

Massachusetts coins from his collection when Sydney Noe delivered a paper on the coinage of Massachusetts Bay Colony.

At eighty-three years of age, Chauncey Cushing Nash died in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, July 16, 1968. Upon a bird-watching trip with the Audubon Society about five years ago, Nash saw a varied thrush in Greenland, New Hampshire, and later wrote of it: 'This is a rare bird in New England.' From all I have heard, he too was a member of a now all-too-rare species in New England, and is missed and remembered with great fondness by his family and friends.

J. E. M.

EDWARD LAROCQUE TINKER

Edward Larocque Tinker, author and collector, was born in New York City on September 12, 1881, the son of Henry Champlin and Louise (Larocque) Tinker. He was educated at the Browning School and Columbia, where he was a member of the class of 1902. Upon graduation he entered the Columbia Law School where he stayed for two years before going downtown to New York University. He took the LL.B. there in 1905 and was admitted to the bar. He was counsel for the Legal Aid Society for a year and served for three years as an assistant district attorney for New York City. He resigned this position to travel in Mexico, a land he had come to love during boyhood trips there with his parents, and then settled in El Paso, Texas, for a time. During the revolution in Mexico Tinker, 'only a lawyer on a holiday,' joined Obregon for the Sonora campaign and 'took care of the wounded in the battle of San Joaquin.' He also went along as an observer at the battle of Celaya with Pancho Villa's forces. Upon returning he married Frances McKee Dodge of New Orleans in January 1916, and they moved to New York.

After having been in Squadron A of the New York National Guard he served during the First World War as a lieutenant in the Navy. After his discharge he returned to New York and his law practice and realty company. In addition to his professional interests Tinker fostered his interest in New Orleans and in 1924 published his first book, a biography of Lafcadio Hearn's days in New Orleans before he went to Japan. Having been infected by the authorial disease he turned out a novel and, with his wife, four novelettes. He then turned to monographic studies and bibliographies. One of these, a bio-bibliography of all the writers in French in Louisiana in the nineteenth century, served as the thesis for his doctorate at the University of Paris, awarded in 1933. This work also merited the gold medal of the French Academy. In this period he began his weekly column in the Sunday *New York Times* literary section, 'New Editions, Fine and Otherwise.'

From his election in April 1932 Tinker was a most interesting and interested member. Even before that date he had written Clarence Brigham concerning the bibliography of Louisiana French-language newspapers and had offered some unbound duplicates to the Society. He lamented that there were not more copies in existence and traced this scarcity to a 'murderous combination of rats, termites, fires, crevasses, and the Spring cleanings of implacable and illiterate housewives.' Very shortly after his election Tinker was asked to present a paper at the October meeting in 1932 on the French periodical literature of Louisiana. The bibliography which was printed in the *Proceedings* for that October meeting entailed a good deal of correspondence concerning format and printing, for he wanted one hundred and fifty offprints. The *Proceedings* finally came out the following September.

One of his annual queries to Brigham was: 'How about having the next meeting at the Grolier Club? After all, we're a national organization.' In mid January 1935 Brigham sent an appeal to Tinker to speak at the April meeting. He spoke on

Gombo, the Afro-French dialect of Louisiana, and the paper and bibliography appeared in the *Proceedings*. Again he tried to have his reprints meet his specifications, this time for bright colors rather than the traditional green. He wrote Brigham that 'I know what you are going to say about green covers and having used them since Noah was a baby, but let's forget what we have been doing for the last fifty years and see if we can't do something a little better.'

Tinker was extremely concerned about the typographical appearance of his works, but Brigham generally balked early at going along on what he termed 'typographical tangents.' Their attitudes came into heated conflict, but these were resolved and the reprints were published in traditional green covers but with some ornaments Tinker had insisted upon.

Concerning the paper read at the October 1947 meeting, 'The Cult of the Gaucho,' Tinker reminded Brigham concerning publication in the *Proceedings*, 'I warn you that I still prefer interesting typography to stodginess, so you still have time to withdraw.' He had asked for four hundred offprints of this article but settled for one hundred and fifty-five when told that he would have to pay for all over the customary complimentary thirty. It was issued in buff covers and with illustrations.

In 1943 Tinker sent to the Society 'part of my collection of French newspaper files about 200 pounds,' and he sent in 1948 a collection of early Louisiana material for the library. The next year the gaulophile wrote from the New York Hospital to say that he'd been 'in the hospital for three weeks having my gaul bladder removed, because it suddenly decided that it had missed its metier and was really a stone quarry instead of a gaul sack.'

For the fall meeting in 1951 Tinker presented the paper, 'Two-Gun Journalism in New Orleans' which had contained the expletive recently used by President Truman. It was not stricken but it was explained by a footnote. Tinker ordered

two hundred extra reprints and they appeared with a checker-board arrangement of ornaments printed on a brick-colored cover. A variety of typefaces and ornaments added to the break from tradition.

The following year Tinker was elected to the Council, 'almost unanimously' as Brigham delicately put it in a letter to Tinker. In the late fifties Tinker's interest in the gaucho and the cowboy, long among his many interests, began to gain importance and in recent years, even given that cowboys are part of this Society's purview, his intense interest in this Society waned a little. He gave all of his gaucho books and gear to the University of Texas and set up a foundation concerned primarily with Latin-American matters.

In April 1957 the paper prepared by Tinker, 'Odyssey of a Santo Domingan Creole,' was read by John Alden and it was reported to the ailing Tinker that Alden 'certainly brought out a lot of applause and laughs.' In the matter of the offprints, Tinker again brought his typographic guns to bear and in addition brought up some heavy artillery when he opened his barrage in defense of 'attractive printing' with the salvo: 'So humor me a bit as I humored you when I switched my Haitian books from the French Institute to the Antiquarian.' This change he had recently made in his will. The barrage ricocheted off the by-now much dented armor of Brigham and Shipton and landed at the printers, Davis Press, where the president, Rae Spencer, suffered no damage. In fact he was praised highly and often by Tinker for his understanding and sympathy during the long battles accompanying the preparation of each of the Tinker articles. The offprint was in a rose-colored cover printed in blue ink and had a large number of illustrations. Tinker's last article, 'Gombo Comes to Philadelphia,' was published by the Society in 1957 and was set about with the usual disputes. The offprint of Gombo was issued with a yellow, blue, and red wrapper glued over a plain cover, the cover page had a half-tone illustration and typeface

as far from Caslon as one could imagine. Other changes in format reflected how complete the capitulation had been.

About ten years ago Tinker began to suffer exceptionally poor health, spending the summer of 1958 in the hospital and there taking three trips to the operating table. To add to his woes, his wife died in December of that year, after having had round-the-clock nursing for a couple of years.

In the late fifties it was only occasionally that Tinker was able to attend a meeting either of the Council or of the Society. This was not because he was kept at home by recent attacks of illness, but rather because of the number of honors he was receiving from French, Spanish, and Latin-American governments and societies. Later heart trouble and trips abroad for his health prevented more attendance at meetings. During his long career, Tinker taught at universities in Latin America, received an earned doctorate from the University of Madrid in 1955, and held a large number of decorations from foreign governments and societies.

On July 6, 1968, at his country home, Roads End Farm at East Setauket, Long Island, Edward Larocque Tinker died suddenly at the age of eighty-six. He will be remembered by those who knew him as an urbane, witty, cheerful, and kind gentleman, and a devoted bookman. He was also a generous benefactor, and the Society benefits greatly from his will.

J. E. M.

JOHN COOK WYLLIE

John Cook Wyllie, librarian, was born at Palatka, Florida, on the twenty-sixth of October 1908, son of the Reverend William and Mabel (Cook) Wyllie. With the family he followed along with his father from parish to parish in the West Indies and was schooled by a private tutor in Santo Domingo and at Christchurch, St. Christopher's, before settling down in the

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