



DR. OLIVE GILLIAM

JUNE 1976

An erudite scholar and teacher who continued to write in her chosen field of history after retirement to Leisure World, Dr. Olive Gilliam broadened her scope vastly in later books. She shunned the very idea of "retirement", continued to study, to observe and to contribute to the human economy through her writing.

Olive Gilliam's interest in things Greek and Roman started with a Greek history class as a high school freshman in her native Pomona, California. Throughout her life and years of teaching, ancient history in all its aspects was her principal interest.

She earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees at University of California, Berkeley, and there she began working with Dr. Richard F. Scholz, former Rhodes scholar and history professor who became her mentor and inspiration. She accompanied him as his assistant to University of Washington where in 1921 she received her doctorate, the first to be awarded in the history department there and the first to go to a woman.

When Dr. Scholz became president of Reed College in Portland she joined the faculty as professor of history, but at his urging later went on with her studies at Oxford. On her return from England she was offered a post as history professor at San Jose State College and there she taught for 34 years.

Simultaneously she devoted much time to research, traveled abroad frequently for academic conferences and never stopped writing mainly on history of the first Century B.C.

After she moved to Leisure World, she also published books on philosophy, religion, current political and sociological problems. These include "The State of the Union, 1776-1976," a tribute to the Bicentennial, and "Witness the Power of Women."