

ROBERT GENE HAYMAN

Robert G. Hayman, a bookseller with an unparalleled knowledge of books of the American Midwest, was born April 23, 1921, in Carey, Ohio, to Hugh and Vivian (Twining) Hayman. Sports and the outdoors were important in his life, and he was a dedicated baseball fan and an avid bird watcher. Bob shared his life's vocation of books and avocation of birds with his wife Arne. He died on April 9, 2002.

After service in the United States Air Corps during World War II, Bob completed his college education at Findlay College with a B.A. in education. He taught for five years and then took a job with Ohio (later Marathon) Oil. His dream was to make a living in books. While working at Marathon he served as a book scout for the late bookseller Ernest Wessen (1887-1974), who was elected a member of AAS in 1962. Bob wrote of his mentor: 'He taught me the inner workings of the rare book trade. He had a fabulous mind and was extremely witty. I would never have made it without him.' By 1965, Bob was ready to set out on his own and go full-time in the rare book business.

Bob devoted most of his professional career to Americana and was particularly knowledgeable about materials from his home state. He worked with AAS for more than thirty years and provided invaluable assistance in our quest for Ohio imprints. This partnership between Bob and AAS was in fact a continuation of the special relationship AAS has had with the state of Ohio, which began with the publication of an article on Indian mounds in Circleville, Ohio, in the first volume of our scholarly journal, *Transactions and Collections of the American Antiquarian Society*. Currently, AAS is working with member Richard P. Morgan to enhance significantly our holdings of pre-1877 Ohio imprints.

Of his chosen career, Hayman said: 'In addition to the fun of hunting for rare books and the satisfaction of selling them to people and libraries who care, I've come into contact with some of the most interesting people in the world.' The feelings he held for

those he met through his business were reciprocated. AAS President Emeritus Marcus McCorison wrote: 'He has been a great help to AAS and a good friend.' The late Joe Dush, collector, local historian, and AAS member from Willard, Ohio, wrote: 'Bob has spent his adult life studying, finding and placing Americana. He greatly cares for it and the places where it is located.'

When Marcus was training me to be his successor for acquisitions, he said: 'Always read Bob's catalogues first, as soon as they arrive, and call in our order quickly.' It was good advice. My first solo purchases were from catalogue #140 (1991). I obviously didn't move fast enough, because five of the twelve items we wanted were sold by the time I phoned.

I was taken aback to learn Bob's assumption regarding a visit I paid him in Carey in 1995. He thought I had come, under the pretense of buying books, as an official representative from the Society to 'check him out' before electing him to membership. In fact, I was on my way to Dayton, Ohio, to visit family and re-routed my normal itinerary so I could meet him, buy some books, and try to impress him. I wanted him to think of me as a worthy successor to Marcus!

When he was elected a member of AAS in 1996, Bob wrote to Ellen Dunlap: 'I consider it a great honor to be a member of the Society and will do everything I can to support its worthy objectives.' Of course, he had already been supporting those objectives for decades. After his death, through the auspices of Rich Morgan, we were able to buy Bob's personal set of catalogues with his annotations of purchasers. They occupy a prominent place among our collection of dealers' catalogues. He was a partner with us in building our library, and his contributions will help generations of scholars.

Nancy Burkett

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