

Report of the Council

IT HAS been a busy winter, as usual, so far as the use of the Library is concerned. Although severe storms occurred in January and March, little damage was done to the trees on the Society's property. The new catalogue case was successfully installed, and has been functioning perfectly.

One of the most important gifts of the year came to us from Thomas W. Streeter, who at our request had his portrait painted and generously presented it to the Society. It was painted by Joe Jones, of Morristown, New Jersey, and is an alert and expressive portrait. The gift was especially appreciated since of the fifteen Presidents of the Society who have held office since 1812, we owned portraits of all but two, and now one of the gaps has been filled by this gift. The only portrait now missing is that of Samuel Eliot Morison who served as President from 1938 to 1952.

The last portrait acquired previous to Mr. Streeter's was that of Edward Everett Hale. Three years ago, an excellent portrait of Dr. Hale was presented to the Society. Since for thirty-five years I tried to obtain a portrait of Dr. Hale, and learned many facts regarding his various portraits, it seems a good idea to put on record in this Council Report the information acquired. Dr. Hale, who was elected a member of the Society in 1847 and so continued until his death in 1909, was President of the Society in 1906-1907.

As Librarian I wrote to Philip L. Hale, his son, and also to his daughter, Ellen D. Hale, both artists who had painted portraits of their father. Philip wrote me in 1921 that he had painted two portraits of his father, one of which was in

the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford and the other still in his ownership. He offered to make a replica of his portrait, at a nominal price, but nothing came of it. Philip Hale died in 1931.

Miss Ellen D. Hale wrote me in 1934 that she had painted a large portrait of her father, which had been loaned several years previously to All Souls' Church in Washington. Dr. Hale was temporarily minister of the Washington church in 1844-45. The Washington church in 1954 expressed a willingness to transfer this portrait to the American Antiquarian Society, but since we obtained a portrait from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, we did not accept the offer. The Washington church also owned a photograph of Dr. Hale showing him in the pulpit with the Reverend Ulysses G. B. Pierce, a fellow minister. Miss Ellen Hale wrote me that she had also painted a small portrait of her father. It was this portrait that Miss Hale presumably left to her nephew Thomas Shaw Hale of New York after her death in 1940.

Mrs. Philip L. Hale, who resides at 2004 Lewis Mountain Road, Charlottesville, Virginia, has two portraits of Dr. Hale painted by her husband, Philip L. Hale. She believes that there are no inscriptions or indications of dates of painting.

The Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University owns a portrait of Dr. Hale painted by William M. Chase, purchased from an art dealer in 1955. We have a photograph of this portrait.

The portrait painted by Philip L. Hale which went to the Wadsworth Athenaeum at Hartford was many years ago transferred to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York, since it was antiquarian in interest and did not qualify in their standard of art. In February, 1955, the Board of Directors of the Academy voted to transfer to the

American Antiquarian Society the portrait of Mr. Hale "on semi-permanent loan, subject to recall if needed." This generous offer was immediately accepted, and after all these years we obtained the one missing example of the portraits of our first twelve Presidents. It is an excellent portrait, faithfully portraying the features of Dr. Hale whom some of us knew when he was President.

An early portrait of Edward Everett Hale, painted by Richard Law Hinsdale of Hartford, is reproduced in *McClure's Magazine* for September, 1893, Volume I, page 392, in an article on Mr. Hale by Herbert D. Ward. Presumably it was painted when Dr. Hale was minister of the Church of the Unity in Worcester from 1845 to 1856. Hinsdale was a young Connecticut artist who died in 1856 at the age of twenty-nine. But his early portrait cannot now be located. Herbert Ward is dead, and search in Hartford fails to reveal any knowledge of the portrait.

In *Ballou's Pictorial* for December 26, 1857, Volume XIII, page 412, there is a woodcut of Dr. Hale, cut by A. Hill after a photograph by John B. Heywood. It is the earliest picture which I have seen showing Dr. Hale with a beard. The Society has many photographs of Dr. Hale, but nearly all in the last thirty years of his life.

There have been six deaths in the Society's membership during the last six months. Henry Lowell Mason of Boston, elected in 1941, died October 16, 1957. Stewart Mitchell of Boston, elected in 1931, died November 1, 1957. Francis Henry Taylor, of Worcester, elected in 1956, died November 22, 1957. William Hutchinson Putnam, of Hartford, elected in 1951, died March 10, 1958. William Irving Clark of Worcester, elected in 1933, died April 5, 1958. Donald McKay Frost, of Boston, elected in 1939, died April 14, 1958. Obituary notices of these members will appear in the printed *Proceedings* of this meeting.

A considerable number of rare early American imprints have been acquired, and will be noted in the Librarian's report next October. Many titles have been added to our collection of American literature, but our wants in this field are few, and it is a problem only of filling in the gaps. The process of weeding out unwanted titles is progressing towards its end. These are chiefly European books having no connection with this country or fields in which we are interested.

Two volumes have been recently published directly concerned with our collections, and to which this Library has contributed much help. These are the second volume of Jacob Blanck's *Bibliography of American Literature* and Lyle Wright's *American Fiction, 1851-1875*. In the latter volume, a count of the ownership of titles included shows that this Library has 1755 titles, followed by the Library of Congress with 1635 entries, New York Public Library with 1394, Huntington Library with 1365, and Yale with 1197.

The finances of the Society are in excellent shape, chiefly due to the generous answer to our appeal for funds last summer, which showed a total of \$18,152 added to our income for the fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,
For the Council

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