

The Report of the Council

April 21, 1982

THE COMPLETION of the first half of our one hundred seventieth year finds us in good shape: our budget under control, income (because of improved financial management policies) substantially ahead of the past year, the staff intact and working hard on their various projects and programs, the response to requests for support of The Isaiah Thomas Fund highly gratifying, the Goddard-Daniels House just about ready for occupancy, and acquisitions flowing satisfactorily, both as to quality and quantity.

Among the additions to the collections were five seventeenth-century broadsides printed in Cambridge or Boston. This remarkable find was referred to us by an AAS member and a well-known member of the book trade. The broadsides were pasted into a seventeenth-century English book of theology and had had a variety of owners, including a contemporary Harvard president and an irreverent youngster of the eighteenth century. The volume finally wound up in the Pacific Northwest. The broadsides include Thomas Thacher's *Brief Rule to Guide the Common People of New-England* on the subject of the prevention of smallpox and measles. This broadside, which is known by one other copy at the Massachusetts Historical Society, was printed by John Foster in Boston in 1677. Three were printed in Cambridge by Samuel Green in 1681: Thomas Tilestone's *Funeral Elegy, Dedicated to the Memory of his Worthy Friend, . . . Mr. John Foster*, which was known to exist on the basis of a manuscript copy and is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Farber; Deodat Lawson's *Funeral Elegy* upon the

death of Thomas Savage; and William Hubbard's elegy, *To the Memory of . . . Daniel Denison*. The fifth broadside is a poem published in Boston or Cambridge without an imprint, entitled *A Divine Poem, Setting Forth the Various Excellency of Prayer*. The latter three were unrecorded.

A work by Cotton Mather came our way recently. Entitled *Maschil* and printed in Boston for Samuel Phillips in 1702, the text consists of a selection of works for the instruction and amusement of children. Thus, it constitutes a volume of religious instruction for New England youngsters. Other acquisitions include an excellent copy of Benjamin Martyn's *An Account, Shewing the Progress of the Colony of Georgia in America* reprinted in Annapolis by Jonas Green in 1742 from the London edition of the previous year. *Some Few Reasons Suggested, Why the Heathen . . . Rage in the British Colonies in North-America*, printed by Hugh Gainé in New York in 1756, was written by Chauncy Graham, who believed that the Indians did rage so because they had not been Christianized, that the treaties with them had been broken, and that the English had not protected them from the French and their allies. The pamphlet is recorded in Evans but was unlocated for filming in the Readex Microprint set. We have also acquired a previously unlocated edition of John Leland's *History of Jack Nips* (Walpole, N.H.: David Carlisle, June 1797), and an unrecorded Troy, New York, imprint of 1798 entitled *Verses, Composed upon the Awful and Sudden Death of Oliver Hall* by Naomi Rogers. The *History of the Captivity and Providential Release Therefrom of Mrs. Caroline Harris*, printed in New York by Perry N. Cooke in 1838, joins the AAS copy of the fictionalized narrative of the true sufferer in Indian captivity, Clarissa Plummer. Both examples are exceedingly uncommon and recount, rather more than less, the personal experiences of Mrs. Plummer, who was captured by Comanche Indians in Texas and held captive for two years. The factual account of her travails, published in Houston in 1838, is one of the great Texas rarities.

We have taken advantage of unusual opportunities to add materials to our book trade collections, including a lot of twenty-three book auction catalogues from Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and New York, 1832-68. Another lot of prospectuses and subscription proposals, chiefly broadsides, arrived from another source, and we continue to add salesmen's sample books of the nineteenth century as often as we can find them. We have had some luck in finding illustrated books, such as the volume illustrated with photogravures entitled *Villas on the Hudson* (New York, 1860) and *Autograph Etchings by American Artists*, executed by John Whetton Ehninger (New York, 1859). This volume is one of the few American books illustrated by a method called cliché verre, a method of photography that involves etching on a sensitized plate. I have elected not to tell you about an 1847 report of a murder in Chicago, an 1855 description of life in the gold fields of Victoria, Canada, a lot of seventy-two broadsides and pamphlets written by Gerrit Smith, nor the acquisition of one of the earliest American publications on chess lacking from our collection, dated 1830.

We are happy to announce that the Goddard-Daniels House is ready for occupancy. Readers of these reports will recall that in 1970 Mrs. F. Harold Daniels deeded her family home, 'Elmarion,' to the Society with the proviso that she would remain there as long as she wished to do so. Mrs. Daniels passed away in January of 1981. Since then we have made plans, raised money, and executed the work to make the house suitable for institutional purposes. The George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation provided the funds for the work, the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation has pledged an additional sum to the endowment fund for the maintenance of the house, the R. H. Whipple Company oversaw the renovation of certain areas of the house, Tucker & Rice, Inc. redid the heating and plumbing systems, and the house was redecorated by Webmont, Inc. of Wellesley. We believe that the results are quite satisfactory. The Society intends to use the house as office space for the staff of the re-

search and publication department. John B. Hench, our assistant director for those activities, will administer the educational activities that transpire in the first-floor rooms of the house. The second-floor rooms will be used as residences for visiting scholars, and the third-floor apartment will be occupied by our superintendent of buildings and grounds, who will oversee the general maintenance of the property as well as that of Antiquarian Hall. The Goddard-Daniels House presents us with a facility that opens up new areas of service for scholarship and to our various constituencies. We look forward to developing enlarging programs that will make those possibilities a reality.

Through the energetic leadership of President Jeppson and his committee chairmen, Francis H. Dewey III (Deferred Giving) and Homer D. Babbidge, Jr. (Special Gifts), our efforts to improve the financial underpinnings of the Society through The Isaiah Thomas Fund—our 175th Anniversary Program—are well under way. During the fiscal year \$1,110,000 has been received in cash or pledges, all of it endowment for various Society programs. In addition, \$57,350 has been received for annual expenses, although this sum is nearly \$26,000 smaller than the sum received at the same time a year ago. No doubt this is due to the fact that people have so generously supported The Isaiah Thomas Fund, which now stands at \$2,643,650. To say that we are grateful to members and friends of the Society who have so generously responded to the Society's needs is accurate but seems to be an insufficient expression of our thanks.

The Worcester Association of Mutual Aid in Detecting Thieves goes on its merry way. Robert P. Hallock serves effectively as clerk and his enthusiastic Pursuing Committee oversees the activities of this energetic group. The annual meeting held on February 4 was a great success and we look forward to the Spring Outing which will be held at the home of Jessie and Daniel Farber. The Thief Detectors have proven to be a very strong arm of AAS and we salute them with joy and gratitude.

Not only are we grateful to members and friends of the Society who lend us such effective financial aid, the Council is also much in debt to the Society's outstanding staff. They go about their business with uncommon imagination as well as diligence and the good things that happen here are due to their loyalty and hard work. Under the able direction of Frederick E. Bauer, Jr., activities in the library have gone on very well. He has been much concerned about the improvement of our conservation capabilities and it would appear that this year, building on the foundation made in 1856 by Levi Lincoln when he established the Bookbinding Fund, we shall make some radical improvements in our ability to care for our research materials. Some ten years ago we built a conservation laboratory that is suitable for our needs. However, we have not had adequate staff in numbers or in training to do the work that our collections demand. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has made a matching grant of \$250,000 toward an endowment for the support of such work. In November we received from the Pew Memorial Trust a grant of \$110,200 to fund the activities of the conservation laboratory for a period of two years. Since then we have conducted an active search for a chief conservator and I am happy to announce that I have appointed Richard C. Baker to fill that new position. Mr. Baker is now the assistant book and paper conservator at the Smithsonian Institution. He will undertake his new duties at AAS on July 1.

Our work in the area of computer-assisted cataloguing goes on quite satisfactorily in the North American Imprints Program under the direction of Alan N. Degutis as does the project to catalogue our American printed broadsides under the supervision of our chief cataloguer, Carol R. Kanis. The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the Society a second grant of \$80,000 (outright), plus an additional \$13,000 in matching funds, to continue the broadside cataloguing work which is closely related to our North American Imprints Program. Taking advantage of our records on authors

and printers and subjects involved with materials printed in the United States before 1821, AAS is cooperating with Stanford University in a project to catalogue American imprints appearing in the Readex Microprint set, 1800–1805. To take up that work we have engaged the services of Joanne D. Chaisson, who has an M.A. in history from the University of Connecticut and who spent six years in the reference department of the library of the University of New Brunswick. New rules for cataloguing which are directed primarily toward temporarily published materials and with an eye for economy of time have caused us a good deal of distress. Although AAS was one of the leaders in developing new standards, the standards have been modified to suit more general uses and we find our insistence on accurate and complete information to be frequently at odds with prescribed rules. We believe it repugnant to catalogue historical materials in anything less than a full and correct manner and some of the tensions are not yet resolved. At the very least, we will have it right in our own internal system.

The Society will recall that some months ago John B. Hench was appointed assistant director for research and publication following William L. Joyce's departure for the New York Public Library. To assist Mr. Hench in editorial affairs we have appointed Jeri L. Stolk as his assistant. Ms. Stolk comes to us with training in languages and literature at Boston University and graduate study at Tufts University, followed by four years of experience in the publishing field. Mr. Hench has been giving a good deal of time to the administration of various scholarly and public programs, chief amongst them being a highly successful public program funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and conducted in partnership with the Worcester Public Library. Entitled *Literature and Society in the Early Republic, 1820–1850*, the program has brought outstanding lecturers and excellent attendance to AAS and the public library. Participants are R. Jackson Wilson, Smith College, on Washington Irving;

Phyllis Cole, Wellesley College, on Ralph Waldo Emerson; Stephen Nissenbaum, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, on Nathaniel Hawthorne; Barry O'Connell, Amherst College, on James Fenimore Cooper; Robert A. Gross, Amherst College, on Emily Dickinson, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and the problems of female authorship.

The Fellowship Program is in excellent shape and is administered by Mr. Hench's office. Early in March we received from the Exxon Education Foundation a grant of almost \$50,000 to fund short-term visiting fellowships over a period of three years, while Jacob Hiatt continues to fund the Frances Hiatt Fellowships for graduate students, and William F. Boni continues fellowships in honor of his father, Albert, in the area of printing and publishing history. In addition, Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson have established an endowment fund, the income from which will be used for fellowships to visiting scholars.

The Committee on Fellowships under the chairmanship of Jack P. Greene met on February 24 and selected the following individuals for appointment.

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellows

Margaret Neussendorfer, associate professor of literature and American studies, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, 'Selected Writings and Annotated Bibliography of the Works of Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, Essays on Peabody and S. F. Haven, and Ann Sargent Gage'; David S. Reynolds, assistant professor of English, Northwestern University, 'Beneath the American Renaissance'; Alden T. Vaughan, professor of history, Columbia University, 'Indians and Europeans in British North America.'

Samuel Foster Haven Fellows

John L. Brooke, Ph.D. candidate in history, University of Pennsylvania, 'Worcester County Politics, 1789-1840'; Christopher F. Clark, lecturer in history, University of York, England,

'Economy and Culture in Rural Massachusetts, 1790-1860'; W. Clark Gilpin, associate professor, The Graduate Seminary, Phillips University, 'Eighteenth-Century Protestant Concepts of the Church'; Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, associate professor of history, Syracuse University, 'Natural History Museums: The Nineteenth Century'; Ben Harris McClary, professor of English, Middle Georgia College, 'Samuel Lorenzo Knapp and His Milieu'; Kenneth J. Morgan, teacher of history, Hyde Sixth Form College, Cheshire, England, 'Shipping and Trade Patterns in the North Atlantic in the Mid-Eighteenth Century'; Dwight L. Smith, professor of history, Miami University, 'The War of 1812: A Bibliography'; Bruce E. Steiner, professor of history, Ohio University, 'Lawyers, Dissenting Churches, and Connecticut's Republican Party, 1790-1820'; Yang Zongsui, associate professor of history, Sichuan University, China, 'History and Source Book on American Revolution in Chinese.'

Albert Boni Fellow

Richard C. Simmons, reader in American history, University of Birmingham, England, 'British Imprints Relating to North America 1621-1760.'

Frances Hiatt Fellows

Nym Cooke, graduate student in music history and musicology, University of Michigan, 'Lives of the Psalmists'; Louis P. Masur, Ph.D. candidate in history, Princeton University, 'The Culture of Executions in America, 1776-1860.'

The financial base of the Society now stands at \$5,837,000, yielding 11.1 percent in income with the portfolio divided between equities and fixed-income securities on the basis of 64 percent and 36 percent, respectively. The budget for the first half of the year shows a slight surplus so we look forward to another year of financial stability.

It is said that one of our founder's favorite pastimes was the

rewriting of his will. In the final draft, he stated his hopes for the future of the Society that he had established some twenty years before his death. Among them was this concern:

The American Antiquarian Society is, in some respects, very different from other Societies established in the United States. Membership is restricted to no State or party; there are no members merely honorary; but, all have an equal interest and concern in the affairs and objects of the Institution. . . . Its objects (to collect and preserve) embrace all time, past, present, and future. . . . The benefits, resulting from the American Antiquarian Society, will be increasing with time, and will chiefly be received by a remote posterity. It must therefore be acknowledged, that, it is necessary, that the members should entertain a more disinterested, generous, and enlarged benevolence.

We give thanks to each of you who share the vision of Isaiah Thomas and who help make the work of the Society possible and serviceable to scholars and other readers—and so much pleasure for those of us who are intimately involved in the day-to-day activities of AAS.

Marcus A. McCorison

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