

## *Report of the Associate Director for Research and Publication*

THIS DEPARTMENT made considerable progress during the past year in the development of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture and in completing several book projects.

Work toward the publication of three books occupied much of the time of Sheila McAvey, the assistant editor, and that of the department head. Although none of these books actually appeared during the 1984–85 fiscal year, we for all intents and purposes completed our work on them and put the ball back in the printer's court in all three instances. I refer to the newly titled *Bookbinding in Early America: Seven Essays on Masters and Methods* by Hannah French, the second and enlarged edition of the catalogue of Michael Papantonio's bookbindings (first edition being out of print), and the pamphlet '*Mr. Zenger's Malice and Falsbood*': *Six Issues of the New-York Weekly Journal 1733–34*, edited by Stephen Botein. Last year I said of such undertakings, 'These are complex projects, involving considerable cooperation among authors, collaborators, designers, other librarians, and our in-house staff.' This certainly proved to be true, as none of these projects was as simple to execute as we had at first thought. The Zenger pamphlet and a public lecture by Botein were designed to be the Society's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the seditious libel trial of John Peter Zenger. Publication of the pamphlet fulfills several other functions as well. Since we have designated it as 'AAS Facsimiles Number 3,' it continues that series begun with numbers published in 1978 and 1979. And as a publication of the Program in the History of the Book in American

Culture, it raises the possibility of bringing a more general public's attention to the work of the Program.

Two other book projects occupied some of our time this year as well. Sheila McAvey and Georgia Bumgardner, our curator of graphic arts, have virtually completed the editorial work on the papers given at the American Print Conference held in Worcester in 1976. What remains to be done is largely to gather the remaining illustrations. Publication of this book a decade after the event is not an unlikely possibility. Work was also done during the past year on the Britton, Lowens, and Crawford bibliography of American sacred music imprints through 1810. Richard Crawford rechecked the copyedited manuscript and numbered the entries. Early in the new year, the associate director met with the designer of this book, Howard Gralla, to iron out some remaining design problems, prior to having sample settings of representative sections made by the printer.

Income from sales of our books by the University Press of Virginia last year was disappointing, in part because we had no new titles to offer and our most recent book, *Printing and Society in Early America*, was no longer a new item in the Virginia catalogue.

Work having to do with the publication of the *Proceedings* was a bit out of the ordinary during 1984-85. For one thing, the number of articles from which we have to choose and the backlog of accepted articles both continued to grow, in large part because of the stimulation the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture has given to work in that field. The current volume of the *Proceedings*, volume 95, promises to be one of the largest in our history. This is so because, on top of an already large backlog, we elected to publish many of the papers from our 1984 Needs and Opportunities Conference on the History of the Book in American Culture over several issues of the journal. This serial publication may be completed as of part 2 of volume 95, shortly after which we will issue the essays in a collective paperback volume.

AAS received several government and foundation grants during 1985-86, including a small grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy in support of a lecture series this fall on 'Antebellum and Civil War Lives.' This lecture series, which is intended for the general public, will also enrich the students participating in this fall's AAS undergraduate American Studies seminar on the same topic. A grant from the Massachusetts Arts Lottery as administered by the Worcester Cultural Commission will enable us to produce a concert version of William Hill Brown's ballad opera *The Better Sort: or, the Girl of Spirit* in the fall of 1985. The musical director and instigator of this project, which will be held in Gordon Hall of First Baptist Church, is David McKay. The Exxon Education Foundation made a grant to AAS of \$49,700 to underwrite the basic administrative costs of our Program in the History of the Book in American Culture. In addition, we received a \$4,000 grant from the Earhart Foundation in support of the first Summer Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture.

Much work was done to improve our financial administration of project grants. In the new fiscal year, the assistant librarian, Nancy Burkett, will assume increased responsibility for the basic planning and supervision of library-based grants, while Eleanor Adams will take on new responsibilities for calendar keeping and for overseeing our reporting requirements.

The American Studies seminar—our seventh—was taught last year by Robert R. Dykstra, professor of history at the State University of New York at Albany. His subject was 'The Lethal Imagination: Perceptions of Western Violence in American Thought 1850-1900.' This seminar was somewhat out of the ordinary for us in that the topic explored the outer chronological and geographical limits of the Society's collections. The Advisory Education Committee, made up of representatives of the five Worcester colleges and universities that co-sponsor the program with AAS, selected Betty L. Mitchell,

associate professor of history at Southeastern Massachusetts University, to lead the 1985 seminar. The seminar will deal with the biography of persons living in the Antebellum and Civil War periods, and as such represents still another departure in subject matter from the usual. Also experimental is the coordination of the American Studies seminar theme with a public lecture series, mentioned above.

Five sessions of the AAS Seminar in American Political and Social History were held during 1984-85. The speakers were Donald J. Ratcliffe (University of Durham, England), Mary Beth Norton (Cornell), Peter S. Onuf (WPI), Peter R. Knights (York University, Canada), and James A. Henretta (Boston University). All but Knights were AAS fellows at the time of their presentation. The past year was the first full year of operation for the Society's newer Seminar in American Literary History. Speakers in that series were John D. Seelye (University of Florida), Leo Marx (MIT), and Linck Johnson (Colgate), then an AAS/NEH Fellow.

Twelve informal lunchtime colloquia were held during 1984-85, compared with fifteen the year before. The decrease was more than made up for, however, by Nancy Burkett's scheduling of several informal luncheons for fellows and department heads. The colloquia speakers included AAS fellows and research associates, area faculty, and representatives of such other Worcester cultural institutions as the Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester Heritage Preservation Society, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester Science Center, and Mechanics Hall.

As has become customary, a number of public lectures were held during the past year. James M. Wells delivered the second annual James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture in October. David Cressy of California State University at Long Beach spoke on books as totems at a lecture sponsored under the auspices of the Program. A series of public lectures, made possible by a grant

from NEH, dealt with popular music in nineteenth-century America. This lecture series was extremely well done and well received by those who attended the five sessions.

Among the highlights of the year was the coming into adolescence if not maturity of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture. Two major activities took place. The first was a needs-and-opportunities conference, held in early November and attended by some fifty scholars, librarians, and bibliographers from around the world. The conference produced many fine papers, as well as ideas that need to be followed up in the future work of the Program. The other major activity of the Program was the first summer seminar, held over nine days in late June and early July. Twenty persons took part, representing various disciplines, research interests, and levels of experience. Intellectually and logistically, this was one of the most ambitious activities the Society has undertaken. It required a high degree of cooperation among all members of the Society's staff as well as with scholars and institutions elsewhere. The work paid off, for the seminar was as successful as we could have dared hope. This first experience will help us considerably as we plan a similar seminar for the summer of 1986. All in all, this was a highly positive year for the Program. Not all overtures for funding made during the year were successful, but the conference, the seminar, the several lectures and colloquia, the three issues of the Program newsletter (*The Book*), the publication of good articles in the field in the *Proceedings*, the impending publication of a couple of books, and the grants from Exxon and Earhart all demonstrate that the Program has survived its infancy.

Operations in the Goddard-Daniels House went relatively smoothly in 1984-85. Occupancy of the guest bedrooms was down considerably from 1983-84 in terms of the number of bedroom nights, though not in the number of individual guests. Ninety-three guests occupied rooms for 1,115 guest-nights, an occupancy rate of 61.1 percent. The comparable figures for

1983-84, the previous year, were 84 guests, 1,355 guest-nights, and 75.2 percent occupancy. The decline was due largely to lower occupancy during the winter and spring.

One hundred and nine meetings or other events took place in the Elmarion or dining rooms of the Goddard-Daniels House during 1984-85, up from ninety-two meetings recorded the previous year. As usual, most of these were AAS-sponsored activities. Among the outside groups meeting here were the Board of Directors of Guaranty Bank and Trust, Worcester Area Cooperating Libraries, the Junior League of Worcester, the Newport (Rhode Island) Preservation Society, the Little Compton (Rhode Island) Historical Society, Houghton Mifflin Co., the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Worcester, the Friends of the Worcester Public Library, the Cultural Assembly of Greater Worcester, the Northeast Document Conservation Center, Bancroft School, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Norton Company, and an NEH-funded children's literature seminar from the University of Connecticut. The total number of visitors or participants in these 109 events was 2,574 persons, compared with 2,334 the year before.

The summer seminar in the history of the book fully proved the usefulness of the Goddard-Daniels House for extended educational activities. In all other respects, the house has proved to be a boon for the Society and its activities. As a home away from home for the Society's fellows (who constituted another strong class during 1984-85, as detailed in the April 1985 Report to the Council), the house provides a most congenial and collegial setting indeed.

This coming year will probably witness no major new developments in the Department of Research and Publication. Rather, we shall continue to work within familiar areas. In publications, our attention will turn to the Britton-Lowens-Crawford tunebook bibliography and the papers from the 1976 print conference. The French and Papantonio volumes will

appear and, with luck, so should the collected papers from the 1984 printing history conference. The *Proceedings* should continue to benefit from a strong pool of papers to choose from. The Program in the History of the Book in American Culture should grow by small increments. Planning for the 1986 summer seminar is already well advanced. The Advisory Board and Executive Committee will be reorganized and should become a more effective advisory and governing tool. We should make considerable progress this year in delineating the outline and identity of writers of chapters in the planned history of the book in American culture.

Finally, I wish to record my thanks and admiration to the diligent staff within the Department of Research and Publication, Diane Schoen and Sheila McAvey. Visitors to the department's offices in the Goddard-Daniels House see a lot of balls being juggled in the air, and it is largely through the efforts of these colleagues that only occasionally does a ball fall to the ground.

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