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## Obituary- Ezell

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## OBITUARY

*Dr. STILES D. EZELL* Vice President

We are sad to report the death on February 23rd. of Dr. Ezell at his home in Vermont. He had been one of our most supportive and active members. In the early 1970's a literary lady wrote a somewhat patronising letter to the Times Literary Supplement about the Fellowship's efforts to raise funds for a memorial stone to George Eliot in Westminster Abbey. It was read in the United States by Dr. Ezell. He felt so strongly about the dismissive tone of the letter that he immediately became a life member of the Fellowship, enrolled some of his patients, appealed to them to add some dollars to his own generous donation to the appeal fund and, eventually, sent us over £400!

This enthusiasm and generosity became a prominent feature of Stiles' membership. He offered to photocopy the newsletter and post it four times a year to our American members and to collect their subscriptions. Despite our protests, he would not allow us to reimburse him for any of this. Whenever support was needed it came from Dr. Ezell in full measure, and, as a very inadequate token of our deep appreciation, we made him a Vice President of the Fellowship.

The Chairman and I visited America in the Spring of 1979 and part of our holiday was spent in Salem, New York with Stiles and his charming wife, Jane. They gave us a wonderful time and, as a special treat, drove us to New Haven, Connecticut, to visit the Beinecke Library where we were able to see part of the wonderful George Eliot Collection used by Gordon Haight in his Biography and the 9 volumes of her letters. We also met some of Dr. Ezell's patients. He had a very widely spread practice through countryside he clearly loved very much; many of his letters to me described the colour of the trees when he was out doing what he loved most - playing golf. It was quite clear with what respect and affection his patients held him. How they must have missed him when he retired recently and moved to Vermont to be nearer his family - his sons and his beloved grandchildren. How we shall miss his support. Any organisation like ours is extremely fortunate to have a member like the one we called, affectionately, "Our Man in America".

K. A.