

Obituaries

BRUCE GODDARD DANIELS

Bruce Goddard Daniels, the son of Fred Harold Daniels and Eleanor Grace Goddard Daniels, passed away in Lincoln, Massachusetts, on April 26, 2002, at age seventy-seven. Born on March 9, 1924, Daniels grew up in the 'back yard' of the American Antiquarian Society. His family lived at 2 Regent Street, across from his grandparents at 190 Salisbury Street. In 1935, when Bruce was ten, his grandmother, Georgia Grace Goddard died, and 190 Salisbury Street became home for Bruce, his parents, and his older sister Eleanor.

This building now belongs to the American Antiquarian Society and is known as the Goddard-Daniels House. Mrs. Fred Harris Daniels deeded the house to AAS in 1970, retaining a lifetime tenancy in it. Upon her death in 1980, the house passed to AAS. It quickly became the center for activities of the fellowship program and serves as housing for visiting fellows, offices for several of the staff, and a gathering place for seminars and meetings of all kinds. Among Bruce's many gifts to AAS were the Daniels Family portraits that look so elegant in the public spaces.

Daniels graduated from Deerfield Academy and attended Yale University and Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Elected to membership in AAS in 1968, he became a very active member. He was a member of several Council committees, treasurer from 1972 to 1989, and secretary for domestic correspondence from 1992 to 1998, retiring from the Council in that year.

For more than twenty-five years, Daniels continued his family's philanthropic tradition as the president of the Fred Harris Daniels

Foundation. Supportive of many Worcester nonprofit organizations, the foundation granted funds to AAS that were used to underwrite the early years of the fellowship program and, later, the maintenance of the Goddard-Daniels House. The foundation supported many other activities of AAS, including the campaign that raised funds for the new stack addition completed in 2002.

Daniels was also a trustee of the Worcester Art Museum, Old Sturbridge Village, Worcester Academy, and Nichols College, which awarded him an honorary degree in 1990. Continuing another family tradition, he was a Mason, belonging to the Quinsigamond Lodge. In 1948 he began a career as a dealer in rare stamps and coins, first in New York City and then in Boston, as principal of Bruce G. Daniels Coins and Stamps and a partner in Mayflower Coin Auctions. At his death, he was considered the foremost dealer of rare stamps and coins in the Boston area. He made a point of using interesting and colorful stamps, often in small denominations, on envelopes sent to AAS. One of the envelopes received by AAS in 2002 bore four different three-cent stamps, a nine-cent stamp, and a thirteen-cent stamp. Over the years, the stamps ended up in the hands of stamp collectors on the staff. His personal collecting interest was Civil War-era postage marks from the Worcester area. His other interests included music, theatre, travel, and tennis.

He married Janet Beach in 1948. Bruce and Janet Daniels enjoyed the AAS semiannual meetings held in so many different places over the years. He is survived by his wife and their five children; and many grandchildren, a great grandson, and many nieces and nephews.

Georgia B. Barnhill
Caroline F. Sloat

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