

him and the other heirs, the Farwell library and some of the Ayer books came to us. He was elected to membership in 1942, and was very much interested in our affairs, but the fact that the dates of our meetings conflicted with his fishing customs prevented his becoming widely acquainted among the members.

On May 24, 1924, Mr. Ayer married Helen Draper, who died in 1934. They had no children. He died suddenly while on a vacation in Canada on July 26, 1948. C. K. S.

HENRY WATSON KENT

Henry Watson Kent was born at Boston on September 28, 1866, a son of Robert Restiaux and Eliza (Watson) Kent. From Boston Latin School he went to Norwich Academy and thence to Columbia College where he was a member of the first class in Melvil Dewey's first library school. His first professional employment was at Norwich Academy where he was in charge of the Peck Library and was curator of the Slater Memorial Museum. From the latter, which was a pioneer in the modern museum movement, he went to New York to become assistant secretary of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1905. Eight years later he became secretary of the Museum, and between that date and his retirement in 1940 he well earned the title of dean of American museum officials. As a measure of his activities outside of the Museum it might be noted that he became vice-president of the American Association of Museums and president of both the Grolier Club and the New York Library Club. He was awarded an honorary M.A. by Hamilton in 1920 and a Doctor of Arts degree by Brown in 1932. Two years later he was awarded the Michael Freidsam medal for contributions to art in industry, and two years ago he received the dis-

tinguished service award of the American Association of Museums for his pioneer work in setting the pattern for a working relationship between museums and schools, and for his part in broadening the influence of museums in their communities.

Mr. Kent was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1929, and at the meeting of October, 1930, he read a paper of Van Braam Houckgeest, an early American collector. To us, his notable personal characteristic was a gentle courtesy and a quiet dignity from which he occasionally startled us by a bit of slang nicely chosen to convey a fine point of meaning. He was working on an autobiography at Petersham, where he had spent his summers for thirty years, when he died on August 28, 1948. He was unmarried, but is survived by a nephew, Mr. Richard B. Kent of New York City.

C. K. S.

ALDUS CHAPIN HIGGINS

Aldus Chapin Higgins, one of the most interested and useful members of the American Antiquarian Society, and of its Council, died in Worcester on September 10, 1948. He was born in Worcester, December 7, 1872, the son of Milton Prince and Katharine Elizabeth (Chapin) Higgins. He was educated at the Worcester High School and completed his course at Worcester Polytechnic Institute where he received the degree of bachelor of science in 1893. His early intention was to become a lawyer and he attended the National University Law School in Washington where he obtained his law degree in 1896. After a year of travel he returned to Worcester, where he conducted a law office for four years. His father had organized the Norton Emery Wheel Company, which later expanded into the Norton Company, destined

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