

Report of the Council—A Summary

APRIL 20, 2001

WHEN MEMBERS and their guests gathered on April 20, 2001, at the Athenæum of Philadelphia for the semiannual meeting of the Society, they heard AAS president Ellen S. Dunlap give a 'Report of the Council' that was a bit unconventional, even for her. Instead of reading from a prepared text in which she simply summarized the activities and accomplishments of the previous six months, Ms. Dunlap presented her update via a quick-paced slide display, racing through more than one hundred thirty images in about twenty minutes and keeping her narration of individual images to a minimum. Apparently those in the audience agreed with the adage that 'one picture is worth a thousand words,' and many reported that her presentation, more than a verbal report alone could have provided, gave them an enhanced appreciation for the progress being made at the Society on a wide variety of fronts. In order to communicate the news—and the momentum—of that progress to readers of the *Proceedings* not present at the Philadelphia meeting, Ms. Dunlap has offered the following 'recap' of her presentation for publication here, where words alone will need to suffice:

- Additions to the Society's collections continue at a prodigious pace. Most notable among our recent acquisitions have been more than one hundred fifty rare pre-1800 imprints, the largest influx of early American imprints to the Society's holdings since the Mather Library books were acquired in 1814. We were able to acquire these volumes—unique to our holdings—through a multiyear purchase agreement with our sister institution, the Library Company of Philadelphia, which purchased the entire library of Michael Zinman and

identified these volumes as duplicates to their own holdings. We are especially grateful to AAS members Bill Reese, Bill Helfand, Sid Lapidus, and Michael Zinman for their financial help in making this monumental acquisition possible.

- Special gifts from other AAS members—most notably from Jay Last—have made it possible for Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Graphic Arts Georgia Barnhill to acquire items for the graphic arts collection on a scale that she reports has never been possible before during her thirty-three-year tenure at AAS. Moreover, many of these recently acquired prints and lithographs will serve as important primary sources for the seminar to be presented during Summer 2001, where visiting scholars will lead sessions on using city views and maps to reconstruct nineteenth-century communities and on studying political prints to understand the Jacksonian Era.
- Unprecedented levels of acquisitions are also making headlines in the newspaper department where in the past six months alone curator Russell Martin has been able to add 240 titles to the list of AAS holdings and 21,233 separate issues to our shelves. In the four years since Russ took up his position, we have acquired—by purchase, by gift, and by trade—more newspapers than in the forty years that have passed since the era of legendary Clarence Brigham. Russ even reports great finds on eBay, such as an 1861–62 volume of the Hannibal (Mo.) *Daily Messenger*, reportedly discovered by the seller at a flea market near Seattle and unreported at any other library in the entire country. This summer Russ will be leaving AAS to return to his alma mater, Southern Methodist University, where he has accepted a position as director of the DeGolyer Library. He will be taking to SMU not only his tremendous enthusiasm and remarkable knowledge of collections and research, but also great admiration and affection from all who have had the pleasure of working with him at AAS. He has left us so much richer for his having been in Worcester even a short time.
- In our manuscripts department, curator Tom Knoles has a number of major acquisitions to note. He has made arrangements, for instance, for the gift by the Mercantile Library of New York City of selected records from their institutional archives. Founded in the 1820s, it 'is entirely self-supporting, and was founded and has always been managed by young men who have neither special aptitude for literary pursuits, nor much experience in any kind of business.' The Mercantile Library holds a unique place in the history of

American libraries and readership, and thus we are pleased to be able to preserve their early records for research. Our thanks to AAS member Donald Oresman for help with these arrangements. Tom Knoles also reports that he has brought a large collection of manuscript papers of the Allen-Johnson family to Worcester from the house of descendants in Amesbury, Massachusetts. Of the acquisition he has written: 'I believe this will prove to be the greatest manuscript accession of the ten years I have worked at AAS. The collection includes papers of the Reverend Joseph Allen, his son Joseph Henry Allen, and his daughter Mary Ware Allen. In addition to thousands of letters, there are four lengthy diaries kept by Mary Ware Allen while a student at Margaret Fuller's Green Street School in Providence in 1838. The diaries contain an extraordinary amount of detail regarding Fuller's teaching. Arranging for the donation of this collection was particularly satisfying to me because a smaller related collection came to AAS in 1990, and since then I have been in regular contact with the family to secure the remainder, which is now here.' We thank Tom for his persistence that has resulted in securing this important collection.

- Fellowships are also making news at the Society. While we are pleased to note that the number of month-long fellowships has grown prodigiously in recent years—both those for academic researchers as well as the ones for artists, writers, and others whose work is intended for a general audience—our long-term (multi-month) fellowship program has never been stronger. The National Endowment for the Humanities has just announced a three-year renewal grant that will bring—along with \$20,000 we must raise in private funds—\$255,000 for the next three years of fellowships. That's a nice increase over previous levels of federal support for our fellowship program, and it's a major complement to the funding provided to the Society by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which enables us to attract three scholars to Worcester each year: a promising newly-minted Ph.D., a mid-career academic researcher, and a 'distinguished scholar in residence,' such as the Pulitzer-Prize winner Alan Taylor who is in residence at Worcester this year. While working in the library on his own research on Upper Canada, Taylor has served as a generous mentor and advisor to all fellows in residence this year (and a tremendous after-hours billiards coach for them, to boot).
- I am pleased also to note the continued success we are witnessing

- with our 'Isaiah Thomas—Patriot Printer' program, through which we have brought to life the fascinating story of the Society's founder. This year alone we have presented this highly regarded program more than thirty times to historical societies, community organizations, and school groups, including—thanks to new grants from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts—to inner-city schools that might otherwise be unable to bring the program into their classrooms. The warm response to this program and the praise that it has received from educators and students alike has been most gratifying.
- Our efforts to serve a wider public better have also led us in recent years to transform our on-line catalogue—which is powerful in its current configuration, but arcane in its user interface—into an easier-to-use web-based catalogue, replete with thousands of new records created as part of the retrospective conversion of our old card catalogue. Although currently taking place in the background, these transformations promise great benefit for readers and staff alike; they will be made public, we anticipate, in the summer of 2002.
 - If all goes according to schedule, Summer 2002 will also mark another important milestone in the history of the Society: the opening of our new 12,000 square foot, state-of-the-art, book-storage vault and the completion of fire-security improvements throughout Antiquarian Hall. Site work for the project began just last week, and our project team, which includes architects Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, construction managers Linbeck/Kennedy & Rossi, and a host of consulting experts, has planned for a fourteen-month construction schedule and a total budget of almost nine million dollars. Leading staff efforts on that team is the newest of our senior managers, Ed Harris, who was recently appointed as vice president for administration at the Society. Hard costs of construction have been capped by a 'guaranteed maximum price' agreement, and everyone at AAS is working diligently to keep those costs that are our responsibility—the so-called 'soft costs'—within the budget as well. A major portion of that 'soft cost' budget is the expense of moving the books within the building, which is something with which staff are already pitching in to help. Now that we have the joy of seeing row after row of empty stacks in those areas where the construction work will begin, we'll have all the more appreciation for the work that the outside moving crews will be undertaking when entire sections of the building must be emptied in the brief

time-windows of the actual construction schedule. The goals of the construction project can be briefly summarized as follows:

- To protect collections from fire, a worry of the Society's leaders since our founding in 1812.
 - To insure long-term preservation of materials in their original formats, by providing a constant environment of sixty degrees and 35 percent relative humidity, now recognized by conservation scientists as the best conditions for storage of paper (especially paper subject to embrittlement due to acid content).
 - To provide capacity for continued growth in the collections. By our current estimates, the new vault will afford shelving space sufficient for us to have a 50 percent increase in our graphic arts collections (and vastly improved storage conditions), a 60 percent growth in manuscripts (to be housed all together for the first time in decades), a 70 percent growth in pre-1876 newspapers, and a 100 percent growth—a doubling—for the book and pamphlet collections themselves that constitute the largest part of the library's holdings, by far.
- The commitment of the Society to the comprehensive collecting and the long-term preservation of historical materials is one of long-standing, but the breaking of ground for the new building comes at a fortuitous moment. Last week marked as well the publishing of a new book by Nicholson Baker, *Double Fold*, with its scathing attack on libraries and librarians who film or scan historical books, pamphlets, and—most significantly in his estimation—newspapers, and then discard or destroy the originals. Although we cannot subscribe to all of his conclusions—some newspapers DO become too brittle to save—his argument does support the contention that we at the Society have long subscribed to: that there should be at least one copy of everything that can be saved, even after it has been duplicated and distributed on film, fiche, disk, or network. This same point is being made by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) in a report they have just released, *The Evidence at Hand: Report of the Task Force on the Artifact in Library Collections*. The report singles out the American Antiquarian Society for its policies of collecting and preserving the output of American presses through 1876 and cites us as a model that other libraries might emulate with respect to later American materials and those from other countries.

- 'Fortuitous' would also be the appropriate word to describe recent events in our current \$12 million capital campaign, which has just passed the \$8 million mark, including \$4.3 million for the building project itself. To help us complete that portion of the campaign, we are pleased to announce that the Kresge Foundation—having carefully vetted our plans for the building and for our fundraising and having found them to be thoroughly sound—has issued a formidable challenge to the Society: if we can raise another \$2.9 million for the building by August 31, 2002, the Foundation will cap off our efforts with a donation of \$800,000. Thus the staff and Council will be committing great effort toward the meeting of this challenge in the months to come, and are indeed encouraged by the responses received to our earliest solicitations. Many, upon hearing of the Kresge challenge, have stepped forward to volunteer their gifts without being asked, but all members, fellows, and friends of the Society (even our mere acquaintances) can rest assured that they'll be asked. Kresge requires that pledges be secured by the August 2002 date, but permits payments to be paid out over the next five years, and thus the Society has arranged for interim financing of our construction through tax-exempt bonds over the same period.
- The challenges we face in guiding the Society through these exciting times are made all the more rewarding because of the support we receive—moral and financial—from all of our supporters. You are helping us to continue and to build upon the greatest strengths of a remarkably strong institution, and we are grateful, more grateful than I can say in words (or pictures) alone.

Ellen S. Dunlap

2000-2001 FELLOWS AND THEIR PROJECTS

*American Antiquarian Society-National Endowment
for the Humanities Fellowships*

Catherine Corman, assistant professor of history, Harvard University, 'Reading, Writing, and Removal: Native American Literacies, 1820-1851'; Vincent DiGirolamo, assistant professor of interdisciplinary writing, Colgate University, 'Crying the News: Child Street Trading in America, 1830s-1890s'; Karen Woods Weierman, adjunct professor of English, Boston College, 'One Nation, One Blood: Interracial Marriage in American Fiction, Scandal, and Law, 1820-1870.'

Mellon Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence

Alan Taylor, professor of history, University of California, Davis, 'The Divided Ground: The Northern Borderland (U.S. and Canada) in the Wake of the American Revolution.'

Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Richard Wightman Fox, professor of history, University of Southern California, 'American Jesus.'

Mellon Post-Dissertation Fellowship

Melissa J. Homestead, visiting assistant professor of English, Huntingdon College, 'Imperfect Title: Nineteenth-Century American Women Authors and Literary Property.'

American Historical Print Collectors Society Fellowship

Patricia Johnston, associate professor of art history, Salem State College, 'Imminent Dangers: Nativist Thought in Nineteenth-Century American Visual Culture.'

*American Antiquarian Society-American Society for
Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellowships*

Jared Gardner, assistant professor of English, Ohio State University, 'The Literary Museum: Periodicals and the Unsettling of American Literature'; Karin Wulf, assistant professor of history, American University, 'In the Shade of the Family Tree: Genealogy and Representations of Family Identity in Early America.'

Stephen Botein Fellowships

Louise Stevenson, professor of history and American studies, Franklin and Marshall College, 'Women's Intellectual Life, 1750-1820'; Richard Stillson, Ph.D. candidate in history, Johns Hopkins University, 'Communication and Information Dispersal in the California Gold Rush.'

'Drawn to Art' Fellowship

Sarah N. Roth, Ph.D. candidate in history, University of Virginia, 'The Slavery Controversy in Antebellum Popular Culture.'

American Antiquarian Society-Northeast Modern Language Association Fellowships

David Anthony, assistant professor of English, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 'White-Collar Gothic: Debtor Masculinity, Submission, and the U.S. Bank in Antebellum America'; Lois Brown, assistant professor of English and African American studies, Mount Holyoke College, 'Made to Sell, Made to Save: The Black Child in American Anti-Slavery Literature.'

Legacy Fellowship

Matthew Rainbow Hale, Ph.D. candidate in history, Brandeis University, 'Neither Britons nor Frenchmen: The Creation of American Nationality, 1789-1815.'

Richard F. and Virginia P. Morgan Fellowship

Molly McCarthy, Ph.D. candidate in history, Brandeis University, 'A Page, A Day: A History of the Daily Diary in America.'

Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellowships

Gretchen A. Adams, Ph.D. candidate in history, University of New Hampshire, 'The Specter of Salem in American Culture'; Howard P. Chudacoff, professor of history, Brown University, 'Children and Their Styles of Play, 1750-1880'; Joseph F. Cullon, Ph.D. candidate in history, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 'The Work of Many Hands: Ships and the Economic Culture of Early New England'; Kimberly Gladman, Ph.D. candidate in comparative literature, New York University, 'Mysterries and Miserries: City Mysterries, Novels, and Class in Antebellum America'; Jacqueline Goldsby, assistant professor of English, Cornell University, 'A Spectacular Secret: The Cultural Logic of Lynching in

American Literature and Life'; Udo J. Hebel, chair of American studies, University of Regensburg, 'Forefathers Day Orations and Celebrations between the American Revolution and the Civil War'; Holly Heinzer, Ph.D. candidate in history, Yale University, 'On the Move: The Means and Meanings of Travel in Northeastern America, 1750-1850'; Benjamin H. Irvin, Ph.D. candidate in history, Brandeis University, 'Representative Men: A Cultural History of the Continental Congress'; Andrew J. Lewis, Ph.D. candidate in American studies, Yale University, 'Antiquities of State: Archaeology in Early Republican America'; Krystyn R. Moon, Ph.D. candidate in history, Johns Hopkins University, 'From John Chinaman to Japanese Sandman: China and Japan in American Music, 1850-1920'; JoAnne Thomas, Ph.D. candidate in history, Western Michigan University, 'Good Bye, Old Arm: Songs of the Civil War'; William van Arragon, Ph.D. candidate in history, Indiana University, 'Cotton Mather in American Cultural Memory, 1728-1892.'

Reese Fellowship

Eric Altice, Ph.D. candidate in history, University of California, Los Angeles, 'Taking the Heathen to the Countryside: Missionary Publications and the Representations of the Exotic in Antebellum America.'

Joyce Tracy Fellowship

Mitchell Snay, associate professor of history, Denison University, 'A Nation of Our Own: Ethnic Nationalism in the Era of Reconstruction.'

William Randolph Hearst Foundation Fellowships

Katrina Browne, documentary filmmaker, Berkeley, California, research for a television documentary entitled *Traces of the Trade*, which explores the history and legacy of the slave trade in New England; Maureen Cummins, book artist, Brooklyn, New York, research for works on paper that explore the fear of the 'other' in American history.

Sigety Family Foundation Fellowship

Sue Johnson, visual artist, St. Mary's College (Maryland), research for new images and texts for *The Alternate Encyclopedia*.

Robert and Charlotte Baron Fellowship

Joann Mazzio, Rinos Altos, New Mexico, research for a young adult novel set in the Fremont expeditions in the 1840s.

2001-2002 FELLOWS AND THEIR PROJECTS

*American Antiquarian Society-National Endowment
for the Humanities Fellowships*

John M. Murrin, professor of history, Princeton University, 'Upheaval, Social Hysteria, Reform, and Revolution in England and the Colonies, 1675-1692'; Benjamin Reiss, assistant professor of English, Tulane University, 'Antebellum Literary Culture and the Rise of the Asylum'; Altina Waller, professor and chair of history, University of Connecticut, 'Margaret Eaton, Sexuality, and Empowerment in Jacksonian America.'

Mellon Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence

Patricia Cline Cohen, professor of history, University of California, Santa Barbara, 'Thomas Low Nichols and Mary Gove Nichols: Sex and Marriage Reform in the 1840s.'

Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Joan N. Radner, professor of literature, American University, 'Performing the Paper: Rural Intellectual Life in Postbellum Northern New England.'

Mellon Post-Dissertation Fellowship

David Silverman, assistant professor of history, Wayne State University, 'Conditions for Coexistence, Climates for Collapse: The Challenges of Indian Life on Martha's Vineyard, 1524-1871.'

American Historical Print Collectors Society Fellowship

Sally M. Promey, professor of art history and archaeology, University of Maryland, 'Religion in Plain View: The Public Aesthetics of American Belief.'

*American Antiquarian Society-American Society for
Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellowship*

David E. Narrett, associate professor of history, University of Texas at Arlington, 'Borderland Republics: Vermont, West Florida, Texas, and the Politics of Union, 1760-1846.'

Stephen Botein Fellowship

Cynthia J. Van Zandt, assistant professor of history, University of New Hampshire, 'Brothers Among Nations: Kinship and Alliance in Early America.'

'Drawn to Art' Fellowship

April F. Masten, visiting assistant professor of interdisciplinary writing, Colgate University, 'The Work of Art.'

*American Antiquarian Society-Northeast Modern Language
Association Fellowships*

Jeannine DeLombard, assistant professor of English, University of Puget Sound, 'At the Bar of Public Opinion: Black Testimony and White Advocacy in Antebellum Literary Abolitionism'; Barbara Hochman, senior lecturer of foreign literatures and linguistics, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Reading Revolution.'

Legacy Fellowship

Kate C. Larson, Ph.D. candidate in history, University of New Hampshire, 'Asante Daughter of Zion: The Life and Memory of Harriet Tubman.'

Richard F. and Virginia P. Morgan Fellowship

Lisa West Norwood, Ph.D. candidate in English, Stanford University, 'Grounds for the New Nation: Constructing Sense of Place from 1780-1860.'

Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellowships

Anne Baker, visiting assistant professor, Reed College, 'Geography, National Form, and the American Renaissance'; Lisa Brooks, Ph.D. candidate in English, Cornell University, 'Recovering the Voices of Our Ancestors'; Benjamin L. Carp, Ph.D. candidate in history, University of Virginia, 'Cityscapes and Revolution: Urban Spaces and Revolutionary Mobilization in North America, 1740-1790'; Robert F. Farrant, associate professor of regional economic and social development, University of Massachusetts at Lowell, 'Manufacturer to Industrial America: Worcester-area Machine Tool Firms and Skill, 1830-1875'; Scott E. Gac, Ph.D. candidate in history, the Graduate Center, City University of

New York, 'The Hutchinson Family Singers and the Culture of Antebellum Reform'; Granville Ganter, assistant professor of English, St. John's University, 'Pregnant Words: The Matrix of Public Speech in the Northeast, 1840-1860'; Cynthia Hamilton, senior lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University, 'Representations of the Freedmen 1861-1876'; Stephen Mihm, Ph.D. candidate in history, New York University, 'The Alchemists: Counterfeiters and Counterfeiting in Antebellum America'; Karen E. O'Brien, Ph.D. candidate in history, Northwestern University, 'Making the Personal Political: Religion, Obligation, and Identity in the American Revolution.'

Reese Fellowship

Michael Hoeflich, professor of law and history, University of Kansas School of Law, 'The Material Culture of Nineteenth-Century American Law.'

Sigety Family Foundation Fellowship

Matthew Raffety, Ph.D. candidate in history, Columbia University, 'The Republic Afloat: Labor and "Liberty" in Mutinies on American Ships, 1789-1861.'

Joyce Tracy Fellowship

James W. Cook, assistant professor of history and American studies, Butler University, 'Cracks in the White Republic.'

William Randolph Hearst Foundation Fellowships

Geoffrey Brock, poet, Tallahassee, Florida, research for poems based on American historical events; Hallie S. Hobson, playwright, Atlanta, Georgia, research for 'Watchnight, a Play on the Eve of Emancipation.'

Robert and Charlotte Baron Fellowship

Emily Laurance, harpist, academic advisor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to research sacred music and theatrical songs in early nineteenth-century America.

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