

# *The Report of the Council*

*April 17, 1974*

**D**URING the past, six, busy months the stewards of the American Antiquarian Society have made progress toward more closely balancing expenditures against income, have inaugurated a new cataloguing project as well as continuing other work which is intended to improve our ability to serve scholars, have made plans to observe the bicentennial anniversary of the nation's founding, and we all have lost a very special friend and colleague through the death of Clifford Kenyon Shipton on December 4, 1973.

With regard to fiscal matters, the development program stands at \$2,478,000 of which \$1,196,988 was spent on the renovation and addition to the library building. In the matter of increasing our endowment, an effort designed to relieve stress on operating funds, since the fall \$200,000 has been raised for the Newspaper Endowment Fund by Richard C. Steele and his committee; \$135,600 has been gathered in for the Alden P. Johnson Endowment for Publication by a committee chaired by John Jeppson, 2nd, a sum greatly enhanced by the gift made in honor of Mr. Johnson of \$125,000 from the George I. Alden Trust. Our efforts to match a pledge of \$100,000 from the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation now stands at \$76,414, the income from this endowment to be used to defray the costs of the Society's fellowship program. All of these monies will not only improve our ability to meet current operating expenses but will allow us to initiate some new library services.

The Society has received a third grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, in the amount of \$55,585. The grant will be effective for two years and has permitted AAS to add another trained cataloguer who will work with our collections of more than 50,000 uncatalogued nineteenth-century pamphlets. Mrs. Dorothy Doan Siles reported for duty on April first. Formerly, Mrs. Siles was Acquisitions Librarian of the University of Connecticut Health Center Library in Farmington; Head Health Science Cataloguer at the SUNY Buffalo Libraries; and Reference Librarian at the University of Massachusetts Library.

The Society's publishing arrangements have undergone change. We reported in October that our recently appointed Editor of Publications, John B. Hench, was hard at work. In the interim, the Society's stock of books have been transferred to the University Press of Virginia of Charlottesville, Virginia, from which place our books will be distributed to individuals and to the trade. Mr. Hench is making good progress with the microreproduction of American imprints, 1813 now having been filmed. A separately printed and bound edition of *The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman* will be issued soon, while Elizabeth Carroll Reilly has nearly completed the copy for *A Dictionary of American Colonial Printers' Ornaments and Illustrations*, a volume being prepared as a memorial to Alden P. Johnson, through a subvention of the George I. Alden Trust.

The committee to select the Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in the history of the family—a fellowship sponsored under joint arrangement with Clark University—has appointed Howard P. Chudacoff the Fellow for the 1974-1975 academic year. Mr. Chudacoff, of the History Department at Brown University, will use unique materials at AAS to determine the effect upon family structure of industrialization and urbanization of the city of Worcester during the nineteenth century.

Upon recommendation of the Society's Committee on Fellowships, chaired by W. Howard Adams, the Council has ap-

pointed the following persons as visiting fellows. Their stipends are provided from funds of the Society's Fred Harris Daniels Fund.

Jacqueline J. Halstead, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History, University of Wisconsin, Madison, will do research among the Society's newspaper, local history, and genealogical collections for her dissertation tentatively entitled "The 'Great Opportunity': Northern Teachers and the Georgia Freedmen, 1865-1873."

Ralph Ketcham, Professor of History, Syracuse University, will work in the Society's graphic art collections to find visual documentation to supplement the literary sources for his forthcoming book, an interpretation of American thought during the Revolutionary and early National Periods.

Philip J. Lampi, St. Petersburg, Florida, will continue work, begun fifteen years ago, of tabulating votes in American presidential, congressional, gubernatorial, and state legislative elections from 1788 to 1824.

Paul Langford, Fellow and Tutor in Modern History, Lincoln College, Oxford University, England, will be searching American sources for a study of British attitudes toward the American colonies during the era of the American Revolution.

Donald B. Marti, Associate Professor of History, Indiana University at South Bend, will be doing research on a proposed monograph on the movement for agricultural improvement in nineteenth-century New England and New York.

Marcia Jean Pankake, Ph.D. candidate, Department of American Studies and the Library School, University of Minnesota, is compiling a bibliography and analysis of travel accounts by Americans who traveled outside what is now the United States, 1610-1812.

David F. Tatham, Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Fine Arts, Syracuse University, will continue work on a major study of the life and works of the American

artist David Claypoole Johnston (1798-1865), on whom AAS has preeminent collections.

Robert Lee Wright, Professor of American Thought and Language, Michigan State University, will pursue research materials for a book of *English and Scottish Emigration Ballads and Songs*, which will be volume three of his series, 'Ballads and Songs of the Western Migration.'

The Society's staff and committees have been active in other fields of endeavor. The American Revolution Bicentennial Committee has adopted several means of observing that anniversary of our nation's existence. The most important project will be a volume to be entitled *The Press and the American Revolution*. Bernard Bailyn and James Russell Wiggins have agreed to take on the task of editing the book, which will consist of a number of essays on various aspects of the printing trade, journalists, printers, and publications during the revolutionary period. The Gridiron Foundation of Washington, D.C., has made a gift of \$10,000 to the Society which will defray a portion of the costs of the volume. Other projects under consideration include lectures, musical performances, and facsimiles of printed matter distributed by newspapers.

In the area of library concerns we have, in association with our colleagues of the Independent Research Libraries Association and at other rare book libraries, discussed at some length problems of security against theft, fire, and other similar difficulties. We have talked about cooperative measures for conservation of books and papers and we believe that these conversations will lead to improved internal practices which will provide cooperative means of dealing with the absolute necessities of the conservation of our research collections with economy and efficiency. Indeed, at AAS we have already undertaken certain modifications of our security practices with others to follow.

On another level, we shall entertain two interns from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Historical Preservation

who will repair certain of the Society's prints and maps. This expense is to be borne on the Society's Andrew W. Mellon Fund.

While we have hardly been quiescent in acquiring materials, I shall withhold comment on this area of our activities except to mention that a letter sent to historical agencies, similar to one sent a year ago to public libraries, requesting from them issues of volumes of nineteenth-century American newspapers has met with great success and that we have added a very substantial number of newspapers to our holdings.

The Council wishes to express to the staff, to the members of the Society, and to other friends of learning who support our great enterprise their profound gratitude for assistance both spiritual and monetary during the past months.

In the foregoing account of modest institutional accomplishments, we made no mention of the true function of the American Antiquarian Society, which is not the piling up of activities. Rather, we should be reminded that our purpose is the enlargement of historical knowledge and the dissemination among men of learning, in the belief that in its train learning brings wisdom. The Society has a great tradition behind us and a worthy task before us. Let us hope that our actions befit our work.

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