

to hear myself today speaking in Tom's tone when I pass on this sound advice to younger men. During his terms as vice president, 1949-1952, and president, 1952-1955, his advice on important policy matters was, time has shown, correct. Always his advice was given in such a way as to inspire gratitude and not offence: "This looks to me like the wrong policy, but of course you are much closer to it than I." He never offered advice as to our collection policy, feeling that we "were closer to it," but deliberately bought in the same fields material which his institutions could not afford, with the intention that his holdings would supplement theirs when they became available.

The company of bookmen was always the source of great satisfaction to Tom, and he provided in his will for the kind of wake which he, in anticipation, enjoyed to the utmost. His vast collection of Americana, the most important ever to be offered, will be dispersed at a series of auctions which will be congresses of bookmen. Against the proceeds of the sale, the libraries with which he was most closely connected are by his will given credit, so that they can bid in open competition for their wants.

Mr. Thomas Streeter died suddenly, as he would have had it, at his home in Morristown, New Jersey, on June 12, 1965, leaving his wife, Ruth (Cheney) Streeter, four children, and numerous descendants. That sentence awakens years of affectionate memory for many of us.

C. K. S.

EARL GREGG SWEM

The nation suffered the loss of one of its most noted librarians and bibliographers in the death of Dr. Earl Gregg Swem on April 12, 1965, at Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Swem had been a member of the American Antiquarian Society

for twenty-nine years, having been elected in 1936. He subscribed fully to the ideals and objectives of the Society and although he had been unable to attend meetings in recent years due to his advanced age he treasured his membership and never lost interest in its activities.

Earl Swen was born in Belle Plaine, Iowa, on December 29, 1870. He was graduated from Lafayette College, Pennsylvania, in 1893, and he received honorary doctorates from Hampden-Sidney College, Virginia, in 1925, Lafayette in 1926, and William and Mary in 1941. Swem served his novitiate in library work at the John Crerar Library in Chicago and at the Library of Congress in Washington. At the latter institution he acted as chief of the catalogue division and the copyright office from 1903 to 1907. That year he moved to Richmond where he had been appointed Assistant Librarian of the Virginia State Library. In 1920 he was named Librarian at William and Mary College. He served in that post until his retirement in 1944. Largely through his efforts, the library's holdings grew tenfold to a collection of 215,000 volumes and 390,000 manuscripts. While at William and Mary he rescued the South's oldest historical journal, the *William and Mary Quarterly*, from obscurity and acted as editor for twenty-three years. During that time the periodical attracted a following of readers throughout the country.

Swem devoted many years to his bibliographical studies and achieved national recognition as a bibliographer. He served a two-year term as President of the Bibliographical Society of America. Perhaps his most important works in this field are the Virginia bibliographies consisting of some fifty volumes describing collections of Virginia history, maps, manuscripts, and belles-lettre. So thorough were his researches that for many years the words "not in Swem" have been a warrant of extreme rarity.

The apogee of his career was reached last year with the laying of the cornerstone of the new William and Mary Library, named in his honor. His precarious health and ninety-three years did not permit him to attend the ceremony but after the eulogies of the President of the College and other notables, the recorded voice of Dr. Swem was heard with this message—

It (the library) will stand as an encouragement and a source enlightenment to the college instructors who will be devoted to transforming (the) hope of the students into wisdom; and its halls will offer a cordial welcome to all Virginians who seek the repose and solace derived from reading. . . . A library is a holy place, consecrated by the volumes containing the thoughts of the past and present ages: of Plato, of Aristotle, of Jesus, of Cicero, of Dante, of Chaucer, of Shakespeare, of Bacon, of Newton, of Washington, of Jefferson, of thousands of others. Here then will be a haven to all mortals who may wish to commune with immortals.

C. W. B.

ROGER WOLCOTT

Roger Wolcott wrote in the *Fiftieth Anniversary Report of the Harvard Class of 1899* that his obituary would read, "He was a prominent club man"; and so he was, although the newspapers called him a "Community Leader." And he was that also.

Wolcott was born in Milton, Massachusetts, on July 25, 1877, and spent his entire life in that town. He received his A.B., *cum laude*, from Harvard College in 1899, and his law degree in 1902. He conducted a successful private law practice at 60 State Street in Boston from 1906 until recent years. Otherwise, he was engaged in local and state politics. He served on most committees in Milton at one time or another and was elected to the legislature for several terms. He was a member of a great many organizations, being a trustee or president of most of them. Those germane to our activities were the Milton Historical Society, the Boston

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.