

Obituaries

CHARLES McLEAN ANDREWS

Charles McLean Andrews was one of the great figures of that passing generation of American historians who took history from the field of literature and made it, as much as possible, a science. He came from an old New Haven colony family and was born at Wethersfield on February 22, 1863, a son of the Reverend William Watson and Elizabeth Byrne (Williams) Andrews. From Trinity College, where he was graduated in 1884, he proceeded to Johns Hopkins where he became a master of the nascent scientific approach to history.

These young Johns Hopkins men were so much better fitted than the older generation of college professors that they were snapped up at once, and Andrews went to Bryn Mawr as Associate in History in 1889, the year in which he took his doctorate. After eighteen years there he went to Johns Hopkins as Professor of History, and in 1910 he became Farnam Professor of American History at Yale where he remained until his retirement from active teaching in 1931. These years saw a steady procession of books from his pen, the first being his doctoral dissertation, *The River Towns of Connecticut*. There followed several works on Europe, Asia, and Africa, but it was the appearance in 1904 of his *Colonial Self-Government, 1652-1689* (volume five in the American Nation Series) which established his fame. Less well known, but beyond measure useful to the student of history, were his guides to American material in the British archives. All the threads of his lifetime of research and teaching were gathered up in 1934 in the first volume of

his monumental *Colonial Period of American History* which received the Pulitzer Prize. This and the three subsequent volumes of the work which appeared before his death will be, for this generation at least, the definitive work on colonial history from the institutional side.

This work is the crystallized essence of a lifetime of teaching which was far more important than any series of books could be. Dr. Andrews was one of the men most responsible for the introduction into this country of the German method of the accurate and critical use of source material, although his own inspiration came from Maitland and that generation of English scholars. As a member of the Public Archives Commission from 1901 to 1915 he provided tools as well as teaching the use of them. Perhaps one reason for his concentration on American colonial history, in which he had been interested from childhood, was the fact that this field, more than any other, needed thorough and dispassionate study. It was almost completely obscured by romance and prejudice. Dr. Andrews' approach was by way of the study of institutions which could be grasped more easily for thorough study than could the shifting materials of the social and economic historian. He demonstrated by his study of institutions that the colonies could be understood only if examined in the perspective of English history as parts of a colonial system rather than as incipient states. In this way he not only dispelled popular prejudices but corrected in students of history the tendency, born of the new enthusiasm for the minute study of sources, to narrow the field of study until perspective was lost.

The public was not in a position to recognize the importance of Dr. Andrews in his generation, but his fellow scholars did. In 1925 he was president of the American Historical Association, and Harvard and Yale and other institutions gave him honorary degrees. The National Insti-

tute of Arts and Letters awarded him its gold medal in 1937. He was a member of such honorary organizations as the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Philosophical Society, but unlike most busy professional historians found time to be a member of every state historical society from Massachusetts to Maryland.

At the October, 1907, meeting of this Society there were elected to membership Charles McLean Andrews, Herbert Putnam, James Schouler, and Frederick Jackson Turner. At the October meeting of 1914 Dr. Andrews read a paper on "The Royal Disallowance of Colonial Laws." Those of us who knew him only through contacts at the meetings of professional societies found him charming, modest, brilliant, and witty, and we envy those who had the opportunity of studying under him.

Dr. Andrews died at New Haven on September 9, 1943, survived by his widow, the former Evangeline Holcomb Walker, by their daughter, Ethel (Mrs. John M. Harlan), and their son, John Williams Andrews. C. K. S.

WINTHROP HILLYER DUNCAN

Winthrop Hillyer Duncan, bibliophile and book collector, died suddenly at Concord, New Hampshire, July 20, 1943, when visiting that city for historical research. He was born at Lowell, Massachusetts, June 24, 1872, the son of William W. and Mary H. Duncan. After a preparatory education at Holderness School and Phillips Andover Academy, he entered Yale University from which he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1894, followed by the degree of LL.B. from Yale Law School in 1896. He began the practice of law in New York City, but most of his legal life was spent in Brooklyn, where he maintained his residence. He married, June 30, 1899, Louise H. Duncan of Scranton, Pennsylvania,

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