

LUCIUS WILMERDING

Lucius Wilmerding was born in New York City on January 24, 1880, a son of Lucius Kellog and Caroline (Murray) Wilmerding. He attended St. Paul's School and was graduated at Harvard in 1901. That same year he went to work for Post & Flagg, bankers and brokers in New York City, and in 1906 he set up for himself as a stock broker. Four years later he joined in the firm of Ruggles, Gray & Wilmerding, which in 1939 merged with Post & Flagg, which in turn was absorbed by Harris, Upham & Company, of which Wilmerding was a limited partner. He served also as a trustee of the Bank of New York and Fifth Avenue Bank, was a director of the City and Suburban Home Company, and was a vestryman of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church of New York City.

For some twenty years Mr. Wilmerding was active in the Citizens' Budget Committee, an organization to protect taxpayers by opposing unreasonable expenditures by the city government. He served one year on the Municipal Art Commission, and was a trustee of the Museum of the City of New York. When still a young man he was appointed by the New York Public Library to its committee on circulation, and in 1930 he became a trustee of that library. He was vice-president of the American Library in Paris and very active in the recent campaign to restore it. He was trustee and one time president of the Grolier Club, president of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, and a member of the Club of Odd Volumes. His greatest interest was the New York Historical Society, which he served as trustee, Secretary for Domestic Correspondence, and Treasurer, and as a member of many committees.

Mr. Wilmerding early became a collector, and in later years specialized in English and French literature, colored

plate books, and historical bindings. A talk on Renaissance bindings, which he made before the Grolier Club, was printed in 1937. In 1948 he made the New York Public Library the magnificent present of one of the two original drafts of the Olive Branch Petition of 1775.

Mr. Wilmerding was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1938, but, although a generous friend, he was not a very active member for the natural reason that he was preoccupied with the New York institutions with which he was associated. After a long illness he died at his summer home at Far Hills, New Jersey, on July 15, 1949. He is survived by his wife, Helen Cutting, and their four children.

C. K. S.

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