

*Proceedings
of the Annual Meeting*

OCTOBER 20, 1993

ANTIQUARIAN HALL, WORCESTER

THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIRST annual meeting of the American Antiquarian Society was held at Antiquarian Hall, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, on Wednesday, October 20, 1993, at 6:00 P.M. The following members were present: Robert Comey Achorn, Charles Beach Barlow, Georgia Brady Barnhill, Robert Charles Baron, George Athan Billias, Joan Toland Bok, Karl Lombard Briel, Mary Elizabeth Brown, Nancy Hall Burkett, Richard Byron Collins, Edward Denis Crowley, Bruce Goddard Daniels, Ronald Sears Davis, Hagop Martin Deranian, Henry Bowen Dewey, James Corcoran Donnelly, Ellen Cary Smith Dunlap, Dorothy Brewer Erikson, Linwood Mandeville Erskine, Jr., Daniel Farber, Rudy John Favretti, Norman Sanford Fiering, Donald Richard Friary, Loren Frank Ghiglione, James William Gilreath, Joseph Henry Hagan, Harlowe DeForest Hardinge, James Harley Harrington, John Bixler Hench, John Herron, Jr., William Harry Hornby, Frederick Herbert Jackson, John Jeppson, 2nd, Minna Flynn Johnson, Crawford Lincoln, Russell Elliott Manoog, Marcus Allen McCorison, Drew Randall McCoy, Catherine Jean McDonough, Harold Taylor Miller, Anne Murray Morgan, Kenneth James Moynihan, Calvin Peter Otto, William Oscar Pettit, Jr., William Sherman Reese, Richard Neil Rosenfeld, Steven Rotman, Justin Galland Schiller, Henry Traf-ton Silsby II, Albert Brown Southwick, Hope Hartwell Spear, Helen Estabrook Stoddard, Roger Eliot Stoddard, Henry Schofield Streeter, Barbara Welch Sudler, William Francis Sullivan, David Frederic Tatham, Sumner Burnham Tilton, Jr., Louis Leonard Tucker, Alden True Vaughan, Meridith Daniels Wesby,

James Russell Wiggins, John Clark Woodbury, and Michael Zinman.

Vice-Chairman Miller presided. After the call of the meeting, read by Mr. Tatham, and the waiving of the reading of the minutes of the semiannual meeting of April 23, 1993, Mr. Miller reported the following changes in membership:

Edward Pessen, died December 23, 1992, elected April 1981
 Aubrey Christian Land, died January 14, 1993, elected April 1982
 Morris Harold Saffron, died April 28, 1993, elected April 1978
 Hannah Dustin French, died May 2, 1993, elected April 1975
 Sidney Kaplan, died June 15, 1993, elected April 1986
 Bertram Kimball Little, died June 21, 1993, elected April 1948
 Walter Douglas Bell, died August 6, 1993, elected October 1974
 Jeremiah Kaplan, died August 10, 1993, elected October 1983
 Russel Blaine Nye, died September 2, 1993, elected April 1971
 Bruce Anthony King, resigned September 9, 1993, elected April 1970

Mr. Tilton presented the report of the Treasurer.

In giving the report of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Miller proposed the following persons for election as Officers and Councillors of the Society for 1993-94: Chairman, 1993-94, Robert Charles Baron; Vice-Chairman, 1993-94, Harold Taylor Miller; Treasurer, 1993-97, Peter Howard Creagh Williams; Recording Secretary, 1993-97, Catherine Jean McDonough; Secretary for Domestic Correspondence, 1993-95, Bruce Goddard Daniels; Secretary for Foreign Correspondence, 1993-96, Julian Lee Lapidés; President, Ellen Cary Smith Dunlap; Councillors, 1993-96, Loren Frank Ghiglione, James Harley Harrington, John Heron, Jr., Mary Kelley, Polly Ormsby Longworth, William Oscar Pettit, Jr.; Councillors, 1992-95, Joan Toland Bok, Everette Eugene Dennis, William Sherman Reese, Richard Neil Rosenfeld, Sumner Burnham Tilton, Jr., John Clark Woodbury; Councillors, 1991-94, Karl Lombard Briel, James Oliver Freedman, Donald

Oresman, Calvin Peter Otto, Jules David Prown, Barbara Welch Sudler. The members elected the slate.

Mr. Miller then offered the following resolution:

Whereas JOHN DOUGLAS SEELYE, ROGER ELIOT STODDARD, and DAVID FREDERIC TATHAM are all of them distinguished scholars and bookmen, as well as gentlemen of wisdom and wit; and

Whereas Messrs. SEELYE, STODDARD, and TATHAM have honorably served as Councillor, Officer, or both since 1989, 1989, and 1983, respectively, thereby benefitting the Society with much wise counsel drawn from their instincts and experience; and

Whereas Messrs. SEELYE, STODDARD, and TATHAM retire this day from their elected posts of leadership within the Society; now therefore

Be it resolved that their fellow Officers, Councillors, and Members do hereby formally and gratefully acknowledge the value that the participation of Messrs. SEELYE, STODDARD, and TATHAM in the governance of AAS has added to the Society's affairs and wish them well in all that they do; and upon the records of the Society let this resolution be inscribed and to these admired colleagues let these sentiments be made known.

Resolved in Worcester, Massachusetts, this twentieth day of October, nineteen hundred ninety-three, the one hundred eighty-first year of the Society.

The resolution was accepted with spirited applause.

Mr. Miller then offered a further resolution, as follows:

Whereas JILL KATHRYN KER CONWAY, accomplished scholar, selfless teacher, best-selling author, savvy administrator, inveterate globetrotter, weekend gardener, and remarkable collector of 'firsts,' has lent great distinction to the membership rolls of the American Antiquarian Society since her election in 1977; and

Whereas JILL KATHRYN KER CONWAY ably served as a member of the Society's Council since 1979 and as vice-president from 1985 to 1987; and

Whereas JILL KATHRYN KER CONWAY assumed the chairmanship of this revered institution upon the occasion of its one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary and has led it with skill, determination, tact, and high achievement through a half dozen important years of its history, successfully presiding over the transition from one presidency to another; and

Whereas JILL KATHRYN KER CONWAY this day gives over to other

hands the chairmanship of the Council of this Society; now therefore

Be it resolved that her fellow Officers, Councillors, and Members do hereby congratulate and thank JILL KATHRYN KER CONWAY for all that she has achieved on their behalf, wish her well in accomplishing everything that she wishes from life, and gently exhort her to continue to bestow upon her colleagues within the Society's membership and staff the benefits of her wisdom and experience; and upon the records of the Society let this resolution be inscribed and to this exemplary leader let these sentiments be made known.

Resolved in Worcester, Massachusetts, this twentieth day of October, nineteen hundred ninety-three, the one hundred and eighty-first year of the Society.

The members accepted the resolution with warm applause.

Mrs. Burkett gave the report of the Librarian, following which she expressed for the Society's staff its thanks to Mrs. Dunlap for her effective leadership during the past year.

Mrs. Dunlap noted that the meeting was the first to include non-members and she extended a welcome to all assembled. She then presented a series of remarks, titled 'To Collect and Preserve the Past, To Serve Posterity: Broadening Access to AAS.' In the course of her presentation she noted that the Society's present financial situation is strong and healthy. She reported on steps currently underway to ensure the Society's vitality as a leading national research institution, and described the Society's deeply felt obligation to her predecessor, Mr. McCorison, for building a strong staff as well as strong collections over the years. After citing with deep gratitude the welcome grants and gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations over the past year, she noted the ways in which the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund grant will enhance and enlarge the Society's public dimension.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Miller welcomed Mr. Baron to his post as Chairman, and observed that in a year of transition in leadership the Society's had continued to flourish magnificently.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05. Members and guests then gathered for refreshments and dinner at the Worcester Club.

David Frederic Tatham
Recording Secretary

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