

Obituaries

GAYLORD DONNELLEY

Gaylord Donnelley, retired chairman of R. R. Donnelley and Sons Company: The Lakeside Press, died on April 19, 1992, at his Ashapoo Plantation in South Carolina, aged eighty-one; his primary home was in Libertyville, Illinois. A member of the American Antiquarian Society since 1972, he was a regular and generous donor to its annual appeal, and had recently made a major gift to establish the Thomas E. Donnelley Fund for Conservation, named for his father.

Gay Donnelley, born in Chicago in 1910, attended Lake Forest Academy and Hotchkiss before entering Yale, from which he graduated in 1931. He then spent a very happy year at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, for which he maintained a lifelong affection. Donnelley served for many years as chairman of the American Friends of Cambridge University and gave generously both to his college and to the university. He wanted to become an academic, but his father persuaded him that the family printing business, founded by his grandfather in 1864, needed him, and he returned to enter its training program in 1932. Gay spent the rest of his life there, except for service to the rank of lieutenant commander in the United States Naval Reserve from 1942 to 1945. During that time he participated in eleven major Pacific engagements aboard the USS *Essex* and was awarded the Purple Heart and a Presidential Unit Citation. He held a variety of manufacturing and managerial positions in the company before becoming chairman in 1964; in 1975, on retirement from that post, he became chairman of the executive committee. In 1983 he was elected honorary chairman and director. During his career R. R. Donnelley became the world's largest commercial printing establishment

and began its international expansion. Today it has plants throughout North America, as well as in the U.K., Europe, and Asia. It has been a pioneer in technological development, much of it to satisfy the needs of its customers.

Gay was a successful and hardworking businessman, but his interests went far beyond making money—to using it to the best advantage for the many causes in which he believed—and he enjoyed the process. As his son Strachan said at the memorial service held in the Rockefeller Chapel of the University of Chicago, Gay enjoyed life and had a lot of fun at whatever he did. His interest in conservation stemmed from his keen love of hunting and fishing. Among the resulting friendships he made was one with Ernest Hemingway, whom he met while helping his cousin run a dude ranch near Sheridan, Wyoming, in 1928, when Hemingway was writing *A Farewell to Arms*. Gay served as president of Ducks Unlimited during its period of greatest growth, and was active in many conservation organizations, including the Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund, the North American Wildlife Foundation, the Open Lands Project, and the Upper Illinois Valley Association. He gave the state 800 acres in the Donnelley-Depue Wildlife Area on the Illinois River and was instrumental in creating the Oak Prairie Open Space Preserve near Libertyville. He gave 6,000 acres along the Ashapoo River to the Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited and was instrumental in having an additional 10,000 acres protected by conservation easements banning development. His wife, Dorothy Ranney Donnelley, shares this interest and participated in these gifts.

Gay was a member of the boards and advisory committees of numerous cultural and educational institutions, among them Yale, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Newberry Library. That which meant most to him was the University of Chicago, on whose board his father had also served. He became a member in 1947, and remained on the board until his death, serving as chairman from 1970 to 1976. During his tenure the University of Chicago successfully completed a capital fund drive for \$160 million, at the

time the largest undertaken by an American university. His services to education were recognized by honorary degrees from the University of Chicago, Yale University, and Wabash College.

When he retired from active business life in 1977, R. R. Donnelley and Sons Company published in his honor *To Be A Good Printer*, his reflections on the company and his commitment both to it and to his trade. His ambition to serve both well were amply realized. He was a good printer and a good businessman; moreover he was a good citizen, a good friend, and a good companion. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Donnelley is survived by his widow, Dorothy, by three children, Elliott, Strachan, and Laura Donnelley-Morton, and by ten grandchildren.

James Wells

LAWRENCE WILLIAM TOWNER

Lawrence William Towner, the late president and librarian of the Newberry Library, was one of those individuals who come along but once in one's lifetime. He was possessed of an exceptionally acute mind, a fine historical sensibility and conscience, indefatigable courage and energy, an irrepressible and earthy humor—all clothed in an all-encompassing affectionate nature. Bill Towner swept all before him as he led his family, his colleagues, and his institution to expanded goals and high achievement. The impulses toward those goals and achievements were propelled by his dynamism, his evangelical commitment to justice for all, and his deep conviction of the crucial value of historical perspective in the making of a fulfilling personal and national life. He was not an overtly religious person, but his sense of stewardship in promulgating values that preserve and extend spiritual and humane values lay at the bottom of his life and work.

Towner was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on September 10, 1921, to Earl Chadwick and Cornelia (Mallum) Towner. He grew

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