

Obituaries

WILLIAM HENRY BOND

William Henry Bond, librarian of the Houghton Library at Harvard University from 1965 to 1982, died on November 18, 2005, in Concord, Massachusetts, where he had lived for more than fifty years. Elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in April 1965, he served on the Council from 1975 to 1989, and as an Honorary Councillor from 1991 until his death.

Born on August 14, 1915, in York, Pennsylvania, he was the only child of Walter and Ethel (Bossert) Bond. Educated in the York public schools, he went on to Haverford College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and earned an A. B. in 1937, and to graduate study in English philology at Harvard. He was awarded an M. A. in 1938 and a Ph.D. in 1942. He was a Sheldon Traveling Fellow in 1940-41 and a Research Fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library in 1941-42. When he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for 1952-1953, he and his young family spent a memorable year in London, where Bill worked at the British Museum and formed many friendships and associations that continued throughout his life and career.

After military service in World War II, which he spent in Washington deciphering Japanese codes, Bill returned to Harvard and to a long career at the Houghton Library, first as assistant to Librarian William A. Jackson from 1946 to 1948, then as curator of manuscripts from 1948 to 1964. Upon Jackson's death, he advanced to the post of librarian in 1965, which he held until retirement in 1982. He continued as professor of bibliography to

1986, and since then has been librarian of the Houghton Library and professor of bibliography, emeritus. At the Houghton, Bill Bond was highly regarded and much beloved by the staff, in whom he inspired loyalty and collegiality. His long friendships with collectors like Arthur Amory Houghton, Jr., and Mary Hyde Eccles brought significant additions to the library's collection.

In Bill Bond's long list of publications, the name Thomas Hollis (1720-74) appears prominently. A major benefactor of Harvard College and its library in the eighteenth century, notably after the fire of 1764, Hollis captured Bill Bond's attention and admiration. His Sandars Lectures in Bibliography at Cambridge University in 1982 resulted in the publication of *Thomas Hollis of Lincoln's Inn: A Whig and His Books* in 1990. Other William H. Bond publications include *The Houghton Library, 1942-1967* (1967) and *The Printed Catalogues of the Harvard College Library, 1723-1790* (1996), which he edited with Hugh Amory. At the end of his life, Bill had recently completed a checklist of Hollis's gifts to the Harvard Library and was preparing an introduction.

Bill Bond was president of the Bibliographical Society of America from 1974 to 1976. A member of the Bibliographical Society, London, he served as its honorary secretary for America from 1964 to 1992. Bill was elected to membership in the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1965 and to the Colonial Society of Massachusetts in the same year. He was president of the Colonial Society from 1982 to 1993. At the Massachusetts Historical Society he served on the Library Committee, and is still remembered as the first person to bring a laptop computer into the reading room, where he was the object of considerable curiosity. In 1967 Bill Bond was elected a trustee of Historic Deerfield and played a major role in the development of that museum and its library until 1991. He was vice-president of the Historic Deerfield board from 1982 to 1987, and served as an honorary trustee from 1991 to his death. Bill was elected to the Grolier Club, and valued especially his association with the Club of Odd Volumes, where he served as president from 1970 to 1973.

In 1943 Bill married Helen Elizabeth Lynch, a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, who died in 1999. He is survived by two daughters, Nancy Bond of Concord, and Sally Bond, and her husband Joseph Picardi, and their daughter Molly, of Acton, Massachusetts.

When, in 1951, Rupert Maclaurin of the MIT Economics faculty proposed the development of small houses in a wooded area of Concord, the Bonds were among the first 'settlers' of Conantum. Bill and Helen lived there happily for the remainder of their lives, observing the change of the seasons and the bird life of this enclave. Nancy Bond continues to live in the house that they built in 1951-52. Bill's last public presentation was on October 22, 2005, when he offered remarks and reminiscences at the dedication of a bench in one of Conantum's common spaces, a ball field, in memory of Rupert Maclaurin and the creation of Conantum.

In Concord Bill was an active and useful citizen. He was a trustee of the Concord Free Public Library from 1966 to 1971. He served as a trustee of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association, and on the boards of the Louisa May Alcott Memorial Association and the Kalmia Woods Corporation.

For his contributions to Concord, to Harvard, to the international company of bibliophiles, and to his legions of friends, William H. Bond will be sorely missed, but long remembered.

Donald Friary

RICHARD W. COUPER

RICHARD W. COUPER, elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in 1975, died at New Hartford, New York, on January 25, 2006, after a long illness. His thirty-year membership in the Society was marked by sporadic participation in its programs as permitted by his many commitments (for example,

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