

moved from Yonkers into an apartment near the shop, where he frequently entertained friends from all aspects of the book world. John Kohn's death in 1976 left him to carry on the shop—he completed the thirtieth anniversary catalogue of Seven Gables which John had begun—but increasing ill health make it impossible for him to continue. He died in New York City Hospital on August 20, 1978, at the age of seventy-one, leaving two sons, Jeremy and André.

Willman Spawn

GEORGE LESLIE STOUT

George Leslie Stout, art conservator and museum director, died July 1, 1978, following surgery in California. He was born in Winterset, Iowa, of Abraham Lincoln and Lulu May (McBride) Stout, on October 5, 1897. He attended Grinnell College from 1915 to 1917, served overseas as an army private from 1917 to 1919, and resumed his education at the University of Iowa, from which he graduated with a B.A. degree in 1921.

After graduation, Stout remained in Iowa City as an instructor in the university's department of graphic and plastic arts, moving on to the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh in 1925. The next year he enrolled in graduate school at Harvard as a Carnegie fellow, earning his M.A. in 1928. Clark University awarded him a Litt.D. degree in 1955.

A pioneer in the application of scientific techniques to the restoration of works of art, Stout served as a research fellow at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum from 1929 to 1933, at which time he became head of its department of conservation. While on the staff of the Fogg, he was also a consultant in conservation to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum of Boston. In 1947, Stout left Cambridge and Boston to become director of the Worcester Art Museum. He relinquished the Worcester

post in 1954 to return to the Gardner Museum as its director. The move back to Boston gave Stout the challenge of solving 'certain interesting problems in conservation,' he told a Worcester newspaper, 'and that has been my special study in museum work.' He retired from the Gardner in 1970 and moved to Palo Alto, California. From that base he did consulting work in the field of art restoration for a number of West Coast institutions.

Stout's writings, not surprisingly, were concentrated in the field of art conservation. With Rutherford J. Gettens he was the author of *Painting Materials: A Short Encyclopedia* (1942). Alone he wrote *The Care of Pictures* (1948), a book that Clarence S. Brigham, the director of this Society, found valuable 'even in a library which does not pretend to be a museum.' He was also managing editor of *Technical Studies in the Field of Fine Arts*, published in ten volumes from 1932 to 1942. In addition he wrote *Treasures from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum* (1969) as well as articles in professional journals. He was a fellow and former president of the International Institute for the Conservation of Museum Objects and a member of the Commission on the Care of Paintings of the International Council of Museums. His predecessor in Worcester once summed up Stout's innovative contributions to the field of art conservation: 'He has done much to give stature, integrity and clarity to a branch of the Arts which had been traditionally obscured in a maze of mystery, secret formulas, and a general conspiracy of ignorance.'

Stout served in the navy during the Second World War, rising in rank from lieutenant to lieutenant commander, where he put his professional training and experience to good use. One of the developers of camouflage techniques, he later served as a senior arts and monuments officer on the staffs of both General Eisenhower in Europe and General MacArthur in Japan.

As a colleague in administering a leading sister cultural in-

stitution in Worcester, Stout was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society at the semiannual meeting in April 1954, an election he accepted 'with thanks' but doubtful as to his qualifications in the Society's field. He attended the next meeting in October, but shortly thereafter he resigned from his post at the Worcester Art Museum to return to Boston and never found it possible to get to another meeting. ('If it is not one thing, it seems always to be another,' he lamented.) Despite the slightness of his formal involvement, Stout in later years, nevertheless, contributed generously to appeals for endowment and operating funds.

On June 11, 1924, Stout married Margaret Hayes, whom he had met at the University of Iowa. Mrs. Stout was herself an art educator. They had two sons, Robert Hayes and Thomas McBride, who survive.

John B. Hench

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.