



ROBISON, FREDERI(C)K HOMER Prof

Much of Robison's story comes from his obituary in the Concordant Version magazine "Unfathomable Riches" in 1932, because he left the IBSA in 1922. He was born on February 3, 1885 in Greenwood, Indiana and died on April 17, 1932 in Manhattan, New York. He was the only male child of James A. Robison (1859-1949) and Eva J. Whitenack (1862 - 1955), of Oakland, California. He had two sisters named Bartha B. and May E. He spent his

youth in Oakland, graduating from high school at the age of 14. Around this time he became affiliated with the Disciples of Christ. He entered Franklin University to continue his education and there he demonstrated language skills in the study of New Testament Greek (koine).

With a year of instruction at the John Herrin Institute of Art in Indianapolis and some chemistry in his favor, he made splendid progress and in less than two years accepted a position as a poster artist at one of America's great lithographic houses. , located in Cleveland, Ohio. He became one of the

heads in charge of the artists. It was at this time that he began to read the works of Pastor Russell, of which he had become somewhat interested during his stay in Canada. During all this time he was exercising his linguistic talents in learning Spanish, French and German, as well as New Testament Greek (koiné). After reading the works of Pastor Russell, he employed a Japanese friend to translate some of the literature into that language, as he was still thinking about his goal of leaving as a missionary. With the passage of time he abandoned this idea to become a local missionary, as colporteur (precursor) of the works of Pastor Russell.

After about a year in this new occupation, he prepared for secretarial service and was called to the Biblical House in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. It was there that he met Miss Almeta Nation, whom he married on March 25, 1909. He became Russell's private secretary and held that position until after the Society's offices were transferred to Brooklyn, New York in 1909. As Pastor Russell's private secretary, he accompanied him on a trip around the world (December 1911 - March 1912) with a committee sent to investigate foreign missions. Japan was one of the places visited.

Upon his return, Robison became secretary of the foreign work and had a good opportunity to continue the study of languages. His obituary mentions that he could translate twenty-three languages in total, giving speeches in German, Greek, and English. He made pilgrimages on weekends in and around New York City, speaking at both public and private gatherings.

Robison was one of four men named in Russell's will as co-editors of the Watch Tower. In addition to having been imprisoned with J. F. Rutherford and others in 1918-1919, he was a member of the Watch Tower editorial committee until the spring of 1922 when he resigned. After his resignation he went to Washington D.C. to accept a secular job as a commercial artist in the art department of the Washington Post. He later worked

for the government and later became art director for the Washington, D.C.-based American Automobile Association. He returned to his job in New York in 1931, and died on April 17, 1932.

When the first version of the literal translation of the Bible “Concordant Version” was published, this caught the attention of the Society. As the Emphatic Diaglott plates were wearing out, the Society was looking for something to replace it, and Robison was appointed to call the Concordant Publishing Concern (the group that edited the Concordant Version) in Los Angeles with the aim of putting his translation on the list of Society literature. A small brochure of the Concordant translation of the book of Revelation was announced on the Watch Tower on June 15, 1920, but was discontinued in early 1921. The contact he had with the Concordant version group, who were Universalists, led Robison to stop associating with the IBSA, resigning from the Watch Tower editorial committee and his position as elder of the New York congregation. He spent the rest of the 1920s supporting the Concordant cause and trying to attract his former IBSA colleagues to it.

(translated from the Spanish, see
<http://www.tulees.blog/2018/09/29/los-secretarios-particulares-de-c-t-russell/>)