

Obituaries

LAMMOT DU PONT COPELAND

Lammot du Pont Copeland, a member of the American Antiquarian Society since 1970, died July 1 at Mount Cuba, his home near Wilmington, Delaware. He was 78 years old, and was retired from a distinguished career with E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, and as an influential leader in business and banking and a supporter of educational and philanthropic organizations. Mott was born May 19, 1905, in Christiana Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, the son of Charles and Louisa d'Andelot du Pont Copeland. He was the great-great grandson of Eleuthère Irénée du Pont who founded the company in 1802, and the nephew of Pierre, Irénée, and Lammot du Pont, each at one time a company president.

Although family members could have opened many doors for him, Mott chose to enter on the ground floor and moved from there to become the company's president from 1962 to 1967, and chairman of the board from 1967 to 1971. He once noted: 'I was brought up in a family dedicated to industry. My father, my uncles, and many cousins worked for the company; and as a boy my ambitions were all directed toward making a place for myself in the company organization.' And he did. He started as a mail order expediter at the firm's Fairfield, Connecticut, plant the day after Labor Day in 1929, having graduated from Harvard the year before with a bachelor of science degree in industrial chemistry. Four months later he was laid off, but soon was back at work, moving to Wilmington in 1935 where he was associated with the headquarters operation for the balance of his working days. His career also included serving on the boards of directors of a number of major corporations including General

Motors, United States Rubber Company, the Pennsylvania Railroad, and the Chemical Bank of New York.

Mots was a man of many interests, none of them superficial. He collected fine American furniture and other antiques for his home, and early in the 1950s decided to broaden his background in this area by taking a course in American cultural history at the University of Delaware. His concern for the environment included preserving open space, such as the extensive holdings at Mount Cuba and the 3,000 acres of farm land in Maryland on which he raised cattle, and active participation in organizations such as Delaware Wild Lands and the Delaware Nature Education Center. As a sportsman he fished for salmon and trout, hunted ducks, and was a life member of the National Rifle Association. He was a gourmet, and as a wine connoisseur became a Grand Officer and Commander of the Wilmington chapter of the *Confrerie des Chevaliers de Tastevin*. His culinary delights included cooking Thursday night dinners which he did in an especially designed, small kitchen.

Some years ago Mots talked with students at a local secondary school about preparing for a career. After discussing the choice between a business or a professional career, he added that it is equally important to develop other interests as diversions from the demands of the workaday world. Mots knew whereof he spoke. 'Another happenstance during my life,' he once wrote, 'was that a number of my kinfolk had established foundations in the fields of Americana, historical technology, and horticulture. Their passing created the need for a new management as these organizations took on a more public image. This challenge proved useful in supplementing my experience in the industrial world, adding variety as I worked toward my primary goal.' The principal foundations to which he was referring were Longwood Gardens, of which he was one of the original trustees; the Eleutherian Mills - Hagley Foundation, where he was a trustee and treasurer for 31 years, and The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, which

he served as president from 1952 to 1977 and later as honorary chairman of the board.

Charles van Ravenswaay reported that when he joined the staff of the Winterthur Museum he knew he would be working *for* Mots; van Ravenswaay did not know that he would be working *with* Copeland. Mots had been elected president of the board two months after the Museum was opened to the public, and he took his responsibilities seriously. He cared about the details of administration, was generous in sharing the experience he had acquired over the years, and was tolerant of the differences between a business and a non-profit operation. In the early days he worked with the late Charles Montgomery in creating the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture in cooperation with the University of Delaware, from which more than two hundred men and women have received degrees in the past thirty years. Recognizing the importance of research as an essential part of the Fellows' training, he established a fund at the University to underwrite the publication of scholarly material emanating from this Program. In van Ravenswaay's time he was the moving spirit behind yet another graduate course, the Winterthur Program in the Conservation of Artistic and Historic Objects, again in cooperation with the University. As an industrial chemist, Mots knew well the importance of scientific principles and processes, and he recognized the need for their application in the field of connoisseurship and preservation in the arts. He initiated a metals testing project at the University, out of which grew the Museum's conservation program.

The directors of Longwood Gardens and the Eleutherian Mills – Hagley Foundation have shared with me their gratitude for Mots' help over the years. Both report faithful attendance at board and committee meetings, and prompt response to requests for guidance. It was his gift of 135 acres of land that made possible the development of the Hagley Museum, and it was his initiative that resulted in the merger between the Long-

wood Library, in which he had long been interested and The Eleutherian Mills Historical Library.

Mots was elected to membership at the American Antiquarian Society in October 1970. He attended the annual meeting at the Society for several years during the seventies, and also contributed generously to the Society's capital fund in 1979.

Mots's benefactions are too many to list, as are the local and national organizations that are indebted to him in so many ways. It is important to note, however, that he always found time for the institutions responsible for his education. As a graduate of Harvard he served on its Board of Overseers from 1964 to 1970, was a director of the Alumni Association, and served on the Committee to Reorganize the Divinity School, the Executive Committee of the Financial Program, and the Visiting Committee on University Resources, and was chairman of the Harvard University Building Fund and the Visiting Committees to the School of Public Health and The University Libraries. Mots was loyal, also, to the secondary school from which he was graduated, the Friends School in Wilmington. He was active in the work of its Development Committee, and once when he was thanked for his help and interest in the school he responded simply, 'Well, I went there.'

Mots's concern for his fellow man did not stop at his country's border. He believed that the day would come when the world's population would outgrow its ability to produce food, and that a political upheaval would result. This led to his support of population control studies and his involvement in the work of planned parenthood. He never forgot that his family's roots were in France, and he was deeply touched when, in 1958, the French Legion of Honor with the grade of Officer was bestowed on him for his 'long and great affection and friendship for France,' and later when he was designated an Officer of the Order of Leopold by the Belgian Minister of Economic Affairs, and named a Commander of the Order of the Couronne de Chene by Luxembourg. In 1968 he received the first Gold

Medal Award of the Netherlands Society of Philadelphia for 'cementing relations between the United States and the Netherlands.'

In this country Mots received honorary degrees from the University of Delaware, University of Pennsylvania, American University, Jefferson Medical College, Drexel Institute, Washington College, and Widener University.

It is when a quiet, shy man dies that at last we learn of the many things he had done over the years to gain the lasting respect of the people whose lives he had touched and brightened in many different ways. So it was with Mots. He is survived by his wife, the former Pamela Cunningham, a daughter, two sons, and ten grandchildren, to whom those of us who had the privilege of knowing Mots send our deepest sympathy.

FORREST WILSON SEYMOUR

Forrest Wilson Seymour, Pulitzer Prize-winning editor, died on Cape Cod October 3, 1983. He was elected a member of the Society in 1966 and attended its meetings regularly through 1975. He was born in Arlington, South Dakota, July 10, 1905, and attended the public schools and Northern State Teachers College, before receiving his A.B. degree from Drake University in Des Moines in 1928. He held honorary doctorates from Drake, Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa, and Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, and was elected to honorary membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Forrest worked for the *Des Moines Register and Tribune* while attending college. Later he became state editor, editorial writer, associate editor and, from 1946 to 1953, editor of the editorial pages. At Des Moines, he won the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished editorial writing in 1943. After twenty-nine years, he resigned from the Des Moines newspapers. He came

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