

Obituaries

ROGER PATTRELL BRISTOL

Roger Pattrell Bristol, librarian and bibliographer, was born in Weathersfield, Vermont, on July 15, 1903, the son of Edwin F. and Jennie (Pattrell) Bristol. He graduated from Boston University in 1923, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He took an A.M. from the same university in 1924. In 1949 he was awarded an M.L.S. degree by Simmons College's School of Library Service.

Bristol was head cataloguer at the Peabody Institute Library in Baltimore when he first visited the American Antiquarian Society. That was in January 1951 and Bristol was hard at work on a bibliography of Maryland imprints, 1801-1810, taking up chronologically where Wroth, Wheeler, and Minick had left off. He returned to Worcester again that August, having asked to visit Clarence Brigham and seek 'advice from someone with more experience.' Brigham's newspaper bibliography proved to be of great value to Bristol in the preparation of his Maryland work, which was published in 1953 by the University of Virginia Press for the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia.

After the Maryland bibliography was finished, Bristol turned his attention to the problem of indexing Charles Evans's *American Bibliography*, a project which John Cook Wyllie, the librarian at Virginia, had been urging on him. Knowing that Clifford K. Shipton was working to finish up Evans (Volume XIII, 1799-1800), Bristol sought Shipton's advice and Shipton's assurance that he himself had no interest in indexing the whole of Evans. Shipton answered that he had none and that he was 'delighted' that a competent bibliographer like Bristol wanted to tackle such an index. And, he

added, 'I hope that you will consider including with the index a list of imprints omitted by Evans. I mean real omissions, not simply corrections and expansions.' To this suggestion Bristol replied that the list would be too long a one to be included in the same volume as the index but that the task, however large, would certainly be 'more interesting than indexing!' Although Shipton himself had considered compiling a supplement to Evans, he in effect relinquished to Bristol any claim to the field.

From 1953 until 1970, when Bristol's supplement to Evans finally appeared, the dealings between Bristol and AAS (and, indeed, several other institutions) were complex, not altogether happy, and reveal much about the balkanization of the field of American bibliography.

As Bristol pressed on with his index, the suggestion was made that AAS might want to publish it as Volume XIV along with Shipton's Volume XIII. Shipton, however, had serious misgivings about indexing Evans's obviously imperfect work. His work on the Readex Microprint edition of the imprints in Evans, then just beginning, convinced him at the time of the greater utility of an index as well as the true nature of the errors in Evans. On this point, however, it was Bristol who persuaded Shipton. The Antiquarian Society agreed to publish the index as Volume XIV. After it appeared in 1959, Shipton told Bristol he had heard nothing but good comments about the work.

Bristol had moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1955, where he was put in charge of the Preparations Division of the University's Alderman Library. He was made head of the University's Engineering Library in 1964. It was in Charlottesville that he finished up the main index to Evans and laid plans for both an index to printers in Evans and the supplement to Evans. Again there were conflicts between Bristol and Shipton, most notably on the matter of the supplement to Evans.

A major problem that had to be overcome was the problem of numbering. The fact that Shipton and Readex were committed to provide their customers with the text in Microprint of the 10,000 or so additions to Evans complicated matters. Because of pressures of time, Shipton had to number items he was filming for Readex without regard for the system that Bristol himself was contemplating. The propriety of identifying Bristol's additions to Evans with the prefix *B* was finally urged on him. 'To B or not to B' was the question, according to Bristol, who managed to keep his sense of humor in the situation.

After some hesitation, the Society's publications committee decided to issue Bristol's Evans supplement jointly with the Bibliographical Society of America. Further misunderstanding resulted, however, in Bristol's withdrawing the manuscript from AAS and offering it for publication by the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia (and BSA) through The University Press of Virginia.

After publication of the *Supplement* in 1970, Bristol's relationship with AAS was considerably more amicable. He had been elected to the Society at the annual meeting in October 1957. Distance prevented him from attending all but two meetings—the one in Boston, April 1958, the first one after his election, which he 'thoroughly enjoyed,' and the meeting of April 1973, which was held in Williamsburg, Virginia, considerably nearer his Charlottesville home than either Worcester or Boston. He continued to track down additions and corrections to Evans and to his own supplement. When Marcus McCorison suggested a regular column in the *Proceedings*, 'American Bibliographical Notes,' to serve as a clearinghouse for information on early American imprints, Bristol was asked to contribute material he had gathered every fourth issue or so. Such additions will continue to appear in the *Proceedings*.

Known as an activist in Charlottesville, Bristol was a mem-

ber of the Memorial Planning Society of the Piedmont, the Barracks–Rugby–Preston Neighborhood Association, the Council on Human Relations, and the Fair Housing Committee. He was also president of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Unitarian Church.

Bristol retired from the University in 1974 and was named director of the Virginia Place Name Survey that summer. He had just begun that work when he died in a Charlottesville hospital on November 3, 1974. He is survived by his wife, Ruth (Aitken) Bristol, who also was a librarian with degrees from both Boston University and Simmons College.

John B. Hench

ARTHUR HARRISON COLE

When a large group of Arthur Harrison Cole's friends gathered on November 21, 1969, to celebrate his seventieth birthday, apparently the guest of honor felt he should forestall the presumed dullness of the occasion. So he wrote, published, and distributed a 'memento.' This autobiographical doggerel was entitled 'A TORTUOUS TRAIL; OR THE Strange Case of a Man Who Could not Make up his Mind Who He Was!' The author did not get down to specifics until, after his graduation from Bowdoin College in 1911, he went to Harvard for a doctorate in economics.

Way back in the days around World War One,
 Cole tackled the Problem of Schedule K;
 There was TAUSSIG to guide—and 'twas also quite GAY;
 And Cole'd written two volumes before he was done.

Most graduate students find one sponsor of their research quite complicated enough. Cole solved the dilemma for his *American Wool Manufacture* (1926) by ascribing the 'auspicious' inauguration of the book to Taussig and its 'rapid progress' to Professor Edwin F. Gay. Cole received his doc-

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