

grandchildren, survived him at his death that occurred on December 16, 1999.

In his life, as in all things, Buz was conscientious. He was good. He was thoroughly good.

Marcus A. McCorison

J. WORTH ESTES

Dr. J. Worth Estes, who died on October 22, 2000, was a well-respected, wide-ranging scholar who was a member of a vanishing breed: a medical school professor who was also a serious historian of medicine. Worth generously shared what he knew with students and colleagues. And he was always learning more. A frequent visitor to the American Antiquarian Society, the Countway, and numerous other research libraries, he was elected to membership in AAS in 1979, and was an active member during the eighties and nineties.

The reach of Worth's curiosity was impressive, and his bibliography is massive. His work ranges from medical articles on hematology and pharmacology, to important historical papers on purple foxglove and William Withering, medicine in ancient Egypt, naval medicine, Shaker medicine, opium, quantitative observations of fever, and dozens of other subjects. He was the professor of pharmacology and professor of socio-medical sciences at the Boston University School of Medicine (and emeritus professor after his retirement), but he comfortably straddled the divide between the hospital-oriented life of an academic doctor and the archive-oriented life of a historian.

Born in Lexington, Kentucky, on January 1, 1934, Worth was the son of the editor of America's first thoroughbred racing periodical, *The Blood Horse* (later *The Blood Record*). From the time he was a young child, he often said that he wanted to be a doctor. In high school, when he was asked to write a research paper, he

chose to study the life of Ephraim McDowell, a fellow Kentuckian. The resulting paper was set in type by his father, who had access to printing equipment. And so were some mystery stories Worth wrote.

Worth completed his high school education at Phillips Exeter Academy (1951), and majored in biology at Harvard as a member of the Class of 1955. While at Harvard, Worth lived with Paul White and his wife, and tutored their children. Before getting his M.D. from Boston University's School of Medicine (1964), he worked as a research assistant at Massachusetts General Hospital, and earned the M.A. in pharmacology at Boston University. After medical school, he had an internship in pathology at Massachusetts General, which was followed by training in hematology, and a postdoctoral fellowship in hematology in London.

The early articles in Worth's bibliography mostly deal with his medical work in pharmacology and hematology. But Richard Wolfe, former curator at the Countway Library, recalls, 'After Worth had settled into B.U., he started coming into the Countway . . . and after that, he came all the time.' Worth's widow, Cindy Estes, adds, 'Worth had an insatiable interest in medical history—and with Worth, one thing led to another.'

Worth's first important historical book to be published was *Hall Jackson and the Purple Foxglove* (1979), followed by *The Changing Humors of Portsmouth: The Medical Biography of an American Town, 1623-1983* (1986); *Dictionary of Protopharmacology* (1990); *The Medical Skills of Ancient Egypt* (1993); *Naval Surgeon: Life and Death at Sea in the Age of Sail* (1998); and *A Sea of Words: A Lexicon and Companion for Patrick O'Brian's Seafaring Tales* (1997).

Worth's prose was clear and well-crafted. In the review of his book on Egyptian medicine, the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* reported, 'It is somewhat different than the standard histories of Egyptian medicine and really might better be described as an account of a person interested in all aspects of the human condition that affect health and well-being.' The same could be said of many of his writings.

Worth spoke his mind forcefully, and he was also humorous. Two of the very popular talks he gave at AAS were: 'George Washington and the Doctors: Treating America's First Super-hero,' and 'Selling Medicine with Science: Patent Remedy in Nineteenth-Century America.'

When Worth was an advisor for my film, *A Midwife's Tale*, he frequently sent me articles he came across that he believed would be useful. He was always enthusiastic and opinionated, generous with his suggestions, willing to go out on a limb and hazard historical guesses, and unfailingly kind.

Worth continued working through a long and difficult illness. His death was not unexpected. But he will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Laurie Kahn-Leavitt

JAMES RUSSELL WIGGINS

Some individuals are blessed with an acute and capacious mind, with an unshakable devotion to truth, with abounding energy, and with a vibrant, generous spirit. James Russell Wiggins was such a one. Life-long learner, newspaper man, diplomat, sailor, husband, and father, Russell was a leader in his profession, a friend of the mighty and the less so, and was the eighteenth president of the American Antiquarian Society.

Luverne, Minnesota, is the county seat of Rock County, which is bounded on the south by Iowa and on the west by South Dakota. Russell Wiggins was born on a farm near Luverne on December 4, 1903, to James and Edith (Binford) Wiggins.¹ In 1905 his family moved into town where his father owned a construction business. While in high school, from which he graduated in 1922, Russell was editor of the school paper, *The Echo*.

1. For a thorough account of the life of JRW, see the *Ellsworth American*, November 22, 2000; also obituaries in the *Washington Post*, November 20, 2000, the *Boston Globe*, November 20, 2000, and the *New York Times*, November 21, 2000.

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