

## LEE MAX FRIEDMAN

Lee Friedman was born in Memphis on December 29, 1871, a son of Maxfield and Mathilda (Marks) Friedman. At an early age he was brought to Boston, where he was prepared for Harvard at the Prince School and at Roxbury Latin. He took his B.A. magna cum laude in 1893 and his LL.B. in 1895. Immediately he went to work for Ropes, Gray and Loring, and in 1898 he entered the partnership of Morse and Friedman. In this and successor partnerships he established himself in the fields of corporation, equity, and probate law. Increasingly he was drawn into business as a bank director and the like. On several occasions he declined appointment to state and municipal office.

Early in his career Friedman found time to travel in Europe and to bicycle in New England and Nova Scotia, but as his professional activities increased he went years at a time without any kind of vacation. He envied his classmates their sons, but he seems to have been just too busy to marry. But he made generations of the less fortunate of the children of Boston his family. In 1905 he organized the Juvenile Court of Boston, he served many charitable organizations, and was president of Temple Israel. He served also as a trustee of the Boston Public Library and as a member of several committees of the Museum of Fine Arts and of Harvard University.

Outside of his profession and social service, Friedman's great interest was his collection of Hebraica, probably the best in private hands. This was housed in an upper room in the Bay State Road apartment which he occupied with his sisters. To the visitor it seemed a chaos, but he could instantly find any one of its thousands of pieces. These included, besides the printed works, manuscripts from the

time of the medieval Inquisition to that of Dreyfus. In 1934 he published his books on *Early American Jews* and *Robert Grosseteste and the Jews*, and in the decades which followed he turned out a steady stream of books and articles of sound scholarship. His two doctorates were in recognition of his legal work, but he was as deserving in the field of history.

Friedman served as a member of the council of the Massachusetts Historical Society and as president of the American Jewish Historical Society. His first contact with the American Antiquarian Society came in the course of his historical research. He was elected to membership in April, 1952, and thereafter attended every meeting unless kept away by duties in court. He died, after a short illness, on August 7, 1957, survived by his sisters. Despite his learning and his personal charm he was not widely known, a fact which is to be explained by his great modesty and his unwillingness to intrude his affairs on those of others.

C. K. S.

### J. HALL PLEASANTS

J. Hall Pleasants, a member of this Society for twenty years, died August 24, 1957. He was born in Baltimore County, Maryland, September 12, 1873, the son of Richard Hall and Elizabeth Moale Poultney Pleasants. He was graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1895, obtaining his medical degree from the same University in 1899. He engaged in medical practice until 1910, thereafter teaching at Johns Hopkins, holding various civic offices, and indulging in historical research. On January 30, 1902, he married Delia Tudor Wilmer, who survived him, with two daughters.

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