

*Proceedings
of the Semiannual Meeting*

APRIL 19, 1991

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

THE SEMIANNUAL MEETING of the American Antiquarian Society, held on Friday, April 19, 1991, at the Student Union Center of the University of California at Berkeley, was called to order by Mr. Beals, chairman pro tem, at 11:02 A.M. Members present were Robert Comey Achorn, William Pusey Barlow, Jr., Robert Charles Baron, Philip Charles Beals, Karl Lombard Briel, Mary Valentine Crowley Callahan, Bruce Goddard Daniels, Everette Eugene Dennis, Don Edward Fehrenbacher, John Jeppson, 2nd, Elizabeth Ann Harper John, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., Paul Markham Kahn, Howard Roberts Lamar, Milton Martin Klein, John Morris McClelland, Jr., Marcus Allen McCorison, Calvin Peter Otto, Martin V. Ridge, Barnes Riznik, Penelope Booth Rockwell, Kevin Starr, Barbara Welch Sudler, William Francis Sullivan, Sumner Burnham Tilton, Jr., George Harrison Tweney, Clarence Lester Ver Steeg, and John Munro Woolsey, Jr. ✓

After the call of the meeting was read by the recording secretary pro tem, Mr. Otto, it was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the October 17, 1990, annual meeting.

Mr. Beals reported the following changes in the membership of the Society:

Anthony Nicholas Brady Garvan, resigned October 17, 1990

William John Keating, resigned October 22, 1990

Edwin Wolf, 2nd, died February 20, 1991

Lawrence Kelton Miller, died March 31, 1991

Fredson Thayer Bowers, died April 11, 1991

After a moment of silence to honor our deceased members, Mr. McCorison spoke briefly about each person.

A request arose from the floor for an explanation of resignations by members in view of the fact that the Society charges no annual dues, nor are there other formal obligations of membership. Mr. McCorison responded that it is likely persons resign because they have not developed an interest in the Society or its programs. Further, he said that, although obligations of membership are minimal, nonetheless the present members of the Society, having accepted membership, share with the generations before them the essential responsibilities that sustain the life of the American Antiquarian Society.

In the absence of Mr. Williams, Mr. McCorison read the report of the treasurer, which contained the following information: As of March 31, 1991, the market value of the portfolio was valued at \$19,094,000, on a cost basis of \$18,240,000. The income yield on the portfolio for the next twelve months was estimated to be \$1,290,000, or 6.8 percent. The portfolio is managed on a balanced discipline with sixty percent of its assets invested in equities and forty percent in fixed income instruments. Mr. Williams noted with concern a current operating deficit of \$138,000, due almost entirely to over-expenditures of the acquisition budget and urged the management of the Society to put in place the internal fiscal controls that will enable the Society to run within approved budgets. Mr. Daniels moved to accept the treasurer's report; the motion was seconded, and so voted.

Messrs. McClelland and Baron were appointed tellers of ballots for the election of new members of the Society, as follows: Jean M. Borgatti, Henry Spotswood Fenimore Cooper, Jr., James Corcoran Donnelly, Jr., Joseph Daniel Duffey, Vartan Gregorian, Kay Seymour House, Polly Ormsby Longworth, Drew Randall McCoy, Nancy Peery Marriott, Guy Warren Nichols, John Thomas Noonan, Jr., John Francis O'Brien, Jacob Myron Price, and Mary Coxe Schlosser.

Mr. McCorison then presented the report of the Council.

✓ In response to a call for new business, Mr. Tweney raised the question of a limitation on the size of the membership and re-

quested information on the process of nominations, noting that representatives from the western portions of the United States appear to be in short supply on the rolls of the Society. Mr. McCorison responded that membership in the Society is in some measure honorary and is intended to recognize the contributions of individuals to the advancement of historical learning and to the institutions that provide opportunities for that learning. Thus, the Committee on Membership eschews the practice of nominating at any one time large numbers of candidates. He stated that any member of the Society may place, in writing, the names of individuals before the Committee on Membership, with reasons for their recommendation.

It was remarked that it appeared that people under the age of forty seem to take little interest in history; thus, the Society ought to determine ways to encourage such interest. On the other hand, the success of Ken Burns's recently televised series on the Civil War would indicate a strong yearning exists for learning of this kind. Mr. McCorison stated the Society little understood the means of responding to public needs for history, nor at present did it have the resources to do so, despite its vital importance to our national culture and the obligation of the Society to be useful to society at large.

In conclusion Mr. Beals thanked Professor Starr and his ad hoc committee on local arrangements, Messrs. Barlow, Kahn, and Lundquist, for their efforts in helping to arrange the excellent meeting, interesting tours, and delightful hospitality that marked the entire event. The Society is grateful also to Mrs. James D. Hart for her kindnesses given on Thursday evening, as well as to staff members at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco—Robert F. Johnson, Sally Mills, and Donald L. Stover—for guidance through their collections. Members of the Society concurred in these sentiments with warm applause and the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 A.M.

Following luncheon, members and their guests reassembled in the Tan Oak Room at 2:00 P.M. to attend a symposium, "Writing

the History of the American West." It was led by Mr. Starr with excellent papers presented by members Elizabeth A. H. John, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr., and Martin Ridge. Their papers were followed by Howard R. Lamar's wise summation and by additional commentary by the participants. Their efforts were warmly appreciated by the enthusiastic audience.

Present at functions during the Society's meetings in the San Francisco Bay area were Weyman I. Lundquist and Peter H. Williams; so too were spouses of members of the Society, Mmes. Achorn, Baron, Beals, Briel, Mr. Callahan, Mmes. Daniels, Jeppson, Kahn, Lundquist, McClelland, McCorison, Otto, Riznik, Messrs. Rockwell and Hornby, Mmes. Sullivan, Tilton, and Woolsey. Members of the Worcester Association of Mutual Aid in Detecting Thieves, Messrs. and Mmes. Jarrel G. Burrow and James Clapp, and a number of guests, were also present, as was Ann-Catherine Rapp of the Society's staff, who had done much in assuring that arrangements for the meetings were well in hand.

Calvin P. Otto

Recording Secretary, pro tem

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