

## Williams Haynes (1886–1970)



Williams Nathan Gallup Haynes was born on July 29, 1886, in Detroit, Michigan. He was schooled in the Detroit area. After graduating high school he worked as a reporter for the *New York Sun* and edited *Field and Fancy* during 1906–1907. He enrolled at Johns Hopkins University in 1908 where he studied economics, biology, and chemistry, but left in 1911 prior to completing his degree. As a journalist, he found work as both an author and editor. During his early career he was correspondent in Canada and Europe for the Northampton, Massachusetts *Herald Field* and then worked as its editor. He wrote books on dog breeding, which was one of his interests, and wrote several light verses under the title “Collections of Americana.”

In 1916, he began work as the secretary and editorial director of the chemical journal *Drug and Chemical Markets* that was published by D.O. Haynes & Co. (a company owned by his father) and became publisher of the journal in 1920. In that same year was ask to serve on several federal commissions that were responsible for business and chemical standards. In 1926, he split the journal into two separate entities—*Drugs and Cosmetics Industry* and *Chemical Industries*, (later called *Chemical Week*), and took over the task of publishing *Chemical Industries*. During the same year, Haynes also began publishing *Plastic Products* (later *Modern Plastics*). In 1928, Haynes established the *Chemical Who's Who* series, and served as editor of the series until 1951. A number of pamphlets were published that highlights papers he had given at various symposia.

In 1939, Haynes sold his interest in the trade journals in order to devote all his time to writing about the chemical industry. He moved to a farmhouse built in 1750 near Stonington in eastern Connecticut. From 1933 to 1953 he authored ten books on various aspects of the history of the American chemical, several of which were reprinted in revised editions and translated into other languages. His books include *Chemical Economics* (1933); *Men, Money and Molecules* (1935); *Chemical Pioneers* (1939); *The Stone That Burns* (1942); *This Chemical Age* (1942); *The Chemical Front* (1943); and *Cellulose, The Chemical That Grows* (1953).

Between 1945 and 1954 he published his famous *American Chemical Industry: A History*. This major work was supported by several chemical companies and covers a period from the beginnings in 1609 through 1948. It is a valuable resource in business history as a large number of companies are included.

Williams Haynes was awarded the Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley Bronze Medal in 1950 for his dedication to protecting the natural environment and his passion for nature and the scenic outdoors. His work on the history of the American chemical industry was recognized in 1957 when he received the Dexter Award.

Haynes died at his home in Stonington, Connecticut on November 16, 1970.

## Sources

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