

# The Experiment IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING

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## I N M E M O R I A M

On Sunday November 27, 1977, our Founder Dr. Donald B. Watt passed away in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at the age of 84. A rich, full life and a brilliant career came to an end : our friend, mentor and inspiration Donald Watt had left us, but not before he had left a mark on the world and had given all of us a veritable treasure : The Experiment in International Living. For years to come, The Experiment will be living testimony of a life well spent :

### DONALD B. WATT'S LIFE

Born on May 3, 1893 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Dr. Watt attended Lawrenceville School and Princeton University, where he received a BA degree in Psychology in 1916. After graduation, he sailed to Mesopotamia (Iraq) as YMCA secretary with the British Indian Armies. He remained there for three years, working with troops from all parts of the British Empire, and traveled to Persia and India. Upon returning to the United States, Dr. Watt served as a member of the Board of Directors and treasurer of the Acme Cement Company of Catskill, New York. From 1924 to 1927 he did graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania and Yale, and later became personnel director at Syracuse University.

In 1931, the Payne Fund asked Dr. Watt to study summer schools conducted by the international association of the League of Nations Societies. The School's programs consisted of a series of technical lectures by League experts which Dr. Watt felt could not be absorbed by 17-year old students. Having his suggestion rejected that arrangements be made to enable the young people from various countries to get to know each other better on a personal level, Dr. Watt pursued his belief and arranged for American teenagers attending the following summer to camp with students from France and Germany. This arrangement did not prove entirely satisfactory, however, because of divisions and cliques created by language barriers.

The following year, Dr. Watt tried a different approach : he arranged for peoples of different countries to live in homes instead of camps. Thus, THE EXPERIMENT began. Donald Watt founded The Experiment in 1932 and served as its director until 1950. He was the first chairman of The Experiment's board of Trustees and, in 1949, organized and eventually became permanent president of the General International Meeting. In 1964, The Experiment founded its School for International Training in Brattleboro. In 1965, Dr. Watt was made permanent honorary chairman of the Board of Trustees of the U.S. Experiment.