STANLEY A. CAIN, EMINENT ECOLOGIST
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Telegraph operators and graduate students often surprise us with curious spellings. Thus, the telegram I received, inviting me to write the present citation, referred to Dr. Cain as "imminent" and requested that I write up the "situation." In these days of simultaneousness and structuralism, such ambiguities have become an important element of our intellectual landscape. So, I do not mind taking my cue from these happy mistakes and hidden intentions the better to inform you of Stanley Cain's "imminence" and of the "situation" in which he has placed himself and the rest of us these many years past.

Now that some cardinals have shed their scarlet vestments for the battle-dress of the jungle or for rough-shod tramping in the slums, eminence itself is no longer the aseptic promotion that recompenses obedient dedication. In recognizing the eminence of Stanley Cain, in placing him on a level above

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ourselves, we are primarily acknowledging the fact that he has preceded us and led us in the development of the science of Ecology.

From his Hoosier days of wonder before the cypress swamps and ruins of New Harmony, he has always been guided by the double searchlight of scientific endeavor and social responsibility. Many of us have experienced the grave difficulty of choosing between scholarship and public works, bearing in mind that whatever message we might bring to our communities derived its value from our substance as scientists. During the formative years the antagonistic demands of these two functions are especially trying. For many, the need to gather strength, to achieve real competence, has been a sweaty, agonizing, intellectual, and social adolescence. Not so, it seems, for Stanley Cain in Indiana, Illinois, and Tennessee, when he gave himself so completely to the study of flora and vegetation, picking up clues from European workers then very poorly understood in America, and expanding the Chicago and Nebraska leads well beyond their original premises.

He contributed more than anyone to break the embattled provincialism of the early thirties among American botanists, by restating and critically analyzing concepts of vegetation analysis. As for the science of floristics, his "Foundations of Plant Geography" set up a new framework for a tired discipline very badly in need of rejuvenation.

Thus in the period that precedes his coming to Michigan, he is seen to range very freely from systematic botany to taxonomy to biosystematics: to delve into the unexhausted wealth of Humboldt, Drude, Schimper, Warming, Raunkiaer, Braun-Blanquet, and to pose in the American landscape the methodological and theoretical questions they had raised. On speaking terms with foresters, wildlife managers, geographers, he frequently provided them with better ways of stating and solving their problems, but he also gained many useful insights from them.

Above all, however, his personal influences and example served as a moving force in the developing body of professional ecologists in North America. A pervasive joy in the task being done and an ever-hopeful anticipation of the task ahead was communicated by Dr. Cain to his associates and students. This was an attitude of body-and-mind, never proffered in inspirational speeches, but always enacted in real life. For this sense of reality and purpose many generations of co-workers have cause to be grateful.

When Stanley Cain left Tennessee for Michigan, this warm aura followed him and lighted the stage for new tasks. The concentrated and essentially solitary pursuits of plant-geography and phytosociology had resulted in many influential publications and in an outstanding book that remains a classic and a landmark. I would say that this marked the end of the "green period" (scientists as well as artists have their changes of mood!). In his five years at the Cranbrook Institute of Science, he set a new standard by applying his considerable knowledge of plant life and of ecology to human affairs. By the time he moved to the University of Michigan, in 1950, he was ready to give conservation a new name and a greater reach. The virtual monopoly of biologically-oriented personnel in the field of nature preservation had already defeated some of the aims of conservationists. The participation of those trained in the sciences of man was imminent. In no small way was Stanley Cain instrumental in opening that door. The successes of the new breed of resource managers in the last fifteen years or so are not easy to

keep track of. The vistas opened by Cain and his associates led their graduates to government and industrial service at many levels and in many places. One or more of them are now present in decision-making posts as well as in many strategic academic positions.

Maybe this very rewarding time of teaching, traveling, counseling, and part-time official service should be called the blue period, for the serenity of its endeavours and the unobstructed clearness of its design. And maybe the more recent Washington tenure can be labeled the gold period?

In a time of political and social tragedies, the integrity of all men is at stake. Those who occupy high office are sorely taxed in their efforts to define their own jobs and to put into practice the idealism that made them assume public responsibility. There will be old friends who will not approve, there will be new friends who must be kept at arm's length. There will be many insidious pitfalls. Stanley Cain was moved to accept the assignment of Assistant-Secretary of the Interior at a time of great confusion when nothing was needed more than clear thinking, solid knowledge, broad views, and a capacity to work with others.

His term of office also coincided with the greatest change of academic orientation in a generation: the full recognition of the academic in industrial and government circles was about to be followed by a similar openness of the university itself. Whereas we should deny that the university is apart from the "real world," that it indeed offers an irreplaceable form of social living, it is true that its part in community, national, and international affairs outstrips the polite messages of an earlier day and soon will consist in full participation. Stanley Cain is likely to stand out, once more, as one of the "new men" who occupy this frontier and who direct its traffic.

I therefore return to the imminence of Stanley Cain, always a coming man, a man of many situations who will never lose the thread of a golden purpose nor break his trust in those who has led and cherished. In awarding him the title of eminent ecologist his fellows acknowledge a debt which they can never repay.