

where his childhood summers instilled in him his deep and abiding interest in and devotion to ships and the water.

Remembered by his students, of which I was one, as a man of integrity, authenticity, dry wit, unfailing punctuality and quiet competence, Jack Kemble is also cited by both colleagues and former students as a loyal and generous man. He was a lifelong bachelor and leaves no close family.

Robert Ernest Tranquada

CHARLES VAN RAVENSWAAY

Charles van Ravenswaay, a particularly loyal member of the American Antiquarian Society, died of cancer on March 20, 1990, in Hockessin, Delaware. Born in Boonville, Missouri, on August 20, 1911, Mr. van Ravenswaay received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Washington University. His education focused on history, with additional courses in the history of art, an advantage in his avocation as a collector of American decorative arts and in his career as an administrator of historical and cultural institutions. Even before receiving his B.A. in 1933, Mr. van Ravenswaay began a photographic survey of Missouri architecture, examples of regional art, and examples of decorative art with Auguste and Paul Piaget, professional photographers of St. Louis. These photographs are now in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. From 1934 to 1949 he served as business manager and as a partner in the van Ravenswaay Clinic in Boonville. He became a trustee of the Missouri Historical Society in the late 1930s. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was discharged in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant commander.

He became director of the Missouri Historical Society in 1946, an institution he served until he became president of Old Sturbridge Village in 1962. From 1966 until his retirement in 1976, he was director of the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum.

Notified by Clifford Shipton in April 1963 of his election to AAS, Mr. van Ravenswaay wrote back that he felt 'deeply honored' and that he looked forward to the day when 'I can spend more time in your treasure house and pursue the delights of research.' His removal to Delaware prevented his returning to the Society for extended research visits, but his correspondence with the Society's staff touched on projects that he pursued over the years, including a checklist of gardening catalogues, which led to the publication of *A Nineteenth Century Garden* by the University of Missouri Press in 1977.

Mr. van Ravenswaay was an active member of the Society. He attended meetings regularly, enjoying the opportunity to socialize with members and the Society's staff. The tradition of holding alternate semiannual meetings in places other than Boston began in 1970 with the meeting at Winterthur, which he helped plan and at which he presented a lecture on American craftsmen in wood. That first out-of-town event proceeded so smoothly and enjoyably that the custom has persisted. Mr. van Ravenswaay was helpful in planning a second AAS meeting in 1986, hosted by Eleutherian Mills. He also supported this institution by serving on the membership committee, contributing to annual giving and development drives, and donating eighteenth- and nineteenth-century imprints and copies of his own publications. These included *The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri* (1977) and *Drawn from Nature: The Botanical Art of Joseph Prestele* (1984).

Mr. van Ravenswaay served other institutions and organizations with distinction. He was a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, president and council member of the American Association of Museums, on the advisory committee of the Archives of American Art, the U.S. National Committee of the International Council of Monuments, a Benjamin Franklin Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Other memberships included the U.S. National Committee of the International Council of Museums, the Rome Centre Standing Committee of the Advisory Council of Historic Places, and the National Conservation Advisory

Council. His many contributions to the cultural life of his country were acknowledged with honorary doctorates awarded by Maryville College of the Sacred Heart and the University of Missouri.

To an uncommon extent, Mr. van Ravenswaay's life was a seamless whole, dominated by a love and profound knowledge of the history of his home state of Missouri, an equally profound interest in the history of horticulture, and committed service to historical and cultural institutions in this country and abroad. The American Antiquarian Society benefited from his active participation in its affairs and he will be remembered with affection by those of us who knew him.

He is survived by two brothers, Dr. Arie van Ravenswaay of Tucson and William T. van Ravenswaay of Bedford, Texas.

Georgia B. Barnhill

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