

IN MEMORIAM

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J. Brooks Buxton

1934-2018

J. Brooks Buxton was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable protector and collector of Vermont's material culture and historical record, as well as a generous benefactor who routinely donated to Vermont institutions, including the Vermont Historical Society, items from his varied and carefully selected collections.



Born in 1934, Buxton was a seventh-generation Vermonter who grew up in Jericho. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Vermont in 1956, then attended the University of Virginia School of Law before embarking on his career, first in New York and then overseas. Over a period of four decades, he lived in Beirut, London, Riyadh, Tripoli, Tunis, and Dubai while working in finance and later in the international oil and gas industry.

With his extensive knowledge of history and broad interest in the arts, Buxton began collecting fine and decorative arts, as well as early nineteenth-century photographs of the regions in which he lived and traveled. While living in London, he built a distinguished collection of modern British art. When he retired as president of Conoco Arabia Inc. and director of Conoco Middle East Ltd. in 2003, Buxton returned to Jericho where he assembled an extensive collection of paintings depicting the agricultural and built landscape of Vermont from the eighteenth to twentieth century, as well as select pieces by contemporary Vermont artists.

Buxton was a member of the Vermont Historical Society's board of trustees from 2004 until his death in July 2018, during which time he donated many items to the museum's art collection in addition to gifts of Vermont-made furniture, ceramics, glass, textiles, patriotic memorabilia, baskets, and commercial signs.

He also served on the boards of the Shelburne Museum, Friends of the Vermont Statehouse, and Jericho Historical Society, and was chair of the Fleming Museum's Board of Advisors.

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Helene W. Lang

(1931 - 2018)

Helene Lang was born May 3, 1931, in Lancaster, Massachusetts, attended Lancaster public schools, received her Bachelor of Education degree from Worcester State College in Massachusetts in 1953, and a MEd (1957) and Doctorate (1970) from Boston University. From 1960-64, she taught in public schools in Massachusetts and for the U.S. Navy at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Sigonella, Sicily.



From 1967 until 2001 Lang was professor of literacy and literature at the University of Vermont, with specialties in reading, gifted education, and library science. She did sabbatical leave studies in Scotland and England at the University of Edinburgh (1975), Cambridge University (1985), and The University of Bath (1992 and 1999) and engaged in additional studies at the University of Arizona, the University of Toronto, and Delhi, India.

Between 1986 and June 2018, Lang worked with the Vermont Humanities Council as a leader of countless book discussions and first-person presentations of Beatrix Potter, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, and Agatha Christie. She was a member of the Vermont Historical Society board of trustees from 2016 until her death in August 2018. She was active in several other professional and cultural organizations, including Friends of the State House, and Vermont Preservation Roundtable, and was a docent at the Shelburne Museum.

Reidun Dahle Nuquist

1940-2018

In her quiet and unassuming way, Reidun Dahle Nuquist enriched the State of Vermont, especially its historical and scholarly communities, through her work as a librarian, researcher, and writer for the Vermont Historical Society (VHS), the Green Mountain Club (GMC), and other organizations. A recent library school graduate when she immigrated to America from Norway in 1963, her first library position was with the Cleveland Public Library, where she was in charge of Germanic languages in the Foreign Literature Department. In 1971, she moved to Vermont with her husband Andrew Nuquist and began her career at the VHS, first as Assistant Librarian and then as Librarian from 1983 to 1990. After leaving the VHS, Reidun worked in Special Collections and other departments at the UVM Library before retiring in 2000.



Unfailingly resourceful and kind, Nuquist helped researchers find appropriate materials for their study during her two decades at the VHS, took the first steps towards converting the traditional card catalog to online cataloging, and devised a plan to keep the library open during the year-long disruptive asbestos abatement project in the Pavilion Building in 1989. A skilled and meticulous indexer, she compiled indexes to *Vermont History* covering the years 1978-2002, a cumulative index to *VHS News & Notes* from 1949-1989, as well as indexes to many other publications for VHS and for other institutions.

In 1985 she developed a plan with former VHS Librarian Laura “Peggy” Abbott and former Dartmouth librarian William Osgood to complete the accessioning and cataloging of the enormous collection of Vermontiana bequeathed to the Society in 1957 by Harold Goddard Rugg. In 1987 she obtained a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to improve access to the Society’s extensive collection of broadsides; and in 1991, she found funding for cataloging the VHS collection of sheet music and music books published between 1820 and 1980.

Nuquist frequently wrote articles and book reviews for *Vermont History*, and created the feature and format for “In Their Words,” which presents extracts from archival collections with a linking narrative and explanatory notes. She also initiated the bibliographic column “More about Vermont History,” which continues to this day.

She was co-author, co-editor, and researcher for two architectural guides: *A Walk through Montpelier* (1974) and *A Second Walk through Montpelier* (1976). In 2016 she assembled an illustrated lecture, “Green Mountain Girls: Women of the Long Trail,” which she adapted for a Vermont Public Radio commentary for Women’s History Month. She gave this popular talk a number of times for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute groups around the state.

Nuquist was a long-time member of the Green Mountain Club and served as a member of its board of directors and as president of the Montpelier Section. She was a devoted outdoorswoman, who hiked the Long Trail from end-to-end, did the hard physical work of trail-building, and wrote numerous articles about the history of the GMC and the Long Trail. She also wrote two books for the GMC, *A Capital Section: The History of the Green Mountain Club’s Montpelier Section, 1955-2005* (2007) and *A Century of Long Trail Guidebooks: A Retrospective* (2017). Her essay, “A Century of Change—and Growth,” which she wrote for the GMC’s *A Century in the Mountains: Celebrating Vermont’s Long Trail* (2009), is the centerpiece of the book and has been praised as the best history to date of the Club and of the Long Trail.

In September 2018 the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences honored Reidun Nuquist for her years of library work helping Vermonters and others with their historical research needs, and for her contributions to the preservation of Vermont’s cultural heritage by naming her a Fellow of the Academy.

(Adapted from the Vermont Academy of Arts and Science citation)