

on religious history and biography, was disposed of by sale, with the Antiquarian Society purchasing those titles lacking in its collection.

In his long and useful life, Mr. Metcalf was a glowing example of what could be achieved by industry and by enthusiastic and constant work on a chosen subject. To rise from a Government clerkship to become the leading authority on American hymnology is a model for others to follow. His place is secure in the literary history of this country.

C. S. B.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

To write even a brief account of the life of President Roosevelt is far beyond the scope of this sketch. Therefore it will be confined to the President's historical and collecting activities and to his connection with this Society.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born on the family estate at Hyde Park, January 30, 1882, the son of James and Sarah (Delano) Roosevelt. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1904, entered the law in New York City, was elected to the State Senate in 1910 and 1912, and served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy from 1913 to 1920. Nominated Democratic candidate for the Vice-Presidency in 1920, he was defeated and resumed the practice of the law. In 1921 he was stricken with infantile paralysis, from which he recovered through methodical treatment and persistent courage. He was elected Governor of New York in 1928 and reelected in 1930. In 1932 he was elected President of the United States, and reelected in 1936, 1940 and 1944. He died in office April 12, 1945.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was a book collector from his early days. While at Harvard he was librarian both of the Fly

Club and of the Hasty Pudding, which brought him into touch with books and book-dealers. He bought many books at that time at Bartlett's in Cornhill, where the genial proprietor, William M. Chase, guided his choice and deflected him from buying sets and ephemeral literature. Even at that early period he started to collect for himself in general history and literature, but later, due to his naval interests, specialized in naval history. In this field his collection of the printed literature was notable and comprehensive, supplemented by many rare naval prints and by a well selected showing of ship-models. His bookplate, a small one with an anchor and four stars, was of his own design. When Governor of New York he made a special collection of Hudson River views. He bought largely from auction sales and dealers' catalogues, but made frequent personal visits to such shops as Newman's in New York and Bartlett's and Goodspeed's in Boston. Even during his Presidency he continued to buy Americana, and found great relaxation and enjoyment in such activities.

In July, 1940, the President turned over to the American people a building specially constructed upon his estate at Hyde Park, called the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, built with private funds, and planned for the installation of his private library of over fifteen thousand books, his various collections of pictures and models, mementos and trophies presented to him, and primarily his vast collection of ten million letters and state papers amassed during his entire official career, as State Senator, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Governor, and President. Previously most of the Presidents regarded their correspondence as private property and removed it from the White House, although in many cases their families or descendants later gave or sold such papers to the Government. Of this Roosevelt Library, invaluable for historical research, Fred W. Shipman has

been director since its formation. Mr. Shipman, former chief of the State Department archives, started his historical career in the American Antiquarian Society, where for six years he was in charge of the newspaper collection.

President Roosevelt visited Worcester many times. In his early days, in travelling to Groton or to Cambridge, he went through Worcester, either by train or by motor car. His first official visit was on August 26, 1920, when as candidate for Vice-president he spoke in the rear of the City Hall. He was introduced by Attorney John M. Thayer, who arranged the rally, and lunched at the Bancroft Hotel. On November 1, 1932, during his first presidential campaign, he addressed a great throng at Salem Square. On June 1, 1934, he came to Worcester by special train to attend the graduation of his son, John, at Groton. His train was stationed at Lincoln Square, while the President proceeded by motor to Groton. On this occasion he took the opportunity to visit for half an hour with his college friend, George S. Barton, at the Barton farm in Boylston. When campaigning for his second term, he spoke to a crowded audience at the Auditorium on October 21, 1936. His next visit was on October 30, 1940, when his train stopped, en route to Boston, at the Union Station, and the President spoke briefly on the subject of national defense. His last visit was on November 4, 1944, when his train again stopped at the Union Station, and on the back platform occurred the historic hand-clasping incident with Senator Walsh, who had previously criticized some of his policies, but at this time made up and subsequently supported him during the campaign.

President Roosevelt was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1924. At the time he was much interested in historical research and was a vice-president of the Dutchess County Historical Society. Two years before,

when visiting his friend Livingston Davis in Boston, he had referred to the work of the Society, and said that he would like very much to become a member. Already, a few years previous, he had given to Mr. Davis for the Society a remarkably complete collection of the Navy and Marine posters of the World War. Mr. Davis proposed his name and he was elected, accepting with "the greatest of pleasure." Immediately he sent us autographed copies of the first two volumes of the Collections of the Dutchess County Historical Society, and somewhat later the third volume, consisting of the Records of the Town of Hyde Park, which he himself edited.

The Society was much interested in early American printing and the Director wrote Mr. Roosevelt suggesting that he might take up the subject as far as it concerned the Poughkeepsie area. He replied January 15, 1925, as follows: "That is an excellent thought of yours in regard to a bibliography of early Poughkeepsie printing. I am taking it up with our Historical Society. I had already done some work on the publications of the press at Stanford (now Stanfordville) about fifteen miles northeast of Poughkeepsie. As far as I know, this was the only place in the County outside of Poughkeepsie which published books, though some may have been printed at Fishkill." Even to the time of his death he continued his interest in Stanford printing.

In 1927 he promised to consider presenting a paper before the Society, and in his letter said, "Some day I shall hope to attend one of the Worcester meetings, but, as you probably know, I am still on crutches and it is very difficult for me to get about. However, my leg muscles are improving so rapidly that I hope soon to be able to get up and down steps, and to visit the library and attend a meeting." Then came his election as Governor of New York and from then on his activities in historical publication and research ceased.

He continued, however, to send gifts, both of money and

books. In 1934 from the White House he wrote that "knowing of the excellent newspaper collection of the Antiquarian Society," he was sending two volumes of a Panama Newspaper, called the *Canal*, published at the time of the French canal operations. To his friend George Barton he wrote in 1936, "I do wish that I could come to a meeting of the American Antiquarian Society. I have never been to one, tho, as you know, I have been a member for many years." His last letter to the Society, October 19, 1936, said "I am particularly sorry to miss this chance to see the splendid work the Society is doing." In conversation he said that he looked forward to relief from his official duties and to a renewal of cultural contacts. But he never realized that in a few years the country would be plunged into the most terrible of all wars, and that his own life would be forfeited.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the twelfth President of the United States to be a member of the American Antiquarian Society, and the only one to be elected a member before he attained the Presidency. John Adams was made a member in 1813, followed by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Rutherford B. Hayes, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Scholar, historian, statesman, Franklin D. Roosevelt was one of the most notable of our Presidents. His leadership of the world forces defending all the inherited values of civilization against those who would destroy them, ensured the future security of this Society and of all other literary institutions. It was he who was instrumental in procuring a commission in the Naval Reserve for the President of the Society, Samuel Eliot Morison, and having him detailed to write the naval history of World War II. His real interest in the objects of this Society made his name outstanding

in our membership. Had he lived and forsaken the cares of public life, he had promised himself to write and to collect, and his connection with this Society would have been stronger.

C. S. B.

GEORGE DUDLEY SEYMOUR

George Dudley Seymour was born at Bristol, Connecticut, on October 5, 1859, a son of Henry Albert and Electra (Churchill) Seymour. His father was a banker and clock manufacturer of Bristol, and his education began in the public schools of that town. In 1878 he was graduated from the Hartford High School, and immediately he went to Washington, D. C., where he studied in the law office of his brother Henry and attended Columbian (now George Washington) University. Here he received an LL.B. in 1880 and an L.L.M. in 1881.

After practicing law with his brother for a while, Mr. Seymour moved to New Haven in 1883. He soon won distinction as a member of the firm of Seymour, Earle, and Nichols, specializing in patent cases. He will be remembered, however, for his work in making New Haven a better and more beautiful place in which to live. In 1907 he initiated a campaign of municipal improvement which in 1913 crystallized as the New Haven City Planning Committee, of which he was secretary for a dozen years. He was also an executive officer or a moving spirit of the New Haven zoning committee, the municipal art committee, the committee to build a new public library, the trustees of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, the state commission for the development of New Haven Harbor, the state commission on sculpture, and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

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