

PROCEEDINGS

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 9, 1919, IN THE HOUSE OF
THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

The semi-annual meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, April 9, 1919, in the House of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, No. 28 Newbury Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The meeting was called to order at half-past ten o'clock, President Lincoln in the chair.

There were present:

Reuben Colton, Henry Herbert Edes, William Eaton Foster, Francis Henshaw Dewey, Arthur Lord, Charles Lemuel Nichols, Waldo Lincoln, Edward Sylvester Morse, George Parker Winship, Albert Matthews, Clarence Winthrop Bowen, Daniel Berkeley Updike, Clarence Saunders Brigham, Lincoln Newton Kinnicutt, Worthington Chauncey Ford, Frederick Jackson Turner, Edward Luther Stevenson, Julius Herbert Tuttle, Charles Grenfill Washburn, George Hubbard Blakeslee, Wilfred Harold Munro, Justin Harvey Smith, Henry Winchester Cunningham, Archer Butler Hulbert, Howard Millar Chapin, Grenville Howland Norcross, John Whittemore Farwell, Lawrence Waters Jenkins, Leonard Wheeler, Alexander George McAdie, William Crowninshield Endicott, Nathaniel Thayer Kidder, Richard Ward Greene, John Woodbury, Charles Knowles Bolton, John Henry Edmonds, Leonard Leopold Mackall, Samuel Lyman Munson.

The call for the meeting having been read, Mr. Norcross moved that the reading of the records of the last meeting be dispensed with.

The report of the Council, prepared by Mr. George H. Blakeslee and relating chiefly to the recent development of interests in Latin America, was read and approved.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Winship referred to the collections of Spanish American literature and called attention to the distinction between the historical, the bibliographical, and the linguistic aspects of the subject. For the purposes of students of language, Mr. William E. Gates of Point Loma, California, possesses what is probably both the most extensive and the most intelligently selected collection of manuscript material illustrating the dialects in use by the native tribes occupying the territory of what is now the Mexican Republic. He has been able to secure a large proportion of the original manuscripts, as well as the printed works, that have come to market in the auction room or through private channels during the last two decades, and he has supplemented these by obtaining photographic-process copies of nearly all the important documents which are in public repositories. In a spirit of generous scholarly co-operation, Mr. Gates has made it possible for other collections to secure duplicates of his copies at the cost of production. Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, whose library is now at the University of Pennsylvania, anticipated Mr. Gates both in scheme and scope, but the hand-written copies upon which he had to rely are so frequently untrustworthy that they have already taken their place as historical illustrations of the handicaps against which science formerly struggled.

The two leading public institutions in this field are the Bureau of Ethnology, which is supplemented by the material in the Library of Congress, at Washing-

ton, and the Peabody Museum Library at Harvard. At the latter Dr. Charles P. Bowditch of this Society has rendered important service in securing reproductions of manuscripts throwing light upon Maya problems. The Peabody Museum also possesses the material collected by Bandelier while he was engaged on the work of the Hemenway Expeditions, seeking in old Mexico the clue to the story of the New Mexican ruins.

The John Carter Brown Library and the Lenox Library have long been rivals, so far as the earlier printed books are concerned, in this as in kindred fields. The former probably secured a lead when Mr. Brown purchased the linguistic library of Dr. Nicolas Leon, a corresponding member of this Society. The library collected by Prince Lucien Bonaparte, dealing with language in a broad sense, is said to be the nearest competitor abroad.

The student of Spanish American history will find the material he needs scattered among several institutions, each developing a particular aspect of the subject. The Bureau of American Republics presumably has most of the twentieth century publications, especially those dealing with social and economic phases. The John Carter Brown Library has a commanding position for those printed before 1800, having added largely to its collections since the check-list printed ten years ago. Harvard, Yale, and the John Carter Brown libraries had at one time a working agreement by which the two Universities left the older and more costly books to the Providence library, and divided the later field, Yale specializing on Peru and the northern countries of South America, and Harvard on Chili and the South. Mr. Coolidge's purchase of the Luis Montt library at Santiago de Chile and Mr. Bingham's personal collection on Bolivia and Peru established the strength of the two universities in these respective fields. Yale added Mexico when Mr.

Henry E. Wagner presented the books which he had collected during his residence in that country. The John Carter Brown Library has an important group of Peruvian publications dated between 1800 and 1840, which were made accessible by the hand-list printed in 1908. The Hispanic Society of America has not neglected the Spanish colonies, but these have not as yet received the comprehensive attention with which Mr. Huntington has devoted himself to the literature and art of the Peninsula. In Chicago the Newberry Library has Mr. Edward E. Ayer's collection of books on the American Indian, which contains many important early works. The H. H. Bancroft collection gave the University of California a good start in the way of Mexican books, and both at Berkeley and at Stanford efforts have been made to emphasize the importance of all the countries bordering on the Pacific.

The election of members, resident and foreign, being next in order, the President appointed Messrs. Cunningham, Norcross and Edmonds, as the committee to collect and count the ballots. The committee reported the following persons elected to membership:

RESIDENT MEMBERS

James Alton James, Evanston, Ill.
Frederick William Lehmann, St. Louis, Mo.
Alfred Claghorn Potter, Cambridge, Mass.
Harold Marsh Sewall, Bath, Me.
Robert Kendall Shaw, Worcester, Mass.
William Roscoe Thayer, Cambridge, Mass.
William Thomas, San Francisco, Calif.

FOREIGN MEMBERS

Anastasio Alfaro, San José, Costa Rica.
Manuel de Oliveira Lima, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Seymour de Ricci, Paris, France.

The President stated that a fellowship in American History had been established at Clark University through the generosity of members of this Society and would continue for two years. He also called attention to the new bookplates of the Society, the gift of our associate Grenville H. Norcross.

The first paper was read by Archer B. Hulbert formerly of Marietta, Ohio, but now residing in Worcester, on "The Increasing Debt of History to Science."

In the discussion following, Mr. McAdie spoke of the value of science in proving and correlating the facts of history. Astronomy in particular, he said, is of importance in certifying the dates of events by eclipses and other observed phenomena—the character of the weather, the prevailing tides and winds have also been used for verification of the facts of history. He exhibited a chart of the life history of a Sequoia tree in the state of Washington, cut down in 1864, which showed the effects of varying weather and other natural phenomena—during its 1244 years of growth. He deduced from study of this chart that the amount of rainfall and sunshine since the Spanish conquest is about the same as at the present day.

Professor Turner remarked that a hyphen between history and the various sciences has a much more legitimate place than that used between nations. He then drew attention to the effect in our own country of the various geological formations and varying quality of soils upon the development of communities and even relation to the politics and the prosperity of such communities.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Lombard, whose paper was to have been presented at this meeting, the Librarian spoke briefly upon the bookplates of the Presidents of the United States in our collection. The President announced that the paper might be

presented at a subsequent meeting and called attention to a volume containing a genuine George Washington bookplate—belonging to Mr. John Woodbury—which he had been requested to exhibit at the meeting.

Mr. Ford then read an interesting paper with extracts, on "Some Papers of Aaron Burr."

The members of the Society were invited by Mr. William C. Endicott to luncheon at his residence, No. 163 Marlborough Street, at the close of the meeting.

No further business being presented, the meeting was then dissolved.

CHARLES LEMUEL NICHOLS,

Recording Secretary

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