

with a curious mixture of austerity and warm heartedness, slight and wiry in build, but indefatigable and sturdy long after the age when for most of us years have taken their toll. His contribution to librarianship in the United States, in the broadest interpretation of the term, has not yet been surpassed or for that matter equaled. KEYES METCALF

GEORGE ICHABOD ROCKWOOD

George Ichabod Rockwood was born in Dorchester January 13, 1868, a son of Edward Otis and Caroline (Washburn) Rockwood, and a grandson of Charles Washburn of this city. He was educated at Phillips Academy, Andover, and at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, graduating in 1888 and receiving his master's degree in 1898. On November 13, 1890, he married Ellen Tyler Cheever, daughter of the Reverend Henry T. Cheever and a niece of Mrs. Ichabod Washburn. She was his devoted partner through all the years of his active professional life until her death in 1933.

An initial position as draughtsman with the Wheelock Engine Company followed by thirteen years of independent consulting work as a mill engineer preceded his organization of the Rockwood Sprinkler Company in 1905 to develop and manufacture an automatic fire sprinkler which he had patented. He headed, and largely owned, this company which grew and prospered, until 1930 when he sold it to the Gamewell Company of Newton.

Mr. Rockwood's loyal devotion to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute continued through his life. From 1906 to 1909 he taught there as professor of thermodynamics and steam engineering. He became a trustee in 1915 and later was for many years a member of the executive committee of

the Board of Trustees. In 1929 he received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater and in 1939 he was for a time its *ad interim* president.

Shortly after his graduation Mr. Rockwood joined the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, was later a member of its council, a vice-president, a Fellow, and in 1948 was elected an honorary member. One of his proud benefactions was the endowment in 1923 of the Holley Medal to reward an outstanding American inventor yearly, the fund to be administered by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and named after its first president, Alexander Lyman Holley.

In 1923 he was elected to the American Antiquarian Society which he later served with contributions to its invested funds and running expenses, with membership on various committees, with an occasional paper at its meetings and with a gift of the Cheever letters which are now in the Manuscript Room. Two titles from his pen now in this Society's collection are "Cheever, Lincoln and the Causes of the Civil War" (1936) and "The Founder of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute" (1943), both careful pieces of historical research, if perhaps biased by family loyalties.

Mr. Rockwood was for thirty years President of the Board of Trustees of the Home for Aged Women, founded by his great uncle Ichabod Washburn; also at one time President of the Board of Trustees of the Rural Cemetery. He had been a director of the Worcester Trust Company which later became the Worcester Bank & Trust Company, and also a Corporator and Trustee of the Worcester County Institution for Savings.

His death came October 30, 1959, as he approached his ninety-second birthday. He is survived by his second wife, Mrs. Anna Victoria Rockwood, whom he married in 1933, and by their two children.

N. WHEELER

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