

Report of the Director of Research and Publication

A HEIGHTENED LEVEL of activity in the book publication program and in the sponsorship of scholarly programs characterized the Department of Research and Publication during the Society's 178th year. On Friday, September 14, 1990, a small but festive party took place at AAS to mark our publication of *American Sacred Music Imprints, 1698-1810: A Bibliography*, by Allen Perdue Britton, Irving Lowens, and Richard Crawford. Although the event took place in this current fiscal year, rather than in the Society's year reported on here, our own labors on that title had been completed. Readers of these reports over the past several years may be pardoned for tiring of hearing of this title's impending publication. Still, the occasion was a joyful one for collaborators on this complex project. The book, handsomely designed by Howard Gralla, composed by Meriden-Stinehour Press, and printed by Arcata Graphics/Halliday, is 814 pages long, weighs four and a half pounds, and is available for \$160 (that is, \$35.56 per pound) from the Society's book distributor, the University Press of Virginia (and at the Society's sales desk in Antiquarian Hall). Publication was greatly assisted through subventions by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Musicological Society, the Sonneck Fund of the Music Division of the Library of Congress, and Allen Perdue and Veronica Britton. We are grateful to all of these supporters. The book is an important one, and well worth the long wait.

Gratifying progress was also made during the past year on three other book projects under way for varying periods of time. At the turn of the Society's new year, *The Judgment of Experts: Essays and Documents about the Investigation of the Forging of the "Oath of a*

Freeman," edited by James Gilreath of the Library of Congress, was about to enter the page-proof stage. In the case of *Prints of New England*, a book of essays edited by Georgia M. Barnhill, corrected galley proofs have been returned to the printer. *A Checklist of American Newspaper Carriers' Addresses, 1720-1820*, compiled by Gerald D. McDonald, Stuart T. Sherman, and Mary Russo, awaits only some reformatting of the text in the Macintosh computer at the John Hay Library of Brown University, our partners in the project, before it, too, is ready for the printer. Once again, in other words, assistant editor Sheila McAvey had her hands full with complex book projects.

After considerable study and discussion over the year, we decided, after all, not to divide the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* into two entities by separating the reports and other official matter from the scholarly articles and bibliographies. Ultimately, the Committee on Publication felt that the risks involved with charting an independent course for a *Proceedings* set apart from its full institutional context outweighed the benefits in these difficult financial times. Still, the exercise of reexamining the *Proceedings* and the role it plays in the Society and the larger world of scholarship was decidedly worthwhile, even if the ultimate decision largely endorsed the status quo. Several changes arose out of the process in any case. A subtitle, *A Journal of American History and Culture Through 1876*, has been added to the title *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* in order to make clearer its purview and the fact that its pages are open not just to members of the Society. A Board of Advisors was appointed that will act as a sounding board for the journal's editorial staff. The board at present is made up of the following members of AAS: John Bidwell (reference/acquisitions librarian, William Andrews Clark Library, University of California at Los Angeles), Richard Crawford (professor of music, University of Michigan), Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (professor of English, Duke University), Robert A. Gross (professor of American studies, College of William and Mary), Linda K. Kerber (professor of history, University of Iowa), John McCusker

(professor of history, University of Maryland), Jules D. Prown (professor of the history of art, Yale University), and Barbara Sicherman (professor of history, Trinity College). Finally, the *Proceedings* is accepting advertising for the first time (paid and exchange). This decision will, among other things, provide our members who are engaged in such congenial enterprises as publishing and bookselling an additional means of supporting the Society, while at the same time making the readership of the journal aware of their products and services. For information on rates and specifications, please contact the undersigned.

The past year was also an unusually busy one for scholarly programs at the Society, including the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture. AAS was host, often in collaboration with other institutions or organizations, to more than the accustomed number of conferences, symposia, and seminars. In early October, the Society put on a reception for persons attending the annual meeting of the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, which was meeting in Worcester. Later that month, we sponsored a symposium on 'Scholarly Uses of the Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalogue and the North American Imprints Program,' which was timed to coincide with the meeting at AAS of the International Committee for the Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalogue. Early in November, we sponsored with Clark University a symposium in Antiquarian Hall on 'The Republican Synthesis Revisited' in honor of George A. Billias, an AAS member and professor recently retired after a long and distinguished career in the Clark history department. The next month, the Committee for a New England Bibliography was our collaborator in convening a symposium on the historiography of New England to mark the completion of the principal work of the Committee, an eight-volume set of bibliographies of the history of the six New England states and of the region as a whole. That project, with which the Society has been connected from its instigation by Marcus McCorison, now moves into a maintenance phase with a goal of producing addenda volumes at approximately



Pictured are matriculants, faculty, and AAS staff at the fourth Summer Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture, held at the Society June 9-19, 1990.

five-year intervals. The undersigned now replaces Mark McCorison as the Society's representative on the Committee's governing board. Finally, in June, the Society held its fourth summer Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture. Under the joint leadership of David S. Reynolds, professor of English at the City University of New York, and Michael Winship, associate professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin, twenty-two literature professors, historians, librarians, and advanced graduate students from around the country convened to examine 'The American Renaissance: Critical and Bibliographical Perspectives.' Once again, the seminar was a success, drawing on the full measure of cheerfulness and expertise of the staff and introducing the Society's collections to a diverse and talented group of scholars from as far away as California and as nearby as the zip code just west of Antiquarian Hall. Our departmental secretary, Diane Schoen, deserves special mention for the skillful way she keeps all of these projects, and many others, straight and on course.

A great deal of planning for future activities of the Program in

the History of the Book in American Culture took place during the year just completed. A call for papers for a conference on the iconography of the book was issued. The conference is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 14-15, 1991. Serving along with Program chairman David D. Hall and the Society's director of research and publication as members of the steering committee for this project are Georgia B. Barnhill of AAS, William J. Gilmore-Lehne of Stockton State College, and Louise Stevenson of Franklin and Marshall College. We are still working on a proposal for funding a conference to deal with the question of the interaction between literate and nonliterate populations in North America, and hope to have something definitive in the works by next year. Our thoughts have already begun to turn to plans for the 1992 summer seminar. The James Russell Wiggins Lecturer for 1991 has been selected: Prof. Nina Baym of the English department at the University of Illinois. Finally, we have developed a plan for attracting continued funding for some of the basic administrative costs of the Program as well as for a series of working conferences connected with the multivolume collaborative history under Hall's general editorship.

Several new members have joined the advisory board for the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture, or its executive committee, for terms beginning September 1, 1990. New to the advisory board are Richard Brodhead, professor of English at Yale; James Gilreath, American history specialist in the Division of Rare Books and Special Collections at the Library of Congress; Ian Willison, former head of the English Language Collections at the British Library; Jack Larkin, senior historian at Old Sturbridge Village; Jeffrey Kaimowitz, curator of Trinity College's Watkinson Library; and Bernardo P. Gallegos, assistant professor of educational foundations and interdivisional studies at California State University, Los Angeles. Michael Winship, mentioned above, has accepted an invitation to come on board the executive committee.

The Society's three regional seminars had busy schedules during the past year. Participants in the AAS Seminar in American

Bibliography and Book Trade History heard papers by James N. Green (Library Company of Philadelphia) and Hugh Amory (Houghton Library). In the AAS Seminar in American Literary History, Philip Gura (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) and Lee Heller (Mercer University) presented recent work. The Society's oldest seminar, the Seminar in American Political and Social History, scheduled four seminars, with papers by Sarah Deutsch (Clark University), Kathryn Preyer (Wellesley College), Mark Valeri (Lewis and Clark College), and Alan Taylor (Boston University). The latter seminar has now been transformed into the New England Seminar in American History, with the history departments of the University of Connecticut, Storrs, and Clark University joining AAS in its sponsorship. Plans call for six sessions annually, with four to be held at AAS and one each at UConn and Clark. The basic format of the seminar will remain unchanged, with the emphasis continuing to be on the informal presentation of work in progress, although the addition of a couple of new sponsors may make it possible to go somewhat farther afield for speakers than we have been able to previously.

The Society's program of informal 'brown-bag' lunchtime colloquia continued during 1989-90 with a diverse program of speakers and topics in the accustomed, comfortable setting of the Goddard-Daniels House's Elmarion Room. Speakers at the nineteen sessions were Francizcek Lyra (M. Curie-Sklodowska University, Poland), Nicolas Barker (British Library), Ross Beales and Rebecca Rourke (College of the Holy Cross), Vincent Kinane (Trinity College Library, Dublin), James Pepper and Douglas Reynolds (Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor), Mason I. Lowance (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Doris O'Keefe (AAS), David Zonderman (University of Wisconsin), Ian Willison (British Library, retired), James and Dianne Rugh (AAS), Klaus Lubbers (University of Mainz), Susan J. W. Gordon (AAS), Marykate McMaster (AAS), Lee Heller (Mercer University, twice), Robert Cormier (Grafton High School), Amy Thomas (Duke University), Todd S. Gernes (Brown University), and William J. Gilmore-Lehne (Stockton State College).

The AAS American Studies Seminar for undergraduates from the five four-year colleges and universities in Worcester ran for the twelfth time last fall. Stephen A. Marini, professor of religion at Wellesley College, adjunct professor at Weston School of Theology, and a former AAS fellow and research associate, led the matriculants in an examination of religion and the American Revolution, while Joanne Chaison, head of readers' services, her staff, and other AAS curators generously and enthusiastically guided students to primary resources for the seminar papers that all were required to write.

In addition to all of these educational programs, AAS sponsored several public lectures and musical offerings during the year for members of the public in the greater Worcester area. Richard Crawford, of the University of Michigan, enlightened and entertained a large audience in September with "Make a Joyful Noise": Reverberations of Early New England Psalmody in Twentieth-Century America.' That lecture was funded in part by the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities. Also that month, baritone Gordon Myers, a musicologist from Trenton State College, brought life to 'Music from Isaiah Thomas's *Massachusetts Magazine*' through a lecture-recital held two hundred years after publication of the first issue. Robert A. Gross, of the College of William and Mary, gave the annual James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture in October on 'Printing, Politics, and the People.' During Black History Month, February, the Society sponsored a lecture by Maryemma Graham, of Northeastern University and the W.E.B. DuBois Center for Afro-American Studies at Harvard, on 'The Origins of Afro-American Fiction.' Professor Graham also served as guest curator for an accompanying exhibition of works of African American authorship drawn from the Society's rich collections. The whole project was made possible by a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities. Members of the black community in Worcester were enormously helpful in publicizing and supporting this activity. Ricky Jay, a noted performer and historian of magic, gave a lecture-demonstration of his craft in connection with the Society's gala

fund-raising magical weekend in March. AAS-NEH fellow William W. Freehling, of the Johns Hopkins University, fed the growing public appetite for the history of the antebellum and Civil War periods with a May lecture on 'The Southern Road toward Disunion and Civil War, 1776-1861.' A month earlier, the versatile Professor Freehling conducted a Saturday workshop for members and friends of the Society on American antique furniture. The last lecture of the Society's year was given by Michael Winship in August on the important nineteenth-century publishing firm Ticknor and Fields.

The scholars awarded short- and long-term fellowships to study at AAS during 1990-91, selected last March, were listed in the Report of the Council for April. It was another strong competition in terms of the quantity and quality of the applications received; the numbers, in fact, fell just short of the previous year's record. Publicity has been going out this summer and fall toward generating applicants for the next fellowship competition, which has a January 15, 1991, deadline, two weeks earlier than before. Maximum stipends have been increased for both the several short-term and National Endowment for the Humanities-supported long-term competitions for 1991-92.

Speaking of the National Endowment for the Humanities, readers of the *Proceedings* may recall that NEH last year required that the centers for advanced study funded under this program, including AAS, submit the list of names of candidates, including alternates, for fellowships for prior approval of a subcommittee of the NEH's council. Previously, the centers merely informed the Endowment of their choices. The process worked smoothly enough last year; the choices of all the participating centers, including ours, were duly approved, but still the procedure is burdensome at best and open to potential problems at worst. NEH Chairman Lynne Cheney herself has recommended that the process be abandoned. The Endowment has dropped a plan to visit selection committee meetings regularly and systematically.

Rental of the bedrooms in the Goddard-Daniels House to fel-

lows and other visiting scholars rebounded to normal levels from a particularly soft 1988-89. Occupancy during this past year was at the rate of 76 percent, compared with only 62 percent the year before. It was unusual for February to be the busiest month, with 100 percent occupancy. The slowest month was November, at 43 percent. Usage of the public rooms of the Goddard-Daniels House for both AAS-sponsored and outside events during 1989-90 was at what have become normal levels. Some 3,553 persons attended 161 events in the house, compared with 2,997 persons and 155 events the previous year. Among the outside groups using space in the Goddard-Daniels House during the year were the Worcester Area Cooperating Libraries, Norton Company, Patrons of the Arts of the Vatican Museums, the International Committee of the Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalogue, the Worcester Consortium for Higher Education, the Committee for a New England Bibliography, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Worcester Youth Guidance Center, the Greater Hammond Heights Neighborhood Association, Preservation Worcester, Bancroft School, Worcester Publishing Company, the Junior League of Worcester, the Worcester Women's Network, the New England Document Conservation Center, the Worcester History Group, the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, and NEH Summer Institutes for Secondary School Teachers held at the University of Colorado and the College of the Holy Cross.

This past year seemed unusually frenetic but productive, although many of the fruits of the year's work will not be apparent until this year, or the next. The coming year promises to be exceptionally challenging, what with the coming long-range planning and the beginnings of the transition in the executive leadership of the Society.

My departmental staff—assistant editor McAvey and secretary Schoen—continued to do splendid work with scarcely a moment to catch their breath. Our particular departmental duties also could not be accomplished without the able and willing collegial assistance of many others, particularly the library staff who provide

such remarkable service to our visiting fellows and program participants, events coordinator Anne-Cathrine Rapp, and buildings-and-grounds head Donald K. Strader and his associates. I am happy to record my gratitude to them here.

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