

ingenuity, for Davidson was soon made librarian of the Grolier Club, to which he had been elected to membership when but three years out of college. He had also served on its council for a number of years.

His election to this Society occurred, not in 1936, but in 1960 at the Boston meeting. Mr. Shipton wrote, "I don't know when I have been more pleased than I was by yesterday's procedure. Your name has been on the books for some years, but you had been passed over because you were too young." Shortly after election, Davidson suffered a severe stroke which forced him to relinquish his duties at the Grolier Club in 1961. He had been an early vice-president of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America and secretary of the Bibliographical Society of America. After this long debilitating illness attending the first stroke, Davidson suffered another stroke and died at his home in New York on May 13, 1967, survived by his wife. He is remembered for his scholarship, wit, and kindness. He was, above all else, a great gentleman.

J. E. M.

PRESTON DAVIE

Preston Davie, lawyer, was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on the last day of January, 1881, the son of George Montgomery and Margaret Howard (Preston) Davie. Before entering college, he prepared at Lawrenceville and with private tutors. After graduating at Harvard with the Class of 1904, he left the Yard and crossed the street to the Law School where he spent two years. Before finishing he returned to Louisville, where he entered his father's firm and was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1906.

In 1909 he again came East, and joined the New York firm of O'Brien, Boardman & Platt, remaining there until

the entry of the United States into World War I. He went first to Washington, as legal advisor, and then became a lieutenant-colonel in the Quartermaster Corps serving with the Twentieth Division in Europe and on the general staff. For his services he was awarded decorations from Finland, Belgium, and the United States. After his discharge in 1919, he returned to New York to combine law and business. He became, in time, director of some varied business corporations. In 1946 he received the degree of LL.D. from the University of North Carolina. He had married Emily H. Bedford in 1910 and they had two sons and a daughter. In 1930 he married Eugenie Ladenburg.

His interest in book collecting, especially Americana, led to his election to this Society in April, 1940. His ties with us were tenuous; his correspondence for a quarter of a century amounting to a letter of acceptance to membership, a note accompanying a check toward annual expenses, and two changes of address. He never attended a meeting. In 1961 he gave his manuscript collection to the Virginia Historical Society. He died in New York on May 21, 1967.

J. E. M.

ESTHER FORBES HOSKINS

Esther Forbes Hoskins, historian and novelist, was born in Westborough on June 28, 1891, the youngest child of William T. Forbes and Harriette (Merrifield) Forbes. A short time later, the family moved to Worcester, where her father was judge of the probate court. Her writing began while she was a schoolgirl and with such skill that one of her mentors at the Bancroft School felt impelled to lecture young Miss Forbes on the danger of plagiarism. She then turned her skill toward a less-mistakenly critical audience, telling her tales to a cat

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.