

in the *Proceedings* of the American Philosophical Society, which had given the grant for the project, another article appeared, 'The Heritage of the Classics in Colonial North America.' The book toward which these and other articles in a dozen journals were leading was published in 1963, dedicated to his wife of fifty-five years, and entitled, *The American Colonial Mind and the Classical Tradition*. It was the synthesis of his thought on the subject begun with his article on Benjamin Franklin, 'Socrates at the Printing Press,' in the early thirties. In 1967 a companion volume, *Seven Wise Men of Colonial America* was published. In it was contained a paper on Thomas Paine's alleged anticlassical bias, which article had first appeared in our *Proceedings* for October 1965. He was also the translator and editor of Seneca's *Letters*, and author of two other books on Seneca.

At the April meeting in 1957 Gummere had been elected to this Society. He was regular in attending meetings for the first couple of years; then, when approaching eighty and in the wake of an operation, he attended only the Boston meetings, traveling out to the Worcester meeting just once, that in 1966.

At the age of eighty-six Richard Mott Gummere died in a nursing home in Lexington, Massachusetts, on December 3, 1969. He leaves a son, six grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and a nephew who grew up across the street from the Society in a house where Gummere used to visit with his brother while working at the Society. He is remembered by his colleagues and friends as a 'gracious, kindly and witty gentleman in the finest sense of the old tradition.'

J. E. M.

JAMES D'ALTÉ ALDRIDGE WELCH

d'Alté Welch died tragically on January 4th, 1970. He had been wounded during an attempted robbery near the Cleve-

land Racquet Club on December 10th, after which, apparently, he had made good progress toward recovery. Thus, this most unhappy event doubly shocked his family and friends.

d'Alté Welch was born in New York City on April 9, 1907, to Charles James and Elizabeth (Livingston) Welch. He was educated in private lower and secondary schools in that city and then proceeded to Johns Hopkins University where, during the academic years of 1927 through 1931, he earned a master's degree in the biological sciences. After serving as Assistant Malacologist in the Bishop Museum at Honolulu and collecting snails in the Caribbean Islands, d'Alté was awarded the degree of doctor of philosophy from Johns Hopkins in 1937. He pursued this interest by means of a long-standing research project pertaining to the distribution and variation of *Achatinella Bulimoides*, a Hawaiian tree snail. Thus, by training and profession he was a biological scientist. He had followed his trade since 1942 on the faculty of John Carroll University where he was held with respect and affection.

But, all this is foreign to the humanists and bibliophiles among us who delightedly recall another facet of d'Alté Welch. He was an avid collector of children's books. His personal collection of English and American examples is a major one, for he numbered 771 copies of his own books in his bibliography of American children's books. The largest portion of the collection consists of books printed between 1800 and 1821. There are twenty-eight miniature Bibles, of which his copy of the Boston, 1786 edition of *Verbum Semper-ternum* by John Taylor is the only known, complete one. His Boston, 1792? edition of 'Robinson Crusoe,' one of twenty-one editions in his collection, is unique. In addition, there are about one hundred volumes which are either unique, are one of two known copies, or are the best extant copy of a particular book.

d'Alté's interest in these books began about the year 1922 during a visit to England with his mother. She was a col-

lector of lace and encouraged d'Alté. He purchased a few English examples which sparked an enthusiasm which he never abandoned. His infectious love of his books, good will, good humor, and knowledge endeared him to fellow collectors, librarians, and booksellers, across North America.

Our association with d'Alté began in August 1948. He and Clarence Brigham and Ted Shipton formed an alliance to which newer staff members were admitted. His admiration of Brigham was particularly strong and found expression in d'Alté's dedication of *A Bibliography of American Children's Books Printed prior to 1821*:

Dedication to Clarence S. Brigham. A tribute to his remarkable genius for stimulating younger men to bibliographical endeavor, and also to having built the superb collection of early American Children's books of the American Antiquarian Society.

He took great pleasure in forwarding new data to Miss Avis Clarke, the Society's cataloger, for incorporation into our card catalogue.

I vividly remember my first meeting with d'Alté, nearly twenty years ago. He was working with the AAS collection of children's books in his usual whirlwind manner, catching up everyone with his boundless delight. I was plowing my way through piles of Vermont imprints. d'Alté insisted that I get a room in the same house on Wachusett Street in order that we might spend the evening searching the other fellow's bibliographical notes. After a swim at Bell Pond and supper, we attacked the typescripts, keeping at them until three in the morning. Later visits to Worcester and long, telephoned conversations only strengthened the impression that he was totally immersed in children's books, yet we know he was the head of a large and lively household, was a sympathetic teacher, and active in local, Cleveland affairs.

So it went with us, right through the summer of 1969. d'Alté came on to inspect the Tighe Collection and, with

Michael Papantonio, to advise us on that important matter. We all had a grand time together. We shall miss him.

d'Alté left to the Society the American books in his collection which are not present in Worcester. In addition, the notes, films, and Xerox prints of American children's books are coming here as an important research tool for the study of children's literature. Staff members of the Society will complete his revisions to the bibliography which will be published in a separate format, as planned. Nevertheless, these measures are poor substitutes for our friend.

d'Alté leaves a family of six members—his wife, the former Ann Goddard whom he married in 1943; two sons, James and Charles; and three daughters, Martha, Elizabeth and Frances.

M. A. McC.

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