

## †Allen P. Wikgren\*

Allen P. Wikgren, Biblical scholar and translator, died at the age of 91 on May 7, 1998 in Conover, Wisconsin. Dr. Wikgren was well-known within the scholarly community for his work in editing and translating the Greek New Testament and Apocrypha. He was known to papyrologists for his use of papyri in his biblical studies, and for his work on a number of papyri and ostraca.

Wikgren was born December 3, 1906 in Chicago. He received the degrees of B.A. (1928), M.A. (1929) and Ph.D. (1932) from the University of Chicago. After teaching at a number of institutions, Dr. Wikgren returned to the University of Chicago as a faculty member in 1940, where he served as Chairman of the Department of New Testament and Early Christian Literature from 1953 until his retirement in 1972. Wikgren also served as director of the Chicago Greek Lectionary Project from 1958 to 1972. His primary research interests were biblical languages and their translation into English. His *Hellenistic Greek Texts* (Chicago 1947, 1950, 1954) was widely used as a chrestomathy for teaching *koine* Greek and included a number of papyri in its reading selections. He contributed to different versions of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible and the American Bible Society's *Greek New Testament*, and completed and edited the eighth volume of the Loeb edition of Josephus. A full bibliography of Dr. Wikgren's publications can be found in the *Festschrift* presented to him on his retirement from the University of Chicago in 1972.<sup>1</sup>

Of special interest to papyrologists are the two projects Dr. Wikgren pursued after his retirement. The first and smaller of

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\* I would like to thank the late Dr. Wikgren's son and daughter-in-law, Burt and Martha Wikgren, for supplying information and copies of obituary notices.

<sup>1</sup> Robert W. Allison, "Allen P. Wikgren: Biography and Bibliography," *Studies in New Testament and Early Christian Literature: Essays in Honor of Allen P. Wikgren*, ed. David Edward Aune, Supplements to *Vetus Testamentum* 33 (Leiden 1971) 252-257.