

The Report of the Council

October 16, 1974

IT will come as no surprise to the members of the American Antiquarian Society that the Council and the staff are much concerned with effects of the distempers of these times upon the well-being of our institution. Miasmas emanating from unwholesome conditions in Wall Street, or from disinterest in Foggy Bottom, or from querulous inquiries from neighbors or colleagues, suggest unsettling tendencies for the future. The tendencies indicate an increasing demand from all parts of our society that the means to personal enrichment, both cultural and fiscal, be more broadly spread amongst the population. In responding to such a movement, the Council finds encouragement for the future of AAS that during the recent past the Society has made not only vigorous efforts but also solid accomplishments in making widely available the intellectual resources collected and preserved in its library.

The most important of these efforts has been the AAS and Readex Microprint reproduction of American imprints. Through the use of our collections and the editorial services of the staff, as well as the cooperation of sister institutions, AAS has spread abroad the text of American printed matter, 1640-1815. The impact of this activity for new opportunities in historical scholarship has been enormous as it has made it possible for students to explore the nation's past in institutions and libraries where hitherto it would have been impossible.

AAS publications of original research materials or of bibliographical tools is another effective way by which our resources

are distributed. So too is the program for Visiting Fellows which encourages or in some cases makes possible extended research at the Society's library by highly capable scholars. Finally, and most basically, is the offering of our regular, high standards of library service to students and readers who make use of our collections.

All of these activities are means of following the precepts of our founding that beyond the collecting and preserving of the nation's historical record, the Society must find ways to make those records culturally useful.

Not all institutions will be able to survive these times. A distinguished geographical society with a history not dissimilar to that of AAS is now attempting to find another institution to absorb its great library and functions. Its difficulties call up the same questions of program, constituency, finances, and public image which face AAS. What role should a national, learned society which is not a professional group such as the Organization of American Historians play in making available to the public—both lay and scholarly—its discipline? Should AAS continue as a learned society, with a closed membership? If so, what are the responsibilities of its elected membership? If membership were to be made available to many persons, what criteria for membership would be appropriate? These are matters of large concern to which an *ad hoc* committee of the Society, appointed by the President, will address itself during the coming months.

For the intellectual well-being and vigor of the nation some institutions must survive in order to provide specialized collections and services to advanced scholars working in the fields of the humanities. It is the intention of the Council and the staff that the American Antiquarian Society will be among them. We trust that the members of the Society join us in this determination.

However, the work of the Society proceeds apace. Thirty-six people (the equivalent of thirty-one full-time workers)

were employed by the Society to do its work within twelve recognizable departments. In addition, a volunteer assists in the Conservation Workshop and another in the Readers' Services Department. The administrators of the Society and the library are encouraged by the high quality of people who offer their services to AAS, either as professional employees, or as temporary, summertime helpers, or as volunteers. Cooperation and communication between staff members remain at a high and cordial level as all staff members effectively carry out their work. The following changes occurred in the staff during the past year: Sharon C. Davis, James J. Nance, Jonathan O. Phelps, and Benjamin L. Woodbury have left our employ while Carol R. Alexander, Alan N. Degutis, Frank F. Herron, and Dorothy D. Siles have joined the staff.

The Council is happy to express to all members of the staff the gratitude of the Society for their admirable loyalty and diligence in working to bring to reality the purposes of our Society.

Frederick E. Bauer, Jr., who has served the Society well during the past four years, has assumed a large share of responsibility for the management of the library. In recognition of his well proven abilities as well as in acknowledgement of the facts of the matter, the Director and Librarian has asked Mr. Bauer to accept the title of Associate Librarian and to exercise day-to-day supervision of library affairs.

Turning to the editorial work of the Society, the first portion, pertaining to the years 1719-1755, of the *The Diary of Ebenezer Parkman* was finally prepared for publication and was issued just this fall. The volume was edited and introduced by Francis G. Walett and contains a foreword written by the late C. K. Shipton. The Society's editor, John B. Hench, also has under his supervision the preparation of *A Dictionary of Colonial American Printers' Ornaments and Illustrations*, a volume being compiled by Elizabeth C. Reilly. Two volumes pertaining to the bibliography of American music are nearing

readiness for publication. The manuscript of Irving Lowens's *Bibliography of Songsters Printed in America before 1821* is ready for the printer. Nearly completed is *A Bibliography of American Sacred Music through 1810*, being prepared by Allan Britton, Mr. Lowens, and Richard Crawford. Plans have been established for a volume to mark the bicentennial of the American Revolution. Bernard Bailyn and James Russell Wiggins serve as editors of *The Press and the American Revolution* and some scholars have already agreed to prepare essays for it. Arrangements have not yet been settled for the publication of the massive cumulative index to the AAS *Proceedings*, 1813-1960, compiled by C. K. Shipton. The cost will be very substantially more than those contributed thus far by the family and friends of Mr. Shipton, but plans are going forward on this very important and useful work. Also, Mr. Hench is engaged in the editing of the Readex Microprint reproduction of American imprints. At the present he is dealing with the publications from the year 1815, last year having processed some 5,700 AAS titles through the system.

A program of Visiting Fellows again was a grand success. The six scholars who were in residence this past summer were a pleasant and energetic group whose presence at AAS was useful to their work and gratifying to the staff. An indication of this is found in a letter from a scholar from the University of Minnesota. She reported that in using nearly two hundred titles she 'benefitted not only from reading works collected and preserved at the AAS, but also from the intellectual labors of your staff, past and present, as they were condensed and represented in the card catalog. From the catalog, surely one of the finest tools of its kind, and other files, I got information efficiently which I could not possibly have gained had I not been at AAS in person. . . . The interest of the staff and the specific suggestions by . . . staff members were more than helpful. The opportunity to talk with other readers, scholars in other disciplines, and to exchange ideas with

seasoned bibliographers like Richard Crawford [twice an AAS Fellow] enhanced my own work. . . . I left Worcester with the impression that the American Antiquarian Society is more than a storehouse of rare books. It is a stimulant to and a center of intellectual and scholarly activities.'

In May, Maris A. Vinovskis, the now-departed Rockefeller Foundation Fellow on family history, delivered a public lecture on the subject, 'Angels' Heads and Weeping Willows: Perception of Death in Early America.' His efforts were cordially received by a group of 150 auditors who were instructed and entertained during and after the performance. Howard P. Chudacoff of Brown University has succeeded Vinovskis in the joint AAS-Clark University appointment. He has already spoken before the staff in order to explain his research, as well as to elicit our suggestions to forward it.

The primary function of the Society's library is to provide to serious scholars the materials and services of a research facility in the field of American history and culture. Some measure of accomplishment in this business can be found in the numbers of readers who frequented the AAS library. Between September 1973, and August 1974, 3,593 persons used the library. Beyond that, another 2,663 individuals entered Antiquarian Hall to view exhibits or to conduct other business with staff officers. By all odds, the months of mid-June through mid-August were the busiest at the library in some time. During the two-month period we served 966 readers, more than a fourth of the year's total, while an additional 700 visitors came to the building. Further, the problems of retrieving and reshelving 6,000 books or newspaper volumes during the same time introduced a considerable strain upon our eager, young pages. However, Miss Mary Brown and her crew of patient and helpful assistants surmounted all obstacles in their usual pleasant manner. Reference service by mail stood steady at more than a half-dozen letters per day; requests from publishers and scholars directed to the

Graphic Arts Department accounting for more than twenty percent of the total. If current library cost studies are applicable to AAS, the annual cost of answering mail reference requests amounts to \$7,650.

The building serves our special needs very well, indeed. It does so because of the splendid work of Donald K. Strader, our superintendent, and his assistant, Ralph E. Greiner, in keeping it clean and functioning. During this last year of energy shortage and sharply rising costs, Mr. Strader so adjusted our usage that we held to our budget figures for light and heat. We saved twenty-five percent of power, compared to a year ago, and thirty-two percent of oil, compared with the same period of time. We will not be able to improve on these savings, although we plan to hold to the same practices which made them possible.

We have lost three more beautiful elm trees to the Dutch elm blight, despite frequent treatment and the expenditure of several thousand dollars. The fact that the city permits its elms on public property to stand while they die, thus allowing the beetles to migrate to other hosts, makes it impossible to isolate one's own trees from the disease.

Mr. Strader has attended two training sessions on the operation of air-conditioning equipment and on building custodial practices, thus improving his already excellent abilities.

During the past several years we have wrestled with the dilemma presented by our cataloguing practices. American imprints dated before 1821, first editions of selected authors, and genealogical works have long received full treatment under internationally accepted cataloguing codes. The cards for this material are filed in the 'New Catalogue.' However, American imprints dated after 1820 and all modern works were being catalogued according to grossly inferior standards and on half-cards, which were filed in the 'Old Catalogue' according to methods which were haphazard at best. Several difficult and impinging on even contradictory options

were open to us. If we should go to full-sized cards, and to begin to catalogue this material properly, what would happen to the 'usefulness' of the 'Old Catalogue'? What about filing? Could we make the old and the new compatible? We decided that we could not make the old and new compatible, but that it was the ultimate foolishness to continue to catalogue our materials inadequately. Therefore, we decided that we would add no more half-cards into an already disastrous situation; a file numbering approximately 315,000 cards. Rather, we would catalogue only that material which could be done correctly, thus eliminating the necessity for recataloguing the same books or pamphlets at some time in the future. At the same time, the National Endowment for the Humanities granted AAS financial assistance to catalogue a collection of more than 56,000 nineteenth-century pamphlets. On April first Dorothy D. Siles, an intelligent, trained cataloguer joined Mr. Anders and Mrs. Beaudette in the cataloguing department and the battle was joined. We decided to substitute one backlog for another. We began work on the pamphlets by cataloguing those of the decade 1821-1830. We catalogued each one according to the standards established in 1927 for the 'New Catalogue' and the cards for this material are filed into it. All new acquisitions of the period 1831-1876 are available by means of a temporary main entry card in the 'Old Catalogue,' but are held uncatalogued in the book stacks. Library of Congress printed catalogue cards for books of local history and modern scholarship are ordered and filed as received. Mrs. Siles, in the intervening five months, just reached into the thirty-nine boxes bearing the initial letter 'C'. It is going to be a long war!

Another lengthy war is going on in the Restoration and Conservation Workshop. Kenneth R. Desautels completes about forty projects each month. Clearly, with a collection of paper numbering millions of pieces it will take a few lifetimes to restrain the wear and tear of age. The job is rather

like painting the Golden Gate Bridge—it is never done nor can it ever be. During the months of July and August we entertained at AAS two conservators from the Cooperstown, New York, Graduate Program in Historic Preservation. Patricia Dacus and Marion Peck were able in their craft and pleasant in their persons. They treated nearly fifty items in collections from the Graphic Arts Department. Beyond that, they conducted several instructional sessions in order to acquaint our staff in conservation techniques and to raise staff concern over the galloping problem of the deterioration of research materials.

The Curator of the Graphic Arts Department, Georgia B. Bumgardner, moves at a quick pace to keep ahead of readers (viewers, rather), requests for photographs of prints and maps, exhibition deadlines, and a variety of other duties. Exhibitions at the Society's library, perforce, are small in scale but they are helpful in presenting to the staff and visitors glimpses of various collections at AAS. The subjects of the past year's exhibitions included children's literature of the nineteenth century, recent acquisitions, views of New England stores, and the 'Grim Reaper' in early America (to illustrate Maris Vinovskis's lecture in May 1974). Also, William Joyce and Nancy Burkett of the Manuscript Department organized an exhibit pertaining to Abby Kelley Foster and Paula Jakubiak, also of the Manuscript Department, assembled a diverse array of daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and tintypes to illustrate early photographic techniques. Ingrid Jeppson, who worked both in Readers' Services and Graphic Arts Departments for several months, arranged an exhibition of three children's book illustrators—William Charles, F. O. C. Darley, and Winslow Homer. The Society lent materials to exhibitions beyond the confines of the building. In November, the exhibition of nineteenth-century American children's literature was displayed at the Worcester Public Library. Our self-portrait of Winthrop Chandler was included in an exhibi-

tion of self-portraits organized by International Exhibition Foundation held at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington and at the Indianapolis Art Museum. The Society also participated in the National Portrait Gallery's exhibit, 'In the Minds and Hearts of the People,' by lending a number of items.

Another matching grant from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities enabled AAS to restore the oil portraits of Ellis Grey, Thomas Prince, Christopher Columbus Baldwin, Robert F. Thomas, and Bass Otis. James Bernstein of the Worcester Art Museum restored the case of the beautiful, curly walnut, tall clock which belonged to John Hancock.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has granted to AAS funds to produce a motion picture on the uses of nineteenth-century lithography. The film, prepared by Elizabeth G. Holt and Wheaton Galentine, draws heavily on our collections, but prints from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Museum of the City of New York, the Metropolitan Museum, the New-York Historical Society, and the Connecticut Historical Society have also been incorporated into the film. The movie is an excellent opportunity for the Society to make its collection of lithographs better known and to share it with a larger audience than has been heretofore possible.

The curator attended meetings of the Print Council of America in Washington in October 1973 and in Chicago in May 1974. The group of curators of American prints met in March at Colonial Williamsburg for a conference on the English influence upon American printmaking. Working from the Harvard University collection of English almanacs and the Society's American almanacs, Mrs. Bumgardner discussed English and American almanac illustrations. In October of 1973, the curator presented an illustrated lecture on views of New England stores at the Collectors Weekend at

Old Sturbridge Village. The substance of this talk was repeated for a group of Worcester women in March.

During the year ending in August, the Manuscript Department made significant progress toward its goals of organizing, arranging, cataloguing, conserving, and making available for research the resources in its care. In late spring the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a second grant which will fund departmental activities through September 1976. The grant renewal not only demonstrates the importance of our work, but should enhance the Society's ability to establish an adequate endowment for the Manuscript Department. Curator of Manuscripts William L. Joyce, and his assistant, Nancy H. Burkett, are supervising a program of cataloguing the collections which receive the greatest attention from researchers, thus providing an in-depth research tool. Further, descriptions are being prepared for uncatalogued collections in order to provide an overview of the department's holdings.

Eighteen collections were catalogued in the past year, among which were several of the best-known holdings in the repository. These include the Isaiah Thomas Papers, the Abigail Kelley Foster Papers, the United States Revolution Collection, the Mathew Carey Papers, the Nathanael Greene Papers, the John Davis Papers, and the George Bancroft Correspondence. Collection descriptions were prepared for another eighty-three collections including the William Bentley Papers, the French and Indian War Collection, the Logbook Collection, the Orderly Book Collection, the Christopher C. Baldwin Papers, and the Clara Barton Papers. Approximately 19,000 cards were added to the manuscripts card catalogue.

There has also been progress in the area of preservation of the Society's manuscripts. There is now underway a systematic effort to fumigate every manuscript item in the Kresge Manuscript Room. Similarly, as the description of collections

proceeds, each collection is evaluated from the standpoint of its physical condition. Thus, there is a continuing survey specifying the treatment each collection requires to insure its preservation and research use in the years ahead. In the past year, work has been done on the Ebenezer Parkman diary, the Robert Rogers Journal, the George Trumbull account book, the Hall Family Documents, and miscellaneous loose documents from many different collections, including the Isaiah Thomas Papers, the United States Revolution Collection, the William Oakes Correspondence, the Nathaniel P. Banks Papers, and the Mathew Carey Papers. There is also a provision for systematic replacement of manuscript boxes and inclusion of all loose items in acid-free folders.

Research use of the department increased during the year. Two hundred and sixty reader days were recorded in the twelve-month period, up from the approximately two hundred reader days recorded in the previous year.

The program and procedures devised at the outset of the term of the first NEH grant have been under continuing scrutiny and review. This review has led to the abandonment of writer lists as a finding aid to the Society's manuscripts, the elaboration of filing rules as the manuscript card catalogue fills with cards, small changes in departmental cataloguing rules, and a decision to pursue in the immediate future the preparation of descriptions of collections rather than item cataloguing. Many of the largest, most widely used of the Society's manuscript collections are now catalogued; it remains now to press ahead with the collection descriptions to achieve an overview of the department's holdings.

The staff responsible for this activity in the past year included Mr. Joyce and Mrs. Burkett, clerk-typist Paula S. Jakubiak, and student assistant Timothy C. Reiner, Mary M. McManus, Benjamin L. Woodbury, Jonathan O. Phelps, and interns from Worcester State College. It should be noted that apart from his other activities, Mr. Joyce completed his

doctoral dissertation on 'Editors and Ethnicity: A History of the Irish-American Press, 1848-1883' and was awarded the degree of doctor of philosophy from the University of Michigan.

Joyce Ann Tracy presented herself for duty as the Curator of Newspapers on the first day of September 1973, thus initiating work in a department of the library which has experienced a phenomenal growth in collections and in readers over the past several years. Miss Tracy is our first academically and professionally trained, full-time exploiter of this enormous scholarly resource. This work of the Society has been made possible through the energy and enthusiasm of Richard C. Steele, chairman of the Newspaper Committee of the AAS Development Committee and the generous response from his colleagues of the newspaper community in the amount of \$188,800, cold cash. Beyond that, the Stoddard Charitable Trust provided us with \$10,000 to be expended during the first year of operations.

So, Miss Tracy has begun work toward the goals of cataloguing and preserving the post-1820 collection, preparing it for better control and easier use by staff and patrons, and for development through acquisitions and 'weeding.'

Miss Tracy is gathering information on special forms by examining each newspaper file and is recording full title, periodicity, dates of each issue held, condition of the file, known holdings in other libraries, and whether or not on microfilm. New catalogue cards have been made which indicate each issue of each title that is held by AAS for the states of Alabama, California, Indiana, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

Issues of titles which are dated, in general, after 1876 are being readied for distribution to other libraries. Long runs of a title are listed and will be moved later.

Since perfect preservation of each item is economically, if not physically, impossible, unbound issues or volumes in poor condition are placed in acid-free folders. Additions to

the collections are fumigated and control of temperature and humidity are the most useful aids to preservation known at the moment. Newspapers in extremely poor condition will be laminated in mylar or are being mended.

Use of the newspapers has been steady throughout the year, but was particularly heavy during the summer. The regular flow of letters of inquiry was notably increased during February and April after an article by Daniel Haney on the AAS newspaper collection appeared in newspapers around the nation. This activity resulted in a few additions to the collection. A letter to historical societies also brought forth several gifts of newspapers; e.g., the Oneida Historical Society, Utica, New York; Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union which gave us Patton and Yundt's proposal to publish the *Baltimore Intelligencer* as well as a fine run for 1793-1794; or the Northampton, Massachusetts, Historical Society. Gifts from the Morrisson-Reeves Library of Richmond, Indiana, which transferred to AAS a great file of the Cincinnati *Liberty Hall*, 1831-1850; and the Free Library of Morristown, New Jersey, indicate the usefulness of the previous year's letter to public libraries. We intend to follow these letters with another to college and university libraries. Academic institutions such as Yale and the University of Maine, as well as friends such as Karl J. R. Arndt, Roger Butterfield, and Frederick B. Farrar provided us with unusual and helpful additions to our holdings. A total of twenty-six volumes and about 300 issues were added through gifts.

Miss Tracy is active participant in planning for the micro-reproduction of Massachusetts' newspapers. She also attended the annual meeting of the Special Libraries Association in Toronto. Also, the Librarian of the Society serves on the Advisory Committee of the Organization of American Historians to revise Winifred Gregory's *Union List of Newspapers*, published in 1937. Miss Tracy was assisted in the department by Audrey T. Zook.

Acquisitions to the general collections of the Society were of satisfactorily high quality, despite the decidedly unsettled condition of the rare book market. Incidentally, it may well be that institutions with the funds to buy now will be able to do so much more advantageously than in the recent past. The Society added 4,405 titles to the collections, of which 1,240 were gifts. For the period before 1821 we acquired 437 pieces, nearly half of them by gift. The average cost of these books was more than \$70 apiece. Nineteenth-century materials accounted for half of the total accessions, numbering 2,287 titles at an average cost of \$25 each. Modern or late nineteenth-century works of scholarship and local history numbered 1,684 titles and averaged in price \$12.50. In addition, we subscribed to 525 serial titles, forty of which were new to the collections.

We have made reference to a number of substantial gifts of newspapers elicited by letter or by publicity, but other kinds of material were received which deserve notice. Among them two donations in particular stand out because of their interest and usefulness. Martha Jane Brown and her sister, Bernice Brown Goldsberry, gave to the Society a collection of manuscripts, books, and an oil portrait, all of which have descended to them through the Browns, a free black family. They have resided on Palmer Street in Worcester since the 1840s. The portrait of a member of the Moore family was painted in 1826 by William Codman. It is a fine picture and is a wonderfully interesting and valuable addition to known examples of early American, black portraiture. The manuscripts consist of a variety of letters; a notarized certificate dated about 1800 attesting to the freedom of John Moore, the patriarch of the family; genealogical notes; and business matters. The books include a number of items which are evocative of family life as well as being useful additions to the Society's holdings.

The First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Worcester made a very generous gift which permitted AAS to

purchase 134 separately published laws of the first four Congresses of the United States.

By a special act of Congress in December 1814, the Society was made a depository of federal documents. At that time we received a large and varied collection of printed matter pertaining to the United States government, many of which later were unavailable to the Library of Congress. Thus, we have had for a century and a half extremely important holdings of government documents, a collection which we continue to improve and enlarge. AAS is still a depository library, one of only a handful in the nation so designated by particular legislation.

In the 1790s, individual laws were printed upon enactment for distribution to the president, the secretary of state, each senator and representative, and two to be sent to each state for publication in the newspapers. Additional copies were printed for certain state officials and government agencies, so that the total printing for an important law might run as high as 300 or more copies. Such copies, called 'slip laws,' were not intended for public dissemination and government officials seldom kept them for long; thus, their rarity. The Library of Congress does not have a complete set, nor does any other library. The collection of 'slip laws' which AAS has acquired is the largest to come into the market in many years and it fills in a large gap in our collection of legal documents, surely making our holdings comparable to those in Washington.

The laws in this collection fall within the period 1790-1796. Of the First Congress, second session, the collection consists of about half the laws passed; of the Second Congress, first session, about three quarters; of the Third Congress, both sessions, virtually complete; and of the Fourth Congress, first session, nearly complete. All these acts of Congress were printed by Childs and Swaine, first in New York and later in Philadelphia after the government moved south in 1791.

Examples of some of the most significant of these laws are: the first American copyright law (May 31, 1790); Hamilton's act providing for the funding of the debt of the United States (August 4, 1790); an act to regulate trade and intercourse with Indian tribes (July 22, 1790); the first law establishing a uniform rule for naturalization (March 26, 1790); the act authorizing the President to call out the militia (May 2, 1792); the act establishing a federal mint and regulating coins of the U.S. (April 2, 1792); the act creating the Post Office and Post Roads (February 20, 1792); the act setting forth presidential succession (March 1, 1792); the act to provide a naval armament (March 24, 1794); an act prohibiting the slave trade from the U.S. to any foreign place or country (March 22, 1794); and the Public Land Act of 1796 (May 18) providing for the sale of U.S. Lands in the Northwest Territory.

A gift of manuscripts, books, and memorabilia came to AAS from Edward J. Bennett, a descendant of our founder Isaiah Thomas. Mr. Bennett's gift included a copy of the 1791 folio *Holy Bible* published by Thomas and owned by Isaiah Thomas, Jr. The genealogical pages, included in nearly all Bibles of this period, are inscribed with the vital records of the younger Thomas's family. Also, in the gift was a charming sterling silver reward of merit awarded to Isaiah III, by Dow Academy for his excellence in writing.

The General Artemas Ward Memorial Museum in Shrewsbury invited us to take to AAS whatever printed and manuscript material persisted within the confines of the attic of the ancient residence of the revolutionary general. Thus, on a snowy and cold March day, we mounted the stairs, armed with a lantern, to the upper story. There, we found a fine lot of material which supplements the manuscripts AAS obtained many years ago from the same source. One scarce and significant printed item was related to Artemas Ward's involvement with the American Revolution. On September 16, 1776, the

Continental Congress passed a resolution calling for eighty-eight battalions to be raised to fight the war. The broadside which published the resolution to the colonies was printed by John Dunlap in Philadelphia. It is recorded in Evans's *American Bibliography* as item 15167. Another copy is located at New York Public Library. This is but one example of several scarce broadsides which pertained to early military and political affairs. Among other printed pieces, we were particularly pleased with the text of the unrecorded *Judgment Anthem* written by Daniel Belknap and published in 1810 by Herman Mann of Dedham.

Andrew K. Peters of Amherst sent to us an orderly book kept in 1780 by Lt. Col. Andrew Peters and Maj. Joseph Pettengill during the American Revolution. It is the final increment of a gift begun in 1947 by Mr. Peters's father, Charles A. Peters. The series consists of three volumes of military records kept by Peters, Pettengill, and Brigade Maj. Samuel Carr during 1779-1780, in the Ninth and the Fifteenth Massachusetts Infantry Regiments.

Mary Gage Rice has been interested in the Society for many years and continues her generous habit of giving AAS useful research materials. Among a number of things which derived from the estate of her late husband, Albert W. Rice, or from her own family was an unrecorded miniature (but thick) volume of Robert Burns's *Poems* published by O. C. Greenleaf of Boston in 1808. Before leaving this greatly abbreviated listing of useful gifts, we should mention another scarce book, a novel entitled *The Regulators* by Isaac McLellan. McLellan, a poet included in Foley's galaxy of American writers (but not in Blanck's), published his tale in Boston by Jones Publishing House in 1848. The title is not recorded by Foley or Lyle Wright. Our copy, which was given by Benjamin Tighe, lacks all pages after 42. We do not know of another example.

There were a number of other important gifts made to the

Society. We reported some months ago the arrival of the first books in Michael Papantonio's collection of American bindings; later in the year Christopher Collier of Orange, Connecticut, gave AAS a large collection of children's books which he received from the estate of Lydia Robinson Slater; Mrs. Alden P. Johnson and Mrs. H. Dunscombe Colt gave books from their late husbands' libraries; we cannot mention all donors of books and manuscripts in this space, but to each the Society is grateful indeed.

Turning now to materials purchased on endowed funds, of particular interest was a fine set of Alexander Wilson's pioneering work, *American Ornithology*, printed in Philadelphia by Bradford and Inskeep, 1808-1814, in nine volumes. It was purchased on the John Thomas Lee Fund. So, too, was Ira Allen's answer to his New York State adversaries over the future of the New Hampshire Grants entitled *Some Miscellaneous Remarks, and Short Arguments, on a Small Pamphlet, dated in the Convention of the Representatives of the State of New-York, October 2, 1776* (Hartford: Ebenezer Watson, 1777). This pamphlet is recorded by Evans as 15234.

Two uncommon imprints which pertain to religious matters were obtained. The earlier was issued in New Bern, North Carolina, in 1762. Written by Thomas Nicholson (1715-1780), it is entitled, *An Epistle to Friends in Great Britain, to whom is the Salutation of my Life, in the Unchangeable Truth*. Mr. Nicholson's address is hortative, calling his friends lost in sin to follow Christ. It was purchased on the John Thomas Lee Fund and is recorded as Evans 9221. A very interesting document of great importance is in the American history of the Hawaiian Islands. It is the printing of the *Constitution of the Original Hawaiian Church* founded by the first American missionaries to the Islands; the first organized American presence in the fiftieth state. The four-page pamphlet is signed in type by the first members of the Congregational Church which was established at Honolulu and Kailua

in 1819. Presumably, the pamphlet was printed in Hartford or Boston on October 15, 1819. Purchased on the Henry F. DePuy Fund, we have not found a bibliographical record of this fundamental Hawaiian document.

Three printed pieces relating to black history are worthy of notice. The earliest of those to be reported here is addressed *To the Free Africans and Other Free People of Color in the United States* by the Abolition Societies in the United States on May 9, 1797. It was printed soon thereafter by Zachariah Poulson, Jr., in Philadelphia (Bristol 9828). A folio sheet is required to hold the several items of good advice offered by the abolitionists to the blacks, all designed to promote their happiness, godliness, and ultimate freedom. In January 1809 Henry Sipkins, a descendant of Africa, delivered *An Oration* in the African Church in New York City on the abolition of the slave trade. The pamphlet was printed by John C. Totten that same year. (Shaw & Shoemaker 18618.) Forty years later the Mechanics and Laboring-Men of Louisville, Kentucky, met and adopted an *Address to the Non-Slave Holders of Kentucky* which was published in Louisville in April of 1849. In their address the working men urged their fellow citizens to abolish slavery in Kentucky because not only were blacks MEN deprived of their human rights, also the demands of slave owners upon their slaves violated the rights of all laboring people. This was purchased on the John Thomas Lee Fund.

The rivers of the continent have played a major role in opening up the nation and serve as unifying strands within communities rather than as barriers. This is demonstrated by two 1797 publications emanating from opposing extremes of the nation. In the Lake Champlain Valley trade naturally flows north to St. John on the Richelieu River and then on to Montreal and Quebec City. The route works equally well in the other direction. Because an international boundary intervenes, troublesome regulations on both sides of it are thought

necessary. Thus, customs officials write up voluminous reports and are well paid to do so. In August 1797 the Governor's Council of Lower Canada determined the rates of pay due customs officials for inspecting each type of vehicle and contents passing through St. John to the United States. The schedules were printed and exist in two forms. Apparently, this was printed about 1800 by Pierre Edward Desbarats of Quebec City (Tremaine 1047). At the other end of the great interior waterway lies New Orleans, guarding the gates of the Mississippi River Valley. There, the Governor of Louisiana, Baron Francisco de Carondelet, convinced that the Americans were about to descend the great river and drive his Spanish government into the sea, issued a Proclamation on May 31, 1797, to rally the people of the city to guard themselves well and to be ready for war. His fears, which earlier had found expression in stirring up the Indians and intriguing with Kentuckians who were interested in establishing an independent government in the Old Southwest, were overstated. Because of the resulting strained relations between Spain and the United States, de Carondelet was removed from office not long after issuing this broadside which was printed on the government press in New Orleans. The text is in French. The folio broadside is not found to be common (Hummel 769, Evans 48168), copies being located at the Bancroft Library and at Tulane University. By 1819 steam navigation had become sufficiently common as to require legal supervision. Thus, Chancellor James Kent of New York issued *Decrees . . . deciding the Navigation of New-Jersey, to the Waters of [New York]*. These opinions delivered in the New York Court of Chancery were issued in a 20-page pamphlet in 1819 which does not appear to be entered in the bibliographies. The three pieces were acquired with income from the John Thomas Lee Fund.

Among the examples of Indian captivity, that of Mary Jenison is among the most well-known and longest-lived.

James E. Seaver's story of her life was first published in 1824 in Batavia, New York, and was published until well into the twentieth century. We had the first and many later editions, but not the second which was issued by William Seaver in Batavia in 1842. We bought two variants of that edition, on the Lee Fund, in a collection of upstate-New York imprints. Both are copyright in 1842 and carry that date on their title pages. However, one carries the statement, 'Second Edition,' which indicates that the first printing sold very well. They were the most interesting of several additions to our holdings from that collector, a man whose contacts with AAS went back forty years to the days of Clarence Brigham and R. W. G. Vail.

A considerable amount of scarce American fiction was acquired. Several titles by Emerson Bennett and Newton M. Curtis were obtained which materially improved our holdings of those two authors. Other works included the first edition of the famous novel *The Clockmaker; or the Sayings and Doings of Sam Slick, of Slickville* by Thomas Chandler Haliburton, which was published in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1836. It is satisfying to have the original edition of this volume of classic, down-east humor which was purchased on the George Watson Cole Fund. It joins at AAS an excellent array of other popular works from the hand of Judge Haliburton. Among unrecorded examples of fiction we note such great works as *The Mysterious Huntsman, a Tale of Illinois* (Lewisburg, Pa., 1850) and *Ori, The Foundling: or The Mysteries of Utica* (Utica, N.Y., 1850). Both were acquired on the Henry F. DePuy Fund. Another imprint which had a notable impact upon American readers was William Russell's *Recollections of a Policeman. By Thomas Waters* (New York: Cornish, Lamport & Co., 1852). Not only is this an early example of detective fiction, the AAS copy is a very scarce, early reprint of a famous English book. This was purchased on the George Watson Cole Fund.

Among the uncommonly found examples of American fiction recorded in Lyle Wright's bibliographies were John Hovey Robinson's *Silver-Knife, or The Hunter of the Rocky Mountains* (Boston, 1850), I Wright 2140; and *Tippletonia and the Countries Adjacent* (Terre Haute, 1854), a temperance tale set in a mythical country (a map of which appears in the book), I Wright 2517. Both volumes were acquired through the exchange of duplicate material.

We did not, of course, ignore James Fenimore Cooper. The most important acquisition was made at an Amsterdam auction when we purchased a copy of the 1829 Paris edition of *The Borderers, or, The Wept of Wish-Ton-Wish*. The copy which we obtained on the exchange fund still possessed the half title of all three volumes. On the verso of each was printed, 'The present Edition was printed at Florence during the author's residence in that city.' A request to the Houghton Library brought us Xerox copies of a number of miscellaneous pages from that copy of *The Wept of Wish-Ton-Wish* (Florence: Dante's Head, 1829). Comparison in our Hinman Collator showed that the sheets were identical. Thus, the Paris, Galignani 'edition' is an issue of the Florentine sheets with a substituted half-title and title page. Also acquired during the year was a copy of the English language edition of Cooper's *Letter . . . to Gen. Lafayette, on the Expenditure of the United States of America* (Paris, 1831) which preceded an edition of the same text, translated into French and published in 1832. This was purchased on the George Watson Cole Fund. An unusual edition of *The Last of the Mohicans* was obtained; the Russian translation the title of which reads (transliterated) *Poslednii iz Mogikan* (Moscow, 1833) in four volumes. John Thomas Lee Fund.

Three rare examples of American poetry came our way. The earliest was a copy of *A Brief Review of the Campaigns in America, from the year 1755 to 1760* (Boston: Fowle and Draper, 1760), Evans 8556, by Joseph Fisk. The 36-page,

very interesting narrative poem relates episodes of the French and Indian War. The AAS copy is unique and was purchased on the Harriette Merrifield Forbes Fund.

Apparently unique is a folio broadside printing of *Serious Thoughts on Sudden Death. A Poem, occasioned by the drowning of six men by the oversetting of a boat in Lake Champlain, near Split Rock* (Bennington: Haswell & Russell, 1787), McCorison 131. This lengthy poem was advertised in the *Vermont Gazette* of March 19, 1787. The Harriette Merrifield Forbes Fund.

Another purchase on the Forbes Fund was still one more unrecorded broadside, a printing of a poem by Jonathan Fisher, *Elegy, on the Death of Mrs. Marianna Burr* (Leominster, Mass., 1799). Fisher was the Bluehill, Maine, minister and artist whose work has recently been rediscovered by the New York art historians. Earlier, Fisher published this elegiac poem, with another on the death of Rebekah Walker, at Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1796, just after receiving his Harvard M.A. and moving to Bluehill. This dispersion of his publications is typical of his life, for his energies and talents were far flung.

Turning now from literature to technology and labor, we note four acquisitions which point to the increasingly prevalent organization and formalizing of the labor movement. The earliest of this group is the *Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order of the Working Men's Protective Union*, instituted in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, in May 1847. John Thomas Lee Fund. The Buffalo, New York, Seaman's Union was organized in March 1863, and its *Constitution and By-Laws* were published in 1864. The exchange fund. Printers working at James Osgood's Heliotype Printing Office of Boston were instructed in their duties by means of a miniature broadside, appropriate to the Heliotype medium, in 1874. In Norwich, Connecticut, printers there organized the Norwich Typographical Union in September 1869, and published their

Constitution and Rules of Order in the same year. John Thomas Lee Fund.

In 1852 the American Engineering Society of New York commissioned Charles Caesar to publish a folio volume of plates entitled *Collection of Drawings in Detail of the Most Approved Construction of American Machinery*. The lithographic plates were beautifully executed by Nagel & Weingaertner and constitute an important source for the state of technological practice of the mid-nineteenth century. We purchased this on the Isaac and Edward Davis Fund. Another revealing book in the development of taste and technology is George C. Mason's, *The Application of Art to Manufactures* (New York: Putnam, 1858). It contains designs for a number of different items, including hollow ware, porcelain, and statuary. Also, Mason discusses various methods of manufacturing and finishing.

A very interesting pamphlet, following as it does Rufus Porter's pamphlets on aircraft, is Solomon Andrews's description of his *Aeron, or Flying Ship* which he issued in 1866. For some time we have had a copy of his 1865 proposals to form a manufacturing company to build the Aereon and we are glad to add this pioneering aeronautical item through the exchange fund.

In February 1799 the legislature of Massachusetts passed into law a bill empowering the citizens of Boston to establish a board of health. The first board of health in this country was appointed in Baltimore in 1792 by the Governor of Maryland. Thus, the Boston Board represents an early expression of public concern over sanitary conditions of our cities. Paul Revere was the first chairman of the Boston board. We obtained on the Lee Fund a copy of the broadside printed by Young and Minns promulgating the law. It is not recorded in the bibliographies to which we have access.

A remarkable acquisition pertaining to medical history is by Thomas White Ruble. Ruble was a physician practicing

on the Kentucky frontier early in the nineteenth century. His book entitled *The American Medical Guide* was published in Richmond, Kentucky, by Eli Harris for the author. Although the book is recorded in Austin's *Early American Medical Imprints* as number 1629 and is located at the National Library of Medicine, it has not received credit as the earliest medical book published in the western country. Rather, Peter Smith's *Indian Doctor's Dispensatory* (Cincinnati, 1813) has held the honors which now must be yielded. AAS has copies of both Ruble and Smith. John Thomas Lee Fund.

Of the juvenalia acquired we shall mention an 1813, Philadelphia edition of William Charles's nicely engraved little book, *The Forty Thieves*, which predates by four years the edition cited by d'Alté Welch. It came in a volume with four other titles of the same period all of which were scarce and bound up in this century. This was purchased on the Lee Fund.

An earlier, but well recorded, children's book was bought on the Henry F. DePuy Fund. It is the first American edition of Martin Luther's *Kleine Catechismus* which was published for Lutherans living in Pennsylvania by Christopher Saur of Germantown in 1744 (Evans 5426). Henry F. DePuy Fund.

A welcome addition to our music collection was made by the purchase of John Armstrong's *Pittsburgh Selection of Psalm Tunes: or, Ancient Church Music Revived*, published by Cramer, Spear & Eichbaum of Pittsburgh in 1816. Listed in the aborted Goucher bibliography, the book was known only by the title page deposited for copyright purposes at the Library of Congress. It is so noted in McMurtrie's list of Pittsburgh imprints. Another unusual musical piece is *The Jovial Songster: Continuing a Variety of Patriotic and Humorous Songs*. Ours is the fourth edition published in New York by John Harrison in 1798. No earlier examples are known to exist; thus, it takes on importance as an uncommon eighteenth-century American songster. It, too, was purchased on

the Lee Fund. Still concerned with musical matters, we were happy to add to AAS holdings a broadside *Catalogue of Vocal and Instrumental Music*, for Sale by John Ashton & Co. It was issued about 1830 in Boston. The George Ellis Fund provided the wherewithal for the purchase.

While on the topic of sales catalogues we may mention another broadside, this one issued by Abraham Isaac of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who proposed to sell at auction on Tuesday, the 26th of April, 1791, a collection of books. Although the catalogue is not recorded in McKay, the sale was advertised in George Jerry Osborne's *New Hampshire Spy* of April 20, 1791. Our copy was turned up by an enterprising Westmoreland, New Hampshire, bookseller who soaked the broadside out of a ruined binding. We acquired this on the exchange fund. Also of interest to the bibliographically inclined will be *Duane's* [William & Son] *Catalogue of Books and Stationery, for 1803-4* (Washington, 1803) which has hitherto escaped notice. In Boston in 1833 or 1834 Leonard C. Bowles issued a substantial *Catalogue of Books for Juvenile Librarians and Sunday Schools* from his store at 141 Washington Street and in 1838 the Boston Type Foundry issued a *Condensed Specimen Book*. They are welcome additions to AAS holdings, all made possible by the John Thomas Lee Fund income.

From time to time we are able to purchase a good binding to add to the Papantonio collection. A particularly nice one arrived in polished calf with anchors in gilt down the spine and an attractive roll on the edges of the covers. The book itself is of interest. It is *An Inaugural Essay on Yellow Fever, as it Appeared in [New York] City in 1795*, by Alexander Hosack (New York: T. & J. Swords, 1797), Evans 32283, and is the dedication copy presented by Hosack, a professor of medicine at King's College (Columbia College), to Dr. John Bard, the dedicatee. Henry F. DePuy Fund.

Of the engravings and lithographs added to the collections during the past year we were particularly pleased with a fine

copy of *Views of the City of Burlington, New Jersey* by John Collins (Burlington, 1847), Henry F. DePuy Fund, and with [William] *Hunter's Eastern Township Scenery, Canada East* (Montreal: John Lovell, 1860). John Thomas Lee Fund. Also, a copy of *The Hornet and the Peacock, or, John Bull in Distress*, engraved cartoon of 1813, executed by Amos Doolittle to celebrate an American naval victory was a happy find, representing as it does a proof state, before lettering. The caricature depicts the American *Hornet* stinging a weeping half-peacock, half-bull. The hornet speaks to the peacock-bull, "Free Trade & Sailors rights, you old Rascal!" In the background *The Peacock* sinks beneath the waves. Henry F. DePuy Fund.

So, it has been a satisfactory year for acquisitions which was materially helped by the dispersal of a considerable amount of duplicates or out-of-scope materials. The proceeds from the sale of that material went directly into the purchase of books, some of which were described above.

The generosity of friends and members of the Society continues to be a source of encouragement and strength. During the past year a total of \$440,750 in cash or pledges were made to the principal resources of the Society. The development fund now stands at \$2,626,815. During the past fiscal year we closed out the building construction account. Expenditures totaled \$1,197,026. We believe that the building is in a condition which will meet our full needs for the foreseeable future.

AAS received \$7,500 through bequests, bringing the equivalent total of bequests to \$913,315 over the past several years.

One hundred and thirty-five AAS members, joined by 133 friends, gave \$28,054 for current expenses of the Society, down \$1,737 from a year ago. In addition, the Stoddard Charitable Trust provided AAS with \$10,000 as a start-up fund for the Newspaper Department. Beyond these gifts,

various persons and foundations, and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare gave \$22,983 for the purchase of books and periodicals. The Gridiron Foundation awarded us \$10,000 for the publication of our bicentennial volume, *The Press and the American Revolution*. A number of friends of Clifford K. Shipton gave a total of \$3,120 in his memory for the publication of his index to the AAS *Proceedings*, 1813-1960. Another major gift, \$17,500, for publications was received from the George I. Alden Trust to support the editorial work of a book identifying typographical ornaments, a volume to be published in honor of the late Alden P. Johnson. From the National Endowment for the Humanities we received during this past fiscal year \$163,222 for various projects which directly advance the normal work of the Society. So, it has not been a bad year; except for the fact that inflation and the demands of our work outrun our resources. We cordially thank each loyal supporter of the work of the Society.

In fact, it has been a very busy and productive year. The Council believes that the Society is fulfilling its promise and its function as an agency within our society which works to enlarge the minds of ourselves and our fellow citizens. To continue to do so in a useful fashion we trust that the American Antiquarian Society will merit your continued, generous concern.

Marcus A. McCorison

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