

Obituaries

ALBERT CARLO BATES

Albert Bates was born on a farm in East Granby, Connecticut, on March 12, 1865, a son of Carlos and Hannah S. (Powers) Bates. After being graduated at the Connecticut Literary Institute, at Suffield, in 1885, he spent one year in the high school at Athol, Massachusetts, and then returned home to run the family farm. His mind being restless, he accepted the town offices of clerk and treasurer, and spent his winter evenings reading Connecticut history. In 1889 he joined the Connecticut Historical Society, the youngest member ever elected up until that time; and in May, 1892, his neighbor, Frank B. Gay, librarian of the Watkinson and part-time librarian of the Historical Society, asked him to help move the books of the latter to new quarters.

When the Society opened its doors again on January 1, 1893, Mr. Bates was its librarian, and for much of the next forty years he was its sole employee. In spite of having to provide service for a great number of visitors, and sometimes even having to mop the floors himself, he increased the size of the collections several times over, and built up the endowment from very little to a million dollars. He was a good bibliographer and an ardent collector. When there were desirable books in the auctions and no funds in the treasury, he bought from his own pocket.

In spite of the flow of visitors through the Library he found time for research and writing in the fields of genealogy, local history, and bibliography. His supplement to Trum-

bull and his bibliography of Connecticut Laws are very useful tools. He edited sixteen volumes of the *Collections* of the Historical Society and several volumes of the publications of the Acorn Club. His collecting instincts and enthusiasms far overran the scope of the Society. The most important of his several private collections was early juveniles, a field in which he was one of the first and most successful.

Mr. Bates was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1910, and over the years since has been one of the most active and useful members, and one of our most voluminous correspondents, although one of the last to hold out against the stenographer and the typewriter. Income considered, he was one of our most generous members. If we forgot to send him a dunning letter, he asked for one. Sometimes he bought us books which he thought we ought to have. His gifts in book form ran from single volumes to a large collection of newspapers. After he deposited some of his collections with us, he continued to collect industriously to build them up. In 1946 he gave us his great collection of Connecticut Laws. He faithfully attended meetings, and read four papers which were later printed in our *Proceedings*: "Check List of Connecticut Almanacs, 1709-1850" (April 1914), "Connecticut's Engraved Bills of Credit, 1709-1746" (October 1936), "Expedition of Sir Edmond Andros to Connecticut in 1687" (October 1938), and "Part of an Almanack" (April 1942).

In 1905 Mr. Bates served a term in the Connecticut House of Representatives, but after that kept strictly out of public affairs. He was very conservative. When I was working for one of the New Deal alphabetical agencies, our Connecticut office complained that it could get no coöperation from him. I assured our State director that my old friend Mr. Bates was very easy to get along with, and took

him to Hartford to prove it. Never have I seen a small man eject two large ones from his office so swiftly and efficiently. We both had the sensation of having been kicked down the long flight of stairs. Socially Mr. Bates could be delightful. His skill at making limericks was amazing, and his love for Gilbert and Sullivan was touching.

Trinity College, Hartford, conferred an M.A. on Mr. Bates in 1920. In 1940 the Historical Society made him librarian emeritus. He had intended to keep busy at his desk in the Library, but failing eyesight and bad falls kept him confined much of the time. In those years we came to know well his charming wife, Alice Morgan Crocker, to whom he was married on October 19, 1912. She was his faithful secretary and chauffeuse, bringing him to our meetings as long as he could stand any travel. He died on March 27, 1954, leaving a sizable cash bequest to us and his collection of juveniles to the Historical Society.

C. K. S.

PHILIP HOWARD COOK

Dr. Cook was born in Portland, Maine, on February 2, 1878. After attending public schools in his native city, he entered Harvard College, graduating A.B. cum laude in 1899 and from Harvard Medical School cum laude 1903. He served as interne at Worcester City Hospital for two years and then engaged in the practice of medicine in the City of Worcester until his retirement in 1946. During most of his medical career he was a specialist in Radiology and was on the staff of several of the Worcester hospitals in that capacity as well as serving as a Radiologist at two of the State hospitals. He was a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and a Diplomate of the American Board of Radiology—a member of American Roentgen Ray Society,

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