

Obituaries

GILBERT CHINARD

Gilbert Chinard, historian and linguist, was born in Chatellerault, Vienne, France, a town not far from Poitiers, on October 17, 1881, a son of Hilaire and Marie (Blanchard) Chinard. He took his schooling at the local college and then moved on to the Lycée at Poitiers. His work there completed he went further down the road to the university at Bordeaux and later to Paris and the Sorbonne. This training behind him, he married Emma Blanchard in 1908 and left France for America and an instructorship in French at CCNY. The next year he moved to Brown where he remained until 1912. That summer he taught at the summer school at the University of Chicago and then continued further west for a professorship at the University of California. While there he served for a year as president of the west coast philological society and published a number of works on comparative literature. He left in 1919 for Johns Hopkins and stayed there until 1936, having become in those years a member of the Walter Hines Page School of International Relations.

In the mid-thirties our then librarian, R. W. G. Vail, wrote Chinard with some identifications of items mentioned in a journal by a French traveler in the United States. This journal had been edited by Chinard for the Institut Francais de Washington, a group interested in French visitors to early America. In 1936 he returned to California for a year at the University before becoming Pyne Professor of French literature at Princeton. During these years his interest in American history became broadened to include studies of the Huguenot in America, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. He later was on the advisory board of the Jefferson Papers.

In the early forties Chinard and our then-director, Clarence Brigham, visited together and Brigham took the occasion to ask if Chinard could send copies of his works to our library. He did what he could to help and a short time later was elected at our April meeting of 1941 to membership in this Society. In thanking Brigham, he asked: 'Did I tell you that I started my American work some 32 years ago in the Library of the Antiquarian Society. I was working then on Whittier and little expected that I should ever become a member.' He added that 'even before receiving notification of my election I had been working for the Society. I expect to be able to send you very shortly a complete or almost complete file of two French newspapers, not recorded anywhere as far as I know:

L'Etoile du Kansas, 1873-1876

L'Etoile des Pauvres, Cloverdale, California, 1877-1881.'

At just about this time in May 1941, he was one of seven influential Frenchmen in America who wrote President Roosevelt, incidentally a fellow AAS member, to congratulate him on his strong warning to the Vichy government. The next year he spoke at a Free French rally in New York, and throughout the war he supported the cause in many ways. He was later made a commander of the Legion of Honor, a Laureat de l'Institute, and other French honors came to him for his work in the war years.

After the War, Chinard and this Society worked on trying to pull together the scattered material and sketches of Alexandre Lesueur, many of which were in France where Chinard used his influence to make them available for scholarship. Also during these Princeton years he added Washington and Franklin to his historical interests.

As the end of the spring semester of 1950 approached, Chinard wrote Brigham regarding his retirement plans beginning that summer, 'I am looking forward to the time when I shall be able to give myself entirely to research without being distracted by doctors' dissertations and committee meet-

ings,' and with this free time 'I hope to be able to spend some time in your library.' Upon retirement he spent a year at the Institute for Advanced Study and soon became a Newberry Guggenheim Fellow.

In 1956, a year when he was president of the Modern Language Association, Chinard was asked by us to give a paper at our meeting the next year which was to be in conjunction with an exhibition of Lesueur drawings at the Worcester Art Museum. Chinard accepted and offered to do what he could to help, even if it meant deferring an appendectomy, as 'I am not anxious to put myself through the meat grinder and there is no emergency.' The meeting went off without a hitch but we were never able to get him to send us the paper and it never appeared in our *Proceedings*. This was Chinard's first and last appearance at one of our meetings although he continued to write to us.

Gilbert Chinard died on February 8, 1972, in Princeton Hospital at ninety years old. His wife of nearly sixty years had died in 1967, and he is survived by a son Francis of Montclair, a daughter, Mrs. Lucienne Clemens of College Park, five grandchildren, and a large number of colleagues and students who long have admired him and his work.

J. E. M.

SAMUEL FOSTER DAMON

S. Foster Damon, disciple of William Blake, was born in Newton, Massachusetts, on Washington's Birthday, 1893. His father, Joseph Neal Damon, was descended from Deacon John Damon, a founder of Reading, Massachusetts; his mother, Sarah Wolf (Pastorius) Damon, from Francis Daniel Pastorius, the founder of Germantown, Pennsylvania, whose largely unpublished folio manuscript, 'The Beehive,' will yet place him in the first rank of early American poets and intellectuals. Foster attended the Newton schools and began to educate him-

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