

willingness to share it drew both amateur and professional historians to him.

I was drawn to him because we shared a common purpose. As curator of Yale's Western Americana Collection, I was amassing manuscript and printed sources for the use of historians. Donald, casting a wider net, was drawing similar sources from many collections and making them available to a wide audience in the form of carefully edited, authoritative editions. His *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* in 1962 was followed by *The Journals of Zebulon Montgomery Pike* and, with Mary Lee Spence, *Expeditions of John Charles Fremont*. I am happy to say that his monograph *Custer's Gold* was published by Yale in its Western Americana series.

In 1968 Donald moved to the University of Virginia as professor of history and editor of *The Papers of George Washington*. In 1976 the Virginia Bicentennial Commission published his *George Washington and the War of Independence*. He retired in 1978 and moved to Colorado where he lived until his death on December 9, 1987. He is survived by his wife Catherine and two sons, Robert and Mark.

Donald was elected to this Society in October 1976. Though distance and, later, ill health kept him from attending meetings, he was the Society's representative at the installation of the chancellor of the University of Colorado in 1982. We, and the whole scholarly community are the poorer for his loss.

Archibald Hanna, Jr.

GORDON WILLIS JONES

Gordon Willis Jones, physician, book collector, and historian of medicine, was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, on August 20, 1915, the son of Leo Tanner and Blanche (Willis) Jones. His ancestral roots and his birthplace were in New England, but he lived nearly all of his life in Virginia, a state whose geography, history, and culture captured and cultivated most of his innate, and formidable,

bibliophilic interests. After taking his bachelor's degree at Indiana University, Jones earned, in 1940, an M.D. from Johns Hopkins. He interned at a hospital in Roanoke, spent his residency at Hopkins and the University of Virginia, and served several years in the army, stationed at facilities of the United States Public Health Service. In 1946, he settled in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the town's only obstetrician and gynecologist. His was an extremely busy practice and later it became necessary for him to take in partners. On retiring in 1980, he estimated that he had taken part in the delivery of some ten thousand babies. At the end of his life, his community honored him by naming the medical library of the local hospital after him.

As a physician, Jones diagnosed himself as being afflicted with the disease of 'bibliomania,' an illness, he was convinced, he had inherited from his grandfather and which presented itself when he was just a boy in Richmond spending most of his allowance (and his trolley money) on books. The self-prescribed treatment would have been unorthodox for more physiological maladies: feed the habit. In doing so over nearly seven decades, Jones amassed a distinguished library of Virginiana. His definition of Virginiana was purposely broad so as to encompass all sorts of items with some Virginia connection—books about Virginia, Virginia imprints, and books (like the Saur bible of Germantown) printed on paper made in the Old Dominion.

Gordon Jones's acquaintance with the American Antiquarian Society began in 1960, when he corresponded with director Clifford K. Shipton about early American medical imprints held by the Society. Jones knew Shipton through their membership in the Grolier Club; the Joneses and the Shiptons had been on a Grolier trip to Italy together. The Grolier also provided the catalyst for Jones's later, deeper involvement with the Society. In April 1969, he viewed the Society's first major traveling exhibition, 'A Society's Chief Joys,' when it was on display in the Grolier clubhouse in New York City. Item 224 in that exhibition particularly caught Jones's eye. It was Cotton Mather's manuscript 'The Angel of

Bethesda,' which is considered to have been the first treatise on medicine written by an American but which had never been published in its entirety. 'I could scarcely drag myself away from the ANGEL OF BETHESDA ms,' he wrote the Society's Marcus McCarrison after returning home. 'Surely it must be edited and published,' he added. 'May I nominate myself with the understanding that if I do a good enough job it will be published by someone?' McCarrison assented and provided Jones with, first, a copy of Worthington C. Ford's 1911 transcript of the treatise and, later, with a microfilm of Mather's manuscript. Jones was to check the transcript against the original (through microform), write introductory matter that would place the document in the context of Mather's life and contemporary medical practice, and prepare abundant scholarly annotation. Despite being able to devote only about seven to ten hours a week on the project (his medical practice often required seventy to a hundred), Jones completed his work in some thirty months. Jones's collated transcript required additional editing by the Society's James E. Mooney and by specialists, but the project soon went to the printer and was published jointly by AAS and Barre Publishers in February 1973 (though it bears a 1972 imprint date).

Jones was elected to membership in the Society at the October 1972 annual meeting, while his edition of *The Angel of Bethesda* was in press. For this gesture he was 'much pleased and flattered.' A gracious and gregarious Virginia gentleman, he frequently attended the Society's meetings, regularly did his part financially, and generally made himself a most useful and loyal member. Toward the end of his life he fell gravely ill with cancer. He last came to Worcester for the meeting in October 1986. He died a year later, on October 29, 1987, in Fredericksburg. His first wife, Winifred (Shafferman) Jones, had died in 1982. His second wife, Miriam (Houston) Jones, survives him, as do his son, two daughters, two stepdaughters, and eleven grandchildren.

John B. Hench

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