

HENRY W. POOR DIES; RAILWAY PUBLISHER

Head of Poor's Manual and
Banker Expires Suddenly
at His Home, at 71.

MADE AND LOST A FORTUNE

His Wife Gave Her Big Estate to
His Creditors in 1908—An
Art and Book Collector.

Henry W. Poor, the banker and internationally known as the publisher of Poor's Manual, died suddenly yesterday afternoon at his home, 777 Madison Avenue. He was born in Bangor, Me., in 1844, and received his education at Harvard University, from which he was graduated in 1865 with the degree of A. B., taking the degree of A. M. in 1872. Mr. Poor came to this city immediately after graduation in 1865, and started in the banking and publishing business as a member of the firm of H. V. & H. W. Poor. He started publishing Poor's Railway Manual in the same year, and soon became widely known, as this was the most comprehensive and leading publication of its kind.

In 1880, his former firm having been dissolved for some time, Mr. Poor became a member of the firm of Poor & Oliphant. A year later this firm was succeeded by Poor, Oliphant & Co. It was not until he became a member of the firm of Poor & Greenough that Mr. Poor became famous on Wall Street. He was particularly active in leather and ice securities, and was reputed to have made a fortune of more than \$5,000,000 by dealing in these stocks.

In 1899 the firm was dissolved, and he remained in business under the firm name of H. W. Poor & Co. From that time he was less successful, and in 1908 failed, with liabilities of \$2,110,869 and assets of \$180,000. One of the ventures that the firm found unprofitable was the consolidation of a number of Cuban and Louisiana sugar properties, which was said to have netted a loss of between \$300,000 and \$400,000. It was discovered when a schedule of the assets and liabilities of H. W. Poor & Co. was filed that Mrs. Poor, who was Miss Constance E. Brandon before her marriage to the late financier and publisher, had turned over all her possessions to the creditors of her husband's firm.

Among these were the old Cyrus W. Field mansion at 1 Lexington Avenue, in Gramercy Park, and the house adjoining, which her husband had given her, and which were valued at \$1,000,000. She turned the home over to the creditors complete, with all the statuary, decorations, and objects of art, with the exception of a few small personal belongings. The art treasures of the two houses were especially valuable, and had been collected for Mr. Poor by the late Stanford White, who had been commissioned to search Europe for them. Mrs. Poor also presented the Tuxedo Park home to the creditors. This home was also sumptuously furnished and contained many art treasures.

Mr. Poor, outside financial circles, was noted as an art lover, a liberal supporter of music, and a book collector. He helped many art and music students to attain prominence in their professions, and for years spent large sums on rare editions and fine bindings. His library was said to have hardly an equal in this country, and among the special treasures were a first edition of Thomas à Kempis's "Imitatio Christi," Higden's "Polychronicon," and some very rare Americana. The library was said to be worth nearly \$300,000, and the first intimation of his financial difficulties was given when it was offered for sale early in 1908. The first section of the library was sold for \$75,000, and among the bidders were representatives of former Senator Henry C. Lodge and the late J. Pierpont Morgan.

At the time of his death Mr. Poor was the President of Poor's Manual of Railroads, Publishers; a Director of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company of Texas, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company, and the United States Casualty Company. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the University, Manhattan, The Brook, the Racquet and Tennis, the Downtown, Tuxedo, Grolier, Lambs, City, Midday, and the New York Yacht Clubs.

In 1903 his daughter, Miss Edith Poor, was married to Capt. James K. Cochrane of the Leicester Regiment of the British Army, and the wedding was one of the most brilliant events of the social season. Mr. Poor is survived by his widow, two daughters, and a son.