

FRANK OAKMAN SPINNEY

Frank O. Spinney, whose long career in curatorial work and museum administration culminated in his influential years as professor of museum studies at the University of the State of New York, Oneonta, and the New York State Historical Association in Cooperstown, died at Medford, New Jersey, on June 4, 2002, at the age of ninety-three.

Born in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1909, he grew up in Montclair, New Jersey, where his father was a successful advertising representative for major magazines. He graduated from Phillips Academy Andover in 1926, received a B.A. from Yale University in 1930, and an M.A. in history from Yale in 1937. He enlisted in the United States Army and served in the field artillery from 1944 to 1946. From 1930 to 1947, he taught Latin at New Haven High School and at Arnold College in New Haven. During these years he began writing and his articles were published in *The Magazine Antiques*, *California Historical Society Quarterly*, *New England Quarterly*, and *Old-Time New England*.

In 1947 Frank began his career in museum administration as director of the Manchester Historical Association in Manchester, New Hampshire. He moved on to Old Sturbridge Village as curator in 1950, becoming director of that museum in 1954 and president in 1960. During his tenure, most of the major buildings were acquired and moved to the site. Serious historical research was established as the basis for all restoration work at the Village and the number of exhibitions, educational programs, and demonstrations expanded greatly. During his years as curator, Frank was assigned the task of supervising the restoration of one of Isaiah Thomas's office buildings that had been moved from Worcester to the museum, developing an exhibition of typography and printing equipment, and setting up a demonstration of letterpress printing. Many of the pieces chosen for reproduction in the new printing office at the Village were broadsides and ballads from the American Antiquarian Society collections. Frank

insisted on accuracy in the reproductions and provided AAS with dated copies as a record of the work.

In 1962 Frank 'retired' from the Village to become director of the Augustus Saint-Gaudens Museum in Cornish, New Hampshire, where he was able to continue his extensive research on the life and work of the sculptor. It was largely through his efforts that the Saint-Gaudens property was named a national historic site in 1964, and the research collections containing Saint-Gaudens's correspondence and business records were transferred to the Rauner Library at Dartmouth College. These efforts to protect historic resources while securing both broad public access to the historic site and reliable scholarly access to the manuscript material reflect Frank's thorough understanding of the needs and interests of multiple audiences.

After leaving Saint-Gaudens, Frank devoted himself to the training of a new generation of museum curators and administrators as one of the founders of the master's degree programs at Cooperstown, New York, where he served as the first professor of museum studies, teaching courses in museum studies, interpretation, architectural history, art, and decorative arts for thirteen years until his final retirement. To this day, his former students fondly recall his dramatic stories, his practical workshops, and the legendary field trips to New England. On them, they not only observed successful exhibitions and programs, but also met museum professionals who would be their future colleagues, antique dealers from whom they would acquire collections, and great collectors such as Bertram K. and Nina Fletcher Little whose generosity with research was legendary. Frank not only had high academic standards for his students, but he made certain that they participated in handcraft process workshops, such as printing, etching, pottery, weaving, and woodworking, so that they could read three-dimensional objects as well as written documents. Further, he wanted his students to be prepared for the day-to-day realities of managing boards of trustees and understood the long hours and social activities necessary for engaging donors and eliciting gifts of

objects, useful information, and financial support. He wanted to be certain that his students would perpetuate his high standards in their own work and in that of the staff members and boards with whom they would work throughout their careers.

Frank wrote and published extensively throughout his long career and into retirement. His work can be found in scholarly journals and in more popular periodicals, with topics covering a wide range of historical topics as well as considerations of museum ethics, management practices, and object conservation. He also published a number of short stories, some of which focused on practical problems of museum administration. Indeed, his teaching was always characterized by stories, many of them told and retold to this day by his former students.

A legend in the museum field, Frank's advice and counsel were sought by many. He served as a trustee of Old Sturbridge Village, the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, and Hancock Shaker Village, as well as being a member of accreditation committees of the American Association of Museums.

Although born in New Jersey, Frank was proud of what he considered a 'true New England attitude.' He was thrifty to the point of being penurious, inclusive, formal in demeanor, and scrupulously ethical. A sailor, jazz aficionado, and devotee of life-long learning, Frank and his wife, Alice, carefully chose to live their last years at Medford Leas, a Quaker life-care community in New Jersey. There they continued to study, write, and inspire others. Ever interested in sharing his discoveries and enthusiasms, Frank served as a campus guide for prospective residents.

Frank was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society at the semiannual meeting of April 16, 1956, and was a faithful attendee at Society meetings over the next twenty-three years. He made extensive use of the collections in his own research, proposed new members, and provided wise counsel to the staff.

Frank's wife, Alice Earley Spinney, died on March 4, 2003. In their rich and deep partnership, she also served the museum field,

creating a seven-year index for *The Magazine Antiques*, founding the school admissions department at Old Sturbridge Village, handling publicity for the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, counseling and entertaining students in Cooperstown, and cultivating donors all along the way. The Spinneys are survived by their daughter, Jane Huber, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Jane C. Nylander

EDWARD CARLOS CARTER II

Edward Carlos Carter II, librarian of the American Philosophical Society and adjunct professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania, died on October 1, 2002, of a heart attack at the age of seventy-four. With his passing, we have lost a scholar of wide-ranging interests and accomplishments, a gifted administrator who implemented great changes in a major research library, a popular teacher of both undergraduates and graduate students, and an unstinting friend and colleague to many. All who had the privilege of knowing him will remember Ted Carter for his unbridled ebullience and generosity of spirit.

Ted Carter was born in Rochester, New York, on January 10, 1928. He attended Phillips Academy Andover, where he was an outstanding athlete on the football and track teams. In the fall of 1946 he enlisted in the United States Army, and was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division. Following basic training in the United States, Ted spent the remainder of his two-year hitch with the Army of Occupation in Japan. While there he continued to compete in track events and won the 100-meter and 200-meter sprints while representing his regiment at the all-Japan championships. Returning to the United States, Ted attended college on the GI Bill and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1954. After a brief experiment with law school, he went on to receive a Ph.D. in modern European history from

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