

minds the uncanceled memorandum, "Thank Shepard Pond." He died very suddenly at the Winchester Hospital on May 28, 1945. His funeral was attended by distinguished numismatists from far and near. He is survived by his wife, the former June Anne Thornton of Boston, and by a daughter, Susan Shepard Pond.

C. K. S.

JOHN MUNRO WOOLSEY

John Munro Woolsey was born at Aiken, South Carolina, on January 3, 1877, a son of William Walton and Katherine Buckingham (Convers) Woolsey. He came from an old Connecticut line which had sent members to Yale, where his father had studied in 1864 before becoming a cotton planter in South Carolina. John spent his boyhood at Aiken and at Englewood, New Jersey, where he attended a private school before being sent to Phillips Andover. Thence he went to Yale where he was a member of the Scroll and Key and president of the University Club. After graduation there he entered the Law School of Columbia University where he took his law degree in 1901, and where he taught equity during the academy year of 1905-06. He was always proud of the fact that he was one of the founders of the Columbia Law Review.

Immediately after graduation from law school Woolsey was admitted to the New York bar and entered the offices of Convers and Kirlin. He remained with this firm, becoming a partner in 1908, until he retired from private practice. In later years the firm did business under the names of Kirlin, Woolsey and Hickox, and Kirlin, Woolsey, Campbell, Hickox, and Keating. He was one of the recognized leaders in the field of admiralty law in America, and during the first

world war was admiralty counsel to the French High Commission in New York. In 1928 he was made a member of the advisory committee on research in international law in the Harvard Law School, and later he became a member of the visiting committee of that school. It is suggestive of his wide interests that he was also a member of the visiting committee of the Harvard Forest. Columbia recognized his distinction by awarding him the degree of LL.D. in 1929. He was always at the service of the educational institutions with which he had been connected, and he served Andover as secretary and later president of the alumni association until he was appointed president of the Columbia University Law School alumni association in 1934. He continued to serve Andover as a member of the Addison Gallery committee and became an associate Fellow of Branford College at Yale.

President Coolidge nominated Woolsey for a Federal judgeship, but he failed of approval by the Senate. It was noted at the time that there was rarely better opportunity to place a man of wide cultural interests on the bench. President Hoover repeated the nomination, and Woolsey was confirmed by the Senate on April 29, 1929, to the bench of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Thereupon he gave up his law partnership and devoted the rest of his professional life to the amazing variety of cases which were brought before him. Because of this variety the width of his own cultural interests was of the greatest importance, and his passion for correct expression was a rare qualification. The wisdom of his decisions was hailed by the liberals of his generation, and the wit and grace of his diction in the documents did much to placate those who thought that he erred. Two of his decisions won him fame throughout the English-speaking world. These were his rulings that Dr. Marie C. Stopes' *Contraception* and James Joyce's *Ulysses* did not come under the statute

against obscenity. Those who are inclined to regard the latter work highly overlook the portion of the decision which reads, "whilst in many places the effect of *Ulysses* on the reader is somewhat emetic, nowhere does it tend to be an aphrodisiac."

Judge Woolsey had a summer home in Petersham, Massachusetts, and here he had his library installed in a building which, before its removal, had been the old Town Hall of Prescott. In this building he held many hearings on summer days, and during the intermissions, judge, principals, and witnesses picked berries in the neighboring fields. Some time before his appointment to the bench his visits to Petersham resulted in his making the acquaintance of Dr. Brigham and the Library. When he was elected to membership in the Society in October, 1926, he wrote: "I cannot tell you how very much I appreciate this honor. . . . It has always been one of my hopes that some day I might possibly be a member of this Society." After his appointment to the bench he found that its terms commonly conflicted with the meetings of the Society and so prevented his attendance, but he made amends for his absence by gifts of books for the Library and cash for general expenses. Fortunately for us he did not, as he remarked, understand an organization without initiation fees or dues. His generosity toward his institutions and friends was remarkable.

Among the other organizations of which Judge Woolsey was fond were the Century Club of New York, of which he was a vice-president, the Walpole Society, the Society of Colonial Wars, Connecticut Branch, and the New England Society of New York. The last organization once had, in his person, the anomaly of a South Carolina born president.

Judge Woolsey retired from the bench in 1943 and died at his home in New York on May 4, 1945. He is survived by his widow, the former Alice Bradford Bacon, and by a son,

John M. Woolsey, Jr. By his will he left to the Society "a tall clock by Simon Willard of Grafton, Mass., in a cherry wood case . . . bearing the date of 1770 and showing the name of Willard and his supposed master, John Morris."

C. K. S.

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