

Rev. H. Richard Niebuhr Dead; Authority on Theological Ethics

**Sterling Professor at Yale
Had Been on Faculty Since
'31—Ex-College President**

Special to The New York Times.

GREENFIELD, Mass., July 5 —The Rev. Dr. H. Richard Niebuhr, Sterling Professor of Theology and Christian Ethics at the Yale University Divinity School, died here today at Franklin County Hospital, after suffering a heart attack at his summer home in Rowe. He was 67 years old.

Professor Niebuhr was a brother of the Rev. Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Professor Emeritus at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and was regarded as one of the nation's foremost authorities on theological ethics. He had been on the Yale faculty since 1931 and was an authority on church history in the United States.

He was a native of Wright City, Mo., and received a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale in 1923. The next year he was one of four students to receive the first Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Yale's Department of Religion.

He was graduated from Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Ill., in 1912 and from Eden Theological Seminary in 1915. He was ordained in the Evangelical and Reform Church and served the pastorate in St. Louis from 1916 to 1918.

Taught at Eden

From 1919 to 1922, and again from 1927 to 1931, he taught at Eden Seminary. Between these periods, he served as president of Elmhurst College.

In 1931 he received a Sterling Research Fellowship at Yale to spend a year at the Universities of Berlin and Marburg, Germany, studying relationships in religions.

He began his career at Yale as Associate Professor of Christian ethics, being raised to full professor in 1938 and to the Sterling Professorship in 1954.

From 1953 to 1958 Professor Niebuhr directed a survey, under the auspices of the Carnegie Corporation, of Protestant theological education in the United States and Canada.

This work produced two volumes, "The Purpose of the Church and Its Ministry," and "The Advances of Theological Education," as well as a series of five extensive bulletins distributed to American seminaries.

Professor Niebuhr was the author also of several other books as well as many articles for church and professional publication. His most recent book



Associated Press

Rev. Dr. H. Richard Niebuhr

was "Radical Monotheism and Western Culture."

Among his other books were "The Sources of Denominationalism," "The Kingdom of God in America," "The Meaning of Revelation," "The Nature of Religious Experience," and "The Church Against the World." He was a member of the 1948 five-man interdenominational Religious Books Committee of the American Library Association.

Professor Niebuhr received an honorary degree in theology from the University of Bonn, Germany, in 1960 and an honorary degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology from Oberlin College in 1959.

Professor Niebuhr was honored by his former students in 1957 with the publication of the book, "Faith and Ethics: The Theologies of H. Richard Niebuhr." The volume consisted of a number of essays on Professor Niebuhr written by his former students.

He was deeply concerned with fundamental problems facing man and, speaking earlier this year at St. Paul, Minn., he told a group of 1,000 Protestant churchmen:

"Let them orbit. Let them take their sins and their wars to other planets. We will have to ask the same theological questions no matter where we are in the universe."

In addition to his brother, he is survived by his widow Florence; a daughter, Miss Cynthia Niebuhr, and a son, the Rev. Dr. Richard R. Niebuhr of the Harvard Divinity School.

A funeral service will be held Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in Marquand Chapel of the Yale Divinity School. Burial will be in the Centerville Cemetery in Hamden, Conn.