

Obituaries

HIRAM BINGHAM

Senator Hiram Bingham was born in Honolulu on November 19, 1875, a son of the Reverend Hiram and Minerva Clarissa (Brewster) Bingham, missionaries to the Islands. He took a B.A. at Yale in 1900 and an M.A. at the University of California in 1901, after which he returned East to become an Austin Teaching Fellow at Harvard, where he took his Ph.D. in 1905. After serving for a year as Preceptor in History and Politics at Princeton, Dr. Bingham removed to Yale as Lecturer on South American Geography and History, and in time he became Assistant Professor and Professor of Latin-American History. He was no armchair scholar, but a doer with a mind and energy which reminded one of Theodore Roosevelt. On exploring expeditions he retraced Bolivar's route across Venezuela and Columbia, and the old Spanish trade route from Buenos Aires to Lima. Through the pages of the *National Geographic* his Yale Peruvian expeditions of 1911 and 1912 made his name a household word all over the world. Peru properly named the new highway to Machu Picchu "The Hiram Bingham Highway" in his honor. The University of Cuzco gave him a Litt.D. in 1912, but the North American universities were curiously remiss; perhaps the popular character of his several books on exploration had dimmed his scholarly reputation.

Bingham was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1909, and at the meeting of April, 1912, he read a paper

on "Vitcos, the Last Inca Capital," which was a report on the Yale expedition of the preceding year. In April, 1937, he read a paper on Elihu Yale. He represented the Society at the Nineteenth International Congress of Americanists in 1914, at the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress in 1915, and at the first formal meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies in 1919. He sold to the Library his family collection of Hawaiian history and gave it a remarkable little lot of Gilbertese-language imprints. His disregard of the exigencies of time and space, and his failure to distinguish between the trivial and the important, sometimes drove the Editor and Librarian to despair; but he soothed by his cheerful acceptance of suggestions. He always regarded "the grand old American Antiquarian Society" with affection.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Bingham was a captain in the Connecticut National Guard. He promptly learned to fly and became a lieutenant colonel of Military Aeronautics, United States Army. In 1917 he became Chief of the Air Personnel Division, and the next year he commanded the allied flying school at Issodun, France, and engaged in combat flying.

In politics as well, Bingham was an exponent of the active life. In 1916 he was an alternate at the Republican national convention, and from 1924 to 1936 he was a delegate at the conventions of the party. In 1923 he was elected lieutenant governor of Connecticut, and the next year, governor. Immediately after this election, the death of Frank B. Brandegee left a vacancy in the United States Senate. Bingham, chosen to the seat in a special election, served as governor just long enough to deliver the inaugural address, and then resigned to go to Washington. There his career was marked by his opposition to Prohibition and his advocacy of a high protective tariff. For his favoritism

to the Connecticut Manufacturers' Association he was censured by the Senate, a distinction shared in recent years only by Joseph McCarthy. Unseated in the election of 1933, he became editor of *The National Aero Magazine*, and engaged in banking and the oil business.

Bingham married Alfreda Mitchell, a granddaughter of Charles Tiffany, on November 20, 1900, and raised seven sons. His second wife was Suzanne Carroll Hill, who joined him in research in preparation of his biography of Elihu Yale. This was his chief activity until the outbreak of the Second World War, when he was appointed to lecture on the South Seas in the Naval training schools. He traveled thousands of miles on this mission before his strength gave out. In 1951 Truman appointed him to the Loyalty Review Board, where his influence was decried by liberals and constitutional lawyers. Under the present administration his office was abolished. He died of a respiratory ailment on June 6, 1956, leaving twenty-nine grandchildren, among whom his very substantial estate will be divided upon the death of his widow.

C. K. S.

ROBERT KENDALL SHAW

Robert K. Shaw, librarian of the Worcester Free Public Library for most of his adult life, died July 3, 1956. He was born in Worcester, July 18, 1871, the son of Joseph Alden Shaw, the headmaster of Highland Military Academy. He was graduated from Harvard in 1894, and then taught at the Highland Academy for three years. He attended the New York State Library School from 1897 to 1901, serving for part of the time as an assistant in the New York State Library, after which he assumed a position in the Library of Congress for three years. In 1904 he accepted the librarian-

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