

that we might have to explain your name on the nomination list when we presented it to the Council, but to our pleasure the Worcester members gave to the others as glowing a recommendation as I have ever heard offered for any candidate, and I am sure that the most pleased person is myself.' Spencer also was 'most pleased' and as a member continued his close ties even after his retirement from the Press in 1960, an occasion made doubly sad by the death of his wife of fifty years the year before. Spencer moved to live near his daughter in Marblehead, returning weekly until recently to visit old friends and to drop in on us here.

As a member of this Society Spencer was a loyal attender of meetings, a generous donor to our annual appeals, a very, very helpful man to Clifford Shipton, Marcus McCorison, and me, when we in turn became editors of the *Proceedings*. He was in sum a truly valuable friend of this Society.

On March 13, 1972, Rae MacCollum Spencer died at eighty-four years of age in a nursing home in Nahant to which he had recently gone. He is succeeded by a daughter, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. His only son was killed in the Pacific during the Second World War where he served as a Navy lieutenant. Beyond the family there are many others who enjoyed him and miss him.

J. E. M.

HERBERT JOSEPH SPINDEN

Herbert Joseph Spinden, anthropologist, was born in Huron, South Dakota, on August 16, 1879, son of Eugene Samuel and Mary Rose (Herbert) Spinden. He took his early schooling in the West, graduated from high school at Tacoma, Washington, and then came east to enter Harvard with the class of 1906. At college, Spinden was a member of the Anthropological Club, took his A.B. degree with the Class, moved along to the Graduate School where he was a teaching fellow, and

continued his work, including field trips back to Idaho and North Dakota. He got his master's degree in 1908 and a Ph.D. the next year, when, at the end of his teaching chores at the summer school, he left Cambridge. He kept up his serious field work among the western Indians with a side trip to Yucatan and central Mexico, as a curator to the American Museum of Natural History. With early and often returns to his Indians and ruins in Mexico and Guatemala and thereabouts, he spent some time in New York until during the First World War when he entered government service and was assigned the job in Latin America of keeping an eye on enemy subjects and the supplies of such war-needed materials as mahogany, platinum, and the like.

On this work he survived a couple of bad earthquakes and during the influenza outbreak in Bogota he, with some British diplomats and French religious, 'arranged a system of relief which proved very effective and added greatly to the good will of Colombia toward the United States,' cordiality that had been lacking since the Panama seizure years before. After the War he returned to anthropology and in 1921 switched his jobs from the Museum of Natural History to the Peabody Museum at Harvard, and kept alive his interest in exploration, writing, and study with a few excursions into diplomatic and public service. His major accomplishment in this period was to 'demonstrate a correlation of the ancient time counts of the Maya Indians with our own calendar, and to show that this people had developed astronomical science to a high degree. This discovery carries American History back to the sixth century before Christ.' He also became interested in the very high incidence of trachoma among American Indians and helped reorganize medical service for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In his report for the twentieth reunion of his class, he noted his 'life of considerable diversity.'

To further his diversity, he married in the late summer of 1928 Ellen Sewall Collier, 'finding a companion for the field

as well as the home.' These companions went together into Central America on an archaeological trip and then he took a job at the Brooklyn Museum, where he returned 'to an old field of activity, namely, the application of anthropological science to social problems of today, such as the development of industrial art.' He lectured on art for school teachers, and in 1931 gave the Kahn lectures on art at Princeton University. In the next years he was president of the Explorers Club and the American Anthropological Association and an exchange professor at Latin American universities. He continued with field work and the writing of learned articles. In 1951 he retired from the Brooklyn Museum. For his fiftieth class report Spinden noted that he had turned in copy for 'my collected works' which will 'comprise 7 or 8 volumes published by the Falcon Wings Press, Indian Hills, Colorado,' and he noted that he was glad to see inductive science was coming back, for he had 'deplored the replacement of art by statistical tables.'

At the October meeting in 1926, Spinden had been elected to membership and he also gave a paper, 'Recent Explorations in Yucatan,' illustrated by lantern slides but given informally and not intended to be printed in the *Proceedings*. After the double-barrelled introduction, Spinden didn't make it to another of our meetings until April 1940 and six years later he attended his next and last meeting. As to correspondence beyond acceptance of membership and letters dealing with his paper, his secretaries wrote twice to notify us of change of address. He was a 'lost member' until one of our recent letters to him was returned with the notice, 'deceased.' We soon learned that he had died at Beacon, New York, on October 23, 1967, at eighty-eight years old. He is survived by his widow, the former Alice Gilmour, whom he had married in 1948, and a son, Joseph Gilmour Spinden.

J. E. M.

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