

Report of the Associate Director for Research and Publication

WHAT CHIEFLY OCCUPIED the time and energy of the staff of the Department of Research and Publication during the Society's 175th year? PRINTING— the 'black art,' the trade or profession that led to the Society's founding in the first place. The desks of the department's staff members groaned under the weight of printing bids and invoices, typescripts and computer printouts, galley proofs and book blues, swatches of binding cloth and cuttings of cover stock.

If it was the 'Year of Printing' for the Society founded by that Revolutionary printer Isaiah Thomas, it was also a revolutionary year for printing. The Society successfully managed the transition from old to new printing technologies. Thomas might scarcely recognize the new forms that his beloved craft have taken. Still, we trust that he would be pleased with the results.

Specifically, much departmental labor was expended on the publication of two books to mark the Society's 175th anniversary and on the redesign of the Society's learned journal, the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*. The two anniversary publications are *The Collections and Programs of the American Antiquarian Society: A 175th-Anniversary Guide* and *Members and Officers of the American Antiquarian Society, 1812-1987*, two paperback volumes (supported by the grant from the William and Flora N. Hewlett Foundation) that appeared in time for the October celebrations. The former volume, which has been in the works for a couple of years, was written by some thirty present and past members of the staff and edited by Nancy H. Burkett, associate librarian, and John B.

Hench, associate director for research and publication. AAS Vice-President Jill K. Conway contributed the Foreword, while the noted Worcester photographer Stephen DiRado made a pictorial record of the Society's collections and activities, the latter thanks to financial support from Tony and Judy King. The guidebook is the first such reference source on AAS collections since the publication of Clarence Brigham's memoirs in 1959 and that of R.W.G. Vail's guidebook exactly a half century ago. Copies are now finding their way into the hands of colleagues at other institutions, and so far the Society's effort has been much praised and may turn out to be much emulated. Bradford Dunbar's list of members and officers, which also includes an accounting of each of the Society's staff members on board during all or a portion of the 175th year, is also the first such updating since the publication of Frederick L. Weis's checklist in 1947. A marked and welcome difference between the Weis checklist and the current one is the inclusion in the new list of the names of the women who have been elected to AAS membership since Esther Forbes broke ground in 1960.

What made these two books 'revolutionary' for AAS was that they were both typeset from the digitized information on floppy disks that we supplied our printer.

The redesign of the *Proceedings* also coincides with the Society's 175th anniversary. The first issue in the new format appeared just prior to the October anniversary week. It replaces the format designed by Klaus Gemming of New Haven, which ran through nineteen volumes. Gemming's design itself supplanted the ancient green and gothic *Proceedings* familiar to our most senior members. The occasion for the change was in part the increasing shift from letterpress to offset work being carried out by our printer, the Meriden-Stinehour Press. In the decade that Stinehour has been producing the *Proceedings*, the text had been printed letterpress in Monotype Bell, with offset-printed covers. Now the inside of the *Proceedings* is printed offset from digitized typesetting (in Janson) from Stinehour's Mergenthaler Linotronic. Letterpress enthusi-

asts (among whom the AAS staff must be counted) should not totally despair, for, in a nice twist, the new cover is printed the old-fashioned way and sports a handsome calligraphic motif executed by Stinehour's Stephen Harvard. The new format with its new technology offers considerable advantages. It will permit us to hold the usual increases in the cost of publishing the *Proceedings* in check. Further economies will result from our ability to provide at least some of the typesetting by sending floppy disks of reports, obituaries, and articles to be transformed into cold type in Lunenburg, Vermont. It will also permit more extensive use of illustrations, a start in that direction having been made in the first number published in the new format. Furthermore, it should give us considerably greater flexibility in the production of our annual reports, making them livelier in appearance and allowing them to come out in more timely fashion. We trust that, despite the implementation of exotic new technology, the new *Proceedings* will still represent the finest in printing craftsmanship. We hope that our readers will agree.

But this was not all the printing that occupied the department staff during 1986-87. In spare moments the assistant editor, Sheila McAvey, read galley proofs of the long-aborning, long-awaited *American Sacred Music Imprints, 1698-1810: A Bibliography*, which was begun by Allen Britton, continued by the late Irving Lowens, and completed by Richard Crawford. Crawford himself has read proof and now we must collate his corrections with ours and move on to the next stage. Although much remains to be done, we are hopeful of a publication in the late spring or summer of 1988. This has been an unusually complex publication and it will be a costly one too. The negative effects on the balance of our publication fund has, fortunately, been tempered by two useful and welcome grants in subvention of the book made by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Musicological Society.

Other publication projects figure prominently in the record of the year just past. The book *Needs and Opportunities in the History of the Book: America, 1639-1876*, edited by David D. Hall and John

B. Hench, appeared this year in hard cover. The essays had previously been published over four successive issues of the *Proceedings*. Also, the pamphlet *Renderings from Worcester's Past: Nineteenth-Century Architectural Drawings from the American Antiquarian Society*, by Lisa Koenigsberg, was issued. It too was a reprint from the *Proceedings*, but in its pamphlet form served usefully as the catalogue of an exhibition of AAS architectural drawings held at the Worcester Art Museum last spring. The next work to go to the printer is *Prints of New England*, edited by Georgia B. Barnhill, the Society's curator of graphic arts.

During the past year, applications were made to the National Endowment for the Humanities and to the United States Department of Education for renewal funding of the Society's North American Imprints Program (NAIP) and the related work involved with the cataloguing of the AAS-Readex Microprint Corporation *Early American Imprints 1639-1800*. Both applications were successful. The Endowment's award was for \$97,173 in outright funds and \$15,000 in a matching award. The Council on Library Resources awarded the Society up to \$30,000 to meet the NEH match and to provide additional funds beyond it, if needed. The Department of Education's grant under its Title II-C program amounted to \$91,500. Within NAIP itself, work continued toward completing the project's second phase. By the end of the year, project staff had created records for nearly 80 percent of the non-AAS-owned imprints expected to be created and in so doing had processed some 55 percent of the records contributed by scores of libraries around the continent. The receipt of renewed funding means that NAIP's third phase—involving enhancement and editing necessary to ensure the file's integration into the Eighteenth Century Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC)—will efficiently complement Phase 2. The related work funded by the Title II-C grant includes the creation of subject headings for those records of imprints not held by AAS and the revision of NAIP records describing original materials into records describing the microforms.

Because of the close relationship between the NEH- and Title

II-C-funded projects, the staffs of the two projects are closely integrated and include Alan N. Degutis (the Society's head of cataloguing services), Paula Biegay Huggard, Pamela F. Meitzler, Anne C. Moore, and Anne V. Nicholson. Two persons departed the project staff during the year: Margaret A. Donoghue, who retired after two decades of service in a variety of capacities; and Joanne D. Chaison, who was promoted to head of readers' services.

The 1987-88 AAS Fellows and Research Associates, who were listed in the 'Report of the Council' published in the last *Proceedings*, began to take up their residence during the summer months. It is a very strong group, somewhat more junior than the average fellowship class, and drawn from the largest number of applicants we have had.

The Society received a renewal of funding for its long-term fellowships through another grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities under its Program of Fellowships at Centers for Advanced Study. The amount of the grant, to cover the 1988-89 fellowship year, was \$58,000. Another fellowship grant was received during the year, this one an award of \$1,050 from the Northeast Modern Language Association in support of a new fellowship co-sponsored with AAS for postdoctoral scholars to pursue research in literary studies in the Society's library for one or two months. This is a small program, but a welcome one, for the Society wishes to increase the awareness and use of its collections among literary scholars, who are these days exhibiting what is (for us) a welcome return to historical sources.

Turning to the Society's education program, our ninth American Studies Seminar took place during the fall semester, with John Conron, professor of English and American studies at Clark University, as leader. His topic, 'American Picturesque: The Impact of a Visual Aesthetic on American Culture, 1820-1870,' was something of a departure from previous themes. In addition to the Society's book and graphic arts collections, the seminar participants from the five Worcester four-year colleges and universities made use of landscapes within a half-mile radius of Antiquarian

Hall. In fact, they had one of Worcester's finest picturesque landscapes, Institute Park, in view from their seminar meeting place, the Elmarion Room in the Goddard-Daniels House.

During 1986-87, five sessions of the Seminar in American Political and Social History and two meetings of the Seminar in American Literary History took place in the Goddard-Daniels House. The speakers in the former series were: Deborah Van Broekhoven (Brown University), Maren Stange (Clark University), Kenneth S. Greenberg (Suffolk University), Stephen A. Marini (Wellesley College), and Karen Halttunen (Northwestern University). Giving papers in the literary history seminar were: John Conron (Clark University) and Cecelia Tichi (Boston University) in a joint program and Sacvan Bercovitch (Harvard University). In addition, the Society scheduled twelve informal lunchtime colloquia during 1986-87.

As usual, the Society offered a varied program of public lectures designed for both academic audiences and the general public. Kenneth Moynihan of Assumption College delivered a lecture on Shays's Rebellion at AAS in September to mark the bicentennial of that uprising, which was a key factor in the calling of the Constitutional Convention. Moynihan's lecture here was one in a series of lectures commemorating the Shays anniversary held in cooperation with the Worcester Historical Museum. In late October, Cathy N. Davidson of Michigan State University gave a splendid James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture on the topic 'Ideology and Genre: The Rise of the Novel in America.' As is customary, her paper was published in the *Proceedings* and as a pamphlet in the ongoing Wiggins Lecture series. When J. Worth Estes, M.D., and H. Martin Deranian, D.D.S., independently volunteered to give historical lectures at AAS, a thematic lecture series was born: 'Medicine and Dentistry in Early America.' Deranian spoke in late January on 'The Origins of Dentistry in America,' while Estes followed a couple of weeks later on the topic of 'Selling Medicines with Science: "Patent" Remedy Advertising in Nineteenth-Century America.' Knowing that Dr. Estes was descended from one of the subjects of his

lecture, the famous Mrs. Lydia Pinkham, granted a certain immediacy to his presentation. There followed in March and April a three-part lecture series, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and accompanied by an exhibition and a small brochure, on 'American Appetites: Food, Drink, and Sex in America's Past.' The scholars expounding on those lively topics were, respectively, Sarah Mc Mahon of Bowdoin College, William J. Rorabaugh of the University of Washington, and Roger Thompson of the University of East Anglia in England. In April came the public and academic lectures meant to be part of the Society's commemoration of the bicentennial of the Federal Constitution. Under the sponsorship of the Boston Public Library and the Massachusetts Historical Society as well as AAS, US Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun addressed a large audience assembled in the BPL's Rabb Auditorium on the topic 'The First Amendment and Freedom of the Press—Where Are We and Where Are We Going?' The next day, also in Boston, Robert A. Rutland, research professor of history at the University of Tulsa and former editor of *The Papers of James Madison*, delivered a public lecture on 'The First Great Newspaper Debate: The Constitutional Crisis of 1787-88' in conjunction with the Society's semi-annual meeting. The constitutional trilogy was completed a few days later when, back in Worcester, Michael Warner, an assistant professor of English at Northwestern University who was then in residence as an AAS-NEH Fellow, spoke on 'Publication, the Public, and Constitutional Legitimacy.' Rutland's and Warner's papers appeared in the last number of the *Proceedings*. Capping off the season, Lisa Koenigsberg, a Yale University doctoral candidate in art history and a former AAS fellow, gave a lecture at the Worcester Art Museum in association with the exhibition, of which she was guest curator, entitled 'Renderings from Worcester's Past: Nineteenth-Century Architectural Drawings from the American Antiquarian Society.' Other events related to the architectural drawings exhibition were sponsored by other Worcester cultural organizations, including the Worcester Historical Museum and the Worcester Heritage Preservation Society.

The major undertaking for the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture during 1986-87 was a conference, held on June 12 and 13, on 'Teaching the History of the Book: Methods and Concepts.' It is probable that this was the first such conference held. Approximately sixty-five people attended, including ten who presented papers, led workshops, or chaired sessions. The number of participants would have been larger had the Society the space to accommodate them. We judged this conference, which was co-sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and which received principal funding from the Exxon Education Foundation, to have been a success. A summary of the conference proceedings and Michael Warner's conference paper were published in the July 1987 issue of *The Book: Newsletter of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture*, and additional materials from the conference will appear as part of the new series of Occasional Papers in the History of the Book in American Culture. Also during the year, Cathy N. Davidson delivered the annual James Russell Wiggins Lecture noted above, and plans were advanced both for the proposed multivolume, collaborative history of the book in American culture to be under the general editorial direction of David D. Hall and for the resumption next June 18-28 of the Society's series of summer seminars in the history of the book. Hall will direct that seminar, replacing the late Stephen Botein.

Securing adequate continuing funding for the activities of the Program remains a high priority for 1987-88.

Management of the Goddard-Daniels House is one of the department's responsibilities. Occupancy of the bedrooms in the house was 71.2 percent during 1986-87 compared with 66.2 percent the preceding year. It remains somewhat below the figure of 75.2 percent occupancy achieved during 1983-84. Occupancy would have been considerably higher had it not been for a great falloff in room rentals during the normally busy months of July and August. June, in contrast, was our busiest month ever, with that month exhibiting 100 percent occupancy.

A total of eighty-six meetings or other events took place in the house during the past year, which is nineteen fewer than during the previous year. The total number of visitors or participants in these eighty-six events was 1,890, also a considerable decrease from the 2,456 persons recorded during 1985-86. Most of these events, of course, were AAS activities. Among the outside groups using the house during the year were the Norton Company, the Worcester Area Cooperating Libraries, the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, a committee of the Research Libraries Group, the Shakespeare Club of Worcester, the women's faculty group of the Worcester Consortium for Higher Education, the Mount Holyoke College Club of Worcester, the Dublin Seminar program committee, docents from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, art students from Sotheby's, the Committee for a New England Bibliography, Guaranty Bank, and an NEH summer seminar from the University of Connecticut, Storrs.

This 175th-anniversary year has been busy and fruitful for the staff of the Department of Research and Publication. The pace will doubtless not abate during the year following. As always, the work of the members of this department is necessarily connected to that of colleagues throughout the Society's staff and to our common mission in promoting an understanding of the American past. The preparation and publication of the 175th-anniversary guidebook exemplified the collegial spirit we share. Special mention is due the AAS library staff for the inspired and cordial service they give our research fellows and participants in other academic programs. Thanks also to the Society's events coordinator, Ann-Cathrine Rapp, and our head of buildings and grounds, Donald K. Strader, and his staff, for all they did during the year to make the educational and public events of AAS come off so well. I especially wish to record my great appreciation to my colleagues in my own department, Sheila McAvey and Diane Schoen, for their dedication, loyalty, professionalism, and sheer hard—and good—work.

John B. Hench

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