

Report of the Director of Research and Publication

THE TWO MAJOR issues in the Department of Research and Publication during 1988–89 were responding to the budgetary constraints facing the Society as a whole and planning for a major change in the form and manner in which the Society's journal, the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, is published and communicates with its constituencies. The two questions are not entirely unrelated. Contributing to the darker mood this year alluded to in 'The Report of the Council' was the sense of greater than ever uncertainty over how the Society as a whole and several of the department's functions in particular can receive adequate funding in the future. Budgetary problems facing the public, private, and individual philanthropies from which much of the Society's support has come in the past, together with political, ideological, and bureaucratic unrest in federal, state, and local cultural agencies, bedevil our present and the immediate future.

Plans for dividing the present *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* into two publications, a *Proceedings* containing the scholarly articles, bibliographies, and documents and a *Reports for the Year* containing the official meeting minutes, reports, and obituaries advanced during the year. The Council at its January meeting approved the plan in principle and delegated the Committee on Publications to assist departmental staff in working out the crucial details, including a reevaluation of the scope and focus of the journal, marketing, timing, pricing, and whether or not the new *Proceedings* was to be sent gratis to all members, only to those who subscribed, or only to those who contributed a certain amount to the Society in a given year.

The Committee on Publications met in August to discuss the various considerations and implications bearing on the change.

The most vexing question concerning the scope and focus of the revamped journal has to do with maximizing its usefulness and appeal, and therefore its circulation, if it is no longer to serve as official AAS house organ in quite the same way as before. If it no longer serves as the principal means of communication with members, how does it acquire a new role and a new audience in order to stand on its own?

The publications committee agreed that an Advisory Board should be appointed to assist the staff of the *Proceedings* both during the planning process for the transition and afterwards. Such a committee drawn from members of the Society is in the process of being formed. In any case, the staff welcomes the thoughts and advice of any members, or any other readers of the journal, as to how the revamped *Proceedings* might better serve the cause of scholarship and of the Society.

The cost of publishing the *Proceedings* has long been substantial; these outlays far outstrip revenues, in large part because more than half the circulation (that is, to members and to exchanges) has been gratis. The change two years ago to digital typesetting and offset printing has resulted in substantial reductions in production costs. With no change in the status quo, however, it is unlikely that that savings can increase much more. The proposed changes, however, ought to result in an improvement in the balance sheet, depending on the exact choices made, ranging from modest to substantial.

Work on the various book publications in train occupied a great amount of our time this past year, especially that of Sheila McAvey, the assistant editor, who has responsibility over the day-to-day work of copy editing, proofreading, production coordination, and the like. She worked with exemplary diligence and perseverance on these numerous large and complex projects. Regrettably, however, none of the major projects under way for so long concluded during the year, as we had fervently hoped.

The Britton-Lowens-Crawford tunebook bibliography is still a few months away. The main body of the bibliography, plus Richard Crawford's general introduction (essentially a survey of the schol-

arly field), the appendices, and one of two indices, have been completely proofread by editor and author, and makeup into pages is now under way. The preface (with acknowledgements) is currently being typeset. All that remains to be set is the general index and the running heads. The Sonneck Fund of the Library of Congress's Music Division has pledged a \$2,000 subvention for this work to go with funds received earlier from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Musicological Society.

The checklist of American newspaper carrier's addresses was completed by Mary Russo just prior to her retirement this year as curator of broadsides at the John Hay Library of Brown University. Thanks to the generous cooperation of the John Hay Library, the checklist has been entered into a Macintosh computer at Brown, and revisions have been made according to our suggestions. Publication is anticipated this winter.

The third work under way is the volume of essays and documents on the *Oath of a Freeman*. This work has proved to be unexpectedly vexing and more difficult to complete than first imagined, although, here too, publication should occur before the crocuses appear.

We published one pamphlet during the year, *Old "No. 1": The Story of Isaiah Thomas and His Printing Press*, which was written (largely by Clinton Sisson) primarily for the general public and designed to be sold in the retail sales shop of the New York Public Library in conjunction with the NYPL's exhibition *Revolution in Print: France, 1789*, to which the Society lent Thomas's Old "No. 1."

The list of fellows and research associates appointed for 1989-90 appeared in the *Proceedings* for April. Among the fellows chosen was the first AAS-American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellow, as well as the first Stephen Botein Fellow, an appointment this year made possible by the income from the fund established in memory of our late friend, colleague, and member. The number of applicants for both long- and short-term fellowships this year was the highest we have ever had. Applicants for the

NEH-funded long-term awards were fifty percent above last year, which also set a record.

In February, a visiting committee from the National Endowment for the Humanities came to AAS in connection with our application for a renewal of long-term fellowship support through the Endowment's program of fellowships at centers for advanced study. In due course, we received word that the Endowment had approved our application for three more years' support of the long-term fellowship program at the amount we requested, \$183,000. As in previous submissions, our application appears to have been regarded very highly by reviewers and panelists. All this news was very welcome indeed, not only because it validates our efforts to be hospitable and creative supporters of energetic and talented researchers but also because it ensures the continuation of this crucial funding for the next three years. The NEH fellowship front was not all quiescent during the past year, however, for it is almost certain that we shall have to give up the complete independence we had in selecting our long-term fellows. The internal debate at NEH over regrants in general and the interjection of the regrant issue into the Mapplethorpe-Serrano controversy over the National Endowment for the Arts resulted in a Congressional call for greater accountability by the Endowments in regrant programs, such as our NEH-funded long-term fellowship program. As a result, we shall in all probability have to submit our list of fellows as nominees to be ratified by NEH, resulting, at the very least, in new encumbrances and delays.

We received renewed funding for several of our short-term fellowship categories as well. Both the Northeast Modern Language Association and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies have kindly continued their subsidy of the program during 1990-91. William F. Boni renewed his previous support of the program by establishing a new Boni Fellowship. The Botein Fund will support a fellowship again this coming year.

It was again a busy year for education and public programs. The Society's long-standing Seminar in American Political and Social

History met three times and the newer Seminar in American Literary History gathered twice. A third regional activity of this sort, the Seminar in American Bibliography and Book Trade History, was founded. Speakers at the political and social history seminar during the year were Burton J. Bledstein (University of Illinois, Chicago), Harvey Graff (University of Texas, Dallas), and Drew McCoy (Harvard University). Mason I. Lowance (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) and David Watters (University of New Hampshire) gave papers in the first literary history seminar of the year, while Donald Pease (Dartmouth College) spoke at the second. The feasibility of the bibliography and book trade history affair was discussed at a public lecture last spring by Roger Stoddard. Sessions this fall and next spring will inaugurate the series, which, like the other seminars, will include a post-paper dinner in the dining room of the Goddard-Daniels House.

The Goddard-Daniels House was also the setting for eleven lunchtime colloquia last year. The speakers and their affiliations were as follows: Ronald P. Formisano (Clark University), Shirley Samuels (Cornell University), Isabelle Lehuu (Cornell University), Diane and James Rugh (American Antiquarian Society), Rosalind R. Burnam (University of California at Los Angeles), Margaret Newell (University of Virginia), Stephen Marini (Wellesley College), Irene Q. Brown (University of Connecticut), Richard Baker (AAS), Robert D. Friedel (University of Maryland), and Louis Bisceglia (San Jose State University).

The Society's first formal educational program entered its second decade. Last fall, the eleventh AAS American Studies Seminar convened under the leadership of Philip Cash, professor of history at Emanuel College. Professor Cash's subject was 'Health and Health Care in America's Past.' The American Studies Seminar provides a rich research opportunity and learning experience for ten students from the five four-year colleges and universities in the City of Worcester.

There was a varied schedule of public events during the year as well. Last September, soprano Mary Sindoni gave a recital of

songs written by nineteenth-century American women composers based on her research in the AAS sheet-music collections and funded in part by the Massachusetts Arts Lottery as administered by the Worcester Cultural Commission. Author and historian Gillian Avery lectured on American children's books as a public offering connected with the Society's first Collectors' Weekend in October. In March, Alan Fern, director of the National Portrait Gallery, spoke to the general public on the history of presidential portraiture on the afternoon following the 'Welcome Home, President Coolidge!' gala ball. Prof. John Iatrides of Southern Connecticut State College lectured on the rise of the Greek nation-state in March as part of Worcester's Hellenic Arts Series. Two additional lectures took place that same month: one on the religious thought of the American Revolution by Wellesley College professor and AAS-National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow Stephen Marini and another on the antiquary and bookseller William Gowans by Roger Stoddard of Harvard's Houghton Library. In June we played host for a visit by members of an NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers based at the University of Connecticut, Storrs.

The complex work involved in managing our education programs, to say nothing of fellowships and the book history program, could not be done without the efficient and effective logistical support of the departmental secretary, Diane Schoen.

Continued funding for the basic administrative costs of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture was assured for the next three years with the receipt of a grant from the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation in the amount of \$79,500. These funds replace support from the Exxon Education Foundation enjoyed previously.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Program last November, it was decided to offer a full summer seminar every other year, with a conference or other event to take its place in the alternate years. According to this schedule, the next summer seminar will be given in 1990. The committee agreed that descriptive

bibliography and textual analysis would constitute a prime focus in the 1990 seminar. To this end, co-leaders of the seminar have been engaged, namely, David S. Reynolds, a professor of English at the City University of New York, and Michael Winship, editor of the *Bibliography of American Literature* and associate professor of English at the University of Texas, Austin. The title of the seminar will be 'The American Renaissance: Critical and Bibliographical Perspectives.'

In June, the Program convened a one-day conference highlighting work in progress in the field. A near full-house in the Elmarion Room heard seven scholars describe their current work, which ranged from a concern with the *New-England Primer* to an analysis of the Spiritualist newspaper press. Emitted from that conference was a call for expressions of interest in two possible future conferences, one concerning the interaction between literate and nonliterate populations in North America and the other having to do with the iconography of reading. We have received numerous responses to both calls and shall begin planning for the conferences shortly.

Three persons have been named to the Executive Committee of the Program, including a new chairman of the committee to replace the incumbent in that position since the Program's beginning, G. Thomas Tanselle. Eleven others have joined or been reappointed to the Advisory Board. Newly appointed to the Executive Committee are Chairman Kenneth Carpenter, Harvard's associate librarian for research and publication; Mary Kelley, professor of history at Dartmouth College; and David P. Nord, associate professor of journalism at Indiana University. The scholars appointed or reappointed to the Program's Advisory Board are Phyllis Dain, professor of library service, Columbia University; Donald W. Krummel, professor of library and information science and professor of music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; John Lancaster, curator of special collections, Amherst College Library; Deanna B. Marcum, dean, School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America; E. Jennifer

Monaghan, professor of educational services, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York; Jeremy D. Popkin, professor of history, University of Kentucky; Stephen O. Saxe, editor, American Printing History Association Newsletter; Michael Schudson, professor of communication, University of California at San Diego; Larry E. Sullivan, chief, Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress; Erdmann Weyrauch, Herzog August Bibliothek; and Michael Winship, editor, *Bibliography of American Literature*.

Rental of the bedrooms in the Goddard-Daniels House to the Society's fellows and other visiting researchers declined considerably in 1988-89. The occupancy rate for the year as a whole was 62 percent, compared with 78 percent the previous year. The busiest month was October, with 94 percent occupancy; the quietest was March, with 43 percent. Absent from the house this year was the aroma upon arriving for work of bacon and eggs that was commented on in this space last year. No doubt our visiting scholars have become far too cholesterol-conscious for that wicked indulgence, as has the undersigned for that matter.

The number of meetings or other events, both AAS- and non-AAS-related, increased slightly last year, although the number of people attending was a bit lower. A total of 155 events were held during 1988-89, compared to 148 the year before. Some 2,997 persons attended those 155 events, down from 3,555 the year before. If the 1,000 or so people who toured the house during the Society's 175th anniversary celebration the year before were subtracted, however, the result last year looks much more impressive. Among the outside groups using the meeting facilities of the Goddard-Daniels House during the past year were the Worcester Area Cooperating Libraries, the Worcester Area Chamber of Commerce, the Ripon College Alumni Association, the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy, the Norton Company, the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation, the Government Publications Librarians of New England, a committee of the Institute Park Pavilion, the Hearthstone Society of the First Baptist

Church, the Wheelock College Alumni Association, the Shakespeare Club of Worcester, the Performing Arts School of Worcester, the Boston Library Consortium, the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, and the Education Committee of the New England Archivists.

Like the Society as a whole, this department seems to be involved in more and more activities each year, despite level or even reduced staffing and in the face of budgetary restraints. Once again, I bow with respect and gratitude to my colleagues billeted with me in our pleasant digs in the Goddard-Daniels House: assistant editor Sheila McAvey and secretary Diane Schoen. The amount and complexity of the work they do increases all the time, but they perform their services to the Society and all its constituencies with great zeal, conscientiousness, and good cheer. Although they are not formally members of this department, Donald Strader and his maintenance staff and Ann-Cathrine Rapp, the AAS events coordinator, also help make it possible to carry out the manifold activities we undertake in the Goddard-Daniels House and in Antiquarian Hall. To them also I express my sincere thanks.

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