

## *Obituaries*

### HARRIS DUNSCOMBE COLT

Harris Dunscombe Colt, archaeologist, student of the engraving arts, and philanthropist, was born January 29, 1901, the son of Harris Dunscombe and Elizabeth (Bowne) Colt. His father was senior member of the international law firm of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle. While the younger Colt took no degrees, he led an active and scholarly life in diverse fields and far-flung places in America, England, and the Middle East.

Colt maintained homes in both the United States and England. Ordinarily he spent May through October at his home in London, the winter in his home first in New York, later in Washington. In some ways, he pursued different careers and interests on both sides of the Atlantic. In England, his grandmother's country, he was noted primarily for his work in and support of archaeological endeavors. He became interested in the subject as a young man. His first dig occurred in 1922 as a member of a party sponsored by London's Society of Antiquaries which excavated the Roman site at Richborough, Kent, England, which, as Rutupiae, was Caesar's chief British port. He later went to Malta, where he met and married a member of the Strickland family, a connection which intensified his archaeological commitments.

His interests eventually centered on the Levant, particularly Palestine. He spent two seasons from 1929 to 1931 in the Negev Desert. With three other men, he gave vital financial backing to an excavation at Lachish in 1932-33. Two years later he conducted his own dig at a site in the desert, which turned out to be the Byzantine City of Nessana. Important literary papyri—classical, New Testament, and apocrypha—

were unearthed during this project. The records of the expedition were later published under the auspices of the Colt Archaeological Institute, which he had founded and infused with his own money to finance field work and publication. As he had concluded, there was no shortage of excavators. His real contribution, he believed, was therefore to be benefactor to archaeological studies by promoting such work and by publishing its fruits. With such decisions and with the onset of World War II, Colt gave up active field work himself. Meanwhile, the publications program of the Colt Archaeological Institute went on apace, and will continue.

It was not, of course, his archaeological accomplishments, however exemplary, that caused him to come to the attention of the American Antiquarian Society. That was his other scholarly, American life. Sometime in 1948, Colt had determined to revise, supplement, and bring up to date David McNeely Stauffer's *American Engravers upon Copper and Steel*, which had been published in 1907 by the Grolier Club and supplemented ten years later by Mantle Fielding's work of the same title. The Grolier Club lent the project its moral support. Clarence Brigham, this Society's director, with his own deep interest in American engravers, lent his own not inconsiderable moral support as well. 'Almost every day we make a new entry in our annotated Stauffer,' Brigham wrote in 1949, asking 'how your magnum opus on a new Stauffer (or rather, a Colt) is coming along. Because of our intense interest, we think of it often.' In due course, Colt's bibliographical efforts brought him election to membership in this Society (at the October 1950 meeting), an honor which he accepted 'with great pleasure.'

Colt faithfully attended meetings of the Society for the first half decade after his election, but found it difficult because of other commitments and his extensive residence abroad to get to Worcester, Boston, or elsewhere for sessions much after that. Nevertheless, he supported the Society generously finan-

cially all during the 1960s and 1970s. A book he gave us was, in fact, one of the notable accessions of 1973. It was a copy of the second printed charter of New York City, bearing the imprint of William Bradford, 1719. The interesting history of the provenance of the imprint is detailed in 'The Report of the Council' in the last number of the *Proceedings*.

Colt worked on his checklist of American engravers for about a quarter of a century. 'I started in to revise Stauffer and combine with Fielding,' he wrote in 1971, 'but Clarence Brigham asked me also to do a short title list of illustrated books with number of plates, engravers etc. So I have two lists and several thousand cards, one for each print and one for each book!' By then he was 'beginning to see light, but there are many things yet to be done.'

Actually he worked on the Stauffer project only intermittently during those years. There were interruptions and, at best, he devoted only half a year to the enterprise. During the six months he spent each year in England he had to abandon his study. 'However,' he once confided to Clifford K. Shipton, 'six months at a time is enough as I find one gets "stale" after that.' Most of the bibliographical digging was done at the New York Public Library and the New-York Historical Society while Colt resided in Manhattan. He moved to Washington, D.C., in 1966, where he was able to carry on his researches in the Rare Book Room of the Library of Congress. He did not find it convenient to work in person at AAS. Rather, he made a handsome pledge to the Society which enabled the Curator of Maps and Prints, Georgia B. Bumgardner, to do considerable searching for him here.

By 1973, ill health forced him to stop work on the checklist of engravers. He then turned over his notes and files of cards to AAS where they will be kept and the work as a whole continued. In June of that year, Colt's health was enough improved that he went back to England with his second wife, Armida, whom he had married in 1957.

Harris Dunscombe Colt died November 8, 1973, in the London Clinic, aged seventy-two. He lies buried in an old country churchyard in Sussex, overlooking the South Downs in England. His wife survives him, as does a son by his first marriage.

John B. Hench

#### CLIFFORD KENYON SHIPTON

Clifford Kenyon Shipton was one of those rare men who know themselves so well, and who like reasonably well enough what they see, that they can allow themselves to know other men. This was true of Ted whether he was writing of his old friends from eighteenth-century Harvard or opening himself to his twentieth-century friends in that triangle of his affections—Shirley Center, Boston, and Worcester.

It was this strength of character and this knowledge of self from top to bottom that gave him the measure of other men and that make his chief personal monument, the volumes of *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*, forever useful. He measured those men and he left in the volumes a yardstick of himself, so that one can see the measure as well as the measured. Tory and Whig alike will know the *men* because they will know the *man*. One quotation will illustrate: James Warren's 'difference with his colleagues,' Ted wrote, 'arose from his simplicity and lack of perspective, qualities essential in a good revolutionary.'

Ted Shipton was born on August 5, 1902, the son of George and Edith (Kenyon) Shipton of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard College, class of 1926, and proceeded directly to the M.A. in History in 1927. In that same year, on June 11, he and Dorothy Boyd MacKillop were married. They had three children, Ann Boyd, Nathaniel Niles, and George Mackay. Ted taught for a year or so at Brown University, but he did not care much for the classroom, and he returned to it only briefly and extracurricularly but twice again in his career, at Harvard and at Clark.

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