

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

in 1903. The next year he left for a job as computer at the Lick Observatory at Mount Hamilton, California.

He entered the library world as an assistant at the library of Stanford. He then moved to Chicago and the John Crerar Library until 1921. In that year he moved again to the reference librarianship of the Hill Library in St. Paul, Minnesota, before landing in Washington for a variety of jobs before becoming the chief of the scientific collection in the Library of Congress, a post he held from 1925 to 1943. He also served during this period as treasurer and corresponding secretary of the History of Science Society, and in this capacity invited Clarence Brigham to present a paper on scientific libraries in the colonies at their annual meeting in Cambridge in December 1933. Mr. Brigham was then too busy with his bibliography of American newspapers to attend. At the next meeting of our Society, the semi-annual of 1934, Brasch was elected to membership, and, as a sort of *quid pro quo*, he sent along to the Society reprints of many of his scholarly contributions, most of which dealt with colonial science. The earliest of these was an introduction to a reprint of Hollis Professor John Winthrop's account of the earthquake of 1755. This article appeared early in 1916 and was the first indication of what was to be Brasch's life-long interest in Winthrop and colonial science. This interest was outlined later in 1916 with a short biography of the astronomer. It was upon a full-length biography that Brasch was still working fifty years later when disability and then death ended his long labors.

He visited the Society occasionally after his election, chiefly in the course of his research. He attended only one meeting in his thirty-three years as a member and on that occasion read a paper, 'The Newtonian Epoch in the American Colonies (1680-1783).' Even this contribution was threatened, for Brasch's wife had died between the time when he had promised Mr. Brigham a paper and the time when it came to be delivered. The great expense of doctors, hospitals, and funeral had

put Brasch into straitened circumstances and he asked that his paper be postponed to 1940. Mr. Brigham had no paper in the offing should Brasch not present his, so in desperation he got the money somewhere for Brasch's round-trip railroad ticket. Despite this difficulty and the problems of ill health, a missing secretary, and absentmindedness in getting it ready for the *Proceedings*, the paper was a great success.

Also during the thirties Brasch had an active book-swapping trade with R. W. G. Vail, our librarian, with whom he on occasion had visited at meetings of the American Council of Learned Societies. They both approved heartily of the food prepared for these meetings. At the end of the Second World War, Brasch retired from the Library of Congress and started again on his research rounds, with an early stop at our library. With this initiation into retirement, he returned to 'my home at Stanford University,' to work on the research for his biography of Winthrop and to hold a part-time position as consultant in bibliography. In 1960 he was appointed curator of the Sir Isaac Newton Collection, an accumulation of scientific volumes he had donated to Stanford in gratitude for help the University had given him as a young man. He felt deeply about Stanford, and considered himself honored indeed to have a desk in the Bender Library, a group of friends at the faculty table at the Old Union, and an opportunity to remain in the world of scholars, a world he found most congenial. His work on Winthrop was again sidetracked for a time while he worked on the annotated catalogue to his Newton Collection. Although he did get back to it in the early sixties, it was never completed, for, in early 1964, Brasch entered a period of seriously declining health and went into a nursing home in Mountain View, California, where he died on October 26, 1967 at the age of ninety-one.

He had married Winnifred Orphin in August 1903, and they had a son and a daughter, both of whom survive him. Brasch held an honorary M.S. from Ramsey Institute of

Technology, awarded in 1926. He belonged to a number of professional scientific organizations, to Phi Beta Kappa, and was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The sense of personal loss his co-workers feel is accentuated by the grim and tragic realization that his life work on Winthrop was never completed. Scholarship lost a worker when Brasch died, but, more importantly, it lost a work.

J. E. M.

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