

gentle servant of the profession; he was not. He would suffer neither fools nor incompetents.

In 1931 Buck went to Pittsburgh as a professor of History in the University and as Director of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey, being particularly charged with the task of reorganizing the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. When funds for this project ran out in 1935, he went to Washington as Director of Publications of the National Archives, and after six years he succeeded R. D. W. Connor in the position of Archivist. In 1948 he moved over to become Chief of the Division of Manuscripts of the Library of Congress, and three years later he became Assistant Librarian. In these posts he showed a genius for organization rare in historians. He retired from the Library in 1951, but retained his active interest in a number of organizations, particularly in the Society of American Archivists and the International Council on Archives, in the beginnings of both of which he had been active. From 1937-1957 he was Treasurer of the American Historical Association, but except for this he lost, during his Washington years, nearly all touch with his old associates in the historical society circuits. He bluntly told one of the early meetings of the Association for State and Local History that its constituent societies should no longer give any thought to publication; hereafter the Federal Government would handle all such business.

After a long and uncomfortable illness, he died at Washington on May 25, 1962.

C. K. S.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON BULLOCK

Alexander H. Bullock, a Worcester lawyer and trustee, was born in that town on November 7, 1874, a grandson of Governor Bullock, a son of Augustus George and Mary (Chandler) Bullock, and a brother of Chandler Bullock, who for so many years was treasurer of this Society. Alec was

prepared for college in the public schools and in the Dalzell School, whence he entered Harvard in the Class of 1896. His chief undergraduate distinction was the presidency of the Harvard Athletic Association. After graduating, he studied for a year in the Harvard Law School, and then returned to Worcester where he read law in the office of Kent and Dewey. In 1899 he was admitted to the Bar, and five years later he joined in the partnership of Bullock and Thayer, with which he was identified for the rest of his active professional life. His business was concerned largely with trusts, and his time was taken up with directorships and with the presidency of the Norwich and Worcester Railroad, the People's Savings Bank, and the Merchants and Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

At the age of twenty-seven, Mr. Bullock was elected to the Worcester School Committee which he served until 1908, the last years as chairman. His next public service was in Washington during the First World War when as a director of the Bureau Branches and Customs of the War Trade Board he spent two years on the problems of international trade. Back in Worcester, he was chosen a trustee of Clark University in 1926; he became president of the board in 1938, and was awarded an LL.D. when he retired in 1945. From time to time he held minor offices in the First Unitarian Church, but his great interest was in the study and collection of Oriental art, and in the Worcester Art Museum, of which he was treasurer for twenty-seven years.

Mr. Bullock also collected books, and this led to his election to the American Antiquarian Society in 1937. He was at times critical, in a kindly way, of what he considered to be our then policy of collecting trivia such as first edition points. He was, however, a generous friend of this Library which he regarded as Chandler's responsibility as the Art Museum was his. Once he advanced the charming idea that the

Worcester members, other than college professors, ought to bear the expense of maintaining the Society. He set an example by his own very generous contributions to the Art Museum. After the death of Mrs. Bullock, the former Florence Armsby McClellan, in 1947, he began a measured relinquishment of his responsibility, but his interests remained quick until his sudden death on October 12, 1962. C. K. S.

JAMES WILLIAM FOSTER

James W. Foster, Director of the Maryland Historical Society, was born in Fauquier County, Virginia, on August 10, 1890, a son of James Robert and Frances B. (Robinson) Foster. He was educated at the Episcopal High School in Alexandria, and at the University of Virginia, where he took his B.A. in 1912 and his M.A. in 1913. His first job was that of a reporter on the *Baltimore News*, which he left to enter the Officers' Training School and to see service in France as a captain in the 58th Coast Artillery.

Back in Baltimore, Foster returned to the *News*, where he served as circulation manager and later in the advertising department. He left this to join an advertising firm, and then, in 1925, an investment securities house. In 1931 he quit business to join the staff of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, where he wrote articles on Maryland history, lectured, and cultivated potential donors of historical material. After seven years of this experience, he became associate head of the Maryland Room of the Enoch Pratt, and editor of the *Maryland Historical Magazine*.

When the directorship of the Maryland Historical Society fell vacant in 1942, some of the leading public figures of the State thought that Foster was the ideal man for the place, and he was appointed to it. He found the Society in the first stages of a shift from the status of a passive receiver of curios to that of a dynamic and forth-putting public service

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