

# *The Report of the Council*

*October 18, 1978*

NOT LONG AGO the director of your Society received a letter from a member who reported in a somewhat acidulous tone that whenever he heard from the American Antiquarian Society the message always was about the need for money. The statement was distressing but after spending a week worrying over a budget, your reporter only can agree with the remark. However, to coin a phrase, it is money that makes the world move and we do not mind asking for money so long as it is for programs through which the Society moves forward in its primary purposes of collecting, preserving, and making useful the records of our nation's history and culture. The other side of this coin, of course, shows the extraordinary generosity and care by which the fabric of our Society is held together. I cannot think back over this past year without marveling at the generosity of members, friends, foundations, trustees, our staff, even members of the state and federal government who have wholeheartedly supported the work of AAS. The response of all of these people is humbling, indeed, and I can only begin this brief recital of the Society's activities by expressing my profound gratitude to all who have advanced the career of our honorable and useful institution.

Against whose ledger does one measure the contributions of so devoted a staff member as Mary Brown who gave unstintingly of herself for forty-one years in our Readers' Services Department? What about the extraordinarily rich bequest of stunning and important American bindings from the late and much lamented Michael Papantonio? One can only

applaud with utter delight and amazement the generosity of the trustees of the Fuller, Alden, Daniels, Stoddard, Surdna, and Mellon Foundations who have responded to our appeals for assistance. Richard C. Steele has given hours, if not days, of his time in helping to gather up an endowment to fund the work of our Newspaper Department. How does one adequately thank Herbert Hosmer for the gift of his great collection of children's books published by his ancestor John Greene Chandler, and others by the McLoughlin Brothers? And now, unfortunately, it is impossible to thank the late Mary Gage Rice for her bequest.

All of these examples, and many more, leave us really quite amazed at the kindness and generosity of so many friends who are willing to give so much to insure that our institution will continue to be a useful resource for learning, now and in the future. To each of you who has contributed in any way to the Society, or in ways that we have mentioned or failed to acknowledge, the Council and members of the Society offer cordial thanks.

Another source of amazement is the still accelerating pace of affairs at the Society. We are proud to note that our staff has remained remarkably stable over the past several years. It has grown more and more efficient. The demands on them from within the institution as well as from outside AAS grow as we attempt to serve a larger public. The list of professional activities that absorb some of the time of our staff is staggering, indeed. They range from the Massachusetts Special Commission for the Reorganization of Higher Education, to the Society of American Archivists, the Print Council of America, the Holden Historical Society, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Independent Research Libraries Association, to suggest only a few organizations and interests that attract our attention. Despite these distractions, we have managed to publish one book and several pamphlets, as well as the regular issues of our *Proceedings*. The six-year effort to catalogue the

manuscript collections of the Society is drawing to a successful conclusion, as is our four-year effort to catalogue miscellaneous pamphlets dating from the years 1821 through 1830. The wooden common press that belonged to Isaiah Thomas has been restored. Three thousand four hundred fifty-six readers have been served, and one thousand four hundred sixty-four visitors passed through the Hall. Hundreds of letters have been prepared and mailed to answer reference questions or sent to interested friends and members to tell them of our needs. More than \$125,000 has been raised from more people than ever before to supply annual funds to support the ongoing work of the Society. The Worcester Association of Mutual Aid in Detecting Thieves has been revived within the local area to encourage members and friends of the Society to lend us their interest and support. Of the 7,812 pieces added to the collections of the Society, nearly half, 3,784, came to the Society as gifts. Incidentally, the total number of acquisitions, both printed and manuscript, is the largest received in several years. Financially, we ended the year in a fiscal condition that enabled us to reduce by over \$150,000 the accumulated deficit that had accrued on our books during past years when demands for services (and thus money) exceeded our capabilities. This record has been ably and agreeably supervised by Mary V. C. Callahan. Under her guidance \$934,000 was received during the year in cash and pledges for the various needs and programs of the Society.

Within the internal library activities of AAS, the most dramatic change that occurred in 1977-78 was the retirement of our long-time head of readers' services, Mary E. Brown. Miss Brown is really irreplaceable; nevertheless a new head of readers' services has been appointed. She is Nancy H. Burkett, a woman of sound training, good experience (including five years as our assistant curator of manuscripts), and of good and cheerful character. As much as we miss Mary Brown, we look forward to working with Nancy Burkett.

Other momentous changes in the area of library management are in the wind. Your director has long been fascinated by the possibilities that computerized access offers to a collection as large and as deep as that which is under our care. A traditional card catalogue is a very costly and cumbersome means of entry into a collection of 650,000 pieces nearly all of which are interrelated by subject or intent. Our use of the OCLC terminal gives us computer-printed catalogue cards and a magnetic tape as a first step toward a computerized catalogue. At present, we are looking forward to more intensive use of this device in cataloguing hitherto uncatalogued American broadsides (through the year 1830) and ultimately to the conversion to machine-readable form of our records of all American printed matter 1640-1800. The broadside cataloguing has been funded by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

As we noted above, our efforts to catalogue the Society's manuscript collections and a collection of miscellaneous pamphlets 1821-30 are about to come to a successful close. The manuscript cataloguing activity has been supervised by William L. Joyce and a number of colleagues, most recently Nancy H. Burkett, Kathleen A. Major, Jo-Anne Beales, and Mark W. Savolis. An agreement has been reached with G. K. Hall & Company to publish the manuscript catalogue, which contains 48,000 descriptions of 1,200 collections, in three folio volumes. The catalogue of the manuscript collection has been generously supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. They have totaled more than \$250,000 and have supported a staff of five or six persons for the entire period. Now, for the first time scholars have a rational and efficient means of using these collections of the Society. Manuscripts have been repaired and all have been rehoused under proper conditions. This is a great accomplishment! We congratulate Mr. Joyce and his staff and thank Margaret S. Child of the National Endowment for the support of her office in completing the work.

During the past two and one-half years Carol R. Alexander has been cataloguer of pamphlets. Her assistants were Rachael M. Shea and Alan N. Degutis, with short-term help this past summer from a work-study student from Harvard College, Thomas F. X. Cole. Congratulations are in order for Mrs. Alexander, her predecessor, Dorothy D. Siles, and their several colleagues for bringing this useful work, which was also supported by NEH, to a successful conclusion. Mrs. Alexander and Mr. Degutis will turn their skills upon the American broadsides come November.

Cataloguing of acquisitions, of course, goes on apace by Richard L. Anders, our rare-book cataloguer, and by Dorothy M. Beaudette. The latter is our manipulator *par excellence* of the computer terminal and it is she who extracts Library of Congress cataloguing for our modern books and enters Mr. Anders's cataloguing of our eighteenth- and nineteenth-century acquisitions.

As he has for the past several years, Frederick E. Bauer, Jr., has overseen the work of the Society's library and library staff. This task has grown more complex in the last two or three years as governmental regulations and inflation have grown in scope and in depth. He has our gratitude for the excellent management of these affairs, as does Donald K. Strader, our chief engineer, for the care he lavishes on the physical plant.

The work of the staff of the Graphic Arts Department has centered on the mounting of eight exhibitions, conservation of nearly 300 broadsides, prints, and maps, the revision of the Stauffer and Fielding checklists of early American engravings, the accessioning of new materials, and daily service to scholars. Georgia B. Bumgardner, the curator, plays the leading role in all these activities and it keeps her 'on the move'! She is ably assisted by Audrey T. Zook. Of particular long-range interest is Mrs. Bumgardner's engagement with the Stauffer and Fielding project. The work was begun a generation ago by H. Duncombe Colt of New York City and Washington, for these pioneer listings of the work of eighteenth-century and early

nineteenth-century American engravers are in desperate need of revision if scholars of American art, society, or politics are to have any accurate idea of the riches that exist for their enlightenment. Not long before his death in 1973, Colt turned over to us his files and his reference books. Mrs. Bumgardner, who had been helping Mr. Colt, took charge of them and now, with bicentennial madness out of the way, she has had the time to begin work in earnest. Fortunately, she has had the weekly help of an intern from Boston University, Sarah D. Hill, and some progress is visible in working through appropriately illustrated books in our collections. Plans are afoot that, if successfully brought to fruition, will speed the work even more rapidly.

Joyce Ann Tracy and her cohorts in the newspaper and serials section of the library are still at the never-ending task of integrating and cataloguing the holdings in these collections. As new material is acquired, particularly nineteenth-century material, older holdings are recatalogued in order to give us an exact accounting of issues held. Also, the materials are inspected for conservation needs. Some 3,200 newspapers from fifty-five states and provinces were dealt with in 1977-78. Miss Tracy is assisted by Dennis R. Laurie, at present a CETA employee. Charles K. Frankian, a part-time assistant, enabled AAS to participate in a project to list all Iowa newspapers, an effort at the State Historical Society of Iowa sponsored by the now dormant U.S. Newspaper Project of the Organization of American Historians.

Miss Tracy is at work in entering our location symbol for all currently received periodicals into the national periodical data base, CONSER. She will do the original cataloguing for those serials received by AAS that do not already appear in that computerized listing. At present AAS receives more than 500 periodicals. In all these matters Miss Tracy has the help of Mrs. Zook, who, we have noted, also serves as assistant in the Graphic Arts Department.



# Farmers' & Mechanics' Repository.

POUGHKEEPSIE.—PRINTED FOR GREGORY FRENCH, AND OTHERS.

SA. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1869.

NO. 11.

In December, Miss Tracy, Mr. Bauer, and the director were hosts of a meeting of representatives from New England and New York libraries who met to discuss the needs of the region for a more accurate listing of newspapers, state by state. Sponsors of the meeting, which was attended by fifty librarians, were AAS, the New England Library Board, and the United States Newspaper Project of OAH.

As we suggested earlier, publication activities continue apace. The year's book was the late C. K. Shipton's *Index to the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, beginning with our earliest publications through 1961, the seventy-first volume of the new series of the *Proceedings*. This volume is a perfect example of the kind of work to which Ted Shipton devoted his career. He took upon himself the task of constructing guides to sources of historical knowledge. One largely inaccessible source was our own *Proceedings*. That is no longer true because of Ted's devotion to scholarship and the thoughtfulness of a number of friends and members of his family who contributed funds toward the cost of publication of the index. Editor John B. Hench not only saw through the press this large and complicated book (consisting of 42,000 entries) but also edited our usual two thick issues of *Proceedings*. To my mind this publication has in recent years improved considerably in quality. He has pushed forward the Society's bicentennial volume on the press and the American Revolution, a volume that is under the editorship of Bernard Bailyn and J. Russell Wiggins. At this report it is close to completion. Mr. Hench also has in train the publication of facsimile editions of two recent acquisitions dealing with the practical arts—one a unique 1812 pamphlet on the mixing of house paints and the other the first American publication on the method of dressing looms to weave particular kinds of cloth.

In addition to his editorial duties, Mr. Hench has supervised our fellowship program and other matters relating to Society-sponsored research. To these ends he has devoted considerable



attention to computer matters and to keeping abreast of the progress of the Short Title Catalogue of eighteenth-century English printed books (ESTC). Our involvement in this guide into the heart of an eighteenth-century culture has grown considerably during the past year. With the approval of the Society's Council we have accepted the responsibility for the North American imprints of that century. Not only will this result in an infinitely more useful bibliography of the material central to our own collecting interests, it will also place AAS in a situation where we can actually bring all our records of American printing under control through machine-readable records. The challenge is a considerable one, but one we believe to be well worth the effort.

The other area of our work that is undergoing greatest change and that has absorbed a great deal of our thinking is the Education Office. William L. Joyce holds that chair which is funded by a five-year grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The purpose of the grant is to enable us to try ways of encouraging the effective use of our collections in modes other than those traditional to our past experience. It has been difficult, indeed, to devise a program that meets both our criteria for use of a research collection (in contrast to a teaching collection) and the needs of our neighboring academic community. Another serious problem arises as we attempt to draw a rational plan for an institute for advanced study that stands on our institutional strength, that is the building and publication of research tools such as bibliographies and edited documents, as well as meeting the needs and expectations of the present population of analytical historians and their students. Our original intention, one that we have not abandoned, was to establish a graduate-level seminar that makes the connection between teaching and research based upon the Society's collections. Unfortunately, the small available number of advanced students in our immediate region precluded the successful organization of such a seminar. Rather, Mr. Joyce and an advi-

sory committee made up of presidential appointees from each of the five four-year Worcester colleges opted for a seminar designed to combine rigorous intellectual demands with use of original research materials. Each college is represented by two student participants, as follows: Assumption College—Barbara A. Ring, Patrick M. Fitzgerald; Clark University—John J. Valente, Jr., Angela Von Laue; College of the Holy Cross—George A. Ashur, Kevin M. FitzGerald; Worcester Polytechnic Institute—Brian Huntley, Elizabeth Steigerwald; Worcester State College—William Adrian, Roger M. Anderson. The seminar is entitled 'Writers Confront the Marketplace: Literature and Society in Jacksonian America' and is conducted by Stephen Nissenbaum, associate professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The seminar has already met several times this fall and all reports suggest that it is surpassing all expectations.

Other programs sponsored by the Education Office included appearances by AAS members Cecelia M. Kenyon, John D. Seelye, and Mary Beth Norton before the Worcester academic community and the occasional meetings of Seminar in American Social and Political History, 1750–1850, which is attended by regional faculty members. Last but not least, three lectures were scheduled in July before the Simmons College seminar on American children's literature. Carolyn A. Allen, Mr. Bauer, and Prof. Ross W. Beales of Holy Cross each delivered themselves of accumulated wisdom and familiarity with our collections before the group.

Mr. Joyce also planned three public programs. They included lectures by Neil MacNeil and M. A. McCorison, but the highlight was a fine performance with soloists and orchestra under the direction of David McKay of operatic music heard in eighteenth-century America.

It has been a busy year and keeping all these balls in the air at once is a trick of a true juggler. Our entire staff is remarkable for loyalty, sense of responsibility, and diligence, without

which traits AAS could not possibly do all the things we do. Also, we must mention the services of my secretary, Eleanor S. Adams, who acts as office manager, and Vivian B. Schotte, who keeps our complicated accounts in order. To the entire staff, our profound gratitude.

We suggested earlier in this report that additions to the library were far more numerous this year than in the recent past. This was owing to some very substantial gifts, both of books and money, as well as the slowly expanding size of our endowed book funds. Early last fall we received several hundred additional negatives and photographs of carvings on New England gravestones which are the work of Daniel Farber. Parenthetically, I might note here that Mr. Farber has also pledged a substantial sum of money to provide for the installation of sixty smoke detectors in order to improve our fire warning capabilities. The family of the late Dorothy Fay Mixer of Hardwick, Massachusetts, gave the Society a large number of nineteenth-century pamphlets, newspapers, and periodicals. From the gift we added several hundred pieces to the permanent collections. Mrs. Arthur B. Tourtellot gave us a selection of fine books and prints from her late husband's historical reference library including a volume presented in 1733 by Benjamin Franklin to his sister, Jane Mecom. More than 700 issues of nineteenth-century newspapers from the Simon Kenton Farm, Springfield, Ohio, were given by Virginia L. Hunt Wedgwood and Edward E. Hunt, Jr., in memory of their mother. The Society received from the Readex Microprint Corporation the gift of its series of reprinted Americana in 109 volumes.

Herbert Hosmer, Mrs. George L. Harding, Mrs. Marguerite J. Longstreet, Matthew J. Needle, and Stephen Weissman all gave the Society materials that enrich our collections significantly. To all donors—and there are many others not named here—our gratitude!

Of materials purchased, perhaps the most impressive is William Birch's *The Country Seats of the United States of North America* (Springland, Pa., 1809). Not only is it a rare book, it is an important architectural and social document, showing as it does views of suburban retreats of the well-to-do or famous, people who already in the first decade of the nineteenth century were leaving cities for nostalgic, rural settings. This was acquired through a gift from Marion S. Fletcher and from income of the John Thomas Lee Fund.

Another book of great value and interest is *The Weavers Draft Book and Clothiers Assistant*. Published in Baltimore in 1792, it is the first publication in the United States with instructions for dressing the loom and other practical matters on the craft of weaving. It is one of two known copies and is the gift, in part, of The Crompton & Knowles Foundation. The compiler was John Hargrove, a Methodist-turned-Swedenborgian preacher who published the engraved book with the hope of setting American craftsmen free from the domination of British weavers. This book is the second publication in our series of facsimiles. We trust that the series will prove successful and that we can go on publishing one or two such books a year.

Other interesting acquisitions pertaining to the practical arts touched a variety of matters. For example, today Hingham, Massachusetts, is a suburban community, but in the early part of the nineteenth century 500 of its citizens were employed annually in the business of catching and salting mackerel. These facts are set forth in a pamphlet published in 1829 by Farmer & Brown in Hingham that is entitled *A Statement of the Quantity of Mackerel Packed from Hingham Vessels, from 1815 to 1828*.

A decade later, Salem merchants still pursued overseas trade, as had generations before them. James Birckhead compiled a record of that activity in Brazil for the year 1838 in *Pro Forma Sales and Invoices of Imports and Exports, at Rio de Janeiro* (Salem: William Ives and Co., 1838).

Additions to materials pertaining to the printing and publishing trades were quite satisfactory. They included type specimens of White, Hagar and Co. (New York, 1835), George B. Lothian (New York, 1841), John F. Trow (New York, 1853), and the New York Type Foundry (New York, 1858). Printing office work rules of the Boston Master Printers' Association for 1826 and for an unknown office of about 1830 (the gift of Stephen Weissman) were obtained. So, too, were prospecti of Meigs and Dana of New Haven of February 15, 1786, and Collier and Stockwell of Bennington, Vermont, of October 1800, each announcing the proposed publication of newspapers. Book trade advertisements ran the gamut from salesmen's dummies to broadside lists of books for sale at auction (New Haven, 1824), announcements of trade sales (New York, March 21 and 25, 1850, and Boston, November 17, 1868) publisher's advertisements from the American Railway Literary Union (1874?) and for books of Oliver Optic and for the "*Venus Library*," or *Tales of Illicit Love* (New York, 1870s), the latter the gift of Stephen Weissman. Acquired manuscripts included a New York bookseller's inventory of sixty-six pages for the period September 1840 – January 1841, the gift of Matthew Needle, and the accounts for 1842–61 of John D. Cushing, a Berkshire County, Massachusetts, printer and stationer.

Additions to the newspaper collections included a gift of the *Gazette of Maine* published in Buckstown. Our run includes issues from July 1805 to June 1807 and from July 1808 to June 1809. These unique issues were the generous gift of Roland M. Howard of Blue Hill, Maine. Also received as a gift, from Roger E. Stoddard, were three issues of an unrecorded publication, *Maram jen Ebon* (1873) published in the Marshall Islands in the local language (Ebon) by the Reverend Benjamin Galen Snow, a Congregational missionary to those faraway peoples.

Of equal interest is a copy of only the second-known issue of what appears to be one of the first American newspapers to contain editorial caricatures. It is volume 1, number 2 of the

Poughkeepsie, New York, *Farmer's & Mechanics Repository* (December 9, 1809). Below the masthead appears a copperplate engraving depicting local characters and events, about which there is no printed information in the newspaper, leaving us in the dark as to the caricature's portent. (See figure opposite p. 138.) A copy of volume 1, number 1 exists at the New York Public Library. It, too, is illustrated.

Other periodical accessions include volume 1 of *The Dramatic Mirror* (Boston, 1839-40); volumes 1-4 and 8 of *Star in the West* (Cincinnati, 1838-45), *The Messenger of Peace* (Hudson, N. Y., 1825), volume 1; and 200 issues of the Washington, Pennsylvania, *Patriot*, 1845-49, an antislavery newspaper.

In the area of humane arts and letters we were fortunate in acquiring a respectable showing of rarities. Among them were a Swedish edition of Fenimore Cooper's *Heidenmauer*, entitled *Eremiten vid Heidenmauer* (Stockholm: N. H. Thomson, 1834), in three volumes, each in its original, printed wrappers. Francis Hopkinson, the signer, had a penchant for satire as illustrated by his effusion *A Pretty Story* (thought by some to be the first American novel). In 1789 Hopkinson published a poem delineating the competition and feud that existed between two Philadelphia medical schools over the stealing of cadavers from local cemeteries. Entitled *An Oration Which Might Have Been Delivered to the Students in Anatomy on the Late Rupture between the Two Schools in This City*, Hopkinson's poem was printed by Dobson & Lang in 1789. It is not common. *The Poetical Works of George M. Horton, the Colored Bard of North-Carolina* (Hillsborough, N. C.: D. Heartt, 1845) is a desirable addition to our holdings, as is *Der frommen Lotterie* issued in Germantown, Pennsylvania, by Christopher Sauer in 1744. This unusual compilation of verse appears on 381 tickets which are numbered and are contained in a leather box. The verse was written by Gerhard Tersteegen, a German ascetic, and is intended to encourage devotional contemplation. It was purchased on the Henry F. DePuy Fund.

Allen D. Carden first published his *Missouri Harmony* in St.

Louis in 1820. This edition, printed for the compiler in Cincinnati, was the earliest of a score that appeared by 1857. Carden's work was an early and highly influential 'shape note' hymnal both within his region and within that musical tradition. Other unusual acquisitions included *The Spanish Hymn* by Benjamin Carr (Philadelphia, 1826), a modern phonograph recording of Francis Hopkinson's *America Independent or, The Temple of Minerva*, and two unrecorded collections compiled by George Elliot, *A Collection of Divine Hymns* (Sangerfield, N.Y.: J. Tenny, 1814) and *A New Selection of Songs, Inscribed to Patriotism and the Lovers of Music* (Deerfield: John Wilson, 1817). Off the beaten track, so to speak, is a copy of *Incwadi Yamagama* [Zulu hymns] printed in Port Natal at the American Mission Press in 1849.

Of children's literature, other than the great gift from Herbert H. Hosmer of materials published by the McLoughlin firm, perhaps the most interesting is yet another unrecorded Isaiah Thomas imprint, his 1771? edition (the fifteenth) of *The History of the Holy Jesus*. It was purchased on the Emma Forbes Waite Fund. Still others include an unrecorded edition of *The Little Woman and the Pedlar* (New York: William Charles, 1807) and *The Modern Story Teller* (Springfield, Mass.: Timothy Ashley for Ezekiel Terry, 1803). Isaac Watts's *Divine Songs* were well represented by 'new' editions—Boston, 1784; Dover, N.H., 1799; Brookfield, Mass., 1803. Perhaps the most attractive acquisition of juvenile literature was a nice copy of *The History of Little Fanny* to go with our Morgan & Yeager edition of *Little Henry* (Philadelphia, 1825).

Of several publications relating to social reform movements we believe that a pamphlet containing the laws and outlining the purposes of the American Society for Promoting the Civilization and General Improvement of the Indian Tribes in the United States to be of particular interest. It was published in New Haven in 1824 and lists Isaiah Thomas as a special correspondent of the Society. The Georgia Equal Rights and Edu-

cation Association was formed by Georgia black people following the Civil War. AAS has acquired a copy of the proceedings of their 1866 annual meeting.

The kindergarten movement in the mid-nineteenth century had a profound influence on American educational attitudes and theory. The first American kindergarten was established in Boston in 1859 by a German emigré, Adolph Douai. We acquired on the DePuy Fund a copy of the second edition of his important manual for teachers, *The Kindergarten* (New York: E. Steiger, 1871).

Among an increasing number of manuscripts added to those collections was a fine series of twenty-nine diaries written by Caroline Burrett White (1828-1915) covering the years 1849-1914, the gift of Caroline Olmsted. The diarist lived in Roxbury and Brookline and her entries are revealing and useful to the historian.

Another very interesting document is a letter from an Indian to Joseph Moody Titcomb of Newburyport, Massachusetts. Written in September 1833 from the 'Valley of the Park of the Kiacke,' the anonymous member of the Apsarooka, or Crow-foot, tribe tells Titcomb that he is forwarding a complete Western Indian brave's war dress which he then describes in some detail. The Indian completes his letter with a bitter comparison of the condition of the white and red races. The letter is the gift of Frances Billings.

We believe that our Society has accomplished significant work in the year just closed. We harbor high hopes for the coming year. To each person who has encouraged us in our tasks, we again offer our heartiest gratitude.



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