

Visiting Professor Program – Named Lectureships



J. Rawson Collins

J. Rawson Collins was born April 24, 1910, to William and Lucy Rawson Collins. He attended Franklin School through eighth grade and then Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard College in 1932 and received an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 1934.

During World War II, Mr. Collins was assigned to Air Force headquarters for five years, and was discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1946.

In 1946, Mr. Collins started his 40-year business career with the First National Bank of Cincinnati (now Star Bank), and became Vice-President/Officer in Charge of Trust Investments for many of his years with the Bank. He also served the Bank as a Director until his retirement from that position in 1985, having served as Vice-Chairman of the Board until 1975.

The religious side of Mr. Collins is reflected in his service to his Church. He attended Christ Episcopal Church (now Christ Church Cathedral) in downtown Cincinnati for 60 years and was a member of the vestry, serving as treasurer, Junior Warden, and Trustee of the Christ Church Endowment Fund. He served in various capacities for the Episcopal Church under five Bishops, including serving as a member of the Bishop Diocesan Council and Trustee of the Diocese. He served as a member of the Chaplaincy Committee of Children's Hospital Medical Center, and was a recently retired board member of the Society of the Transfiguration. He was a Trustee of the Episcopal Divinity School for approximately 10 years.

Mr. Collins' commitment to community service is revealed in activities with community organizations too numerous to fully enumerate. He served as Trustee of the American Music Scholarship Association, Home for the Incurables, Charter Committee of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati Historical Society, Maple Knoll, Playhouse in the Park, Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses, Talbert House, Travelers Aid Society, and Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute. The quality of his service has been recognized many times by special awards such as the Salvation Army William Booth Award, the Cincinnati Union-Bethel Bell Ringer Award, the Trustee Award of the Episcopal Divinity School, and the Jacob B. Davis Volunteer Leadership Award of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. He has been recognized as a Distinguished Fellow of the Ryan Foundation and honored by the Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute.

Mr. Collins' willingness to take a chance on major projects in which he believed was demonstrated in 1975 when, with Dr. Richard L. Rasner, he founded The Olympus Center, an organization whose purpose is to test children with learning problems.

Perhaps Mr. Collins' most important contribution to this world was the day-to-day support he provided his many friends. Always there, always willing to help, with an uncommon understanding of human frailty and human spirit, and always with a voice of encouragement.

J. Rawson Collins passed away on September 6, 1996.