

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting

OCTOBER 20, 2006

ANTIQUARIAN HALL, WORCESTER

THE ONE-HUNDRED-AND-NINETY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING of the American Antiquarian Society was held in Worcester on Wednesday, October 18, through Saturday, October 21, 2006. The following members were present: Lawrence Jay Abramoff, Eleanor Snow Adams, Carolyn Alderman Allen, John B. Anderson, Charles Beach Barlow, Georgia Brady Barnhill, Robert Charles Baron, George Athan Billias, Richard David Brown, Irene Quenzler Brown, Nancy Burkett, Randall Keith Burkett, Mary Valentine Crowley Callahan, Kenneth Edward Carpenter, Scott Evan Casper, Joanne Danaher Chaison, Jeanne Yvette Curtis, Leslie Kelly Cutler, Elliot Bostwick Davis, Ronald Sears Davis, Margery MacNeil Dearborn, Alan Nash Degutis, William Phillips Densmore, Henry Bowen Dewey, Jane Kenah Dewey, James Corcoran Donnelly, Thomas L. Doughton, Ellen Cary Smith Dunlap, Dorothy Brewer Erikson, Linwood Mandeville Erskine, Mark William Fuller, John Frederick Gately, James Nathaniel Green, Robert Allen Gross, Philip Francis Gura, David Drisko Hall, Harlowe DeForest Hardinge, James Nichols Heald, Udo Jakob Hebel, William Hirsh Helfand, John Bixler Hench, John Herron, Sr., John Herron, Jr., William Newell Hosley, Cheryl Hurley, Darrell Hyder, William Leonard Joyce, Thomas Joseph Keenan, Maureen McGady Kelleher, Kate Van Winkle Keller, Wilson Henry Kimnach, Lucia Zaucha Knoles, Thomas Gregory Knoles, Marie Elaine Lamoureux, Julian Lee Lapidus, Linda Zeva Fishman Lapidus, Sidney Lapidus, Crawford Lincoln, Mason Ira Lowance, John Worth Lund, John Francis McClymer, Marcus Allen McCorison, Thomas Patrick

McDermott, Catherine Jean McDonough, Ogretta Vaughn McNeil, Martin Emil Marty, Harold Taylor Miller, Willis Jay Monie, Barrett Morgan, Kenneth James Moynihan, Donald Frederick Nelson, Thoru Pederson, Ann-Cathrine M. Rapp, William Sherman Reese, Rosalind Remer, Barnes Riznik, Andrew Whitmore Robertson, Lance E. Schachterle, William Francis Sullivan, Daniel Grant Tear, George William Tetler III, John W. Tyler, David Watters, Barbara M. Weisberg, Meridith Daniels Wesby, Susan B. Woodbury, Paul Michael Wright, and Rafia Margaret Zafar.

On Friday, October 20, 2006, at 5:00 p.m., the members convened in Antiquarian Hall for the annual meeting. Mr. Herron read the call of the meeting. Chairman Lapidés presided. The reading of the minutes of the semiannual meeting of April 22, 2006, was waived. Mr. Lapidés reported the following changes in membership.

Frank Sherwin Streeter, elected April 1971, died June 12, 2006
Leonard Williams Levy, elected April 1970, died August 24, 2006

Mrs. Hurley gave the Nominating Committee report. Proposed for election as Officers and Councillors were the following persons: Chairman (2006-2007), Julian L. Lapidés; Vice Chairman (2006-2007), Sidney Lapidus; Councillors (2006-2009), Lawrence J. Abramoff, Ogretta V. McNeil, and William S. Reese.

Mrs. Hurley then read the following resolution honoring two retiring members of the Council.

WHEREAS RUTH BRADLEE BROOKING AND ROBERT HYDE SMITH, JR., have been indispensable members of the American Antiquarian Society since 1999 and 1997 respectively and for the past six years have rendered dedicated service as members of the AAS Council; and

WHEREAS the blood, sweat, and tears RUTH DUMAINE BROOKING has expended in service to the Society includes blood in the direct line of our founder Isaiah Thomas; and

WHEREAS RUTH BRADLEE BROOKING has served as an ambassador to the growing number of Thomas descendants we have identified, now numbering over eighty; and

WHEREAS RUTH BRADLEE BROOKING and her always-supportive husband EDWARD BROOKING made donations to establish the Isaiah Thomas Descendants Fund for Acquisitions and have invited other descendants to add gifts that will continue the good work of their exalted ancestor in collecting printed Americana for this library; and

WHEREAS the cheerful RUTH BRADLEE BROOKING and her suave and witty husband EDWARD BROOKING have brought joy wherever the semiannual meetings of the Society have traveled and even provided a venue for dinner, complete with a variety of fine wines in the Napa Valley; and

WHEREAS ROBERT HYDE SMITH, JR., HAS shared his encyclopedic knowledge of people within the book world and the larger cultural community to bolster the work of AAS's Membership Committee, including his gentle encouragement to elect more members from that other city in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS ROBERT HYDE SMITH, JR., has brought to the Council his legal expertise, his keen appreciation for the inner workings of museums and all manner of other institutions, and his connoisseur's broad appreciation of the visual and decorative arts; and

WHEREAS ROBERT HYDE SMITH, JR., with his devotion to his native Hartford and in jaunty bow tie always raises the sartorial standards of the Council meetings and with his true collecting instincts and his love of books lives up to the ideals of our founder; and

WHEREAS RUTH BRADLEE BROOKING AND ROBERT HYDE SMITH, JR., have SERVED with distinction as members of the Society's Council since 2000 during a period that saw the completion of a major capital campaign, the construction of the first major book stack addition since 1950, and the digitization of major parts of the library's collections; and

WHEREAS RUTH BRADLEE BROOKING AND ROBERT HYDE SMITH, JR., now step down from their places on the Society's governing board, having completed two successive three-year terms, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Officers, Councillors, and members of the American Antiquarian Society do hereby warmly thank RUTH BRADLEE BROOKING AND ROBERT HYDE SMITH, JR., for their exemplary service to AAS, wish them success and happiness in their future endeavors, and upon the records of the Society let these sentiments be made known,

RESOLVED this twentieth day of October, two thousand six, the one-hundred-ninety-fifth year of the Society.

The resolution was greeted with spirited applause.

Mrs. Hurley then read aloud the names of the nominees for membership, and Mr. Lapidés appointed as tellers Daniel Tear and Rafia Zafar. Mr. Lapidés announced the election by ballot of the following persons to membership in the Society: John Ballinger, Peter Benes, Joshua Brown, Michael D. Burstein, John R. Curtis, Jr., Andrew Delbanco, Thomas L. Dublin, Lee W. Formwalt, Leland Hawes, James Horn, John B. Johnson, Jr., Arnita Jones, Stuart R. Kaplan, John Kukla, Louis Menand, John M. Morse, John H. Ott, Jeffrey Pasley, Paula Petrik, Cokie Roberts, Anita Silvey, Manisha Sinha, Billy G. Smith, and Richard West.

The report of the Treasurer was presented by George W. Tetler III. Mrs. Dunlap gave the report of the Council, following which the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

John Herron, Jr.

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