

In Memoriam

DONALD H. MUGRIDGE

1905-1964

Donald H. Mugridge, Specialist in American History in the General Reference and Bibliography Division, [Library of Congress,] died at his home at 1725 Highwood Place, S.E., Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, November 3, after a coronary thrombosis. He leaves no immediate survivors. Mr. Mugridge, who had served 30 years in the Library, was a leading authority on American historical bibliography and was widely known to scholars throughout the country. The author of a number of articles and book reviews in historical journals, he was an active member of the American Historical Association, the American Studies Association, the Columbia Historical Society, and the Society of American Archivists.

Born in Chicago in 1905, he was educated in the Chicago public schools, the high school of the University of Southern California, the University of Southern California, where he received his B.A. and M.A. degrees, and at the Harvard Graduate School, where he continued his graduate work in history. Before coming to the Library in 1933, Mr. Mugridge served as a teaching fellow at the University of Southern California and as research assistant to historian Samuel Eliot Morison, working on the *Tercentennial History of Harvard University*; he was also employed for a short time to do editorial work for the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. His first position at the Library was that of assistant in the Manuscript Division, and in 1942 he was put in charge of the Study Room Reference Service. Since 1944 he had served, under several titles, as Specialist in American History, except for a few months in 1946, when he was acting Assistant Chief of the General Reference and Bibliography Division, and for a brief period in 1949-50, when he was on leave from the Library to edit the Adams-Jefferson correspondence for the Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg, Va.

Mr. Mugridge edited and contributed extensively to the monumental *Guide to the Study of the United States of America*, an annotated bibliography of representative books reflecting the development of American life and thought, which was published by the Library of Congress in 1960. In recognition of the significant contribution to scholarship represented by his work on the *Guide*, the Library honored him in April 1961 with a Superior Service Award. At the time of his death, Mr. Mugridge was directing the compilation of a supplement to the *Guide*. Other noteworthy bibliographies edited or compiled by Mr. Mugridge include *An Album of American Battle Art, 1754-1918* (1948); *Christopher Columbus, a Selected List of Books and Articles by American Authors or Published in America, 1892-1950* (1950); *The American Civil War, a Selected Reading List* (1960); and *The Civil War in Pic-*

tures, 1861-1961, a *Chronological List of Selected Pictorial Works* (1961). His most recently published works were *The Presidents of the United States, 1789-1962, a Selected List of References* (1963) and a joint compilation with other staff members of *John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 1917-1963, a Chronological List of References* (1964).

Mr. Mugridge rendered distinguished reference service at the Library of Congress, as all readers who requested his assistance will remember, and his help and advice in the solution of difficult questions in the field of American history were frequently sought at the highest levels of Government. The letters he wrote in response to reference inquiries, as well as his many published writings, were remarkable not only for the encyclopedic knowledge and meticulous scholarship which they displayed, but also for the wit and concinnity of his expression.

—Library of Congress *Information Bulletin*, 23:625-626 (Nov. 2, 1964).
Reprinted by permission.

On Record

MR. JENNER. I have to get these things on record, so that somebody who is reading this, Mr. De Mohrenschildt, a hundred years from now—I should tell you that your testimony will be reproduced in full just as you give it, with all my questions put to you just as I put them. And it will be printed as part of the report.

MR. DE MOHRENSCHILDT. I can imagine what a volume it will be for the future Ph. D.'s to study. . . .

—*Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy*, 9:170 (Washington, 1964).

“. . . I am now convinced . . .”

During most of a lifetime as teacher and writer, I now confess shamefully, I adhered to the “manuscripts-are-unessential” school. During those years I wrote my share of books about history, contenting myself with the public documents and printed narratives, and avoiding the time-squandering task of digging through mountains of manuscripts to unearth a few new scraps of evidence. Fortunately I attempted no biographical studies while thus deluded, or the result would have been a sorry failure. For I am now convinced that any biography prepared without access to the private papers of the subject would be as empty as *Hamlet* without the Prince of Denmark and as substanceless as Banquo's ghost.

—RAY ALLEN BILLINGTON, “Manuscripts and The Biographer,” in *Manuscripts*, vol. 16, no. 3:30 (Summer 1964). Quoted by permission of Editor Greer Allen.

THE AMERICAN ARCHIVIST