

Among other interests, Amy Bess was a long-term trustee of Berkshire Medical Center, the Berkshire Museum, Miss Hall's School, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the Shaker Museum and Library (Old Chatham, New York). She received honorary degrees from Williams College, North Adams State College, Rhode Island School of Design, and Muhlenberg College.

As a member of AAS, she attended at least five annual or semi-annual meetings and was often in touch with the Society, which she presented with several volumes. One was her own book 'The Shaker Image,' and another Mary Richmond's bibliography of Shaker literature, which Amy Bess published. The arrival of the latter volume led Marcus McCorison, librarian and president from 1960 to 1992, to observe that the American Antiquarian Society has one of the strongest collections of early American printed material on the Shakers.

Amy Bess Miller leaves a daughter, Margo Miller of Boston, and three sons, Kelton B. Miller II of Shaftsbury, Vermont, Michael G. Miller and Mark C. Miller of Pittsfield. Her sister Margery Adams of Charlotte, North Carolina, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren also survive her. A memorial service was held at Hancock Shaker Village.

Robert C. Achorn

ROBERT CUSHMAN

Robert Cushman, businessman, statesman, and Worcester civic leader, died on January 7, 2003, at the age of eighty-six. Bob graduated from Phillips Andover Academy and Dartmouth College. He was a good student and athlete, having been captain of swimming at Dartmouth. Soon after college, Bob married Mary 'Polly' Shorey after wooing her at Smith College. It was there that I came to know him, as he stayed overnight with me at Amherst College, between his 'trysts' with Polly. He often told me

that, but for his many long weekends with her, he might have graduated from Dartmouth with honors. Be as it may, their marriage of more than sixty years was a very special partnership. They respected each other's interests and shared them. They raised two daughters, Mary and Louise, both of whom graduated from Dartmouth and received the M.B.A. from Babson.

Cushman was elected to AAS in 1974 and during the next twenty-eight years was a very active member despite the pressures of his business career and his devotion to civic duties. For several years he spearheaded AAS's efforts to encourage corporate giving. He served for seven years on the Council and assumed leadership of several stages of the Isaiah Thomas Fund drive. This successful fundraising effort produced a total of nine million dollars when it was conducted in 1987.

Bob's first job was with Gulf Oil. After five years there he joined Norton Company where he spent the rest of his business career, ending it as president and chairman forty years later. To reach the top executive position of a large international company (Norton had twenty-seven plants, twenty-two thousand employees, and sales of more than one billion dollars) required the usual attributes of intelligence, hard work, vision, decisiveness and leadership. But Bob had more than these. He was genuinely interested in people and recognized and promoted those with talent. He insisted on formally and thoroughly planning his firm's future. He was determined that his company continue to be operated on a high moral plane. Under his aegis, a written code of ethics was developed, which every manager and supervisor had to sign and, more importantly, to practice.

I am writing this at a time when several major companies and their executives and their public accountants have been indicted for 'cooking their books,' paying themselves enormous salaries, bonuses, and stock deals. As we view these examples of corporate scandal and executive greed that have adversely affected so many people, it is refreshing to look back at a company and its chief executive, who strongly believed that, in addition to producing a

satisfactory profit, a company was obligated to provide good products at fair prices to its customers, good wages and good care for its employees, and good dividends for its shareholders. He continued his company's strong support of the charitable and educational institutions in the countries, cities, and towns where its plants were located throughout the world. The following quotations are taken from a paper he wrote in 1976:

'The current popular concept of the large corporation [is]: ruthless, amoral, an octopus with Global Reach, exploiting people and natural resources both cynically and efficiently—dominating and subverting governments and political parties—all in the greedy pursuit of profit and wealth, without end—We face a crisis in ethics.

'People in business tend to comfort themselves with the belief that only a small minority of corporate executives are guilty of such things, and that the great majority are law-abiding, decent citizens. This may be true: I believe it is true, but it is not self-evident to most Americans.

'“Honesty is the best policy” should provide a common starting point for all business people, from the most idealistic to the most hardheaded. However, honesty is—has to be—more than just a policy. It is also a principle—for all the moral ambiguities of life in general, there has to be a core of integrity in business dealings.'

As an exemplary business leader, Cushman was asked to become a director of several companies and business organizations. These covered a wide range, but of all of them he particularly enjoyed his directorship at Houghton Mifflin, which brought him in close contact with its chief executive, Harold 'Hal' Miller, another distinguished AAS member.

From a civic and educational perspective, he was a founder and first chairman of the Greater Worcester Charitable Foundation, chairman of the Worcester Foundation for Biological Research, chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Regents, and trustee of the New England Aquarium. As a trustee of Worcester Polytechnic

Institute, he worked with still another antiquarian, its president, AAS member George Hazzard.

Classical music and fine arts were two areas of great interest to Bob. As an overseer of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, he travelled with it on its first-ever trip to the Orient. In the world of fine arts, in a quiet way, he and Polly gave four wonderful paintings to the Worcester Art Museum. These works were by the artists Julien Dupré, Pieter Brueghel the elder, Judith Leyster, and her husband, Jan Miense Molenaer.

It is a wonder that as such a busy person, Bob could find the time for hobbies or personal pleasure, but he loved to fish, produced elegant items in his woodworking shop, and played good tennis and golf. My wife Marianne and I traveled with Bob and Polly on four cruises, visiting interesting places in Europe and, even in recent years, the South and Southwest for golf and tennis.

We will miss this quiet, intense, and good-natured man who did so much for so many—his family and friends, his company, charities, educational institutions, and his country. We at AAS thank him for helping us to undergird our society with the financial strength it needs to carry out its mission.

John Jeppson

P. WILLIAM FILBY

He was called 'the man with the Sotheby swing' when he conducted auctions for the Baltimore Bibliophiles—but that was the most minor of P. William Filby's talents. Bill Filby was truly a Renaissance man—learned, genial, gracious, and generous. Born in Cambridge, England, on December 10, 1911, he served as a chorister in Trinity College, Cambridge, and was head soloist in 1925-26. One year later, he joined the staff of Cambridge University Library while taking German courses at the University and soon became a member of the Library's Rare Books Division.

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