

caught on his last full week on the river in October 2005. He was fishing under a great hardship: because of a painful hip injury, he was casting while sitting on a chair of hard planks bolted to a flat bottomed rowboat. He loved the woods and fields and game birds as well as the streams and rivers; he took great pleasure in watching the spring courtship flights of woodcock while walking the edges of his farmland in the evening and in seeing wild turkeys. He enjoyed membership in groups of like-minded individuals: the Anglers' Club of New York, the Fly Casters' Club of Boston and the Laurel Brook Club of Uxbridge.

Phil is survived by his wife Elaine; their son, Whitney; and three daughters, Suki B. Sargent, Molly B. Millman, and Nancy B. Donaldson; as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Another son, George L., predeceased him. A firm believer in giving back to the community and the cultural institutions that enrich it, Phil Beals was a giant—not only literally to his children when they were very small (he was over six feet tall) but also to his peers. His son Whit summed him up in a remembrance at the memorial service: 'honesty, integrity, discipline, hard work, a sense of humor, affability, a huge heart, and an utter lack of pretensions were his hallmark traits.'

Charles B. Wood

SILVIO ANTHONY BEDINI

Silvio Bedini, museum official, energetic researcher, and prolific author, was born on January 17, 1917, on a farm near Ridgefield, Connecticut, where his Italian parents had settled after coming to the United States in 1913. He attended Columbia University (1935-36, 1937-1942), majoring in comparative literature and languages. He served in the United States Army Air Force in 1942-43, and then was assigned to Fort Hunt, Virginia, where he was a cryptoanalyst with Army Intelligence. He worked for the

agency that aided American prisoners of war in Germany with the use of secret codes and escape aids concealed in care packages.

After the war, while managing his family's contracting and landscaping business in Ridgefield, he began to research topics in science and technology, writing for such magazines as *Hobbies* and *Bulletin of the National Association of Clock and Watch Collectors*. In 1951 he married Gerda 'Gale' Hintz (1922-2008), and they had two children, Leandra and Peter. During their fifty-six year marriage Gale Bedini was his co-researcher, editor, proofreader and indexer. His first book, *Ridgefield in Review* (1958, foreword by Allan Nevins), celebrated his hometown's two hundred and fiftieth anniversary. Through his interest in the history of inventions he soon met scholars in the history of science at Yale University, as well as Norwalk collector Bern Dibner, whose personal library of rare books and manuscripts on topics in science and technology became an important resource.

Bedini's avocation led in 1961 to his appointment as a curator in the Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering at the Smithsonian's National Museum of History and Technology (now the Smithsonian American History Museum) in Washington D.C. He joined the staff during preparations for the 1964 opening of the museum's new building on the mall. He was appointed assistant director of the museum in 1965. In 1970 he received an LL.D from the University of Bridgeport, and the following year was named deputy director of the museum. He held that position until 1978, and twice also served as acting director of the museum. He continued his research during those years, writing at home in the evenings.

The hallmarks of Bedini's curatorial work were his continuing interest in inventors and their inventions, his energetic research, and his sharing of the discoveries through exhibitions and publications. Exhibitions at the museum included *The Unknown Leonardo* (1974), *Columbus and his Times* (1976), and *Jefferson and Science* (1981). His more than twenty books included *Early American Scientific Instruments and Their Makers* (1964). *Moon:*

Man's Greatest Adventure (with Wernher von Braun and Fred L. Whipple, 1970), *The Life of Benjamin Banneker* (1972; revised edition, 1999), *Thinkers and Tinkers: Early American Men of Science* (1975), and *Thomas Jefferson and his Copying Machines* (1984). His research included European as well as American inventors and mechanical instruments. *Thinkers and Tinkers* was described as 'an impressive volume and a pioneering work' by Gerard Turner in the *Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society* of London when Bedini was made the first honorary member of the society in 1986. His articles appeared in many periodicals, including *Technology and Culture*.

During his tenure as deputy director Bedini was instrumental in the Smithsonian Institution's acquisition of a collection of nearly ten thousand rare volumes and manuscripts on the history of science and invention from the Burndy Library. From 1978 until his retirement in 1987 Bedini served as keeper of rare books of the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology at the museum. After retirement he continued to publish, including *Thomas Jefferson: Statesman of Science* (1990), and *The Pope's Elephant* (1998), a tale of the white Indian elephant who lived at the Vatican, a gift from the King of Portugal to Pope Leo X (1513–21).

In 1997 Bedini was awarded the Paul Bunge Prize for the History of Scientific Instruments. Thirteen of Bedini's scholarly articles were republished in 1999 with the title *Patrons, Artisans, and Instruments of Science, 1600–1750*. Professional memberships included the American Antiquarian Society—to which he was elected in 1972—the American Philosophical Society, the History of Science Society, and the Society for the History of Technology, which in 2000 awarded him its Leonardo da Vinci medal. Following his death in Washington, D.C., on November 14, 2007, the Smithsonian Institution Libraries established a fund in his name for the acquisition of library materials in the history of science and technology.

Ellen G. Miles

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