

the American Museum in Britain, the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Rosenbach Museum and Library.

William H. Helfand

FRANK SHERWIN STREETER

Frank Sherwin Streeter, businessman, philanthropist, and book collector, died in New York City, on June 12, 2006, at the age of eighty-eight. Born in New York City on March 25, 1918, he spent most of his youth in Morristown, New Jersey, where his family moved in the early 1920s. Frank's parents were both remarkable individuals. His father, Thomas W. Streeter, was the greatest collector of Americana of the twentieth century, an astute lawyer and businessman who was actively involved with many American libraries, including AAS, which he served as Council President from 1952 to 1955. His mother, Ruth Cheney Streeter, was one of the first women in the United States to obtain a pilot's license and was one of the highest ranking women in the military forces in World War II, serving as a director of the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corps with the rank of colonel. Frank attended St. Paul's School and graduated Harvard in 1940 with a B.S. degree. His thesis, 'Land Policy in Texas,' mirrored his father's collecting interest in the Texas Republic. He served as a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II in the Caribbean and Pacific, an experience that influenced his later book collecting.

After the war Frank went to work on Wall Street, where he was employed by the firm of Tucker, Anthony until 1952, then moved to a job which proved to be career-long, as a financial advisor to John Hay Whitney from 1952 until Whitney's death in 1981. He then became the executor of the Whitney estate, a complex task that lasted for the next fifteen years, until Frank's final retirement in 1996. Frank once described part of his job for Whitney as

being the 'Abominable No-man' to institutions seeking contributions. (It should be noted, however, that on the occasion he was assigned the task of writing a letter on Whitney's behalf to the Yale University Librarian James Babb, refusing to donate to Yale's purchase of his father's famous Texas collection, he demurred.) Whitney, however, often said yes, and this involved Frank in many of his employer's philanthropic projects, as well as the worlds of art and auctions in which Whitney, a collector, was active. Frank served for many years on the board of the New York-Presbyterian Hospital, eventually becoming a life governor, as well as on the boards of the United Hospital Fund and the Fresh Air Fund, where he also served as president.

Frank himself did not become a collector until after his father's death in 1965. As he once told me, the children of Thomas W. Streeter had an early antipathy to book collecting, which had occupied so much of their father's time and attention and caused their playroom to be taken over to become a library. But in his will, the elder Streeter left each of his children their choice of one book from his collection. The volume that Frank picked, one of the most beautiful books in Western Americana, Henry Warre's *Sketches In North America and the Oregon Territory* (London, 1848), awakened an interest in book collecting. (Frank's brother, Henry, for many years a devoted member of the AAS Council, chose Samuel Champlain's *Les Voyages* . . . [Paris, 1613], which he gave to AAS in 1992.) The famous sale of the Thomas Streeter library between 1966 and 1969 provided an ideal starting point for Frank's own collecting, and in the spring of 1969 he acquired a number of lots, focusing on important Pacific voyages and Arctic explorations. By the following year he was writing Marcus McCorison that he had begun 'a collection in the areas of the exploration for a Northwest Passage and in the opening up of the Pacific in the 18th century. As a naval officer with some service in the Pacific in World War II, that region has quite fascinated me.'

Once involved in book collecting, Frank rapidly developed his collection, buying heavily at the Boies Penrose (1971) and Harrison

Horblit (1974) sales, and expanding his interests to include atlases, early works on the science of navigation, voyages to other areas of the world, and eventually theoretical works by Galileo and Kepler. He also became deeply involved in the world of books and collecting. He was elected to the Grolier Club in 1970, later serving on its Council for many years, as its president 1982–86, and finally as an honorary member. He was also elected to the Walpole Society in 1970, an association which gave him the greatest pleasure of any of his clubs or associations, and of which he was chairman, 1983–92. AAS elected Frank to membership in the spring of 1971. Although a steady contributor, he was never actively involved in the workings of the Society, feeling that his brother Henry represented the family interest. Frank also served at different times on the boards of the New-York Historical Society and the John Carter Brown Library. He was also a member of the Club of Odd Volumes, the Century Association, and the Union and Harvard clubs in New York.

As this list of institutions suggests, Frank was very much a gentleman of the old school. I think he enjoyed the friendships and associations that book collecting brought him at least as much as he enjoyed the books themselves. A cheerful and friendly man, he loved talking to dealers and fellow collectors and working with the libraries he supported, as well as attending auctions and the more social side of book collecting. He was also well-versed in the books in his collection, from both a bibliographical and historical viewpoint, and continued to collect to the end of his life.

Frank married Nancy Angell in February 1951. They had three daughters, Ellen Streeter Rhodes, Ruth Streeter, and Meg Streeter Lauck. At the time of his death there were nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. For many years the family spent weekends and summers in Madison, Connecticut; later, when the children were grown, Frank and Nancy greatly enjoyed going to Sun Valley, Idaho, in both summer and winter. Frank was always a New Yorker first and foremost, and the Streeters made their primary home there from World War II until his death.

Frank enjoyed good health and a sound mind to the end of his life. He decided that, unlike his father, he would like to be present at the auction of his own collection for the fun of it. Good financial steward that he was, he also wanted to resolve the disposal of his books so that it would not be a burden to his family after his death. Christie's was selected to hold the sale, but sadly Frank did not live to see it, having died after a brief illness. The catalogue, in two substantial volumes, suitably documents his superb collection, one of the most important to be sold at auction in New York in recent decades. The auction, on April 16-17, 2007, was a hard-fought affair with strong prices, ultimately realizing more than sixteen million dollars. It was a fitting culmination to a four-decade-long career in the world of books and book collecting.

William S. Reese

JOSEPH WELLES HENDERSON

Virtually everyone affiliated with the American Antiquarian Society has a deep appreciation for the rich collections of books, manuscripts, documents, and artifacts that are housed in libraries, research institutions, and museums. These collections inform our work and enable researchers and scholars to piece together the past. What we sometimes overlook is the fact that the collections being held in these institutions were often brought together by dedicated, individual collectors. With the death of J. Welles Henderson on May 5, 2007, we lost an admirable colleague who was an attorney, a civic leader, a museum founder and trustee, but, above all, a consummate collector.

Welles Henderson was inflicted with the collector's zeal before he reached his teens, when he received a small anchor in appreciation of his contribution of fifty cents toward the preservation of the *USS Constitution*. As the son of an admiralty lawyer in Philadelphia,

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