

With such activities and experience, Bryant was a natural and useful member of the American Antiquarian Society. He attended meetings whenever his manifold duties permitted. At the semi-annual meeting on April 29, 1978, he joined Keyes Metcalf and John William Ward to comment on Richard W. Couper's paper about research libraries, 'Quality Survival: The Quasi Institution.' He was always available for sage advice, and he served twice on the Society's nominating committee and once on its personnel committee.

Doug Bryant was a companionable man, with ready wit and a good sense of humor. He loved good company, good food, and good talk. Beyond his professional affiliations he was naturally drawn to other organizations that shared his interests. For more than twenty years he was a member of the Grolier Club in New York, and for more than forty of the Club of Odd Volumes in Boston, duly serving a term as its president. He and Rene were unfailingly hospitable at their home in Lexington, the scene of many memorable social occasions, large and small. They enjoyed a warm family life with their daughter Heather and their son-in-law John Jordan. Douglas Bryant's latter months, marred as they were by serious illness, were brightened by the birth of twin grandchildren, Douglas and Phoebe Jordan.

W. H. Bond

#### SHELBY CULLOM DAVIS

Shelby Cullom Davis, who died on May 26, 1994, at the age of eighty-five, was elected to the Society in October 1978, but never attended a meeting. Nevertheless, Davis was himself a fine historian, and one of the major patrons of historical research and teaching in the United States. He held honorary LL.D. degrees from Bradley University and Trinity College (Connecticut).

Davis was born in Peoria, Illinois, on April 1, 1909, the son of George Henry and Julia Mabel (Cullom) Davis. He prepared for college at the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, graduating from Princeton in 1930. He went on to do an A.M. in history at Columbia, and to earn a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Geneva in 1934. His dissertation formed the basis for his first book: *Reservoirs of Men: A History of the Black Troops of French West Africa* (Geneva: Librairie Kundig, 1934). He also published *The French War Machine* (London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1937); *America Faces the Forties* (Philadelphia: Dorrance & Co., 1940); and *Your Career in Defense* (New York: Harper & Bros., 1942).

Davis served as a European correspondent for the Columbia Broadcasting System while completing his doctorate in Geneva. He then returned to the United States as an economist with the Investment Corporation in Philadelphia, 1934-37, and as treasurer of the Delaware Fund, Inc. from 1937 to 1939. In 1940 and 1944 he was an adviser to Thomas E. Dewey, and from 1944 to 1947 he was Governor Dewey's first deputy commissioner of insurance in New York. He was the chief of the foreign requirements section of the War Production Board in Washington, D.C., in 1942 and later the chief of its Division of Statistics and Research.

Davis purchased a seat on the New York Stock Exchange in 1941 and founded the investment banking firm, Shelby Cullom Davis & Co., in 1944. He served as managing partner of the firm, which specialized in insurance securities, until 1969, at which time he became the U.S. ambassador to Switzerland, a position he held with distinction until 1975. He resumed his leadership of the investment firm upon his return to the United States, acting as chairman at the time of his death.

Davis was a major educational philanthropist. In 1964 (on the 100th anniversary of the birth of his father, George Henry Davis, Princeton 1886) he presented a check for \$5,306,903.17 to Princeton University to endow the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Research—a photograph of the check is still proudly

displayed in the departmental lounge in Dickinson Hall—as well as two endowed chairs in the history department. He was for many years the chairman of the department's advisory council. In 1987 Davis donated \$3,000,000 to the Lawrenceville School in order to create an endowment to support the position, office, support staff, and campus residence of the Headmaster. He also endowed chairs at Wellesley College and other colleges, and a gift to Bradley University built their new library. Among his other benefactions were major gifts to the library and museum of the performing arts at Lincoln Center in Manhattan. He founded and chaired a foundation bearing his name which specialized in research on public policy and economics.

Davis was a patriot, and belonged to several patriotic and honorary societies, including the Sons of the American Revolution, the General Society of Colonial Wars, the Society of the Cincinnati, and the Society of Mayflower Descendants. He was also a supporter of conservative political causes such as the National Right to Work Foundation, Accuracy in Media, and the Heritage Foundation, of which he was once chairman.

Davis thus had a remarkable career as a scholar, public servant, and businessman. To the end of his life he remained passionately committed to the notion that the health of the nation depended upon its intellectual vigor and its respect for tradition. He took campus politics as seriously as national politics, and was specially concerned to encourage Princeton to remain true to its heritage. As a faculty member who hoped to alter some of the old habits of Old Nassau, I will nevertheless always remember fondly the twinkle in the eyes of Shelby Cullom Davis, and his joy in intellectual engagement.

Stanley N. Katz

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