

State of New Jersey



THE SENATE
STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

SENATE RESOLUTION
By Senator WALDOR
Adopted November 25, 1968.

WHEREAS, On November 18, 1968 was published, "Songs of the Musconetcong and Other Poems of New Jersey," by A. M. Sullivan of Montclair, a distinguished poet noted for his many lyrics and ballads inspired by the legends and countryside of North Jersey; and

WHEREAS, This new volume not only presents many of Mr. Sullivan's poems about New Jersey never before published, but also makes available a number of author's best-known works which appeared originally in earlier books now out of print, including several which have previously won critical acclaim; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sullivan, who was born in Harrison, New Jersey, and spent most of his youth in Oxford, New Jersey, has drawn his inspiration from the hills and streams of northern New Jersey and has beautifully interpreted the natural features and historical legends of that area in his verse; and

WHEREAS, The poetry of Mr. Sullivan is not only a distinguished and valuable contribution to American literature, but also reflects distinction upon New Jersey as the poet's home, subject and source of inspiration; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

That this Senate hereby extends its commendation and congratulations to Mr. A. M. Sullivan upon the publication of this volume compiling some of his best previous work and offering to the public many new compositions, and testifying by its appearance to his stature as a poet and the great regard in which his work is held; and

Be It Further Resolved, That this Senate hereby expresses its pride in, and its thanks to Mr. Sullivan for, the distinction which his verse lends to his home State; and its satisfaction in the lovely and discerning interpretations of Jersey scenery and history which he has produced to be an everlasting treasure for those New Jerseyans who cherish the beauty and history of their State; and

Be It Further Resolved, That this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the Senate, and a duly authenticated copy, signed by the President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate, be transmitted to Mr. A. M. Sullivan.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely of the President of the Senate.
President of the Senate.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely of the Secretary of the Senate.
Secretary of the Senate.

HIS HEART WAS HIS IMAGINATION

(A Tribute to A.M. Sullivan)

It was Shaw who once said that an Irishman's heart "was nothing but his imagination." Not that Mike Sullivan was not an American, every ounce of him. But as his friend Padraic Colum remarked to Celia and myself at lunch one day in the 1960's: "Michael's blood is Gaelic, where his songs belong." Padraic knew well. They were very close friends.

There is no way to memorialize A.M.'s passing at 83 (on June 10, 1980 in Montclair, New Jersey) without giving thought to all the magic poems and balladry he left us, making his shift into "the great perhaps" (uttered by Robert Burns at death) an easeful redundancy.

All of us at The Poetry Society loved this man and his work. He was the only member to hold down our Presidency for five terms and the only one to receive three gold medals from the PSA. And as far as I can recall (except the Benet brothers and sister) he alone gave us a member in full standing for her own poetry,

his own lovely daughter Catherine. (Marcia Lee Masters became a member, but long after her father's demise).

Mike's life still burgeons tantalizingly from the shelf where almost a dozen of his books beckon: the *Lyrics and Sonnets*, *The Ballad of a Man Named Smith*, the haunting *Stars and Atoms Have No Size*, *Songs of the Musconetcong*, the wonderful collection *The Bottom of the Sea*, *Psalms of the Prodigal*, *Tim Murphy*, and other volumes. A film biography was recently made.

No Executive Board meeting of the Society will henceforth be able to erase the memory of this gently tolerant and winningly indulgent and perceptive "grey eminence" whose heart, despite Shaw, not only matched but forcibly fed his enduring imagination.

—Charles A. Wagner



New Jersey State Senator Milton A. Waldor presenting A.M. SULLIVAN with a resolution by the New Jersey State Legislature commending the publication of *Songs of the Musconetcong and Other New Jersey Poems*. The resolution was passed unanimously on November 18, 1968 at the State Capitol in Trenton. The Presentation took place on March 4, 1969.



A.M. SULLIVAN
1897-1980