

Proceedings of the Semi-annual Meeting

APRIL 18, 1945

AT THE CLUB OF ODD VOLUMES, BOSTON

THE semi-annual meeting of the American Antiquarian Society was held at the Club of Odd Volumes, 77 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, April 18, 1945, at 10.45 o'clock. In the absence of President Morison, Vice-president Paul B. Morgan presided at the meeting. The following members of the Society were present:

John McKinstry Merriam, George Henry Haynes, George Parker Winship, Clarence Saunders Brigham, Lawrence Waters Jenkins, Robert Kendall Shaw, Fred Norris Robinson, Chandler Bullock, Charles Eliot Goodspeed, Daniel Waldo Lincoln, Paul Beagary Morgan, Russell Sturgis Paine, James Melville Hunnewell, Stephen Willard Phillips, Stewart Mitchell, Charles Taylor Tatman, George Gregeron Wolkins, Allyn Bailey Forbes, Augustus Peabody Loring, Jr., James Duncan Phillips, Clifford Kenyon Shipton, Alexander Hamilton Bullock, Keyes DeWitt Metcalf, Albert White Rice, Fred Tarbell Field, Donald McKay Frost, Arthur Meier Schlesinger, Clarence Henry Haring, Frank Luther Mott, Henry Rouse Viets, Walter Muir Whitehill, Thomas Franklin Currier, Harold Stein Jantz, Frederick Haven Pratt, Samuel Foster Damon, Shepard Pond, and Roger Wolcott.

In the absence of Mr. Blakeslee, Daniel W. Lincoln was chosen Secretary pro tem and read the call for the meeting. It was voted to dispense with the reading of the records of the Annual Meeting of October, 1944.

Mr. Loring read a letter of greeting from Commander Morison, President of the Society, written from one of the islands in the Pacific.

The Director, Clarence S. Brigham, read the report of the Council. It was voted to accept the report and refer it to the Committee on Publications.

The election of new members being in order, the Director announced the following recommendations by the Council for membership in the Society:

Bradley B. Gilman, Worcester, Mass.

Richard A. Heald, Worcester, Mass.

George C. D. Odell, New York, N. Y.

Mr. Morgan appointed Messrs. J. Duncan Phillips, Harold S. Jantz, and Frank L. Mott a committee of three to distribute and collect ballots. The committee reported that all of the ballots cast were in favor of the nominees and they were declared elected.

Papers were read by Arthur M. Schlesinger on "Casting the National Horoscope," and by Stewart Mitchell on the "Uncensored Letters of Mrs. John Adams."

After the reading of Mr. Mitchell's paper, some of the members commented upon the statement that the letters of Mrs. Adams, when published, would be printed with omission of trivial or unimportant matter, and thought that the letters might well be printed in their entirety. Both Mr. Mitchell and the Director stated that there was no intention of omitting anything which would be of the slightest importance, but that they would welcome advice from the Society. It was voted that a committee of three should be appointed by the Vice-president to advise regarding this specific matter. Mr. Morgan appointed Arthur M. Schlesinger, Donald McKay Frost, and Allyn B. Forbes.

Mr. John M. Merriam, senior member of the Society, spoke interestingly regarding his election to membership in 1888. He said that at the time he was serving as private secretary to Senator Hoar and had found considerable material of historical interest relating to the Ordinance of 1787. At Senator Hoar's suggestion he prepared a paper on the subject which he read before the Society, with the result that he was elected to membership. Mr. Merriam gave some interesting reminiscences of early meetings, especially the meeting in October, 1892, when Edward Everett Hale read a paper on "The Results of Columbus's Discovery." Charles Francis Adams, who was attending his first meeting, remarked that the discovery by Columbus was "an almost unmitigated calamity to mankind," since if English or Dutch voyagers had discovered America, instead of Columbus, the southern part of America would have had a less turbulent history. Mr. Merriam quoted effectively the poem which Mr. Hale read at the end of the paper, which he said he supposed could be found printed in full in the Proceedings of the Society for October, 1892.

After comments by other members, the Society adjourned.

The Society was then invited to luncheon by Mr. Merriam at the Club of Odd Volumes.

DANIEL W. LINCOLN,

Secretary pro tem.

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