

sweetheart in the film *Ceiling Zero*. After her marriage, she shared Russ's enthusiasm for collecting and gathered important Shaker manuscripts on her own.

I've always been grateful to Russ for his generosity in sharing the historical treasures he found. When I was asked to give a bicentennial lecture at the Essex Institute, I seized the opportunity to show my appreciation and led the audience in three rousing cheers for Russ—a Marbleheader whose self-possession and preference for privacy did not allow for public recognition of his achievements and philanthropies.

George Athan Billias

HALL JAMES PETERSON

Enthusiastic, impetuous, voluble, affectionate, generous, loyal, and courageous—those are personal attributes that characterize Hall James Peterson, who died of cancer on March 6, 1994, at his home, Clamber Hill in Petersham, Massachusetts.

Hall was born on June 4, 1939, in Minneapolis. He was the son of Ernest K. and Isabel E. Hall Peterson and was raised in the Twin Cities and graduated from St. Thomas College in St. Paul. While still a young man, Hall developed an abiding interest in the arts and matters of the mind and was elected to the board of trustees of the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Hall and Kate Butler, also of the Twin Cities, were married in 1963. Their family consists of two sons, Temple and Jude, and a daughter, Aimee. As in all things to which he gave his loyalty and love, Hall unstintingly supported each member of his family according to their needs. In 1973 they moved to Petersham, a pleasant country town once well known as a summer resort, in order to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to Aimee at the Clark School for the Deaf in nearby Northampton.

In Massachusetts, as he had in his home state, Hall immersed himself in service to regional and local cultural institutions, at first at the Mead Art Museum at Amherst College, where he served for many years as the chairman of its Associates and as honorary curator of special exhibitions. In Worcester, he was a trustee of the Worcester Art Museum from 1976 through 1985 and again from 1986 through 1989 and Vice President of its Board, 1978 through 1985. As was their habit, he and Mrs. Peterson provided substantial financial support to the institutions with which they became involved. At the Art Museum they established the Hall and Kate Peterson Fund for Photography. Following his retirement from active duty he was named an honorary trustee and characteristically retained a lively interest in its affairs. The Higgins Armory Museum also elected him a trustee and, farther afield, he became very active at Historic Deerfield as Vice President of its Board of Directors. There, the Petersons established two endowment funds: one for the purchase of paintings, prints, drawings, and photographs, the other for the purchase of 'minor' antiques. In later years, Hall became closely associated with the Trustees of Reservations, a Massachusetts organization devoted to the preservation of unique geographical locales. He served that organization as its President, which office he held at the time of his death.

Hall Peterson was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society at the April 1979 meeting. He frequently attended meetings of the Society. In September of 1984 Kate and Hall were hosts at Clamber Hill of a memorable gathering of the Worcester Association for the Mutual Aid in Detecting Thieves. As was the case with 'their' other organizations Hall and Kate were gratifyingly generous to AAS. They established an endowment fund here at the time he was elected a member with a gift of \$2,500. By late 1980 they had made the first of many additions to their fund with a gift of \$5,000. As well, through the years they continued to make significant responses to our appeals for annual operating funds. At present, the Hall and Kate Peterson Fund stands at \$295,760.

Income from the fund is used to defray the annual cost and support of some ten short-term Peterson Fellowships.

Hall Peterson was the 'complete clubman' and he relished the society of lively and amusing people. He retained membership in the Minneapolis Club (putting up his friends there when they traveled to the Twin Cities) and enjoyed the pleasures of the St. Botolph Club in Boston. Hall held his own in any group, being willing and able to discuss any topic, particularly those he himself put on the agenda. Indeed, his luncheon partners had to break into the flow to get a word in edgewise.

Gregarious and garrulous, he was also brave. At the time of our last lunch together, Hall was much wasted by the forward march of his illness; but, although he wondered aloud why this trial had been visited upon him, he announced that he would not be defeated by it. Death overtook him not long afterwards. Hall Peterson, however, was not defeated. He died secure in his faith, convinced that life was worth living to the full.

Marcus A. McCorison

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