

The Report of the Council

April 21, 1971

DURING the past six months the Council and staff have been particularly concerned with the development of a number of major projects which will in time enlarge the Society's capabilities for service.

The Committee on the Hall, as well as various staff members and Keyes D. Metcalf, have spent considerable time on the plans for the addition and renovation of the Society's building. Those plans are now complete and five construction firms are figuring the job. Thus, we will be prepared to move at once when the funds for construction are made available. We entertain high hopes that those funds will come from one or more of several foundations to which we have applied for aid. The new construction will provide a modern working area for the Society's staff, an element which will give a sense of unity to the staff as well as to promote more efficient use of energy, time, and space. The renovations will make dramatic use of the Society's handsome building for improved reading space, better service to readers, a greatly enlarged card catalogue capacity, a suitable rare book room, and improved atmospheric controls.

On another front, the Council has approved the policy for a basic fellowship program and the president has appointed to a Fellowship Committee, Messrs. Bailyn (Chairman), Shipton, and Towner. The policy, as adopted, follows:

Fellows will be appointed by the Council of the Society upon the recommendation of the Director, advised by a Fellowship Committee which will be comprised of three members of the Society.

Fellows will be selected on the basis of intellectual excellence and on the value of their proposals, which shall be within the scope of the Society's interests; *i.e.*, seventeenth through nineteenth century American history and culture.

Fellows need not be members of the Society.

Appointments may be for periods not exceeding one calendar year, but may be renewed at the discretion of the Council.

Fellows will be expected to be in residence during the term of their Fellowships.

Fellows may be requested to deliver a public lecture at the Society during the term of appointment.

Not more than three persons, permanent residents in the area, may annually be appointed *Resident Fellows*. Normally, such appointments will carry no stipends. Resident Fellows will be selected on rigorous standards. They will be senior scholars of demonstrated ability who will have made regular, frequent use of the Society's resources.

Persons, whose residence is more than fifty miles from the City of Worcester may be appointed *Visiting Fellows*.

Visiting Fellowships will be open to persons holding the Ph.D. or having equivalent scholarly status and will be of three types:

Short Term Fellowships may vary from one to four months in residence at AAS, depending upon the research plans of the Fellow. Stipends will vary according to circumstances, up to a maximum of \$400 per month.

Senior Fellowships will be of one semester, or one academic year, or one calendar year in duration. The stipend will normally be one-half of the Fellow's regular, academic salary up to a maximum grant of \$7,500 for a full, academic year.

Persons with grants in aid from other sources may be appointed Visiting Fellows, without stipend, if they are to be in residence at AAS for at least an academic semester.

The committee will administer the details of this program and is also charged with the responsibility of formulating a long range policy of the Society for service to scholars.

Although the fellowship program represents a major departure from past practices of exploiting AAS resources, the

Society has always undertaken major tasks on this area of its responsibilities; witness the Society's and Readex Microprint Corporation's reprinting of the materials listed in Evans and Shaw-Shoemaker bibliographies. We will continue the micro-reprinting and traditional publishing programs, but by materially encouraging research done in residence at AAS we hope to effect broader, more intensive service to scholars working within the Society's collections. I am happy to report (unofficially) that the United States Steel Foundation has indicated that a grant of \$5,000 will be forthcoming for the support of a fellowship. In addition, the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation has pledged the sum of \$100,000, payable over a four year period for the support of the fellowship program. This gift will be in the form of a challenge grant and the Society must raise matching funds to qualify for receipt of the entire gift. This proposition was accepted by the Council only this morning.

Recently, the Society has received from the estate of the late Ethel B. Lee of Chicago an endowment amounting to \$222,168 (still to come is cash amounting to about \$40,000); all of which is to be added to a fund of \$50,000 already in our possession and bequeathed to AAS by our fellow member John Thomas Lee, the husband of our benefactress. The income from the augmented John Thomas Lee Fund is dedicated by the bequest for the purchase of Americana. This very generous gift substantially improves our powers in the book market and goes a distance in fulfilling our goals for increased book funds.

The response to our Development Program has resulted to date in gifts and pledges amounting to \$1,150,690, a gain during the past six months of \$317,509. Of this, nearly \$26,000 has been given by 275 friends of the Society. Such a nationwide and numerous response is exceedingly gratifying. We sincerely thank the donors. Despite this significant progress, about half of the membership of AAS has failed to respond to our Society's appeal for financial assistance. Frankly, this factor is

distressing to the Council since membership in AAS entails not only privilege but also responsibility. We trust that our colleagues who have not yet done their duty in this respect will step forward.

Gifts to this year's annual appeal for operating funds have amounted to \$6,390, with the major effort to come in May. Those gifts fell off from a high in 1968-1969 of nearly \$27,000 to only \$17,000—a serious matter since the Society's budget depends upon the continued support of the membership in this area of giving. We are confident that this need will be met.

Of great moment is the resignation on this date of the General Chairman of the Development Committee, Frank L. Harrington, Sr. Mr. Harrington's physician has advised him that such a step was necessary and the president has regretfully accepted the unhappy fact. Mr. Harrington served the Society in this position with energy, loyalty, and effectiveness to an outstanding degree. The success of the Development Program to this point as well as its present momentum is due to his leadership. Our gratitude to Mr. Harrington is overflowing. To succeed Mr. Harrington, the president has appointed Howard B. Jefferson of Worcester, President *Emeritus* of Clark University. Mr. Jefferson brings to the post a high degree of interest in the work of the Society and skills whetted on twenty years of academic fund raising. We look forward to an ongoing program, based upon the groundwork so ably laid by Mr. Harrington. To both men we offer our gratitude.

The Massachusetts Council on Arts and Humanities has again provided a grant of money to match an expenditure of \$1,000 for the preservation of AAS portraits and books. In the years 1969, 1970, and 1971 a total of fifteen paintings, forty-three books, and ten prints have been cleaned or repaired; a service of inestimable value to the Society.

The Society's American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, chaired by Benjamin W. Labaree, met in Williamsburg, Virginia, in March and determined that the direction of the

Society's activities pertaining to the bicentennial will be to explore the interaction of the press with participants and events of the Revolution through publications and symposia as well as other appropriate means.

Participants in the Program for Loyalist Studies and Publications, of which AAS is a joint sponsor and in which a number of our members are active, met at the library in March. Supervised by our Editor, James E. Mooney, the locating of manuscripts of American loyalists is well underway and a list of them will be published in the *Proceedings*.

The publications of the Society proceed at a suitable pace. A bibliography of the American printed works of William Cobbett compiled by Pierce W. Gaines is now in page proof. The late d'Alté A. Welch's bibliography of early American children's books is edited and ready for the printer. It will appear under the joint imprint of the American Antiquarian Society and Barre Publishers. The Greenwood Press edition of the Society's card catalogue soon will be issued in twenty volumes at a price of \$2,500. And, we have just bid a happy farewell to the staff workers of Library Resources, Inc., a branch operation of Encyclopaedia Britannica, who selected 235 AAS volumes for reproduction in its library of microfiche.

Frederick E. Bauer who came to the Society as Chief Cataloguer on July 1, 1970, spent three weeks in March in Ghana and in Morocco at the request of the United States Department of State for the purpose of inspecting and advising on the operations of school libraries in those countries. The staff has been diminished by the retirement at the end of December of Miss Louise Trowbridge who faithfully served since 1957 as an assistant in the reading room. We noted with regret the death of Albert G. Waite on February 6, 1971. Mr. Waite was a member of the staff in the manuscript room from 1945 until 1965 and was an authority on Worcester local history.

Likewise, we cannot let go unmentioned the death of Daniel Waldo Lincoln on March 16, 1971. Mr. Lincoln was the son

and the son-in-law of two presidents of the Society. He, himself, served the Society as a Councillor from 1938 until his death and as its Recording Secretary from 1946 until 1967. His death brings to a close a family connection with the Society that was almost continuous from the founding in 1812. The only break in continuity occurred in the late nineteenth century, a matter rectified in 1898 by the election of Waldo Lincoln, the man who revitalized the Society and who brought Clarence Brigham to Worcester. Dan Lincoln's loyalty and interest were unflagging through nearly fifty years of membership and we shall miss him. A memorial fund has been established in his memory and a suitable book or document will be purchased with it.

Turning next to books acquired, this first half of this fiscal year has been an exceptionally productive (and expensive) period for the acquisitions of materials. In the first place we have received a very considerable number of gifts of books.

Pierce W. Gaines in addition to compiling the bibliography of William Cobbett's American publications also collected them. When his work was done he gave AAS a half dozen examples not in our collections including *Observations on the Emigration of Dr. Joseph Priestley* [Philadelphia: Folwell, 1795]; and a copy in wrappers of Matthew Carey's *The Porcupiniad*, Cantos II and III (Philadelphia: Cobbett, 1799).

Although the flow of books by James Fenimore Cooper has fallen off somewhat, we have received some notable gifts from our faithful colleague in this effort, Professor James F. Beard. The Misses Rosamond and Aimee Lamb presented to the Society a beautiful set of the works of Cooper, published in English by Baudry or Galignani of Paris in the 1830s and 1840s. The set consisted of thirty-three volumes bound in brilliant red. A few of them represent texts which are not merely reprints. Mrs. d'Alté A. Welch gave the Society a fine copy of *Wing and Wing* (Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1842) in the original, printed wrappers.

St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in Worcester not long ago bought the old Kinnicutt house which still held a few boxes of nineteenth century books. We were invited to pluck the plums from the fruit cellar; coming away with a few—*Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation* by Robert Chambers being the most significant of the lot. The book was a forerunner of Darwin's and was a strong seller. This copy (New York, 1845) is of the second American edition from the third London. It was followed by a third American edition, all of which appeared in 1844 and 1845, with many later American editions succeeding.

W. Winslow Dumnells sent to us from Clearwater, Florida, the wood engraving of the masthead of *The Boston Port-Folio*, a literary newspaper which was published briefly in late 1855 and 1856.

The Society has had an interest in American tombstone carving since the 1920s when Harriette Merrifield Forbes was at work on her pioneering book. We have preserved her albums of photographic prints as well as the glass negatives. Daniel Farber for a good many years has had a similar interest which is coupled to an outstanding ability with a camera. The result is a set of seven, large albums containing his record of mortuary sculpture which he has gathered in eastern Massachusetts. He has identified a number of new craftsmen and through an elaborate index has made all of his photographs readily available. Mr. Farber worked for a year to produce the albums for the Society. It is a significant contribution to the knowledge of this fascinating subject.

Professor George A. Billias has been very helpful in supplying us with recently published books on American history. These books represent a category in which we buy selectively and his gifts relieve noticeably the load in that direction. We are always pleased to receive gifts of the publications of our members and this may be considered an invitation for authorial Antiquarians to send the same.

In addition to the above named gifts, we wish to express to those unnamed here our sincere gratitude for their generous interest and support of the Society through their donations of valuable library materials.

Of a great many purchases obtained, the examples cited below were among the most interesting. Books prepared for the education of Indians turned up. The earliest and as scarce as anything bought this year was a primer in the Montagnais dialect, compiled by Jean Baptiste de La Brosse. The eight page, quarto pamphlet was printed in the City of Quebec in 1767 by William Brown and Thomas Gilmore, Quebec's first printers. The pamphlet is in remarkably fine condition and is wrapped in a piece of eighteenth century flocked wallpaper. It was purchased on the Henry F. DePuy Fund. Also of notable scarcity is David King's *Dah-Ko-Tah, (Sioux) First Book*. Another primer, it was published in Pittsburgh in 1839. The AAS copy is the third copy known to have survived of this book written for mission use on the Great Plains. It was purchased on the John Thomas Lee Fund.

With the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Library Company of Philadelphia now cheek by jowl a good many outstanding duplicates have been disgorged by one or another of those institutions. We purchased on the Lee Fund a very interesting lot of material from the Library Company. The items were written by Isaac Hunt, father of the English essayist Leigh Hunt. In Philadelphia in 1763, 1764, and 1765 tempers were running high between the proprietary group and the Quakers of Philadelphia and the Scotch-Irish out on the frontier. At stake was the military protection of the back country, the proprietor's rights of non-taxation, and the Quaker's political power. The massacre by the Paxton Boys of the Conestoga Indians in 1764 was one crisis provoked by the contest. Friend Hunt's highly intemperate and un-Quakerly pamphlets were directed against the proprietary interest. His first emission, prompted by a blast at the Quakers by David J. Dove,

was issued with a false New York imprint in 1764. It was entitled *A Letter from a Gentleman in Transilvania to his Friend in America*, by Issac Bickerstaff. The true author was, of course, Hunt, and it was printed by Anthony Armbruster in Philadelphia. The next year Hunt issued *The Substance of an Exercise had this Morning in Scurrility-Hall* which he followed up with six *Continuations*. Finally, for our purposes, he published in 1766 a broadside *Advertisement . . . Proposals, for Printing by Subscriptions, A General History of the Lies Raised and Propagated by the Pr[oprietar]y Faction, since the Year 1753*. Fortunately, or otherwise, the *General History* did not appear and Hunt did not receive his M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, the faculty of which having decided that he was too much for the good of the institution.

With the approach of the celebration of the bicentennial, we ought to mention the acquisition of Bernard Hubley's *History of the American Revolution* published in Northumberland, Pennsylvania, in 1805. It was purchased on the Lee Fund. It is in a nicely executed, contemporary binding with covers of sprinkled calf and a red, morocco spine with black panels. A major element of the gilt decoration is three large fleur de lis stamped down the spine. The owner's initials, A W[ebb], appear at the foot. Hubley was a Captain in the Revolution, following which he pursued a business and literary career. He published the first of two projected volumes himself but the second volume never appeared.

Another political pepper pot was the famous Tom Paine. Is it still possible to acquire unrecorded eighteenth century editions of his *Works*? The answer is, yes! We bought on the Lee Fund a 1796, 480 page volume published in Philadelphia by H. and P. Rice & Co. and in Baltimore by James Rice & Co.

New among our interesting and rare almanacs is *The New Jamaica Almanack and Register for 1796*, printed at Saint Jago de La Vega, or Spanish Town, by David Dickson for Thomas Stevenson, stationer, of Kingston. It contains an excellent,

engraved map of the Caribbean Islands. In later years the interleaving served as pages for the receipt of board bills of a Mrs. Prince then living in Boston. Also purchased was a broadside rarity, printed on wallpaper in Opelousas, Louisiana. It is entitled *Almanack de 1863* and is in French. Both were purchased on the DePuy Fund.

All issues of the famous Ulster County Gazette are very scarce. A few years ago we failed to secure from a private party in the South two issues of this newspaper published in Kingston, New York, from 1798-1803. Recently, we did acquire one—that of October 25, 1800, an issue otherwise unlocated.

A rare promotional piece for the settlement of the south shore of Lake Erie was contained in *A Letter to the People of Maryland* by James Tongue. The pamphlet was printed in Washington City in 1807—an early reference to northern Ohio or New Connecticut. Thomas W. Streeter had a copy (which we did not capture) which he considered an important Ohio document. When a fine copy was offered to AAS, it was purchased on the Lee Fund.

Another book with an Ohio connection is John James DuFour's *The American Vine-Dresser's Guide* published in Cincinnati in 1826. DuFour perhaps had in mind the south-facing banks of the Ohio River as another Rhine Valley.

Lysander Spooner was one of those hyper-active nineteenth century Americans with an interest in absolutely everything. He was a native of Athol and read law in the Worcester offices of John Davis and Charles Allen. In 1844, provoked at the inefficiency of the governmental postal service he established his own, the American Letter Mail Company, which carried letters between Boston and Baltimore at the uniform rate of six and one quarter cents per half ounce or twenty stamps for one dollar. We recently purchased on the Lee Fund a broadside advertising the *American Post Office*. It is dated, New-York, January 20, 1844, and was printed by J. A. Fraetas at the Tribune Printing Establishment. Spooner was as interested in the

constitutionality of a government monopoly as he was in better postal service and in the broadside he advertises his pamphlet, *The Unconstitutionality of Laws of Congress Prohibiting Private Mails*, as well as the schedule of deliveries. The federal post-office shut down his business through threat of prosecution and Spooner went on to other matters such as abolitionism and deism. In his later years he lived as a recluse, spending much time in the Boston Athenaeum.

Pursuing our interest in transportation we acquired four railroad broadsides. Two were of freight rates—one for the Boston and Providence Railroad, dated March 1, 1852; the other for the Connecticut River Rail Road for August 1st, 1854. Another was a broadside printing of the passenger fares on the Nashua & Lowell, Wilton, and Stony Brook Railroad, dated January 1, 1855, while the remaining poster was a timetable dated November 4, 1861, of the Erie and Pittsburgh Rail Road.

Early in the fall we were given an opportunity to buy from a collection several American novels. We made good our chance and took what we lacked. The earliest was John Neal's *Keep Cool* (Baltimore, 1817), in two volumes, acquired on the George Watson Cole Fund. Other pieces of fiction included *The Fastest Girl in New York* by Col. Cabot (New York, ca. 1860), the second number in 'The Love and Romance Series;' and *The Factory Girl* by Sarah Savage (Boston, 1824). Both of these books were bought on the DePuy Fund.

The musical works of Ananias Davisson are highly sought after. He was a printer and musician living in the Shenendoah Valley who published in 1816 his famous *Kentucky Harmony*, probably the first book of revival hymns published in America. The Society does not have a copy of the first edition, although we have others as early as 1819. We acquired in January *A Small Collection of Sacred Music. Chiefly taken from the Kentucky Harmony and Supplement*. This 64 page book was printed in Mount-Vernon, Rockingham County, Virginia (where Davisson then resided), in about 1830. Copies are also located at

the Newberry, Union Theological Seminary, and University of Virginia libraries. It was purchased on the George Watson Cole Fund.

The final book to be reported originated at the greatest distance from us but is among the most recent. It is an example of continuing our interest in the far West and Canadian history and is entitled *First Victoria Directory* which was published by Edward Mallandaine & Co., in March, 1860, at Victoria, British Columbia. Dorothea Spear listed it in her *Bibliography of American Directories Through 1860* because of its 53 page directory of San Francisco businesses. In addition to its importance as a historical source, the book is an early example of Victoria printing. Other copies of this directory are located at the Bancroft Library and in the Archives of British Columbia. This was acquired with funds from the bequest of Donald McKay Frost.

In the past we have recorded readers only as they have come to the library for their first visit. Thus, a constant reader has not been counted in the compiling of our most rudimentary statistics. Some time ago we estimated that an average of a half dozen or so readers per day was about right in determining the number of 'reader days' per year at AAS. We started counting heads and the results have amazed us. The figures show that an average of eighteen readers per day entered the building during what the staff considers a slow period. It will be interesting to see what the figures for the summer will show us about the use of the library.

Among the readers who have been served at AAS since September is a scholar from Alabama, working on the poetry of Mather Byles; a pair of ladies investigating the movement from 1800 to 1880 toward birth control; an investigator from Indiana University who wanted to see every newspaper from 1800 to 1861 for reports on fourth of July orations; a scholar from Florida using our almanacs to locate previously unnoticed literary items; a clergyman from Cranston, Rhode Island,

working on George Whitefield and John Murray. Among the regulars are George A. Billias who is completing his biography on Elbridge Gerry; David Fischer of Brandeis who has completely ransacked our holdings looking for data on social practices of the early nineteenth century; Mrs. Marion Murphy who is working on the capitols of each state in the United States; Rollo Silver on printing history; a half dozen Clark University Ph.D. candidates; a goodly number of Old Sturbridge Village staff members; etc. In short, we have been busy, as is always the case. We congratulate the members of the staff on their cheerful execution of their duties.

We cannot close this report of the events of the past six months without stating our gratitude to all the people involved with the affairs of the Society—members, staff, and friends, without whose constant concern and help these events would not have taken place.

M. A. McC.

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