carley, present editor.





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