

make these folk art treasures known to the general public, he did much toward their continued study and preservation. Above all his other accomplishments, this is probably the one for which Dan will be best remembered.

Ann Parker and Avon Neal

JAMES JOSEPH HESLIN

James J. Heslin died on April 30, 1999, at the age of 82. From 1960 to 1981, he was director of the New-York Historical Society, having succeeded AAS's former librarian R. W. G. Vail in that position.

Heslin, who was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on June 25, 1916, married Phyllis Stacy Brissette in 1940. He was a 1949 graduate of Boston College, and held a master's degree in library science from Columbia and the Ph.D. from Boston University in 1952. After serving in the American history division of the New York Public Library and as assistant director of university libraries at the University of Buffalo, he joined the staff of the New-York Historical Society as assistant director and librarian in 1956. When he was elected to AAS on April 19, 1961, he and the Society's librarian, Clifford K. (Ted) Shipton were engaged in the correspondence that led to the microfilming of selected newspapers from the N-YHS's outstanding collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century newspapers for the *Early American Newspapers, 1704-1820* series.

During his tenure at the New-York Historical Society, its building on Central Park West was refurbished and air conditioned and new galleries were opened. Cataloguing procedures were revamped to make the collections more accessible to the public, and an education department was established. His last years there were marked by financial difficulties that led to a staff

strike and ultimately, the temporary closing of the Society.

He was active in the Bibliographical Association of America, which he served as president in 1972-73, and the New York State Historical Association of which he was a trustee. Over the years, he attended several AAS meetings, the last one in April 1997 in Denver.

Caroline F. Sloat

ROBERT K. MASSEY

Community service was the center of Bob Massey's adult life, first in his native Worcester and, after 1983, in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. He had a joyful commitment to both his hometowns. He was enthusiastically generous with his time, counsel, and money in those causes that appealed to him. Until his death at 85 in Jaffrey on May 26, 1999, he provided leadership for many organizations.

Born in Worcester on May 25, 1914, he attended North High School in that city before going to Amherst College, from which he graduated in 1937. He also attended Harvard Business School. Returning to Worcester he worked at Heald Machine Company for thirteen years before switching careers by joining the New York Stock Exchange firm of Spencer Trask, becoming the manager of the local office. By 1966 he decided to stop working in the traditional sense. He did not retire but devoted the last thirty-three years of his life to volunteer service.

Worcester offered many opportunities for a man with intelligence, patience, and energy. Bob loved Worcester, but with a critical eye. He found areas of need and was a visionary in seeking solutions. His dissatisfaction with the governance of the city in the 1940s led him to be an organizer of the Citizens Plan E Association, which persuaded the voters to abandon the old ward

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