

tee chairman of Memorial Hospital, and a trustee of the Morgan Construction Company's Pension and Profit Sharing Plan.

When he was away from these duties, he enjoyed outdoor sports: sailing, skiing, and hunting. His first wife and mother of his three children, Mary A. Baugh, died in 1982. For the last fourteen years of his life, he was married to Gertrude E. Carter. They made their home in Dedham with summers in Jamestown, Rhode Island, and with trips to her Adirondack camp. He is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, two sisters, seven grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. One son predeceased him.

Henry B. Dewey

### HAMILTON VAUGHAN BAIL

When Hamilton Vaughan Bail died in his 106th year on August 27, 1997, he was the senior member of the American Antiquarian Society, both in terms of duration of membership and in age. Longevity (Bail was also the oldest living graduate of Harvard College), however, was hardly Ham Bail's principal achievement. His contributions to the nation as a soldier, to commerce as a business leader, and to learned institutions as an administrator, advocate, and scholar were significant and praiseworthy.

Hamilton Bail was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, on February 3, 1892, the son of William George Bail and his wife, Marietta King Palmer. Hamilton's father was a dealer in coal whose business was located in South Boston. Following graduation from the Boston Latin School, young Bail entered Harvard College in 1909, emerging therefrom in 1913 as an engineer with an A.B. Ham then joined the Aluminum Company of America, with which firm he continued until the United States entered World War I. Bail and Virginia Sutherland, a graduate of Wilson College, were married in June 1917, shortly before he was commissioned a first lieutenant. He was sent to France to serve with

the Sixth Engineers in the Third Division and was promoted to captain before being discharged in 1919.

Barbara Vaughan Vail, the daughter of Virginia and Ham, was born in 1920 at a time when Bail's career took an abrupt change. Back in New York City, he had become a certified public accountant with Price, Waterhouse & Co., but in 1929 he moved to the Goldman Sachs Trading Corporation (later the Atlas Corporation), an investment trust company. There, he served as a treasurer and secretary of the company, as well as the secretary or a director of the subsidiary firms that owned Madison Square Garden and The Boston Garden.

During the 1930s, in addition to his business matters, Bail actively pursued intellectual and social interests. Handsome with piercing eyes, gregarious, cheerful, and commanding, Ham was a founder of the Downtown Harvard Lunch Club, where he enjoyed college connections. Bail was a member of The Society of Colonial Wars, signalling a long-time interest in genealogy. Also, he was involved with bibliographical interests. For example, in 1932 he acquired a copy of the first Worcester edition of *The Royal Alphabet*, published by Isaiah Thomas in 1787 and *not* at AAS. These preoccupations led in 1930 to election to The Grolier Club of New York City. As in most things with which he was to become involved, Ham took an active part in the business of the Club as treasurer, councilor, and as a member of its library and audit committees. Ham resigned from the Club in 1959 following his retirement from business. In 1939 Bail was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society and to The Club of Odd Volumes of Boston. He was also a member of The Colonial Society of Massachusetts from 1953, where he was a participant at the sometimes raucous annual meetings where, in those days, wine and conversation sometimes flowed unabated. It was during this period, also, that Ham and Virginia bought their place on a hill in North Hartland, Vermont. Purchased in 1938 as their secondary residence, the charming, brick, federal-style house later became their year-round home.

During these years Bail worked meticulously on long-term scholarly projects. They tended to center on Harvard history, with which he had made himself thoroughly familiar. He wrote four long articles on the college's bicentennial celebration of 1836 that were published in the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* in the spring and summer of 1936. Another interest involved James Russell Lowell's 'Ode Recited at the Commemoration of the Living and Dead Soldiers of Harvard University, July 21, 1863.' In addition to describing the circumstances surrounding Lowell's composition of the poem, as well as its reception as one of America's greatest war poems, Bail traced the history of its publication and the textual variations present in those editions. Of the fifty privately printed copies that Lowell presented to family and friends, Bail located thirty-three, tracing their subsequent ownership. The results of his quest resulted in publication in the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* (vol. 37, 1943). It was reprinted as a separate of thirty-four pages, but as late as 1962 Bail remained in the hunt for the remaining lost copies of 'The Ode.'

Ham spent years tracking down early views of Harvard College, reporting in 1938 that the manuscript was nearly ready. Bail provided biographical sketches of the artists, complete descriptions of the views, and, when necessary, assigning dates; one view, for example, was dated by noting the absence of lightning rods on the subject building. Finally, between the years 1947 and 1949 he published his findings in the *Harvard Library Bulletin*. The parts were gathered together in 1949 by the Harvard University Press in a handsome book of 264 pages under the title, *Views of Harvard: A Pictorial Record to 1860*. The quality of Bail's work was always superior. Clarence Brigham in his great book, *Paul Revere's Engravings*, deferred to Bail's description of Revere's 1767 'Westerly View of the College in Cambridge New England' by quoting it almost entire, because he (Brigham) had little to add to it.

Bail vigorously collected Harvardiana. Ultimately the collection went to the University of California at Los Angeles, where it

now bears his name. It included nearly seventy novels, whose sometime halting plots were set within the college. In due time this avocation led to the publication of *Harvard Fiction: Some Critical and Bibliographical Notes* in the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* (vol. 68, pt. 2, October 1958). Correspondence between Bail and Clifford K. Shipton, then the editor of *Proceedings*, is amusing. Ham sent the typescript to Shipton on November, 24, 1958, with a note stating that he had not even 'dusted off' the work before mailing it and that the text needed work because of the considerable time that had elapsed between its composition and delivery to AAS. Shipton responded on December 1 to inform Bail that the manuscript had been sent to the printer in order to prevent the author from rewriting. In this work Virginia Bail supplied the lengthy synopses of the novels' plots. Bail included quotations from reviews, wrote bibliographical descriptions of the volumes, and provided details of publication, including copyright dates. His article was issued by AAS as a separate work of 135 pages in 1959.

Bail wrote in the fiftieth anniversary report of the Harvard Class of 1913 that 'I was called into the second world war [in 1943] to fight in the Historical Section of the Army War College; then I was asked to go out to the Southwest Pacific Area where I ended up as a lieutenant colonel and Chief of the Historical Division on MacArthur's staff. For this heroic work I received a medal [of the Legion of Honor]. It is perhaps a strange fact that my experiences in both wars have left little lasting impression on me in any way.' The interruptions caused by World War II brought more changes to the Bails' lives. Investment work in New York City no longer appealed to Ham, so he sought other opportunities. The treasurership of The Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania seemed to fulfill his 'real ambition . . . to become a noted amateur (or even professional)' in scholarly work. The Bails moved to Philadelphia. The Institute was established in 1824 as an educational organization in the field of mechanic arts and technology. At one time it supported active research initia-

tives as well as an outstanding library in its field, complementing those of the American Philosophical Society, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Bail served as treasurer and later secretary of the Institute from early in 1947 until his retirement at age sixty-five in 1957.

Those years were very full, for in addition to his duties at the Institute, Ham became active at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He was elected to its council in 1953 and a vice president in 1955, retiring in 1957. Similarly, he was involved with the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, of which he was also an officer. A member of the Franklin Inn, Ham met at lunch with congenial fellow members of the club, including Whitfield Bell of the Philosophical Society and other professional colleagues. In 1949 the holograph copy of Benjamin Franklin's will presented by Mary Curtis Zimbalist to the Institute in acknowledgment of the 125th anniversary of its founding prompted another publication. Bail prepared a transcription of the will (the original of which was also reproduced in facsimile) in the Institute's nicely printed edition of *The Will of Benjamin Franklin, 1757*. Franklin's biographer, Carl Van Doren, wrote an introduction for it. This task was precisely the kind of detailed scholarly work that Bail found most enjoyable.

With Ham's retirement in 1957, the Bails' residence was officially established in North Hartland, Vermont, where Virginia, who supported Ham through all his adventures, had spent the war years, and the Bail family became actively engaged in historical affairs. Ham collected a sheaf of documents pertaining to the history of Hartland that he gave to the Dartmouth College Library. A member of the Vermont Historical Society, he was elected a vice-president in 1959-61, moving on to a trusteeship until the annual meeting in August 1965. They were active in their local historical society. Nineteen sixty-one marked the 200th anniversary of Governor Benning Wentworth's 'New Hampshire Grants' of lands lying in present-day Vermont also claimed by New York grantees. Bail asked Ted Shipton to speak at

the celebration in Hartland. Ted suggested, facetiously perhaps, that his subject be 'Vermont's Place in Puritanism.' Ham responded that although Virginia would 'particularly like to hear a paper on "Vermont's Place in Puritanism," she and our general committee agree "Benning Wentworth" would probably be of more interest to the townspeople.' The present writer, also, once faced the Hartland townspeople at their historical society. His topic was 'The Colonial Defense of the Upper Connecticut Valley.' Honest to the core, Bail greeted its subsequent publication by writing, it 'read even better than it "listened."' Similarly, when your memorialist's bibliography, *Vermont Imprints*, was published in 1963 Ham sent to Worcester a list of errata. When, a few years later, *addenda et corrigenda* were issued to *Vermont Imprints*, Bail wrote that 'I enjoyed the Addenda to your great Vermont opus as much as Peyton Place.'

The Vermont years were busy and generally happy ones, despite the fact that Virginia was injured in an automobile accident in 1960 and Ham was hospitalized for some weeks in 1964 following a difficult operation. Nineteen seventy-one was a crucial year. They sold the Hartland house and cast about for a suitable retirement home, but the death of Virginia on July 21 was the devastating event. Ham then entered the Medford Leas, a retirement home in Medford, New Jersey, in 1972. There he spent the remainder of his long and eventful life. His last years were plagued by advancing deafness and blindness, but well into the 1980s his strong, distinctive hand was still firm, as was his mind and sense of humor. But at the end, cruelly, he could neither see nor hear.

Ham Bail once wrote that he found 'few better places to spend my time than in libraries and book stores.' Thus, he continued his collecting ways, on which, as we have seen, he was well engaged by the 1930s. Book collectors have long memories, so it need not surprise us that Clarence Brigham pursued Bail's copy of *The Royal Alphabet* from 1932 to 1942 to 1955, when AAS finally snared it for \$125. A careful buyer, Bail diligently collected colo-

nial American poetry for several years. The result was a relatively small but, as he said, choice collection on four or five running feet of shelving. Ham sold it *en bloc* to John Kohn of Seven Gables Book Shop in late 1965 or 1966, somewhat to the distress of the librarian of this institution. The Houghton Library at Harvard filled its lacunae from the collection before it was scattered abroad. Another project of the 1950s and later years that absorbed Bail's time and money was that on historical cartography of Vermont. No doubt he intended to prepare an article based upon his collection, but it did not come to fruition. This collection was sold to Graham Arader of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. In 1981 a donor presented a considerable portion of it to the John Carter Brown Library.

Ham Bail was an interested, faithful, and supportive member of this Society. He attended only a few meetings prior to the move to Vermont, but during the years 1959 and 1976 he came down to fourteen of them. In earlier years he corresponded from time to time with Brigham on many matters. During 1944 and 1945 he urged Brigham to collect newspapers published by military personnel, such as *Yank*, *Stars and Stripes*, and *Yank Down Under*. While serving in Australia he proceeded to put such a collection together. He gave it to AAS in late 1945 on his return home. Brigham and Shipton persuaded him that because of existing cooperative collecting policies the papers were better placed at Harvard. Later, a good deal of mail came and went pertaining to bibliographical or historical queries. His support of the Society and its directors was unflinching. Late in 1981, a decade after he had entered a retirement home, Ham proposed the establishment of an endowment fund at AAS. After some negotiations between the donor (who wondered how much longer he would live) and the director over certain details, it was agreed that the Hamilton Vaughan Bail Fund be created. The principal of the fund was to be inviolate but its annual income could be used for the general purposes of the Society—*excepting* one fourth of the annual income that was to be reinvested with the principal. In the spring of

1982 Bail sent us \$5,000 requesting that he be sent annual reports on the progress of the fund. It would have pleased him, one supposes, had he received the last accounting (made only four days after his death) at which his endowment stood at \$21,585.

Ham became the senior member of the Society on August 13, 1987, upon the death of John H. G. Pell, who had been elected to membership in AAS in April 1930. Ham responded firmly to the news of his ascendancy with regret at John Pell's passing, but promised to faithfully fulfill the duties of our senior member. In June 1989, however, his letter of acceptance of the minute bearing the Society's council's congratulations and thanks for his fifty years of distinguished membership in the society was written by an amanuensis. He personally signed it, 'Ham,' as in former days. At his death in the summer of 1997, Ham Bail had been a member of the Society for fifty-eight years.

Hamilton Vaughan Bail is survived by his daughter Barbara Bail Collins (Mrs. Frederick A.) of Essex, Connecticut, two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Marcus A. McCorison

### STEPHEN DAVIES PAINE

Stephen Davies Paine, a preeminent collector of printed ephemera and a retired partner and senior vice-president of the Wellington Management Company, died on November 8, 1997, at the age of sixty-five, from complications of post-polio syndrome.

Raised in Brookline, Massachusetts, he attended Deerfield Academy, from which he graduated in 1950. He received the B.A. from Williams College in 1954 and then entered the United States Air Force. While in the service, he contracted polio. During his long period of recuperation he developed a deep and abiding love for contemporary American art. In recent years he served on the boards and committees of the Institute for Contemporary Art and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the



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