

Report of the Council

THIS year marks a notable change in the history of our venerable Society. Clifford Kenyon Shipton retired at the end of August after serving with very great distinction as Librarian from late 1939 and as Director from April, 1959. Among his massive contributions to the Society was the ordering of the superb materials gathered over fifty years by Clarence Brigham. After organizing, Shipton recorded. He finished the work which Charles Evans began, and then, to make available in the far corners of the globe the materials for research in American colonial history, he spent ten years preparing the Readex Microprint edition of all the available texts entered in the thirteen volumes of Evans' *American Bibliography*, and in the first five volumes of Shaw and Shoemaker's *American Bibliography*. Shipton brought further honor to the Society through his monumental scholarship, best exemplified by his outstanding series of biographical sketches of the graduates of Harvard College. The Council elected Mr. Shipton Director Emeritus at its meeting on September 18, 1967.

His administration came between those glorious years when books seemed to come in on the flood and the future which is as yet unshaped. Shipton's vision of the library was that of a research institution, as opposed to a purely rare book library, which should develop even more its great wealth of materials in the areas of American cultural history through the year 1876. He rightly believed that the weakness of our collections after that date precluded the opportunity of providing significant scholarly resources in the face of energetic and well-funded acquisition policies in university libraries across the nation.

Furthermore, Shipton realized that if the Society were to approach its potential usefulness as a research institution, its financial base had to be greatly strengthened. To that end, he urged upon the Council a major step in our history, the initiation of a capital gifts campaign, the first in our hundred and fifty-five years.

The Council engaged the services of G. A. Brakeley and Company, Inc., of New York City, a firm which has successfully supervised campaigns for museums and organizations similar to ours. The Brakeley people, after interviews with many individuals, concluded that the Society can raise capital funds sufficient to permit an expanded staff which will be better able to care for and service the collections already here, as well as to enlarge them as time goes on. Significantly increased funds for the purchase of materials would be provided by a larger endowment. The spatial requirements of the ever growing collections and for reading and working areas were also considered by the planning committee, which was chaired by Frank L. Harrington.

On October 17, 1967, the Council authorized the inauguration of a capital gifts program, and Mr. Harrington was appointed General Chairman. Such an institution as ours has no large body of alumni to depend upon, but we do have two hundred and twenty colleagues who have accepted the responsibilities of membership and to them we now turn for advice and aid. You will be kept informed of progress in this matter, and we ask for your wholehearted support in this crucial enterprise.

The Council was advised of preliminary plans now being made for the joint participation of this Society and Clark University in the publication of a definitive edition of the works of James Fenimore Cooper, the major nineteenth-century American author whose works have not been accorded this treatment. As the leading Cooper scholar is a faculty member at Clark University, and as this Society

holds an outstanding collection of the works of Cooper, as well as supporting research materials, it seems most logical that Worcester should be the site of such an effort. The membership will be notified of further progress in the delineation of these plans.

In recent years the geographical span of membership has gradually been narrowing to the point where a very large proportion is now located in New England. The Council is most concerned about the problem, for the Society has always been nationally oriented in scope and interests. In order to remedy the situation, a membership committee under the leadership of Richard A. Heald has been appointed by the President with the express purpose of securing nominations of distinguished collectors, scholars, and professional people whose interests closely parallel those of the Society and who are domiciled in all parts of the nation. You are urged to submit to Mr. Heald names of individuals whom you consider outstanding, with a factual letter supporting your belief. This is an exceedingly important matter for the future well-being of the Society, and the Council urges that you give it your careful attention.

The Council has considered other problems as well. An ad hoc committee on By-Laws has been appointed for the purpose of bringing our rules more in line with the current practices of the Society and to allow greater flexibility for the future. The matter of soliciting bequests for the benefit of the Society is a matter with which we have never dealt, and a committee has been established to inquire into ways of encouraging this important kind of support.

This is a suitable place to express the gratification of the Council with the receipt of three generous bequests this year. John Thomas Lee of Madison, Wisconsin, left the Society the sum of \$50,000, the income of which is to be used for the purchase of books. Thomas Winthrop Streeter left the Society a total of \$78,000, which we have received in full and

which will be used to purchase books appearing in the sale of his library at the Parke-Bernet Galleries in New York City. Esther Forbes Hoskins left to the Society the rights to the royalties on her literary works. This gift will provide a substantial sum in the future. We shall use some of the gift to increase the fund which she established in memory of her mother, Harriette Merrifield Forbes, to \$20,000. We will purchase books relating to New England from the income of this fund to which certain memorial gifts to Miss Forbes have already been added.

The Committee on Publications met in August to discuss the Society's publication program. It was agreed that the Society would benefit from an understanding with the Barre Publishing Company which will publish certain of our books under a joint imprint, with a royalty to be paid to the Society. The Council is hopeful that the Society will be able to strengthen its relationship with its members throughout the country, and in an effort to improve communications has authorized the publication of a newsletter to be issued in January and June. We trust that it will enlarge the understanding of the Society's programs and problems.

The staff of the Society has performed its duties with distinction even though our salary scale is not one to reward them properly. Miss Clarke continues to wend her way through eighteenth-century United States government documents and is also working diligently on the immense biographical directory of American printers, which had its inception forty years ago. This great and fascinating work will be published, when completed, by the Society in conjunction with the Barre Publishing Company. Miss Brown and the staff continue to assist with great good will and skill the increasing numbers of readers who come to the library. They also manage to push through with dispatch the larger number of books and pamphlets that we are acquiring. The Editor of the Society, James E. Mooney, has

been on the ground for the past three and one half months and is pressing forward the microprint projects initiated by Mr. Shipton, as well as absorbing some of the past duties of Mr. McCorison. The recently published issue of the *Proceedings* was entered into in the galley proof stage by Mr. Mooney.

The Council notes with satisfaction the presence during the 1967-1968 academic year of Dr. Robert A. Gottwald, Instructor in American History at the Free University of Berlin, who is the recipient of an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship and is undertaking research on the intensity of Jeffersonian republican agrarianism among working men and farmers during the period from 1800 to 1828.

Finally, the Council wishes to express its gratitude and pleasure to the members of the Society who have generously responded to the President's annual appeal for financial assistance. The amount this year came to \$20,000 and very significantly helps the Society in its work. With the continued assistance of all members of the Society, the Council faces the future with confidence in the worth of the Society's calling and with pride in the Society's past accomplishments.

In the last six months we have lost six of our members, a disastrous monthly average:

Alexander Davidson, Jr.	May 13, 1967
Preston Davie	May 24, 1967
Mark Bortman	June 1, 1967
Theodore Sizer	June 12, 1967
Fred Harold Daniels	June 15, 1967
Esther Forbes Hoskins	August 12, 1967

Each in his own way contributed to the spirit and the work which the American Antiquarian Society has been dutifully trying to do, and will continue to try to do.

C. WALLER BARRETT,
For the Council

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