

# *The Report of the Council*

*April 18, 1984*

IT IS WITH the utmost regret that I announce the retirement, at the end of August, of Frederick E. Bauer from the associate librarianship of the Society. After twenty years at Mount Hermon School, Mr. Bauer came to AAS on July 1, 1970, as the head of cataloguing, following the retirement of Avis G. Clarke. However, within months he was appointed assistant librarian and on September 1, 1974, was named associate librarian. Mr. Bauer was elected to the Society at the April 1972 meeting.

Throughout his career at AAS Mr. Bauer has been a friend and advisor to the entire staff and to the director especially. He has had oversight of staff selection and personnel policies, has advised our superintendent of buildings and grounds on the care and maintenance of our properties, and has been part and parcel of all of the activities in the library including conservation, the curatorial departments, readers' services, and cataloguing and related projects. Mr. Bauer has taken care of all kinds of business matters and has been a source of sound advice and comfort to your reporter. Indeed, I have depended to an unmeasurable degree upon his calm and humane perspective and measured judgment in many things. The contributions of Fred Bauer and his loss to the Society are impossible to assess.

In an effort to minimize the vacuum that his departure will cause, the Council authorized the director to obtain advice from a management expert to study the ways by which Mr. Bauer's duties might be distributed amongst present and future staff members. The exercise was helpful and resulted in a recom-

mendation for an altered organizational structure which in the main has been adopted and will take effect on July 1. The essence of it lies in a diffusion of responsibility from the office of the director and librarian. Three major operational units, in addition to administration, will be established—business affairs presided over by Michael D. Merchant, the library administered by the assistant librarian, and research and publication which is the province of John B. Hench, our assistant director.

Mr. Merchant was appointed to the position of business officer on November 15. He is an experienced accountant and comptroller in profit and not-for-profit enterprises. Mr. Merchant replaced Vivian B. Schotte who retired at the end of December, after eleven and three-quarter years of excellent service as the Society's bookkeeper. We thank Mrs. Schotte for her contribution to the life of the Society and we welcome Mr. Merchant to the fray!

The position of assistant librarian is open. An active, nationwide search is presently under way to find the best person available to fill that post. We are pleased by the number of excellent applicants and expect that a successor to Mr. Bauer will be appointed during the next several weeks.

Eleanor S. Adams has served as the director's secretary for fifteen and one-half years and has been extraordinarily helpful in all that time. Mrs. Adams will become assistant to the director on July 1 and will take on the personnel duties formerly performed by Mr. Bauer. Mrs. Callahan, fortunately, carries on as development officer. So, changes are in the making and we trust that the staff and AAS will come out on the other side intact.

In fact, still more staff changes have occurred. Carol R. Kanis, a member of our staff for ten years and our head of cataloguing services since 1980, took a six-month maternity leave and understandably has now resigned as head of the department. She will continue on a part-time basis with particular responsibility

for our participation in the Name Authority Cooperative Cataloguing Project. In her stead, Alan N. Degutis has been appointed head of cataloguing services, effective May 1. Mr. Degutis has been at AAS since 1974 in a variety of capacities including that of senior cataloguer of the North American Imprints Program. He will continue in that position, as well as assuming wider responsibilities in the supervision of all AAS cataloguing and the development of our machine-readable database.

The Catalogue of American Engravings, which was begun four and one half years ago, is close to completion. Judy L. Larson and Mary Ann Powers who did the field work and were the compilers of the catalogue have completed their work. Some 17,000 records are now being transcribed into our research database. Within the next several months the resulting file will be available for production of a published version of the catalogue. This file will also serve as the basis of a flexible database that will be kept up to date by our curator of graphic arts, Georgia B. Bumgardner, who serves as the director of this NEH-funded project.

Members of the Society may recall that for the past four years AAS has been a member of the Research Libraries Group. That organization continues on its pioneering way, wracked frequently by financial dislocations and by tensions resulting from issues of independence and interdependence that have not yet been resolved within this still fledgling partnership of great research libraries. Your reporter serves as chairman of the Preservation Committee and Mrs. Bumgardner is the chair of the Art and Architecture Committee. AAS entertains high hopes for the continued usefulness and growth of RLG which clearly heads the way, with the Library of Congress, in programs of national interlibrary development and cooperation.

The quality and expense of acquisitions that have arrived at the Society during the past six months have been at a very high level indeed. We reported in the January *News-Letter* the pur-

chase of the unique copy of the unrecorded, first American edition of Daniel Defoe's narrative of the life and surprising adventures of Robinson Crusoe. However, because of the importance of this chapbook, comment on its acquisition bears repeating here. Our late director and librarian Clarence Brigham published a bibliography of editions of Robinson Crusoe issued in America to the year 1831. He stated that Robinson Crusoe is the 'most widely read, published, translated, adapted, and imitated of any romance' ever written in the English language. It is a tale that could either be adapted as a chapbook sold by pedlars for popular consumption or published as a full text designed for contemplative reading. Brigham recorded 125 American editions or printings of Defoe's narrative, beginning with an edition published by Hugh Gaine in New York in 1774. Therefore, it is a matter of considerable cultural interest when a hitherto unrecorded edition suddenly appears. Our sixteen-page pamphlet is entitled *The Life of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner*. It was published in Boston by Zechariah Fowle and Samuel Draper at their printing office in Washington Street in Boston. Fowle and Draper were in partnership from 1757 until 1762. We assume that our octavo pamphlet appeared at some time during those five years, a time when Isaiah Thomas was an apprentice to Fowle. It is not unlikely that the young Isaiah had a hand in setting the type for this chapbook. In 1957 AAS had 91 of the 125 editions recorded by Brigham. Since then we have added, in addition to this unique exemplar, 9 other copies to our holdings; according to our count the total number of recorded editions has risen to 131. This not inexpensive purchase was made on the Harry G. Stoddard Memorial Fund.

Also of great interest and of considerable scholarly importance is the acquisition on the Harry G. Stoddard Memorial Fund of a letter of James Fenimore Cooper to Armand Carrel, editor of the *Le National* of Paris. Cooper wrote the letter on February 25, 1832, to refute a charge by Louis Sébastien Saul-

nier that the cost of government in the United States, a democracy, was far greater than that of other countries, particularly monarchies. Cooper's letter was published in *Le National* in a French translation and until our manuscript appeared the English version has not been available to scholars. James F. Beard of Clark University, editor of the Fenimore Cooper letters and the ongoing definitive Cooper edition will edit the manuscript for publication in our *Proceedings*.

Other literary works acquired since the first of September include *Lyrical and Other Poems* by William Gilmore Simms, published in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1827. This is Simms's very scarce second book and we are happy to have it in a fine copy, as issued. *New-Years Verses. Addressed to the Customers of the Nova-Scotia, Gazette*, which bears an inscription by Mather Byles, Jr., is another desirable addition to our North American literary holdings. The verse undoubtedly was written by Mather Byles, who had some poetic skill, and was issued in Halifax in 1788. *The Mountain Village: or Mysteries of the Coal Region* is an unrecorded, anonymous novel published in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, in 1849. It is a desirable example of regional fiction. Two major theatrical acquisitions were made during this half year. Eighty-nine playbills issued by New York theaters between the years 1815 and 1819 were obtained, as was a very scarce early play, *The Disappointment*. Presumably written by Andrew Barton, the pamphlet was issued in 1767 in New York City. The drama has political overtones and is set in Philadelphia. Because it was never produced, it is possible that the pamphlet is really a political tract rather than a drama, and that the author of it was Thomas Forrest, rather than Barton.

Among various pamphlets acquired that pertain to social reform, several were outstanding; the fifth edition of Charles Knowlton's *Fruits of Philosophy* (Philadelphia, 1839), which was the most influential early publication issued in the United States advocating contraception as a method of birth control;

Etienne Cabet's *Colony or Republic of Icaria in the United States of America* (Nauvoo, Ill., 1852); and the second edition of *Equitable Commerce* by Josiah Warren which was published in Utopia, Ohio, in 1849. John Morgan's *Discourse upon the Institution of Medical Schools in America* was published in 1765 by William Bradford in Philadelphia, and is a book which had eluded us for a good many years. It was the first call for the establishment of medical education in our country and is, therefore, a foundation book in American medical history. Excellent additions were made to our holdings in technology, including the book trades, but the purchase of some 300 reports of mining companies stretching from Vermont to California and published during the mid-nineteenth century was particularly important. The companies include those organized for the mining of copper, coal and iron, and gold and silver.

The Program in the History of the Book in American Culture is off to an excellent start. Two issues of the newsletter of the Program, entitled *The Book*, have been issued, and the first James Russell Wiggins Lecture was presented by Prof. David D. Hall on November 9, 1983. Entitled, 'On Native Ground: from the History of Printing to the History of the Book,' his lecture has been published in the October 1984 issue of the *Proceedings* and will be reprinted as a separate pamphlet. James M. Wells, the recently retired vice president of the Newberry Library, will deliver the 1984 Wiggins lecture, now scheduled for October 31. The tentative title for Mr. Wells's lecture is 'American Printing: the Search for Self-Sufficiency.' Immediately following the 1984 lecture, Messrs. Hench and Hall have scheduled a conference on needs and opportunities in the study of the history of the book in American culture. This conference will run from November 1 through 3. All authors and commentators are signed up and an additional number of participants will be invited to attend and contribute to the deliberations. The conference will be funded through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from

the Earhart Foundation. Plans are well under way for an institute to be held in the early summer of 1985 on bibliographical techniques. In addition, an application has been made to a major foundation in New York for the support of a residence program to enable established scholars in the field to work at AAS.

The 1983 Seminar in American Studies held at AAS was conducted by Prof. Charles Fanning of Bridgewater State College. Fanning, who was awarded the Frederick Jackson Turner Prize for his book *Finley Peter Dunne and Mr. Dooley*, selected as his topic 'Ethnic America before the Flood: the Irish and Others.' This was our sixth annual seminar, and based on reports by the students from the five four-year colleges in Worcester and from our own staff, the seminar was a success. Succeeding Fanning in the fall of 1984 will be Robert R. Dykstra, professor of history at the State University of New York at Albany, who will lead a seminar entitled 'The Lethal Imagination: Perceptions of Western Violence in American Thought, 1850-1900.'

The fellowship program remains a valued element of the Society's work. The Council announces the following appointments for 1984-85:

*National Endowment for the Humanities Fellows*

James A. Henretta, professor of history, Boston University, 'Law and the Creation of the Liberal State in America, 1770-1860'; Peter S. Onuf, assistant professor of history, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 'Northwest Ordinance'; Linck C. Johnson, associate professor of English, Colgate University, '*Walden* in its Time.'

*Samuel Foster Haven Fellows*

Michael A. Bellesiles, humanities associate in history, University of California, Irvine, 'Life, Liberty, and Land: Ethan Allen and the Frontier Experience in New England, 1760 to 1790';

Peter Eisenstadt, Ph.D. candidate in history, New York University, 'Weather and Weather Prediction in Colonial America'; Margaret L. Ford, director of Americana department, Argosy Bookstore, 'Ann Franklin, Colonial Newport Printer'; Lisa Koenigsberg, Ph.D. candidate in American Studies, Yale University, 'Professionalizing Domesticity'; Gary J. Kornblith, assistant professor of history, Oberlin College, 'Master Mechanics in New England, 1780s-1850s'; William Miles, professor/bibliographer, Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University, 'History and Bibliography of American Presidential Election Campaign Newspapers'; Victor Neuburg, senior lecturer in school of librarianship and information studies, Polytechnic of North London, 'Ballads and Chapbooks in Early America.'

*Kate B. and Hall James Peterson Fellowes*

Cathy N. Davidson, associate professor of English, Michigan State University, 'The Origins of American Fiction'; Robert A. Gross, associate professor of history and American Studies, Amherst College, 'The Ideology of Print: The Book and Social Change in America'; Mary Beth Norton, professor of history, Cornell University, 'Gender in Seventeenth-Century America'; Richard A. Schwarzlose, associate professor of journalism, Northwestern University, 'The Origins of the Newspaper Press.'

*The Albert Boni Fellowes*

Robert B. Winans, associate professor of English, Wayne State University, 'Checklist of Catalogues of Books Printed in Eighteenth-Century American Newspapers.'

*Frances Hiatt Fellowes*

Priscilla J. Brewer, teaching fellow in American civilization, Brown University, 'Technology and Domestic Ideology in the Nineteenth Century'; David A. Weir, Ph.D. candidate in re-

ligion, Princeton University, 'The Covenant in New England, 1620-1680.'

The Society is grateful to the several donors whose generosity makes the fellowship awards possible: the National Endowment for the Humanities, the George I. Alden Trust, gifts from the family of Albert Boni, the Exxon Education Foundation, Jacob Hiatt, and Mr. and Mrs. Hall J. Peterson.

John Hench, who plans and coordinates our educational activities, has established, with the advice and encouragement of Mason I. Lowance, a seminar on American literary history. Postdoctoral scholars who are residents in our region have been invited to attend the first of these seminars on May 4 at which Sacvan Bercovitch, a professor at Harvard, will present a paper on Herman Melville's novel *Pierre*. If this trial is well received by our colleagues, Mr. Hench will schedule additional seminars for the 1984-85 academic year, in addition to a full slate of meetings for the now well-established Seminar in American Political and Social History.

M. Sheila McAvey has joined the Department of Research and Publication as assistant editor. Miss McAvey holds a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Massachusetts. She is hard at work on an illustrated book consisting of seven essays by Hannah D. French on American bookbindings. Miss McAvey is also copy editing Richard Crawford's long-awaited *Bibliography of American Sacred Music Imprints*. We have great expectations that these volumes will be published within the next several months.

Turning to relations with our institutional colleagues, the American Antiquarian Society, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Henry E. Huntington Library, and the Newberry Library have joined together in discussions between their directors, their education officers, and their librarians. The subject of these discussions, which were funded by a grant from the chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities,

was to explore ways through which these four independent research libraries could establish cooperative programs that would improve their usefulness to the nation's scholars. Not only did the meetings provide the means of developing such ideas, but they also engendered a welcomed camaraderie between staff members of the several libraries. The directors long had known each other through various avenues, but our education officers and librarians were not as well acquainted. Thus, the meetings proved to be catalytic for all concerned. Ideas that are thought to be worth pursuing are: a fellowship competition for scholars who need to use two or more of the libraries to pursue a single research project; a program that would schedule visits by senior scholars at two or more of the four libraries—the scholar to lecture, provide advice on collections (or whatever else is appropriate to the library at which he is a visitor); the organization of scholarly conferences for which the primary scholars would deliver papers at two or more of the libraries, with commentary coming from regional participants before regional audiences; and institutes developed around themes appropriate to two or more institutional collections and interests—the institutes to include seminars and workshops. In addition, we found it desirable that there should be interchanges among staff members of our education and library divisions. We hope to establish the means by which department heads can visit their sister institutions. It would appear that the scholarly and research elements of our plans may be attractive to the National Endowment and we intend to submit an application to that agency for support of the elements that we think most valuable to us.

Turning, at last, to our finances, the book value of the Society's portfolio on March 31, 1984, was \$9,556,400, over a half a million dollars greater than on August 31, the end of our fiscal year. Income from investments was approximately \$70,000 greater for the first seven months of this fiscal year

than it was for the same period of a year ago. This good news is offset by the fact that gifts to the Society's annual fund, standing at \$45,780, are less by \$6,000 than a year ago. Gifts from members of the Society, at year end were smaller, while donations received from publishers, printers, and antiquarian booksellers have increased notably. As is the case at all learned societies, annual giving makes up a crucial part of our Society's operational budget. I hope that all members who receive President Jeppson's annual appeal, to be mailed within the next few weeks, will respond fulsomely. The Isaiah Thomas Fund of our 175th Anniversary Program now stands at more than \$3,900,000, an amount of \$161,000 in gifts and pledges having been added to the fund since our last report on October 18. The Second Phase of the 175th Anniversary Program is now well under way. Robert Cushman of our Council is chairman of this effort which will be directed toward national corporations and foundations. Mr. Cushman, along with other members of the Council and the Society, are looking forward to heavy activity in the early fall when our preliminary arrangements have been completed.

The Worcester Association of Mutual Aid in Detecting Thieves continues on its fruitful course. The Association held a Christmas tea at the Goddard-Daniels House early in December, and the annual meeting went off extremely well on January 14, with Wendell Garrett, publisher and editor of *The Magazine Antiques* as lecturer. Ann-Cathrine Rapp, who succeeded Mrs. Callahan's very able former helper Cynthia N. Pitcher, is planning a delightful series of events which will take place later in the year.

The Society relies upon the loyalty and active interest of all its members, and upon the leadership of those who serve as members of the Council and the committees of the Society. Within the past several months, we have learned of the deaths of two of our members, Homer Daniels Babbidge, Jr., and

Keyes DeWitt Metcalf. The Council has adopted the following resolutions in testimony of their service to the Society. The resolutions read as follows:

WHEREAS HOMER DANIELS BABBIDGE, JR., accepted the responsibilities of membership in the American Antiquarian Society on April 18, 1979, and served the Society with loyalty and devotion; and whereas

HOMER DANIELS BABBIDGE, JR., was elected by his colleagues to the Council of the Society on October 17, 1979; and whereas

HOMER DANIELS BABBIDGE, JR., generously shared his wisdom, experience, and energies in the interest of this Society; and whereas

HOMER DANIELS BABBIDGE, JR., was renowned as a raconteur, man of wit, and congenial friend; and whereas

HOMER DANIELS BABBIDGE, JR., was visited by death at the peak of his distinguished career on March 27, 1984; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the American Antiquarian Society expresses its profound sorrow at the loss of this eminent counsellor and friend and upon the records of the Society let this resolution be inscribed and to the family of Homer Daniels Babbidge, Jr. let these statements be made known.

WHEREAS KEYES DEWITT METCALF was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society, October 20, 1937, which he filled with dedication and loyalty; and whereas

KEYES DEWITT METCALF was selected by his colleagues as a Councillor of the Society on October 20, 1954, and served this body faithfully as a member of its committees, as Vice-President from 1971 to 1973, and as Secretary for Foreign Correspondence from 1974 to 1977; and whereas

KEYES DEWITT METCALF completed an honorable and influential tenure on the Council on October 19, 1977; and whereas

KEYES DEWITT METCALF gave of his wisdom and experience to the Society and provided distinguished service to the world-wide library community; and whereas

KEYES DEWITT METCALF was visited by death November 3, 1983, at the age of 94 years; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the American Antiquarian Society expresses profound appreciation for the life of service and deepest sorrow at the loss of this wise councillor and close friend; and, upon the records of the Society let this resolution be inscribed and to the family of Keyes DeWitt Metcalf let these sentiments be made known.

I conclude this report by thanking each member of the Society's Council, our membership and staff members, and all other friends and helpers of the Society for their stalwart and faithful assistance to this Society, now fast approaching the 175th Anniversary, in October 1987, of its founding.

Marcus A. McCorison

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