

ALMANAC

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NEWSPAPER ACQUISITIONS

On May 28, 1863, in the small town of Centralia, Illinois (seventy miles due east of St. Louis), the first issue of the *Centralia Sentinel* was published. J.W. and C.D. Fletcher started this newspaper as a "Local Journal which shall disseminate true and loyal sentiments, counteract the pernicious effects of a corrupt and disloyal Press, stir up her business men to more enterprise and public spirit, advertise their interests, foster education, cultivate intelligence, and encourage morality and religion." This was the ninth attempt at a newspaper in the town. Eight previous newspapers were launched between 1856 and 1862, but all had quickly folded, leaving the town without one for over a year when the *Sentinel* appeared. Starting out as a weekly, it became a daily in 1884 and is still published today. In 1888 T.L. Joy purchased it, and the Joy family remains its owners.

A 1937 bibliography of American newspapers noted that the *Centralia Sentinel* had a file of its publication from the very beginning. After a couple telephone calls, I learned that the Joys still held a bound volume containing the first four years of their newspaper. So last December on a trip to my home state, I detoured to southern Illinois to meet the Joys. Judith Joy and her son Tom brought out a brown paper package containing a bound volume with the first 207 issues from May 28, 1863, to May 16, 1867. I turned to the April 20, 1865, issue and saw a picture of Abraham Lincoln with a black border around the edges, announcing the assassination; the news had arrived from Springfield, Illinois via telegraph (see photograph). This volume of the *Centralia Sentinel* is the only known copy of all but two of these issues, and the Joy family debated for quite a while before deciding to donate it to AAS. In the December

30, 2002, issue Judith Joy wrote, "Although all copies of the newspaper are on microfilm, it was with mixed feelings that the donation was made. Perhaps the deciding factor was the realization that the newspapers would be properly conserved, made available to scholars, and would be safe from fire, theft and possible vandalism."

The volume had two different sized formats bound together, and there was some soiling and tears. Once it arrived at AAS, it was taken

to our Conservation Department where the two sizes were separated, cleaned, repaired, placed in archival-quality wrappers and boxes, and shelved in our climate-controlled stacks. The next week, a patron using newspapers published near the North-South border during the Civil War requested it.

I have been calling the offices of other newspapers listed in Winifred Gregory's *American Newspapers 1821-1936* (New York, 1937) and find that less than twenty-five percent of the publishers still have their early newspapers. Some have been given to local historical societies or libraries, some have been lost to disasters, and unfortunately many have been destroyed. The goal of AAS's newspaper department is to contact as many newspaper offices as possible in hope of obtaining files such as the *Centralia Sentinel*. I am also contacting libraries, historical societies, and individuals to see if they are interested in depositing their early newspaper files here to ensure their availability to scholars and their preservation.

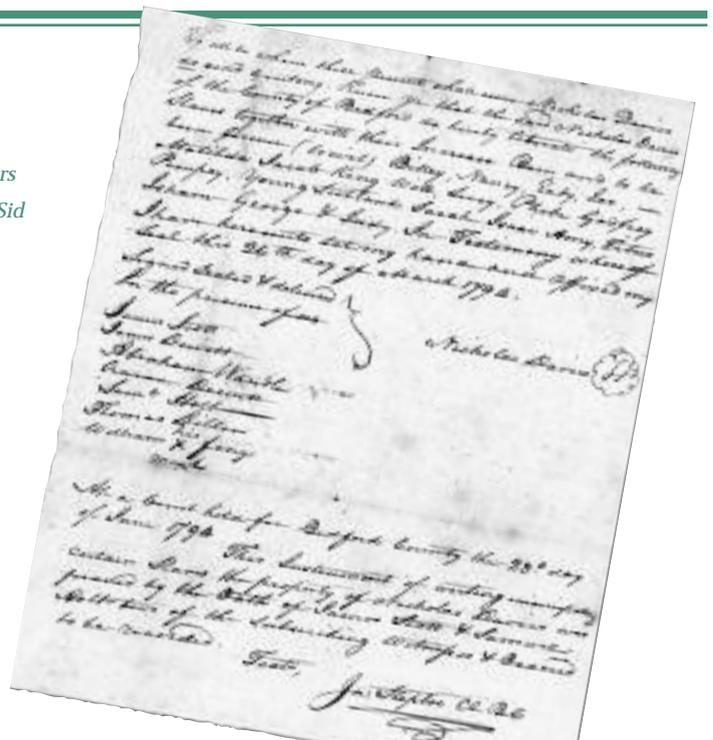
As a result of the new book stack, AAS fortunately has the space to expand the collection. We have several hundred empty shelves in climate-controlled stacks, allowing the

newspaper collection to expand by up to seventy percent. Few institutions have the luxury of available space on site for newspaper volumes, allowing volumes to be retrieved and put in front of a patron in a matter of minutes rather than hours or days.

Since our founding in 1812 by newspaperman Isaiah Thomas, AAS has sought out runs of newspapers, and our collection contains over 2,000,000 original issues. The library has particularly strong regional collections for New England, New York City, and Philadelphia, but it is weaker in other regions of the country and especially outside the major metropolitan areas. So my aim is to track down any existing files around the country and fill those hundreds of shelves for the benefit of our patrons. Because we collect nationally, a patron researching a topic that was covered in multiple regions of the U.S. can read newspapers from all over the country under one roof: ours. By obtaining more files, the newspaper collection will become even more important for those who do their research under the AAS's generous dome.

Vincent Golden, Curator of Newspapers & Periodicals

As a part of the spring meeting in New York, members visited the Harrison, N.Y. home of AAS Councilor Sid Lapidus, who explained how his collecting had evolved from an interest in Thomas Paine to American Revolutionary War materials to a broader thematic concern with human rights and freedom. Sid showed his fellow AAS members several prized items, ranging from his first acquisition, made shortly after he graduated from college, of an edition of Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man* through more recent acquisitions related to the history of Jews in America. At the end of his talk, he presented to Nancy Burkett as a gift to the library a very interesting 1794 manuscript slave emancipation document. Nicholas Davies, the owner who freed his slaves, was born in Wales in about 1708 and was in Virginia by 1733 when his first marriage is recorded. Five years later he was granted 20,000 acres of land. One can only speculate why he freed twenty slaves just three months before his death in September 1794. Pictured, Librarian Nancy Burkett shows the newly acquired document to University of Texas at Austin associate professor of history James Sidbury, who has spent the year at AAS as an A.W. Mellon Foundation post-doctoral fellow, working on the topic "Conceptions of Africa in Early African American Culture, 1760-1830." (See related article on page 3.)



New Members

The following were elected at the spring meeting in April 2003.

Q. David Bowers

Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

A noted numismatist and founder of the Bowers and Merena Galleries, one of America's leading dealers in rare coins. Bowers is the author of over four dozen books, including works on rare coins and local history.

Robert C. Bradbury

Worcester, Massachusetts

Professor of health services management in the Graduate School of Management, Clark University, and a collector, bibliographer, and dealer in miniature books. In 2001, Bradbury published *Antique United States Miniature Books, 1690-1900*, based on his thorough examination of the miniatures in the collections of the AAS and the Lilly Library.

Catherine A. Brekus

Chicago, Illinois

Associate Professor of the History of Christianity, University of Chicago Divinity School. A Jacob Hiatt Fellow at AAS in 1991-92, Brekus is the author of *Strangers and Pilgrims: Female Preaching in America, 1740-1845* (1998) and is currently working on a book entitled *Sarah Osborn's World (1714-1796): Popular Religion in Eighteenth-Century America*.

Richard Candee

York, Maine

Professor of American and New England Studies, Boston University, where he is also director of the Preservation Studies Program. Author of *Building Portsmouth: The Neighborhoods and Architecture of New Hampshire's Oldest City* (1992), Candee has served as president of the New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, the Society of Industrial Archaeology, the Vernacular Architecture Forum, and the Portsmouth Athenaeum.

Peter L. Crawley

Provo, Utah

Retired mathematics professor from Brigham Young University. Bibliographer of historical Mormon imprints, Crawley is the compiler of *Notable Mormon Books, 1830-1857* (1974) and *Mormon Imprints in Great Britain and the Empire, 1836-1857* (1987); In 1998, the first volume of his *Descriptive Bibliography of the Mormon Church* appeared, covering the years 1830-1847.

Donald Cresswell

Christopher Lane

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Proprietors of the Philadelphia Print Shop, leading purveyors of early American prints and maps. While both are recognized as expert appraisers (*Antiques Roadshow*), each has also contributed individually to scholarship in the field: Lane with his *Impressions of Niagara* and Cresswell with his *The American Revolution in Drawings and Prints: A Checklist of 1765-1790*.

Margaret Drain

Boston, Massachusetts

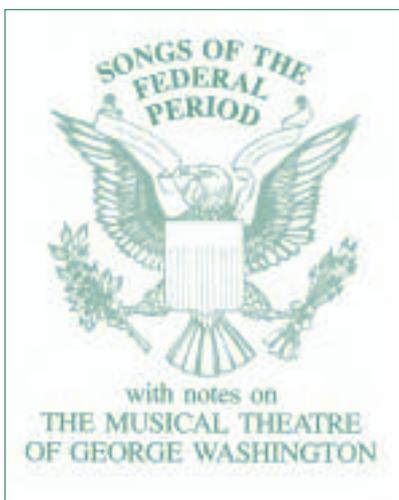
Executive Producer, *American Experience*, the acclaimed history series on public television. Drain also has been responsible for developing *American Experience ONLINE* and has supervised the creation of

WayBack: US History for Kids, a Web site that provides a window on American history for middle-school students. She is a member of the editorial board of *Common-place.org*, an on-line journal co-sponsored by AAS and the Gilder-Lehrman Institute.

Robert Fleck

New Castle, Delaware

Founder and president of Oak Knoll Books, specialists in antiquarian and out-of-print titles on the history of the book and the various book arts. Oak Knoll also distributes titles published by the Bibliographic Society of America, the Private Library Association, and the American Antiquarian Society. Mr. Fleck has served as president of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, a trade organization with 450 members in the United States.



After reading of Maria Ferrante's concert of songs discovered at AAS, Ed Sawyer of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, sent programs from Angela Talbot's concert-lecture, performed widely in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including a performance for the American Philosophical Society. Her program featured "Lost Songs of the Federal Period," largely found at AAS when Pittsfield native and AAS Librarian Clifford Shipton, in Ms. Talbot's words, "gave me unbridled access to the basement stores of sheet music and hand-books of anacreontic songs."

Christopher Grasso

Williamsburg, Virginia

Editor of the *William and Mary Quarterly* and Associate Professor of History at the College of William and Mary. His book *A Speaking Aristocracy: Transforming Public Discourse in Eighteenth-Century Connecticut* was published in 1999, and he held a Peterson Fellowship at AAS in 1999-2000. He is also coediting a volume of documents and essays on religion and American culture, 1740-1845, and working on a book about American religious skepticism.

Ezra Greenspan

Columbia, South Carolina

Professor of English at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Greenspan is author of *Walt Whitman and the American Reader* (1990) and editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Walt Whitman* (1995). He is founding coeditor of a new annual, *Book History*, and in 1990 he published the award-winning biography *George Palmer Putnam: Representative American Publisher*.

Sandra M. Gustafson

Notre Dame, Indiana

Associate Professor of English, Notre Dame University. Gustafson's book *Eloquence Is Power: Oratory & Performance in Early America* was published in 2000. The book traces the history of oratory in America from colonization through 1800, examining the multiple traditions of sacred, diplomatic, and political speech.

Udo Hebel

Regensburg, Germany

Professor of American Studies, University of Regensburg. A Peterson Fellow at AAS in 2000-01, Hebel is vice president of the German Association for American Studies and has been instrumental in establishing a new fellowship for German scholars at the AAS. His published works include *The Construction and Contestation of American Cultures and Identities in the Early National Period* (1999).

Woody Holton

Richmond, Virginia

Assistant Professor of History, University of Richmond. His book, *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves, and the Making of the American Revolution in Virginia* (1999), won the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award (New York Sons of the Revolution) and the Merle Curti Social History Award (Organization of American Historians). Holton was an AAS-NEH Fellow at AAS in 1999-2000.

Michael Johnson

Baltimore, Maryland

Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University. Author of a widely-adopted textbook (*The American Promise*) and editor of *Reading the American Past: Selected Historical Documents*, Johnson has most recently distinguished himself with "Making of a Slave Conspiracy: Denmark Vesey and His Co-conspirators (2001)," an important review essay in the *William and Mary Quarterly*.

Louis Masur

New York, New York

Professor of History at the City College of New York. Masur is the author of a renowned study of capital punishment, *Rites of Execution* (1989) and *1831: Year of Eclipse* (2001). He is also editor of *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* (1993) and "The Real War Will Never Get in the Books": *Selections from American Writers During the Civil War* (1993). He was a Jacob Hiatt Fellow in 1982-83, a Peterson Fellow in 1998-99, and has taught the AAS Summer Seminar.

Elizabeth McHenry

New York, New York

Assistant Professor of English, New York University. Ms. McHenry is the author of award-winning *Forgotten Readers: Recovering the Lost History of African American Literary Societies* (2002), an examination of the literary societies and the reading practices of African Americans from 1830-1940. As one review has noted, "This book is for all those people who thought book clubs began with Oprah."

George H. Merriam

Alice Merriam

Sterling, Massachusetts

Retired director of admissions at Clark University and Fitchburg State College and a retired school teacher. Both George and Alice Merriam have been active users (and faithful supporters) of the AAS library for decades. Their research interests include American railroad history, genealogy, and local history.

Ellen G. Miles

Bethesda, Maryland

Curator of painting and sculpture, National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution. Her publications include *Saint-Mémin and the Neoclassical Profile Portrait in America* (1994), *American Paintings of the Eighteenth Century* (1995), *George and Martha Washington: Portraits from the Presidential Years* (1999), and *Brush with History: Paintings from the National Portrait Gallery* (2001).

Donald J. Ratcliffe

Durham, England

Emeritus reader in history at the University of Durham. A Haven Fellow in 1983-84, a Research Associate in 1998-99, and a frequent reader at AAS, Ratcliffe is the author of *Party Spirit in a Frontier Republic: Democratic Politics in Ohio, 1793-1821* (1998) and *The Politics of Long Division: The Origins of the Second Party System in Ohio, 1818-1828* (2000).

Andrew W. Robertson

Hamilton, New York

Associate Professor of History, Lehman College, City University of New York. Robertson is author of *Language of Democracy: Political Rhetoric in the United States and Britain, 1790-1900* and an editor of *Beyond the Founders: New Approaches to the Political History of the Early American Republic*. He has played an instrumental role in the Society's "First Democratization Project," a massive compilation of early American voting records.

David Hackett Souter

Weare, New Hampshire, and

Washington, D.C.

Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Before his appointment to the Supreme Court in 1990, Souter served as attorney general of New Hampshire and as a justice on the Supreme Court of New Hampshire and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Long interested in history, Souter is a trustee of the New Hampshire Historical Society and a member of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Correction

The following generous supporters of the AAS Annual Fund at the Isaiah Thomas Society level were omitted from the listing in ALMANAC, Special Campaign Issue No. 4:

Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Dewey
Mr. and Mrs. James N. Heald, 2nd
Frances and Howard Jacobson
Mr. and Mrs. Harold T. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Stowe

ONLINE EXHIBITIONS

The American Antiquarian Society has very little space for exhibitions within the building, but there is plenty of room on the AAS website. A fairly recent addition to the website, the on-line exhibitions showcase a variety of topics and collections from the Society and give the virtual visitor a sense of the visual treasures that can be found here. Currently showing is an exhibition titled The David Claypool Johnston Collection, which features selected paintings, sketches, and engravings by the well-known artist. An upcoming exhibition features the topic "Summer Vacationing in New England."



SPRING MEETING

From the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, where AAS visiting artist fellow Pamela Keech showed us her installations, to the Gainsborough Studios building on Central Park South, where former Councilor Donald Oresman shared his collection of 20th-century images of people reading, and from the New York Times headquarters to the galleries and auction room of Sotheby's, AAS members explored New York City with an emphasis on the bookman's world. The weekend led up to a visit to the Grolier Club where, over lunch, Michael Ginsberg gave a primer on book fairs for those who are not seasoned veterans in preparation for our afternoon visit to the New York Antiquarian Book Fair. The semi-annual meeting was held at the New-York Historical Society; and after the regular business meeting and report of the Council, AAS members Leslie Hermann and David Brion Davis introduced their fellow members to highlights from the Gilder-Lehrman Collection.

The Annual Meeting in Worcester, October 16-18, will feature a one-man performance of Meriwether Lewis by noted historical interpreter Clay Jenkinson. There will also be special workshops and the popular collectors' roundtable in addition to the Society's business meeting where new officers and members will be elected. Mark your calendars, and plan to join us for the festivities.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of June 1, the AAS capital campaign is only \$78,000 short of its \$12,000,000 overall goal. We have exceeded the target amounts for two of the campaign's three goals, but there are still challenges to be met.

Although we met and surpassed the \$8 million goal for the building project, we are still about \$300,000 short of the actual cost of financing the new construction and renovation project with 100% gift revenues.

The total in gifts and pledges for acquisitions endowment has exceeded the \$2,500,000 goal by \$350,000; but we still need about \$140,000 in pledge payments and new gifts in hand by July 31 in order to complete an NEH Challenge Grant.

The total for the outreach and unrestricted goal is at about two-thirds of the \$1.5 million target.

While sixty-four percent of AAS members have made a special contribution to the capital campaign, 267 members have not yet made a campaign gift.

The campaign runs through December 31, 2003. It is not too late to make a gift or to add to the contribution you have already made.

MEMBER NOTES

J. Kevin Graffagnino has recently been named the Director for the Vermont Historical Society. Dr. Graffagnino is formerly the Executive Director for the Kentucky Historical Society, and before that, the Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society. **Barbara A. Shailor**, Director of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale is leaving that post to become Yale's new Deputy Provost for the Arts. In this new position, Dr. Shailor will oversee the Schools of Art, Architecture, Drama, Music and Divinity; the Institute of Sacred Music; the history of art, classics and music departments; and the Yale University Art Gallery and the Yale Center for British Art. **David S. Shields**, has been appointed as the McClintock Chair of Southern Letters at the University of South Carolina. **Helen Horowitz's** book *Rereading Sex: Battles over Sexual Knowledge and Suppression in Nineteenth Century America* (Alfred A. Knopf) was awarded the Merle Curti History Award from the Organization of American Historians. The Curti Award honors the best book published in American social, intellectual, and/or cultural history. **Elizabeth L. Eisenstein** has been selected to receive the American Historical Association's Award for Scholarly Distinction. **David McCullough** delivered the NEH's annual **Thomas Jefferson** Lecture in May. *New York Times* Publisher **Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr.** received the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's **Isaiah Thomas** Award in Publishing, at a ceremony in April. The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation recently named AAS members, **Catherine L. Albanese**, **Ira Berlin**, and **Karen O. Kupperman** as Guggenheim Fellows for the year 2003.

Laurie Kahn-Leavitt's film *Tupperware!* was premiered at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts in April. Watch for its broadcast as a part of the *American Experience* series on PBS in 2004. The board of the Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives has named its business incubator in Worcester the **Joseph R. Carter** Biomedical Innovation Center in honor of the retiring board chairman. Carter, retired president, chairman, and chief executive of Wyman Gordon Company had served as MBI's chair for nearly twenty years.

When the Grolier Club mounted an eclectic exhibition of members' treasures, President emeritus of the AAS **Marcus A. McCorison** offered his personal copy of **Isaiah Thomas's** *Printing in America* (Worcester, 1810) and wrote of the author and founder of AAS, "no one knew more about the native history of his craft." Other AAS members and their treasures represented in "The Grolier Club Collects" included:

Randall K. Burkett: book auction catalogue owned by Afro-Americana collector Arthur A. Schomburg; **M. Raetzel** (pseud.), *Catalogue des Livres et Manuscrits de la Bibliothèque de feu M. Raetzel* (Paris, 1836);

Daniel R. Coquillette: Francis Bacon, *Sylva Sylvarum or a Natural History*, 5th ed. [London, 1627?]; **Lloyd E. Cotsen**: *Ottilia Adelborg, Clean Peter and the Children of Grubbylea* (New York [1901]);

Joseph J. Felcone II: James Janeway, *A Token for Children* (Burlington: reprint, 1772);

Alan M. Fern, Henri Rivière, *Les Trente-Six Vues de la Tour Eiffel*

(Paris, 1888-1902);

Jody Shirley Gill: Alfred Hoffy, ed., *The Orchardist's Companion* (Philadelphia, 1841-43);

William H. Helfand: Martin Lewis, "Corner Shadows" (drypoint, 1930);

Cheryl Hurley: Adam Buck, "Portrait of a young gentleman in a blue coat holding a book" (pastel drawing, n.d.);

Ricky Jay: Louis Nagel, "The Highland Mammoth Boys" (lithograph, ca. 1844-48);

Jay I. Kislak: George Washington's manuscript diary, January-December, 1762, written in Virginia Almanack for the Year of our Lord 1762;

Linda F. Lapidés: *Americans Triumphant, Or John Bull in Distress* (New York, ca. 1828);

Leonard L. Milberg: Thomas Shotter Boys, *Original Views of London as It Is* (London, 1842);

Donald Oresman: A recipe in Emily Dickinson's hand (for Coconut cake, n.d.);

William S. Reese: Isaac Mendes Belisario, *Sketches of Character, In Illustration of the Habits, Occupation, and Costume of the Negro Population in the Island of Jamaica* (Jamaica, 1837);

Kenneth W. Rendell: Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (Philadelphia Printed, Norwich re-printed, 1776);

Justin G. Schiller: Mao Tse-Tung, *Mao Zhuxi Yulu* [Chairman Mao Quotations] (Beijing, 1964);

Betsy B. Shirley: *Peter Piper's Practical Principles of Plain and Perfect Pronunciation* (Philadelphia, 1835);

Jay T. Snider: Philip Wells, Manuscript Map of New York Harbor (ca. 1683);

Roger E. Stoddard: Giovanni Giorgio Alione, *Poésies Françaises . . . Avec une Notice Biographique et*

Bibliographique par J.C. Brunet (Paris, 1836);

Charles J. Tannenbaum: John Jay, Autograph letter signed, to his Excellency William Greene, Governor of Rhode Island (Paris, 4 March 1783);

G. Thomas Tanselle: Michael Sadleir, *Bibliography of the First Editions of the Prose Works of Herman Melville* (London, 1923);

William B. Warren: Salomon Keiner, *Résidences Mémorables de L'Incomparable Héro de Nôtre Siècle* (Augsbourg, 1731-40); and

Richard Wendorf: Giovanni Battista Piranesi "Tempio Antico" plate from *Prima Parte* (Rome, 1748).

STAFF NOTES

Assistant curator of graphic arts **Terri Tremblay's** exhibit on "A Woman's Work is Never Done" was selected as an educational tool by the Social Service Information Gateway in England. The SSIG is a free Internet service in Great Britain which provides "trusted" sources of information for students, academics, researchers, and practitioners in the social sciences, business, and law. **John Hench**, an AAS member as well as vice president for collections and programs, will deliver a paper on "Projecting America through Books in Post D-Day Europe" in July at the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing conference in Claremont, California. The following week he will begin a month-long visiting research fellowship awarded by the Friends of the Princeton University Libraries to continue his research on Overseas Editions, Inc.

AAS HERITAGE

In recent editions of ALMANAC, we have looked at the lives of some of AAS's eminent members. In this issue we focus on outstanding collections that have come to AAS in the four eras of its history: I. 1812-1860; II. 1861-1910; III. 1911-1960; IV. 1961-present.

I. The second great donor to the library of AAS after Isaiah Thomas was the Reverend William Bentley of Salem, Massachusetts. Bentley was a minister, journalist, and diarist. Bentley also collected one of the largest personal libraries in America, totaling more than 4000 volumes. At the time of his death in 1819 it was perhaps smaller only than those of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. One of the first men elected to AAS membership, William Bentley bequeathed part of his large library to AAS, including his collection of books printed in New England, together with his collection of American manuscripts, his German books, and his cabinet, paintings, and engravings. This bequest to AAS totaled about 1100 volumes. Although relatively small—certainly fewer than four hundred titles—Bentley's New England collection contained much valuable material that is still at AAS. The Society's copy of the first book printed in America, the *Bay Psalm Book* came from Bentley's library.



Reverend William Bentley

II. Nathaniel Paine was a member of AAS from October 1860 through his death in January 1917. For sixty years he served on the Council and was Treasurer for forty-four years. In the year of his election, the following acknowledgement appears in *Proceedings*, "We are also indebted to Mr. Paine for a large number of tracts, old and new, and other documents which he gathered for the Society." He continued to donate materials to the library throughout his life and through his will. His collecting passion was extra-illustrated books. He interleaved his books with prints, photographs, maps, manuscripts, and autographs. A list in the AAS archives dated November 1920 enumerates almost a hundred such volumes received from his estate. They range from Elizabeth Ward's *Old Times in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts* (1892) to *Signers of the Declaration of Independence*, a two-volume, specially bound set, with autographs of the signers laid in. He also was one of the donors of our important collection of Paine family manuscripts.



Waldo Lincoln

III. In 1929 Waldo Lincoln, President of AAS's Council from 1907 to 1927, gave his extensive cookbook collection to the library and compiled a bibliography, which was published in *Proceedings* in April of that year. His great-grandfather Levi Lincoln and grandfather Levi Lincoln Jr. were both charter members of AAS at its founding in 1812, and each served as Governor of Massachusetts. His great-grandson John Herron Jr. is a current member of the AAS Council. Mr. Lincoln found that when his collection was added to the few copies AAS already possessed, the library had 292 of the 490 titles of pre-1861 cookbooks in his bibliography. The next leading collection numbered 87 titles. In 1954 Eleanor Lowenstein updated the bibliography, adding 209 newly discovered titles and editions, and in 1972 the Society published her *Bibliography of American Cookery Books, 1742-1860*. When Clarence Brigham looked back on his *Fifty Years of Collecting Americana*, he reported AAS's holdings as numbering about 2000 volumes. AAS continues to collect aggressively in this genre, and ours remains one of the premier collections of American cookbooks in the world.

IV. Last year (2002), the New York Mercantile Library directors transferred their institution's archives to AAS. The Mercantile Library was founded in 1820 through the efforts of William Wood, an American who had previously founded mercantile libraries in Liverpool (England) and in Boston. His plan was to establish a circulating library for merchants' clerks who, in the words of a contemporary article, "have never had much leisure to devote to any kind of books except daybooks and ledgers." The institution was highly successful, and in 1870 it ranked fourth among American libraries in size of collections, and circulated more books than any other library in the country. The manuscript records now at AAS offer many new opportunities for research, e.g., the accession records provide information about multiple purchases, ledger volumes list subscribers and their employers, which in turn have potential for statistical research on the status and background and for other things, such as, tracing the increase of women as library members. We are grateful to former Councilor Donald Oresman for his aid in arranging the transfer of this valuable archive to AAS.

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