

Report of the Council

AS USUAL, the past winter has proved a busy one for the Library of the Society. Christmas and Easter vacations have brought many researchers to Worcester to use material which was either unique or not so conveniently located in other libraries.

The Library building is in excellent condition. The lack of hot water during the summer, when the oil burners are not running, has required us to install a new electric hot-water unit. It has proved most satisfactory.

During the coming summer provision must be made for a new catalogue case. The present capacity for cards has been stretched to the utmost, and since there is much new cataloguing to be done, or revisions of old cards, it is imperative that new cases be installed. The expense is considerable—over four thousand dollars—but it is not a question of choice. An addition to the catalogue is indispensable, if we continue and complete our catalogue, especially in the field of early American printing.

The resignation of a member of the staff, Mrs. Eleanor S. Adams, has deprived us of the services of a valued assistant. The position will be soon filled.

Another resignation came through the removal to New York of John Eugenio, photographer in connection with the microprint project. His place has been satisfactorily filled by Nathan Cohen of Worcester. This is a position which is not subject to the expense of the Antiquarian Society, but is taken care of by the Readex Microprint Corporation. The project has been progressing at a rate even faster than

expected. As described in previous reports, it seeks to print in micro-form the text of all titles in Evans' *American Bibliography*, excepting newspapers and magazines, from 1639 to 1800. Mr. Shipton has given most of his time to the undertaking and has already reached the year 1773 in his location and preparation of titles. This is one of the most important enterprises ever undertaken by the Society. The support given to it by over ninety libraries, throughout this country and abroad, has made the plan feasible. It is one of the outstanding bibliographical projects of our time.

A considerable number of rare early American imprints have been obtained for the Library, but the description of these should await the Librarian's report in October. A manuscript of much value has been presented by Robert E. Moody, a member of the Society. This is the Letter-Book of Mills & Hicks, the eighteenth-century printers, covering the years 1782 to 1784. It traces their printing career at Charleston, St. Augustine, New York, and Nova Scotia. Although it has been printed in the *North Carolina Historical Review* (Vol. 14, 1937), this is the original manuscript and is the final source of authority.

It should be noted that currently published local histories and genealogies are being added to the Library as soon as they are printed. This is accomplished by examining the reviews of books in the hundreds of historical magazines and journals which the Library receives, and then writing to the authors suggesting either gift or purchase. We have been following this method for many years, but never so comprehensively and thoroughly as at present.

The only death of a member reported in the last six months was that of Henry R. Wagner, of San Marino, California, who died on March 28, 1957, at the age of ninety-four. Elected to this Society in 1922, he was much interested in the Library and a constant donor and corre-

spondent. Our frequent associations with him will be greatly missed. His obituary sketch will appear in the printed *Proceedings* of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

For the Council

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.