

Publication: Reading Eagle; Date: Feb 2, 2006; Section: Obituaries; Page: 15



Jack B. Coggins, author-illustrator

Jack Banham Coggins, wellknown Berks author-illustrator, died Jan. 31 in his residence near Hill Church in Pike Township.

Coggins, 94, was the husband of Alma (Woods) Coggins.

The author of 18 illustrated books, he first specialized in marine painting.

After collaborating on several books during the 1940s and 1950s, Coggins began his own projects in the 1960s.

During World War II, he did many art illustrations for Life magazine, and produced commercial art. He served as an Army correspondent in Europe from 1943 until the end of the war.

Starting in the early 1950s, Coggins painted a number of science-fiction magazine covers for Galaxy and Fantasy & SF. He specialized in paintings of spaceships and astronomical art. He also worked with Fletcher Pratt on several books about space travel.

After his science-fiction work, he wrote and illustrated numerous books on military and naval history.

The author of 18 illustrated books, Coggins took up permanent residency in Berks County in 1953.

A strictly classical artist, he said in a 2001 interview he had changed neither his painting nor his teaching styles significantly over the years.

Several of his paintings are owned by the Philadelphia Maritime Museum and the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

His original manuscripts and illustrations were collected by the University of Southern Mississippi for their permanent collection of outstanding authors and artists.

In 1985, Coggins received the Americanism Award from the Daniel Boone National Foundation. He also received the Purchase Award from the Mystic Maritime Gallery in 1989.

He received the Rudolph Shaeffer Award in the Internatinal Maritime Exhibition from 1987 to 1990 and the Pagoda Award from the Berks Arts Council in 1995.

Coggins also received the Revolutionary Round Table Award and the International Association of Astronomical Artists Award.

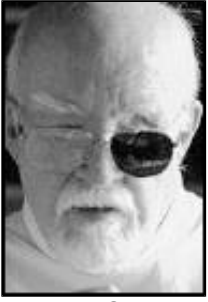
Born in London, England, he was a son of the late Sidney G. and Ethel May (Dobby) Coggins.

He was a faculty member at Hunter College, New York City, from 1948 to 1953, and an instructor of the master classes for 45 years at the Wyomissing Institute of Fine Arts until May 2001.

Coggins studied at the Grand Central School of Art from 1931 to 1933, and the Art Students League from 1933 to 1934, both of New York City.

He was an advisory member of the Philadelphia Maritime Museum and Reading Public Museum. Coggins came to America as a boy and moved to Roslyn, N.Y., in 1923. He became a citizen in 1943. He was an Army veteran of World

War II. Coggins is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Humanity Gift Registry, Philadelphia, is in charge of arrangements.



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