

themselves led to a book titled *Nature's Mould* about past masters in this arcane field. His vast and varied knowledge and the depth and intensity of his collecting infused the products of the press with a literary and art historical, as well as artistic, sensibility few modern private presses can boast.

In later years while pursuing important sculptural commissions, such as the Holocaust Memorial in Ann Arbor and the Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorials in Washington, D.C., it was always the books that gave him sustenance. His output ever more prodigious, his imagination ever more fanciful, editions spilled forth from his press, more limited in copies, at a rate of four a year: books of sybils and terms, grotesques and arabesques, and even the three-volume *Oresteia*, occupied artisans in their completion and filled collectors' bookshelves, finding a diverse, new generation of bibliophiles to enjoy them.

On a personal level, in his presence one's mettle was constantly being tested. His opinions, offered in a rasping, crackling voice, could be withering. He loved language; even his jokes, told in several languages at once, could be a challenge. But his approbation came just as readily as his dismissal, and he was a generous and entertaining host. He and his wife Lisa offered their hospitality to artists, writers, and craftspeople, as well as opening their home, sponsoring many fundraising events in support of the various progressive causes about which they were passionate. He enriched our lives and, with unfailing honesty, helped us understand who we are. His was a vision and a voice that will be greatly missed.

Daniel Gehrich

GERTRUDE ROBINSON MALLARY

Gertrude Slater Robinson was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on August 19, 1902, into a family of means and position in that city. She was the daughter of George Edward and Jennie (Slater)

Robinson. Gertrude attended public schools in Springfield and was a student at Bennett College in Millbrook, New York. She intended to transfer to Vassar, but instead, in 1923, married Raymond DeWitt Mallery while he was a student at Harvard Law School. DeWitt went on to become a leading lawyer in Springfield and was, for nearly thirty years, a director of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. Not surprisingly, Gertrude Mallery was active socially in her home city, serving as president of the Junior League of Springfield and chair of the local Council on Social Agencies. Like DeWitt, however, 'Gert,' as he called her, was a lover of rural life and in 1931 the Mallarys bought a place on Lake Morey in Fairlee, Vermont. There, their two boys, DeWitt and Richard, whiled away their summers as Gertrude read prodigiously and rode her mare, Beau Ideal. Then in 1936, they bought a beautiful farm on the lower plain of the Connecticut River lying between Bradford and Fairlee, establishing there a home and a herd of Holstein Friesian cattle.

The purchase of the farm marked a turning point. In 1942, with Richard, their younger son, Gertrude moved permanently to the Fairlee farm. She and DeWitt were co-owners of Mallery Farm and in 1953 he, too, moved to Fairlee. Until then DeWitt spent most weekdays in Springfield in pursuit of business matters. In those early years Gertrude supervised the work of the farm crew, sold milk to the Dartmouth Dairy in Hanover, New Hampshire, and with DeWitt planned next year's planting. With characteristic thoroughness, Gertrude set out to build a prize-winning herd. After World War II she and Richard visited Holstein herds in the northern states and lower Canadian provinces, selecting stock on the basis of superior milk production and physical type, thereby establishing the herd's blood line, 'Rag Apple.' The Mallarys' efforts were acknowledged by the Vermont Holstein Friesian Association with the 1979 Master Breeder Award. In fact, both Gertrude and DeWitt had been officers in state and regional Holstein breeding associations.

Energetic, public-spirited, and strongly opinionated, Gertrude

Mallery was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives in 1952 from the town of Fairlee, serving two terms through the 1956 session, after which she moved to the Senate and served in the 1957-58 session from Orange County. At first greeted with suspicion, Gertrude's forthrightness and civility overcame it and in both bodies she served on the agriculture and appropriations committees.

It was not Holsteins, however, that brought Gertrude Mallery and AAS together. Rather, it was her interest in Vermont history. I first met Gertrude in the mid-1950s, under the aegis of Harold Goddard Rugg, while working on a bibliography of early Vermont printing. Gertrude's collection of Vermontiana was then a good one, but in the following decades it became the finest private collection in existence. A supporter of good works, Gertrude served as the vice president for Vermont on the Committee for a New England Bibliography, a unique, ad hoc group that over a period of twenty-five years has published (by brute force) ten folio volumes exposing the printed materials of local history for each of the six New England states, as well as for New England as a region. Active in library affairs, Gertrude served on the Vermont Commission for Library Services, was president of the Vermont Library Trustees' Association, and was for years a stalwart supporter of the Fairlee Public Library. Also, Gertrude served as a trustee of the Vermont Historical Society from 1964 until 1970, being elected an honorary member of the Society in 1993. Gertrude was elected to the American Antiquarian Society at our April meeting in 1974. Generous with monetary contributions and with a continuing interest in AAS affairs, she only infrequently attended meetings.

Gertrude Mallery's great collection of Vermontiana was strong in local histories and in manuscripts. Her holdings of materials printed in Vermont became extraordinarily deep. I must admit there was not a little envy in Worcester when Gertrude snared previously unknown and/or important examples of early Vermont imprints. She, too, was not uncompetitive. A friendly rivalry resulted in exchanges of many letters between the upper valley of the Connecticut River and central Massachusetts announcing new-

found treasures. In fact, Gertrude was extremely helpful in maintaining an accurate record of Vermont printing, as supplements to *Vermont Imprints* amply show. In 1989 her granddaughter-in-law, Frances, compiled *Selections from the Vermont Library of Gertrude Mallary* in which nearly sixty of Gertrude's finest books and manuscripts are professionally described and handsomely presented. The list begins with a rare copy of Ethan Allen's *Vindication of the Inhabitants of Vermont to the Government of New-York*, printed in Dresden, Vermont (i.e., Hanover, New Hampshire), by Vermont's first printer, the copy owned by Roger Sherman, signer of the Declaration of Independence from Connecticut! A forty-eight-page appendix lists all (as of that date) of Gertrude's materials printed in Vermont from 1779 through 1820. Characteristically, Gertrude carefully considered how best her great collection could be used by future students and scholars. AAS and the University of Vermont were possible recipients of Gertrude's collection, which she ultimately bequeathed to UVM, complementing the Harold Rugg collection donated to the Vermont Historical Society in 1957. She explained her decision to AAS in a long, autograph letter dated October 22, 1993, which was answered with congratulations on her wise choice.

A beautiful woman, Gertrude was possessed of strong and confident opinions formed through constant reading and direct action. She was, as her son DeWitt put it, 'a philosophical rationalist.' Gertrude was, as well, a devoted follower of the fortunes of the Boston Red Sox (thereby disproving the last statement) and of the Boston Celtics. In all, she left a family legacy that includes an Episcopalian priest (son DeWitt), a Republican congressman from Vermont (son Richard), and a president of the Vermont Historical Society (grandson Peter). Still strong of mind and heart, Gertrude Mallary died in her one hundredth year at her Mallary Farm on March 2, 2002. Her life's partner, DeWitt, died in 1993. Gertrude is survived by her sons and their families and by known and unknown friends whose lives she influenced for good.

Marcus A. McCorison

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