

ROBERT EARLE MOODY

Robert Earle Moody died in Boston on April 7, 1983, at the age of eighty-two. He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in October 1953, but his association with it started much earlier. He began a correspondence with Clifford K. Shipton in 1941, widening it later to include Clarence S. Brigham and Marcus A. McCorison. While his letters were usually concerned with bibliographical matters, they frequently were accompanied by gifts of early printed materials that Bob hoped might be acceptable to the library. Typically, he would add 'you may decide that the waste-basket is the place for it.' Bob attended meetings regularly and served on various committees. In later years, ill health prevented him from being as active as he would have liked, but Bob's attachment to the Society was always strong. In his acceptance of membership, he wrote to Mr. Brigham: 'No library is more useful to the student of history and I feel deeply honored to be associated with the distinguished group of people who make it their responsibility.'

Robert Earle Moody was born on March 30, 1901, in South Worthington, Massachusetts, the son of the Reverend George R. Moody, a Methodist minister, and his wife, Sarah Fallows Moody. After graduating from Phillips Academy in Andover, Bob entered Boston University, where he studied mathematics and took his degree in that subject in 1922. Prof. Ralph V. Harlow, who later moved to Yale, lured him into the study of American history, much to our good fortune. After receiving his A.M. in 1923, Bob entered Yale as a Jacob Sleeper Fellow; there he studied for two years under Charles McLean Andrews, the distinguished historian of colonial America. He received his Ph.D. in 1933.

After a year as an instructor in American history at the

University of Michigan, 1925–26, Bob returned to Boston University's history department where he steadily climbed the academic ladder to become the William Edwards Huntington Professor of History. Sidney A. Burrell, a successor in this chair, has written of Bob's Boston University career: 'He was a part of that institution in one way or another from the time he entered as a freshman in 1918 until his death, a period covering almost 65 years. He was also one of that very special group of senior faculty who served the university in a variety of capacities and helped to hold it together in the face of deep financial exigency during the Great Depression and World War II. In addition to his academic position as professor of history, he also served as chairman of the Board of Editors of the Boston University Press, director of University Libraries from 1951 to 1960, chairman of the Department of History from 1960 to 1966, and a devoted member of almost every important committee at the university'.

While Boston University remained Bob's chief interest, he nevertheless participated in the work of certain other institutions, such as the American Antiquarian Society, whose aims appealed to him. He was closely associated with the Old South Association in Boston and for many years taught a Harvard extension course in American colonial history at the Old South Meeting House. He also edited and wrote introductions to several of the highly regarded 'Old South Leaflets.' The early history of Maine also interested him and, working with the Maine Historical Society, he edited *The Letters of Thomas Gorges, Deputy Governor of the Province of Maine, 1640–1643* (1978) and volume 3 of the *Province and Court Records of Maine . . . Province of Maine Records, 1680–1692* (1947). The Colonial Society of Massachusetts elected him a resident member in December 1932, and for nearly fifty years he served it faithfully, reading papers before it, acting as recording secretary, and finally filling the office of senior vice-president until his death.

To those of us employed by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Bob Moody was a familiar figure. Elected a resident member in May 1948, he was already known to us as a frequent visitor. A gentle, undemanding man, he soon endeared himself to all the staff, as I feel certain he did wherever he went. The Society quickly put him to work. After a term on the Council, Bob was appointed to the Library and Publication Committees, upon which he served faithfully for almost the rest of his life. But it was when he took on the great task of editing the Saltonstall Family Papers that we began to see Bob on an almost daily basis. The papers, given by the Saltonstall family in 1948, were of great interest to Bob, and for his remaining years he devoted himself to their publication. This achievement might well be called the capstone of Bob Moody's scholarly career. *The Saltonstall Papers, 1607-1815* came from the press in two volumes in 1972 and 1974. Two subsequent volumes of *The Papers of Leverett Saltonstall, 1816-1845* have appeared, in 1978 and 1981, and two more are soon to be published.

These later years were not easy for Bob. He suffered from severe arthritis and other complications and found it difficult to get about. Travel abroad, which he and his wife, Eleanor, enjoyed, had largely to be abandoned. Yet when Bob arrived mornings at the Society, with cane in one hand and briefcase in the other, his cheerful smile gave no indication of how he was feeling. He was a gallant man.

Northeastern University Press honored Bob with a party given at the Massachusetts Historical Society in July 1982 on the occasion of its publication of Charles W. Akers's *The Divine Politician: Samuel Cooper and the American Revolution in Boston* (1982). Akers, a graduate student of Bob's, dedicated his volume to him with the following acknowledgment: '*The Divine Politician* is dedicated to Robert Earle Moody, Professor of History Emeritus of Boston University, who awakened my interest in colonial America and has stimulated it ever

since.' This appreciation of Bob's influence is echoed by all who have ever worked with him.

Stephen T. Riley

LOUIS B. WRIGHT

Louis B. Wright, scholar/librarian, internationally honored for his more than 300 publications on the history and literature of Elizabethan England, colonial America and other topics, as well as for his distinguished service at the Huntington Library and the Folger Shakespeare Library, died February 26, 1984, in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Louis, who was born in 1899 and bred in small-town South Carolina, retained a lifelong fondness for the people and places of his boyhood. His early experiences there provided him with an inexhaustible fund of humorous anecdotes from which he drew to regale his friends in the strong Carolina accent he never lost. Shortly after World War I, he teamed up with a veteran of the Army Air Corps, purchased an old airplane and, after a few hours of instruction, became one of Uncle Sam's first air mail pilots. A few crash landings later, he decided to return to his studies and in 1920 obtained a B.A. degree from Wofford College in South Carolina. He was attracted initially to journalism and got a job as reporter on the local newspaper in Greenwood, South Carolina. Doubtless it was the time he spent as a journalist that helped him develop that lively and readable style that stood him in such good stead later in his career. After three years of newspaper work, he felt the urge to turn to scholarship and enrolled in the graduate English program of the University of North Carolina, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1926. An appointment to teach in the English Department of the University of North Carolina quickly followed. Except for interruptions to serve as Johnston Research

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