

He and his wife eventually did leave New York, moving in 1958 to Cheshire, Connecticut, and a year or two later to New Haven. There, in retirement, he frequented the Yale University Library. Recently, McKay had grown a bit feeble, but remained active until he died on January 17, 1976. His wife and children survive him.

John B. Hench

#### KENNETH BALLARD MURDOCK

On Saturday, November 15, 1975, Kenneth Ballard Murdock died at the age of eighty in Newton, Massachusetts. With his passing, students of colonial America lost one of their most valued mentors, and scholars of early American literature lost their most distinguished colleague. Indeed, in the winter of 1972, Kenneth Murdock was named the first Honored Scholar of Early American Literature by the Early American Literature Group of the Modern Language Association. A special issue of the group's journal, *Early American Literature*, was dedicated to him [vol. 6, pt. 3 (Winter 1972)], and the dedicatory tribute contained these words: 'Since the publication in 1925 of *Increase Matber: The Foremost American Puritan*, professor Kenneth B. Murdock has been recognized as a foremost authority on early American literature. Other studies—including his learned edition of *Selections from Cotton Matber* (1926), his *Literature and Theology in Colonial New England* (1949), and his pioneering essays on colonial historiography—have testified to his love and command of early American literature. . . . As a small recognition of his many years of devoted teaching and of his distinguished publications, the Early American Literature Group of the Modern Language Association proclaims him its first Honored Scholar of Early American Literature.' Kenneth Murdock and his colleague at Harvard Perry Miller were pioneering giants in

the reversal of a movement among historians of American culture to discredit the Puritan and colonial period, a significant time in our past which Kenneth Murdock understood and loved. It is noteworthy that contemporary scholars of early American literature trace their own intellectual origins to the crucial works published by Murdock and Miller from 1925 to the 1960s, when a virtual explosion of interest in colonial American literature occurred.

For students and scholars who would continue to learn from Kenneth Murdock through his writings, the special issue contains an accurate bibliography of articles, editions, and books that itself is over three pages long. Most of the entries reflect a lifetime interest in colonial America, and at the time of his death, he had been working with his colleague's widow, Elizabeth Miller, on an edition of Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi Americana*, which is being published by the Harvard University Press. But Michael Wigglesworth's *Day of Doom* was not the only poem he found stimulating enough to edit; he also published *A Leaf of Grass from Shady Hill, with a review of Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass* (Cambridge, 1928) and, in 1947, he edited *The Notebooks of Henry James* with his friend F. O. Matthiessen.

Most of us who knew Kenneth Murdock as a scholar were less aware of his extraordinary capacity as a college and university administrator. He served on some twelve important Harvard committees, was assistant dean of Harvard College from 1919 to 1924, and was then named dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences from 1931 to 1936. These duties overlapped with his role as first master of Leverett House, a post he assumed in 1930 and held until 1941. He was also chairman of the Committee on Higher Degrees in the History of American Civilization and chairman of the Committee on General Education. Even following his retirement, Kenneth Murdock was sought as an administrator by Harvard's president and became the first director of the Villa I Tatti in the

hills above Florence, the Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Culture. The eighteenth-century villa had been the residence of Bernard Berenson, the art critic and historian, who willed it to the university along with his magnificent library of more than fifty thousand important volumes. The Fiftieth Anniversary Report of the Harvard Class of 1916 contains Kenneth Murdock's own assessment of the I Tatti period: 'The years at I Tatti were the most arduous of our lives but immensely rewarding. Association with the fellows and visiting scholars was stimulating and the Florentine community most hospitable. Many of its members are now close and cherished friends. I am continuing a research project I began two decades ago and my wife is writing a book. Thus we are pursuing our favorite "hobbies" and hope to continue doing so for nine months each year with a three months' "vacation" abroad.' Originally reluctant to accept the I Tatti appointment but finally persuaded by what Mr. Berenson had told him about the Harvard center, Kenneth Murdock moved to Europe following his career at Harvard and continued the life of the mind begun many years before.

Kenneth Murdock was born on June 22, 1895, the only son of Mary Lawson Murdock and Harold Murdock, who was also a member of the American Antiquarian Society. His father, a bank executive by profession, was also well known as an author and collector. In 1920, Harold Murdock became director of the Harvard University Press, the year that his son became an assistant dean at Harvard and a full-time graduate student in English. Kenneth Murdock had prepared for Harvard at the Volkmann School, but he no doubt learned to love books, literature, and history in a home that housed an impressive private collection of English first editions, especially material relating to Samuel Johnson, and works by colonial and nineteenth-century New England authors like Nathaniel Hawthorne. After graduation from Harvard in 1916, Mr. Murdock returned as an assistant in English but soon after

entered the Metropolitan Chapter of the American Red Cross. He eventually entered the U.S. Navy, and was assigned to the Boston Navy Yard.

After his discharge at the conclusion of World War I, he became an assistant dean at Harvard, also doing some teaching in the English department. In the fall of 1920, he became engaged to Laurette Eustis Potts, of Willsborough, New York, whom he married June 24, 1922. In 1923, he took the PH.D. in English at Harvard, and became a full-time instructor in that department, assuming the added duties of secretary until 1926. In that year, he became an assistant professor of English, and in 1930 he was promoted to associate professor and chairman of the Committee on Degrees in History and Literature. During these years he published *Increase Mather, the Foremost American Puritan*, *Portraits of Increase Mather*, *Selections from Cotton Mather*, *A Leaf of Grass from Shady Hill*, *Handkerchiefs from Paul*, and a new edition of Michael Wigglesworth's *Day of Doom*. He was also a founding editor of the *New England Quarterly* and the journal *American Literature*. In 1925 he became editor of the publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts and maintained active memberships in the American Antiquarian Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society.

In June 1930, Mr. Murdock was awarded an honorary D.LITT. degree by Middlebury College; in 1932 the L.H.D. from Trinity College; in 1933 the LL.D. from Bucknell University; in 1938 the L.H.D. from the University of Vermont; in 1950, the FIL.D. from Uppsala University, Sweden; and in 1960 the D.LITT. from the university from which he had graduated *summa cum laude* in 1916. Moreover, in addition to his duties in teaching and administration at Harvard, he served on the board of trustees for Radcliffe and Marlboro Colleges. In 1939 he was named Francis Lee Higginson Professor of English Literature, a chair that he held until his retirement from teaching in 1961.

Mr. Murdock was an able administrator and dean, but his first love was teaching and research. In the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Report of the Harvard Class of 1916, he warmly observed: 'Anyone who likes teaching and research is apt to like it better than anything else, and I find great satisfaction in my job, although I despair of ever teaching as well as I should like, or writing as much or as well as I wish I could.' He claimed to be intolerant of 'some persons of my age who accuse the "younger generation" of all sorts of faults and crimes, without knowing much about what younger men think and why.' This characteristic generosity toward younger thinkers always endeared him to the members of his profession and in part accounts for his success as a teacher of developing minds.

Throughout his career, many months were spent teaching abroad, and while dean of the Harvard faculty, he was for a month the guest of Oxford and Cambridge universities. In 1951, he gave a course of lectures at the University of London, and also lectured at the Universities of Dijon and Paris (the Sorbonne). For three half-year periods, he taught as a visiting professor in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, guest lecturing in Finland and Iceland. Of these experiences, he remarked, 'travel overseas has broadened my knowledge of teaching methods and scholarly standards and has taught me the value of international cultural exchange as a means of further understanding among nations.' In 1949, the Swedish Government awarded him a knighthood in the Royal Order of the North Star.

Mr. Murdock's marriage to Laurette Eustis Potts ended in divorce in 1941. In 1942, he married Eleanor (Eckhart) McLaughlin. He is survived by his second wife; two stepsons, Donald H. McLaughlin, Jr., of Harwich and Charles C. McLaughlin of Chevy Chase, Maryland; his former wife; two daughters, Mrs. Mary Laurette Thompson of Wellesley and Mrs. Sara Steinberg of La Jolla, California; three grand-

children and three step-grandchildren. He is also survived by countless students of colonial America who have shared his profound understanding either through the good fortune of their personal association with Kenneth Murdock at Harvard, or through the valuable publications that have established him as a leading scholar of early American literature.

Mason I. Lowance, Jr.

### CARLETON RUBIRA RICHMOND

Carleton Rubira Richmond, manufacturer, collector, and sixteenth president of the American Antiquarian Society, was born in Boston February 13, 1887. His parents were Joshua Bailey and Josefa (Rubira) Richmond. He prepared for Harvard at the Noble and Greenough School and the Stone School, and received his A.B. from the College in 1910 as a member of the class of 1909. After a year's travel in Europe he went to work for Wellington, Sears & Co., textile commission merchants. He spent his entire business career with that concern, West Point Manufacturing Company, and their associated companies, and occupied such positions as salesman, director, secretary, treasurer, president, and chairman of the board.

In 1912 Richmond married Helen Thomas Cooke and they settled in Milton, Massachusetts. After the outbreak of the First World War in Europe, Richmond supported Preparedness by attending two sessions at the Citizens' Military Training Camp in Plattsburg, New York. When the United States entered the conflict, he was commissioned a first lieutenant in the ordnance, whose duties were to develop the production of, and purchase, all narrow fabrics, first for the army, later for the navy and Marine Corps as well. He was discharged after the Armistice with the rank of major.

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.