

His wife, the former Cornelia Huntington, had died in 1960 and he is survived by a son, G. Huntington Damon, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held in Belmont. He is remembered at the library with affection and respect.

James E. Mooney

BERNHARD KNOLLENBERG

Bernhard Knollenberg, lawyer, librarian, and historian, was born in Richmond, Indiana, November 26, 1892, the son of George H. and Agnes (Steen) Knollenberg. After Richmond High School, he attended Earlham College, a Quaker institution in his home town, graduating with the Class of 1912. His interest in his alma mater remained strong. Its library had 'first call on my books, under my will' and he took pains to see that it should be in possession of a set of one of this Society's gems of scholarship, Clarence Brigham's *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers 1690-1820*. Although he never lived in his native Indiana after graduation from college, the upper Whitewater Valley in which he grew up had sufficiently strong sentimental attachment for him that he wrote a book on that picturesque region and its pioneer Quaker heritage, which was published by the Indiana Historical Society in 1945.

After earning his A.B. at Earlham, he ventured east to Harvard College. He took his A.M. there in 1914. He stayed on in Cambridge to attend Harvard Law School, from which he received the LL.B. in 1916. That same year he was admitted to the bar. He began the practice of law in Honolulu. Within a year the United States entered the Great War and Knollenberg joined the Naval Intelligence Service. He left the Service early in 1919, went back to Boston, and again took up practice. There he remained until 1929, when he moved to New York City as a member of the firm of Lord, Day & Lord. It

was while living in New York that the Harvard man fell under the influence of Yale. Through the efforts, ironically, of two fellow Harvard alumni, Knollenberg became an Associate Fellow of Saybrook College, Yale University, in 1935. As Knollenberg himself once put it, it was 'largely as a result of this connection' that he left Lord, Day & Lord to become librarian of Yale University in June 1938.

Even while engaged in his law practice, Knollenberg was preparing himself for a second career in literature, scholarship, and academics. He had for some time been contributing articles which were published in *Harper's* and the *Atlantic Monthly*. His leisure time he spent researching his favorite topic, the history of the American Revolution. This avocation led to the publication by Macmillan in 1940 of his first major work of history, entitled *Washington and the Revolution: A Re-Appraisal*. The book was in part iconoclastic, for it gave a far different version of Washington and the Conway Cabal than the traditional story: the orthodox view of the respective roles of Conway as conspirator and Washington as victim should more properly, perhaps, be considered in reverse.

The Second World War became another point of transition between careers. While the conflict was still confined to Europe, Knollenberg became a part-time special assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury as an expert in matters of tax legislation. Once the United States was fully involved in the war he took leave from his post as librarian of Yale to become full-time senior deputy administrator of Lend-Lease. He left Lend-Lease in 1944 after it was merged with the Foreign Economic Administration. He thereupon became associated with the Office of Strategic Services as a divisional deputy. His work with O.S.S. put him in charge of secret intelligence work in the Far East. It 'proved to be an extremely interesting but nearly fatal job, since I about died of acute dysentery in Western China.' He left full-time government service with the end of the war in 1945. His wartime efforts at the Lend-

Lease Administration 'to find fish to feed England' had, however, made him an expert on the subject and President Truman appointed him a United States Commissioner on the International Commission for the North Atlantic Fisheries, on which he served from 1950 to 1958.

Knollenberg's interests and accomplishments in librarianship and history comported perfectly with those of the American Antiquarian Society. He was elected to membership at the annual meeting in Worcester in October 1940 and gladly accepted its privileges and responsibilities. Twice he presented papers at annual meetings. He was first asked to deliver a paper at the semiannual meeting in April 1943. Having recently been appointed to his position with Lend-Lease and 'working fourteen hours a day steadily,' however, he begged Clarence Brigham to give him a 'rain check.' That promise was redeemed in 1946 when he read his paper on 'John Adams, Knox, and Washington.' Publication of the *Proceedings* in which his expanded remarks were to appear was delayed for a month because of a shortage of paper at the printer's supplier. He next spoke at the meeting held in October 1960 even though he had warned Mr. Brigham that he might not be able to do so because he had 'half-promised to take my wife on a trip around the world.' His topic was 'Did Samuel Adams Provoke the Boston Tea Party and the Clash at Lexington?' to which he gave the answer that 'he did not.'

Knollenberg was often unable to attend the meetings of this Society, but he otherwise kept in close touch. He corresponded frequently with Messrs. Brigham and Shipton during his more than thirty years of association with AAS. He questioned Brigham about the library's holdings of manuscripts and newspapers. He inquired of Shipton about many of the figures, both major and minor, of the Revolutionary Era. 'The fact that we have a somewhat different point of view with respect to the revolutionary and loyalist leaders,' he once wrote Shipton, 'makes the contact with you particularly interesting and

valuable to me.' The Sibley biographies were of especial help to Knollenberg in his own work, and Shipton often shared the sketches with him in typescript, galleys, or page proofs. Although he greatly admired such work, he once wrote a rather unfavorable review of a Sibley volume. This result flowed largely from an unintentional misreading of part of the text. Upon being shown, Knollenberg admitted his error and apologized.

Knollenberg frequently gave money or materials to the Society, sometimes apologizing that he could not do more. 'One of the penalties I have to pay for trying to be a historian rather than a librarian,' he wrote, 'is that I have no margin for gifts I'd enjoy making.' An especially prized contribution, however, is a unique copy of the first issue (dated February 18, 1818) of the New London, Connecticut, *Republican Advocate*. A young man who had been painting Knollenberg's house owned the copy and inquired about its value. After checking his Brigham, Knollenberg saw to it that the Society got it.

Most widely known of Knollenberg's historical works is *Origin of the American Revolution: 1759-1766*, published by Macmillan in 1960. In addition, he edited the *Correspondence of Gov. Samuel Ward, 1775-1776* (1952) and wrote *George Washington: The Virginia Period, 1732-1775* (1964). A planned sequel to Knollenberg's *Origin* which would have carried the history of the Revolutionary background to 1775 has not appeared.

Knollenberg's first marriage, to Mary McClennan in 1920, ended in divorce. He married Mary Lightfoot Tarleton in New York City, November 21, 1934. The Knollenbergs moved to Parker's Point, Chester, Connecticut, in 1946. They were still resident there when Knollenberg died July 6, 1973, in Old Lyme, at the age of eighty. Besides Mrs. Knollenberg, a son Walter, a sister, and several grandchildren survive him.

John B. Hench

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