

Obituaries

MAX FARRAND

Max Farrand was born at Newark, New Jersey, on March 29, 1869, a son of Samuel A. and Louise (Wilson) Farrand. His father was headmaster of Newark Academy, and his brothers also entered the field of education. He was graduated from Princeton in 1892, and after graduate work there and at Leipzig and Heidelberg he received his Ph.D. in 1896. His first position was at Wesleyan where in five years he rose from instructor to full professor. In 1901 he was called to Leland Stanford where he became head of the department of history. It was during his first year there that he made his first contact with the American Antiquarian Society, writing for information from our newspaper collection. In 1907 he asked us to check some notes for his edition of the records of the Federal Convention of 1787 which he said, optimistically, was on the point of going to press. When this work appeared, four years later, it established his reputation as one of the great American historians of all time. It will be by this work that he will be remembered although his later writings, such as his *Framing of the Constitution* (1913), show the same minute scholarship and more than ordinary facility of pen.

During the year 1905-6 Farrand was acting professor of history at Cornell University, and in 1908 he was again brought east to occupy the chair at Yale in which he won his reputation as a great teacher. In October, 1908, he was elected to this society, and at the meeting of October, 1913,

he talked informally on the papers of the Johnson family of Connecticut, relating incidents and details of his part in the distribution of the papers which could not be printed in the *Proceedings* of the meeting. During his Yale years he was one of our most active correspondents, consulting about bibliographical projects, enquiring about the textbook collection and showing an interest in other things not directly related to his teaching or writings. He was interested in our policy of collection and heartily approved of decisions to specialize. Unlike most professional historians, he understood the collector, and indeed himself made perhaps the best collection of Updike printing.

From 1919 to 1921 Farrand took leave of absence to serve as director of the Commonwealth Fund, and until 1937 he was associated with it as advisor in education. He was instrumental in using the fund to bring the Commonwealth Fellows from the British dominions to study in this country, a project which he hoped would improve Anglo-American understanding. In 1925 he resigned from the Yale faculty in order to devote his time to study and writing, but he soon found himself engaged in a far more exacting task than college teaching. In 1926, while on a visit to California, he obligingly gave Mr. Henry E. Huntington a memorandum outlining a project for transforming his private library, art gallery, and botanical garden into a public institution which would at once foster the most scholarly research and at the same time attract visitors by popular exhibitions. The next year Farrand was called from his home at Bar Harbor to undertake, with the title of Director of Research, the task of carrying his proposals into execution and of administering the resulting institution. He gathered the permanent research staff and began the annual appointments of research fellows. For his own research task he began the preparation of an edition of the autobiography of

Franklin based on the original manuscript at the Huntington, and the needs of this work again brought him into contact with us.

The problem of the Huntington botanical gardens might have frightened off a bolder historian than Farrand were it not for his wife, the former Beatrix Cadwalader Jones, who had even before their marriage in 1913 established her place as one of the important consulting landscape architects in America. She had designed the grounds of the Graduate College at Princeton and the Memorial Quadrangle at Yale, and in California she planned both college campuses and private estates. For her achievements in this field Yale awarded her an honorary M.A. in 1926.

Farrand himself garnered no less than nine honorary degrees, beginning with an M.A. from appreciative Wesleyan in 1900. He was elected to the important national honorary societies and such distinguished regional organizations as the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, and the Zamorano Club. In 1940 he was president of the American Historical Association. Nor did he scorn the primarily local and genealogical organizations. Among his positions which combined honor with responsibility were those of trustee of the American Academy in Rome, of the California Institute of Technology, and membership on the advisory board of the Guggenheim Foundation and the United States Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission. Failing health obliged him to resign the directorship of the Huntington Library in 1941, but he remained as Research Associate in hope of finishing his work on the Franklin autobiography. He died at his home at Bar Harbor on June 17, 1945, survived by his wife. With his customary generosity he left the Society a bequest of a thousand dollars.

C. K. S.

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