

## PROCEEDINGS

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SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, APRIL 9, 1924,  
IN THE WIDENER LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

**T**HE semi-annual meeting of the American Antiquarian Society was held in the Memorial Room of the Widener Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Wednesday, April 9, 1924, at half past ten o'clock.

The following members were present at the meeting:

William Eaton Foster, Francis Henshaw Dewey, Arthur Lord, Charles Lemuel Nichols, Waldo Lincoln, Edward Sylvester Morse, Abbott Lawrence Lowell, George Parker Winship, Albert Matthews, William MacDonald, Roger Bigelow Merriman, Clarence Winthrop Bowen, Victor Hugo Paltsits, Daniel Berkeley Updike, Clarence Saunders Brigham, Worthington Chauncey Ford, William Coolidge Lane, Julius Herbert Tuttle, Charles Grenfill Washburn, Samuel Bayard Woodward, George Hubbard Blakeslee, William Vail Kellen, Arthur Prentice Rugg, Wilfred Harold Munro, Henry Winchester Cunningham, Frank Farnum Dresser, Albert Bushnell Hart, George Francis Dow, Archibald Cary Coolidge, Rev. Herbert Edwin Lombard, Grenville Howland Norcross, Thomas Hovey Gage, John Whittimore Farwell, Lawrence Waters Jenkins, Leonard Wheeler, Alexander George McAdie, Nathaniel Thayer Kidder, George Anthony Gaskill, John Woodbury, Charles Knowles Bolton, John Henry Edmonds, Samuel Lyman Munson, Alfred Claghorn Potter, Robert Kendall Shaw, James Benjamin Wilbur,

Fred Norris Robinson, Chandler Bullock, Charles Eliot Goodspeed, Francis Russell Hart, Harold Murdock, Alfred Johnson, Gardner Weld Allen, George Ichabod Rockwood, Lawrence Counselman Wroth.

The meeting was called to order by President Lincoln and the notice read by the Secretary. Upon motion of Mr. Norcross the reading of the records was dispensed with.

Dr. Nichols presented the report of the Council to the Society.

The Secretary then announced the recommendations of the Council for membership in the Society and the President appointed Messrs. C. Bullock, Edmonds and Potter a committee to distribute and collect ballots for new members. Thirty-five votes were cast, all in the affirmative, and the following were declared elected:

Hampton Lawrence Carson, Philadelphia, Pa.

George Simpson Eddy, New York, N. Y.

Henry Crocker Kittredge, Concord, N. H.

John Hill Morgan, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Kenneth Ballard Murdock, Boston, Mass.

William Davis Patterson, Wiscasset, Me.

Alexander James Wall, New York, N. Y.

Mr. Lane, the Librarian of Harvard College, invited the attention of the members to the exhibition in the Treasure Room of a collection of interesting Association books.

The following papers were then presented: "William Cook of Salem, Preacher, Poet, Artist and Publisher," by Lawrence W. Jenkins, of Salem, Mass.; "The Founding of New Amsterdam in 1626," by Victor H. Paltsits, of New York; "Do We Learn from History?" by William MacDonald, of New York. It was voted to refer the papers and the report of the Council to the Committee of Publication.

The President then called the attention of the Society to the friendly relations which had always existed between the American Antiquarian Society and

Harvard College and introduced Chief Justice Rugg, who spoke in behalf of the Council in presenting to the Harvard Library a collection of thirteen volumes which had belonged to that library in the seventeenth century. Chief Justice Rugg said in part as follows:

“The history of these volumes has something more than passing interest. The Harvard College Library from its very beginning derived its books almost entirely from gift. In 1682 Sir John Maynard, a member of Parliament and Keeper of the Great Seal, presented to the college eight chests of books, valued at £400. Because of the fact that many of Maynard’s books were the same as those already in the college library, the duplicates, or double books, as they were called at the time, were disposed of to Cotton Mather. Most of them, however, were not exact duplicates, but were really varying editions. Cotton Mather purchased 96 of these duplicates and put them into his own library. Upon his death in 1727 his library became the property of his son, Rev. Samuel Mather, and in turn came into the possession of the latter’s daughter, Mrs. Hannah Mather Crocker, the last of that line. It was from this Mather descendant that Isaiah Thomas acquired the Mather library in 1814, two years after he had established the American Antiquarian Society.

“By reason of the appearance of the Sir John Maynard name stamp in some of the Mather volumes, it was found that these volumes were really the duplicates obtained from Harvard in 1682. By comparing Cotton Mather’s manuscript list of the duplicates purchased by him, with the 1723 printed Catalogue of the Harvard Library, it was found that at least thirteen volumes were unquestionably once the property of the Harvard Library. Since the college library building was destroyed by fire in 1764, with almost the total loss of its books, these volumes accordingly became desirable as part of the Harvard Library of the 17th century. Therefore the Council

of this Society has thought it advisable and proper to restore these books to their original home. As a matter of record, the titles are as follows:

Ambrosius, Commentaries on the Bible, 1567. Two vols. in one.

John Davenant, Determinationes, 1634. One vol.

Saint Gasparis, Commentarii, 1623. Seven vols.

Irenaeus, Against Gnostics and Heretics, 1596. One vol.

Josephus, History of Jews, 1611. One vol.

Photius, Bibliotheca, in Greek, with notes, 1611. One vol.

John Gerhard, Locorum Theologicum, 1639. Four vols. in one.

It is my pleasant duty to turn these volumes over to the Harvard College Library, where they may take again a place on the shelves which they vacated in 1682."

President Lowell responded most felicitously, stating that these volumes meant more to Harvard than to anyone, and saying that although they might not be read, they connected the present generation with those scholars and students of the 17th century, whose heritage had been of great and lasting influence. He praised the sentiment which prompted the action of the Antiquarian Society, and formally accepted the books in behalf of the Harvard College Library.

After the meeting was dissolved, the members of the Society were entertained at luncheon by President Lowell at his house, No. 17 Quincy Street.

THOMAS HOVEY GAGE,  
*Recording Secretary.*

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