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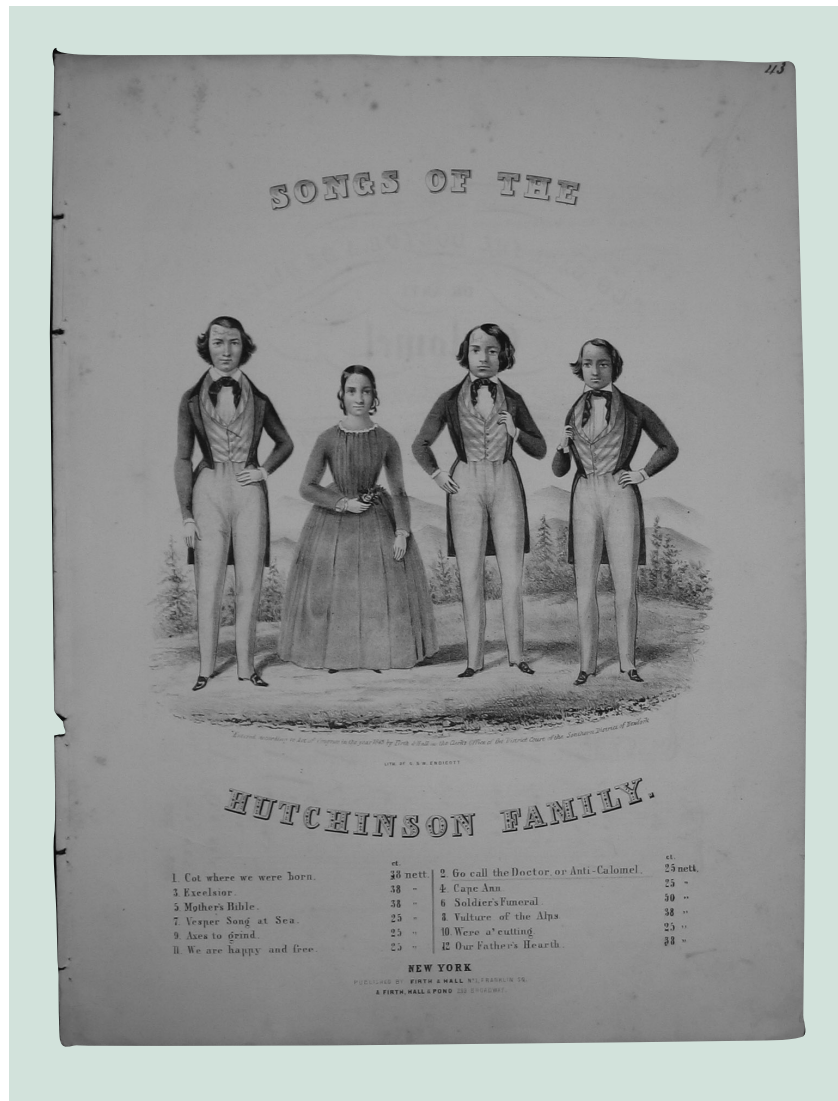
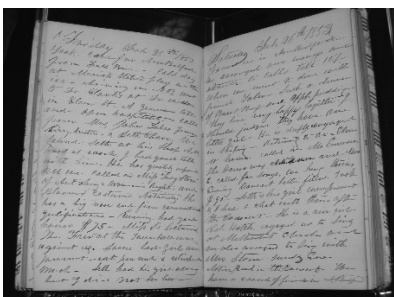
AAS NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2004-05 • NUMBER 68

New Councilors Elected

After the AAS was chartered in 1812, with a group of officers led by President Isaiah Thomas, the first members of the Council were elected in 1813. Among this group were Rev. William Bentley of Salem, who was one of the major collectors contributing to the AAS's library and its portrait collection; Aaron Bancroft, a minuteman at Lexington and Bunker Hill in his youth and later a leader of the liberal Unitarian movement within the Congregational Church; Benjamin Russell, a Federalist printer/editor of the *Columbian Centinel* in Boston and first publisher of official laws and documents of Congress (he apprenticed with Isaiah Thomas at the *Massachusetts Spy*); and George Gibbs, early America's leading mineralogist, whose collection was sold to Yale University. Since that time the governing board of the Society has included scores of remarkable individuals, who have helped to shape the institution that we know today.

At the annual meeting in October, three new members of the Council were elected for a three-year term. **Elliot Bostwick Davis** is the John Moors Cabot Chair of the Art of the Americas Department of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Her specialty is nineteenth-century American prints and drawings, and in 1990-91 she was a Jacob Hiatt Fellow at AAS working on a project called "American Drawing Books, 1820-80." **John W. Tyler** is the F. Trubee Davison Chair in history at Groton School. He also serves as director of publications for the Colonial Society and has been an invaluable adviser to AAS as we have worked to expand our programs for K-12 teachers. **Laurel Thatcher Ulrich** is the James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History at Harvard University. Her book *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard based on Her Diary, 1785-1812* won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1991. Ulrich collaborated with AAS member Laurie Kahn-Leavitt to produce a film based upon *A Midwife's Tale* that has been broadcast on PBS.

Hutchinson diary



Asa Hutchinson Diary

In July 2004 AAS purchased with income from the Harry G. Stoddard Memorial Fund an important, hitherto unknown diary kept in 1853 by Asa B. Hutchinson. Hutchinson (1823-1884) was a member of the Hutchinson Family Singers, who were among the most famous and significant American popular musical performers in the antebellum period. The group initially consisted of Asa, his older brothers Judson and John, and their sister Abby. Starting in 1840, the group performed in cities throughout the northeast, and in later years they toured in other parts of the country and in Great Britain. They were best known for their anti-slavery and temperance songs, and they sang at many abolition and temperance meetings and conventions. After Abby married in 1849 and retired from the group, Asa and his brothers continued as a trio and performed in combinations with other family members into the 1880s. It has been estimated that the group gave more than twelve thousand concerts.

Asa's diary, begun when he was twenty-nine, is nearly two hundred pages in length and covers the period from January to August 1853. As manager of the group Asa included a wealth of detail about the group's concert engagements, including the practical issues of organizing concerts and arranging travel and lodging. There are frequent descriptions of concerts. For example, in an entry written in Boston February 11, 1853, Asa wrote:

Went to the North Bennet Street Church, sang a while. While I alone was singing "Boatman of the Ohio," Frederick Douglass made his appearance — He had been to visit Mrs. H. B. Stowe in relation to establishing an Industrial Institution for the Coloured folks in this Country. The funds to come from England. Evening sang to about 500 of the church. The pleasant faces were applause enough.

The diary also contains much of an introspective nature, including Asa's religious state and his sometimes-strained relationships with his brothers. When on the road, Asa often wrote about missing his wife and children in Milford, New Hampshire. He was ambivalent about his musical career, often longing to go back to farming.

The existence of Asa Hutchinson's 1853 diary has not been known to scholars until now. Its study will offer many new insights into the lives and careers of one of the most important American musical groups of the nineteenth century.

Thomas Knoles
Curator of Manuscripts

Saving America's Treasures

AAS has been awarded a second Save America's Treasures grant, this one for conservation of the collections related to our history of the book program. The first Save America's Treasures grant for \$400,000 was awarded in 2001 to help with the renovation of the older book stacks in Antiquarian Hall. These renovations were made in conjunction with the construction of a new, modern book stack, which is completely fitted out with compact shelving. The project to install a fire-suppression system, to upgrade fire-detection and climate-control systems, and to seal airflow among the five levels of glass-and-steel stacks was completed in 2002.

This new Save America's Treasures grants is for \$100,000, which must be matched by contributed funds dollar-for-dollar, is to undertake conservation work on some of the library's most heavily used collections. The success of AAS's history of the book program has put severe pressure on the book history collections. At the center of the project is the treatment of a set of manuscript records from two 18th-and 19th-century printing and publishing firms from Philadelphia: the Matthew Carey papers and the McCarty-Davis papers. The volumes containing these records need to be disbound, the paper de-acidified, the contents microfilmed to reduce future handling, and the gatherings re sewn and rehoused in acid-free folders and boxes.

The second largest task in the project is to treat the seventy-four bound volumes of newspapers that Isaiah Thomas himself collected and presented to the Society as the foundation for its unmatched collection of early American newspapers. Those in the best condition need only minor binding or text block repair; but other volumes must be examined, treated, and repaired page by page.

The project also includes treatment for about three hundred fifty broadsides and catalogs relating to the book and newspaper trades. Our extensive collection of printed library catalogs also receive heavy use by those scholars interested in reading patterns, and many volumes and pamphlets in this collection need treatment and rehousing. Finally, our holdings of James Fenimore Cooper manuscripts need to be stabilized and housed in acid-free clamshell boxes.

Work on this project will occupy approximately half the time of AAS's head conservator Babette Gehrich and her assistant Laura Oxley and will stretch over the coming two years.

New Members

The following were elected at the Annual Meeting in October 2004

Charles Arning

Lunenburg, Massachusetts
Park Ranger in the John F. Chaffee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Ranger Arning is an author, producer, and host of the television series *Along the Blackstone*. He visits AAS frequently for research on the region's history.

Carol Berkin

New York, New York
Professor of history at Baruch College and deputy chair of the Department of History at the Graduate Center. Berkin has worked as a consultant on several PBS and History Channel documentaries, and is known for her expertise in women's history.

Richard Cheek

Belmont, Massachusetts
Freelance photographer and author of fourteen photographic books. Cheek has devoted his career to recording the visual history of American architecture and landscape design for books serving both scholarly and popular audiences. His *Land of the Commonwealth: A Portrait of the Conserved Landscapes of Massachusetts* was published in 2000.

Mark W. Fuller

Boylston, Massachusetts
Northeast Divisional President, Industrial Distribution Group, and chairman of the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation. As a trustee of the Fuller Foundation, Mr. Fuller has a long acquaintance with building projects at AAS, such as the new book stack wing completed in 2001.

David M. Lesser

Woodbridge, Connecticut
Dealer in fine and antiquarian books. His firm, established in 1989, specializes in the social, political, and cultural history of America. Lesser has long been a valued partner of AAS in building our collections of early American imprints.

Thomas Michie

Providence, Rhode Island
Curator of Decorative Arts at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design. Michie has published articles on historical American furniture, silver, wallpaper, architectural pattern books, and the China trade. Most recently he curated a show of "Spindles and Spokes: Windsor Chairs and Their Legacy in America."

Willis Monie

Cooperstown, New York
Book dealer. Monie's bookshop offers an array of general books and ephemera, with a good selection in baseball, Americana, history, and fiction.

John H. Motley

Burlington, Connecticut
Insurance executive and president of the Travelers Foundation. Mr. Motley currently serves as chairman of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, and of the Tredegar National Civil War Foundation in Richmond, Virginia, to which he has donated his extensive collection of artifacts documenting the experience of blacks in the Civil War.

Deane L. Root

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Professor of music and curator of the Center for American Music at the University of Pittsburgh. He is past president of the Society for American Music, and his 1990 critical edition of *The Music of Stephen C. Foster* was named an outstanding academic book by the American Library Association. More recently he has developed an innovative summer institute to allow classroom teachers to explore American history through the lens of music.

Karin Wulf

Bethesda, Maryland
Associate professor of history at American University and book review editor of the *William & Mary Quarterly*. She is the author of *Not All Wives: Women of Colonial Philadelphia* and co-editor of *Milcah Martha Moore's Book: A Commonplace Book from Revolutionary America* and *A Novel Life: Trials of Love and Life in the Diary of Hannah Callender Sansom, 1758-1788*.

Bertram Wyatt-Brown

Baltimore, Maryland
Professor of History, emeritus, at the University of Florida, and past president of the Southern Historical Association. His many books include *Southern Honor: Ethics and Behavior in the Old South*; *The House of Percy: Honor, Melancholy, and Imagination in a Southern Family*; *The Shaping of Southern Culture: Honor, Grace, and War, 1760s-1880s*; and, in 2003, *Hearts of Darkness: Wellsprings of a Southern Literary Tradition*.

COMMON-PLACE.ORG

While AAS is a library devoted to old-fashioned materials printed in America before 1877, we are also a research center and a learned society pursuing knowledge and disseminating discoveries made in the collections with all the twenty-first-century tools at hand. When in 2000 two enterprising young scholars with a good idea for an online journal approached the Society, we found ways to work in partnership with them in launching this venture. Jane Kamensky of Brandeis and Jill Lepore of Boston University (now at Harvard University) originated the idea for the journal and have served tirelessly as co-editors. They describe it as "an effort to create a common place for historians, curators, archivists, journalists, and history buffs to share what they know about early America and to teach each other to ask new questions." After five years, Kamensky and Lepore are stepping down from the helm. Edward G. Gray, associate professor of history at Florida State University, who has served as editorial board member and book review editor for *Common-place*, will take over as editor. He has been involved with the journal since its inception, but in his new position looks forward to exploring "ways to expand *Common-place's* use of non-print media—video, film, sound, and graphic imagery."

Along with the editorial change, the management is also in transition. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is withdrawing from the governance of the publication but will generously continue as a financial contributor during this year of transition. Florida State University will now join AAS as a nongoverning partner for at least the next four years. The first issue of the new regime will be launched on the Internet in January. It will be a special number devoted to the early Pacific; and, along with Gray, Alan Taylor of University of California, Davis, will serve as the guest editor. While *Common-place* is published exclusively on the Internet, we remind you that this newsletter *Almanac* and *The Book* are printed on paper and mailed to subscribers, but they are also available at the AAS website: americanantiquarian.org.

Member Notes

Connecticut Landmarks (formerly The Antiquarian & Landmarks Society) has selected **Charles Beach Barlow** as the first recipient of the George Dudley Seymour Medal, an award which honors an individual or institution that has provided consistent leadership and vision in advancing the cause of Connecticut's heritage.

Dr. Gary Milan of Beverly Hills was the victim of a break-in and theft of a portion of his collection of movie memorabilia. Scripts and other materials related to both *Casablanca* and *The Maltese Falcon* were among the items in a safe that thieves removed from his house. The details are reported on Americana Exchange, a website for bibliophiles created and maintained by **Bruce McKinney** of San Francisco.

William Safire has announced that his last regular column on the Op-Ed page of the *New York Times* will be published in January 2005. After more than thirty years of writing that column, he will retire it; but he will continue to write his "On Language" column for the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*. Publisher **Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr.** said, "The *New York Times* without Bill Safire is all but unimaginable."

Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. was honored by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute at a New York dinner in October. **Walter Cronkite** was among the guests.

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation, a private, nonprofit national organization that coordinates accreditation activity in the U.S., has elected **Richard Traina** of Worcester as chairman of the board of directors.

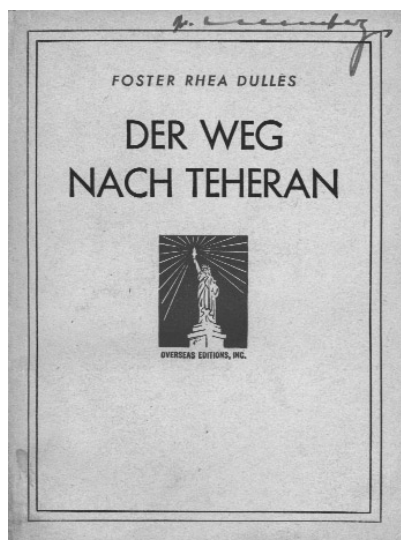
Fellows

The wedding of our 2002-03 Northeast Modern Languages Association fellow **Glenn Hendler** to Nina Rowe was featured in the *New York Times* "Vows" column. Hendler is an associate professor of English at Notre Dame University and Rowe is an assistant professor in the Department of Art History and Music at Fordham University.

Staff

In July, **Georgia B. Barnhill**, Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Graphic Arts, presented papers at the SHARP conference in Lyon and at the American Museum in Giverny on the relationship of French and American lithography. While Gigi was in France, **John B. Hench**, vice-president for collections and programs, was in residence at Columbia University, working on his project "A D-Day for American Books Abroad." His research was supported by a Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Fellowship.

Senior cataloger and serials specialist **S.J. Wolfe** presented papers on nineteenth-century America's fascination with mummies at the New England Historical Association meeting and at the SHEAR conference at Brown University.



From John Hench's overseas editions collection



The mummy Padihershef



Goldilocks

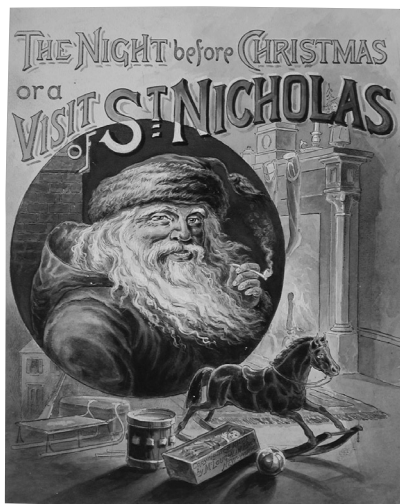
McLoughlin Collection Conservation

The colorful collection of drawings, proofs, and print samples from the New York publishing firm, McLoughlin Brothers, Inc., are now cleaner and brighter than for many years. With a grant from the Heald Foundation, directed by trustee James N. Heald 2nd of Worcester, the con-

servation department was able to hire paper conservator Paula Lupton of Shrewsbury to undertake the massive project of cleaning, stabilizing, and providing appropriate new housing for over seven hundred illustrations and one hundred twenty-five picture books. The McLoughlin firm pioneered the systematic use of color printing technologies in children's books between the 1850s and 1920s, when the firm was sold to Milton Bradley. The principals continually experimented with color illustration, progressing from hand stenciling, to the mechanical relief process or zinc etching, to the planographic process of chromolithography. This collection also includes manuscripts, paste-up dummy books, publisher's catalogs, and a ledger book of picture book covers. In addition to illustrations for popular children's stories like "The

Three Bears," "Cinderella," "Mother Goose Rhymes," "Sleeping Beauty," and "The Night Before Christmas," the drawings include scenes from familiar Bible stories, *Pilgrim's Progress*, and Shakespeare's plays.

The collection is a valuable research resource, tracing the evolu-



tion of a publishing firm through the latter half of the nineteenth century. The library acquired the collection in part by a donation from the late AAS member Herbert H. Hosmer in 1978 and in part through purchase from AAS member Justin Schiller in 1997. The Heald Foundation's grant made it possible for us to provide conservation treatments of the collection so that it can be appreciated in a state much closer to the original. The cleaning process was particularly challenging, since printer's notes and light pencil drawings in margins and on verso needed to be preserved. Some of the drawings had been backed with acidic boards, which had to be removed mechanically. The entire collection is now housed in appropriate mats, folders, and boxes for safe storage.

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Volunteer Docents Tell AAS Story

Everyone who works at AAS has heard the refrain: "I have never been inside the American Antiquarian Society and I have always wondered what goes on in that handsome building." To satisfy this curiosity, the Society offers free public tours of Antiquarian Hall every Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock, conducted by a group of specially trained docents.

Each week two dedicated and talented volunteers guide visitors through the historic main library building. Along the route the docents show and explain such items as: Isaiah Thomas's own eighteenth-century printing press, a collection of antique furniture including the desk of Governor John Hancock with secret compartments useful for a revolutionary leader, artifacts such as a vial of tea from the Boston Tea Party and the Mather family high chair, many historic portraits and prints, and an extensive collection of Staffordshire pottery made in the mid-nineteenth century for the American trade and based upon lithographs that are also held in the AAS collections. But, of course, the main feature of each tour is the behind-the-scenes look at the twenty-five miles of shelving where the Society's extensive and priceless collection of printed materials is stored.

Because Antiquarian Hall was originally constructed in 1909 with additions built by each successive generation in 1924, 1950, 1972, and 2002, the tours are also a fascinating look at the history of library construction. Beginning with the glass floors and dark green steel shelving that are the hallmarks of the original building to the compact shelving and state-of-the-art preservation environment of the 2002 reinforced concrete book vault, the tour vividly depicts how libraries have evolved over the past century.

Docents also describe the activities and programs of the Society with stops in the graphic arts, newspapers, manuscripts, and conservation departments,



Tour group at Thomas's press

where visitors frequently see staff and volunteers working with the collections. The tours also feature a short video presentation narrated by Walter Cronkite on the mission and activities of the Society.

The AAS docent program was developed by outreach director, James David Moran and is now administrated by events coordinator, Ann-Cathrine Rapp. The following individuals are or have been part of the AAS docent program: Marsha Ballantyne, Karen Bernard, Cathy Cairns, Henry (Harry) B. Dewey, Janet (Bunny) Guerrin, Gary Hayward, Hebert Holmes, Barbara Horan, Nancy Johnson, Nelson Mather, Richard McNamara, Ida Nystrom, and Marilyn Quigley.

The Wednesday tour programs have been so successful that we have expanded it to include special tours for professional, civic, and social groups. Additionally, we have offered local historical societies special Wednesday evening tours of the building with an exhibition of AAS materials from the individual town or locality.

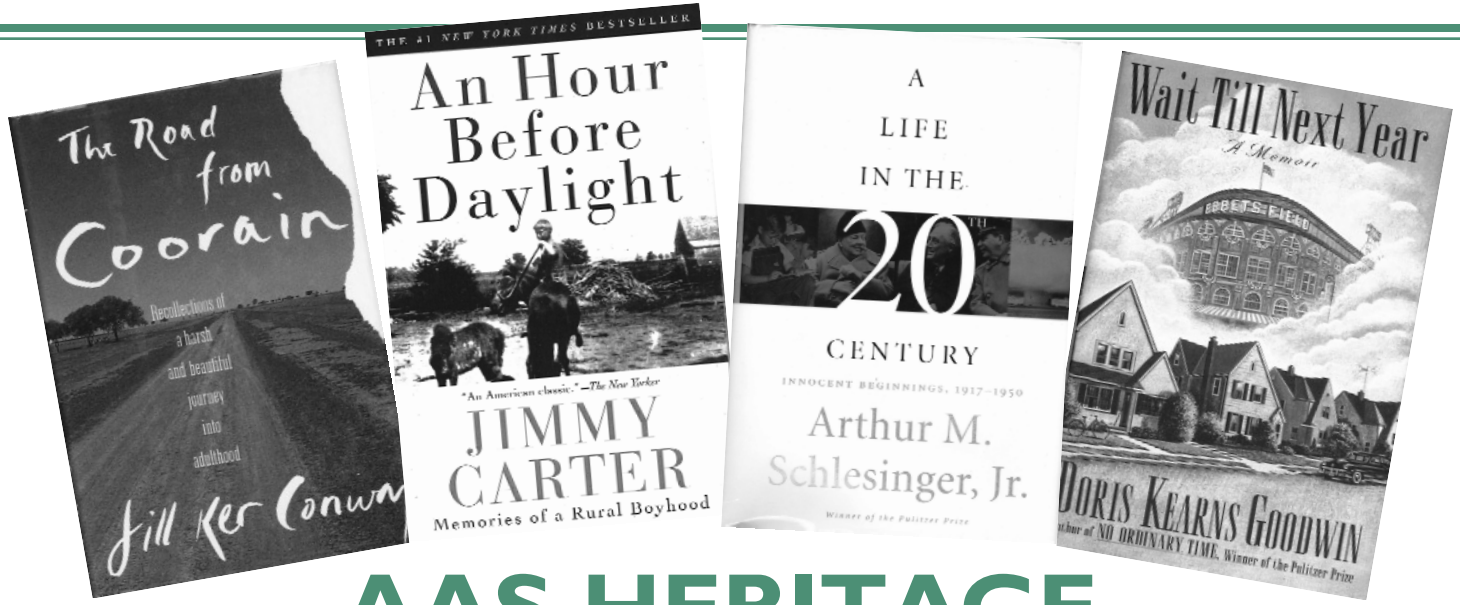
"Our Wednesday afternoon tours have become extremely popular with a wide variety of people," said Moran. "We frequently see long-time residents who have never been in the building coming in for their first peek or coming in with out-of-town guests to show off one of the region's gems. And, of course, there are the researchers, many of whom have worked in the library for years, who want to see where all the wonderful papers and books that they study actually come from."

SURFIN' AAS

www.americanantiquarian.org has taken on a new look. The official website of the American Antiquarian Society was recently redesigned by staff in preparation for offering secure on-line transactions. While all of the old features were retained and incorporated into the new design, new functionality and better navigation are hallmarks of the new look.

Upcoming events and latest news are featured prominently on the homepage to keep users informed as to the goings-on at AAS. A new toolbar at the top will allow the visitor to search the site or browse through categories, giving full access to hundreds of pages of information on the American Antiquarian Society and all of its programs.

Watch for new changes as we will soon be adding secure on-line transactions to the site for making donations, ordering books, publications, and materials from our "Book Corner," or for requesting photo-duplication or rights and permissions. You will soon be able to execute all these transactions online.



AAS HERITAGE

KNOW YOUR AAS MEMBERS

As the AAS moves toward its bicentennial, we are aware that the institution is not just a library, but also a remarkable collection of members, living and dead, who have contributed to the Society's heritage. The Society's current membership totals 798; and a total of 2,605 individuals have been elected to membership since the charter group founded the Society in 1812. Not surprisingly, this group of literate and lively individuals has left a body of autobiographical writings and published diaries.

In fact, two classics of autobiographical literature—*The Education of Henry Adams* and *The Road from Coorain*—are by members: **Henry Adams** (elected 1884) and **Jill Ker Conway** (1977), who published two subsequent autobiographical volumes, *True North* and *A Woman's Education*. *The Diary of John Quincy Adams* (1839) has been published by the Belknap Press. Two other AAS members who have served as the nation's president—**Theodore Roosevelt** (1918) and **Calvin Coolidge** (1925)—published autobiographies, while a fourth, **Jimmy Carter** (1988), wrote a memoir of his childhood, *An Hour before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood*. Roosevelt also wrote a separate account of a particular time in his life in *The Rough Riders*. Another member who detailed his military experience, this time in the Civil War, was **Thomas Wentworth Higginson** (1874) in *Army Life in a Black Regiment*;

later, Higginson wrote more comprehensively about his life in *Cheerful Years*. We have father-and-son autobiographies in *In Retrospect: The History of a Historian* by **Arthur M. Schlesinger** (1939) and *A Life in the 20th Century* by **Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.** (2000).

In *My Life as Explorer* **Roald Amundsen** (1906) recounts some of the harshest conditions on the globe, while **Paul Mellon's** (1967) *Reflections in a Silver Spoon: A Memoir* portrays a life privilege and the responsibilities that come with it. *A Reporter's Life* by **Walter Cronkite** (1977) and *Palimpsest* by **Gore Vidal** (2002) look at the American scene from two very different perspectives. In *A Walk toward Oregon: A Memoir*, **Alvin M. Josephy Jr.** (1977) chronicles his growing attachment to Native Americans in the West, particularly the Nez Perce tribe against the background of major events in the twentieth century. **Doris Kearns Goodwin** (2000) in *Wait Till Next Year* relates her coming of age in parallel with her affection for the beloved Brooklyn Dodgers (later transferred to the Red Sox). Other current members who have recently published autobiographical works include: **Vartan Gregorian** (1991) *The Road to Home: My Life and Times*; **Forrest McDonald** (1988) *Recovering the Past, a historian's memoir*; and **Harold T. Miller** (1978) *Publishing: A Leap from Mind to Mind*.

One project in connection with the approaching bicentennial is to create a bibliography of AAS members' autobiographical writings and to begin to collect those not already held by the library for the Society's archives. If you have suggestions of additional autobiographies or published diaries by members, please let us know.

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