

personal interest in details as well as in the larger aspects of the Museum's activities.

He was one of the most active supporters of the American Antiquarian Society. Elected a member in 1926, he was chosen a member of the Council in 1930, and thus served for eighteen years. During all this time he was a faithful attendant at the meetings, a constant contributor of wise suggestions as to policy, and a generous friend in gifts of both money and knowledge. To no one on the Council did the officers of the Society turn more frequently for advice in questions of detail or of general procedure in the Society's affairs. And such counsel was always accompanied with friendliness and sympathetic understanding. His confidence in the Society was evidenced both by his annual contributions and by a generous bequest in his will.

He married, June 6, 1898, Edgenie Brosius who died September 24, 1911. On January 16, 1914, he married Mary Sprague Green, daughter of James Green, of Worcester. She survives him, with two children by his first wife, Elizabeth Brosius, wife of Ernest Angell of New York, and Milton Prince Higgins of Worcester.

C. S. B.

HARRY TWYFORD PETERS

Harry Twyford Peters was born at Greenwich, Connecticut, on August 1, 1881, a son of Samuel T. and Adaline (Elder) Peters. He grew up in New York City and was graduated from Columbia College in 1903. He at once entered the coal business in which he was active until his retirement in 1945, being most of the time a partner in the firm of Williams and Peters. Among his other business interests was service as a director of the Peabody Coal Company and

the New York Trust Company. During the first war he was a member of the Fuel Administration and during the second, Civilian Defence Director for Suffolk County.

It is an interesting illustration of American democracy that a man who always described himself as a coal merchant, and was really active in the business, should be the outstanding American sportsman of the pink coat circle. From his childhood he had a passion for horses, dogs, and hunting, and at one time he was a member of a Buffalo Bill show. His portrait as Master of Hounds of the Meadow Brook Hunt, which is reproduced in *The New-York Historical Society Quarterly* for April, 1948, is typical of the man. For nearly a quarter of a century he occupied that position.

Fine Arts and collecting was as much a part of Mr. Peters' inheritance as sport. His father was a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art but his field of collection, oriental art, did not appeal to young Harry. So a collector uncle, Henry O. Havemeyer, suggested that the lad take up sporting prints. In those days such prints could be bought by the bundle. Mr. Peters made many a find in the stables and harness shops to which his business as a coal merchant took him. The bulk of his collecting was done before the American people, twenty-five years ago, first began to realize the charm of their nineteenth-century prints. His *Currier and Ives, Printmakers to the American People*, which appeared in 1929 and 1931, demonstrated the fact that he was the authority in this field, and it became immediately the bible of an army of collectors. Reprinted by the Book-of-the-Month Club in an abridged edition it ran to over half a million copies, being the largest sale ever achieved by such a book on the subject of art. This was followed by his *America on Stone, the Other Printmakers to the American People*, in 1931, *California on Stone*, in 1935, and *Just Hunting*, in 1936.

The making of these books Mr. Peters regarded as a chore, but from them he developed a series of illustrated lectures from which he obtained a great deal of fun. He felt free to lecture on subjects on which his ideas were not ripe enough for print, such as the thesis that art is more indebted to sport than to religion. He developed a dozen such lectures which became famous, and played to full houses at the Grolier Club, the Museum of the City of New York, and the New-York Historical Society. The last in 1947 awarded him its medal for achievement in history. He was an active member of the Historical Society, one of its Fellows, and the donor to it of a great collection of the work of American news artists. The Grolier Club he served as chairman of the committee on exhibitions, as a member of the Council, and, in 1939-43, as president.

Mr. Peters was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1932 and in the years which followed became perhaps its most voluminous correspondent. We made illustrations for his books, loaned pictures for his exhibitions, and did research for him, while he scouted and bargained for us (complaining that we would make a Raffles of him yet) and sometimes instructed us to trade his poor copy of a print rather than our good one. With Mr. Charles H. Taylor he gave us Louis Maurer's own collection of his artistic work. When ill health broke off our correspondence two years ago we missed his blunt comments and rollicking fun. He died at his New York home on June 1, 1948, survived by his widow, Mrs. Natalie Wells Peters, by a son, Harry T. Peters, Jr., and by a daughter. C. K. S.

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