

Distinguished Professor

Lewis E. Atherton

Dr. Lewis E. Atherton, professor of history and director of the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection at the University, has been selected to receive the first annual Distinguished Faculty Award and \$1,000 cash prize established by the University Alumni Association last year. Public presentation of the award will be made at the June Commencement exercises.

Dr. Atherton was chosen for the honor by a special committee of his teaching colleagues on the basis of outstanding teaching, research, and service.

He has been on the teaching staff here since 1936, and has won wide recognition for historical research and authorship, but is particularly known on the campus as an outstanding classroom teacher.

The University Alumni Association established the new award early in 1959 upon recommendation of its plans and projects committee, and will allocate the \$1,000 each year from its Alumni Achievement Fund, a fund of voluntary contributions used to encourage scholarship, research, and service among both students and faculty of the University.

The Alumni Association asked University President Elmer Ellis to supervise selection of the recipient for the first award. All divisions and departments were invited to nominate candidates from their faculties on the basis of outstanding achievement and service to the University, to the students, and to society.

President Ellis then appointed a committee to screen the records of more than a score of nominations and to weigh all factors for the selection. They were enthusiastic in their recommendation of Dr. Atherton.

Lewis Atherton was characterized by one of the prominent deans on the campus today as a "master teacher."

"He is one of the most effective and competent men on the University faculty," the dean said. "Exceedingly ethical and highly skilled, he is equally effective in a beginning course or in a graduate seminar. And he is completely loyal to the ideals for which a university should stand."

Dr. W. Francis English, dean of the University's College of Arts and Science and himself a professor of history, describes Dr. Atherton as "a complete faculty man. Not only is he a highly competent teacher," Dean English said, "but he is an excellent aid in campus administration. Give him a committee job to do, and it will be done to perfection."

A former graduate student who took both his master's and doctor's degrees under Dr. Atherton's advising, said that Dr. Atherton was an "excellent, meticulous teacher; always persistent and driving for perfection on the part of the student."

Lewis Atherton was born in Bosworth, in Carroll County, Missouri, March 1, 1905. He attended high school in Carrollton, Mo., and graduated there in 1923. After attending the University of Oklahoma for two years he enrolled in the University of Missouri, obtaining his A.B. degree here in 1927. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Pi Zeta, and Delta Sigma Rho.

He served a year as an instructor in history at New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, N. M., and then returned here to earn a Master of Arts degree in 1930.

He taught history in St. Joseph (Mo.) Junior College for a year, and then went to the staff of Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Mo., where he taught until 1936. In the meantime, he served as an instructor in the Summer Sessions at the University and did advanced graduate work. He was appointed an instructor in history at M.U. in 1936, and received his Ph.D. degree the following year, remaining on the staff as instructor.

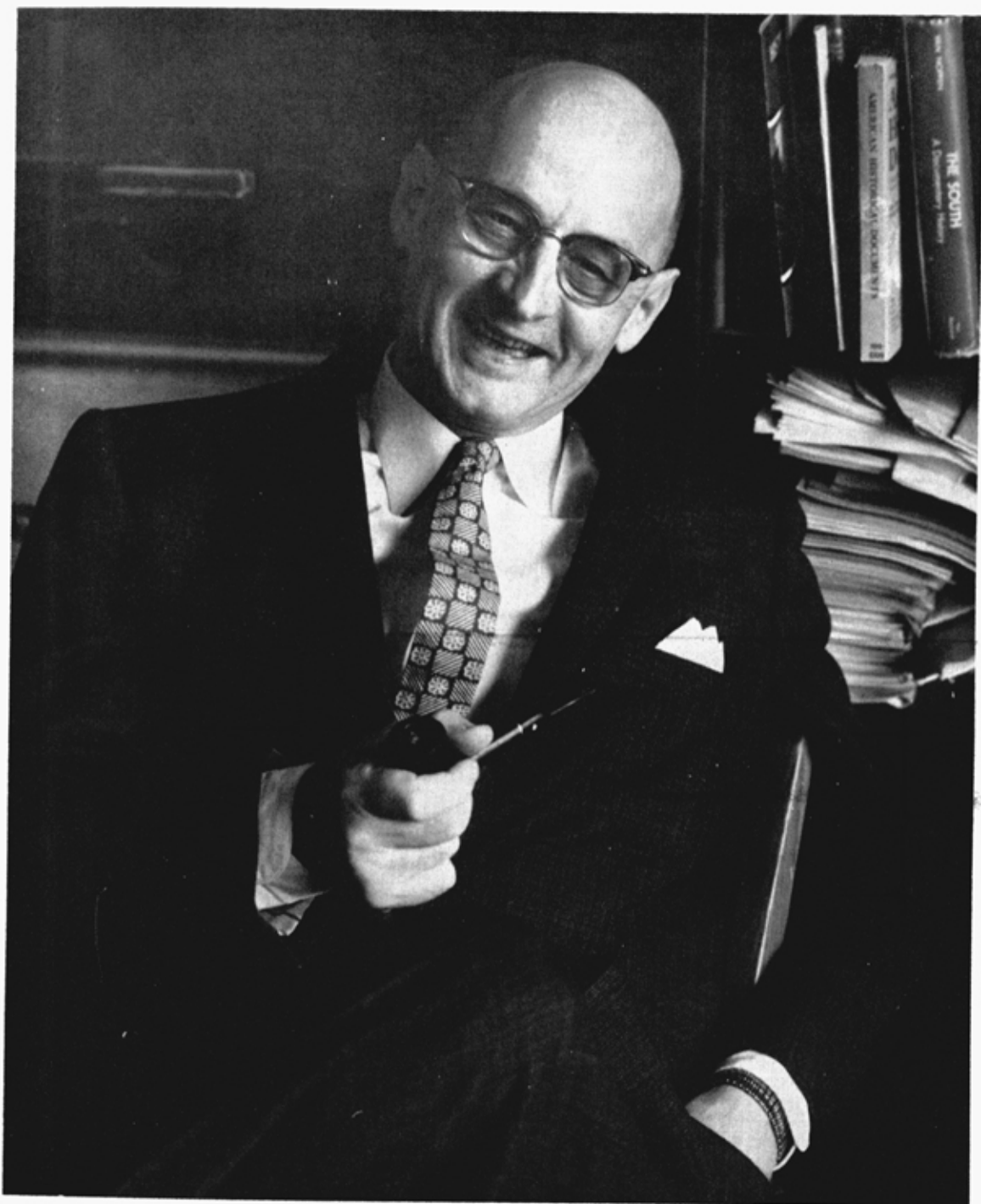
Dr. Atherton was promoted to full professor in 1946, served as chairman of the department of history from 1944 until 1950, and was first made director of the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection in 1952.

He has done much research on the importance of the crossroads country store and the frontier mercantile business in the life and progress of the Middle West and the South. He is considered the outstanding authority on this subject. His writings in this field were appearing in historical reviews early in his career.

Dr. Atherton's doctoral dissertation, "The Pioneer Merchant in Mid-America," was published as one of the University Studies here in 1939. In 1940 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for research, and this resulted in the book, "The Southern Country Store—1800-1860," published by the Louisiana State University Press. This was a social and economic history of what eastern business men often called "the country and interior trade of the old South."

A more recent book of Atherton's, "Main Street on

Continued on page 8



Battaglia

Teacher, scholar, historian, administrator . . . Dr. Lewis E. Atherton has been selected to receive the first Distinguished Faculty Award, created by the University of Missouri Alumni Association for presentation at the June Commencement.

Medical alumni affiliate

Closer affiliation with the University of Missouri Alumni Association was effected by the Medical Alumni Association at its meeting in St. Louis last month. In adopting new by-laws, the medical group became an affiliate of the University Alumni Association and changed its name to the University of Missouri Medical Alumni Organization.

Dr. John W. McHaney of Jefferson City, as president, and Dr. Hugh E. Stephenson, Jr. of Columbia, as secretary-treasurer, were re-elected by the reconstituted medical organization, and Dr. Wallace R. Stacey of Independence was elected vice-president.

Dr. Vernon E. Wilson, dean of the University's School of Medicine, commended the medical alumni for their action and pointed out that only five medical schools in this country now have separate, individual alumni associations.

The medical alumni also voted to expand their board of governors to a membership of 21 to provide greater statewide representation and participation of alumni in medical school activities.

As organization president, Dr. McHaney becomes a member of the University Alumni Association board of directors.

S. E. Missouri alumni meet

More than 100 alumni of Southeast Missouri gathered at the high school in Fredericktown on March 24 to hear a talk by President Elmer Ellis and to visit during a coffee hour that followed. Dr. Ellis discussed "The University and the State."

O. B. Ferguson, member of the Board of Curators and publisher of the Fredericktown Democrat-News, presided at the program. Jean Madden of the Alumni



Visiting at Fredericktown: Roy G. Cooper, prosecuting attorney; President Ellis; Harold Krueger (MSM), National Lead Co. plant manager.

Office introduced three county chairmen—Bob Bartels of St. Mary's, Dwight Schubel of Hillsboro, and Harry Bock of New Madrid. As Madison County chairman, Paul Pautler, news editor of the Democrat-News, spearheaded arrangements for the meeting.

Also on the program was Timothy Hays, who made a few irrelevant remarks.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

from page 2

the Middle Border," was published by the Indiana University Press. The story of the development of country towns in the Midwest since the Civil War, this has been acclaimed by critics as one of the best in its field. Much of the material was gleaned during a leave of absence granted by the University in 1950-51 when he was awarded a Newberry Library Fellowship in Mid-western Studies by the Newberry Library of Chicago.

The Rockefeller Foundation granted Dr. Atherton a \$3,600 award late in 1953, and he was given a six-month leave of absence by the University to study at the Research Center in Entrepreneurial History at Harvard University and prepare material for another book.

In 1958, he was granted a Summer Research Fellowship by the University Research Council to continue work on a study of the role of the businessman in the fur trading, mining, lumbering, ranching, and merchandising frontiers during the exploitive stage of American development.

He was also awarded a grant from the Social Science Research Council which provided a reduced teaching load during the winter semester of 1958-59 to permit him to work on this same project. The Indiana University Press will publish next year Atherton's monograph, "The Cattleman—A Cultural and Economic Portrait," which resulted in part from this research.

Dr. Atherton served three years on the editorial board of the Journal of Southern History, and is currently a member of the editorial board of the Mississippi Valley Historical Review. He served as chairman of the University committee for the improvement of teaching, and is presently secretary of the newly formed Friends of the Library at the University.

He was married in 1929 to the former Miss Mary Louise Webb, who was teaching school in Roswell, N. M. They have two daughters.

Frank King's new job

Frank H. King, BJ '17, until his recent retirement an Associated Press executive in Texas, has become executive editor of the Houston Post. The following tribute to the popular Missouri alumnus appeared in the editorial columns of the Dallas News: "The News congratulates the Post—but more important, it is happy that the amiability, professional competence and ethical integrity of this man will remain an active force in Texas journalism. To thousands of newspapermen devoted to him he is FHK—the signature he used on AP memoranda so long. His return to activity is journalism's gain. His life, his love, is a newspaper. 'Nothing will ever take its place,' he said recently. We agree. And Frank H. King is one reason why."