

Americana in general and the French regime in Canada and Jesuit Relations in particular. When retirement and ill health prompted a move to a smaller residence, Dechert discontinued collecting and gave his fine collection to the library of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dechert's bookish interests made him a prime candidate for membership in the American Antiquarian Society. He was duly elected at the annual meeting in October 1962. He attended two meetings within five years, but world travels, business commitments, and, eventually, the infirmities of age prevented him from getting to any others, much to his mortification. He served on the membership committee for a time in the 1960s and gave advice during the Philadelphia phase of the Society's development program in the early 1970s. He was, in addition, a former chairman of the Associates of the John Carter Brown Library.

Robert Dechert died in Philadelphia on November 8, 1975. He had married Helen Hope Wilson in 1922. She died in 1950. Dechert is survived by the two sons and two daughters of that marriage as well as by his second wife, the former Helen Branson, whom he married in 1951.

John B. Hench

RICHARD WALDEN HALE, JR.

Richard Walden Hale, Jr., archivist and historian, was born in Boston, August 5, 1909, the son of Richard Walden and Mary Newbold (Patterson) Hale. His father was a founder and partner in the important Boston law firm Hale & Dorr. The family's roots went deep into Massachusetts history; two of Hale's ancestors, Edward Winslow and Susannah White, came over on the *Mayflower* and were among the first Pilgrims to marry in the New World. Hale prepared for college at Milton Academy. He graduated from Harvard in 1930

with an A.B. degree *magna cum laude* and a Phi Beta Kappa key. He took another baccalaureate (as a Fiske Scholar) at Trinity College, Cambridge University, in 1932. He later received a Harvard Ph.D. in history in 1937 and a Cambridge M.A. in 1940.

Hale spent most of the first half of his adult life in the profession of teaching, which, in his Harvard twenty-fifth anniversary sketch, he called 'the most important profession in America today, since it is doing the most sorely needed job.' But between and after teaching assignments at Antioch, Princeton, Roxbury Latin, Wellesley, and Boston University Junior College, he occupied positions in the reference department of the Newberry Library and as curator of Canadian history and literature in the Harvard College Library.

In 1957 Hale became editor of a project sponsored by The Committee on Documentary Reproduction of the American Historical Association that resulted in the publication in 1961 of his *Guide to Photocopied Historical Material in the United States and Canada*. This AHA committee was the same organization that served as a sponsor of the AAS-Readex Microprint Corporation Early American Imprints series, which Clifford K. Shipton began to edit in 1955. Thus both Shipton and Hale were comparatively early enthusiasts and promoters of the photographic technologies that have changed the methods of historical research so greatly in the last decades. Hale was also one of the founders (along with Robert B. Eckles, Vernon Tate, W. Kaye Lamb, Ray Billington, Edgar Erickson, and August Suelflow) of the American Microfilm Academy, housed at Purdue University, which was intended to be a 'scholar-controlled group to increase the use of microfilm and other microforms.'

Shipton was a key figure in Hale's 1961 appointment by Massachusetts Secretary of State Kevin H. White as the first archivist of the commonwealth. Readers may refer to Ernst Posner's *American State Archives* (1964) for a description of

the sorry history of governmental archives and records management in the Bay State. Upon taking office, Secretary of State White asked Shipton to form a group to find an archivist and propose reforms. The result was a reorganization of the archival establishment, within the office of the secretary of state, in which a 'qualified archivist' was to replace the politically appointed chief of the archives division as the head man. The Shipton group recommended Hale to White, whose short delay in making the appointment was the product of his taking seriously the maxim that it is hard for Democrats to get rid of Democrats.

Hale took great interest in matters of archival administration. Although the new post of archivist was not a patronage job, he was a political man who thrived on the maneuverings of state government. In addition, he was the founder of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, a president of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, a founder of New England Archivists, and an early champion of the National Historical Publications Commission. More recently, he was instrumental in securing for the latter commission an enlarged responsibility signified by the addition of the words '. . . and Records . . .' to its title.

Joining organizations was 'an occupational hazard' for teachers and archivists, he claimed, and his numerous memberships included the Society of American Archivists (as a Fellow), Bay State Historical League, Massachusetts Historical Society, Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Sons of Colonial Wars, New England Historic Genealogical Society, and the Old South Meeting House Association, which had been founded by his father. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in April 1961, shortly after assuming his post as the commonwealth's archivist. Election left him 'flattered and grateful' and he was a frequent attendant at the Society's meetings. Extracurricularly, a passion for racial justice led him to become a president of the Urban League of

Greater Boston and a longtime member of the board of trustees of Howard University in Washington, D.C.

In addition to the *Guide to Photocopied Historical Materials*, Hale published *Democratic France* (1941), *The Tercentenary History of the Roxbury Latin School* (1946), *Milton Academy, 1798-1948* (1948), *The Story of Bar Harbor* (1948), and *Britain, Her Peoples and the Commonwealth* (with Robert Eckles, 1954).

On February 24, 1976, Hale told Secretary of State Paul Guzzi of his intention to retire as archivist of the commonwealth, having served fifteen years. The next day, February 25, he suffered a stroke at home and died at Massachusetts General Hospital. He left his wife of thirty-five years, Elisabeth (Fairbanks) Hale, two sons, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

John B. Hench

PENROSE ROBINSON HOOPES

Penrose Robinson Hoopes was born on March 17, 1892, at St. David's, Pennsylvania, a Philadelphia Mainline suburb, the son of David Julian Hoopes and Margaret C. (Campbell) Hoopes. He was graduated from Radnor High School in 1911 and entered Pennsylvania State College with the Class of 1915. He left at the end of the first semester of his junior year, for one reason, because he felt that on-the-job training in engineering was more valuable than taking courses in boilermaking. When Clarence Brigham in later years asked what degree he had received Hoopes replied that 'my name will have to stand in the records naked and unadorned.' This lack of degree also gave rise to somebody's later saying that Hoopes's career was a perfect example of the uselessness of a college degree.

Hoopes worked from 1915 to 1917 in the engineering of-

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