

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

SINCE the last meeting of the Society in October, the Council has to record the deaths of four members:

Henry W. Cunningham died October 27; 1930. Elected to the Society in 1909 and a member of the Council since 1912, he was a constant supporter and an unflinching friend. At a special meeting of the Council, held October 28 last, the following minute regarding Mr. Cunningham was unanimously adopted:

The Council has learned with profound sorrow of the death of Henry Winchester Cunningham, which occurred on Monday, October 27, 1930, at his summer home in Milton. He was elected to the Society in October 1909 and was chosen a member of the Council in its centennial year, 1912. Always interested in the objects of the Society, he was a faithful attendant at the meetings of the Council until failing health interposed. He was a constant and liberal contributor to the Library, always responsive to requests for advice and most generous in meeting calls for financial aid. Without his assistance, the Library would lack many of its choice possessions. To those of us who have been long associated with him and have learned his worth, his death comes as a great personal loss. We shall miss his presence at the Council board and at the meetings of the Society and his cordial and repeated hospitality. Always gracious in his manner, tactful in meeting emergencies, and constructive in every suggestion, he was one of the most helpful of the Council's members. His place will not be easily filled.

Edward Channing, elected in 1885, died January 7, 1931. The fourth senior member of the Society, he advanced its cause on many occasions and in his earlier days frequently contributed papers to its meetings.

Allen Johnson, elected in 1925, died January 17, 1931. As editor of the monumental Dictionary of American Biography, he was much interested in the

resources of this Library and took every occasion to further its prestige.

William C. Lane, elected in 1908, died March 18, 1931. Librarian of Harvard College since 1898, he always showed a fraternal interest in this Library, and was a constant attendant at our meetings.

Obituary sketches of these members will appear as part of the printed Proceedings of this meeting.

In this report mention should also be made of the death of two foreign members. Alfred Percival Maudslay, who died January 22, 1931, was born in 1850, the son of Joseph Maudslay. Educated at Harrow and at Cambridge, he in early life became engaged in archaeological research in Central America and Yucatan. He became one of the leading authorities in his chosen subject and his printed works, notably his "Biologia Centrali-Americana, Archaeology," four volumes, 1889-1902, gave him a high standing among the students of the archaeology of the western hemisphere. He was honorary secretary of the Royal Geographical Society and in 1911-1912 president of the Royal Anthropological Institute. He was elected an honorary foreign member of this Society in 1910. He had additional interest in America through his marriage to Anne Cary Morris, daughter of Gouverneur Morris, and granddaughter of the Gouverneur Morris who was a prominent patriot during the Revolution.

Adam Shortt died January 14, 1931. He was born in 1859, the son of George Scott Shortt of Scotland. He was educated at Queen's University at Kingston, Canada and also at Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities. He was professor of political science at Queen's University from 1889 to 1908, a member of the Canadian Civil Service Commission from 1908 to 1917, and since that time Chairman of the Board of Historical Publications, publishing the Canadian Archives. He married in 1887 Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Sylvester Smith of Winona, Ontario. He was the author of many volumes on Canadian history and biography, contributing in 1925 to the Canadian

Archives two volumes of "Documents relating to Canadian Currency, Exchange and Finance during the French Period," and edited with Arthur G. Doughty the twenty-three volume edition of "Canada and its Provinces," 1914-1917. He was elected to membership in this Society in 1923. He frequently visited the Library for purposes of research, making his longest stay in 1928, when he was writing a history of the firm of Baring Brothers of London and searching for biographical material concerning their American correspondents from 1821 to 1871.

The most important event of concern to the Society during the last six months was the publication in November of the will of Henry W. Cunningham, whereby the Society was bequeathed outright the sum of \$100,000, was made the final recipient of a trust fund of \$40,000, and was constituted residuary legatee for the remainder of the estate not specifically devised. The exact wording of those clauses in the will affecting the Society are as follows:

5. I give to the American Antiquarian Society, founded in the year 1812, the portrait in oil of myself, painted by Hanatscheck, and my oil portrait of Rev. Increase Mather, and my oil portrait of my great-grandfather, David West, painted by Christian Gullager, and the two smaller portraits of David West's two children. I also give to said Society all my books and pamphlets, except such as said Henry P. Binney, or if he is not living, his wife Alberta S. Binney may wish to retain and such I give to him or to her.

14. I then give to the American Antiquarian Society of Worcester the sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars one half to constitute the Mary Hayward Cunningham Fund in memory of my wife who took a very keen interest in this Society and visited it often for many years, and the remaining half to constitute the Henry Winchester Cunningham Fund. The principal of these two Funds together with any additional sums which may come to them from other provisions of this Will shall be kept safely invested and the income used for any purpose connected with the work of the Society.

All the rest and residue of my estate, real and personal of which I die possessed or to which I am in any way entitled or over which I have any power of appointment at the time of my death I give, bequeath and appoint to said American Antiquarian Society of Worcester absolutely and in fee simple, one half to be added to the Mary Hayward Cunningham Fund

and the remaining half to the Henry Winchester Cunningham Fund, created by the fourteenth paragraph of this Will and to be held upon the same terms and conditions.

This includes all reference to the Society excepting the wording of the trust fund of \$40,000, which reverts to the Society upon the death of the two recipients of the trust.

This is one of the largest bequests or gifts ever made to the Society. Already the five portraits have been received, also 1120 books and 733 pamphlets from Mr. Cunningham's library. The most valuable feature among the books was the fine collection of Harvard Class reports which Mr. Cunningham had personally gathered, with the intention of completing the Society's collection.

Those members of the Council who have been concerned with Mr. Cunningham in the management of the Society for the past twenty years and have known of his intense interest in the Library, have always been familiar with his constant desire to aid this institution. More than anyone he seemed to grasp the idea that we were doing work of the highest service to American scholarship, and that such service was sadly handicapped by want of funds. For the past five years he was one of a small group of members who made up the deficiency which even with the strictest economy we were forced to assume. Three years ago when we published a "Survey of the Library," showing the wide scope of our service to historical writers, he told some of us who were rather discouraged, that even if financial support did not immediately come, it eventually would. He believed that endowment funds given to the Society were permanently and everlastingly availing, and that the character of a Society which had existed for well over a century would gradually appeal to those who wished to have their money live and be of use long after the donors had passed away. The portrait of his familiar face and the remembrance of his many kindnesses will always be a source of inspiration to those who venerate this Society and have a faith in its future.

As was announced at the last meeting of the Society, Mr. Robert W. G. Vail assumed the Librarianship in October. He has lived up to our highest expectations and by his enthusiasm, his comprehensive historical and bibliographical knowledge and his quick perception of our needs and our aims, he has already made himself of the greatest value to the Society. Never, within a similar period of six months, have so many acquisitions, through both gifts and purchase, been made for the Library. But the detail of these accessions must be told in the Librarian's annual report in October. One gift to the Society, however, is of such interest and value that it should be mentioned in this report. A very rare broadside, "The Present State of the New-English Affairs," Boston, Printed and Sold by Samuel Green, 1689, has long been known as perhaps the first attempt in the Colonies to publish a collection of news in the form of a newspaper. By some it has been considered a broadside, without any newspaper significance, and by others because of its printing of late news from England, even if concerning the one subject of the New England charters, it has been regarded as partaking of the nature of a newspaper.¹ Whatever its contents, it is true that its heading, its arrangement and its imprint were similar in appearance to the newspaper publications of the period. Whether newspaper or broadside, it certainly is an exceedingly rare piece of seventeenth century printing, and is known by only two existing copies, one in the Massachusetts State Archives and this copy purchased by Mr. I. N. Phelps Stokes in 1912 and now presented to the Society. The Society is indeed grateful to Mr. Stokes for this gift, doubly valuable to us because of our fine collections of early newspapers and examples of colonial printing.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,
For the Council

¹The subject is fully covered by Albert Matthews in the *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts*, vol. 10, pp. 310-520.

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