

Report of the Associate Director for Research and Publication

THE HIGHLIGHT OF the year for the members of the Department of Research and Publication, as it was for the Society as a whole, was the multifaceted and invigorating celebration in October of the 175th anniversary of the founding of AAS by Isaiah Thomas and his colleagues. In contrast to these gala anniversary events, what followed during the rest of the Society's year appeared routine, even tranquil. Still, the department made solid progress on a number of fronts, though much work remains uncompleted.

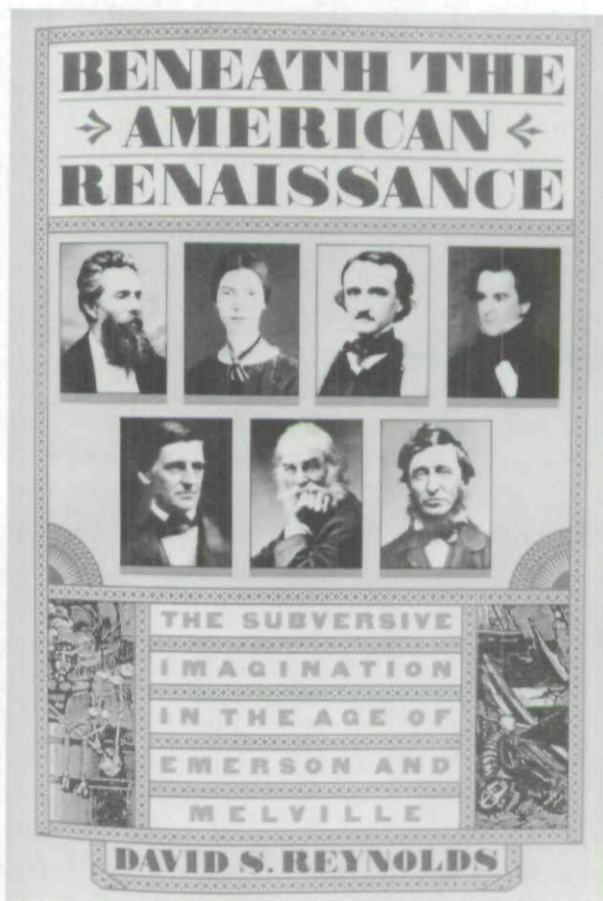
The two books published during the year—*The Collections and Programs of the American Antiquarian Society: A 175th-Anniversary Guide* and *Members and Officers of the American Antiquarian Society, 1812-1987*—were products of the anniversary celebration. Both were issued in paperback editions and made available also in a special limited-edition slipcase holding the two volumes. The guidebook has proven to be immensely serviceable as an introduction for researchers, or would-be researchers, into the rich and abundant collections of Americana housed behind the green doors of 185 Salisbury Street and also as a comprehensive source of information on AAS for the world at large. By year's end, a number of professional journals had reviewed the guidebook; all reviews were favorable, many downright laudatory.

Exciting and enjoyable as it was, the work on the two anniversary publications had diverted department staff from labors previously expended on other longstanding projects. Anniversary over, major effort was again applied on these backlogged undertakings. Assistant editor M. Sheila McAvey completed the long task of proof-reading the galleys of the bibliographical checklist of American sacred music tunebooks through 1800 compiled over at least two scholarly generations by Allen P. Britton, the late Irving Lowens,

and Richard Crawford and collated her corrections with those of Crawford and designer Howard Gralla. Fine-tuning the typographic design of this amazingly complex bibliography occupied additional time—time which we are certain will amply reward all readers of this book after it has appeared from the press in 1989. Also during the year, all illustrations for a volume of essays on New England prints, edited by Georgia B. Barnhill from the proceedings of an American Print Conference held in Worcester, were prepared and sent to the printer. Copy editing of the papers had been completed earlier. Work also continued on a third project, a checklist of American newspaper carriers' addresses, itself compiled over a generation or two by the late Gerald MacDonald, the late Stuart Sherman, and Mary Russo. AAS staff worked closely with Ms. Russo, curator of broadsides at Brown University's John Hay Library, and a project advisory committee consisting of Roger Stoddard and Samuel Streit, on entry content and design. At year's end, Ms. Russo had nearly finished revisions and final printout.

The first two issues of the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* in its new format appeared during the year. The text of the journal is now composed digitally on a Mergenthaler Linotronic 300 typesetter at Meriden-Stinehour Press and printed offset, while the cover (in a new design utilizing the late Stephen Harvard's handsome calligraphic rendering of the Society's initials) is printed letterpress. The new printing arrangements with Meriden-Stinehour Press for the *Proceedings* brought economies in production costs as well as a fresh, elegant, and modern look. New covers were designed also for the Society's line of offprints of *Proceedings* articles and for the *AAS Reports for the Year*.

The Society appointed twenty-one visiting fellows and research associates for 1988–89. Their names, affiliations, and projects were listed in the report of the Council in the last issue of the *Proceedings*. Still, special mention should be given here to one of the year's appointments. Shirley Samuels is the first AAS-Northeast Modern Language Association fellow selected under a new program jointly funded by this Society and the regional affiliate of the Modern



Dustjacket of David S. Reynolds's Beneath the American Renaissance (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988). Much of the research for this book was done during Reynolds's AAS-National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship at AAS in 1982-83. Courtesy, Alfred A. Knopf.

Language Association. It should also be noted that during the year just concluded, Research Associate Peter Kuczynski became both the first citizen of the German Democratic Republic and the first Fulbright Fellow to take up a residency at the Society. The pool of applicants for fellowships this year was exceptionally strong

both in quantity and quality. The fellows chosen were on the average more senior than last year's group.

AAS received another supplementary renewal grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in support of the Society's six- to twelve-month fellowships in addition to the grant from NEMLA for the joint fellowship in American literary studies. The grant amounted to \$59,000 to cover fellowships during 1989-90. During the present year we need to submit another full application for renewed support under the NEH program of fellowships at Centers for Advanced Study and, once again, to host a visiting committee appointed by the Endowment.

Two new fellowship categories will be available in the competition for 1989-90 fellowships, now under way. One is jointly funded by AAS and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, a colleague organization with AAS in the American Council of Learned Societies. Not surprisingly, this award will fund research at AAS in any area concerning the American eighteenth century. The other category is the Stephen Botein Fellowship, which is derived from income from a memorial fund for Steve Botein, who was one of the Society's most active scholarly members. This fellowship during 1989-90 will underwrite research in the history of the book in American culture.

Finally, the members of the department staff are nearing completion of a directory of all AAS fellows, research associates, and summer seminar participants from the beginning of the fellowship program to the present. This will be published this fall, in time to be included as an attachment to our fellowship renewal application for NEH.

A full program of sessions in both the Seminar in American Political and Social History and the Seminar in American Literary History was scheduled during 1987-88. Papers in the political and social history seminar were given by Richard O. Curry (University of Connecticut), John P. Resch (University of New Hampshire, Manchester), Donald Weber (Mount Holyoke College), Jonathan M. Chu (University of Massachusetts, Boston), Thomas Purvis

(Institute of Early American History and Culture), and Gloria L. Main (University of Colorado). Contributing to the literary history seminar were David Porter (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Amy Kaplan (Mount Holyoke College), Brook Thomas (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), and the versatile Mr. Weber.

Eleven lunchtime colloquia took place in the Goddard-Daniels House during the year. Programs featured Richard Landon (Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto), a viewing of the film on the book preservation crisis entitled *Slow Fires*, Paula Petrik (Montana State University), Maris A. Vinovskis (University of Michigan), Jackson Turner Main (University of Colorado), James E. Traue (Alexander Turnbull Library, New Zealand), Peter Kuczynski (University of Halle, German Democratic Republic), Paula M. Backscheider (University of Rochester), Lydia C. Schurman (Northern Virginia Community College), Marie Lamoureux (AAS), and John R. Wolffe (University of Durham, United Kingdom). The list demonstrates how international the series was this year.

The Society's tenth annual honors-level American Studies Seminar for Worcester college undergraduates met throughout the fall semester in 1987. The topic was a timely and appropriate one—the role of the newspaper press in the controversy over ratification of the federal Constitution. The seminar leader was well-qualified for the role. He was Charles E. Clark, professor of history at the University of New Hampshire, a frequent researcher at AAS, and a former fellow here. Professor Clark is at work on a book on the origins of journalism in Britain and America.

There was also during the past year a rich schedule of lectures and other public programs. Last fall, Roger Chartier, a leading French cultural historian, delivered the fifth annual James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture, a presentation entitled 'Frenchness in the History of the Book: From the History of Publishing to the History of Reading.' Later, 'A Spring Miscellany' was the umbrella title for three public pro-

grams that took place in Antiquarian Hall in March and April. Stephen A. Marini, professor of religion at Wellesley College (and this year an AAS-NEH fellow), led his unaccompanied vocal group, the Norumbega Harmony, in a program of early American sacred music drawn from the shape-note, 'Sacred Harp' tradition that originated in colonial New England, spread through the middle states, and persists even today in mountain regions in the South. Robert Darnton, professor of history at Princeton University and a principal shaper of the new history of the book, gave a lecture 'Toward a History of Reading.' Concluding the spring series was Patricia Cline Cohen, a professor of history at the University of California, Santa Barbara, then in residence as an AAS-NEH fellow, who spoke on her current research on 'Safety and Danger: Sexual Peril in Public 1750-1850.' The AAS semiannual meeting in Atlanta in April featured a symposium, chaired by Mason I. Lowance, on the subject of 'The Old South: How Separate?', with provocative papers by George C. Rogers, Jr., John Seelye, and Mills Lane.

Research and publication department staff were also deeply involved in the events of 175th-anniversary week. While library staff guided visitors to the birthday open houses through the reading room and stacks of Antiquarian Hall, research and publication staff held forth at the Goddard-Daniels House, informing visitors about the myriad functions the property plays in the life of the Society today. All this while, the Society's new curator of printed books, Sidney Berger, was in the garage behind the Goddard-Daniels House printing off copies of a souvenir broadside ballad (from the Isaiah Thomas Ballad Collection) on a hand press borrowed from the education department of Old Sturbridge Village. Department staff also contributed to the planning and organization of the grand convocation and academic procession in Mechanics Hall and the symposium on the present state of learned societies and independent research libraries that followed.

The major event held under the auspices of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture during 1987-88 was its



Participants in the 1988 Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture, held at the Society June 18-28, 1988.

third summer seminar, which ran June 18-28. Led by David Hall and benefited by visits from Robert Gross, Michael Warner, Michael Winship, and various AAS staff members, the seminar was again a great success, both educationally—thanks to the faculty and participants—and economically—thanks to the financial underwriting from the sources mentioned in ‘The Report of the Council.’ Twenty individuals from all parts of the country and with diverse scholarly interests matriculated in this year’s seminar. For most of these persons this was the first introduction to the collections of AAS, but it will almost certainly not be the last. For the Society’s staff, the experience is an intense but rewarding one. The summer seminar will continue on a once-every-other-year basis; plans are underway for a renewal in 1990.

Program chairman David Hall advanced plans for the mul-

tivolume, collaborative history of the book in American culture under his editorship. All but one contributor had been signed up for volume I (covering the period through about 1800), and work begun by the others. A draft outline of volumes II and III (together covering the nineteenth century) was prepared and revised. At its meeting last November, the Program's Executive Committee decided that the work should be published by a university press or commercial publisher rather than by AAS. Hall has since had conversations with several potential publishers.

Also during the year, plans were laid for the Society's observance in 1989 of the 350th anniversary of the first printing done in what is now the United States. These activities will include lectures, an exhibition, and a published catalogue.

The staff of the Department of Research and Publication has, for the last six and one half-years, contentedly occupied offices in the Society's Goddard-Daniels House, a unique facility in the American research library world combining office space, educational and meeting facilities, and an 'inn' for resident scholars. (Who among our colleagues, either in Antiquarian Hall or in the nation's other research institutions, arrives at work to the smell of bacon, eggs, and freshly baked bread?) On the innkeeping side, the occupancy rate in the Goddard-Daniels House was 78.3 percent during 1987-88, the highest since the house has been open to visitors to AAS. Last year's figure was 71.2 percent. March was the busiest month (95 percent occupancy) and December the slowest (33 percent).

Use of the house for meetings, tours, or other events also set records during the past year. During 1987-88, 148 events took place in the house with a total attendance of 3,555. The previous year's figures were 86 events attended by 1,301 persons. In the spirit of full disclosure, however, it must be pointed out that two innovations account for much of this increase. Last spring, a choir of AAS staff members began rehearsing every week in the lounge, where the piano is located. This was about the same time that the Society instituted regular Wednesday tours for the general public, tours which conclude at the Goddard-Daniels House.

Like the choir practices and public tours, most of the events held in the house during the past year were the Society's own events. Among the outside organizations using the house during the year were the Worcester Chamber of Commerce, the Worcester Association of Cooperating Libraries, the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Worcester, the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation, the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy, the Dublin Seminar program committee, the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society, the New England Archivists, Norton Company, Worcester Shakespeare Club, and the council of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic.

This last-named meeting was part of a significant event during the year—the gathering in Worcester and Sturbridge of members of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic for their annual conference. The convention was co-hosted by AAS, Old Sturbridge Village, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Nearly 200 historians from around the country attended the three-day affair in July; attendance set a record for SHEAR. AAS hosted, in Antiquarian Hall, a reception for the visitors and a special informational session on AAS collections and programs. On the last day of the conference, one of the concurrent sessions in each of the day's three time slots was held in the Goddard-Daniels House. This kind of activity is extremely useful for AAS in deepening our relationships with scholars and scholarly organizations nationwide.

Looking ahead to 1988–89, many challenges loom and much unfinished business remains. Reliable, continuing funding for the basic activities of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture must be found, and the momentum of the Program continued. The Society's outreach to its scholarly and public constituencies must be maintained, even in the face of strong budgetary constraints, and this will call for greater imagination and resourcefulness. The books in the publication pipeline must be finished at last and new projects begun.

A major challenge before all of us in the current year is the continued planning for a new addition to the library building and

the adaptation of existing space to new purposes—an exercise no less important to the research and publication staff than to the library staff. From our perspective in the Goddard-Daniels House, the chief operating principle is the great desirability—despite the splendid comforts of our digs in the ‘Hotel Goddard-Daniels’—of reuniting this department’s staff with our colleagues in Antiquarian Hall. A major challenge and opportunity will be occasioned by the freeing up of space in the present rotunda for a more extensive program of exhibitions, lectures, conferences, and other educational and academic events. One result could be the establishment of what would amount to a museum of the history of the book in American culture, and, potentially, an enhanced educational role and a great deal more visibility for the Society.

Central to the successful carrying on of the activities of this department, involving as they do a constant variety of programs in research, education, publications, fellowships, grants administration—even innkeeping—is the remarkable dedication, conscientiousness, and hard work of M. Sheila McAvey, assistant editor, and Diane B. Schoen, secretary. To them I take off my hat.

John B. Hench

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