

Barry O'Connell, Richard Rabinowitz, and Teresa Toulouse, among them—insures his lasting legacy.

When I came to write a study of New England Puritanism, I could think of no one but Heimert, for he served as my best but potentially most critical imagined reader. And when I finished the work, I dedicated it to him, with these words, cribbed from the Reverend Samuel Hopkins's life of his mentor, Edwards, and which I still believe best describe Alan Heimert. 'He had an uncommon thirst for Knowledge, in the pursuit of which, he spared no Cost or Pains,' Hopkins wrote. And 'Tho' his Principles were *Calvinistic*,' he continued, 'yet he called no Man, Father. He thought and judged for himself, and was truly very much an Original.'

Philip F. Gura

## BRUCE MURDOCK LEROY

Bruce M. Leroy, who served as director of the Washington State Historical Society from 1958 until 1983, died in Tacoma on November 29, 1999, after a long illness. Through his vision for conservation and exhibition of the collections and his management of the society's limited resources, the program of the historical society was transformed during his twenty-five-year tenure. His legacy includes the addition of a gallery in the early 1970s with a total of 25,000 square feet of new space that enabled the society to mount significant exhibitions. Two of these, which opened after his retirement, were 'Memorable Voyagers' in 1987 and 'Russian America' in 1990.

Coincidentally, two AAS members, the late Bob Hitchman and I, constituted the 1958 committee to find a new director. I met Bruce LeRoy at that time and we soon formed a bond through our shared interests in regional history. Bruce worked hard to maximize the society's limited resources and paid attention to de-

tail. When I was chairman of the library committee, I arrived often at a quarterly meeting with no report only to be relieved that Bruce had prepared one. What pleased me most was his eagerness to increase the holdings of the society, especially source material. His enthusiasm for this part of the work was contagious. Bruce identified the art of the Northwest as an important field in which to be collecting. In 1996 the wing—never named—that he added to the former headquarters became the research center housing the society's large and growing collection of art, photographs, manuscripts, and artifacts. He could take pride in knowing that much of what is in that library he put there.

Born in Hornell, New York, on June 9, 1920, Bruce came west to earn his B.A. at the University of California at Berkeley. He did graduate work in the Far East Department of Harvard University's School of Overseas Administration, and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Two of these years were spent at West Point as a cadet instructor. He became Houghton Mifflin's Pacific Northwest book representative and brought his interest in good books to the Society's publication program.

He became greatly interested in folklore and in developing oral histories. He found writers for an ethnic history series and wrote one of the books himself, *The Scots of Washington*. Among his other well-researched books are a history of Northwest art and a biography of General Hiram M. Chittenden, who built Seattle's Ballard Locks for the Army Corps of Engineers. He edited books on Alaska and Washington history, and researched the Civil War, China, Northwest folklore, and Northwest newspaper history. His articles were published in *American Heritage*.

He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in April 1983.

He married the former Esther Buschman in 1947. She and their son, Phillip, survive (a daughter, Carolyn, died at the age of 5 in 1962), and we send our condolences to them.

John McClelland, Jr.

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