

children, Margo, Kelton, Michael, and Mark, and his sister, Evelyn Burbank.

Robert C. Achorn

LEONARD BENJAMIN SCHLOSSER

Leonard Benjamin Schlosser, a prominent book collector and a leading member of the paper industry, died in New York on June 25, 1991, at the age of sixty-six. He is survived by his wife Mary, also a noted book collector, and by three children, Frederick, William, and Sarah.

Leonard attended Horace Mann School and Williams College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received a bachelor's degree in 1946. He served in the U.S. Army as a machine gunner in the Fourteenth Armored Division from 1943 until 1945, when he was wounded in action. After finishing his education at Williams, he joined the Schlosser Paper Corporation, becoming president in 1956. He was an active member of many business organizations, including the National Paper Trade Association, the Paper Merchants Association of New York, and the American Institute of Graphic Arts—just to name three he oversaw in an official capacity. He became president of the Lindenmeyr Paper Corporation in 1966, chief executive officer in 1970, and chairman in 1983. Under his astute management, this century-old firm grew to be a major wholesale distributor of paper for book printing and other purposes, with outlets in New York, Chicago, Boston, and elsewhere in the Northeast. Leonard decided to take early retirement a few years after Lindenmeyr merged with Central National-Gottesman Inc. He then became president of Selections Limited and director of its parent company, Mohawk Paper Mills, one of the last manufacturers of letterpress paper in the grand tradition.

His professional interests dovetailed neatly with a scholarly interest in papermaking history. He frequently lectured on historical topics and wrote several influential essays about the traditions of

the craft, the challenges of industrialization, and the close relationship between this trade and the allied trades of printing and lithography. Partly inspired by Dard Hunter, whose standard history of papermaking appeared just before he entered the business, Leonard assembled a distinguished collection of early books and manuscripts documenting manufacturing techniques and trade practices in Europe, England, and America. His library contained the first manuals of hand papermaking, patent diagrams of the first machines, samples of paper made at famous mills, and publications printed in innovative ways that either exploited or inspired technological advances in the paper trade. He owned several American firsts, including early histories of American papermaking, the first book-length manual published in this country, and one of the first books printed on American machine-made paper. His collection is now at the New York Public Library, which exhibited selected highspots in 1990 to mark the three hundredth anniversary of papermaking in America.

Leonard extended generous support and advice to a number of research libraries and scholarly organizations. He was closely associated with the Morgan Library, the Library of Congress, and the Chapin Library, the rare book collection of Williams College, which awarded him an honorary L.H.D. in 1975. He was a treasurer and council member of the Grolier Club and a trustee of the American Printing History Association. He served as vice president of the International Association of Paper Historians, in which capacity he helped to organize a conference in Boston featuring a sidetrip to view the holdings of the American Antiquarian Society.

Elected to membership in AAS in April 1977, Leonard participated in many of the Society's activities. He was a user of and donor to the library, a member of several committees, and a member of the Council between 1978 and 1982. He helped to manage the Society's affairs, believing, like the Society's founder, in the paramount importance of collecting, preserving, and interpreting the records of American printing history.

John Bidwell

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