

Mr. Weins's professional life extended far beyond the Wilson company. He contributed to the field of preservation by serving on the board of directors of the Highbridge Conservation Program in the Bronx (1966-69); he was a member of the scientific information council at the National Science Foundation from 1968 to 1972. Mr. Weins served as a trustee and treasurer of the New York Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency from 1979 to 1983. He was a trustee on the board of the Maritime College at the Fort Schuyler Foundation, Inc. (1981-89). When Mr. Weins retired in 1995, he continued to play an active role on H. W. Wilson's board of directors.

Mr. Weins is survived by his wife Margaret Killion Weins.

Deanna Marcum

## DAVID LEVIN

David Levin was born on November 21, 1924, in York, Pennsylvania, and died on July 12, 1998, at the University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville. Levin, the son of Louis and Rose Brauffman Levin, attended public schools in York and then went to Harvard University, but left before graduating to join the Army Air Force in 1943. He served as an aerial navigator until he was discharged in 1946, then returned to Harvard to take three degrees: A.B. (*magna cum laude*), 1947; A.M. 1949; and Ph.D. in 1955.

While still a graduate student, Levin was a teaching fellow in English at Harvard (1948-52). He then became an instructor at Stanford University. He went up the ladder at Stanford and was made a full professor in 1964. Several years later he was appointed Commonwealth Professor of English at the University of Virginia; in 1990 he was made Thomas Jefferson Professor of Arts and Sciences. He retired in 1992.

Although David Levin's degrees were in English, he was in per-

suasion and practice a historian as well as a literary scholar. His range was wide and his control of both the literature and history of the colonial and national periods of United States history was deep. Levin published his first book in 1950 while still in graduate school, a collection of documents on Salem witchcraft, called *What Happened at Salem?* for use in introductory English A classes. It contained a valuable commentary by Levin, and was reprinted by Twayne Publishers in 1952, and in a revised and expanded version by Harcourt Brace in 1960.

This marked the beginning of an impressive list of scholarly publications—books, editions of historical and literary works, articles, and essay reviews—as well as a number of memoirs, stories, and poems. Among his non-specialist or non-scholarly writings, *Exemplary Elders* stands out. It includes sketches of three of his Harvard teachers—Samuel Eliot Morison, F. O. Matthiessen, and Perry Miller, and of several friends from his days at Stanford University. Levin also published a collection of his poems, *Sonnets in Several Tones* (1996) written over several decades.

David Levin's scholarly works made a difference in his field, *History as Romantic Art: Bancroft, Prescott, Motley, and Parkman* (1949, reprinted in Harbinger Books, 1963) stands surely as one of the most perceptive studies of the great nineteenth-century American romantic historians ever written. It succeeds in defining romantic history and places its remarkable practitioners in a great tradition. They emerge in Levin's analysis as scholars, literary craftsmen, and men of letters. Levin's *Cotton Mather: The Young Life of the Lord's Remembrancer, 1663-1703* (1978) is perhaps even better known than his study of the romantic historians. It shows Levin's skill in weaving together historical and literary analysis. Levin's biography of Mather was not his only study of Puritanism. In 1974 Harvard University Press published his edition of Mather's *Bonifacius, An Essay Upon the Good*; and in April 1985 this society's *Proceedings* carried his essay 'Did the Mathers Disagree About the Salem Witchcraft Trails?' Levin's range of interests extended throughout American literature and are on dis-

play in his essays on figures as different as James Baldwin, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Benjamin Franklin, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and William Bradford. Several of his finest essays were published in two collections: *In Defense of Historical Literature* (1967) and *Forms of Uncertainty* (1992).

Awards, fellowships, and visiting appointments came David Levin's way. He taught or studied as a visitor at Strasbourg and Toulouse, Madrid, Orleans (France), and received fellowships from the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford (twice), the National Endowment for the Humanities, and among others, the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard.

Levin was elected to membership in this Society in 1978. In his acceptance letter he wrote, 'I accept this honor gratefully. The AAS has been a great help in my research on Cotton Mather and in my general education in American history and literature.' He attended four meetings of the Society.

David Levin is survived by his wife of fifty-three years, Patricia Marker Levin, a son and daughter, a granddaughter, and a brother. He also leaves a great number of friends, colleagues, and students who are very much in his debt and who remember him with affection and admiration.

Robert Middlekauff

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