

As a person, he was a man of great dignity, impeccable courtesy, and generosity in his assistance to other legal historians. Although a very private person, he was open and charming to those who knew him well. He was elected to AAS in 1968, but unfortunately did not attend enough meetings for members to have gotten to know him and to appreciate more his fine qualities as a gentleman-scholar.

George Athan Billias

HOWELL JOHNSON HEANEY

Scholar, librarian, teacher, bibliographer; military man, gardener, collector; a man of wit and intellectual attainments who yet cared deeply about those less fortunate or in need, and worked actively and quietly in their behalf. How can one not regret the loss of such a man!

Howell Johnson Heaney was born on July 7, 1917, in the small town of Beacon, New York, midway on the Hudson between West Point and Poughkeepsie. He attended Cornell University, where he received his bachelor's degree and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1939. He began law school at Cornell but gave it up after two years in favor of a master's degree in comparative literature, received in 1941. Library school at Columbia University followed, and he received his second master's degree in 1942.

World War II was underway by then, and Howell's somewhat unlikely career combining bibliography and the military had its beginnings when he enlisted in the Army after a few months spent working in the library at the University of New Hampshire. In 1946, when he was discharged, he was a second lieutenant *and* the co-author with Philo C. Calhoun of 'Dickens' "Christmas Carol" after a Hundred Years,' still considered one of the basic studies of that bibliographically complex work. After another brief stint at UNH, Howell moved to Morristown, New Jersey, to become private librarian to the distinguished collector, Thomas W. Stree-

ter; at the same time he began his twenty-two years in the Army Reserve.

During his eight years in Morristown, from 1947 to 1955, Howell was responsible for much of the research that appeared in *Americana Beginnings: A Selection from the Library of Thomas W. Streeter* (Morristown, N.J. 1952) and the *Bibliography of Texas, 1795-1845* (Cambridge, Mass., 1955-60). This thorough grounding in bibliography, combined with his legal knowledge and his interest in Dickens, made Howell an apt choice for the position of bibliographer in the newly established Rare Book Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia. In October 1955 he joined the staff being created by the department's new and first head, Ellen Shaffer. In the ensuing fifteen years their joint efforts, with the support of FLP director Emerson Greenaway, brought major additions to the department's collections of legal history, Americana, Pennsylvania German Fraktur and imprints, Dickens, early children's books, and the work of writer/illustrators such as Beatrix Potter, Kate Greenaway, and Arthur Rackham.

These years and the decade that followed when Howell became head of the department at Miss Shaffer's retirement in 1971, were fruitful ones for Howell. He organized, catalogued, published, created exhibitions, served professional organizations in various capacities, welcomed casual visitors and serious researchers with equal aplomb. He married Harriet Benedict in 1956, and they became the parents of a son; he rose steadily through the ranks of the Army Reserve; and he began twenty-two years of teaching in Drexel University's School of Information Studies. Between 1962 and 1984 he estimated that he taught some 2,000 neophyte librarians the joys of rare book librarianship and the history of books and printing.

A series of publications rounded out Howell's final decade in the Rare Book Department. With Frederick S. Weiser he compiled *The Pennsylvania German Fraktur of the Free Library of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia, 1978), an illustrated two-volume guide to its collection of that unique folk art. He wrote the introduction

and notes to S. Robert Teitelman's *William Birch's Views of Philadelphia . . . with Photographs of the Sites in 1960 and 1982* (Philadelphia, 1982). He published articles on department holdings, legal figures, Poe, rare-book librarianship, and early children's books, and he continued his contributions to *Studies in Bibliography: Papers of the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia* and to *ABHB: Annual Bibliography of the History of Books and Libraries*. And he was a more than occasional contributor of wit and wisdom to the publications of the Bird and Bull Press put out by his long-time friend, Henry Morris.

Howell was a member of the bibliographical societies of London, America (which he served as its delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies), and the University of Virginia, the Grolier Club, and the Rare Books and Manuscripts section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1974, to which he showed unswerving loyalty and generosity, and he received an honorary doctor's degree in humane letters from Widener University in May 1983. He was a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve when he retired on July 7, 1977.

This recital of Howell's activities, accomplishments, and honors tells the reader what Howell did — but not necessarily what he was. Those who knew Howell through Philadelphia's Philobiblon Club will remember acerbic comments and the discipline that sent him off to make his train, despite the pleasant company. Howell was an avid gardener; he and Harriet created a productive and handsome garden behind their Mount Airy house, and shared its overflow with friends and neighbors. He was the personification of thrift; when banks introduced service charges, he searched until he found the Bank of Cranberry, New Jersey, which offered the most interest for the least outlay — and thereafter banked by mail. He was ahead of his time in recycling, taking a lot of teasing about his practice of collecting roadside bottles for the nickel deposit. In his Army uniform he was the very model of a soldier, trim, polished, and straight.

Howell died of a heart attack at home on Monday evening, June 24, 1991. Those who attended his funeral service at the First United Methodist Church of Germantown on Saturday, June 29, found a church filled with old and young people, all of whom had been touched in some way by this quiet man, and learned of the courage and compassion he showed in helping to mend the division within his community. The Litany of Commemoration that was recited that day says it best: 'For the inspiration of his compassion, the lift of his wit, the example of his honesty, for his gentle influence, his love of beauty, his weave of language, his integrity of being and steady faith, *we lift up our hearts in gratitude and praise.*'

Willman Spawn

LAWRENCE KELTON MILLER

The small-town editor who makes a difference is an American icon. William Allen White of Emporia was the classic instance, but there are others. Pete Miller stood high in their ranks—although he would not necessarily welcome being partnered with White, that stalwart Kansas Republican. Under Pete's leadership, *The Berkshire Eagle* won a reputation as one of the better daily newspapers. Its influence outran its circulation, which is in the range of 30,000 papers a day.

Pete—nobody called him Lawrence K.—was insatiably curious. I talked with him many times in many places. He never failed to poke around in the question of how much influence the majority owners of the Worcester *Telegram* and *Gazette*—the Stoddard family—exerted on day-to-day operations. When I told him they generally kept hands off the professional managers, of whom I was one at the time, he scrunched up his face in mild puzzlement. Perhaps that was because he was so involved in the *Eagle*. His father, a former mayor of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, left the *Eagle* in that small city to his sons, Pete and Donald, in 1941. Pete was

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