

## *Obituaries*

### STANLEY McCRORY PARGELLIS

Stanley McCrory Pargellis, historian and librarian, was born in Toledo, Ohio, on June 25, 1898, the son of Mortimer and Bertha (McCrory) Pargellis. His father was a traveling Y.M.C.A. administrator, and young Pargellis went along from school to school in Iowa, Idaho, Texas, and other western states on his father's circuit. Young Pargellis left this peripatetic way of life and settled down for four years at the University of Nevada, taking his degree in 1918. After graduation he did his bit for the war effort, serving briefly in the coast artillery as a private. After the Armistice and his discharge, he returned to Toledo and worked for a few months as an automobile mechanic and salesman for the Willys-Overland Company. Intending a career with this company, he entered the Harvard Law School, but left after a semester. Aware that for him there must be more to life than the legal problems of car agencies, he applied for and received a Rhodes Scholarship. Happily settled at Exeter College, he found his future, and, taking to the study of history with great enthusiasm, took a bachelor's degree from Oxford in 1922.

Returning to America, he taught for six months at a high school in Hollywood, California, joining his father, whose peregrinations had carried him thither. The high school stint behind him, young Pargellis went to Pasadena for a couple of years to teach history and English at the California Institute of Technology. He then went to Yale to work on his doctorate, to teach, and to settle for a few years. In 1929 he received his Ph.D. from Yale, and soon was raised to assistant professor. He remained at New Haven in the thirties, teach-

ing history and writing such important works as *Lord Loudon in North America*, *Military Affairs in North America, 1748-1765*, and an important article on Braddock's defeat.

In 1942 Pargellis left Yale to become Librarian of the Newberry Library. He found in Chicago a solid library devoted to the humanities, but too little known beyond Chicago. With twenty years of tireless work he made the collection stronger by a quarter-million volumes and instituted a program of fellowships, publications, exhibitions, and public lectures—anything to make better known the treasures of the Newberry. To help him in this work he had a loyal, devoted staff, to whom he was known familiarly as 'Mr. P.' Working winters in Chicago and spending summers either at his place at Cape Porpoise, Maine, or traveling to Europe in search of yet more books, Pargellis had one rule guiding his acquisitions: Buy or accept nothing which lacks distinction.

While at Chicago Pargellis continued his scholarly work with *The Quest for Political Unity in World History* in 1944, and his most important work of this later period, in collaboration with D. J. Medley, *Bibliography of British History, 1714-1789*, published in 1951. In the *Festschrift* his colleagues and fellows had got together for his retirement, *Essays in History and Literature Presented to Stanley Pargellis by Fellows of the Newberry Library*, the list of his own writings occupies over ten pages.

Pargellis took an active interest in Chicago beyond the walls of the library. He made space available in the cellar of the library for a workshop for the Society of Typographic Arts, and kept from extinction the distinguished journal, *Poetry*, when its financial future seemed parlous indeed, even though modern poetry was admittedly beyond his comprehension.

Among his clubs, expectedly, were Arts, Caxton, and Wayfarer's of Chicago, Century Association, and Grolier. Among his outside activities, unexpectedly, were gardening, good food, green crabs, and clams. The crabs and clams he

made as his contribution to his summer community, dedicating himself to making the flats again the hospitable home they once had been for these delicacies.

In 1962 Pargellis, 'desirous of returning to his scholarly interests,' retired. He wrote Mr. Shipton that he planned to live on the Maine Coast for seven or eight months each year, and then to 'pick up the threads of research which twenty years of administration have left frayed and dangling.'

At the annual meeting of this Society in 1947 Pargellis was elected to membership. He attended only one meeting.

At sixty-nine years, and after a year of agony and frequent operations, Stanley Pargellis died of cancer at Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago on January 6, 1968. He is buried in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the home of his first wife, Elizabeth Allen, whom he had met while she, too, was a student at Oxford. They had one son, two daughters, and fourteen grandchildren. After the death of his first wife, he married Mrs. Mabel Spence Erler, who survives him as does an army of his friends.

J. E. M.

#### FREDERICK EDWARD BRASCH

Frederick Edward Brasch, bibliographer, was born in Mobile, Alabama, on December 18, 1875, the son of Otto Wilhelm and Carolyn (Johannsen) Brasch. He had his early schooling in Mobile and in San Jose, California, where at the age of nineteen, young Brasch first became seriously interested in astronomy when he came across Steele's *Fourteen Weeks Study of Astronomy*. In one way and another he spent the next seventy years in the study of this subject, first as a special student at Stanford from 1897 to 1899 and later at the University of California from 1899 to 1901. He then studied privately before joining the staff at the Harvard College Observatory

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