

Society in 1925. He was a frequent attendant at its meetings and a constant visitor to the Library. He left a bequest of \$1000 to the Society. He was a man of culture, enthusiasm in research, and friendliness in personal contacts.

C. S. B.

ALFRED CLAGHORN POTTER

Alfred Claghorn Potter was born at New Bedford on April 4, 1867, a son of the Reverend William James Potter, a Unitarian minister, and Elizabeth Claghorn (Babcock) Potter. He was prepared for college at Friends' Academy in New Bedford, and was graduated at Harvard in 1889. On January 1 of that year he had already begun, as a part-time assistant, his almost half century of service in the Harvard College Library. In 1904 he became assistant librarian, and in 1928, librarian. During the greater part of this period he kept in his hands the purchase of books for the institution which he saw grow from a good college library to one of the greatest scholars' libraries in the world. During his career the library grew ten-fold. Of course the greater part of this increase was automatic, but the determination of the quality of it was largely his work, for he selected perhaps a million of the accessions. Not satisfied with the catalogues of secondhand dealers, he made ten expeditions to the bookstores of Europe. With good reason the Friends of the Harvard College Library recognized his services by a special bookplate.

Mr. Potter was a member of the Bibliographical Society of America, the Cambridge Historical Society, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Club of Odd Volumes, the International Tabakwischenschaftliche Gesellschaft, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Massachusetts

Library Club. He was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in April, 1918, and usually gave it the support of his presence at meetings, although he could never be induced to read a paper. Our bookplate collection attracted his attention and in consequence was enriched by the addition of all new Harvard plates. As a scholar he was unfortunately shy, and for that reason preserved his knowledge for posterity only in a series of careful articles, most of which appeared in the various publications of Harvard University and of the Colonial Society, but by their quality demanded and obtained reprints. The best known of these are a "Bibliography of Beaumont and Fletcher," "Librarians of Harvard College, 1667-1877," "Descriptive and Historical Notes on the Library of Harvard University," the "Harvard College Library, 1723-1736," "Catalogues of John Harvard's Library," and "Some Early Books on Tobacco."

On September 1, 1936, Mr. Potter retired from the Harvard library and betook himself once more to London, where for two months he renewed his old acquaintances in the book shops. On his return to this country he went to California, where he spent his winters in Pasadena and his summers at San Clemente. Unable to keep away from books, he became a volunteer associate at the Henry E. Huntington Library, where he made a subject index for certain portions of the rare book collection, a task calling for learning like his own. His letters to us back in New England were as kind and as quick to praise a good work done as he always was in his years with us. He died on November 1, 1940, leaving a widow, Edith Van Der Zee, and a daughter, Elizabeth (Mrs. Stedman B. Hoar).

C. K. S.

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