

Antiquarian Society in recognition of his contributions to the study of the history of American culture, not the least interesting of which were his two books on corkscrews (his favorite hobby): *Guide to American Corkscrew Patents* (1978) and *Corkscrews for Collectors* (1981), the latter co-authored with Bernard Watney. Babbidge was a valued member of the Society, serving for a time as chairman of the Committee on Membership. In October 1979 he was elected to the Council of the Society.

Universally liked and respected, Babbidge served the cause of education in innumerable ways, retaining his verve and racy sense of humor to the end, despite the ravages of a terminal disease. He died on March 27, 1984, at the age of fifty-eight. 'I've led a good life. I've been a lucky man,' he told his friends. He is survived by his wife, Marcia Adkinson Babbidge, a son Alexander, and two daughters, Aimee and Sandra.

John C. Greene

### HOWARD BONAR JEFFERSON

Howard Bonar Jefferson, or 'Jeff' as he was affectionately called, was aptly named. Like America's third president, he too was a gentle giant, a philosopher involved with universities, and a man passionately dedicated to the idea of academic freedom.

In appearance Jeff was a commanding presence. William Koelsch, a Clark faculty member, upon first meeting Jeff in 1957 noted in his diary, 'President Jefferson seemed to dominate the room with [the] force of [his] personality. Must be [an] impressive person to know.' Indeed, he was. His warmth, concern for others, and sense of Christian charity would have made him a success in many fields, but these qualities were particularly appropriate in his chosen career of education.

Jeff was born on September 28, 1901, in Norwalk, Ohio, the son of George E. and Isabella A. (Bonar) Jefferson. In high school, he was named all-Ohio end in football and all-Ohio guard in basketball. He attended nearby Denison University, where he earned his A.B. degree in 1923, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and starred as an athlete. He went on to his first position as director of athletics for Hillsdale College in Michigan from 1923 to 1925. This post marked the beginning of his distinguished academic career.

Jeff's first college teaching position in 1929, after receiving his doctorate in philosophy from Yale in that year, was at Colgate University—an institution important to his later career in many ways. At Colgate, he not only taught philosophy and rose to the rank of professor, but served also as assistant dean and acting director of admissions from 1943 to 1945. In 1945–46 he worked as director of the Colgate School of Philosophy and Religion. President Everett Case of Colgate, who had become well-known as a 'king-maker' for producing future college presidents from his faculty, was instrumental in securing Jeff's appointment as third president of Clark in 1946.

Jeff later confessed shock when offered the Clark presidency. Why was Clark considering him as president, he wondered, when his subject—philosophy—had not been taught at the university for many years? But he was persuaded to accept the offer by the fierce loyalty of the alumni he met, the dedication of Clark's distinguished faculty, the high quality of certain trustees, and the national and international reputation of the institution.

By Jeff's own account, Clark in 1946 did suffer from certain negative features. He was disheartened at first by the overriding sense of inferiority about Clark among a handful of individuals in three separate groups—members of the Board of Trustees, some influential people in the Worcester community, and certain persons within the student body.

However, one of Jeff's greatest accomplishments in his

twenty-one year presidency was to overcome that undeserved local negative attitude. He did so primarily by creating a sense of community through his leadership. There were changes in the Board of Trustees, as a result of which many of Worcester's leading citizens were asked to serve on the board and indeed performed yeoman service for many years. Town-gown relations became perhaps, the most cordial they have ever been in the history of the institution. Students, both graduates and undergraduates, were always made to feel welcome. Jeff's door was constantly open at home or in the office to students in need of help or advice. Faculty members felt close to him because he could be seen walking around the campus, and he ate daily in the faculty dining room. All staff members were invited to the Jeffersons' Christmas parties and incorporated into the Clark 'family.' With the help of his first wife, Genevieve, Jeff changed the negative attitude toward Clark to a positive one; this achievement alone ranks among his most impressive accomplishments.

In a speech given in 1966, Jeff summarized his career as Clark president and broke it into four main periods. Each period posed a different set of problems which required distinctly different solutions. By discussing each of these periods separately, one can appreciate the challenges Jeff faced over the years.

The first period, from 1946 to 1950, was the era dominated by students who were former G.I.s. Older, more experienced, and knowledgeable in the ways of the world, they were different from previous students on campus. In earlier times Clark had had a student body of about 300 men. In 1942, the Women's College had been started, so that in 1946 for the first time Clark faced a full-blown coeducational situation. One of the most important organizations during these years quickly became the married students' club.

Jeff's first four years at Clark were spent coping with day-to-day problems caused by the expanded size of the university

and the problems created in running a coed institution. Physically, there were far too few professors to handle the larger number of students. Financially, the situation was prosperous because many students were subsidized by the G.I. bill of rights. But too much time had to be taken to make adjustments to current problems, and long-range planning suffered.

The one major departmental decision made during this first period was to revive the field of psychology. With the presence of the research facilities at Worcester State Hospital and the nearby Veterans' Administration hospital, it seemed logical to upgrade that department and to enhance the tradition in psychology inaugurated by G. Stanley Hall, Clark's first president. The rebirth of Clark's psychology department under its distinguished chairperson, Heinz Werner, may be dated from these early post-war years.

The second period, between 1950 and 1960, was a period of decline; Jeff, in fact, became deeply concerned about the very survival of the university. The era of the G.I. bill was nearly over, the Korean War took potential male students off to military service, and Clark began to pile up comparatively large deficits. Jeff was urged at that time to drop graduate education because of its expense, but he refused.

Three decisions were made to combat the crisis. First the Admissions Office was created, and in 1952 a full-time person was appointed to recruit students. Secondly, a financial officer was named to assist Jeff in raising funds and handling money matters. The third decision was the inauguration of the Evening College in 1953 to provide adult education on the university level and to expand sources for tuition. One bright spot in this otherwise gloomy era was the establishment, at Jeff's urging, of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Clark in 1952.

The third main period—from 1955 to 1959—was an era of cautious optimism and expansion. In 1955, a science expansion program was begun. Jeppson Laboratory was built for the chemistry department, and the old science building was gutted and new facilities constructed for the biology and physics de-

partments. As a result of the efforts of the new admissions office, Clark had become much more of a residential college than a commuters' college, and more dormitories were required. During this period, construction was begun for two dormitories and a student union building.

The fourth and final period of Jeff's presidency, from 1959 to 1967, witnessed a creative burst of activity that was unparalleled in Clark's recent history. It represented Jeff's finest hour, and was made possible in large part by federal funds to education made available following the launching of the Russian Sputnik in 1957. Under Jeff's inspired and vigorous leadership, Clark took giant strides forward. The quality of both the graduate and undergraduate education at the university was upgraded. The Ph.D. program in the physics department was reinstated, as were the doctoral programs in biology and mathematics. In addition, the Graduate School of Geography was rebuilt under the leadership of Saul B. Cohen. Capitalizing on the presence of the American Antiquarian Society, a program in American colonial history was launched. Finally, a separate Department of Sociology was established on the undergraduate level and the subjects of anthropology and geology were strengthened.

Clark flourished under Jeff's wise guidance. During his twenty-one years' tenure, from 1946 to 1967, the full-time faculty increased from 30 to 129; the number of students from 411 to 1,321, and the buildings on campus doubled from 11 to 22. One of the achievements of which Jeff was most proud was the construction of the Goddard Library—an impressive and beautiful building which still graces the grounds. But this quantitative growth in no way captures the spirit of the man who made an even greater qualitative difference with his presidential style. In defining his role as Clark's leader, Jeff once said: 'First, I believe that a university president must have a reasoned, but passionate, faith in the importance—yes, the saving power—of higher education.'

Besides serving as university president, Jeff was also a writer

and author. He published two books, *The God of Ethical Religion* (1933) and *Experience and the Christian Faith* (1942). He coauthored, in addition, four other books: *Experience, Reason and Faith* (1940); *The American Idea* (1942); *The Vitality of the Christian Tradition* (1944); and *The Teaching of Religion in American Higher Education* (1951).

Jeff was also a teacher, and while serving as president, he continued to hold forth in the classroom. In 1946 he founded Clark's Department of Philosophy and taught the subject himself for many years. By 1957, however, his administrative duties became too burdensome to permit such a luxury.

Jeff, amazingly enough, also found time to play an active part in the local community. He was a member and served on the boards of Worcester organizations too numerous to mention. In this connection, he had a long and close association with the American Antiquarian Society. Elected to membership in April 1953, he attended meetings regularly until 1980 when ill health began restricting his activities. He was appointed chairman of the Committee for Development in 1971, and in the same year was elected to the Council.

Jeff's first wife, Genevieve R. Rowe, died in 1971. In 1974 he married Ruth (Brown) Radcliffe Jefferson, who survives him. He also leaves two sons—David, of Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, and William, of Syracuse, New York. He is also survived by his sister Grace Bodenweber of Cleveland, and two grandsons.

Jeff died in Worcester on October 1, 1983, at the age of 82. At the memorial service held at the First Unitarian Church, Wallace Robbins, an old friend, described Jeff as a 'great soul.' That phrase captured perfectly the sense of the man. His capacity to inspire those around him was a special gift, and all of us who loved and labored with him shall miss his strength and great presence.

George Athan Billias

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