

## *Report of the Council*

SINCE the last report of the Council, the war, both with Germany and with Japan, has ended. The great political and economic upheavals brought about by this global conflict have had repercussions on all institutions throughout the world. Yet most learned societies have proceeded on their uninterrupted way, even in those countries like England which have heavily felt the effects of war. Throughout all these painful and disturbing past five years we have regularly received the proceedings of sister societies in England and soon the societies on the continent will resume their printed publications. In this country, insular as it fortunately is, war has never interrupted intellectual progress. Our own Society was firmly established before Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo. Wars have followed for a century and a quarter, with little effect upon our orderly procedure, except that their progress must be recorded and the materials for their history should be acquired.

Only slight changes in the conduct of the Library have been apparent in recent months. The abrogation of gasoline rationing brought a greater number of students to the building during the summer. The increased allowance of oil enabled us to reconvert one of our two boilers from coal to oil, a decided convenience in a building where dust and ashes are a detriment.

The Librarian's Report covers the details of accessions during the year. The increasingly crowded condition of the library building has forced us to make certain changes which perhaps were advisable whether or not we needed room. For the past several years we have gradually been giving up

the acquisition and binding of numerous daily newspapers from key cities throughout the country. The vast amount of space which they require, generally with twelve bulky volumes a year for each paper, the repetition in all of them of advertisements, national news, and syndicated material, the comparatively little use which they receive, and especially the recent use of microfilm, have all combined to influence us to make a sharp reduction in the number of current files kept. Today we bind only the *New York Times*, the Worcester newspapers, and four other New England papers.

Considerable progress has been made in the arrangement and filing of manuscripts during the last two years. In spite of the painstaking work performed by Theron J. Damon, who left the Library two years ago to enter Government war service, the large accessions of manuscripts in recent years had strained the capacity of the manuscript room and left many acquisitions unwinnowed and unfiled. The vast collection of papers bequeathed to the Society by the late George Watson Cole, the accumulation of sixty years of collecting, needed months of work before it could properly be placed on the shelves. Mr. Albert G. Waite, through financial aid given by a member of the Society, began upon this work, following Mr. Damon's leave of absence, and at last succeeded in arranging the Cole Papers in 66 boxes where they are finally shelved for future use by bibliographers and historians. During the last year Mr. Waite's consistent and steady work has resulted in the arranging and shelving of twelve collections of manuscripts as follows:

Andrew Bigelow Papers, 1806-1859. Correspondence of a well-known Boston minister, with diaries of European travel—4 boxes.

Wainwright & Tappan Papers, 1830-1875. Merchants engaged in the India trade and importation of Welsh iron and steel—1 box.

T. Hovey Gage Papers. Includes an important collection of papers relating to Worcester County artists; also Dr. Thomas H. Gage papers relating to Clark University—3 boxes.

Chase Family Papers, concerning Anthony Chase, Charles A. Chase, and Lucy Chase, the last important for the study of nursing and teaching during the Civil War—3 boxes.

Daniel C. Heath and Ginn & Heath Papers. Publishers, 1873-1908—1 box.

Records of 15th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, 1861-1865—3 boxes.

Waldo Flint Papers, 1829-1879. Diaries and correspondence with Boston and Worcester families—6 boxes.

Scofield Papers. Important diaries and papers of James M. Scofield, California merchant and Connecticut newspaper publisher, with papers also of his descendants—6 boxes.

Charles H. Burleigh Patent Papers. Chiefly Worcester County patents, 1880-1910—1 box.

Lawrence Park Papers, 1917-1924, chiefly concerning early New England art and artists—2 boxes.

Salisbury Papers. A large consignment of papers from the Salisbury estate, at 9 Main Street, sorted into the collection of Salisbury Papers.

A. G. Waite Papers relating to Worcester houses, an important collection of historical notes on the houses, and their occupants, of the West Side, of Main Street, and of the streets crossing Main Street—9 boxes.

Also during the year a great number of manuscripts and documents, as they have been currently received, have been properly shelved in their alphabetical arrangement.

The miniatures from the estate of Harriet E. Clarke, mentioned in the Librarian's Report, have been combined with our other miniatures and placed on view in the exhibition case in the upper hall. This has been made possible by sending to the New York Historical Society the collection of china and glass received a few years ago from Mrs. Robert C. Taylor of New York. With Mrs. Taylor's consent, it was decided that the New York society, which maintains a museum, could more properly display the collection.

Six members have died since the April meeting. John M. Woolsey, of New York, a frequent benefactor of this Library, elected in 1926, died May 4, 1945. Shepard Pond, of Winchester, Massachusetts, authority on American numismatics, elected in 1943, died May 28. Max Farrand,

of Bar Harbor, Maine, formerly director of research at the Huntington Library, elected in 1908, died June 17. John Hill Morgan, of Farmington, Connecticut, historian of American colonial art, elected in 1924, died July 16. Thomas B. Lawler, of New York, author and publisher, elected in 1925, died July 20. Roger B. Merriman, professor of history at Harvard, elected in 1902, died September 7. Obituary sketches of these members will appear in the printed *Proceedings* of this meeting.

The printing of the Bibliography of American Newspapers, upon which the Director has been working for so many years, is now progressing rapidly. The apparent impossibility of obtaining the proper rag paper was at length solved last spring by the intercession of President Morison, and then came the delay in having the paper manufactured. The last of the paper was finally delivered to the printer three weeks ago. Galley proof has been read through North Carolina, and page proof through Massachusetts. The process of proof reading is time-consuming and arduous, as the entire work contains well over a million words and figures. The index of titles and printers is partially completed, keeping up with the proof. It is expected that the two volumes will be completed and distributed late this coming winter.

As usual, an appeal was sent out for gifts of funds with which to purchase books. Few letters, however, were written, as many members had voluntarily included the Society in their list of annual donations. During the fiscal year a total of \$8,100 was received in the form of gift, mostly for books, but partially contributions for the salaries of special assistants in the Library. This aid is hereby gratefully acknowledged. Without it the progress of the Society would be seriously retarded.

Respectfully submitted,  
CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,  
*For the Council*

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.