

Gift Endows the Deanship



Austin O. Hooley pictured here circa 1945. Her gifts were engendered by family loyalty to Cornell and her interest in animal welfare.

The name Austin Hooley may not sound familiar, but that is about to change. Miss Hooley, who in life declined to publicize her charitable intentions, left an extraordinary bequest in February to endow the deanship of the College of Veterinary Medicine. The title of Austin O.

Hooley Dean has therefore been conferred by the trustees of Cornell University on Donald F. Smith, the incumbent dean of the college and will carry over to each of his successors.

“The college is greatly honored to receive this defining gift. Proceeds from this endowment will have a

substantial impact on our ability to sustain academic priorities of the college,” said Dean Smith.

A second provision in Miss Hooley’s will names the directorship of Cornell’s School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering for her father, William C. Hooley, a 1912 graduate of the school. Funds in excess of the amounts required to endow the deanship and the directorship will provide scholarship aid to students in the respective programs. Miss Hooley made both bequests in memory of her father and her mother, Edna O. Hooley, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

Though an alumna of

Mount Holyoke College, Miss Hooley had a lifelong relationship with Cornell. Her father maintained close ties with the campus and brought his daughter with him when he visited. He also impressed upon her early his gratitude for the financial support he had received from his uncle and without which he would not have been able to attend Cornell. Mr. Hooley repaid his uncle’s generosity by supporting the education of other worthy students at Cornell through the William C. Hooley Scholarship. Miss Hooley’s Cornell affiliations were so strong that she was elected to the Cornell University Council, serving from 1971 to 1977 and again from 1978 to 1981.

“Because of her father’s love of Cornell and the activities she participated in with him relating to his class, I think she felt a certain kinship to the university,” wrote Thomas Phelan, her longtime attorney and co-executor of her estate. “In addition, some of her father’s friends had a very fine reputation for giving at Cornell, and that was an inspiration.” Those friends included Jansen Noyes and Robert Purcell, very prominent university benefactors.

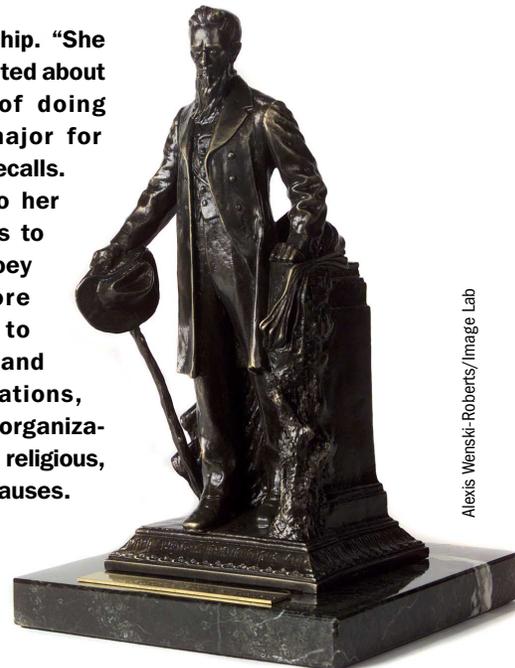
Born in 1922, Miss Hooley worked on Wall Street after graduating in 1943 with a major in economics and a minor in political science. She also pursued studies in the New York University Graduate School of Business Administration and two years of night classes at

Fordham University’s School of Law. She worked as a securities analyst with Lehman Brothers until 1962. She then traveled extensively and became active in local politics. She resided in Chatham, N.J.

Miss Hooley’s beloved poodle, Katie, shared her home for 18 years and played an important role in inspiring her to provide for the care of future generations of animals. Late in life, she decided to consolidate a substantial portion of her estate into one gift for the benefit of animals rather than making many smaller bequests to various animal causes. When Phelan asked Cornell trust officer Jack Murphy how his client might do something especially meaningful for the College of Veterinary Medicine, he sug-

gested the deanship. “She was genuinely excited about the possibility of doing something so major for Cornell,” Phelan recalls.

In addition to her principal bequests to Cornell, Miss Hooley bequeathed more than \$1 million to animal shelters and humane organizations, charitable relief organizations, and medical, religious, and educational causes. In a final exceptional act of generosity, she donated her body for medical research. At her request, there was no obituary written to give testimony to her accomplishments and unending concern for others. It will be our special privilege to remember her here.



Alexis Wenski-Roberts/Image Lab

This statue of Ezra Cornell is presented to foremost benefactors of the university. Austin and William Hooley were given that honor for their extraordinary support to Cornell.