

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

At the annual meeting of the society, held on January 31, 1950, the designation of Henry Oliver Evans as president emeritus was confirmed, and the following officers and trustees were elected for one-year terms: officers, Charles A. McClintock, president, Edward Crump, Jr., John W. Oliver, Henry K. Siebeneck, Margaret T. Scully, vice presidents, Cortlandt W. W. Elkin, secretary, James K. Ebbert, treasurer; trustees re-elected, Howard N. Eavenson, Alexander D. Hill, Charles R. Miller, Jr., Alan M. Scaife, Charles M. Stotz; trustees newly elected, C. Stanton Belfour, James M. Bovard, James H. Gray, Mrs. Elmer D. Harshbarger. Trustees holding over under the former by-law provision are Harmar Denny, Jr., Sigmond J. Hahn, Charles C. McGovern, Lily Lee Nixon, Richard S. Rauh, Mrs. Douglas Stewart.

The principal speaker at the annual meeting was F. H. Griffith, an experienced private collector of Americana, who entertainingly discussed a special exhibit of toby jugs and paper weights from the large collection of Mrs. W. H. R. Hilliard, loaned for the occasion, and of American toby jugs and other objects from his own collections.

At the February meeting, held on the afternoon of the twenty-fifth, Philip K. Herr told the story of "The Lost Atlantis," and on display were striking drawings relating to that subject done by the late Andrey Avinoff, and loaned by their present owner, the Rev. Nicholas Petkovich. Also on display was a large and unique collection of Lincoln medals loaned by Charles S. Hall, besides smaller groups of Lincoln mementos loaned by E. Earl Moore, Dr. J. Huber Wagner, and President Emeritus Evans.

Samuel S. Hood, of the *Pittsburgh Press*, opened the meeting of March 28 with a paper entitled "Pittsburgh's Other Triangle (not so Golden): Ellen Terry—James Carew—George Bernard Shaw." He was followed by William D. McCoy, statistician with the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, who reviewed "A Century of Public Education in Pittsburgh." For exhibit on that occasion, and for a number of weeks following, Mr. McCoy provided a liberal selection of items from his extensive collection of original records and other mementos of our public school history.

"The Changing Face of Pittsburgh" was the theme of the program presented at the meeting of April 25 by the following representatives of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development: Adolph Schmidt, executive committee member; Marshall Stalley, assistant director; and John J. Grove, public relations director. Exhibits illustrative of improvements envisioned at the "Point" and elsewhere in the Pittsburgh district were on display.

On May 23, the annual "University of Pittsburgh Night," the university, through Dr. John W. Oliver, head of the history department, pre-

sented the following speakers: Mrs. George E. Parkas, curator of Old Fort Pitt, who discussed "The Old Fort Pitt Blockhouse"; and the Rev. Dr. Dwight R. Guthrie, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, whose subject was "Dr. John McMillan, Pioneer Presbyterian Preacher in Western Pennsylvania." Light refreshments were served by the Women's Auxiliary, with the Misses H. Marie and Lillian Dermitt as hostesses.

At a meeting of the council of the society, held on March 14, President McClintock offered a broad program of action designed to popularize the society and thereby increase its membership, income, and general effectiveness. Among other things he emphasized the need for the active co-operation of all members of the council, organized into working committees assigned to specific tasks, and his suggestions were implemented by the following appointments: Finance and Budget Committee (Mr. Crump, chairman, Messrs. Miller, Ebbert, and Denny), to supervise the finances of the society; House Committee (Mr. Siebeneck, chairman, Mrs. Harshbarger, Messrs. Stoz, Rauh, and Hill), to control exhibits, museum, paintings, building and grounds; Publicity Committee (Harrison Gilmer, chairman, Col. McGovern, and Miss Emily Stuart), to reach the general public through newspaper, radio, etc.; Publications Committee (Mr. Evans, chairman, Miss Rose Demorest, Messrs. Eavenson, Oliver and Alfred P. James), to advise with the editor of the magazine in all matters pertaining to its conduct; Program Committee (Mr. Bel-four, chairman), to arrange programs for meetings, tours, etc.

At the same council meeting President McClintock was authorized to create a new class of members, to be known as patrons, who would contribute fifty dollars or more, annually, to the support of the society; and on March 24, at a joint meeting of the Executive Committee and the Finance and Budget Committee, approval was given to Mr. McClintock's drafts of two letters of invitation to be addressed to select lists of both nonmembers and members.

New members enrolled as patrons, in response to these invitations, are: Samuel J. Brendel, Charles T. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Hartwell, Mr. and Mrs. Howard J. Heinz, II, Oliver M. Kaufmann Family Charitable Trust, Mrs. H. Hughart Laughlin, Mrs. Finley H. Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. George D. Lockhart, Cordelia S. May, Mrs. Charles R. Miller, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Miller, Charles Oliver, Henry Oliver Rea, O. D. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. John F. J. Walton.

New members enrolled in other classifications, in response to the above-mentioned invitations, or otherwise, are: *contributing*, Mrs. John Berdan, Sol I. Kamin, A. W. Schmidt; *sustaining*, Mrs. Wilson McC. Jarvis, James E. MacCloskey, Frank A. McCune, Neil H. Swanson; *annual*, Cecil B. Baker, Mrs. George L. Ball, Mrs. T. Raymond Evans, Frank W. Heckler, William G. Heiner, Chester O. Henry, Mrs. Chester O. Henry, Harry L. Koons, Mrs. John W. Lawrence, Helen Mackey,

Marion Mackey, I. Franklin Miller, Mrs. Robert W. Ostermayer, Sr., William H. Stricklett, James B. Warden, Mrs. David P. Williams, Edward G. Williams; *educational*, Charles W. Hanko, Jr., Stuart L. Kline, Grace A. Rankin, Wallace H. Workmaster.

The same appeal led the following members to increase their support of the society by becoming patrons: Arthur E. Braun, Howard N. Eavenson, Henry O. Evans, Mrs. George H. Flinn, Mabel L. Gillespie, Sigmond J. Hahn, J. S. Hammond, Alexander D. Hill, Mrs. W. H. R. Hilliard, Robert B. King, Charles A. McClintock, Mrs. William H. Mercur, Charles R. Miller, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Rauh, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hanson Rose, Alan M. Scaife, Margaret T. Scully, Henry K. Siebeneck, Mrs. W. Henry Singer, William P. Snyder, Jr., Mrs. Douglas Stewart, J. T. M. Stoneroad. Of these Mr. Braun, Miss Gillespie, and Mrs. Stewart are also life members.

Still other members increased their annual dues by advancing into the middle range of membership classifications—sustaining or contributing. Their names: C. Stanton Belfour, Mrs. George H. Blaxter, James M. Bovard, Harmar Denny, Jr., Mrs. E. D. Harshbarger, William H. Jamison, Mrs. S. A. McClung.

In the same period occurred, or were first reported, the deaths of the following members: *contributing*, Isabella C. Chalfant; *sustaining*, Mrs. Harmar D. Denny; *annual*, Mrs. Marcus Aaron, Horace F. Baker, Henry A. Phillips, Sarah G. Ricketson, Mrs. Charles S. Shoemaker, Velma D. Wilson.

The Publications Committee, Mr. Evans, chairman, has held two meetings, to pass upon the suitability of articles offered for publication, and to consider comprehensive data gathered by Mr. Evans in an effort to reduce printing costs. The committee was encouraged to plan for resumption of quarterly issues, beginning with the September, 1950, number, because of a grant in aid received through the efforts of President McClintock from the Pittsburgh-Crabbe Foundation, in recognition of which contribution the council has elected the Foundation to permanent institutional membership in the society.

With the aid of a grant from the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation, previously reported in these pages, the society has thus far bound or rebound 179 volumes of its old newspaper files.

The House Committee, Mr. Siebeneck, chairman, has met on a number of occasions, principally to take a hand in the weeding out and reorganization of a congested accumulation of materials stored in the basement, or ground floor, with a view to expanding the society's exhibition facilities, and largely because of the need for more space on that level, the following large and hitherto little used bodies of stored records were transferred to other depositories.

The extensive collection of correspondence, papers, and record books of the James Rees and Sons Company, Pittsburgh boat and engine

builders (1856-1931), which this society received in 1934 (see *ante*, 17:66—March, 1934), has been transferred to the custody of Capt. Frederick Way, Jr., of Sewickley, president of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen, who, after an examination and probable weeding out of the collection, will deposit the residue in the river museum maintained by that organization in the Campus Martius Museum building at Marietta, Ohio.

Another extensive collection, comprising many hundreds of bound volumes of original Pittsburgh assessment records (1872-1901), deposited with the society in 1938 (see *ante*, 21:308—December 1938), has been removed to other quarters in the city, and inquiries about them should henceforth be addressed to the office of the Treasurer, City of Pittsburgh.