

sonality. His thoughtfulness was unusual. If because he was not feeling well we expressed worry about the long hot train trip to the Pacific which he faced, he would write to reassure us of his safe return home. He was elected to membership in this Society in April, 1932. He was somewhat apologetic about being a "silent member," as he called it, and tried to make up for his inability to attend meetings by sending us reprints of his articles.

Judge Howay died, while still at the height of his activity as an historian, on October 4, 1943. His wife and daughter died before him, but he is survived by a brother, Colin Howay, and by two sisters, Mrs. James Young, of Vancouver, and Mrs. J. C. Wilson, of White Rock. His library and manuscripts were left to the University of British Columbia.

C. K. S.

GRENVILLE KANE

Grenville Kane, the dean of American book collectors, died at his home in Tuxedo Park, New York, July 17, 1943. He was born at New Rochelle, New York, July 12, 1854, the son of Pierre Corné and Edith (Brevoort) Kane. He attended St. Paul's School at Concord, and was graduated from Trinity College in 1875. Three years later he received the degree of LL.B. from Columbia University School of Law, although he never engaged in the practice of law in succeeding years. He was a member of the firm of T. Suffern Tailer and Co., bankers, from 1906 to 1922. He was a director of several banks and railroads, and continued in an advisory capacity upon various boards until his partial retirement in 1927. He had an expert knowledge of railroad finance and management. He married, April 28, 1881, Margaret A. Wolfe who died in 1940. He was survived by five daughters.

Mr. Kane was one of the founders of Tuxedo Park, and with Pierre Lorillard in 1881 helped to lay out this attractive residential district, in which community he took an active interest until his death. He was always an ardent sportsman. A founder of the Tuxedo Golf Club, where the first international golf match was held, he won the Club championship in four years between 1901 and 1907. He was for many years fleet captain of the New York Yacht Club and attracted attention in the late 1880's when he sailed the racing yacht *Ailsa* across the Atlantic to take part in the Cowes Regatta. He was an expert billiard player and was much interested in tennis. He is said not to have missed a Newport Tennis Week in more than forty-five years.

Mr. Kane spent much of the latter part of his life collecting and enjoying his library. Possessed of a love of books and an unusual discrimination, he gathered one of the finest private libraries in the country, notable in early American discovery and voyages, and specializing in later fields. He owned three editions of the Columbus Letter, a fine set of Ptolemy, an almost complete set of Hulsius, the narratives of Vespuccius and Cortes, the 1599 Hakluyt, the scarce Brereton Relation of 1602, and a large paper copy of John Smith's General Historie of 1624, in a ducal binding. Although he owned comparatively few of the seventeenth century books relating to New England, he favored Virginia, where he owned most of the Virginia Tracts of 1609-1625. Among collections in which he specialized were the Arnold-André books with nearly all of the editions of the André trial, contemporary material relating to John Paul Jones, and a notable collection of the editions of Washington's Will. He possessed three books from George Washington's library and the exceedingly rare Chastellux Voyage of 1781 printed on the press of the French fleet in Newport Harbor.

In the field of manuscripts, especially in his later years, he

sought the manuscripts of the classical authors and had an outstanding collection, with some of the manuscripts dating back to the fourteenth century. He possessed over ninety specimens of incunabula, some of them, like the 1470 Sallust, being the only copies known in America. He once owned a large collection of George Washington's letters, but in a moment of weakness, influenced by the persuasiveness of George D. Smith, he let these go at what he thought was a fabulous figure, and today they are in the Huntington Library. This transaction, he once told me, he greatly regretted. Like a true collector he hated to part with his treasures. Because of his knowledge and his friendliness he strongly influenced a considerable number of younger collectors, who became almost his disciples and his pupils.

Mr. Kane was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1927. I dined with him occasionally at the New York Yacht Club and once spent a memorable afternoon inspecting his library at Tuxedo Park. When I was preparing a history of American auction firms, I found that Mr. Kane and the late William E. Benjamin were my best sources of information for the dealers of sixty years ago. Mr. Kane told me that his first auction was the Murphy Sale of March, 1884, at Leavitt's, where he started his library by purchasing two or three inexpensive Americana. It was in 1885 that he bought from David Francis, the New York antiquarian bookseller, his Massachusetts Laws of 1672, which was priced at \$75.00. He had a marvelous memory regarding the history of his rare volumes and kept a carefully made catalogue of the source of his purchases. He wrote to the Antiquarian Society frequently, invariably to exchange bibliographical information. He was the last of the early group of collectors of Americana. C. S. B.

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