THOMAS LOGAN ROBERTSON, CMG MA DipEd HonLLD (W.Aust.) PhD (Lond.) FACE
1901 – 1969

A pivot point educationally within the Institute and the dominant building physically, the Library is named in honour of Dr T.L. Robertson, Chairman of the Interim Council and of the first Council of the Institute. Before assuming chairmanship of the Interim Council, Dr Robertson served as Director-General of Education in Western Australia in which capacity he was intimately involved and gave of his vision and enthusiasm in the planning and early development of the Institute.

Awards and public honours accorded to him as an educator and administrator cannot be summarised merely in the formal letters which follow his name. During a lifetime of devotion to education, Dr Robertson gave outstanding service as Assistant Director of the Commonwealth Office of Education in the post-war years; as a member of the Senate of the University of Western Australia and its Pro-Chancellor; as Chairman of the Australian Council for Educational Research and as a foundation member of the Council of the Australian College of Education. The awards of the CMG, an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Western Australia, and the Britannica-Australia Award for Education were fitting recognition of his contribution.

As an administrator of rare ability, he held unwaveringly to the ideal that “organisations are for people” and not people for organisations. Transcending all high office and official rank, indeed it is for his warm humanity and for his deep personal involvement that Dr Robertson will be remembered.