

Obituaries

HOWARD CORNING

Howard Corning was born in Portland, Maine, on June 28, 1867, a son of Clarence H. and Mary Katherine (Libby) Corning. From the Portland High School he went to Harvard College, where he was graduated in 1890. After a year in Europe he went to work for the Indian Spring Woolen Company of Madison, Maine, where he remained until 1896 when he became superintendent of the Jamestown (New York) Woolen Mills. In 1909 he returned to Maine as treasurer of the Bangor Railway and Electric Company which, with its successor, the Bangor Hydroelectric Company, he served for sixteen years.

In 1925 Corning resigned his position and moved to Cambridge to assist in the organization of the Harvard Alumni Fund. The next year he went to the Harvard School of Business Administration to undertake the collection and arrangement of business manuscripts. When the depression cut off the funds for this work in 1932, he went to Salem to become secretary of the Essex Institute, which he also served briefly as museum curator.

Corning's regime at the Essex Institute was not a happy one. Our old friend Stephen W. Phillips, as president, ruled the institution with an iron hand and discouraged Corning from drawing on his own stock of initiative. He was a friendly, reasonable, and coöperative person, but not an antiquarian or a profound scholar. His best work was a two-volume edition of the journals of J. J. Audubon. Before the American Antiquarian Society, to which he was elected

in 1934, he read a paper on "John Crowninshield and the Building of the Privateer *Diomedes*." He was also a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts.

Until his resignation from the Institute in 1948 at the age of eighty-one, Corning showed hardly at all the weight of his years. He lived quietly in retirement until his death at Portland on February 3, 1956.

On October 22, 1896, Corning was married at Marquette, Michigan, to Cora Allison Burt. They are survived by three sons, Clarence Hamilton, John Burt, and Howard, Jr.

C. K. S.

BERNARD AUGUSTINE DeVOTO

"Benny" DeVoto was born at Ogden, Utah, on January 11, 1897, a son of Florian Bernard and Rhoda (Dye) DeVoto. When he entered Ogden High School in 1910 he immediately made it evident that he was more widely read than his teachers, was a hard and unorthodox thinker, and was not bashful. After graduation he was uncertain of his course. He worked part time in a bookstore and as a temporary reporter on the *Ogden Standard*, but in 1914 he entered Harvard in search of intellectual combat. After an academic career interrupted by two years of service as a second lieutenant in the infantry, he was graduated in 1920 as of the Class of 1918. For four years he served as an instructor and assistant professor at Northwestern University, and then returned to Harvard where until 1936 he tutored and lectured, and for a time edited the *Harvard Graduates' Magazine*.

Among the graduate students and young instructors at Harvard, Benny was a maverick. He would have none of

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