

He died at his home in Chisseaux, France, on January 7, 2001, leaving his wife Marie-Louise de Croy Adams, four daughters by previous marriages, a sister, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. To three generations of collectors he was the ideal rare-book librarian, an able administrator always ready to preach the primacy of originals in art, literature, and history.

John Bidwell

C. E. FRAZER CLARK, JR.

C. E. Frazer Clark, Jr., of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan—book enthusiast, businessman, editor, scholar, and publisher—died on June 9, 2001, at the age of 75. He had been a member of the American Antiquarian Society since 1974. He is survived by his wife Margaret Ann, whom he married in 1953, and two sons, Douglas and C. E. Frazer Clark III.

A lifetime Michigan resident, he was the son of Colonel C. E. Frazer Clark, a public school administrator. He studied briefly at the University of Michigan before the outbreak of World War II. A volunteer for military service, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. After the war he entered Kenyon College, where his initial interest in Nathaniel Hawthorne was spurred by one of his English professors. Thus began a lifelong love affair with the works of Hawthorne and eventually with the pleasures of book collecting. In 1957 Wayne State University awarded him an M.A. for his thesis, 'Nathaniel Hawthorne, the Artist, a Self-Portrait.'

Part of a tradition in American publishing that extends from the Knickerbocker writers to Wallace Stevens, Frazer Clark balanced a career in business with a passion for books and the written word. Indeed, in his young manhood he produced a volume of poems that was privately printed. Even after launching a series of notable publishing ventures, he acknowledged, 'It wasn't long before I realized that I was the businessman who still wanted to be

a poet.' As productive as he became as a Hawthorne bibliographer and scholar, he consistently referred to his literary activity as a part-time venture or a hobby. For many years he was president of Paramarketing, Inc., a Detroit public relations and marketing firm.

The businessman's avocation in book collecting took a more serious turn in 1951 when he encountered a first edition of *The Scarlet Letter*, inscribed by Hawthorne's publisher James T. Fields, in a Detroit bookshop. The volume was priced at \$45. Inspecting the book, Clark discovered on the free endpaper something the bookseller had not noted: the signature, 'Nath Hawthorne.' The bookseller was obliged to sell the item, which would have attracted a huge price at an auction, at the price marked in it at the time.

In 1962 the Detroit businessman sent a letter to Professor Matthew J. Bruccoli, who had taken charge of the *Centenary Edition of the Works of Nathaniel Hawthorne*, published by Ohio State University Press. Clark generously offered Bruccoli and his associates access to his Hawthorne collection. This letter initiated a lifelong friendship and collaboration with Bruccoli that would lead to a series of successful publishing ventures. Their company, then called Bruccoli Clark, was founded in 1962 with an eye toward publishing limited editions of literary works. Among their first projects were editions of contemporary authors as well as facsimiles of American fictional classics.

A colleague in the Friends of the Detroit Public Library and the Detroit Book Club was Frederick Ruffner, president of Gale Research, Inc. He invited Clark and Bruccoli to develop a series of reference books in the field of literary biography. The *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, now standard fare in reference sections of public and university libraries, was the result of their collaborative plan. The first volume, *The American Renaissance in New England*, appeared in 1978. Frazer Clark was the managing editor for this inaugural volume. As this issue of the *Proceedings* appears, the *DLB*, required reading for many students and scholars, covers the gamut of English, American, and foreign literatures, and remains faithful to its initial and guiding purpose: 'The literature of

a nation provides an inexhaustible resource of permanent worth. Our purpose is to make literature and its creators better understood and more accessible to students and the reading public, while satisfying the needs of teachers and researchers.'

For some book collectors, first editions and keepsake items are prized treasures, coveted for their monetary value and lodged safely and quietly on shelves, never to be used. For Frazer Clark, books were for practical or scholarly use, and the results of his research on them were shared as widely as possible. His *Nathaniel Hawthorne: A Descriptive Bibliography*, published in 1978, is still regarded as the standard resource in the field. His work on that volume led to a series of articles on Hawthorne's manuscripts, letters, and public activities. Clark, in a sense, regarded himself as a temporary custodian of his Hawthorne materials, and in 1983 the Essex Institute and the House of the Seven Gables acquired the C. E. Frazer Clark collection of more than 30,000 items. This collection of more than eight thousand books, pamphlets, periodicals, prints, photographs, and manuscripts had been gathered over a period of thirty years of avid hunting and collecting. Most of this material became available to students and scholars at the Institute; several items became part of the permanent exhibit at the House of the Seven Gables where today's visitors can observe the stamp stencil that Hawthorne used when he was port surveyor in Salem and the document case he used when he was U.S. consul to Liverpool.

With David B. Kesterson, Frazer Clark founded the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society in 1974, and he served as the society's president in 1977-78. He founded the *Nathaniel Hawthorne Journal*, which he coedited with Bruccoli from 1971-78. Among his other Hawthorne-related publications were *The Merrill Checklist of Nathaniel Hawthorne* (1970) and *Hawthorne at Auction* (1972). Throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s, he was a genial and friendly presence at society gatherings, especially in settings that had special meaning for Hawthorne: Brunswick, Maine; Concord and Salem, Massachusetts. As a member of the 'Hawthorne com-

munity,' he was an unselfish scholar, always willing to share an insight or a recent discovery with a graduate student or a more experienced colleague. As one of his sons noted, 'He loved sharing his knowledge and giving other people that same passion.'

When exciting Hawthorne items became scarce, he turned his attention to the works of Ernest Hemingway. With Bruccoli he coedited the *Fitzgerald/Hemingway Annual* (1969-79), and the two friends and business partners collaborated on *Hemingway at Auction* (1973). Another indispensable research tool for students of contemporary literature was *First Printings of American Authors* in four volumes (1977-79), for which Frazer Clark served as managing editor.

When Frazer Clark entered semiretirement in 1983, Bruccoli Clark Layman had a greatly expanded staff, and its activities in the field of reference-book publishing had extended beyond its existing arrangement with Gale Research to diverse ventures with other firms and outlets. As he noted during one of the firm's phases of expansion, 'We will not grow at the expense of how we wanted to publish books' (i.e., high quality would be maintained). Including volumes in its documentary series and its yearbooks, the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* series has sustained that tradition of excellence in publishing, and it now numbers more than three hundred volumes. The *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Yearbook 2001* is appropriately dedicated to the memory of C. E. Frazer Clark, Jr.

Kent P. Ljungquist

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.