

chapter of Phi Beta Kappa inaugurated the Richard W. Couper Annual Library Lecture (appropriately enough, since his grandfather Walter T. Couper in 1892 was the first full-time paid employee of the college library).

A long-time member of the Grolier Club, Couper was a modest book collector whose passions included Frances Parkman, Dr. Johnson, and various editions of the Bible. He was perhaps a less modest collector of institutions, serving at various times on over sixty boards, ranging from banking institutions to Phi Beta Kappa. The latter has sponsored an annual Richard W. Couper scholarly lecture, as well as Phi Beta Kappa Couper Scholars who represent the organization throughout the country.

Deeply loyal to a large number of institutions, Couper maintained an active correspondence in his retirement with the staff of these institutions. It was characteristic of him to write congratulatory notes to new appointees, and frequently to express gratitude and admiration to those who remained in place. He remained an active squash and tennis player until his knees gave way in his seventies. With all his accomplishments, Couper maintained a puckish self-deprecating humor to the end. He enjoyed hearing his wife Patsy tell the story about how, during his tenure at NYPL, he met the actress Kim Novak, who complimented him on his full eyebrows, ensuring their enshrinement in the memory of friends and colleagues. A man of exceptional ability, commitment, and kindness, he will be greatly missed.

David H. Stam

ALAN MANNERS VOORHEES

Alan M. Voorhees, who was born on December 17, 1922, died on December 18, 2005, in Virginia. A New Jersey native, Al Voorhees interrupted his studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) to enlist in the armed forces in World War II. He served with

great bravery in the United States Navy and was decorated with the Silver Star and the Bronze Star. It was in the dangerous work of charting shorelines for underwater demolition during the Allied invasions of Pacific islands that his intuitive talents for mapping were first evident. After the war he completed his formal education at RPI and MIT, where he earned a master's degree in city planning. His pioneering mathematical models made the interstate highway system feasible, and his consulting firm, which grew into one of the world's largest, planned the roads and subways of four national capitals, including Washington, D.C. After selling his firm, he became the dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Urban Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle. As an urban planner, he was responsible for developments in Virginia and the Washington metropolitan area. One of his companies developed top-secret satellite mapping capabilities. He founded an airline, set up a nature preserve, and supported the Civil War Maps Digital Project at the Library of Congress.

As president of the Virginia Historical Society, I came to know Al best through his service as one of its trustees. He shared his knowledge, wisdom, and considerable expertise as a member of the buildings and grounds, finance, and collections and conservation committees. He was most animated when he talked about his beloved historical maps, and he was generous in giving some of the rarest of them to the VHS, along with funding to conserve them. But even greater than his support for acquiring maps and documents was his zeal for providing intellectual access to them.

He was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in April 2000 and appreciated his association with the library and with his fellow collectors among the membership. His wife of fifty-one years, Nathalie P. Voorhees, died in 2000. They are survived by their daughters, Nancy Voorhees and Susan V. Hunt, their son Scott, and six grandchildren.

Despite towering accomplishments in urban planning and transportation, map-making and philanthropy, Al Voorhees remained a

modest, mild, and unassuming man who never boasted of these achievements. An inquisitive, original thinker on an astonishing array of subjects throughout his life, he conveyed his enthusiasm with quiet grace to those around him.

Charles F. Bryan

JOHN PARKER

It is a pity that the expression, 'gentleman and scholar' has been reduced to a cliché from overuse, its significance thereby diminished. For if ever anyone deserved that appellation in its original sense it was Dr. John Parker (universally known to his colleagues and friends as Jack).

When the prominent philanthropist James Ford Bell, founder and chairman of General Mills, engaged young Parker to be librarian of his collection of rare books relating to world trade and early exploration of North America, a remarkably productive partnership resulted. Jack had completed his work in library school and was finishing a bibliographical history of English literature regarding the overseas world up to 1620, the thesis for his Ph.D. For the next eight years, until Bell's death, as Jack gained experience working with the private collection which became the nucleus of the Bell Library; they worked as a team. Numerous trips together to Europe inaugurated relationships with key rare book dealers resulting in the acquisition of important items for the Bell Collection.

Parker is perhaps best remembered for his accomplishments in the 1953 birth and subsequent development of the James Ford Bell Collection of the University of Minnesota. His well-selected acquisitions added both luster and depth. In the tradition of his contemporaries in a generation of scholar-librarians and their predecessors at AAS, Houghton, John Carter Brown, Library Company, Folger, and Newberry, Parker made the Bell much

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