

received his Ph.D. in American history from the University of Pennsylvania. He credited Professor Richard H. Shyrock for encouraging him to enter the field of American science.

On the conclusion of his studies in Philadelphia, Reingold moved to Washington, D. C., where he first was employed at the United States National Archives. Subsequently, he was appointed to the staff of the Science and Technology Division of the Library of Congress before moving to the Smithsonian Institution. Reingold taught at Yale University, where he held a senior postdoctoral fellowship, and he taught also at the University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, and Imperial College, London. He was a founding member of the governing council of the Rockefeller Archive Center in New York, on which he served from 1974 to 1990.

Reingold was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in April 1987, and attended the meetings of October 1987 and April 1989. In 1987 Reingold became a senior historian at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and retired in 1993. His first wife, Ida E. Hornstein Reingold, died in 1988; their sons Matthew and Nicholas survive him, as does his widow, Ellen Miles, of Bethesda. Elected to membership in AAS on April 11, 2003, Miles is curator and chair of the department of painting and sculpture at the National Portrait Gallery. We offer our sympathy to each of Reingold's survivors.

Silvio A. Bedini

JOHN MELVILLE JENNINGS

The Virginia Historical Society (VHS) lost a close friend when its director emeritus, John Melville Jennings, died in Washington, D.C., at the age of eighty-eight on December 22, 2004. His death closes a chapter in the Virginia Historical Society's history, and his name will always be associated with the achievements of the

institution in the mid-twentieth century. When Jennings joined the staff as its first professionally trained librarian and archivist in June 1948, neither he nor anyone else then could have imagined the profound influence this young William and Mary graduate would have on the VHS.

Before joining VHS, he had worked as curator of rare books and manuscripts at the College of William and Mary. After serving in the United States Navy during World War II, he earned a master's degree from American University, and it was with that experience and training that he arrived at the VHS. With energy and ability, he used his archival skill to make the society's rich collections systematically accessible to researchers. Even more important, the tall, immaculately tailored Virginia native possessed a vast knowledge of the intricate family relationships linking the people who made Virginia history. His elegant Tidewater accent, suggesting a bygone time, became familiar to many of their descendants, and they responded generously to his appeal that their family papers be preserved at the VHS.

After a two-year leave of absence to serve in the Korean War, Jennings returned to VHS in the spring of 1953, this time as its director. Under his sure hand, the institution amassed an unparalleled collection of rare books and manuscripts. In 1959 it added a new wing to its headquarters to accommodate these growing collections. Jennings retired in 1978 after leading the VHS for twenty-five years. In that span, the institution became recognized as one of the premier repositories of unpublished materials documenting Virginia history.

Jennings, who was elected to AAS membership in April 1964, had warm collegial relationships with its former leaders Clifford Shipton and Marcus A. McCorison, and in 1996 at the age of eighty, he attended the Society's semiannual meeting at the National Portrait Gallery to greet current president Ellen Dunlap. He gladly shared his knowledge of early American imprints and manuscripts as well as his expertise as an administrator throughout the forty years of his association with the AAS.

In the years following his retirement, the VHS continued to benefit from generous bequests that grew from the many friendships he had cultivated. The VHS's ongoing success today rests in good measure on the sound legacy bequeathed by its good and true friend John Melville Jennings.

Charles F. Bryan

JOHN M. WOOLSEY, JR.

John Munro Woolsey, Jr., a member of the American Antiquarian Society since 1978, and a former member of the Council and the finance committee, died on January 8, 2005, after a brief illness. He was eighty-eight years old.

John Woolsey's involvement with AAS began, appropriately enough, through his connection to Petersham, Massachusetts, a small town in northwestern Worcester County that was dear to him throughout his life. His mother, Alice Bradford Bacon, had purchased a farm house and former tannery there in 1905, and after her marriage to John Munro Woolsey, a lawyer and later a federal judge in New York City, Petersham became their summer retreat. Although John Woolsey, Jr., was born in New York, attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, Yale College and Yale Law School in New Haven, practiced law in Boston, and lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Petersham remained a place of respite for him, the place where he spent weekends and holidays, the place he felt most at home. In 1977, Marcus McCorison, AAS director and librarian at the time, approached John, whose father had been a Society member, about a rare broadside issued in Petersham in 1775, in which the town meeting denounced the 'traiterous paricides [*sic*]' who remained loyal to the crown. John happily contributed money toward the cost of its purchase for the Society's collections. So began an active

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