

ical and personal convictions. His final assignment, which he accepted in the spirit of a challenge, was the indexing of the first twenty-two volumes of the *Wilson Papers*; and, according to the *New York Times*, 'Modern historical editors consider these indexes unrivalled for their accuracy, organization and comprehensiveness.' Future generations, it may be, will know Halsey for the private journals he himself kept in the New England tradition so vital in his consciousness. If so, readers will find him, like George Templeton Strong, a 'cultivated, sincere, intelligent, high-minded, and delightful' gentleman. They will also find him master of an astonishing power of style and observation.

James Franklin Beard

#### ARTHUR BERNON TOURTELLOT

Generous friend, scholar, optimist, elegant bon vivant and raconteur, coadjutor in good works, businessman, writer and journalist; all these terms and others describe Arthur Tourtellot and suggest why his death on October 18, 1977, is so cruel a loss to so many colleagues.

Arthur Bernon Tourtellot was born in Providence, Rhode Island, to Walter Roy Tourtellot and his wife, Ethel Maude Harris, on July 23, 1913. He grew to young manhood in various New England rectories and entered Harvard College with the class of 1935. Following a checkered career there (later to be capped by service on the visiting committee to the Harvard College Library), Tourtellot went to work at the *Boston Evening Transcript*, all the while writing—the personal activity to which he gave first priority throughout his life. In 1938 he published a life of Fanny Burney, entitled *Be Loved No More* and the next year, under the pseudonym of Arthur Vernon, *The History and Romance of the Horse*. Those pre-war years of authorship culminated in the 1941 publication of *The Charles*, a fine volume in the Farrar & Rinehart

series *The Rivers of America*. In that year Arthur married Elizabeth Louise Davis.

From 1942 until 1952 Tourtellot was a member of the Time-Life organization, for eight years as the associate producer of *The March of Time* and during 1950-52 as director of Time, Inc., Television Productions. In addition to his voluminous professional writing, which included his 1949 Peabody Award-winning film production of Eisenhower's *Crusade in Europe*, Tourtellot published an assessment of Woodrow Wilson's world politics as viewed at the end of World War II and a perceptive analysis of American politics.

In 1952 Arthur moved to the public relations firm of Earl Newsom and Company where he served as chairman of its board of directors from 1965 to 1968. During his years with the Newsom firm, Tourtellot wrote *William Diamond's Drum: The Beginning of the War of the American Revolution*, which was published by Doubleday in 1959. Written in a congenial style, its stylistic grace and the brevity of its footnotes belie the serious work which Arthur and his assistant, Helen M. Brown, expended upon this, the fullest account of the fire fights which took place in Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. A year later Tourtellot issued a privately printed bibliography of manuscripts, archival sources, pamphlets, and periodical articles which he used in compiling the book. *William Diamond's Drum*, a book which began as a novel, became what is probably his most useful historical work. It is dedicated to his sons, Jonathan and Christopher.

Arthur Tourtellot again changed course in 1968 by moving to CBS, Inc., where he filled the office of vice-president and general executive. At CBS he served as overseer of publishing activities, among many others, and was president of the CBS Foundation, an agency which under his leadership did much good for cultural institutions, including this Society. At a memorial service for Arthur, William S. Paley, Tourtellot's senior colleague at CBS, described how helpful Arthur's

sensitivity and good taste and his joy of life had been to Paley personally and to CBS institutionally. Although he flew to California or London to transact business with a regularity which dismayed more earthbound mortals, Arthur still found time to write. His last book dealing with the early, formative years in Boston of the life of Benjamin Franklin was published in May 1977 and was dedicated to another Bostonian, Walter Muir Whitehill.

Arthur Tourtellot's career went far beyond his business life. He was an active supporter of libraries and museums—institutions which he thought useful because they were the chief carriers of an informed culture. Thus, he served as trustee of The Museum of Modern Art and as an overseer of the press and library of Harvard University as well as an overseer of the library of the University of Chicago. Because his spirit thrived in the company of intelligent and energetic people, he thoroughly enjoyed and was an active participant in the affairs of The Century Association and like clubs.

Within this Society, Arthur Tourtellot was a most helpful and generous member. His associations went back to the 1950s when he was at work on the *Lexington and Concord* book. He gave us a copy of the book and its bibliography. Arthur was elected to membership in October 1973 and became a member of the Council in 1974 and a year later took on the leadership of its Committee on Membership. Always an eloquent and able champion of the Society and its work, Arthur was an extraordinarily helpful member of the Society. He had accepted the invitation of the Society's Nominating Committee to stand for election as Vice-President, an event which was to follow on the day after his quite untimely death.

Arthur expressed his clear view of the joys and frustrations of the human enterprise in the twenty-fifth report to his Harvard classmates. He wrote, 'Philosophically, I have always loved the eighteenth century best. But I do not believe very much that its basically optimistic view of life will ever be

warranted. Man's fate and position are—I suppose—essentially tragic. But how great a thing is his immeasurable courage!—And that is enough, I think, to keep the race going a little while longer.'

Arthur Tourtellot was a person with whom other people enjoyed meeting the challenges of this mortal world. He is survived by his wife and two sons, to whom his colleagues in this Society offer heartfelt sympathy and with whom we share their loss.

Marcus A. McCorison

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