

The Report of the Council

October 17, 1973

DURING the past year or more the American Antiquarian Society has undergone marked changes—changes which have been designed to permit us to more effectively accomplish our long established objectives of collecting and preserving the printed record of our country, as well as disseminating the historical knowledge garnered from our ‘literary antiquities.’ This report of our one hundred and sixty-first year will describe some of these outward changes.

As startling as these changes may seem to us, they must be juxtaposed against the enormous changes through which American society has passed during the generation following World War II. The impact of rising expectations within the entire and growing population for the benefits from radical technological alterations in modes of human labor and communication has excited desires for greater economic return for work, for elevated social status, for wider participation in social, political, and economic decision making, and for universally better and more public higher education. AAS is subject to these movements within the larger society and we must make response to those pressures.

The tensions which have come into play between public desires and the traditional ways of administering a research library are frequently intense, for we have accepted a task which is contradictory. For example, on each occasion that a book is read or consulted in some small way it is destroyed. Yet, our task is not only to collect and to preserve but to

broadcast knowledge for the benefit of mankind. We attempt to compromise our dilemma by shaping our services to a group of persons whose use of the Society's materials, we earnestly hope, will benefit the largest number of people; that is to say, to readers whose intelligence, imagination, and skill are such that the use of data contained in unique manuscripts or printed matter will result in more than strictly individual training or pleasure.

I believe that such a policy is necessary. Past generations of members and staff of the Society as well as past generations of our fellow citizens have given of their time, their goods, their protection, and their encouragement that this institution might exist and grow in order to serve the people of our nation. In 1973 readers come to AAS expecting to be served and our duty is to help them understand their day upon earth, just as it is our duty to preserve our portion of the baggage of the past for the use of generations yet to come.

In this task we must both respond to the needs of the day, yet not surrender our trust for the future. The dichotomy between these demands makes the job of a learned society trying indeed. Who wishes their institution to appear to be standing in the path of progress, impeding scholarship, or seemingly to be indifferent to the training of our young, or to be accused of providing services only to the socially acceptable? These are the charges sometimes brought against institutions such as ours. Our limited, although important, responsibilities prompt such thoughts among the populace, as do our policies on readership. To continue to hold the good will and trust of the public, such charges must be answered during each generation in terms which are acceptable to the public as well as to the purposes of the institution.

Beyond the expectations of our fellow citizens and readers, our staff entertains hopes for the future. They should like to see a professionally trained staff large enough to handle the work of the Society. Their salaries are again slipping below

the norm for Worcester librarians. Fewer and fewer people of any age group are willing to work at the minimum wage and we have had little success in attracting volunteers to AAS to perform useful work.

Thus, we attempt through our development program to find the funds which will allow the Society to not only meet the problems of inflation but to enable the Society to perform more effectively its basic tasks of collecting, preserving, and disseminating. This effort in recent months has been centered primarily upon the latter purposes of AAS. The enlargement and changes in the building were specifically designed to allow more efficient staff work, to improve facilities for better regulation of readers' activities, to markedly increase environmental controls within the building for the preservation of collections, and last but not least to provide a decor which would enhance the beauty of the original architecture as well as give a sense of the contemporary. I believe that, after a year's experience, it can be said that the goals for the building have been achieved. Although our dealings with readers are much more formal than in the past they are coming to a point where we can better regulate and account for the use of scarce materials without impeding to a great extent the readers' access to the materials.

The Worcester Beautification Council of the Worcester Area Chamber of Commerce chose the Society's building as one of six recipients of awards in 1973. Through the excellent work of our building superintendent, Donald K. Strader, and his assistant, Ralph E. Greiner, we are making a successful effort to maintain the building and equipment in good, clean condition. We expect that this will prolong the life of the same and in the long run save money. The new facilities are much more sophisticated than those of the past and they require a high degree of skill in their maintenance. Fortunately, Messrs. Strader and Greiner are entirely capable of performing this work.

We are now in the process of organizing the library staff which has grown from fourteen persons ten years ago to twenty-two today with six others present through special funding. A realignment of staff services is directly dependent upon more funds. In the recent past, Miss Brown and her assistants in Readers' Services alone were in charge of service for books, manuscripts, newspapers, and graphic arts. Several years ago through the generosity of three members of the Society we obtained the services of a curator of prints and have since carried that added position on our regular, operating funds. In October 1972, by means of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we engaged a small staff to reorder our collection of manuscripts and to assist the readers of them. Last month a Curator of Newspapers reported for work. Thus, we are attempting to provide professionally trained staff members in various collections of the library to deal directly with them and the readers who use them.

To pay for this expanded staff work we have established four temporary committees within the Development Committee. Each will raise an endowment of \$500,000, which will be used to fund the costs of salary, acquisitions, preservation, and administration in each department. Richard C. Steele is chairman of a committee whose task is to find funds for the Newspaper Department. After receiving two expendable gifts for the inauguration of the curatorship, his group, made up of seventeen newspaper publishers, has obtained pledges of \$100,000, of which \$80,250 is already in the endowment fund.

The newly appointed Curator of Newspapers is Joyce Ann Tracy of Ellsworth, Maine. Miss Tracy is a 1954 graduate of the University of Maine (B.A. in romance languages and history with highest distinction) and the University of Wisconsin, 1957, with supportive courses in American and Russian history. She earned her M.S. in librarianship at the University of Washington in 1962. Between 1954 and 1961, she taught social studies and French in the Maine high school system; from

1962-63 was an assistant reference librarian at Sacramento State College; in 1963-68 a cataloguer at Bowdoin College library; and from 1968 to 1972 was assistant, associate editor, and editor of the *Canadian Periodical Index*. Miss Tracy is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the American Library Association, and the Canadian Library Association. Her duties will be to complete cataloguing of the nineteenth-century newspapers and to assist readers of that material. Later, she will extend her attention to our collections of periodicals. This work is funded, at present, by gifts from the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Inc., and the Stoddard Charitable Trust.

Everett L. DeGolyer is chairman of a newly formed committee whose responsibility is to establish a similar fund for the Manuscript Department. This program has three more years of funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities on a grant at present of \$51,840. We intend to establish an endowment which will allow us to make permanent on the staff a Curator of Manuscripts.

William L. Joyce and his staff are now preparing general descriptions as well as finding aids, such as writer lists and contents lists, for the collections. In all, ninety-seven collections have been so described and processed. Additionally, twenty-eight collections have been catalogued and work is going forward on such important collections as the Isaiah Thomas Papers, the Abigail Kelley Foster Papers, the Matthew Carey Papers, and the United States Revolution Collection. A conservation program for the Society's manuscripts has also been started. Approximately two hundred and fifty readers were served in the past year. The Assistant Curator is Nancy H. Burkett, a graduate of Boston University and the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Library Service. She was on the staff of the School of Architecture and Fine Arts, University of Southern California, from 1969 to 1971. Natalie Pastore, an assistant in the department, resigned to take a position in the public school system.

The membership was informed a year ago of the receipt of The Andrew W. Mellon Fund of \$300,000, the gift of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. During this past year, the income from that fund was used to defray the costs of our Visiting Fellows program. The Council voted at its April meeting to use the income from the fund, as of the first of September 1973, to establish The Andrew W. Mellon Curatorship of Graphic Arts. The present incumbent is Georgia B. Bungardner, who has been on our staff since 1968 and who has held the position of Curator of Prints and Maps since 1969. At present, a committee is being formed whose purpose will be to accumulate another \$200,000 to augment The Mellon Fund in order to provide full support for work in the graphic arts at the Society. Before leaving this topic, it should be noted that since and because of the presence of a curator in that department, scholarly and other uses of AAS graphic collections have grown demonstrably and satisfyingly. We fully expect that enlargement of our services for other areas of the Society's collections will have the same results.

A fourth committee has been established under the chairmanship of John Jeppson. Their function shall be to raise an endowment of \$500,000 for the support of the Society's publication program. At present, the cost of the *Proceedings* is borne by the operating funds while the salaries of the editor and his secretary are partially defrayed by an editorial fee from Readex Microprint Corporation. Mr. Jeppson and his colleagues, beginning with an endowment which now stands at \$32,000 and which was established in 1857 by Stephen Salisbury, will gather a half-million dollar fund which will more adequately support this important area of the Society's work.

All these plans, when successfully carried through, will not only enlarge and greatly improve our ability to serve our collections and readers but will also make a decided improvement in our operating finances by relieving heavy loads upon our general, operating funds.

So, changes have and will continue to occur to our building and staff. We look forward in time to new programs which will enlarge AAS service to traditional constituents and to the public.

To shift our attention to familiar matters, I call to your attention notable library acquisitions made during the past year. Generally, it was a good year—expensive but good. This year we added 3,010 titles of which 1,097 (or, thirty-six percent) were gifts.

GIFTS

The pre-eminent gift came, or more precisely will come, from Michael Papantonio. During the past several months a selection of American bindings belonging to Mr. Papantonio has been shown at a number of libraries. In March the exhibit came to AAS. Previous to that occasion, with the help of William Spawm, we examined our own American-bound volumes and selected 550 important examples, a few of which were displayed at the time of the exhibition. Mr. Papantonio has informed us that he will give the major portion of his collection to this Society and he plans to forward to us groups of volumes from time to time. To this splendid gift will be joined our examples forming a group of volumes from which the history of American bookbinding can be studied with profit and pleasure.

A major document in the history of eighteenth-century book-selling in Boston (and perhaps America) was given to AAS by Sinclair Hamilton and Samuel R. Rosenthal. It is the manuscript account book of Jeremiah Condy, Boston bookseller and publisher of Hutchinson's *History*, dated from April 16, 1759, through November 19, 1770. It was made available to us by Richard Mills of Exeter, New Hampshire, and has been described in our April report.

We reported in the June issue of our *News-Letter* the gift to the Society by H. Dunscombe Colt of the 1719 charter of the City of New York. The importance of this document suggests

that it should be noticed here, as well. It is the second printed charter of the City, the first having come from the press of William Bradford in 1694. The edition at hand has the title *The Charter And the Several Laws, Orders & Ordinances Established by the Mayor, Recorder, Alderman and Assistants of the City of New-York . . . Published this first Day of December, . . . 1719.* (Printed and Sold by William Bradford in the City of New-York, 1719.) Other copies are located at the Henry E. Huntington Library and at the New-York Historical Society. The Society's copy belonged to the famed collector Robert Hoe. Hoe bought it for £75 at the 1888 Martin sale in London and had it bound in a grandiose style by Riviere & Son. *The Charter* was bought at the Hoe sale for \$2,500 by Herman LeRoy Edgar and at his sale held in January 1921, it brought \$2,350, with Dr. Rosenbach the underbidder at \$2,325. The purchaser was Harris D. Colt, the late father of the donor. Clearly, *The Charter* is a document important to the history of the City of New York and by extension to the history of the nation. The Society is fortunate, indeed, to have this rare edition to place beside its copy of the 1735 Zenger printing of the charter.

The Earhart Foundation made a major contribution to the library's resources, giving \$7,500 for the purchase of modern works of scholarship dealing with subjects falling within the Society's areas of interest. This was of enormous assistance to us, for it permitted us to acquire 610 volumes of these important adjuncts to the research collections without burdening our special, rare books funds. The Foundation made the gift in recognition of the fact that scholars who receive fellowships from the Foundation are dependent upon the resources of research institutions such as AAS.

AMERICANA

In October we obtained on the Isaiah Thomas Fund a very important volume of pamphlets printed in New York City in

1733 and 1734 by John Peter Zenger and by William Bradford. They are documents issued in the controversy between Rip Van Dam and Gov. William Cosby over a division of emoluments accruing to the office of governor. Van Dam was acting governor of the Colony for several months in 1731 and 1732, prior to the appointment of Cosby. Later, Van Dam with William Smith and James Alexander took up the struggle for popular rights against the royal government, a matter which finally led to Zenger's famous trial and acquittal, on a charge of a libel upon Cosby. The folio pamphlets bound into the volume are as follows:

The Arguments of the Council for the Defendant, In Support of A Plea to the Jurisdiction, Pleaded to a Bill filed in a Course of Equity, At the Suit of The Attorney General, Complainant, Against Rip Van Dam, Defendant, in the Supream Court of New-York. (New-York: John Peter Zenger, 1733.) 51pp.

The Opinion and Argument of the Chief Justice of the Province of New-York, concerning the Jurisdiction of the supream Court of the said Province, to determine Causes in a Course of Equity. The Second Edition Corrected and Amended. (New-York: John Peter Zenger, 1733.) 15pp., caption title.

Mr. [William] Smith's *Opinion Humbly Offered to the General Assembly of the Colony of New-York, One the Seventh of June, 1734. At their Request. Occasion'd by sundry Petitions of the Inhabitants of the City of New-York, Westchester County & Queens-County, to the said General Assembly, praying an Establishment of Courts of Justice within the said Colony by Act of the Legislature.* (New-York: William Bradford, 1734.) 45pp.

Mr. [Joseph] Murray's *Opinion Relating to the Courts of Justice In the Colony of New-York; Delivered to the General Assembly of the said Colony, at their Request, the 12th of June, 1734.* (New York: William Bradford, 1734.) 41 i.e. 44pp.

Heads of Articles of Complaint by Rip Vandam, Esq; Against His Excellency William Cosby, Esq; Governor of New-York, &c. To which is prefixed, Mr. Vandam's Letter sent to His Excellency with a Copy of those Articles. As Also A Letter from some of the Gentlemen of the Council of New-York, to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, . . . And A Reply to those Answers of the Gentlemen of the Council. Boston: Printed in the Year 1734. 28pp.

Surely, the latter is a false imprint. It seems to us most probable that this pamphlet, like the others, was printed in New York, although Evans takes no exception with the imprint.

Our print collections were improved by the acquisition on the Harriette Merrifield Forbes Fund of a very interesting lithographic caricature of the Reverend Mr. Ephraim K. Avery of Bristol, Rhode Island, the murderer of Sarah Cornell. It was thought to be a political cartoon concerning Andrew Jackson but proved otherwise. Entitled *A Minister Extraordinary*, the lithograph was drawn and published by Henry R. Robinson of New York in 1833. The illustration shows poor Sarah in distress, on the shore of a swamp, while the minister surrounded by devils is being rowed in a boat toward hell.

Publications relating to local history were not ignored. Charles Lucas (1792-1817) ran against John Scott for political office in Missouri in 1816. Their political differences resulted in a pamphlet written by Lucas to explain his position. He entitled it *To the People of Missouri Territory* and had it printed at the office of *The Missouri Gazette* in St. Louis. Another trans-Mississippi pamphlet purchased on the Donald McKay Frost Fund was John B. Newhall's *A Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*. Our copy is the second edition printed in Burlington, Iowa, by W. D. Skillman in the same year. The first edition, St. Louis, 1846, is not at AAS.

Moving eastward in space and later in time we reach Titusville, Pennsylvania, in 1866. It was a time and place important

in the development of the American oil industry. We purchased a *History of the Venango Oil Regions* by Charles H. Harris which describes those events and times.

Those of us resident in New England are well aware of great, red brick spinning and weaving mills which stand empty along our streams. The shift of the clothing industry from north to south began long ago as shown by this pamphlet written by E. Steadman and published in Gallatin, Tennessee, in 1858: *The Southern Manufacturer: Showing the Advantages of Manufacturing the Cotton in the Fields where it is Grown*.

The pride of American manufacturers was never so well demonstrated as at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. We long have had a considerable collection of catalogues of exhibits, guides, photographs, etc. This past year on the DePuy Fund we obtained nearly 900 leaflets, pamphlets, circulars, broadsides, and trade cards which were issued at the Exposition by manufacturers of machinery and tools.

Architectural books have always intrigued us. A new addition to our collection is of an uncommon variety: *Working Designs for Ten Catholic Churches*, published by D. & J. Sadlier in New York in 1869 from plans originated by Charles Sholl.

An unrecorded bookseller's catalogue is worthy of notice: *Tappan's Catalogue. A Catalogue of Books for Sale and Circulation* (Portsmouth, N.H., January 1, 1809). Charles Tappan was an active bookseller there for many years. Another book to be mentioned is *Specimens of Printing Types* issued by L. Johnson & Company of Philadelphia about 1858. This was purchased on the John and Eliza Davis Fund.

Also worthy of note is an early American labor document. Heretofore unnoticed in the bibliographies, it is the *Constitution of the New-York Journeymen Sail Makers Society*, an association instituted in December of 1814. The revised constitution was adopted on July 1, 1818, and was printed in a twelve-page pamphlet by Benjamin G. Jansen in 1819. The address of the members of the association clearly states that one of their

purposes was to protect themselves from 'the insults and impositions of imperious and arbitrary employers.' All members of the craft are exhorted to discipline themselves to the common goals of the group.

In 1824 there was concern abroad on the condition of prisoners held in jails. James Hardie published *The History of the Tread-Mill* in New York in 1824 as a means of showing the difficulties under which convicts worked while in prison.

E. Thomas wrote and published a book full of lurid tales of cruelty to slaves entitled *A Concise View of the Slavery of the People of Colour in the United States*. Publication took place in Philadelphia in 1834. This book and the Hardie pamphlet were purchased on the John Thomas Lee Fund.

The Social Revolutionist; a Medium for the Free Discussion of General Principles and Practical Measures, Pertaining to Human Progress was an uncommon periodical in Greenville, Ohio, published by the Rising Star Association in 1856. AAS acquired volumes one and two of this serial.

Another serial publication *The Herald of Liberty* was a newspaper published in Washington, Pennsylvania, by John Israel. The only known complete run for the year 1798-1800 of this important western Pennsylvania newspaper has been generously deposited at AAS by Malcolm McKnight for the use of scholars.

LITERATURE AND MUSIC

Acquisitions in the field of American literature were quite extensive and of considerable interest. For example, an uncommon and important Canadian poem came our way. Thomas Cary (1751-1823) was an Englishman who emigrated to Montreal in 1787. He worked there as a clerk until 1797 when he became secretary to the Governor, Robert Prescott. In 1805, Cary established the *Quebec Mercury* which persisted for a century as the organ of English conservatism in Quebec. In 1789 he published *Abram's Plains: A Poem*, a long paean to Canadian

life which was printed for him in Quebec City by William Brown. The twenty-page pamphlet was printed in quarto in an appropriately handsome style. A splendid addition to our holdings of Canadian printing, it is recorded in Tremaine's *Canadian Imprints, 1751-1800* under item number 585. She locates a single copy at the Public Library of Montreal.

Equality; or, History of Lithconia may be the earliest Utopian novel published in this country which was written by an American author. A copy of this rare book was purchased this year on the George Watson Cole Fund. The story, perhaps by Dr. James Reynolds of Philadelphia, was first published in *The Temple of Reason* in 1802, a Deistical newspaper issued by John Driscoll in Philadelphia. The first book publication is dated 1837 and it was reprinted in 1863 by J. P. Mendum of Boston. The Antiquarian Society's copy is one of a handful known. Wright, volume I, item 920A locates only the Henry E. Huntington Library copy of the Philadelphia, 1837, edition. The author describes an island in which a happy race lives in harmony; each person doing his own work, there being no distinctions of class, merit, dress, or property. A modern report of the book was issued in 1947 by A. C. Prime.

Among the earliest American novels is *The History of Constantius & Pulchra, or Constancy Rewarded: an American Novel*. The book was published in Boston in 1794. Copies are located at Indiana University and the Barrett Collection at Charlottesville. Our copy of this novel, set during the American Revolution, lacks pages 43-46 but will do very well until another copy comes along.

Three American novels not recorded in Lyle Wright's checklists of American fiction which we obtained are: Charles Chauncey Burr's *Noel Ronello. A Tale of the Present Century* (Portland, Maine, 1840); *Grace Melendy; or, The Gamester's Daughter* (Boston, 1848); *Fitz-Hern: or, The Free Flag of the Irish Seas* by A. G. Piper (Boston, 1851).

Three particularly interesting books of poetry were pur-

chased this last twelve-month. The earliest is *American Bards* by Gorham A. Worth published 'West of the Mountains' in Cincinnati in 1819. We obtained his equally uncommon *A New-Year's-Lay* (Cincinnati, 1817). Henry Schoolcraft, the important Indian agent, published a poem in Detroit in 1838, entitled *Iosco, or the Vale of Norma*. It describes a scene near Albany, New York, Schoolcraft's home as it was Worth's. The AAS copy, one of fifty printed, is inscribed by Schoolcraft to his wife. Because of our interest in Canadian literature and the history of American Loyalists we were particularly pleased to obtain a copy of *The U[nited] E[mpire], A Tale of Upper Canada* by William Kirby and published in Niagara, Ontario, in 1859.

Among the musical acquisitions was a publication of Benjamin Carr's *Evening Amusement. Containing Fifty Airs, Song's, Duett's, Dances, Hornpipe's, Reel's, Marches, Minuett's, &c.* Carr issued it in 1796 and offered it for sale at his Musical Repositories in Philadelphia, New York, and Baltimore. Somewhat later is James Newhall's *The Vocal Harmony. Containing the Rudiments of Vocal Music, ... and a Number of Original Airs.* It was published in Northampton in 1803.

An important and early unrecorded carrier's address was purchased on the George Watson Cole Fund. Apparently by John Vardill (1749-1811), the broadside is entitled, *The News-Man's Address to His Kind and Generous Benefactors, the Subscribers of the New-York Mercury ... January 1, 1765.* It was, of course, printed by Hugh Gaine.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

In May we purchased a very important, unrecorded Boston children's book, *The New-England Primer*. On typographical grounds we have assigned the printing of this example to the office of Samuel Kneeland and Timothy Green and have dated it *circa* 1741. The *Primer* is gathered in eights, signed A-D, and is paged 48, [16]. It is complete. The title page carries no imprint or date. On page [24] there appears a truncated cut of

the burning of John Rogers. This same cut appears in full in the 1735 edition of *The New-England Primer Enlarged* (Heartman 2) which was from the Kneeland and Green shop. Also, the present copy carries two type ornaments which Kneeland and Green used elsewhere during the decade of the 1740's, first in 1741, as well as another which appeared in their publications from 1729-1739. Curiously, the cuts for the alphabet in this copy do not correspond with any other primer cuts which we have been able to locate. Assuming that our conclusions are sound, this primer takes its place as number five amongst extant New England primers. Of AAS primers it rivals in importance the previously unrecorded Philadelphia, *circa* 1740, *American Primer Enlarged* which we obtained only three years ago. This was purchased on the Emma Forbes Waite Fund and with other gifts of money.

Also purchased on the Emma Forbes Waite Fund was an unrecorded children's book published by Isaiah Thomas and Alexander Thomas, a nephew and partner of the AAS founder. The little book is truly little, measuring only seven centimeters in height. Its title is *The Child's Play Book, to teach Children their Letters as soon as they can speak*. It was published in Walpole, New Hampshire, in 1798. The text of this book was printed in Boston in 1764 by Isaiah Thomas under the title of *Tom Thumb's Play Book*. A later edition published in Windsor, Vermont, in 1811 was known previously by a copy in our collections.

Two unusual engraved illustrations for children came to hand. Each is printed in folio and each is designed to be colored and embellished by the young artist. One is entitled *Rural Sports*. It is decorated with lively scenes of children at play. These are arranged around the margins of the sheet, leaving a large space in the center to contain the child's drawing of a similar scene. *Rural Sports* was published by Solomon King of New York at about the year 1825.

Some twenty years earlier in 1804 David Longworth issued

a similar engraving entitled, *The Creation A New School Piece*, which is essentially the same as *Rural Sports*, described above, but with scenes based on the Book of Genesis. At the bottom is an empty cartouche in which the child is to enter a legend describing his work. Both engravings were obtained on the John Thomas Lee Fund.

This year for the first time AAS became eligible for a grant of \$5,000 from the United States Office of Education under Title IIA of the Higher Education Act. We applied for it and received it. The money is being expended for the purchase of periodicals both current and otherwise. Retrospective purchasing has and will center on nineteenth-century American serials of any sort, while current learned journals include both the publications of national organizations as well as local historical societies.

The results of the statement which we mailed in the spring to all United States public libraries offering to collect and preserve one copy of any newspaper printed before 1877 was disappointingly meager. Yet, it may bear fruit in the future and we are considering a similar mailing to college and university libraries, as well as to historical societies.

As a final comment on acquisitions, we note a sharp diminution of the availability of materials dated before 1821, with an attendant rise in asking price. Further, the bulk of our acquisitions now fall within the period of issue of 1821-1876 whose prices are at a level at which we were accustomed to pay for eighteenth-century books. It seems logical that this condition in the market will not change soon, a situation which suggests that we should improve our ability to acquire collections while they are still available.

Preservation is the second of our essential functions and recently these problems have absorbed a good deal more of our attention than in the past. This is not to say that formerly we ignored the problem, for we did not. We have had a bindery in operation for many years and during the past six Mr. Desautels

has devoted all of his time to repair and restoration. In 1963 an air cooling and filtering system was introduced into our stacks and, of course, the newly installed facilities advance markedly our capabilities in that direction. But the technology of paper conservation has passed well beyond the point at which casual information suffices. Thus, Mr. Bauer and Mr. Desautels have attended conferences on conservation in order to become learned in the subject. Equipment in the bindery—now, I suppose, to be called the Conservation Center—has been added at great expense through the generosity of Morgan-Worcester, the Charles E. Merrill Trust, and Russell W. Knight. Our problems of preservation are acute and cannot be ignored. We require time for overall planning and a decided improvement in the supervision and execution of our preservation activities. When one considers the enormous quantity of paper which is housed here, the task seems both nearly impossible and of the first priority.

Late last fall and early winter we entertained noticeably fewer readers, although by spring the influx of readers had returned to the numbers we experienced a year ago. We believe this seasonal falling off was due to the circulation of notices warning readers of a limitation of our services because of construction and renovation. Even so, we recorded 7,025 research visits by more than 1,100 readers. They came from Leningrad in the Soviet Union; Madison, Wisconsin; San Francisco, Baton Rouge, Amsterdam in the Netherlands; Las Vegas, Syracuse, Waukesha, Tumwater, and Worcester. Subjects under investigation ranged from the making of early wallpaper to Thomas family genealogy. In general, they ranged over the entire field of American history, although one gentleman came in to re-evaluate the Society's property. Miss Brown and her staff have performed nobly in the never-ending effort to assist readers and we are grateful to them.

In our April report we announced the names of the investigators who had been named Visiting Fellows by the Com-

mittee on Fellowships and the Council. The AAS staff had as satisfying an experience with this group as we had last year and we believe that this program fills a definite need for the scholars and the staff. In the year 1974, the grants-in-aid will be funded by income from the Fred Harris Daniels Fund which now stands at \$125,000.

The Rockefeller Foundation grant to AAS and to Clark University is now operative with Maris A. Vinovskis in residence at AAS as Visiting Fellow. The subject of his research is 'Changes in Family Values and Demographic Behavior and the Urban and Industrial Development of Massachusetts, 1780-1860.'

In noting the work of the publications program of the Society we should remember that volume eighty-two of the new series of the *Proceedings* has been published. It contains over five hundred pages. Two issues of the *News-Letter* were issued while three books were published during the past year. They were reported by title in April. All this was the work of James E. Mooney, who after six years of splendid service as Editor and Assistant Director has moved on to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania where he has been appointed Assistant Director. We congratulate him, wish him and his family well, and thank him for his contributions to AAS.

His successor as Editor of Publications is John B. Hench. Since 1970 Mr. Hench has been assistant professor of history at Mankato State College, Mankato, Minnesota. Raised in Minnesota, he is a graduate of Lafayette College (A.B., honors in history, 1965), and is a Ph.D. candidate at Clark University. He worked as a library assistant at AAS in 1969-1970, and has done extensive research in the history of American journalism. He is married to the former Lea Sutera. They have two daughters, Melissa and Juliann.

Some months ago we made a casual offer to assist Robert A. Rutland, editor of the Madison Papers, in an indexing scheme which he and some of his fellow editors had begun. His plan is

to index entries in booksellers' or book auctioneers' sales catalogues of manuscripts dated in the years 1763-1815 originated by or addressed to prominent Americans. The index will be of obvious assistance to compilers of editions of the papers of America's great men. Perhaps, it should have been done a generation ago. An ad hoc financing system ran out in May and AAS discovered itself to be the recipient of another NEH grant, amounting to \$57,345, as well as serving as home to a small staff of people who are searching our book trade catalogues. The chief of the group is Helen L. Cripe, who received her doctorate from the University of Notre Dame and whose dissertation on Thomas Jefferson's musical interests has been accepted for publication by the University Press of Virginia.

The exhibition room and readers' lounge was at last completed to our satisfaction in June. Prematurely we mounted three exhibitions: acquisitions of 1971-1972, the works of James Fenimore Cooper to celebrate the one-hundredth volume published under the auspices of the Center for Editions of American Authors, and Mr. Papantonio's American bindings. Following final work we began a series of temporary exhibitions which will be changed at six-week intervals. The first was 'A Tribute to Copernicus—American Astronomy to 1835' which was followed by 'Rip Van Winkle to Huckleberry Finn: American Children's Literature in the Mid-Nineteenth Century.' At present we are showing acquisitions of 1972-1973. This work is planned and executed by Mrs. Bumgardner.

The ways and means of all of the above are dependent as they always have been upon the generosity of the members of the Society and others. Gifts for annual expenses amounted to \$29,790 and were received from 121 members and 118 friends. In addition, \$15,865 was received from members of the Society for the purchase of books. The Development Program stands now at \$2,253,437, an increase during the past fiscal year of \$553,500. This sort of generous support of all of our members is enormously gratifying to those of the Society who daily

wrestle with plans or necessities of AAS and of the finances required to pay for them.

The Council thanks Paris Fletcher and bids him a reluctant farewell from their midst. He has retired from the Society's governing body after ten years of faithful and useful counseling. His advice has always been to the point and welcome. Mr. Fletcher has been chairman of the sub-committee on bequests of the Development Committee. For all these things we are grateful.

It is our opinion that the Society is in a position of strength. Our members are loyal. The staff is imaginative and diligent. We believe that the quality of our work, following the standards laid down by our predecessors, remains high. We look forward to a solution of financial problems, through unrelenting work to build the resources necessary to keep AAS strong.

Also, we look toward the shaping of plans which will allow the Society to develop more truly into a center of advanced research in American history and culture. And, beyond that, we hope to increase our usefulness to the community at large through programs within our competence which will be designed for the lay public.

We cannot close without extending our warmest feelings of gratitude to all our colleagues in this grand and glorious enterprise, the American Antiquarian Society.

Marcus A. McCorison

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.