

Obituaries

MARK BORTMAN

Born in Rumania seventy-one years ago, Mark Bortman was brought as an infant to Boston where, as a pupil in the West End and as a paper boy on Beacon Hill, he came early to a constant love for that city. After graduation from Boston University and the Suffolk Law School, with some time out for courses at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he entered the business world. He founded the Bortman Textile Company, and later the Bortman Plastics Company, these in addition to a partnership in the Patent Fabrics Company. The financial security these enterprises gave him led to his being able to gratify his strongest wishes—philanthropy and book collecting.

His interest in books and prints, in turn, led to the eventual donation of his rare Americana, which he had spent thirty years in collecting, to Boston University in 1948. It also led to a great deal of interesting correspondence with Clarence S. Brigham concerning some undiscovered Revere material which had come to Bortman's attention after his election to our Society in 1951. This election, which he accepted with delight, soon prompted him to endow a fund in the Society in honor of his younger brother; he also presented the Revere material to the Society and was interested in doing what he could to further our work. He represented the Society at exercises at Brandeis University in 1954, and the next year bought over two thousand of our duplicates for the Boston University Library.

Bortman's attendance at our meetings was of great importance to him, and he was here whenever his public duties

did not intrude. Among the most important of these was the position as head of President Eisenhower's People to People Program. Meeting other people was one of his accomplishments, for he had been around the world over sixty times, and had found that all peoples wanted peace and security. His list of honors was truly international, including citations and decorations from England, Italy, Turkey, France, and other governments. At home he held citations from the United States Information Agency, Yale, Smith, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and Boston University, where he also, as at New York University, held a lectureship. He was on the boards of trustees of a number of colleges, including Emerson College in Boston which presented him with the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in 1964 for his untiring work in the People to People Program. He was a proprietor of the Boston Athenæum, a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company.

Years ago he told Mr. Shipton that he was happily confident that he would have no old age of illness and deterioration; that he had every intention of dropping off suddenly while still at the height of his activity. He did just this on the first of June at his home in Newton, survived by his wife Llaura, two sisters, a daughter, and two grandsons. He leaves among the officers and members of this Society many dear friends.

J. E. M.

FRED HAROLD DANIELS

Fred Harold Daniels, member of the Council, was born in Worcester on September 9, 1887, one of three sons of Fred Harris Daniels, later chairman of the board of engineers of

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