

Obituaries

EVERETT LEE DEGOLYER, JR.

Everett Lee DeGolyer, Jr., book collector, teacher, and railroad buff, died in Dallas December 17, 1977, at the age of fifty-three. He had been a member of the Society since 1969 and of the Council since 1970. His collecting interests were also represented by his membership in the Grolier Club and the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society. His sense of civic responsibility is reflected in the long list of boards on which he served, from the trustees of Montclair Academy to the national board of Planned Parenthood and the Southwestern Conference on Foundations.

As was the case with many members of his generation, Everett's undergraduate career was interrupted by World War II. After serving in the army air forces, he returned to Princeton and received his B.A. in 1946. There followed nearly thirty years of active business life until, in the early 1970s, he joined the faculty of the history department at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. During this period, the demands of business often interfered with but were never allowed to shunt aside Everett's activity as director of the DeGolyer Library. Here, rather than in the manufacture of railroad scales, was his true passion.

Although there is a widespread belief that bibliomania is a disease, there is considerable disagreement on the means by which it is transmitted. In most cases, it does not seem to be hereditary, but Everett, Jr., may have received it, along with his name, from his father, Everett Lee DeGolyer, Sr. The father was one of the leading collectors of Western Americana in the heyday of that field. His contemporaries and rivals were men like Thomas W. Streeter, Everett D. Graff, Don-

ald McKay Frost, and William R. Coe. This was strong competition, but at the time of his death in 1956 the DeGolyer collection was an outstanding one.

The family decided that the collection should be preserved and made available to scholars. The DeGolyer Library was established, and eventually housed at Southern Methodist University, with a small full-time staff and with Everett, Jr., as director. Over the next twenty years he built on the foundations his father had laid, but he brought to the task his own insights and interests. The collection grew not only in number of volumes but also in scope. The already strong holdings in the pioneer history of the West and of Mexico, geology, and the petroleum industry grew stronger, and to them were added sources for the economic and technological history of these regions, for the worldwide history of steam navigation, and for American railroad history and technology.

It was this latter field that was Everett's greatest enthusiasm. Railroad buffs are a fanatical tribe, and Everett shared their intensity. Who else would arise at 5:00 A.M. to photograph switching operations in the Omaha freight yards? But when he secured ten thousand blueprints of Baldwin locomotives and three hundred volumes of specifications for that firm's products from 1838 to 1928, his elation was over the preservation of a priceless archive for future students of technological history. He was usually too busy acquiring materials for other scholars' research to do any writing of his own, but his *The Track Going Back*, published by the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth in 1969 to accompany an exhibition on the history of the Pacific railroads, embodies his love for and wide knowledge of that fascinating era.

I first met Everett in the offices of Edward Eberstadt, that prince of Western Americana booksellers, in the early 1950s. For the next twenty-five years we collected in adjacent and sometimes overlapping fields. If his competition was often a challenge, his friendship was always an aid. He could be

moved by enthusiasm, but his final judgments were down to earth, a characteristic that enhanced the value of his service on the Council of this Society. He was a most devoted and useful member of AAS, and he once said that his election to it honored him more than anything else ever had.

Many a man with fewer gifts than Everett's has become either pompous or autocratic. He himself took great pleasure in what he was able to accomplish, but his sense of humor preserved him from vanity. I remember his delight at the absurdity of being asked to chair a panel on 'Book Collecting for the Impecunious Amateur.' And there was the rainy evening bus ride through the wealthy suburbs of Chicago when he kept peering anxiously through the windows. When I asked him what he was looking for, he replied, 'I'm collecting samples of the "Look! we have arrived!" school of architecture.' Such men we respect for their contributions to the scholarly world but we love them for making human society humane.

Archibald Hanna, Jr.

DAVID MILTON KENDALL McKIBBIN

David Milton Kendall McKibbin, librarian and art historian, was born in McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, on October 15, 1906, the son of Robert W. and Minerva (Kendall) McKibbin. He took his secondary schooling in New England, at Phillips Exeter Academy, graduating with the class of 1928. He subsequently attended the University of Berlin but took no degree. 'Had I stayed a while longer at Berlin,' he later confessed, 'I might have worn some fur on my cap.'

After returning to the United States, McKibbin began his professional life in 1934 as the art librarian of the Boston Athenæum, a post he retained, with time out in World War II for service in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Mediterranean as a

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