

## *Obituaries*

### FREDERICK EDWARD BAUER, JR.

Frederick Edward Bauer, Jr., teacher and librarian, was born July 12, 1922, in the West Hoboken section of Union City, New Jersey, the son of Frederick Edward Bauer, Sr., and Caroline Charlotte Sternkopf. He attended local public schools before matriculating at the Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts. From there he went to Princeton, where he studied history, economics, and political science and from which he graduated in 1943 with an A.B. degree. Those who were acquainted with Fred from his long association with the American Antiquarian Society might be surprised to learn that his undergraduate thesis was on 'The Motor Trucking Industry in America,' about as resolutely a non-Antiquarian subject as there is. Those who knew his kind and generous temperament and his unerring sense of fair play might be a little taken aback to learn that he was one of the founders of one of the university's famed eating clubs. It was the Prospect Club, the last to be established, and his involvement in it becomes more understandable when it is learned that Prospect was established in reaction to the historically exclusive world of Princeton eating clubs. At Prospect, dues were cheaper because the members waited tables and did other chores. It was also a place where a number of Princeton's small wartime cadre of African American students could 'find a welcome home,' in the words of one alumnus. Fred had already lived in such a cooperative, egalitarian atmosphere at his prep school, which had been founded by Dwight L. Moody, the advocate of muscular Christianity, and an institution that emphasized service and the virtues of physical labor.

After Princeton, Fred joined the Army Air Corps. His longest posting was as a first lieutenant in charge of an Army Airways Communication System unit at Meeks Field in Iceland. Back in civilian life, he took a master's degree at Columbia in 1947 and then joined the faculty at his alma mater, Mount Hermon. During his twenty-plus years there, he fully lived the multitasking life of a boarding school master, teaching U. S. history and economics, chairing the history department, and coaching varsity swimming. He also edited, with Edwin C. Rozwenc, two volumes in the well-known and highly regarded 'Heath' or 'Amherst' series of historiographical 'problems' books for students. Desiring a break from teaching, he served as acting librarian. This suited him so well that he took a leave from Mount Hermon to return to Columbia to earn a master's degree in library science (1967-68). Upon his return, he assumed the librarian post at the school, no longer in an 'acting' capacity. His days there, however, were numbered.

In 1970, the American Antiquarian Society's director and librarian, Marcus McCorison, was looking for a rare book cataloguer to succeed the legendary Avis Clarke. Mark contacted people at the Columbia library school (where he too had been trained), for suggestions of candidates. The answer that came back was 'Fred Bauer.' He asked Fred to come over to Worcester for an interview. As Mark recalls it, the conversation lasted only about twenty minutes, at the end of which he offered him the job. Not long after reporting for duty in Worcester, Fred fulfilled a previous commitment by making a three-week study tour of libraries in Ghana and Morocco as a representative of the State Department.

Mark quickly recognized Fred's administrative talents and promoted him to assistant librarian, and, later, to associate librarian. In such a position in an institution with a small staff, Fred became even more of a jack-of-all-trades than he had been at Mount Hermon. At AAS, Fred's portfolio of responsibilities extended to almost every aspect of the Society's activities, save the acquisition of rare books. He was personnel manager, building supervisor, and the person in charge of the day-to-day activities of the library

staff. His work with the bricks and mortar of AAS accelerated when he became the Society's point man for the construction of a new wing, during 1972-73. Having helped oversee the construction of the Society's first real conservation laboratory, he made conservation a high priority in his work. He also took the lead in restoring the English common press on which, it is believed, Isaiah Thomas learned to print.

Fred was also the lead author and project director of the first grant that AAS received from the National Endowment for the Humanities. That pioneering application was all brevity and generalities. Essentially it said here's what we want to do and here's what we think it will cost—a far cry from what is required today. This application to catalogue the AAS manuscript collections established a precedent for the excellent and productive grant programs that AAS has carried out with the support of NEH and other funders ever since.

Fred represented AAS in kindred organizations, most notably the Northeast Document Conservation Center, NELINET (the New England Library Information Network), and OCLC, which provided AAS with its first national computerized cataloguing link.

He also worked closely and productively with education officer William L. Joyce, until his move to the New York Public Library in 1981, and with the undersigned in our duties related to scholarly and educational programs, including publications. I well recall, for example, the collaborations Fred, Mark, and I had with Readex Microprint Corporation over the years. It still amuses me to think also about the 'publishing lunch' that Fred and I had at a Worcester restaurant with a noted reference publisher. Having already imbibed two martinis, our visitor declared himself to be so excited about whatever 'deal' it was that we were discussing that he thought he'd have a third. (Okay, I had one, maybe two. Fred, a teetotaler, had none, but would have had a Moxie, if one had been available.)

Fred Bauer retired from AAS in 1984, after fourteen years of outstanding service. He had been elected to membership in the

Society in 1977. He and his wife, the former Ruth Byrd Tappan, moved from their place in Holden, Massachusetts, to their summer home on Mirror Lake, New Hampshire, a peaceful spot known as The Bauery, where, in part, their children grew up. Fred and Ruth kept busy with Elderhostel travels and matters relating to institutions in their community, including church, library, and historical society—devotions that had received their attention in Holden as well. He served on the presidential search committee that brought Ellen Dunlap to AAS. In 1993, the Bauers moved to the Taylor Community, for seniors, in Laconia, New Hampshire. They spearheaded the creation of a library there, which bears the name Bauer Library. Fred died on August 2, 2008, after several years of poor health. Ruth, his faithful companion for fifty-nine years, survives him, as do their children, Dorothy Anne Bauer and James Frederick Bauer, and their families. Another son, David Llewellyn Bauer, died in 1956.

In a tribute paid to Fred at his memorial service, Mark McCorison called particular attention to Fred's work with the staff. He played the key role in the hiring of virtually all of the staff until the day he retired. He inspired several of the young ones to make librarianship a career by going on to get a library science degree. Some of his early hires have now retired, but many are still doing important work at AAS. Shortly after Fred's retirement, Mark wrote that his 'quiet, intelligent, and competent manner established a sense of trust and security that has been an essential element in the growth and stability of the Society.' All on the staff who had the honor and pleasure of working with Fred Bauer are thankful for the kind, sympathetic, and confidential ear that he unfailingly lent to us. On the day Fred retired, the staff quietly gathered on the front steps just before 5 o'clock and gave him a rousing ovation as he departed Antiquarian Hall.

John B. Hench

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