

mounted by a youthful female figure. Inscribed on the pedestal to the right is the inscription 'Study the Past.' It is surmounted by a pensive toga-clad male figure. Many years ago a waggish young colleague referred to the latter as Oliver Wendell Holmes. There was indeed a similarity that became more striking as the sculpture weathered and as the years crept up on Oliver. I never had the temerity to mention it to him, but now I regret the omission, for I think, somehow, that he might have been pleased.

James B. Rhoads

ADLORE HAROLD LANCOUR

A complex and gentle man is not easily described by the abbreviated and strained entries of standard biographical reference books. Seldom do the separate labels add up to a recognizable whole being. '*Lancour, Adlore Harold*, educator, librarian,' describes a mere fragment of an active life and misses the person at the center. And, at the center of Harold Lancour's life were books and people.

Harold Lancour (b. Duluth, Minnesota, June 27, 1908) was by birth a son of the Midwest but by interest and involvement his life and his activity ranged worldwide. Early in life he chose librarianship for a profession, earning both a bachelor's and a master's degree in library service from Columbia University. He was awarded the Ed.D. degree from Columbia in 1947. His training and experience thereafter included reference work at New York Public Library (1935-37) and a variety of responsible positions in library service and teaching at Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art (1937-47). A short term of military service in Europe was followed by extensive world travel for UNESCO, the Carnegie Corporation, the Ford Foundation, and the Agency for International Development. Lancour library visits and surveys extended from Paris

to Wales thence through the Gold Coast nations of West Africa and from Central and South America to the Middle East. The libraries of the world were Harold Lancour's work place.

There are many accomplishments for which Lancour is known and remembered. His compilation of *American Art Auction Catalogues 1785-1942, a Union List* (New York, 1944) has been a reference volume of continuing value to a broad range of scholars in the fine arts and humanities. Beyond its research value, it established Lancour as a bibliographer of note at age thirty-six. His ten years as editor of *Library Trends* (1952-62) while on the faculty of the University of Illinois Library School placed him in the first rank of academic editors. For more than twelve years thereafter Lancour's many talents were directed toward shaping and guiding the academic program of the Library School of the University of Pittsburgh. During the tenure of Dean Lancour, graduate students of many backgrounds were given, sometimes for the first time, a cosmopolitan view of the responsibilities and opportunities of librarianship.

Harold Lancour developed an interest in the American Antiquarian Society early in his library career. In 1940 as a thirty-one-year-old librarian he inquired of Clarence Brigham about the then-vacant position of librarian. Although his application was not successful, a long and respectful correspondence continued with Brigham concerning the compilation of his checklist of American art catalogues, published four years later. The involvement reached a peak over the Columbus Day weekend in 1942 when Lancour and Brigham worked intensively through the collection of auction catalogues at AAS. Following that visit, Lancour wrote Brigham: 'It almost seemed more like a nice house-party than a very intensive work period.'

In 1946, as librarian of Cooper Union and an accomplished bibliographer, Lancour was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society, a relationship that he cherished and strengthened over more than thirty years. In his lifetime

he formed associations and was elected to membership in many other diverse and honorable groups from which he extracted intellectual stimulation and camaraderie and to which he gave loyalty, warmth, humor, and wisdom. Upon retirement from active academic life in 1974, Lancour moved to his farm in Weston, Vermont, and became a regular, dependable, and early attendee at AAS semiannual and annual meetings. It was strangely ironic that his passing came only two days after he participated fully in the activities of the annual meeting of 1981. At that final meeting, he expressed to his colleagues an intention to give more time to the work of the Society and inquired of ways in which he could be of service to the AAS Council.

On October 23, 1981, Lancour died in Weston, Vermont. He leaves his wife, Marie McClellan, and a daughter, Joan. Harold Lancour gave generously in his professional and personal life and had much left to give.

Frederick E. Bauer, Jr.

JOHN EMERSON LANGDON

John Emerson Langdon, the authority on French Canadian silver, was born April 13, 1902, to Frederick William and Mary Ann (Allan) Langdon in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. He was editor for eastern Canada of the *Financial Post* from 1928 to 1945, and from 1945 to 1967 he was vice-president and director of the financial firm of McLeod, Young, Weir Ltd. in Toronto and a partner of McLeod, Young, Weir & Ratcliffe. He was also vice-president and director of Shell Realty Company. On March 28, 1931, he married Eustella Frances Burke, a horticulturist who shared his appreciation of music.

His interest in silver is seen as early as 1940, when his assistance was acknowledged by Ramsey Traquair of McGill University in his book *The Old Silver of Quebec*. Langdon's own

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