

to the society's council in 1958 and then became secretary in 1961, which office he continued to hold until he resigned in 1970 because of ill health.

Of all the organizations with which Hoopes was connected, perhaps he got the most pleasure from the Franklin Inn Club. He was elected a member in 1952 and in 1956 secretary until 1961. At the time of his death he was an honorary member, elected in 1970. After he was first elected there were very few luncheons at which he was not to be found at the long table. When he was no longer able to appear his absence was sorely missed.

Penrose Hoopes's wife died on March 23, 1973, aged seventy-nine years, after having been incapacitated from a stroke for a year and a half. Her funeral was the last time that Penrose left the house. He himself died in Philadelphia on January 14, 1976, leaving a sister and two married daughters. Among his friends he will be remembered with affection. Extremely modest and unassuming as he was, one would never have realized that he was the great scholar of early American scientific and technological books.

Hamilton Vaughan Bail

#### GEORGE LESLIE MCKAY

George Leslie McKay, librarian and bibliographer, was born in Columbus Grove, Ohio, October 12, 1895, the son of a clergyman, George McKay, and his wife, Esther (Hood) McKay. After graduating from high school in Toledo, Ohio, he attended the College of Wooster. The First World War cut short his education there and McKay found himself a private in the Medical Department of the Thirty-Third Division, American Expeditionary Force, stationed in France from 1917 to 1919. While in France, McKay studied at the University of Paris. After returning to the United States, he

completed his baccalaureate education at the University of Chicago, graduating in 1920. He taught Latin for a year after college at the high school in Perrysburg, Ohio. He then returned to Paris with his new bride, the former Maxine McKillip of Toledo, to become assistant to the European director of the Junior American Red Cross. After a year abroad, he went to New York and took courses at the school of the New York Public Library (now the School of Library Service, Columbia University). Upon receiving his library school certificate in 1923 he became curator of the Grolier Club, a post he retained into the 1950s.

McKay was active in library and bibliographical circles and was permanent secretary of the Bibliographical Society of America for a time during the 1940s. He wrote or compiled a number of works in the field, including a *Catalogue of the Collections of Engravings in the University Club, New York* (1926), *A Bibliography of Sir Rider Haggard* (1930), *A Bibliography of Robert Bridges* (1933), *A Register of Artists, Engravers, Booksellers, Bookbinders, Printers and Publishers in New York City, 1633-1820* (1942), *Early American Currency* (1944), and *A Stevenson Library Catalogue . . . Formed by Edwin J. Beinecke*, 6 vols. (1951-61).

At AAS the most used work by McKay is *American Book Auction Catalogues 1713-1934: A Union List*, which was published in serial form in the *Bulletin of the New York Public Library* during 1935-36 and reprinted with extensive revisions and additions in book form in 1937. It was his preliminary work on this bibliography, begun in the spring of 1933, that launched his association with this Society. For the four years that elapsed between the initiation and completion of the project, McKay frequently corresponded with R. W. G. Vail, the Society's librarian, and Clarence Brigham, the director. Between Worcester and New York, in both directions, there was transmitted a wealth of detail concerning American book auction catalogues. The correspondence may

serve to remind us again what a cooperative venture serious bibliographical scholarship is. McKay did his preliminary digging in the collections of his own Grolier Club and the New York Public Library, then sent galley proofs for checking by the librarians of eight institutions that had significant holdings of auction catalogues, including AAS, which had undoubtedly the largest. On the librarians' part, the work was costly of time, as Vail had indicated from the beginning, but worthwhile when the usefulness of the end product was considered. When the book version appeared, Vail suggested it would receive almost daily use at AAS and would serve as an index to the Society's collection. 'This splendid work,' he added, 'will be always a monument to your scholarly accuracy and industry.' Certainly McKay had been indefatigable in staking out a field of bibliography that most librarians (not those at AAS) treated disdainfully as ephemera and which had scarcely any foundation of secondary sources, and reaping a harvest from it in the relatively short span of four years.

McKay's bibliography is still used almost daily at AAS. For the last three years, the staff of the Society's project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, 'Index to the Manuscripts of Prominent Americans, 1763-1815,' has used McKay as its chief finding aid. The work on this project has turned up a number of additions and corrections to the bibliography, which the Society expects to publish one day in the 'American Bibliographical Notes' section of the *Proceedings*.

McKay was elected to the Society in April 1944, by which election he was 'much gratified.' He attended a half dozen or so meetings between 1944 and 1969 and was a faithful donor of annual funds. Before his election, in casting about for a place to escape from New York, McKay inquired in late 1939 about a position (probably the librarianship) on the Society's staff. Vail was about to relinquish the post, but nothing came of McKay's inquiry.

He and his wife eventually did leave New York, moving in 1958 to Cheshire, Connecticut, and a year or two later to New Haven. There, in retirement, he frequented the Yale University Library. Recently, McKay had grown a bit feeble, but remained active until he died on January 17, 1976. His wife and children survive him.

John B. Hench

#### KENNETH BALLARD MURDOCK

On Saturday, November 15, 1975, Kenneth Ballard Murdock died at the age of eighty in Newton, Massachusetts. With his passing, students of colonial America lost one of their most valued mentors, and scholars of early American literature lost their most distinguished colleague. Indeed, in the winter of 1972, Kenneth Murdock was named the first Honored Scholar of Early American Literature by the Early American Literature Group of the Modern Language Association. A special issue of the group's journal, *Early American Literature*, was dedicated to him [vol. 6, pt. 3 (Winter 1972)], and the dedicatory tribute contained these words: 'Since the publication in 1925 of *Increase Matber: The Foremost American Puritan*, professor Kenneth B. Murdock has been recognized as a foremost authority on early American literature. Other studies—including his learned edition of *Selections from Cotton Matber* (1926), his *Literature and Theology in Colonial New England* (1949), and his pioneering essays on colonial historiography—have testified to his love and command of early American literature. . . . As a small recognition of his many years of devoted teaching and of his distinguished publications, the Early American Literature Group of the Modern Language Association proclaims him its first Honored Scholar of Early American Literature.' Kenneth Murdock and his colleague at Harvard Perry Miller were pioneering giants in

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