

Eugene V. Mohr came to the University of Puerto Rico in 1955 with a BA and an MA from Columbia University. In 1964 he completed a PhD at Berkeley. From 1966 to 1970, as Director of English and Linguistics, he established the undergraduate and graduate programs in English at Inter American University's new metropolitan campus. In 1970 he returned to UPR as first English Graduate Coordinator and later served as Acting Director of the department. Since 1968 he has served as consultant to the College Board. He retired from UPR in 1984 and is now Chief Researcher for the Richardson Seminar Room project. His publications fall mainly into the areas of Caribbean literature, Puerto Rican literature in English, and applied linguistics.

Introductory Note

The English Department seminar-library bears the official name Lewis C. Richardson Seminar Room. The name-giver smiles from a portrait on the wall over the catalogue drawers, the university tower in the photo background. A stone plaque under it reads, "Lewis C. Richardson, 1902-1967; Professor of English, 1928-1967."

I have heard much about Professor Richardson but joined the department too late to have met him, even though at this point in history I figure among the senior professors in it. For younger members of the department he is just a portrait and a plaque on the wall and a name for the seminar room. At some time in the not so distant future, Professor Richardson would become nothing more than a name, a photo, a vital statistic.

As director of the seminar room, I asked Dr. Eugene Mohr to write up a brief account of Richardson's life, of the founding of the seminar room, and why it was named after him. Dr. Mohr retired a few years ago after thirty years in the English Department; he was a friend as well as colleague of Richardson and a participant in the institution of the departmental MA program and the seminar room. I thought to have a couple of copies of Dr. Mohr's account bound and shelved in the seminar room in order to fix Professor Richardson in departmental history and to satisfy future curiosities.

Dr. Mohr took on the task with alacrity, aware even more than I of time passing and history vanishing. He decided to interview retired professors who knew and worked with Richardson from the 1920's on. Dr. Mohr came up with a mine of anecdotes, letters, diaries, documents, and articles, many of which bear on the history of Puerto Rico and the

University as well as on Professor Richardson and his colleagues.

The Richardson Seminar Room will maintain on file copies of all these materials and will endeavor to have some of them published. They will be useful to graduate students interested in editing or researching original sources, and they offer good reading to anyone who might want to know something about the backgrounds of the English Department.

Dr. Mohr used his collection to put together the following article on a series of events which took place fifty years ago and remain as meaningful today as they were then.

Following the article, Dr. Mohr has written biographical sketches of the four professors involved in the historical incident.

Thomas Noel