

well. His friends and associates must envy his family the intimate memory of so fine a man.

Frederick S. Allis, Jr.

RODMAN WILSON PAUL

Rodman Wilson Paul died on May 15, 1987. He was a serious student of history, and he prized highly his election to membership in the American Antiquarian Society. It was especially important to him because, although he spent most of his adult life in the Far West, he had deep roots in New England soil and could trace his family to the earliest Puritan settlers.

Rodman Paul received his education at Harvard College, where his senior thesis won the Phi Beta Kappa Award for the best undergraduate paper in any field that year. He went on to earn a Ph.D., and his doctoral dissertation, *California Gold*, won the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association Prize for the best book of 1947. During the Second World War, he served as a lieutenant commander in the United States Navy. At the close of his military career he entered teaching, first at Yale and then at the California Institute of Technology, where he was named the Edward F. Harkness Professor of History. At the close of his career he was also a senior research associate at the Huntington Library.

Rodman Paul was a distinguished scholar by any standard. He was the recipient of many awards, including a John Simon Guggenheim fellowship. His seminal work, *Mining Frontiers of the Far West*, is a classic, and before his death he completed a volume for the New American History series on the Far West after the Civil War. He was also a dedicated public servant. He served as a member of the National Archives Advisory Council and the Advisory Committee of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He served on countless boards of editors and was president of the Western History Association and the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association.

Behind the formidable scholar and servant was a unique person. He was an individual with a spirit as active and spritely as the youngest of kittens. He approached historical or policy matters of any dimension the way a kitten approaches a ball of yarn. He worried it and worried it until it was completely unraveled. He pounced on a problem with equal vigor and joy, and when he finished, like a kitten with an unraveled ball of yarn, he was off in quest of new challenges and puzzles. Little wonder that his long career saw him involved in so many matters. But Rodman Paul will be remembered not only for his scholarship but also for his elegance of thought, the care with which he responded to requests for his judgment, and the consideration with which he treated his colleagues, not only his peers but earnest newcomers to American history as well. He represented the best of what it means to be a gentleman and a scholar. For those who knew him, the encounter was a privilege. Even during the period of his failing health and limited activities, he was always open to requests for assistance and he was willing to set his own research aside to help others.

Paul always regretted that distance separated him from the activities of the American Antiquarian Society. He told Marcus McCorison that he had enjoyed working at AAS while writing his dissertation at Harvard. Residing long in California, he could only maintain his contacts through his acquaintances who were active in the Society and through reading its *Proceedings* and other publications. He felt honored to be a member, spoke of it often, and was the kind of individual who represented the Society's membership in its truest sense.

Martin Ridge

JOHN HOWLAND GIBBS PELL

John Howland Gibbs Pell was at the time of his death on October 13, 1987, the senior member of the American Antiquarian Society, having been elected to membership in April 1930 at the surpris-

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.