

## HENRY HERBERT EDES

Henry Herbert Edes, a member of the Council of the Society, died at his home in Cambridge, October 13, 1922, in his seventy-third year. The son of Henry Augustus and Sarah Louisa (Lincoln) Edes, he was born in Charlestown, Mass., March 29, 1849. He was educated in the Charlestown schools, and soon after graduation entered into commercial life in Boston. In 1889, he became manager of the Conveyancers Title Insurance Company, in which business he was engaged for the remainder of his life.

There were few persons in his generation who were so keenly interested in historical studies as Mr. Edes, or who eventually did so much to establish and support historical organizations. His first publication was a "Memorial of Josiah Barker," printed in 1871, a pamphlet of considerable historical and genealogical value. This was followed by several printed studies in Charlestown history and by extensive research in the Charlestown records, resulting in his superintending the arranging and binding of the manuscript archives of Charlestown in more than one hundred volumes. In December 1892 he gathered a few friends together at the St. Botolph Club in Boston, and founded a society the primary objects of which were to encourage research into the annals of the Massachusetts and Plymouth Bay colonies, and to publish records, documents and contributions relating to their history. From this small, but well planned beginning came into being one of the most effective historical societies in the country, a society whose publications have been models of bookmaking and have preserved a mass of valuable material, and whose influence has been markedly great in stimulating an interest in colonial history. For thirty years Mr. Edes was the motive power in all the concerns of the society. He conducted its finances, planned its publications, arranged its meetings, and selected its members. His

methods were quiet, yet aggressive, and his views were invariably well porportioned and tempered with judgment. Although no loss is irreparable, few societies have been indebted to one person so much as the Colonial Society to Mr. Edes.

Mr. Edes was interested in many other organizations. He was a councillor and treasurer of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, president of the Unitarian Historical Society, vice-president of the Bunker Hill Monument Association, and a member of a dozen or more state or local societies whose objects were historical research. He was early in life, in 1885, elected to the American Antiquarian Society, and at the time of his death was fourth in the order of seniority of membership. In 1919 he was elected to the Council. Always a most active and interested member, his aid was particularly valuable in arranging the Boston meetings of the Society.

As a historical writer, most of Mr. Edes' work was contributed to the Colonial Society. From 1916 he was editor-in-chief of the Harvard Quinquennial Catalogue, a work to which he gave much useful service. In 1906 he received the honorary degree of A.M. from Harvard. Mr. Edes was married, December, 2, 1896, to Grace Williamson, of Boston, by whom he was survived.

C. S. B.

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