

The Language of Chaucer's Troilus which appeared in 1894, the year in which he attained a full professorship. Of the dozen other important books which came from his pen we know best *The Old Farmer and His Almanac* (1905), and *Witchcraft in Old and New England* (1929). In addition to these he contributed more than sixty articles to the publications of learned societies. At various times he was president of the Modern Language Association, the American Folk-Lore Society, and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society, a corresponding fellow of the British Academy, an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and of Jesus College, Cambridge. Nearer at home, he was active in the Prince Society and the Club of Odd Volumes. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1901 and in April, 1907, read before it his famous "Notes on Witchcraft" to which George Lincoln Burr replied four years later.

At various times Mr. Kittredge received honorary degrees from Brown, Chicago, Johns Hopkins, Harvard, McGill, Oxford, Union, and Yale. He served as Northcliffe Lecturer at the University of London in 1932 and in 1936 retired from active teaching. His remaining years were devoted to editing new editions of Shakespeare. He died on July 23, 1941, survived by his widow and three children, Dora, Frances Gordon, and Henry Crocker. C. K. S.

CHARLES HENRY TAYLOR

In the death of Charles Henry Taylor the American Antiquarian Society lost one of its staunchest supporters and most active members. Not since Isaiah Thomas has any one donor given to the Library so great a mass of historical material. For thirty years books, pamphlets, news-

papers, prints, and manuscripts flowed to Worcester in a constant stream. A lifelong collector and a scholarly antiquarian, he was blessed with many more contacts than are granted to the average bibliophile. His association with an important metropolitan newspaper brought to him thousands of items, the historical value of which he could immediately interpret. His long friendship with the late P. K. Foley, erudite Boston bookdealer, constituted almost a business partnership, which resulted in his having the first opportunity to obtain Mr. Foley's numerous "finds." His geniality and his honesty attracted to him also scores of other dealers, who felt it a privilege to help complete his various collections. Never was a collector more unselfish. He collected chiefly to aid libraries and scholarship in general; and the more quickly he could send his gatherings to some permanent depository, the happier he was.

Mr. Taylor was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1912 and soon afterward presented to the Library outright his collection of books on American printing and journalism, covering every phase of the subject of printer's ink—the history and bibliography of newspapers, the lives of journalists, advertising, trials for libel, and other allied topics even remotely connected with printing. This was followed in subsequent years by similar gifts—a collection of pamphlets of the sea, chiefly narratives of shipwreck and piracy; a large collection relating to canal and railroad transportation; all the titles which we lacked from his collection of the history of Boston; his Herman Melville collection; the correspondence of such publishing firms as Lee & Shepard and D. C. Heath; a vast assemblage of fifteen thousand stereoscopic views; and his notable collection of American lithography. Although difficult to differentiate between his many gifts, this was one of the most important relating to American graphic art that we have ever received—including

the D. C. Johnston caricatures and drawings, the Bass Otis portrait and notebook, and many thousand separate lithographs. For several years thereafter he maintained the expense of an assistant to arrange and catalogue this collection.

In 1929 Mr. Taylor was elected to the Council of the Society, and in 1933 one of the two vice-presidents. In the latter office he occasionally presided over the meetings, and always with dignity and charm. Although too busy as a collector, not to mention his busy life as a journalist, to devote much time to research, he did prepare a paper, "Some Notes on Early American Lithography," which was printed in the *Proceedings* of April, 1922. In 1927 and again in 1936 he entertained the Society at the time of the Boston meetings.

Mr. Taylor had a long and useful life. He was born at Charlestown, Massachusetts, October 2, 1867, the son of Charles Henry and Georgiana O. (Davis) Taylor. Educated at the Boston Latin School, he entered Harvard with the Class of 1890, but remained for only three years, leaving to assume an active participation in the newspaper business. His father, General Taylor, had built the *Boston Globe* into a powerful and important newspaper, and the son, even from a boy of twelve, grew up with the paper. He familiarized himself with every department of the business, whether commercial, editorial, or mechanical. In 1893 he was elected treasurer of the corporation and retained the office until he retired in 1937, and throughout this period he was active in the management of the newspaper. He also became prominent in the American Newspaper Publishers Association, serving almost continuously as a director from 1896 to 1937, and as president from 1901 to 1904. At the meetings of that body he was always welcomed for his good fellowship and respected for his judgment.

Although business and collecting were the two important sides of his life, he was an active force in many organizations.

He was a life member of the Bostonian Society and the senior director at the time of his death. He was also a life member of the Boston Society of Natural History and was its president from 1927 to 1935. He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts State Library from 1924 to 1936. He was one of the founders of the Business Historical Society and its president from 1925 to 1935. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Virginia Historical Society, and the Club of Odd Volumes of which he was president from 1932 to 1934. Imbued with a love of humanity, he also aided the efforts of many Boston charitable organizations, notably the Industrial School for Crippled and Deformed Children, which he served for more than a generation as a trustee and was president from 1933 to 1940.

With all the good he did for others, it was but natural that in spite of his modesty he should receive deserved honors. He was made an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa at the College of William and Mary in 1929. Harvard granted him the honorary degree of A.M. in 1937. The College of William and Mary recognized his services in 1933 by the degree of LL.D. The citation which he then received is so fitting a summary of his life that it is quoted herewith:

Student of American history and conservator of its sources; patron of literature and supporter of arts; servant of the state and helper of the helpless; interpreter of social trends and trusted adviser alike for capital and labor; abundantly endowed by nature with intellect and spirit and more abundantly blessed by an ever-growing capacity to enrich the lives of others; exemplar of full and vibrant development of native gifts in the vast school of life's education.

Mr. Taylor married Marguerite Falck of Woburn, December 2, 1890. He died after a year's illness on August 18, 1941, survived by his widow and two children, Charles H. Taylor, Jr., and Mrs. Taylor Black.

It is impossible for the writer of this biographical sketch to prepare such a tribute without thinking of the many personal contacts which have lasted for fully thirty years. Scarcely a week passed during all this time that letters did not pass back and forth, or visits were made to Mr. Taylor's Boston home or office, as much to enjoy the kindness of his friendship as to discuss matters purely bibliographical. This friendliness was reflected also in his contacts with the Council of the Society, where his optimism, his ready wit, and his sociability, made him universally beloved and respected. The aid which he gave to this Society and the collections which he placed in our keeping will live forever in our annals.

C. S. B.

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.