

'for' majority Americans. He believed that racism and bigotry in all their pernicious forms should be the targets of the committed intellectual.

The most striking aspect of Nathan Huggins's character was that he emanated a marvelous sense of calm or patience, a sense that he had located a core truth about his life and himself and that he was at peace with the knowledge. And this sense of self-knowledge was present wherever and whenever we met, whether at board meetings in New York, at his offices at the Du Bois Institute at Harvard, or even on the streets of Paris, where Sharon Adams and I bumped into him and his wife Brenda during the spring of 1989, quite by accident. The thrill of just such an accident left me quite breathless; not Nathan, who greeted me just as calmly and soothingly as he had a few weeks earlier when we had bumped into one another at the Raleigh-Durham airport, just as our trip to Africa was about to begin.

Nathan Huggins was a pioneering and towering figure in the American academy. The historical profession is impoverished by his absence.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

JOHN HASKELL KEMBLE

John Haskell Kemble, maritime historian, was born to Caroline Haskell and Ira Oscar Kemble far from the ocean in Marshalltown, Iowa, on June 17, 1912, and died suddenly while on the cruise ship *Canberra*, on route from Auckland, New Zealand to Sidney, Australia, on February 19, 1990. Childhood summers on Lake Michigan provided a background of passing ships on the lake that captured his imagination and inspired an entire lifetime of consuming interest in matters maritime. It was entirely fitting that a deck chair on an ocean liner should be the place of his last repose.

Jack Kemble's parents found their way to Pasadena, California,

in time for him to graduate from Pasadena High School in 1930. After a year at Pasadena Junior College, he enrolled at Stanford, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received his B.A. in 1933. His master of arts and doctorate in history were earned at U.C. Berkeley in 1934 and 1937, respectively. In 1936, while completing his doctorate, Jack was appointed an instructor in history at Pomona College, where he remained to teach for the rest of his active career. When he retired as the Warren Finney Day Professor of History in 1977, he was ending a forty-one-year career of teaching there.

During his archival research for his dissertation on the Panama route to California, Jack spent considerable time doing research in the U.S. Naval Archives in Washington, D.C. His acquaintance with officers there led to a suggestion that he seek an appointment in the Naval Reserve. This he did, with the end result that he was called to active duty in the Second World War in 1942 and served until 1946. During this time he had brief tours of sea duty on several vessels, including a submarine. Eventually, he was assigned as a technical analyst on the staff of Adm. Chester Nimitz at Pearl Harbor. It was in that capacity that he brought together a command and administrative history of Admiral Nimitz's fleet during World War II.

Jack Kemble's first love was the sea and maritime history. He wrote two books, *The Panama Route, 1848-1869* and *San Francisco Bay, A Pictorial Maritime History*. He also edited a two-volume edition of Richard Henry Dana's *Two Years before the Mast* and published a multitude of articles on other aspects of maritime history.

As a dedicated maritime historian, Jack Kemble was a visiting professor at the U.S. Naval War College in 1952-53 and taught summers at the Frank C. Munson Institute of American Maritime Studies at Mystic Seaport between 1956 and 1966. An extraordinary by-product of his consuming interest in the sea was the careful and thoughtful accumulation, throughout his career, of a substantial personal collection of more than 5,000 items of research mate-

rials, rare books, and maritime prints and paintings, described by a curator at the Huntington Library as 'the best of its kind in private hands west of the Appalachians.' Jack was a generous man, and he gave this valuable collection to the Huntington Library in 1987.

At Pomona College, Jack Kemble taught, in his own words, 'Maritime and Naval History and a good deal of everything else.' 'Everything else' included Western civilization, the history of the United States, western America, and California. He remained in the Naval Reserve after 1946, and in 1961 was appointed to membership on the Secretary of the Navy's Committee on Naval History. In 1961 Jack was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society. He was honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship and was also a Rockefeller Fellow at the Huntington Library. Jack's expertise as a bibliophile was recognized further by his election to membership in the Zamorano Club, the oldest California club of bibliophiles. In addition, he held membership in the American Historical Association, the Naval History Foundation, the Railway and Locomotive Society, and was a fellow of the California Historical Society.

Jack's residence in California prevented extensive interaction with the Society. However, he did present a paper for the spring 1968 semiannual meeting, later published in the Society's *Proceedings*, entitled 'The Cruise of the Schooner *Tamana*, 1805-7.' As Jack noted, his paper was intended to provide insights into the 'techniques of smuggling, dealings with the Indians and Spanish residents (of early California) and the management of the sea otter trade.'

A tall man who bore himself most formally erect, Jack was a reserved, dignified man who resembled nothing more than a retired naval commander (which, of course, he eventually was). Always a gentleman and a man of modest demeanor and a fine dry humor, Jack embarked on many cruises after his retirement, frequently as a lecturer but often only as a passenger. Also in retirement, he built a small cottage in Omena, Michigan, the same place

where his childhood summers instilled in him his deep and abiding interest in and devotion to ships and the water.

Remembered by his students, of which I was one, as a man of integrity, authenticity, dry wit, unfailing punctuality and quiet competence, Jack Kemble is also cited by both colleagues and former students as a loyal and generous man. He was a lifelong bachelor and leaves no close family.

Robert Ernest Tranquada

CHARLES VAN RAVENSWAAY

Charles van Ravenswaay, a particularly loyal member of the American Antiquarian Society, died of cancer on March 20, 1990, in Hockessin, Delaware. Born in Boonville, Missouri, on August 20, 1911, Mr. van Ravenswaay received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Washington University. His education focused on history, with additional courses in the history of art, an advantage in his avocation as a collector of American decorative arts and in his career as an administrator of historical and cultural institutions. Even before receiving his B.A. in 1933, Mr. van Ravenswaay began a photographic survey of Missouri architecture, examples of regional art, and examples of decorative art with Auguste and Paul Piaget, professional photographers of St. Louis. These photographs are now in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. From 1934 to 1949 he served as business manager and as a partner in the van Ravenswaay Clinic in Boonville. He became a trustee of the Missouri Historical Society in the late 1930s. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was discharged in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant commander.

He became director of the Missouri Historical Society in 1946, an institution he served until he became president of Old Sturbridge Village in 1962. From 1966 until his retirement in 1976, he was director of the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.