



## Alexander Cappon

Featured in the center of the mural with a green trench coat and hat

Dr. Alexander Cappon was an English professor and editor of the *University of Kansas City Review*, UKC's literary magazine. Born in 1900 in Milwaukee, WI, Dr. Cappon earned his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago. Ernest Newcomb, the first UKC administrator, recruited him in 1937. Dr. Cappon became the editor of the *University of Kansas City Review* (today's *New Letters*) and the English Department's long-time chair. Quintanilla selected Dr. Cappon to represent Don Quixote on his murals because he found the young professor's slender figure and gray hair suitable for that role. Dr. Cappon appears in three of the six murals. Dr. Cappon and Quintanilla became friends and spent time together outside of his studio. On a visit to Union Station, they both met with Quintanilla's longtime friend, Ernest Hemingway.

Dr. Cappon eventually retired in 1970 after a career of considerable contribution to the UKC. Under his leadership, the *University of Kansas City Review* reached a nationwide audience and, after World War II, Dr. Cappon helped managing the large influx of student veterans. Additionally, Dr. Cappon guided the English Department through the financial challenges of the 1950s and the student unrest of the 1960s. Last but not least, Dr. Cappon's legacy is still present on Quintanilla's murals.

Sources: *University News*, 11 Jan. 1950; *Kansas City Star*, 7 Feb. 1958; *University News*, 6 Feb. 1969; *Kansas City Star*, 2 Feb. 1997.