

## *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting*

OCTOBER 15, 1947

AT THE LIBRARY OF THE SOCIETY, WORCESTER

THE one hundred and thirty-fifth annual meeting of the American Antiquarian Society was held at the Library of the Society, Worcester, Massachusetts, October 15, 1947, at 10.45 a.m. The meeting was called to order by President Samuel Eliot Morison.

The following members of the Society were present: John McKinstry Merriam, George Parker Winship, Victor Hugo Paltsits, Clarence Saunders Brigham, Samuel Eliot Morison, Robert Kendall Shaw, Fred Norris Robinson, Chandler Bullock, Charles Eliot Goodspeed, George Ichabod Rockwood, Lawrence Counselman Wroth, Wallace Walter Atwood, Waldo Gifford Leland, George Sumner Barton, George Francis Booth, Aldus Chapin Higgins, Paul Beagary Morgan, Russell Sturgis Paine, James Melville Hunnewell, George Crompton, Stephen Willard Phillips, Reginald Washburn, Glenn Tilley Morse, Edward Alexander Parsons, Edward Larocque Tinker, Thomas Winthrop Streeter, William Irving Clark, John Woodman Higgins, George Gregerson Wolkins, Howard Corning, Lathrop Colgate Harper, Augustus Peabody Loring, Jr., Clifford Kenyon Shipton, Alexander Hamilton Bullock, Theron Johnson Damon, Keyes DeWitt Metcalf, Albert White Rice, Frederick Lewis Weis, Wat Tyler Cluverius, Chauncey Cushing Nash, William Greene Roelker, Walter Muir Whitehill, Frederick Haven Pratt, Samuel Foster Damon,

Bradley Baldwin Gilman, Richard Allen Heald, Ernest Caulfield, Bernard Augustine DeVoto, Sydney Philip Noe, George Russell Stobbs, Arthur Adams, Richard LeBaron Bowen, LeRoy Archer Campbell, Charles Henry Sawyer, and Sinclair Hamilton.

Mr. Brigham was appointed Secretary pro tem in the absence of Mr. Lincoln and read the call for the meeting. It was voted to dispense with the reading of the records of the last meeting.

The report of the Council of the Society was presented by the Director, the Treasurer's report by Mr. Bullock, and the Librarian's report by Mr. Shipton. It was voted to accept these reports and refer them to the Committee on Publications.

The election of officers being in order, Mr. Hunnewell reported for the Committee appointed by the Council in April, 1947, the following nominations:

*For President*

Samuel Eliot Morison, of Boston, Mass.

*For Vice-presidents*

Paul Beagary Morgan, of Worcester, Mass.

George Sumner Barton, of Worcester, Mass.

*For Councillors*

George Parker Winship, of Charles River, Mass.

George Hubbard Blakeslee, of Worcester, Mass.

Aldus Chapin Higgins, of Worcester, Mass.

James Melville Hunnewell, of Boston, Mass.

Russell Sturgis Paine, of Worcester, Mass.

Albert White Rice, of Worcester, Mass.

Donald McKay Frost, of Boston, Mass.  
Augustus Peabody Loring, Jr., of Boston, Mass.  
Thomas Winthrop Streeter, of Morristown, N. J.  
Stephen Willard Phillips, of Salem, Mass.

*For Secretary for Foreign and Domestic Correspondence*

Clarence Saunders Brigham, of Worcester, Mass.

*For Recording Secretary*

Daniel Waldo Lincoln, of Worcester, Mass.

*For Treasurer*

Chandler Bullock, of Worcester, Mass.

*For Committee on Publications*

Clarence Saunders Brigham, of Worcester, Mass.  
Robert Kendall Shaw, of Worcester, Mass.  
Clifford Kenyon Shipton, of Shirley, Mass.

*For Auditors*

Daniel Waldo Lincoln, of Worcester, Mass.  
Reginald Washburn, of Worcester, Mass.

The President, in behalf of the Council, proposed for membership in the Society:

John Nicholas Brown, Newport, R. I.  
Edward H. Cole, Newtonville, Mass.  
Dard Hunter, Chillicothe, Ohio  
Stanley Pargellis, Chicago, Ill.  
Richard Harrison Shryock, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Alexander Wilbourne Weddell, Richmond, Va.  
Raymond Sanger Wilkins, Salem, Mass.  
Louis Booker Wright, San Marino, Calif.

*Foreign Member*

Duke of Alba, Madrid, Spain

Mr. Morison appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Leland, Hamilton, and Roelker to distribute, collect, and count ballots. Mr. Leland reported that the necessary number of votes had been cast for the persons nominated and they were declared elected.

A paper was read by Edward Larocque Tinker on "The Cult of the Gaucho and the Creation of a Literature." Bernard A. DeVoto spoke informally on "The Welsh Indians."

Mr. Lathrop C. Harper of New York stated that the Society ought not to let the occasion of this meeting pass without adding something to what has been said about the completion and publication of Mr. Brigham's *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers*. His remarks were as follows:

In my opinion this is the greatest single-handed bibliography that has been produced in the field of Americana. The result of over thirty-five years' work, it shows a continuing enthusiasm and tireless energy that would be hard to equal, this in addition to Dr. Brigham's unrivalled knowledge of a difficult and complicated subject. Parenthetically it may be said that all this work of compilation has been done in Dr. Brigham's own time apart from his duties at the American Antiquarian Society.

In comparison the names of Sabin and Evans naturally come to mind; but Sabin was a composite work and Evans lists only books, pamphlets and broadsides. For many reasons a newspaper bibliography is much more difficult. The names of the papers and their publishers were often changed, changes were made from weekly to daily issues, in some cases publication was suspended and then resumed. Each particular number had to be checked and studied for possible bibliographical data.

Dr. Brigham's work lists 2120 newspapers, of which some two million numbers were issued. It gives a detailed checklist and location of copies, and while this involved a staggering amount of work, it is most important. Very few complete files of early American newspapers are to be found in one place. The historian who wishes to consult all the issues of

a particular paper can now easily locate the institution having the most nearly complete file (in most cases the American Antiquarian Society), and also where the occasional numbers that have survived can be found.

The completion of this notable work is an achievement that will redound to the credit of the American Antiquarian Society and gain the lasting gratitude of historians and scholars both of the present and the future.

The Director stated that there were two exhibits in the cases in the front gallery. One case included some of the rare accessions of the past year, most of which had been described in the Librarian's Report. Three cases were devoted to an exhibition of rare printed books, pamphlets and broadsides, mostly the same as the items shown in the exhibition on the Freedom Train which had visited Worcester on October 9.

President Morison announced that the members of the Society would be entertained at luncheon by Mr. Aldus C. Higgins, 1 John Wing Road.

The meeting then adjourned.

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,  
*Secretary pro tem.*

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