FOR the first time in twenty years the Pennsylvania Historical Association held a convention in Philadelphia, and as James A. Barnes of Temple University commented in his welcoming address, the Association has been too long away. The twenty-sixth convention opened on Friday, October 18, 1957, in the Constitution Room of the Sheraton Hotel; the fifty-three assembled members and guests enjoyed a witty and learned talk entitled "Philadelphia Style in Art and Architecture." The lecturer was Professor Robert C. Smith, art historian at the University of Pennsylvania, who supplied some excellent colored slides to illustrate his review of styles. He argued that while Philadelphia had once enjoyed an expansiveness and elegance, this characteristic had largely disappeared by the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Shortly after this auspicious opening, the afternoon session convened in the Delaware Valley Suite, where two papers were presented. S. W. Higginbotham, Associate Editor of Pennsylvania History, presided over the session in the absence of S. K. Stevens, and first introduced Margaret and Harry Tinkom of the Philadelphia Historical Commission and Temple University respectively. They gave a dialogue about the problems of preserving historical treasures from modern vandalism in the form of building projects, gas stations and parking lots, and illustrated general problems in a specific talk called "Historic Germantown: Must the Present Bury the Past?" The second paper was given by B. Bruce Powell, Park Archaeologist for Independence National Historical Park, and was entitled "Archaeology in Old Philadelphia." Mr. Powell gave an interesting account of the varied uses of archaeology, and its methods.

A much appreciated contribution to the social arrangements of the convention was the cocktail party across the hall given
by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Since this affair came at 6:00 P.M., the mood of those attending the annual dinner an hour and a half later in the Constitution Room was generally convivial. The feeling of good fellowship was sustained after the dinner by Professor Roy F. Nichols of the University of Pennsylvania, who described the first annual banquet at which he had also presided some twenty-five years ago. He then introduced such distinguished members of the Association as Lawrence H. Gipson and Ross Pier Wright, who had been with him on the former occasion, and the new magazine editor, John M. Coleman. The speakers for the evening were Philip S. Klein, retiring President of the Association, and William J. Stevens, Jr., Assistant Managing Editor of the Saturday Evening Post. Dr. Klein also risked some reminiscing, and then turned to the future of the organization. He noted with regret the lack of attention given to more recent (post-1865) Pennsylvania history, and stressed the need to attract new members from the ranks of the later arrivals to the state, since these were the people with the greatest need for knowledge of their new home. Mr. Stevens discussed "The Influence of the Post on American Journalism," in the course of which he touched on the question of the continuity of the Post, and the contribution of Cyrus Curtis in re-establishing the magazine on a firm and popular basis.

The annual business meeting of the Association took place the next morning at 9:00 A.M. in the Connie Mack Room of the hotel. Included in the business transacted was the reading and approval of the secretary's and treasurer's reports, the adoption of the budget for 1958, the acceptance of the Publication Committee's report (with considerable discussion of future plans), and a series of resolutions. The resolutions expressed the Association's appreciation for the fine work of Paul A. W. Wallace, who had resigned the editorship of Pennsylvania History to take a position with the State Historical Commission; appreciation for the secretarial work of Robert K. Murray, who was not seeking re-election; and thanks to the local institutions which had sponsored the meeting, namely Beaver College, Bryn Mawr College, Haverford College, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Presbyterian Ministers' Fund, Swarthmore College, Temple University, and the University of Pennsylvania. Other
resolutions thanked James A. Barnes and the Local Arrangements Committee, and R. Norris Williams and the Program Committee. The Association also noted its regret at the passing of Professor Arthur C. Bining, one of its founders, and the death of Mrs. Elinor Shafer Barnes, "who gave unstintingly of her time and labor in promoting the objectives of the organization."

The outgoing President, Philip S. Klein, commented on the good work of the membership campaign, which had brought in 150 new members to the Association. Dr. Klein also reviewed the editorial assignments, which were approved by the Council, and noted that the annual dues would rise to $5.00 as of January 1, 1958. It was announced that the 1958 convention would take place at the Hotel Webster Hall in Pittsburgh. William A. Russ introduced the report of the Nominating Committee with some remarks on the need for young men as well as for suitable geographical distribution. Ralph W. Cordier was elected President of the Association, Melville Boyer was elected Vice President, and Homer T. Rosenberger, R. Norris Williams, Stanton Belfour, and James Kehl were elected to the Council for the term 1957-60. Ross Pier Wright was elected to another term as Treasurer, and H. Trevor Colbourn succeeded Robert K. Murray as Secretary of the Association.

The Saturday morning session that followed in the Delaware Valley Suite enjoyed two papers of unusual distinction. Lois Given presided, and introduced Edwin Wolf, 2nd, Librarian of the Library Company of Philadelphia, who explained that "Libraries Do Not Earn Degrees." He noted the unreasonable demands made on librarians by unprepared scholars, and urged the need for mutual understanding and patience. John H. Powell discussed "The National Scourge: Cholera, 1832," and said "it is not lack of knowledge that causes epidemics, it is lack of concern." There was a lively discussion of both subjects before the meeting adjourned for lunch.

Paul A. W. Wallace presided over the subsequent meeting, when Thomas C. Cochran of the University of Pennsylvania gave a paper concerning the rise of managerial enterprise in which he pointed to an increasing shift in interest on the part of management from pure profits to a welfare philosophy, comparable to that of the welfare state. George W. Taylor, labor consultant
and Professor of Labor Relations at the University of Pennsylvania, presented the final paper of the session and of the convention. Dr. Taylor suggested that collective bargaining must succeed, that labor must develop responsibility, or the government must intervene in labor disputes. The audience expressed its warm appreciation of the speakers, and the convention was adjourned.