

valued gifts that we have ever received.' His bibliography of Common Sense was published in 1956 by Yale. In the late fifties he continued to correspond on his non-aeronautical interests which had come to include Paine cartoons and moon hoaxes. At the October meeting in 1959 Gimbel read a paper, 'The Resurgence of Thomas Paine,' and in the *Proceedings* for 1960 the hundred-page catalogue of an exhibition at Yale by Gimbel on the occasion of the Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of Thomas Paine's death was printed.

Recently he was at our meeting in the spring of 1970 at Winterthur from which he rode back to New Haven on a bus taking a number of members back to Worcester. On that bus were the Shiptons who were also, a couple of months later, on a Grolier Club tour of German libraries with the Gimbels when in the evening of May 26, Gimbel had a heart attack and died the next day in a Munich hospital at seventy-one years old. As he had had a number of heart attacks the last few years, his death was no surprise, but family and friends on the tour felt the shock of loss keenly indeed. Richard Gimbel is survived by his widow, two sons, five daughters, twenty grandchildren, and a large number of friends who miss this extraordinarily diverse bookman with a puckish sense of humor.

J. E. M.

JAMES OWEN KNAUSS

Born in Coopersburg in 1885 and brought up in that area of rural Pennsylvania, James Owen Knauss left the hillsides of home for Lehigh University where he took his bachelor's degree in 1910 when nearly twenty-five years old. He taught for a short time in the high school in Catasauque, Pennsylvania, before leaving home for Cambridge and a master's degree from Harvard in 1913. That fall he joined the faculty of Penn State where he taught while working on his doctorate on Pennsylvania Germans. It was to that purpose that in mid-

1917 Knauss got in touch with this Society about our German-American newspapers. Librarian Brigham was always interested indeed in newspapers and they kept one another informed. In 1918 Knauss received his doctorate from Cornell and in 1922 his dissertation was published in an amended form by the Pennsylvania German Society with Brigham's name first in the non-alphabetical acknowledgements. Brigham wrote to thank Knauss for having sent a copy of the monograph and to ask Knauss to translate some German in Franklin's bi-lingual newspaper for him. Knauss sent the translation back promptly, apologizing because 'it is simply one of the numerous articles on religious subjects' then so often found in Pennsylvania German newspapers and therefore, 'as is usually the case in such articles, most of it is composed of personal abuse.' He tried to soften the sad news by pointing out more interesting material he hoped would be helpful for Brigham's work on newspapers. During this period he came to the Society to work on his research projects summers. As he was at this time and since 1921 teaching at Florida State College for Women at Tallahassee he welcomed his research trips north, where he had as his headquarters his family home in Pennsylvania, and once wrote of being in New York 'in the land of all desires,' finishing the work on an article on territorial Florida newspapers and their publishers.

In the mid-twenties Knauss left Tallahassee for Kalamazoo and a job at the state teachers' college there. Shortly after arriving he was put to work writing a history of the college for its twenty-fifth anniversary, a copy of which he sent along to the Society. That out of the way, he returned to further work on his extended study of eighteenth-century German-American newspapers, for which he had done the research for an article on Christopher Saur. Knauss was elected to this Society at the October meeting in 1931 and in writing Brigham to say how delighted he was he pointed out that 'even if I am a member, I cannot refrain from bothering you' with questions on

printers and he asked Brigham to get even by asking Knauss a few questions. Instead Brigham asked him to send his monograph on Saur. It appeared in our *Proceedings* for 1931.

That done Knauss turned to a nineteenth-century printer as his next research project for work on which he had hoped to have a sabbatical year but 'our automobile state has so suffered by the depression that leaves of absence on half pay have been practically suspended.' Not only did he forego sabbatical leave, he yielded his holidays and spent one Thanksgiving morning getting a letter off to Brigham with queries for a sketch he was doing for the *DAB* and he closed the letter pleading that 'the turkey is calling me.' In the deepening depression in early 1933 he wrote that there was a real danger that he and other teachers might be laid off but he took the view that 'anyway, I would then have the leisure to engage in my weakness of browsing around *old things* and of scribbling and scrawling.' He luckily didn't have to take his leisure that way and continued to teach and tend to his research, offering to spend his summer on the translation of Saur's *Zuschrift an die Deutschen in Pennsylvanien*, a strong Loyalist statement of 1780, if Brigham should want it for the *Proceedings*. Brigham did and Knauss polished up the translation while also taking another chore, the working-up of an article on Benjamin Franklin and the Pennsylvania Germans on which he had intended to spend the following summer in 'the pleasure of good detective work and anticipation of a historical find.'

His interest in Michigan history led him around to newspaper offices and he did some book-scouting for the Society by finding runs of newspapers Brigham might buy, and also becoming an inveterate attic searcher in the little time left after his tasks as an innovative department head, teacher, researcher, and trustee of such organizations as the Historical Society of Michigan. When Brigham's two volumes on early American newspapers were published in 1947, Knauss wrote to say that 'I have been using all of my spare time (and some which Mrs.

Knauss did not consider free) to look over your really monumental work.' His own work on the Pennsylvania Germans was again shunted aside while he prepared the history of the first half-century of the Kalamazoo college and in the mid-fifties he retired from his teaching and administrative duties and for the first year of his retirement he catalogued and arranged the manuscript collection at the college. In preparation for this work he visited this library and asked Shipton about rights in manuscripts in archives. After outlining the law Shipton pointed out the latent dangers for archivists, with the laconic hope that the 'State Penitentiary is a comfortable place. At least it will have archives that it will be fun to organize.' Knauss continued in his retirement to do those things that interested him and among them was a willingness to tackle one more writing chore. He was joint-author, with a Kalamazoo colleague, of a volume in the history of education in Michigan which was published year before last.

At the age of eighty-four James Owen Knauss died at a hospital in Kalamazoo on August 29, 1970, survived by his widow, a son, and four grandchildren. From all I have been able to learn, he was a man of equal temper unruffled by sillinesses, a confessed and 'confirmed old bookworm,' and a man who could write as in one of his books, that 'any mistakes still remaining must be placed on the relatively sturdy shoulders of the author.'

J. E. M.

GERALD DOAN McDONALD

Born in Wilmington, Ohio, on June 5, 1905, Gerald Doan McDonald learned his lessons in the local schools and graduated from Wilmington College before he left the hometown that summer of 1927 for Haverford where he took a master's degree in 1928. Two years later he received a library degree from Columbia and went directly downtown to the New York

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