

# *The Report of the Council*

*April 18, 1973*

**D**URING the past six months the staff of the Society has been actively settling into the new building, attempting to establish new habits which the different physical arrangements require. Generally, the adjustment has gone very well and with relatively little trauma. We are finding that the planning which went into the building was adequate with the exception of not providing larger quarters for the manuscript collection and staff or for more readers' carrels. On the other hand, there was no more room available for either facility. We have found the construction to be of high quality and only a few things have gone wrong with the machinery, plumbing, or air-conditioning.

Of particular concern to us have been the ways in which we deal with readers. One of the glories of AAS has been the open and friendly way we were able to help the researchers who came to the library to work. You will recall that in 1967 we adopted a more flexible policy, which still obtains, on access to the Society's library. It provides that in addition to adults who demonstrate a serious interest and purpose (and who have always been welcome at the library), the following may be admitted as well: Limited numbers of mature college undergraduates may be admitted to the library, at the discretion of the senior members of the Society staff and upon application by the student's faculty advisor, provided that the materials needed by the student are for a major project such as a seminar paper or thesis, are precisely defined, and are not available to

the student elsewhere. Candidates for master's degrees may be admitted on the same basis as above. Candidates for Ph.D. may be admitted, at the discretion of the senior members of the Society staff and upon application by the candidate's faculty advisor, provided that the materials needed by the student are not available elsewhere.

At that time, we did not alter significantly our methods of handling readers. Because of the recent unfortunate experiences with thieves at libraries and museums, the Library Committee, with the approval of the Council, has adopted a number of formal procedures which will require readers to identify themselves more adequately prior to admission as readers, cards will be issued to approved readers, and more care will be taken by the reading room staff to supervise use of the Society's materials. We have placed a receptionist at the front door to assist visitors. These several changes have brought some outcry of protest from readers who were accustomed to our former, more carefree ways; but, we are standing fast sure in the belief that in the long run our collections and thereby our service to scholars will be the better for it.

The Development Program has not faltered since the autumn. The funds raised through this effort now stand at \$2,076,000, an increase of \$376,000 since the last report. The largest portion of that is a gift of \$300,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to be used to improve and enlarge our services to scholarship in the humanities. The Council has voted to use the gift to endow The Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Prints, a position presently occupied by Georgia B. Bumgardner. In addition to the establishment of The Mellon Curatorship, the Society is working with a group of newspapermen to endow a curatorship for the newspaper collection. Such a curator will devote his energies to the organization of the newspaper collection, supervise its preservation, serve readers and inquirers with particular needs in this de-

partment, and work to enlarge our holdings—particularly in the nineteenth century. The Newspaper Steering Committee is made up of the following persons who serve under the able chairmanship of Richard C. Steele, publisher of the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*: Leland J. Adams, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*; Richard H. Blacklidge, Sr., *The Kokomo Tribune*; Robert U. Brown, *Editor & Publisher*; D. Tennant Bryan, Richmond, Va., *Times-Dispatch and News Leader*; Frederic B. Farrar of Cresmer, Woodward, O'Mara & Ormsbee, Inc.; David K. Gottlieb, Davenport, Ia., Lee Enterprises; Katharine Graham, *Washington Post*; Harold F. Grumhaus, *Chicago Tribune*; James L. Knight, *The Miami Herald*; Paul Miller, The Gannett Newspapers; Arthur H. Motley, *Parade Publications*; Eugene C. Pulliam, *Phoenix Republic and Gazette*; Dolph C. Simons, Jr., Lawrence, Kansas, *Journal-World*; Joe D. Smith, Jr., American Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation; Stanford Smith, American Newspaper Publishers Association; W. Davis Taylor, *The Boston Globe*; and James Russell Wiggins, *Ellsworth American*. Also we should report that the Society recently mailed notice to nearly 9,000 public libraries throughout the nation offering to preserve at AAS one copy of each issue of every newspaper issued from 1690 through the year 1876 in the United States, Canada, and the West Indies. We are living in dread of the possible response, yet believe that with our unparalleled collection and the rate of destruction of newspapers, such an effort should be made to preserve as much as possible here.

In the matter of giving for annual expenses the Society has received this fiscal year \$16,070, as well as an additional \$14,050 for the purchase of books.

That last figure brings me to the announcement of an outstanding acquisition, in a field where we report few additions. Through the generosity of AAS members, notably Sinclair Hamilton and Samuel R. Rosenthal, we purchased the account book of Jeremiah Condy (1708-1768) of Boston. It records

the business activity of Condy, the bookseller who published Thomas Hutchinson's *History of the Colony of Massachusetts-Bay*. The ledger is made up on 234 folio leaves and covers the period April 16, 1759, to November 19, 1770. Therein are recorded extensive dealings with Governor Bernard, President Holyoke, Peter Oliver, Samuel Sparhawk, numbers of Harvard professors and students, and surprisingly, members of Yale College as well. Other customers were Samuel Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Treat Paine, James Otis, and Josiah Quincy. Also, there are long entries for other booksellers and for his London suppliers. In short, it is an outstanding record of business of one of the leading book stores in Boston during this pre-Revolutionary period. Condy was also minister of the first Baptist Church of Boston and was a Hollis Fellow at Harvard for ten years. There is a long sketch of his life in volume eight of Sibley. This ledger makes an outstanding addition to our materials for research in the American book trades.

Several staff changes must be noted. At the end of May our custodian, Malcolm T. Hannah, will retire after eleven years of loyal service. He performed his duties faithfully and with gladness. He shall be missed. To him the Council extends its hearty thanks and best wishes for a happy and fruitful retirement. Mr. Hannah's place will be taken by Ralph Greiner of Worcester. Natalie Pastore began her duties as assistant to the Curator of Manuscripts on the first of November. Two employees of recent vintage—Andrew Boyd, the receptionist and Albert Talero, library apprentice, will be leaving. Mr. Boyd has accepted a position on the faculty of Pomfret School and Mr. Talero will begin a masters program in library service.

Several years of work have come to a happy end by the publication during the fall and winter of *A Bibliography of American Children's Books Printed Prior to 1821* by d'Alté A. Welch; *Cotton Mather: The Angel of Bethesda* edited by Gordon W. Jones; and *Chronological Tables of American Newspapers, 1690-*

1820 by Edward Connery Lathem. At present several manuscripts in which we have an interest are in various stages of preparation.

The following persons have been appointed to the second class of AAS visiting scholars, a program presently funded on The Andrew W. Mellon Fund: David A. Cobb, Geography & Map Librarian at the University of Indiana, who holds degrees in history, geography, and library science, and whose project is to compile eventually a bibliography of maps for each of the New England states; Richard Crawford, Associate Professor of Music at the University of Michigan, who was a Fellow at AAS last year and who holds a Ph.D. in musicology, continues research on a bibliography of American Sacred Music through 1810, which this Society plans to publish in 1974; John T. Kelly, a graduate student and teaching fellow in the History of Science Department at Harvard who expects to complete his dissertation by June 1975 and who intends to do research on the scientific aspects of the preparation of almanacs and the popularization of science by almanacs in America and England during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; Karl Kroeger, Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, whose special field is American Music and Hymnody, is a Ph.D. candidate at Brown University and expects to be awarded this degree in 1974, whose project at AAS will include a study of the *Worcester Collection of Sacred Harmony*, published in eight editions by I. Thomas between 1786 and 1803; Harold D. Langley, Associate Curator of the Museum of History and Technology at the Smithsonian Institution, who holds the Ph.D. in American History from the University of Pennsylvania, intends to study the American Press Reaction to the Peace of Ghent, 1815, which topic will require careful study of editorials and news stories in the newspaper collections of AAS; Mrs. Cora Lushington is a Ph.D. candidate at Brandeis University and holds the position of Lecturer in the School of English and American

Studies at Sussex University, Sussex, England, whose special field is Eighteenth-Century Political Ideas in England and America, and her project includes comparing the development of democratic ideas in the popular pamphlet and periodical press, and research of the Philadelphia *Aurora*, 1794-1800.

In February, the Rockefeller Foundation announced a grant of almost \$80,000 to AAS and Clark University to be used to establish a three-year program on the history of the family in America. The AAS portion is intended to subsidize the expense of a series of three distinguished scholars who shall be in residence at AAS to pursue their own research while performing some minimal functions in the Clark University undergraduate seminars and culminating annual conferences. The emphasis of the program will vary each year, as follows: 1973-1974, Structure and Process in the Family; 1974-1975, Family and Community Interaction in Social Space; and 1975-1976, Family in Social, Economic, and Cultural Change: A cross-cultural comparative perspective.

I close this semi-annual report by expressing to each member of the Society, to each staff member, and to all friends of the American Antiquarian Society, the profound gratitude of the Council and the Director for encouragement and assistance in making the Society more useful to people everywhere.

Marcus A. McCorison

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.