MARION SPARKS. LIBRARIAN AT CAMPUS 3. Died 2/4/24

Marion Sparks was a teacher at the University of Chicago for many years. She was well known among the campus, especially for her reputation as a loyal student.

Mrs. Sparks died on February 14, 1924. She was a member of the University staff for over 20 years and had been recognized as an outstanding teacher. Her dedication to her students was unparalleled and she had many loyal followers.

The library's collection was named in her honor, and the library is now known as the Marion Sparks Library. Her legacy continues to influence the institution to this day.

[News Gazette]
Marion Sparks, Librarian at Campus, Is Dead

Miss Marion Emiline Eparks [sic], a member of the University of Illinois staff since 1904, and one of the most well known women on the campus, died Sunday night at the Burnham hospital, following a major operation.

Few have been the students who have gone through the University in the last 20 years who haven’t been acquainted with Miss Sparks or who at least knew her by sight. Her friendships have extended all over the world, as she received greetings at Christmas time from students in all lands. Although she lived alone in an apartment at 1207 West Oregon street [sic], Urbana, the majority of campus persons knew her.

She was known as an authority on bibliographical work. Another accomplishment for which she was well known was the fact that she could read fluently any language in the chemistry library. This she had developed through her own initiation. Many have been the times that she has translated work for graduate chemistry students.

Seld [sic] Three Degrees.

Miss Sparks came to the University in 1904 as resident bibliographer, nutrition investigation laboratory, serving in that capacity until 1910. For the next two years she did miscellaneous bibliographic work. In 1912 she became library assistant in the department of chemistry. At the time of her death she was librarian in the Chemistry library and taught a course in the literature of chemistry.

Miss Sparks was born December 5, 1872, in Miller township, this state, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Sparks. She was prepared in Ottawa Township, and Marseilles and Seneca high schools. She received her bachelor of arts degree from the University in 1895, a degree of bachelor of library science degree in 1899, and a master of arts degree in 1900.

Written Books.

She was library organizer, Davenport, Ia., Academy of Science, 1900; in the Elkhart, Ind., public library, 1903; Dowagiac, Mich., public library, 1904. She was a member of the Presbyterian church.

She had written books as well as numerous articles. Among them were: Birds vs. Street Cars, Note of a Brilliant Meteor; Dialect or English; A Census of the Periodical Literature of Chemistry, all appearing in magazines; a book, “Chemical Literature and Its Uses.”

Miss Sparks leaves, a sister, Mrs. Robert Hughes Paisley of Mt. Vernon, who graduated from the University in 1904. Funeral arrangements await the arrival of Mrs. Paisley.

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