

a career of her own as the successful organizer and manager of the Bryn Mawr Book Store in Cambridge. She died in 1978. The couple had two children: Fox, chief of the *New York Times's* Boston bureau, and Hester. A memorial service for Lyman was held in the Massachusetts Historical Society on May 27, 1982, and the tributes spoken at that time have been printed in that Society's *Proceedings*.

Whitfield J. Bell, Jr.

STUART CAPEN SHERMAN

Stuart C. Sherman died in Falmouth, Massachusetts, on April 8, 1983. He will be remembered among his colleagues and friends for two things which dominated his career, books and whales. Born in Amherst, Massachusetts, on October 30, 1916, he came to Providence at the age of five when his father, Clarence C. Sherman, became the assistant librarian and later librarian of the Providence Public Library. Following graduation from Moses Brown School, Stuart attended Brown University, receiving his A.B. in 1939. While at Brown he took the seminar given by Lawrence C. Wroth, the librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, and it was at Mr. Wroth's suggestion that Stuart decided to attend the Library School at Columbia University, from which he received his B.L.S. in 1940. After a summer at the New York Public Library he moved to Baltimore as branch librarian in the Enoch Pratt Free Public Library. He was married in 1941 to Mary Elliot Thompson; they had two children, Nancy and Robert.

In 1943 Stuart returned to Providence where he was successively branch superintendent, assistant librarian, and associate librarian of the Providence Public Library until becoming librarian in 1954. Fourteen years later, in 1968, he accepted the invitation of David A. Jonah, director of libraries of Brown

University, to come up the hill to be associate professor of bibliography and librarian of the John Hay Library, which housed the University Library system's Special Collections. In 1976 he was made university library bibliographer and in 1978 was promoted to the rank of professor; during 1978-79 he was acting director of libraries. In the spring of 1982 he and his wife Mary gave up their home in Providence and retired to their house on East Chop, Martha's Vineyard. Such are the bare bones of a career that embraced a broad range of contributions to the worlds of libraries, bibliography, historical scholarship, and the civic life of Providence.

At an early age Stuart came to know Paul C. Nicholson, a Providence industrialist, who since the 1920s had been forming the most outstanding collection of whaling logbooks in private hands. It was Stuart's gentle persuasion that convinced Mr. Nicholson to abandon his original idea of breaking up his collection, and instead to bequeath it to the Providence Public Library, where it was received in 1954. With his long-standing interest in the subject Stuart soon became a recognized authority on the history of whaling. He wrote the preface to the reprint of Alexander Starbuck's *History of the American Whale Fishery* (1878), issued in 1964, the foundation work of the history of American whaling. This was followed, in 1965, by his handsome *The Voice of the Whaleman, with an account of the Nicholson Whaling Collection*. He participated actively in meetings, conferences, and work carried on by other institutions interested in the subject, such as the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the Kendall Whaling Museum in Sharon, and the Mystic Seaport Museum.

Early on Stuart had plans for a union list of whaling logbooks. In 1979 he obtained a grant from the Marine Mammal Commission to undertake the project, which he was bringing to completion at the time of his death. His colleagues in New Bedford have undertaken to prepare it for publication.

Another of Stuart's major concerns while at the Providence

Public Library was a collection on the history of printing established many years ago at the behest of Daniel Berkeley Updike. Updike always took an active interest in the collection that bears his name and Stuart, who arrived at the library shortly after Updike died, carried on by adding notable examples of fine printing as well as the growing literature about the history of printing. The library also held a number of other notable collections—on the Civil War and slavery, Irish history, and French illustrated books, to name a few. When, after World War II, an addition was made to the building, Stuart saw to it that an air-conditioned room was included to house the growing special collections. Indeed, during his years at the Providence Public Library he functioned also as the curator of special collections, and did much to draw attention to their importance.

The librarian of a public library is expected to be active in civic affairs, and Stuart was diligent in fulfilling those responsibilities. The list of boards and commissions on which he served, frequently as an officer, is large. Among them were Council of Community Services, Rhode Island Development Council, the Providence District Commission, and the Civil War Centennial Commission; he was also active in the Boy Scouts and in the Boys Club. His more scholarly interests were expressed through his work on the Committee for New England Bibliography, the Melville Society, Dukes County Historical Society, and the Rhode Island Historical Society. In the case of the last, he played a critical role in its history, first in obtaining a library building for its collections and later serving as president. Always a loyal alumnus of Brown, Stuart served as his class secretary, was chairman of a major reunion, and was for many years a member of the editorial board of the *Brown Alumni Monthly*. As its Bicentennial Commencement in 1964 the university awarded him a LITT.D. and the Brown Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa elected him an honorary member.

During his years at Brown Stuart taught a popular course

on the history of printing. At the same time he began the process of creating in the John Hay Library a coherent whole out of the wide-ranging collections and rare books that had accumulated over the years. He took particular interest in the Harris Collection of American Poetry. It was from it that he got the idea of proposing to this Society that he complete the work begun by the late Gerald McDonald on newsboys carriers' addresses. Substantial progress was made before he died, and the work is being finished by the staff of the Harris Collection.

Stuart was proud of his election to the American Antiquarian Society in October of 1966. He was particularly pleased to be in the same class as Roderick Stinehour, whom he greatly admired and about whom he wrote a delightful article for *The Book Collector*. Except for this past year when he was ill, he made it a point of attending the autumn meeting in Worcester. He was a member of that group that called themselves the Providence Contingent, which included Bradford F. Swan and Albert E. Lownes; after the meeting, they went on together to the Club of Odd Volumes meeting in the evening. This double outing was one of the high points of Stuart's year. Another was the annual migration each spring to the summer house on the eastern beach of Vineyard Haven facing West Chop and Falmouth. From his front porch Stuart could, with the help of binoculars, see at close hand all the traffic going back and forth between Buzzards Bay, Vineyard Sound, and Nantucket Sound.

Stuart C. Sherman will be remembered for his gentleness, sweetness, and humility. He had a constant concern for others. Throughout his successful career whenever he could hold out a helping hand he did so. As the third librarian of the Providence Public Library and the first librarian to have complete charge of the Special Collections at Brown University, he has left an imprint on the library scene in Providence that will always be recognized.

Thomas R. Adams

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