

## *Obituaries*

### WILLIAM McINTIRE ELKINS

William McIntire Elkins, Philadelphia banker, philanthropist, and bibliophile, died on June 5, 1947. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1939, immediately showed an interest in its activities, and contributed to its funds. He was born at Philadelphia, September 3, 1882, the son of George W. and Stella (McIntire) Elkins. Educated at St. Mark's School, he entered Harvard with the Class of 1905, but left in the middle of his senior year. In 1906 he entered the investment banking business in Philadelphia and five years later founded the banking firm of Elkins, Morris and Co. He was prominent in financial life in Philadelphia and was a director in various banking and insurance concerns. He was also a leader in philanthropic enterprises, serving ten years as president of the Welfare Federation of charitable agencies. Vice-president and trustee of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, he was a principal donor of paintings and art treasures to that institution. He married, June 10, 1905, Elizabeth Wolcott Tuckerman, daughter of Bayard Tuckerman of Ipswich, Massachusetts. Following her death he married, on December 26, 1942, the former Lisa Norris, widow of W. Frazier Harrison, who survives him.

Mr. Elkins was a noted bibliophile and collector. His library was famous for the earliest editions of English modern authors, and especially Dickens and Goldsmith. For these two authors he owned some priceless manuscripts

and presentation copies, both collections ranking among the finest known. He was an extensive collector of rare Americana, concentrating upon the foundation narratives of the explorers and the early colonists. He owned the Columbus Letter printed at Rome in 1493, the Richard Eden 1553 translation of Sebastian Munster's "Newe India," and the works of DeBry, Vespuccius, Hakluyt, Cartier, Frobisher, Drake, Brereton, Rosier, Captain John Smith, and other explorers. In colonial publications he possessed many outstanding volumes, including a large number of the works of the Mathers and other New England writers and historians, and the important works relating to New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. He had many editions of Ptolemy, and a large number of the first books of the American West. His entire library was bequeathed to the Free Library of Philadelphia, of which he was vice-president and trustee. His bequest is one of the most notable gifts in American literary annals.

C. S. B.

### MILTON ELLIS

Harold Milton Ellis was born at Belfast, Maine, on August 2, 1885, a son of Gilbert Randall and Ida Melissa (Rowe) Ellis. He was graduated at the University of Maine in 1907, and two years later became an instructor in English at Muhlenberg College. In 1911 he returned to Harvard University and there in 1913 received his Ph.D. degree. For the next four years he was instructor in history at the University of Texas, removing to Trinity College at Durham, North Carolina, to become a professor. In 1919 he was recalled to the University of Maine to head the Department of English, and there he remained for the rest of his life.

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