

keeping in communication through the mails and often on the matter of the carriers' addresses. In 1949 he contributed to a study of sports and recreations in American popular songs in *Notes* and in other ways took his interests bibliographical and historical into print. One of these was an article in a recent number of *Library Trends* in which he called for better bibliographic control of the sources of American history. In 1953 he was awarded an honorary D.H.L. by his college. In 1967 McDonald wrote Shipton to say that 'I wish I could announce at this moment that the list of carriers' addresses is ready for the printer,' but he could not, although he thought the end was in sight and he noted that he looked upon this Society as 'my inspiration and active promoter' during his years of work on the project, and that he was cheered by the prospect of his work appearing in our *Proceedings*. He had again been sidetracked to another project, this one a study of the origins of the motion picture. In the meantime we kept him informed of our acquisitions of addresses as they came in. In 1969 he was made chief of special collections, a newly created post and it was in the exercises of the duty of that job that, while in Paris on an acquisitions trip for the library, Gerald Doan McDonald died suddenly on May 6, 1970, at the age of sixty-four. He is survived by a sister, by a large number of colleagues at his library who remember him as 'a quiet, unassuming, and friendly man, who had a wide range of interests and knowledge,' and by friends in the Grolier Club, this and other societies who echo the sentiments of his colleagues.

J. E. M.

CLINTON ROSSITER

Clinton Rossiter, scholar, was born at Philadelphia on September 18, 1917, the son of Winton Goodrich and Dorothy (Shaw) Rossiter. After growing up in Bronxville he went to Cornell for his undergraduate work, taking his bachelor's in

1939. He then went to Princeton where he took his M.A. in 1941 and his doctorate the next year. He spent the Second World War in the Navy as a gunnery officer being released in 1946 in time for an instructorship at Michigan that academic year. He returned to Cornell the next year and started up the academic ladder there in the government department. He wrote a large number of books and articles beginning with a study of constitutional dictatorship published in 1948. His *Seedtime of the Republic* was published in 1953 and received the Bancroft Prize, the Wilson Award of the American Political Science Association, and the prize of the Institute of Early American History and Culture. A couple of years later he published a study of the conservative tradition in Britain and America which also took a prize and he kept his joint habits of publishing and prizewinning very much in evidence with his study of the American presidency which since has been translated into thirty languages.

Also in 1956 Rossiter was elected to this Society but his ties with it were tenuous in these later years, though in his letter accepting membership, he noted that he would 'hasten to accept with gratitude. I remember happily the hours I spent in the library of the Society, and I must say that this puts a rather splendid capstone on my inadequate efforts in the field of American colonial history.' Shortly after election he sent along to the library a reprint of an article on John Adams which Shipton tried to parlay into a paper at a meeting and though rebuffed, he kept trying, but got instead helpful notes on Early American Imprints. Continued entreaties from the Society to get Rossiter to deliver a paper at a meeting met with no more success, he being unwilling to leave his students in the middle of the week and so he never made it to a meeting. In addition to being a very popular teacher at Cornell, Rossiter was also on the academic circuit quite a lot with visiting professorships here and abroad, honorary degrees to be picked up at scattered convocations and commencements, and

work on projects for the Rockefeller and Ford foundations, the Fund for the Republic and the like, all this in addition to the learning and practice of the intricate steps of the bureaucratic minuet that all department heads must learn to dance. He was in addition a familiar spectator at college athletic events.

In the midst of a very full and meaningful scholarly life, Clinton Rossiter was killed by a massive heart attack that hit him while alone in the cellar of his Ithaca home. He was reported missing and his body was found by his family the next day. He is survived by his widow and three sons. Among the tributes from Cornell officials upon his death, a former colleague stated that in addition to his human warmth of concern, 'in an age of anxiety and controversy, he was at all times and in every sense a gentleman first and foremost.'

J. E. M.

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