

Proceedings
of the Semiannual Meeting

APRIL 17, 1974

AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY,
BOSTON

THE semiannual meeting of the American Antiquarian Society was held at the Carriage House Auditorium of the American Meteorological Society, 45 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, on Wednesday, April 17, 1974. President James Russell Wiggins called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. with the following members present: John Alden, Rodney Armstrong, Bernard Bailyn, Frederick Edward Bauer, Jr., James Franklin Beard, William Henry Bond, Kathryn Clark Buhler, Lyman Henry Butterfield, Louisa Dresser Campbell, Bruce Goddard Daniels, Warren Gilbert Davis, Everett Lee DeGolyer, Jr., Francis Henshaw Dewey, Jr., Ernest Stanley Dodge, Robert Abraham East, Linwood Mandeville Erskine, Jr., Malcolm Freiberg, Ebenezer Gay, George Talbot Goodspeed, Archibald Hanna, Jr., Hudson Hoagland, Harold Hugo, Howard Bonar Jefferson, John Jeppson, 2nd, Howard Mumford Jones, Cecelia Marie Kenyon, Bertram Wallace Korn, Bertram Kimball Little, Nina Fletcher Little, Albert Edgar Lownes, Marcus Allen McCorison, Philip James McNiff, Keyes DeWitt Metcalf, Samuel Eliot Morison, Ray Nash, Stephen Thomas Riley, Forrest Wilson Seymour, Stuart Capen Sherman, Rollo Gabriel Silver, Robert Ernest Spiller, Richard Charles Steele, Roderick Douglas Stinehour, Russell Murdock Stobbs, Roger Eliot Stoddard, Bradford Fuller Swan, Francis Gustaf Walett, Guy Warren Walker, Jr., Michael Joseph Walsh, Nathaniel

Wheeler, Walter Muir Whitehill, James Russell Wiggins, and Richard James Wolfe.

The reading of the minutes of the meeting held October 17, 1973, was waived. President Wiggins reported the deaths of the following members:

Harris Dunscombe Colt, Jr.	November 8, 1973
Clifford Kenyon Shipton	December 4, 1973
Theodore Bolton	December 7, 1973
Herbert Ranger Strauss	February 11, 1974

Mr. Wiggins reported the resignation of Richard Allen Heald on January 21, 1974.

Stephen Thomas Riley and Marcus Allen McCorison presented tributes to the late Clifford Kenyon Shipton. Mr. Riley's remarks will appear in his introduction to the forthcoming Volume XVII of *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*, the last one prepared by Mr. Shipton. Mr. McCorison then spoke.

'Mr. Riley has described Clifford K. Shipton's contribution to American historical scholarship through his authorship of fourteen volumes of *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*. I would like to say a few words about his work at the American Antiquarian Society during those twenty-seven years, 1940 until 1967. Ted was a man of indomitable energy and determination. His will was as strong as any that I have known and he drove himself without letup, expecting his colleagues on the staff to do the same.

'When he came to the Antiquarian Society its collections were in a disorganized state. Books were arranged in an old alcove system which had been established in 1820 in our first building. Over the next twenty-five years he put the collections in order, so that the materials which are at the Society in such rich abundance would be usable. Each day he and each member of the staff had a dollop of books to which they assigned classification numbers.

'Clarence Brigham's great strength was an encyclopedic knowledge of American literature and American books and

prints. He was, I think it is fair to say, one of the greatest book collectors of the last generation. He was a scholar too, but Brigham was not the sort of careful scholar that Ted was. Shipton's primary legacy to the Society was to reorient the Society toward its other primary function, the enlargement and dissemination of learning. His work on completing Evans and the editing of the Readex Microprint reprinting of American imprints have had an enormous impact upon the conduct of scholarship in early American history and culture.

'I trust that we, who are Ted Shipton's successors and beneficiaries, will follow his example by bearing in mind the American Antiquarian Society's really true functions, the purposes for which we have existed for the past one hundred and sixty years. Thus, we shall ever keep Ted's memory green by being worthy successors through the collection, preservation, and dissemination of the materials which help our fellow citizens understand the history of our nation.'

President Wiggins read a resolution adopted by the Council to honor Mr. Shipton's memory.

WHEREAS, CLIFFORD KENYON SHIPTON, since April 1937 a member of the American Antiquarian Society, bringing to its work a critical intelligence, indefatigable industry, and steadfast loyalty, passed from life to death on the fourth day of December, nineteen hundred and seventy three, and whereas

CLIFFORD KENYON SHIPTON served the American Antiquarian Society from November first, nineteen hundred and forty, as its librarian, acting with imagination and energy to enlarge and organize for use the research collections of the Society, and whereas

CLIFFORD KENYON SHIPTON, from the twenty-first day of October, nineteen hundred and fifty nine, served as the director of the American Antiquarian Society, in the most fruitful way by encouraging the making of necessary tools for the enlargement of historical knowledge, and whereas

CLIFFORD KENYON SHIPTON since his retirement on August thirty-first, nineteen hundred sixty seven, continued to give wise counsel as director *emeritus* and secretary for domestic correspondence of the American Antiquarian Society, ever keeping before the members of the Society their task of the increase, improvement, and dissemination of humane learning, and whereas

CLIFFORD KENYON SHIPTON was to all members of the American Antiquarian Society and to his colleagues in the search for truth, a true friend and helpful wayfarer, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the American Antiquarian Society, sensible of the great loss of their valued companion, commit themselves anew to the cause of historical understanding, thereby keeping alive the work of Clifford Kenyon Shipton, and further that the Council shall ever be grateful for his joyful efforts and faithfulness to the commonweal of the American Antiquarian Society; and with unbounded appreciation and sympathetic grief to his family let this resolution be made known.

Walter Muir Whitehill presented a tribute to Samuel Eliot Morison in recognition of the sixtieth anniversary of his election to the Society on April 8, 1914.

'We are meeting this morning in the carriage house of the third house that Charles Bulfinch built for Harrison Gray Otis. Now Otis was a charter member of the American Antiquarian Society when it was organized in 1812, and continued as a member for thirty-six years until his death in 1848. Sixty-five years later, his great-great-grandson, Samuel Eliot Morison, wrote a biography of Otis which caused the author to be elected to this Society at a very early age, exactly sixty years ago. He is now our senior member.

'Only two other members of the Society have had a longer tenure than Admiral Morison. One was the Reverend Edward Everett Hale, elected in 1847, president in 1906 and 1907, who

at his death in 1909 had been a member for sixty-two years. The other was John McKinstry Merriam, whom many of us remember from earlier meetings; having been elected in 1888, he had been a member for seventy-one years when he died in 1959.

'I remember time after time Mr. Merriam rising, and recalling the circumstances of his early election through friendship with Senator Hoar, and telling various stories. On one delightful occasion, he recalled the meeting of the Society in 1892 on the Columbus anniversary, at which Dr. Hale had read a long poem of his own composition which had in it a good deal about "Give me fresh paper that I may write the history of the world anew." According to Mr. Merriam, Charles Francis Adams sat there with a sneer upon his face. When Dr. Hale had finished, Mr. Adams rose to say that he considered the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus the most unmitigated calamity that had ever overtaken the world. He went on with observations about the Spanish colonial system, miscegenation, Catholicism, and the like; indicated that discovery was in the air and that if Columbus had not discovered America, some Englishman might have, and how different the history of the New World would have been. After Mr. Merriam had finished this anecdote, I recall Admiral Morison, who was then president, remarking that Mr. Adams doubtless wished that Columbus would have waited for a member of the Adams family to discover America.

'It is an extraordinary pleasure for me to say a word on this sixtieth anniversary of Admiral Morison's membership in the American Antiquarian Society. He is busy reading proofs for *The Southern Voyages* of his *The European Discovery of America*, which the Oxford University Press will publish later this year. He may be our senior member, but he is as hard at work as ever. May he continue to be for many years to come!'

At Admiral Morison's request, Mr. Whitehill then read the society the letter of Thomas Jefferson's granddaughter, Mrs.

Joseph Coolidge, that Dumas Malone has edited for publication in the *Proceedings* of this meeting (pp. 65-72).

President Wiggins next read a resolution adopted by the Council of the Society in recognition of this anniversary.

WHEREAS SAMUEL ELIOT MORISON has been since the eighth day of April, nineteen hundred and fourteen, a valued member of the American Antiquarian Society, serving as its president from nineteen hundred and thirty-eight until nineteen hundred and fifty-two, and whereas Samuel Eliot Morison joins but two other members who for sixty or more years have participated in the affairs of this Society, and whereas

SAMUEL ELIOT MORISON is the senior member of this Society, as was Harrison Gray Otis before him, and whereas

SAMUEL ELIOT MORISON has served his fellow countrymen and the world of scholars through many useful writings, from which, as Ferdinand and Isabella said of the letter of Christopher Columbus, we have 'taken much pleasure in learning whereof you write, and that God gave so good a result to your labors, and well guided you in what you commenced, whereof He will be well served and we also,' and whereas

SAMUEL ELIOT MORISON remains our valued friend, colleague, and navigator on man's still uncharted voyages, giving timely signals from his place of vantage, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the American Antiquarian Society that heartiest congratulations be tendered with joy, friendship, and gratitude upon the sixtieth anniversary of the election of Samuel Eliot Morison to this Society, accompanied by the best wishes of his colleagues; and upon the records of the Society let this resolution be inscribed and to Samuel Eliot Morison let these sentiments be made known.

Admiral Morison responded to the foregoing with the following remarks:

'Thank you so much, Mr. President and members. I have enjoyed every minute of those sixty years that I have been as-

sociated with this Society, both as plain member and council member, and president. I have attended almost all the meetings, and contributed to some of them, and have greatly enjoyed the social aspects of the Society. Meeting here in the old Otis Coach House is certainly very appropriate. You probably have noticed the diagonal structure of brick on the north side, for which there is an explanation in Chamberlin's book on Beacon Hill. I first saw this old Coach House when No. 45 was still owned by the Wadsworth family around 1910. Horses had recently been eliminated at the City's request, but the racing colors of the Wadsworth family were still hanging over the horse stalls. Among the old carriages there was a "booby-hatch" as we used to call the covered sleighs in those days; so old that it had a special box in the back where the gentlemen could put their swords so they wouldn't get tangled with the ladies' skirts.

'It is an additional pleasure to the honor which you have done me that it should be presented in this place, and I thank you all very much for your kind reception.'

The report of the Council was presented by Mr. McCorison and the report of the Treasurer by Mr. Daniels.

The following persons were elected by ballot to membership in the Society, with Rodney Armstrong and Frederick E. Bauer, Jr., acting as tellers: Charles Elliot Frazer Clark, Jr., Lawrence Arthur Cremin, Robert Cushman, Carl Neumann Degler, Howell Johnson Heaney, Mills Bee Lane IV, Gertrude Robinson Mallery, John Douglas Seelye, Wilfred Irvin Smith, and Ruth Dyer Wells.

Forrest Wilson Seymour presented a paper entitled 'The Trail to Wounded Knee.'

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m. to be followed by refreshments as the guests of Bruce Goddard Daniels and luncheon at the Club of Odd Volumes, 77 Mount Vernon Street, Boston.

Linwood M. Erskine, Jr.
Recording Secretary

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