

## *Report of the Council*

**I**N these recent months of world turbulence and tribulation, the Society has pursued its even way. Occasionally some of its letters to English correspondents have never reached the British Isles, and all exchange relations with the continent of Europe have been abandoned. We live in hope that some day the world may return to normal, meanwhile continuing to collect the materials which will furnish the historian of the future the record of the times.

The library has been used more than ever. Visiting students and scholars have made us aware of our pressing need for a larger staff and for greater book space. The accession of any sizable collection of books, even a hundred volumes, requires shifting of the shelves to take care of the increase. Especially in the newspaper department has the need of more space become serious, and only by constructing shelving in the basement can the problem be solved temporarily. In several of the rooms additional bookcases have been erected. In the manuscript room a large case has been placed in the center of the room sufficient to shelve over five hundred boxes of documents. This is planned primarily to hold the files of the Society's correspondence, which has increased enormously in the last ten years. In the print room a second large case has been built to accommodate oversize engravings. In the stack a temporary bookcase will take care of the fast growing collection of American pamphlets.

The number of accessions to the Library during the past six months has been unusual. A large proportion has come from Worcester residents who for one reason or another have broken up their libraries and desired to have such discarded

books permanently preserved where they would be of use in research. Dr. Samuel B. Woodward has continued his gifts of volumes much needed to fill in gaps in our collection. From the estates of Frederick P. Gleason, Charlotte Buffington, and Mrs. Halleck Bartlett, and from Mrs. Thomas H. Dodge, we have received a large amount of material—literary and historical books, photographs, maps and manuscripts. Especially from the library of the late T. Hovey Gage, through his daughter, Mrs. Albert W. Rice, has the Library obtained a valuable assemblage of books, pamphlets, and manuscripts, the gathering of a lifetime of collecting, and including the ephemeral publications of certain Worcester organizations nowhere so fully preserved. From the Boston Library Society, which has recently been disbanded, we acquired a large number of volumes needed for our frequently used collection of American literature. Other accessions, many of them highly important, will await the Librarian's report at the annual meeting.

On November 1, 1940, Mr. Clifford K. Shipton began his duties as Librarian. Possessing a wide acquaintance among scholars and librarians, trained in historical and archival fields, and experienced in writing and publication, he is provided with an unusual equipment for his task. The administration of his office in the last five months has already justified the judgment of the Council in selecting him. He works at the Library three days each week, but this term of service will presumably be enlarged in the future.

An important change has been made in the format of the printed *Proceedings*. For three-quarters of a century we have adhered to an old-fashioned and not particularly readable type, and to an unusually narrow page. This page has not been in all ways pleasing and, furthermore, often restricts the proper use of illustrations.

A study of the printing of the *Proceedings* is of some inter-

est. In the early days of the Society local printers were used, although from 1854 to 1867 the Boston firm of John Wilson and Son, who printed the *Proceedings* of the Massachusetts Historical Society, was employed. In 1869 began the alliance with the Worcester firm of Charles Hamilton, which was to last for thirty-six years. Hamilton died in 1896, but the business was continued by his sons. In 1906 the Hamilton firm went out of business, printing as their last Antiquarian Society's *Proceedings* the issue of April, 1905. By October, 1906, when it came time to print the *Proceedings* of October, 1905, Mr. Waldo Lincoln had succeeded to the executive control of the Society, and Franklin P. Rice, himself an amateur printer of much ability, was placed in charge of the Committee of Publication. The Davis Press of Worcester was selected as the printer and was requested to follow exactly the type style and page size of previous years. They had recently installed a monotype machine, one of the first in New England, and the type selected was a modern cutting Monotype 8A. At the same time the name of the Society on the general title-page was changed to Old English. The rather unusual, and much too narrow, length of line— $22\frac{1}{2}$  picas—was maintained. The body of the text was set in 11-point, the point system only recently having come into general use to replace the familiar type known by such names as Nonpareil, Brevier, Bourgeois, Pica, &c.

After thirty-five years' experience with this type face and page, we have decided to make a change, both for appearance and readability. The width of the book has been enlarged from  $6\frac{1}{8}$  to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, although the height remains the same. The length of line has been increased from  $22\frac{1}{2}$  picas, or  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches, to 26 picas, or  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches. The type itself has been changed from the modern face to a Monotype cutting of Caslon Old Style, which seems more in keeping with the traditions of the Society. The body of

the text has been changed to a 12-point face with 2-point leads, making for greater readability. Article titles are to be changed to Caslon Italic, and the one line of Old English on the title-page is to be changed to Cloister Black, one of the more formal Old English faces. All these changes have been made after exhaustive comparison of various types, and examination of the printing shown in many similar publications. The cooperation and advice of Mr. Rae M. Spencer, who has been associated with The Davis Press since 1902, is gratefully acknowledged. We are also indebted to Mr. Alliston Greene, who joined The Davis Press in 1903 and who still edits the Antiquarian material before it goes to the shop.

In 1912 the Society procured for its *Proceedings* an 85% rag paper made by the S. D. Warren Company for the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Since 1932 we have purchased an 85% rag from the Worthy Paper Company. In the future we shall obtain from this same company a 100% rag Permanent Book paper.

The Society's *Proceedings* have never been given over to numerous illustrations, partly because of the expense, and also since ours is in no way a popular periodical. In recent years the illustrations have been the result of various methods—line cuts, half-tones, copperplate photogravure, and gelatin prints. The last have been used where the illustrations were for reprints only, as gelatin prints are comparatively inexpensive for short runs, but more costly than half-tones when used for the complete run of *Proceedings* and reprints. The cost of gelatin print negatives is low, but the presses only turn out about 1000 a day. In the future half-tones will be generally used, since we have decided to run the illustrations in both the *Proceedings* and in the reprints. The cost of making half-tones is higher, but they can be printed at a rate of over 1000 an hour. It may

seem that considerable space has been given in this Report to the mechanics of our printing, but it is partially a historical record, and perhaps no time could be better to give these details than the present.

There have been five deaths of members since the last meeting in October. Alfred C. Potter, for many years Librarian of the Harvard College Library, elected to this Society in 1919, died November 1, 1940. Charles A. Place, authority on the architecture and forms of worship of early New England churches, elected in 1925, died November 17, 1940. Hollis French, collector of early American silver and author of the recent book on Nathaniel Hurd, elected in 1938, died November 21, 1940. Worthington C. Ford, internationally known historian and archivist, and formerly a member of our Council, elected in 1907, died March 7, 1941. Henry Hornblower, Boston banker, elected in 1938, died April 11, 1941. Obituary sketches of these members will appear in the printed *Proceedings* of this meeting.

The appeal which we sent to members in December last has met with a favorable, and even a generous response. As a matter of record, the wording of the appeal, which was signed by the President, the Treasurer, and the Director, is herewith printed:

The American Antiquarian Society for the past eight years has had an annual deficit, owing to the decreased income from securities. It has been suggested repeatedly by members that some form of appeal should be sent out, asking for an annual contribution. No such appeal has been made since 1935, when over \$9000 was raised for that year.

This Society is entirely dependent upon the income from endowment and upon the generosity of its members for the continuation of its work. The Library's prestige has grown greatly in the last few years, and the aid which we are giving to scholars throughout the country has constantly increased. The inability to purchase books needed to fill in our collections is one of our greatest handicaps. Even with the strictest economy, we face a deficit of at least \$3000, in addition to which we can buy no books, newspaper files, or other research material.

Gifts made to this Society constitute a permanent benefit. Money is spent by this Library, not for a temporary purpose, but to preserve

material for all time. With the destruction today of so much of the world's civilization, the permanence of the printed word is more than ever apparent.

While we hope for gifts of from \$100 to \$500, of course we should accept gratefully *any* evidence of confidence in our work. Even if this form of gift should constitute an annual Guarantee Fund, in no case would it be assumed that a donation this year involves a future commitment.

To this appeal eighty-four members have so far responded. Contributions totalling \$7995 have been received from seventy members. Seven have written explaining their inability to contribute, and seven have stated that gifts would come from them later in the year. It should be noted that several members are already contributing to the funds of the Society in some other way, or have recently done so. Naturally, this generous response is very gratifying, and especially so, as the appeal was so worded that it did not even require a reply. Any gift which was made was assumed to be strictly voluntary, based upon a belief in the Society and a realization of its needs. It has been only through such support from our own members that we have been able to purchase books to fill in our collections and to continue our service to American scholarship.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

*For the Council*

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