

JAMES ALEXANDER ROBERTSON

James Alexander Robertson, archivist and historian of the Philippines and of Latin America, died at Annapolis, Md., March 20, 1939. He was born at Corry, Penn., August 19, 1873, the son of John McGregor and Elizabeth (Borrowman) Robertson. He was graduated from Adelbert College of Western Reserve University with the degree of Ph.B. in 1896. From 1902 to 1909 he conducted research in the archives and libraries of Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, England and the United States. For six years he was librarian of the Philippine Library at Manila, for two years with the historical research department of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, for six years with the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington, and then for ten years served as research professor of American history at John B. Stetson University. In 1935 he was appointed archivist at the Hall of Records in Annapolis and there remained until his death. He married March 4, 1912, Cora Moore Halsey of Oshkosh, Wis., and had three children. He received the honorary degree of L.H.D. from Western Reserve University in 1906.

Dr. Robertson was a prolific writer and editor in the field of Latin American studies and was managing editor of the "Hispanic American Historical Review" from the time of its establishment. He was translator and editor, with Emma H. Blair, of the fifty-five volume work, "The Philippine Islands," compiled a "Bibliography of the Philippine Islands" in 1908, compiled two volumes of documents, "Louisiana Under the Rule of Spain, France and the United States," and edited either alone or with collaboration nearly seventy volumes of documents and original narratives. As executive secretary of the Florida Historical Society, he greatly aided the cause of Florida history by securing from the Spanish Archives copies and transcripts of documents relating to that State. As archivist of Maryland, he made his department of service throughout the country, and added to the prestige of Maryland history.

Dr. Robertson was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1924, and in 1929 contributed to its Proceedings a paper on "Spanish Manuscripts of the Florida State Historical Society." He was a constant correspondent, and aided the Society, as he did all inquiring researchers, in solving problems in his field.

C. S. B.

PHILIP LEFFINGWELL SPALDING

Philip Leffingwell Spalding, banker and collector, died at his home in Milton, Mass., December 4, 1938. He was born at Ithaca, N. Y., June 27, 1871, the son of James Field and Mary (Harper) Spalding. After preparing for college at Noble's School in Boston, he entered Harvard from which he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1892, followed by the degrees of A.M. in 1893 and S.B. in 1894. In 1895 he became associated as engineer with the Bell Telephone Company of Philadelphia, and remained in that city for seventeen years, rising to the position of general manager. In 1912 he came to Boston to become president of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company. He retained this position for seven years, when he resigned to become a partner in the firm of Estabrook and Company, bankers, where he remained until his death. He was in service in France in the World War and was promoted to the rank of Colonel. He was married October 10, 1900, to Katherine Hobart Ames, daughter of Oakes Angier Ames, of North Easton, Mass., and had three children—Philip, Oakes Ames and Hobart Ames Spalding, who with their mother, survived him.

Mr. Spalding was a zealous collector, much interested in early American silver, upon which subject he was an authority. His collecting tastes caused his election to the Club of Odd Volumes in Boston, and he was a constant attendant at its meetings. He was appointed Honorary Curator of Early American Silver of the Museum of Fine Arts of Boston in 1938. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1926, and always evidenced a keen interest in the Society, making frequent gifts to its Library.

C. S. B.

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