

*Yvonne*  
Rachel Crothers - Pen & Brush - November 7, 1937

Rachel Crothers you will pardon me if I take a moment for a Pen & Brush Announcement. On ~~Thursday~~ Tuesday afternoon, November 16th, we hold one of the two important annual meetings. Members will please remember the date and hour, afternoon, not evening. Also remember to order your dinner. We may have to run on with business after dinner.

At the meeting your perennial President will have something personal to say only suitable for the family circle. She ~~has just had~~ as you may have read in the public print has just been celebrating her eightieth birthday. Members of this club made the day incredibly happy for her. For what you did to make her feel that after all it may be worth while to tackle a ninth decade she will try to thank you on November 16th, knowing full well that she can never do it adequately.

And now for the happiness we have before us this afternoon.

All of you who belong to the Pen & Brush have heard me harp frequently on a cardinal principle in my simple professional philosophy and that is what ever happens keep growing. In growth <sup>what we call</sup> lies not merely/success but something far more important, a deep sense and through it alone I am convinced comes a deep sense of the beauty and the worthwhileness of life. I do not know that you can find among American professional woman today a more splendid

illustration of what I mean by growth than the career of ~~the~~ Rachel Crothers ~~who~~ who has permitted us to add her name to our short list of Honorary Members. We are doing ourselves the honor this afternoon of admitting her to that list. I wish, dear Rachel Crothers, that we had a medal to pin on your breast. We are thinking about creating one and if we do you may be sure that one of these days we shall be adding it to your already full box of honors.

You know why she stands where she does today in her profession. It is that from the beginning of her work she has been a close, intelligent, just, sympathetic observer of our social <sup>scheme</sup> scheme. Long continued observations have made her understanding; they have made her satirist it is true, but a satirist without malice or sneers. That is, she has kept through all difficult things a humorous, sympathetic view of life. Moreover, she has struggled as few of our day struggle for a complete and perfect result, a satisfactory fulfillment of her own conception. You will remember how <sup>when</sup> she talked to the Writers' Section here three or four years ago she told us how she had <sup>drawn</sup> with a play which was on rehearsal and which her producer was willing and anxious to go on. A sense of loyalty and an inner integrity to the thing she was trying to do and which she felt she had not quite reached forced her to do this. She is having her reward today in the most brilliant success of the present season. We welcome you to the Honorary list, dear Rachel Crothers, knowing you will completely fulfill our faith in growth.