

# *The Report of the Council*

*April 20, 1977*

**M**EMBERS OF our staff during the first six months of the Society's 165th year have been very active at a variety of tasks, most of which were of the nuts and bolts variety. Yet those jobs are the ones which allow the Society and its programs to run efficiently. For example, although the number of 'degree days,' or demand for heat, rose by eleven percent in the winter of 1976-77, our actual use of all energy sources dropped, again, by ten percent. This kind of building management by Mr. Strader has meant that we have kept energy costs from running off with the bank account. It is only one of the reasons why our operating expenditures were below budgeted authorizations by a healthy sum.

On to word of other kinds of activities. The staff conference has debated the sort of educational programs which it thinks to be best suited to the ultimate goals for the library. The discussions were brought about by the happy circumstance of a twofold grant of \$282,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. One portion of the grant will allow us to plan and implement on a modest scale certain programs which will enhance our ability to make the Society's library more useful to scholars on a teaching level. William L. Joyce has been charged by the director to attend to the responsibilities of this new enterprise. The Society's Education Committee is chaired by William H. Bond. His colleagues are Messrs. Bell, Fischer, Tatham, Ward, and Washburn.

The committee considered the staff report recommended to the Council that initial steps be taken in order to launch a program by the fall of 1978. The first program, which will be

an 'experimental' one for AAS, probably will take the form of an honors seminar for a few upperclassmen or beginning graduate students registered at Worcester colleges. Although this proposal is hardly earthshaking, we trust that it will give our staff the kind of experience which will enable us within the next few years to build other, more innovative, programs. These may well lead toward an institute of advanced research, publication, and teaching—all centered upon the AAS library and the skills of our staff in bibliographical and historical research.

In his recently published book, *Traditions of American Education*, our fellow member Lawrence Cremin suggests that education has always occurred in situations beyond the school and that this American tradition will undoubtedly lead to much wider use of non-formal educational situations. Indeed, many of us have believed that research libraries and museums were educational institutions whether or not educators or the IRS agreed with us. In any case, the Council is gratified that the Education Committee and the staff are carefully developing a strategy within the next few years which will bring AAS to a point where its rich resources can be offered to inquirers into our nation's past in ways new to the Society.

Mary V. C. Callahan, our Development Officer, has been frenetically at work. We are very pleased that she has joined our company. Results of her stratagems have been highly successful; annual giving from members, friends, and corporations are at record levels. We have initiated new requests to a number of foundations and individuals for endowment funds. A major effort by the Development Office was the preparation of an application to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a challenge grant in the amount of \$382,335. The grant, if awarded to AAS, is designed to encourage those of us most concerned with the present and future work of AAS to find new ways of supporting the Society. The Council very much hopes that the grant will be

made to the Society and that within the next three years we shall rise to the challenge of obtaining new endowments, annual gifts, and monies for special projects amounting to \$1,529,340. It is a great challenge and a great opportunity.

At present, contributions from members, friends, and corporations toward the Society's annual expenses have reached \$41,222. Gifts for the increase of endowment stand at \$67,443, while project grants amount to \$298,183. All of this comes to \$406,848. Such results are due to the hard work of the Development Office, the help of the Endowment Committee, and the splendid generosity of our donors.

Georgia B. Bumgardner and John B. Hench have been busily engaged with Rodger D. Parker in preparing the catalogue of the exhibition which opened on April 19 at the Worcester Art Museum. 'Wellsprings of a Nation: America before 1801' is the Society's bicentennial exhibition and was mounted there through the courtesy and cooperation of the officers and staff of the museum. We are grateful for this generous assistance. The exhibition and the accompanying catalogue were funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, and the Worcester Bicentennial Commission. To each agency we give our gratitude.

The AAS-Readex Microprint project, Early American Imprints, 1801-1819, has entered the final phase which is designed to bring the work to completion in five years. Margaret A. Donoghue, assisted by Joan M. Pingeton, has been given immediate care of day-to-day editorial work. Mr. Hench retains supervisory responsibilities for the project. The increased tempo of this work has been made possible by receipt of the grant from the Mellon Foundation and by increased financial support from the Readex Microprint Corporation. A portion of it is intended to defray certain of our costs, expenses which AAS has absorbed into its operating budget since 1955.

I am pleased to report that Mr. Hench, our editor, has C. K. Shipton's cumulative index to our *Proceedings*, 1812-1961, in production, with an early 1978 publication date as the goal.

We have followed with a good deal of interest the preliminary discussions dealing with the organization of a major scholarly task, the Eighteenth Century Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in English, and have participated in one or two of the gatherings. Our fellow member Thomas R. Adams, librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, acts as a guiding spirit of the project. Our concern with the project is hardly surprising in view of our holdings of eighteenth-century American imprints and of the experience of the AAS staff in such work. It would appear that we shall be able to play some helpful role in this enormous and important scholarly task. We look forward to appropriate opportunities to do so.

The Committee on Fellowships met in early March in Washington to select the 1977-78 fellows of the Society. Chairman Kenyon with Messrs. MacNeil and Seelye recommended the following persons to the Council, who confirmed the committee's choices, as follows:

*National Endowment for the Humanities Fellows*

Ross W. Beales, Jr., College of the Holy Cross, 'Concepts of Childhood and Youth in New England'; Richard D. Brown, University of Connecticut, 'Communications Networks in Pre-Industrial America: Selected Interpersonal Studies in the Transmission and Reception of Information, 1700-1850.'

*Fred Harris Daniels Fellows*

Catherine L. Albanese, Pennsylvania State University, 'Davy Crockett Almanacs'; Peter A. Coclanis, Columbia University, 'Economy and Society in Colonial Charleston'; Patricia Cline Cohen, University of California at Santa Barbara, 'Americans and Numbers'; Nancy R. Davison, University of Michigan,

'E. W. Clay, Jacksonian Cartoonist'; Nathan O. Hatch, University of Notre Dame, 'From Revolution to Reaction'; Ellen Jane Porter, Union Graduate School, 'Camp-Meeting Content of American Hymnals'; and Jonathan Prude, Emory University, 'The Coming of Industrial Order: A Study of Town and Factory Life in Rural Massachusetts, 1813-1860.'

This brief report omits many events of importance or interest, including acknowledgement of gifts of research materials and other acquisitions for the library. We shall forebear any mention of them except to give our thanks to each individual and institution who has so generously increased the usefulness of the library. To all who give the Society aid and comfort through service on committees, by presenting papers at our meetings, and by all other acts of kindness and help the Council gives their sincere gratitude.

Marcus A. McCorison

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