## **Obituaries**

able. His Hawaiiana collection included works of Captain James Cook, other English and French discoverers in the Pacific, and geography, geology, natural history, biography, music, fiction, and poetry. In all, his collection grew to more than 4,000 acquisitions.

In 1990 the State of Hawaii purchased the Kahn collection for the State Archives. It ranks with the institutional holdings in such local collections as the University of Hawaii, the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, the Hawaiian Historical Society, and the Hawaiian Mission Childrens Society.

The collection was catalogued for research scholars and others by David Forbes, and its acquisition has served as a catalyst for new bibliographical work in Hawaii. The Kahn Collection reminded scholars, librarians, and teachers concerned with preserving the history of Hawaii that there is a lack of adequate bibliographical control of the many resources about Hawaii. Unlike Australia, New Zealand, and Tahiti, there is no published reference work about the book history of Hawaii.

However, interest and support created by the State Archives' acquisition of Paul Kahn's thoughtfully-formed collection has been behind the formation of an independent group that believes such a bibliography is feasible and has assumed responsibility for such a project.

Paul Kahn is survived by his wife Linda, who resides in San Francisco.

**Barnes Riznik** 

## MILTON PRINCE HIGGINS

Milton Prince Higgins died on April 19, 1997, at the age of ninety-three. He was elected to membership in AAS in 1948, one month after the death of his father, thereby keeping the association with the Society in the family. He attended the annual meetings of the Society faithfully from the time of his election, missing only a few years between 1949 and 1981. In the tradition of Isaiah Thomas and the founding members of AAS, Milton was Worcester's leading citizen for many years. He worked mightily for his city in ways that improved the quality of its life and did his part in stemming the tide of inner-city collapse that has occurred in sister urban centers in our land. These efforts were recognized in 1961, when he received the prestigious Isaiah Thomas Award for Distinguished Community Service given biannually by the AdClub of Greater Worcester. This civic award represents significant community service and is the highest award recognized in the city.

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father, Milton spent his entire working career at Norton Company, the Worcester-based abrasives manufacturer founded by his grandfather. Milton began his career at Norton upon completing his education at Milton Academy and Harvard. Consecutively he worked in research and sales, and as manager of the company's electric furnace plants in Canada. He was eminently qualified for the several positions he held in top management. He became president in 1946 and chairman of the board in 1961, serving until he retired in 1974. During his regime of twenty-one years as chief executive, the company enjoyed a period of unprecedented growth and expansion. He had a shrewd and inquiring mind. He always asked the right questions, leading invariably to sound decisions. As his business acumen grew so did his social consciousness and his general interest in people. These caused him to champion pension programs, insurance benefits, better working conditions, and all the things that made his company a better place in which to work. He believed that every job was important to the company's success and his associates all remember his visits, sometimes unscheduled, to every nook and cranny of the company throughout the world.

As he labored so diligently for his company, so did he work for his community. His New England conscience and his desire to help his city caused him to take active leadership roles in many organizations of great importance to Worcester. In addition his personal generosity, much of it not publicly known, supported every good cause.

The honorary degrees he received from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Clark University, the College of the Holy Cross, and Assumption College, as well as the aforementioned Isaiah Thomas Award, were fitting tributes to his tireless efforts on behalf of all our citizens. He served many years on the Worcester Redevelopment Authority, thereby doing his bit to rebuild his city. The two extracurricular activities dearest to his heart were the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the Worcester Art Museum. He was an effective Board chairman of each of these institutions for many years.

Recognition of his success in business resulted in many directorships, including New England Telephone and Telegraph, Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., Worcester County Bank, and the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston. He was also on the President's Business Council during the administration of Lyndon B. Johnson.

Milton was tall and looked like the athlete he was. Normally a warm, friendly, quiet man, on rare occasions his righteous anger was an effective means of influencing his associates to get things done the right way. You didn't push him around. He had a wonderful, sometimes earthy, sense of humor.

Despite his demanding schedule he always found time for his five children, his sons, Milton P. III, Prentiss Coonley, David Dillon, and his daughters, Mary Edgenie and Patricia Brosius. Much of his time with his family involved his love of sports—sailing, fishing, baseball, and tennis. He was a good father. *But* this story cannot be told without mentioning Alice Coonley Higgins, his lovely wife, his partner who worked with him and helped him in everything he did. For the Society, they continued his parents' tradition of occasionally hosting the members' luncheon on the day of the annual meeting at the family home on John Wing Road during the period when he was active. At the very last they were working together on a book dealing with their extensive travels. Theirs was a permanent love affair.

## American Antiquarian Society

Milton Prince Higgins was a good man, a man of action, a family man, a pillar of his church, who worked with might and main for his company and his community.

John Jeppson 2d

## JOSEPH FRANKLIN DUSH

The small, rural town of Willard, Ohio, expressed its love for my book-collecting friend, Joe Dush, with the following newspaper headline: 'Willard Loses Patriarch.' Such sentiments would have made him blush, as he chose to stand outside the limelight. But his active civic life of more than half a century made such praise commonplace. His accomplishments for his city were many. He was one of the founding members of the Willard Industrial Development Committee, a long-time member of the Willard Library Board, the Willard Hospital Board, the Willard Historical Society, author of its town history, and designer of its centennial coins and the monument at the town's entrance. Indeed, his life was Willard's history, and Willard's was his.

Born in the smaller, rural town of St. Louisville (current population, 375), Licking County, Ohio, on the 28th day of 1915, his early years' activities suggest much of what was to follow. Before he left home to attend Ohio State University, he collected insect specimens and built model airplanes. During and after college, he added reading and book collecting to his growing list of hobbies, as well as visiting libraries and learning as much of the history of mankind as he had time. After college he attended and was graduated from the College of Law, Ohio State University, in 1939, and passed the bar the same year. The following three years, he practiced law as a young attorney in Newark, Ohio. By 1941 the war interrupted his private life as it would many others. Drafted in September, he was sent to Fort Francis E. Warren in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and then to Mather Field in Sacramento, where he was office manager of the legal affairs on the base. 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.