

remained very much the guiding spirit of the Morgan's collection of early children's books.

Elisabeth Ball had been a member of AAS since October 1962, and was very generous through her gifts of books and money. It was she who made possible the acquisition of the Helen and Benjamin Tighe Collection of American Children's Books, a collection numbering more than 600 books printed before 1821. With this gift, the Society was able to add a total of 232 volumes, 59 of them unique, to the already pre-eminent collection of American juvenile literature at AAS.

Miss Ball was also keenly interested in early dolls and children's games, and in bookbinding. She had some very fine paintings, including outstanding works by Eakins and Redon; she also had some marvelous objects by Fabergé. She had been a member of the Art Students League and her knowledge of art was wide-ranging. Miss Ball was a member of American Pen Women, the American Association of University Women, and the Daughters of the American Revolution, and was devoted to the First Presbyterian Church in Muncie. She died in Ball Hospital in that city; her funeral was on May 3 in the home where she was born, and she was buried in the family mausoleum in Beech Grove Cemetery.

Charles Ryskamp

#### RALPH PAUL BIEBER

Ralph Paul Bieber, elected to membership in AAS in October 1946, was born on May 9, 1894, in Hellertown, Pennsylvania. He earned an A.B. degree from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 1914, an A.M. in 1915 and a Ph.D. three years later from the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation, published in 1919, was on *Lords of Trade and Plantations, 1675-1696*.

After serving as an instructor in history at Muhlenberg College for one year, Bieber went on in 1919 to spend his entire career at Washington University, Saint Louis. He was made William Eliot Smith Professor in 1950, and served as chairman of the department of history from 1950 to 1953. He became professor *emeritus* in 1962, continuing to teach on a part-time basis until 1967.

Although he was trained as a colonialist, Bieber devoted most of his scholarly life to the history of the Trans-Mississippi West. He had at his disposal Saint Louis's great wealth of primary research materials dealing with the subject. Bieber was the catalyst for *The Southwest Historical Series*, between 1931 and 1940 editing the first eight volumes—mostly previously unpublished journals and other rare contemporary documents dealing with the American penetration, conquest, and occupation of the Great Southwest. As a result of this research he became interested in the California Gold Rush; most of his correspondence with AAS concerned his use of newspapers in researching this subject.

Bieber took a leading role in the activities of the historical societies of Missouri and Greater St. Louis, and was president of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in 1947-48.

In a memorial resolution in his honor adopted by the Organization of American Historians at their 75th annual meeting, John L. Loos said: 'Behind a rather stern exterior and an apparently brusque manner those who knew him well found a warm and gentle man who was scrupulously honest and completely without guile. They will remember him especially for his sterling character and his total commitment to the scholarly and academic life.'

Bieber died July 23, 1981, at the age of eighty-seven.

Jeri L. Stolk

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