

*Proceedings
of the Semiannual Meeting*

OCTOBER 24, 2008

ANTIQUARIAN HALL, WORCESTER

THE ONE-HUNDRED-AND-NINETY-SIXTH annual meeting of the American Antiquarian Society was held in Worcester on Thursday, October 23, and Friday, October 24, 2008. The following members were present: Lawrence Jay Abramoff, Eleanor Snow Adams, Charles Beach Barlow, Georgia Brady Barnhill, Robert Charles Baron, Lisa Unger Baskin, George Athan Billias, David William Blight, George Francis Booth II, Karl Lombard Briel, Richard David Brown, Nancy Burkett, Randall Keith Burkett, Mary Valentine Crowley Callahan, Joanne Danaher Chaison, David Brion Davis, Ronald Sears Davis, Margery MacNeil Dearborn, Richard Wright Dearborn, Alan Nash Degutis, William Phillips Densmore, Henry Bowen Dewey, Jane Kenah Dewey, James Corcoran Donnelly, Jr., Ellen Smith Dunlap, Linwood Mandeville Erskine, Donald Richard Friary, John Frederick Gately II, Dorista Jones Goldsberry, Ezra Greenspan, Sharon Marie Harris, John Bixler Hench, Frank Farnum Herron, John Herron, John Herron, Jr., Cheryl Hurley, Darrell Hyder, Matthew Richard Isenburg, M Howard Jacobson, John Michael Keenum, Maureen McGady Kelleher, Kate Van Winkle Keller, Mary Kelley, Wilson Henry Kimmach, Lucia Zaucha Knoles, Thomas Gregory Knoles, Marie Elaine Lamoureux, Julian Lee Lapidés, Linda Fishman Lapidés, Sidney Lapidus, Valerie Stoddard Loring, Marcus Allen McCorison, Thomas Patrick McDermott,

Catherine Jean McDonough, Neil McDonough, Ogretta Vaughn McNeil, Harold Taylor Miller, Barrett Morgan, Donald Frederick Nelson, David Paul Nord, William Oscar Pettit, Sally Marie Pierce, Cynthia Nelson Pitcher, Ann-Cathrine M. Rapp, William Sherman Reese, Barnes Riznik, Lance E. Schacterle, Robert Smith, William Francis Sullivan, Daniel Grant Tear, George William Tetler III, John W. Tyler, David Watters, Meridith Daniels Wesby, John Munro Woolsey III, and Shirley Wright.

On Friday, October 24, 2008, members convened in Antiquarian Hall for the annual meeting, followed by two presentations on current research and collecting at the Society. At 2:30 p.m., the annual meeting was called to order: Mr. Herron read the call of the meeting. Chairman Lapidus presided. The reading of the minutes of the semiannual meeting of April 21, 2008, was waived. Mr. Lapidus reported the following changes in membership.

Frederick Andrew Parker, Jr., elected October 2003, died July 10, 2008

Genevieve Weeks Ireland, elected October 1981, died July 26, 2008

Frederick Edward Bauer, elected April 1972, died August 2, 2008

Fairman Chaffee Cowan, elected October 1995, died October 14, 2008

Joseph Alberic Leo Lemay, elected October 1971, died October 15, 2008

Mrs. Hurley gave the Nominating Committee report. Proposed for election as Officers and Councillors are the following persons: Chairman (2008-2009), Sidney Lapidus; Vice Chairman (2008-2009), John Herron, Jr.; Recording Secretary (2008-2012), Richard D. Brown; Secretary for Foreign Correspondence (2008-2011), William S. Reese; Councillors (2008-11), Ann Fabian, Jane Kamensky, Kate Van Winkle Keller, David Rumsey.

Mrs. Hurley then read the following resolution honoring three retiring members of the Council.

WHEREAS three stalwart and faithful members of the AAS Council have completed their terms of service and chosen not to stand for re-election, the following resolution expresses the appreciation and gratitude of the Society;

WHEREAS JAMES CORCORAN DONNELLY JR. was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1991 and has served on the Council since 1994 and served as Treasurer at a time when he had the pleasure of reporting remarkable gains in endowment values during the dot-com bubble, and the pain of being the messenger when those numbers retreated;

WHEREAS JAMES CORCORAN DONNELLY JR. brought to the table a broad understanding of the law, a deep commitment to the study of American history and culture, and a thorough understanding of the Worcester Community;

And, WHEREAS JOHN THOMAS TOUCHTON was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 2003 and joined the Council in 2005, bringing a fresh Florida perspective and heroically making the journey for quarterly meetings whenever possible, even leaving the warm Tampa breezes for late January meetings in cold and snowy Worcester;

WHEREAS JOHN THOMAS TOUCHTON has great financial skills, incomparable knowledge of maps of Florida, a nuanced understanding of what makes a nonprofit institution work well in this twenty-first century, and the steady, good judgment that is so valuable in the deliberations of a nonprofit board;

And WHEREAS MERIDITH DANIELS WESBY was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1981 and joined the Council in 1994 and served as Corresponding Secretary, taking

minutes of the Council meetings and paying attention 100 per cent of the time, while others of us might let our eyes stray to the collections surrounding us in the Council Room or to the portraits of Clarence Brigham and Marcus McCorison, which keep careful watch over our meetings;

WHEREAS MERIDITH DANIELS WESBY continues a rich tradition of association with AAS shared by both the Daniels and the Wesby families and brings to the institution years of experience in the field of human resources as well as a deep understanding of the community and a commitment to the cultural organizations of the region;

Be it resolved that the Officers, Councilors, and members of the American Antiquarian Society do hereby warmly thank JAMES CORCORAN DONNELLY JR., JOHN THOMAS TOUCHTON, and MERIDITH DANIELS WESBY for their exemplary service to AAS, wish them success and happiness in their future endeavors, and upon the records of the Society let these sentiments be made known.

Resolved this twenty-fourth day of October, two thousand eight, the one hundred ninety-sixth year of the Society.

The resolution was greeted with spirited applause.

WHEREAS JULIAN LEE LAPIDES was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1981, has rendered extraordinarily excellent and long-standing service on the AAS Council since 1983, and has exhibited great leadership as Chairman of the Society's Council since October 2003;

WHEREAS JULIAN LEE LAPIDES and his incomparable wife LINDA have collected early American children's literature with taste, intelligence, and discretion as well as with an eye toward acquiring items not yet held in the AAS collection and have advocated tirelessly for the strengthening and for the scholarly use of AAS's children's literature collection and have created a permanent

endowed fund to ensure that there will always be resources available for more purchases of children's books;

WHEREAS this remarkable couple have traveled to the far reaches of this country and to England to attend semiannual meetings, always making new friends within and outside the Society and adding great cheer and bonhomie to all the activities of the traveling group;

WHEREAS JULIAN LEE LAPIDES has brought to this Society the unparalleled political skills that served him so well in the Maryland State Senate for many years, the high ethical standards so rare in politicians today, the diplomatic skills that over his quarter of a century's service on the Council helped to bring the governing board to consensus on many complex and vexing issues, and the great good humor that always cast a glowing light around any room he enters;

Be it resolved that the Officers, Councilors, and members of the American Antiquarian Society do hereby warmly thank JULIAN LEE LAPIDES and his partner in all library and collecting activities LINDA FISHMAN LAPIDES for their exemplary service to AAS, wish them success and happiness in their future endeavors, and upon the records of the Society let these sentiments be made known.

Resolved this twenty-fourth day of October, two thousand eight, the one hundred ninety-sixth year of the Society.

This resolution was greeted with a rising ovation.

Mrs. Hurley then read aloud the names of the nominees for membership, and Mr. Lapidés appointed as tellers Joanne Chaison and David Paul Nord. Mrs. Hurley announced the election by ballot of the following persons to membership in the Society: James Brooks, Barbara Chase-Riboud, Rex Ellis, Richard W. Flint, John J. Green, Jr., Martin Greene, Jessica Helfand, Roger Hertog, Diana Herzog, Daniel Walker Howe,

James F. Hunnewell, Richard John, Jacqueline Jones, Dean Lahikainen, Elizabeth Lahikainen, Ingrid Jeppson Mach, Peter Mancall, Bruce Mann, James Merrell, David Morgan, Timothy P. Murray, Heather Nathans, David A. Nicholson, R. David Parsons, Susan Williams, and Clarence Wolf.

The report of the Treasurer was presented by George W. Tetler III.

Mrs. Dunlap gave the Report of the Council, following which the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Richard D. Brown

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