

the British colonial official. These appeared in five volumes between 1951 and 1965. He also wrote a biography of his subject, *Sir William Johnson, Colonial American, 1715-1763*, published in 1976.

Hamilton married twice. His first wife, the former Margaret Gatchel, whom he wed in 1927, died in 1965. The next year he married Anita G. Ricketson, who survives him as do his two daughters.

Hamilton's AAS election 'honored and flattered' him. He gave a paper on Sir William Johnson at the Society's semiannual meeting in April 1964, attended at least a half dozen subsequent meetings, and represented the Society at several college presidents' inaugurations. He kept up his correspondence with us until the late 1970s, when, regrettably, it ceased.

John B. Hench

#### ARTHUR AMORY HOUGHTON, JR.

Arthur Amory Houghton, Jr., was born in Corning, New York, on December 12, 1906. His ancestor, John Houghton, came from Lancashire in 1635 on the *Abigail* and settled in Lancaster, Massachusetts. His great-grandfather, Amory Houghton, founded the Union Glass Company in Somerville, Massachusetts, in 1853. In 1864 the firm moved to Brooklyn, and finally, in 1868, to Corning, New York, becoming the Corning Glass Works. Successive generations of Houghtons have administered the company to the present day.

Arthur Houghton's early education was in the public schools of Corning, and later (1920-25) at St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire. He entered Harvard in 1925. His father died in 1928, and Arthur left Harvard in 1929 in order to take a position in the Corning Glass Works. He needed only to complete a term paper or two in order to qualify for the bachelor's degree, but he never

found the time to do so; in later life he was the recipient of a sheaf of honorary degrees from numerous colleges and universities.

Four years after joining the firm, he took charge of an unsuccessful subsidiary of Corning, the Steuben Glass Company, and built it into its present dominant position as a leading maker of fine crystal whose products are to be found in museums all over the world. He had a designer's eye and taste, and recruited top-flight artists to develop the forms to be realized by the fine technicians in the Steuben atelier.

Arthur Houghton's deep and abiding concern with literature, the fine arts, and collecting developed while he was still a school-boy and continued throughout his life. Much of his pocket money went for books, but it was not until the summer between St. Paul's and Harvard that he made his first major purchase, a copy of the 1866 (first published) edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, a work whose delights he had discovered for himself in the school library. It was listed in an E. P. Dutton catalog at \$225; 'but I did not even have \$25' at the time, he later recalled. Somehow or other he persuaded his father to advance the purchase price—'I think I eventually repaid the advance, but I am not sure,' he wrote—and his serious collecting began. While at Harvard, he added to his Carroll collection in visits to Goodspeed's, Lauriat's, and other Boston booksellers, once being driven to sell his overcoat to the famous Max Keezer to pay his outstanding accounts. At Harvard he fell under the spell of great literature in the courses taught by George Lyman Kittredge and John Livingston Lowes, and his love of books was nourished by George Parker Winship's course in bibliography, the training ground for so many eminent collectors.

After he returned to Corning he began book-hunting in New York City, where he happened into the shop of Edgar H. Wells & Co., to which he remained loyal for the rest of its corporate life, even when Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach began locating more and more distinguished books for his collection. In little more than a decade he gathered a library, mainly of English literature, ranking with the most important of its day. It was collected *con amore*; most of

its contents were well known and loved by him even before their first editions and holographs graced his shelves. And it was collected fastidiously; he very early learned the paramount importance of condition.

Collecting led him into the Grolier Club (1936; he was its president from 1955 to 1957) and opened new vistas as well in the larger field of cultural activities. Early in 1939 William A. Jackson, then newly appointed as head of the old Treasure Room in the Widener Library, invited him to join the Visiting Committee of the Harvard Library, and Arthur accepted with pleasure. He was already well acquainted with Philip Hofer, another new recruit to the Treasure Room staff.

At the first committee meeting that Arthur attended, Keyes DeWitt Metcalf (then university librarian) outlined his long-range plan for expansion into a library for undergraduates, a storage library for less-used materials, and a rare-book library. The chairman of the committee, Charles Warren, objected vociferously to having Harvard collect rare books and manuscripts or provide special facilities for them. Arthur Houghton was obviously upset, even offended, by Warren's remarks. The next day, he volunteered to finance the building of just such a library for Harvard. The result was the Houghton Library, planned and executed with remarkable speed but meticulous attention to detail. It was the first climate-controlled rare-book library to be built in the United States. Arthur was active and helpful at every stage of the project. Planning began within months, and construction proceeded rapidly under the looming threat of the war in Europe. It was essentially completed before Pearl Harbor, and it was formally dedicated on February 28, 1942.

When it opened, the Houghton Library's shelves were approximately half full. Those involved in its planning confidently expected it to be a magnet for yet more important library resources, but they believed its space would be adequate for at least several decades. It succeeded beyond expectation. By 1946 it was already uncomfortably crowded. Successive enlargements into space pro-

vided by the neighboring Lamont and Pusey libraries nearly quadrupled the size of its stacks—and in 1990 the problem of insufficient space has emerged again as an urgent question to be addressed.

Such an enterprise might well occupy all the spare time and energy of an active executive, but Arthur Houghton was always able to handle multiple challenges easily and efficiently. Archibald MacLeish, when he became Librarian of Congress, found its rare-book department in sad disarray, and drafted Arthur to serve as its curator, rightly perceiving his combination of executive acumen and bibliographical knowledge as what the situation required. Arthur began commuting on a triangular course between New York, Washington, and Wye Plantation in Maryland (where his own collection was housed), averaging one circuit a week in those days before shuttle planes, and keeping up with all the demands of his several responsibilities. During his tenure (1940–42), he put the department in good order and trained Frederick R. Goff to continue its successful administration. He also developed more than a passing interest in the Folger Shakespeare Library.

With the outbreak of hostilities, Arthur Houghton volunteered for the U. S. Army Air Force, serving from 1942 until 1945, when he was discharged with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In peacetime he quickly picked up and enlarged his civilian interests. In addition to his posts with Corning and Steuben Glass, he held directorships in several major corporations. His cultural commitments enlarged as well. He was elected to the Board of Overseers of Harvard College and for a time chaired the Visiting Committee for the Harvard Library. His trusteeships included the Pierpont Morgan and New York Public libraries, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Rockefeller Foundation, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Lincoln Center, the Cooper Union, the Parsons School of Design, and the Corning Museum of Glass, which he also founded. He served as president or chairman of several of these institutions. He was a founding trustee of the American Trust for the British Library, which is designed as a conduit enabling U. S.

citizens to make tax-deductible contributions in support of the British national library's resources in American literature and history. He was always ready to step in when some organization in which he believed found itself in trouble: thus, in the late 1950s, when the very existence of the American Council of Learned Societies was threatened by precarious finances, Arthur Houghton, then a member-at-large, found seed money and bent his efforts to set it firmly on its present successful course. The American Antiquarian Society, as a constituent member, has benefited directly from the preservation and strengthening of the ACLS.

Arthur's benefactions were carefully considered and usually carried out with a minimum of publicity. On the Eastern Shore, a quiet backwater when he first moved there in the days before the Bay Bridge and superhighways, he devised and financed schemes for improving local education and encouraging talented local young people. Later, when he retired from New York to Wye Plantation, he presented his mansion on Sutton Place to the United Nations to serve as the official residence of the general secretary. Finally, he gave the plantation itself to the Aspen Institute for its world headquarters, and made over his world-renowned breeding herd of Black Angus cattle to the University of Maryland for its school of agriculture.

Arthur's collection of books and manuscripts was always freely available for the use of scholars. Some thought it would come *en bloc* to Harvard, but there were many duplications, and he decided to disperse most of it at auction in 1979-80. Before selling it, he placed his Lewis Carroll collection in the Pierpont Morgan Library, and his Boswell and Johnson materials and the preeminent collection of John Keats in the Houghton Library. He also quietly provided a purse to the Houghton Library to enable it to bid on what it might wish to acquire in the public sale.

In private, Arthur was the most kind and stimulating of companions, relishing plain food and good conversation. Ideas of all kinds intrigued him as much as the commonplace repelled him. His stock of anecdotes was large and constantly replenished, and told

with a style that encouraged others to join in the talk at their highest pitch. An expedition or simply an evening with him was an event to be remembered.

Arthur Houghton was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1968, but his many activities prevented him from attending its meetings and taking an active part in its affairs. He was well acquainted with many members of the Society, including presidents C. Waller Barrett and J. Russell Wiggins, and he demonstrated his interest by contributing towards the acquisition of Michael Papantonio's distinguished collection of American book-bindings.

He died after a brief illness in a hospital near his winter home in Boca Grande, Florida, on April 3, 1990. He is survived by his wife, the former Nina Rodale, and a son and two daughters by previous marriages: Arthur A. Houghton 3d of Washington, Sylvia Garrett of Easton, Maryland, and Hollister Haggard of Aiken, S.C., and nine grandchildren.

William H. Bond

### KENNETH SCHWALM JONES

Kenneth Schwalm Jones was born in Tower City, Pennsylvania, on May 12, 1906. He attended high school in Pottsville, earned his bachelor's degree from Dickinson College in 1926 and his master's in business administration from the Wharton School of Business in 1928. He began his business career in Pennsylvania but in 1939 became the owner of Ken Jones, Inc., in Worcester, one of the largest tire distributors in New England.

Although some AAS staff members bought their tires from Mr. Jones, it was really his interest in tracing the ancestry of Johannes Schwalm, a Hessian who fought for England during the American Revolution, that brought him into the orbit of the Society. This interest in the Hessian presence in America became a second

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