

His peers recognized his abilities also. They elected him president of two of their leading organizations, the American Historical Association in 1976 and the Society of American Historians, 1984-87. In 1988 the latter organization awarded him the Bruce Catton Prize for his lifetime achievements in writing American history. He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1969.

Dr. Morris is survived by his wife of fifty-six years, the former Berenice Robinson, a musician, composer, and college teacher. He had two sons, Jeffrey Brandon Morris, himself a professor of law, and Donald Robinson Morris, who teaches in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Richard B. Morris will be missed not only by his family, colleagues, and students, but by the nation at large. As a public-spirited citizen, informed by his knowledge of history, he had the courage to speak out in times of national crisis. When he retired in 1973 in the midst of the Watergate scandal, he related this episode to the Revolutionary era he knew so well in a remark that is characteristic both for its broad sweep of history and for its principled aptness of judgment: 'In the founding of the nation we needed charismatic figures, but today we could do with honest ones. In Harding's time, they stole national assets; at Watergate, they tried to steal the country.'

George Athan Billias

WALLACE WOODSOME ROBBINS

Wallace Woodsome Robbins, retired minister of the First Unitarian Church in Worcester, died at his home on November 11, 1988. The funeral was witness to his enthusiastic support of ecumenism. Participants included his friends, Rev. Barbara Merritt, Bishop Bernard Flanagan, Rabbi Joseph Klein, Rev. Clyde Cox, and Dr. Donald Simpson, representing local Unitarians, Roman Catholics, Jews, Episcopalians, and Congregationalists.

A native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, Dr. Robbins graduated from Tufts College in 1932, received his bachelor of divinity degree from Meadville Theological School in 1935 and his doctorate in theology from Crane Theological School of Tufts in 1947. As a young minister, he served parishes in Alton, Illinois, and St. Paul, Minnesota. In the years immediately preceding World War II, he was an outspoken critic of the National Socialist regime in Germany and helped organize housing for Jewish refugees. With Warren E. Burger, subsequently chief justice of the Supreme Court, he established the St. Paul Urban League, and during the war he was active on the Minnesota Governor's Wartime Labor Panel, the St. Paul's Mayor's Housing Commission, and the Neighborhood House of St. Paul.

A natural and gifted teacher, Wallace became, in 1944, president and professor at Meadville Theological School at the University of Chicago. Even after he left the university, he retained his connection with the school as a visiting professor and as a cofounder of a summer seminar on preaching.

In 1956, Wallace was called to the First Unitarian Church in Worcester. He served there for nineteen years, retiring in 1975. Upon his retirement, he was named executive director of the Worcester County Ecumenical Council and served as its president. He was instrumental in bringing Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant churches together into the Council. When the Worcester chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews named him recipient of its Brotherhood Award, he urged the community to treasure its diversity.

On the secular side, Wallace was an active trustee of Worcester Polytechnic Institute and a member and former president of the Worcester Economic Club.

Elected to the American Antiquarian Society in October 1963, Wallace frequently attended the meetings and cheerfully accepted assignments as chairman of its Nominating Committee and as a member of the Development Committee.

He is survived by his wife, Malama (Nicholas) Robbins, adjunct

associate professor of music at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and founder and director of the Salisbury Singers; a son and two daughters by his first wife; and one stepdaughter.

Wallace Robbins was a man of great intelligence, high principles, courage, and good humor. He would have been amused to hear his friend Clyde Cox confess to the congregation at the funeral that his greatest disappointment was his inability, despite many efforts, to convert Wallace to the Episcopal order.

Henry Bowen Dewey

WILLIAM VINCENT SHANNON

Bill Shannon was a man of many talents and experiences—reporter, editorial writer, historian, editor, columnist, diplomat, speaker, biographer, and teacher. He was, above all, a gentleman of wit and acuity. He became a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1980, while he was serving as United States ambassador to Ireland. He died of cancer on September 27, 1988, at the age of sixty-one.

His parents, Patrick Joseph and Nora Agnes (McNamara) Shannon came to Worcester from Ireland, and his father worked as a carpenter. Bill was a graduate of Worcester's South High School and attended Clark University, only a few blocks from the family home. He graduated in three years, magna cum laude. He was only nineteen. The next year, 1948, he earned a master's degree in American history from Harvard University. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., called him 'the most brilliant student I ever had.'

After editing the Theodore Roosevelt papers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bill moved to Washington and immersed himself in writing about political affairs. In 1950, with an old Washington hand, Robert S. Allen, he produced a best seller, 'The Truman Merry-Go-Round.'

As bureau chief and columnist in Washington for the *New York*

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