

and presentation copies, both collections ranking among the finest known. He was an extensive collector of rare Americana, concentrating upon the foundation narratives of the explorers and the early colonists. He owned the Columbus Letter printed at Rome in 1493, the Richard Eden 1553 translation of Sebastian Munster's "Newe India," and the works of DeBry, Vespuccius, Hakluyt, Cartier, Frobisher, Drake, Brereton, Rosier, Captain John Smith, and other explorers. In colonial publications he possessed many outstanding volumes, including a large number of the works of the Mathers and other New England writers and historians, and the important works relating to New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. He had many editions of Ptolemy, and a large number of the first books of the American West. His entire library was bequeathed to the Free Library of Philadelphia, of which he was vice-president and trustee. His bequest is one of the most notable gifts in American literary annals.

C. S. B.

MILTON ELLIS

Harold Milton Ellis was born at Belfast, Maine, on August 2, 1885, a son of Gilbert Randall and Ida Melissa (Rowe) Ellis. He was graduated at the University of Maine in 1907, and two years later became an instructor in English at Muhlenberg College. In 1911 he returned to Harvard University and there in 1913 received his Ph.D. degree. For the next four years he was instructor in history at the University of Texas, removing to Trinity College at Durham, North Carolina, to become a professor. In 1919 he was recalled to the University of Maine to head the Department of English, and there he remained for the rest of his life.

The character of Professor Ellis was a combination of a shy, considerate sweetness and a gentle firmness and tenacity, which made him at once a beloved teacher and a good department head. He was director of the University of Maine summer session during the period of 1925-30, and for two years was president of the New England Association of Directors of Summer Sessions. He taught in summer schools in the leading universities.

In 1915 there was published Dr. Ellis's first book, *Joseph Dennie and his Circle*. This marked the field of his interest and the greater part of his scholarly work. Of his contributions the most interesting to us was his demonstration that William Hill Brown and not Sarah Wentworth Morton was the author of *The Power of Sympathy*. His most popular book was an anthology, the *College Book of American Literature* (1939) which he compiled with Louise Pound and G. W. Spahn. In 1932 he became a member of the editorial board of the *New England Quarterly*, and from 1938 to 1944 he served as managing editor.

Dr. Ellis was a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts and an active member of the Maine Historical Society. Genealogy and local history were hobbies with him. Because of his research in literary history and his editorial position we had pleasant contacts with him for years before ill health compelled his resignation from the Maine faculty in 1946. He then took up temporary residence in Worcester in order to work in our collections. In April, 1947, he was elected to membership, but on May 18 he died at his home in Orono.

On August 5, 1914, Dr. Ellis was married at Hingham to Carrie Voadicia White, by whom he had three sons who survive him: Gilbert Milton, Earnest Randall, and George Hathaway Ellis. He is also survived by his second wife, Leola B. Chaplin, to whom he was married on June 6, 1942.

C. K. S.

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