

he formed associations and was elected to membership in many other diverse and honorable groups from which he extracted intellectual stimulation and camaraderie and to which he gave loyalty, warmth, humor, and wisdom. Upon retirement from active academic life in 1974, Lancour moved to his farm in Weston, Vermont, and became a regular, dependable, and early attendee at AAS semiannual and annual meetings. It was strangely ironic that his passing came only two days after he participated fully in the activities of the annual meeting of 1981. At that final meeting, he expressed to his colleagues an intention to give more time to the work of the Society and inquired of ways in which he could be of service to the AAS Council.

On October 23, 1981, Lancour died in Weston, Vermont. He leaves his wife, Marie McClellan, and a daughter, Joan. Harold Lancour gave generously in his professional and personal life and had much left to give.

Frederick E. Bauer, Jr.

JOHN EMERSON LANGDON

John Emerson Langdon, the authority on French Canadian silver, was born April 13, 1902, to Frederick William and Mary Ann (Allan) Langdon in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. He was editor for eastern Canada of the *Financial Post* from 1928 to 1945, and from 1945 to 1967 he was vice-president and director of the financial firm of McLeod, Young, Weir Ltd. in Toronto and a partner of McLeod, Young, Weir & Ratcliffe. He was also vice-president and director of Shell Realty Company. On March 28, 1931, he married Eustella Frances Burke, a horticulturist who shared his appreciation of music.

His interest in silver is seen as early as 1940, when his assistance was acknowledged by Ramsey Traquair of McGill University in his book *The Old Silver of Quebec*. Langdon's own

first book, *Canadian Silversmiths and Their Marks, 1667–1867* (1960) was dedicated to Stella, his wife, and was printed in a high-quality, limited edition. He wrote informing me that, 'The new book on the loyalist silversmiths is scheduled to come off the press sometime in the latter half of February. Stinehour is doing the printing. It will be a rather thin volume, but I hope the subject matter will open up a new field of inquiry.' An equally handsome and larger book, *Canadian Silversmiths 1700–1900*, appeared in 1967. He autographed a copy—date line 'Toronto 1970'—for the writer 'with the hope that it qualifies for admission to her library.' His generosity was typical, and both books are treasured items. He published a *Guide to Marks of Early Canadian Silver* in 1971.

Langdon's community interests were mostly cultural. He was chairman of the board of trustees of the Toronto Symphony Foundation, after serving as vice-president and director of the Toronto Symphony. He was chairman and director of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and a member of the historic sites division of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. He was a patron and honorary trustee of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, and served on its exhibition committee for 'Seven Centuries of English Domestic Silver,' assembled by the late Gerard Brett in 1958. He was a trustee of the Friends of the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, in Delaware. It was the writer's great pleasure to meet Mr. and Mrs. Langdon at the Fourteenth Annual Winterthur Conference in 1968, when he lent a number of pieces of Canadian silver to illustrate his talk and his subsequent article in the *Winterthur Portfolio*. Later, in 1974, a friend and I were entertained delightfully at the Langdons' book-filled house on Glen Ayr Road where their garden also forms a happy memory.

Langdon was a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London, England, and a member of the Society of Silver Collectors, inaugurated October 27, 1958. His notes on Canadian silver appeared in their *Proceedings*, December 1960 / January 1961. In

1974 he lent pieces from his private collection to 'Silver in New France,' an exhibition arranged by Jean Trudel at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. He was also a member of the National Club in Toronto, and the Arts Club in Montreal.

Langdon's initial correspondence with AAS, in 1973, concerned Canadian book trade labels. He was elected to membership in October 1973, and generously donated to the Society manuscripts, copies of letters and documents, bookplates, silver, and books during the time in which he was a member, and at his death he left a generous bequest to the Society.

Langdon gave his collection of early Canadian church and domestic silver to the Royal Ontario Museum, and much of his library, including more than 1,000 books on silver, to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto. He had written in 1978 of 'a little trouble' with his heart, but hoped to attend the Society's spring meeting. John Langdon died on September 27, 1981, at the age of seventy-eight, and is survived by his wife.

Kathryn Buhler

JOHN FRANCIS McDERMOTT III

John Francis McDermott, an authority on the French and Spanish colonial period in the Mississippi Valley, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 18, 1902 to John F. and Mary (Steber) McDermott. He received his A.B. and A.M. degrees from Washington University, and in 1924 married Mary S. Kendrick; they had one son, John Francis IV. He stayed on at Washington University in various teaching posts from 1924 to 1971—as instructor to associate professor of English until 1961, then as associate professor of American cultural history to 1963. After thirty-nine years at Washington University, he moved on to a position as the first research professor in the humanities at Southern Illinois University. He retired to adjunct professor status in 1971.

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