ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE CINCINNATI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1963
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR 1963

Prologue — The Meaning of the Year

The deed is done. At the annual meeting of the Society in December, the membership overwhelmingly voted to change the name of the Society to: The Cincinnati Historical Society. In so doing, the Society forged a link with the past, for in the period 1844–49 there existed an organization known as The Cincinnati Historical Society. In 1849, through the efforts of Salmon P. Chase and other Cincinnatians, a merger was effected between this flourishing Cincinnati Society and the nearly moribund, Columbus-based Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, which was founded in 1831; at the time, Cincinnati was the acknowledged “Queen City of the West.” The title of the Columbus society was adopted and Cincinnati became its new home. So things stood until December 1963 when the above-noted change occurred. Without question, this event was the most important single development in 1963.

When I reflect on the activities of the Society during 1963, and seek to isolate a main theme that characterized the flow of our institutional history for the year, I am reminded of a story. It involves an American lady who was touring Italy without her husband. Taking sick suddenly, she died. The Italian officials wired the news to her husband and asked: “Shall we embalm, bury or cremate?” Without hesitation, the husband fired back this reply: “Do all three, take no chances!”

“Take no chances” represents the attitude of mind which underlay a good bit of our thinking this past year. Some momentous changes were impending, yet there was an aura of uncertainty surrounding these changes. There was the matter of whether or not the change in name would be approved by the members in the December annual meeting. This issue affected the Society in many subtle ways. For example, when ordering stationery and other supplies bearing our title, the question arose as to whether we should increase our volume and thereby save money, or go on the assumption that the name would be changed and order only an amount that would carry us through December. Preying in our mind was the 1963 experience of Cincinnati novelty dealers, who found themselves with tons of pennants and other items proclaiming the University of Cincinnati as the NCAA basketball champion. A further complication was not knowing when the new building would be completed. Obviously, a change of address was as vital as a change of name when ordering supplies.
The new quarters also affected our thoughts on planning programs. Could we possibly continue the successful school lecture program of the past two years, which involves the Director's appearance before school groups throughout the city? Should we plan a spring exhibit, an activity which consumes practically the entire staff's time and energy for about a two-month period? Working on the infinite details of planning for the new building was already absorbing considerable man hours. In these areas, "take no chances" became a maxim for administrative conduct. If it has been an exciting year, it has also been one of frustration. We do not relish a policy of "watchful waiting," but in view of the transitional stage we are now passing through, it has been an expedient course of action. Those programs which have been momentarily suspended will be renewed once we are firmly positioned in new quarters.

Perhaps we can be charged with violating one of the sacred traditions of historical societies. As a rule, these organizations are obsessed with the past. I am frank to confess that in 1963 our thoughts, while not unmindful of the past, were fixed upon the future and particularly upon the completion of the new quarters in Eden Park. By June of 1964 (hopefully), we shall be in a spanking new home and sporting a new name. This will represent our "great leap forward" (unlike the Chinese, we shall have made it) into the mainstream of Cincinnati's cultural life. We no longer shall be regarded as a distant cousin in the family of Cincinnati cultural institutions. We no longer shall suffer the embarrassment of having to answer Cincinnatians on such points as: Who are you? Where are you located? What function do you perform? Happily, with the change in name, we perhaps shall never again hear this question: Are you connected with the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus? In reading President Joseph Wilby's annual report of 1902, I was surprised to learn that the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio was "in the minds of most Cincinnatians, hopelessly confused with the Natural History Society in Broadway." Strange as it may seem (considering that it has been functioning since 1831), the Society is about as well known to the general citizenry of this community as the inner workings of Mao Tse-tung's mind.

This is soon due to change. It will assuredly surprise and please Cincinnatians to learn about the enormous wealth of materials, both written and pictorial, which is housed in the Society. It is our conviction that these materials represent a distinct community asset, and we also feel that Cincinnatians should revere them (and the institution which has collected and guarded these treasures since 1831) much as they esteem the priceless collections of the
Cincinnati Art Museum and The Taft Museum. The Society is a repository of truth, and it is our belief that it deserves the support and interest of all those in southwestern Ohio who place a value on knowing the truth about our past.

The fact that the Society is not known to all residents of this community is not to suggest that it is totally unknown. On the contrary, the constant ringing of our telephone, the incessant clattering of typewriters, the large volume of correspondence deposited daily, and the thousands of patrons who use our resources annually reflect the growing importance of the Society. In recent years, there has been a dramatic growth in all areas (as the Librarian’s statistics indicate), and we have every reason to believe that the Society will prosper to even a greater degree when it is situated in Eden Park. When Khrushchev made his celebrated statement, that “history is on our side,” he was really referring to the Society.

**Society and Community**

The Society’s impact on the local community is difficult to measure, but some indication is offered by the range of activities in which the Director engages. For example, I have taken part in City Planning Commission meetings relative to the possible conversion of Union Terminal into a museum, participated in a number of local cultural meetings (such as Ohioana meeting), worked with the Cincinnatus Association on civic and historical projects; entered into the deliberations of the Cincinnati Beautiful Committee meetings on occasion; joined in meetings purposed to preserve historic landmarks in Cincinnati; offered suggestions and advice to numerous individuals and organizations on local historical matters. The range of activity is so broad that I often find it difficult to give a prompt answer to the question: “What do you do?”

One particular event of the past year, in which the Society played a vital role, deserves mention. On Memorial Day, the restored Fort Washington Way Monument was dedicated in an impressive ceremony at the site. The Society was intimately involved in every phase of the project. It was therefore fitting that Dr. Arthur King, representing the Society, should deliver the main address at the dedication. It was Dr. King who discovered the exact location of the historic fort, and his corrected map and revised inscription on the handsome new monument provide testimony to the Society’s relentless pursuit of truth and its constant involvement in community affairs of an historical nature.

Speaking to local groups on matters historical is another activity that serves to bring the Society in close contact with the community.
The Director delivered 20 addresses, including a number of talks to school groups. I also prepared a set of tapes on local history which were presented on WCKY radio. The Director and City Manager William Wichman appeared on the Paul Dixon television show (WLW-TV) to publicize the Restored Fort Washington Way Monument.

One of the longstanding activities of our Society has been the sponsorship of public lectures. In an earlier day, this was an extremely important aspect of the Society's program. In 1963, the Society co-sponsored two public lectures. On November 12, in conjunction with the Columbia University Alumni Association of Cincinnati, the Society co-sponsored a lecture by Professor Dwight Miner, a distinguished historian from Columbia University. On November 19, in cooperation with a number of institutions in Cincinnati, the Society co-sponsored a lecture by General Ulysses S. Grant, III. This latter meeting marked the centennial of the Gettysburg Address. It is to be hoped that, when the Society is situated in its new quarters, a lecture series can be developed. This would be another way of fulfilling our responsibility to disseminate useful knowledge.

One of the prime objectives of the Director is to stimulate interest in the Society, and in the history of our region, among scholars and historical society administrators from all parts of the country. The Bulletin is one way in which this is done. Attending regional conferences and participating in formal programs represent a second method of "spreading the word." In the past year, the Director attended the combined meeting of the Western Americana Institute and the Bibliographic Society of America, which was held at Northwestern University and the Newberry Library (Chicago); the annual meeting of the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus; the Manuscript Society meeting in Washington, D. C.; the annual convention of the American Association for State & Local History in Raleigh, North Carolina. He presented a paper at the latter meeting.

Mrs. Hook also helped to "spread the word" when she attended the convention of the Special Libraries Association, held in Denver, in June. She is presently serving as National Chairman of the S.L.A. Scholarship and Student Loan Fund.

The Director also participated in a worthwhile program sponsored by Ohio University. Each year Ohio University conducts a "History and Government" contest for upper division high school students in the state of Ohio. Over 6,000 students take a preliminary objective test which relates to Ohio history and government. The 100 finalists
are then brought to Athens for a final essay examination, which is followed by an awards banquet and a round of social engagements.

The Director has prepared the preliminary examination for the past two years, and this year, in November, he was invited to Athens to address the 100 finalists in the awards assembly. Needless to say, the Director's participation in such an affair aids considerably in developing goodwill for the Society throughout the state. Also, by working in such close relationship with Ohio University, our stature as a cultural institution is greatly enhanced.

In April, we were afforded an opportunity to display our wares for the Grolier Club, a group of distinguished book collectors and dealers from all parts of the United States. The Society and the University of Cincinnati Library set up a joint exhibit of their "treasures" in the main lobby of the University Library. It was an eye-popping exhibit, and a number of the Grolier members visited the Society for a further inspection of our holdings.

Mrs. Hook, our Librarian, also assisted in the public relations program. She made 19 speeches to patriotic, church and school groups, and gave orientation lectures to 3 groups of graduate students from the University.
One of the more pleasant developments of the past year has been the growing use of the Society by graduate students from the University of Cincinnati History Department. With the expansion of the history graduate program, and the beginning of a Ph.D. program in history, more and more University students have begun to utilize Society materials. A seminar in American history, which was under the able direction of Professor George Engberg, will result in the preparation of a number of Masters' theses on subjects related to local history. The Society is deeply pleased to be of assistance in the University's graduate history program, and we sincerely hope that, as this program further expands, the Society's resources will continue to serve as a main intellectual arsenal for projects. As every historian realizes, the success of a graduate program in history is contingent upon the availability of primary source materials. The Society is one of the few repositories in the greater Cincinnati area which has an abundance of primary materials on American history. Moreover, one of its main institutional objectives is to service and assist responsible researchers. Our materials, while valuable, are not to be viewed as untouchable museum objects. They are designed for use, and the more they are consulted the better we feel about it. We ask only that researchers exercise caution in their handling of our holdings.

The close filiation of the Society with the cultural and educational life of Hamilton County may have been partially instrumental in inducing the County Commissioners to approve the Society's petition for an annual grant. This marks the first time that the Society, which has been privately supported from its founding, has received public funds. It should be underscored that the Society is a public institution in the sense that any responsible researcher may use its resources.

Society and Members

The Spring meeting of the Society was held at the majestic Taft Museum on May 2 before an overflow crowd of 125. The business meeting was marked by a proposal by the Director that the Society should seriously consider changing its name to: The Cincinnati Historical Society. The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Hilmar Krueger, Dean of University College (University of Cincinnati) and former chairman of the History Department at the University. A vibrant lecturer, Dr. Krueger delighted his audience with an illustrated talk on "notarial cartularies." A social hour followed the meeting.
The annual meeting of the Society was held on December 2 at the Alms Auditorium of the Cincinnati Art Museum. In the absence of President Lucien Wulsin, who was ill, Mr. Robert Galbraith presided. During the business meeting, a revised constitution was voted on and approved. The most notable change involved the dropping of the name Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio and the adoption of the new title: The Cincinnati Historical Society. Mr. Joseph Dinsmore, chairman of the nominating committee, proposed the following slate of officers, who were voted into office by the membership:

FREDERICK W. GIESEL 1893-1963
Member of Society 1947-1963
Trustee of Society 1959-1963
The feature speaker of the evening was Dr. Clement Silvestro, director of the American Association for State & Local History (Madison, Wisconsin). Dr. Silvestro spoke on “The Historical Society Movement in the United States.” A social hour followed in the Alms Room and members viewed an exhibition of paintings by local artists. The hospitality committee was under the direction of Mrs. John Sheblessey and consisted of Mrs. Richard R. Deupree, Jr., Mrs. Royer Lake, Mrs. James M. E. Mixter, Mrs. Joseph Sagmaster, Mrs. Charles S. Blase, and Mrs. Louis Lodge Weber.

News of an institutional nature is conveyed to members by means of the Newsletter. Three numbers appeared in 1963.

The Bulletin is the vehicle that fulfills our constitutional objectives of disseminating useful knowledge. Some fifteen main articles were published in the course of the year. These articles represent a wide range of subject matter, from Harriet Beecher Stowe’s writings, to Freeman Cary and Farmer’s College, to prehistoric Miami Fort. It is pleasant to report that articles are sent to us from all over the country, which suggests that the history of this region is studied at
many different universities. This is actually borne out by our registration book which lists the names of researchers from many different universities. It is also important to note that our Bulletin is sent to many libraries in the country. I have frequently seen it in periodical racks in university libraries around the nation. I have also seen it in waiting rooms of business and professional offices in the Greater Cincinnati area (in Mr. Robert Galbraith’s law office, for example), and I would urge an extension of this practice. If nothing else, the illustrations are worthy of inspection. It is also heartening to note that scholars frequently cite articles from the Bulletin in their written works. The Bulletin is a costly item and its preparation involves a considerable amount of labor, but it is a significant part of our program and assists us in reaching a large audience.

Membership

For the past three years our membership has remained in the 1,200–1,300 range. As of December 1, it stood at 1,251 plus 36 Business Members.

In 1962, we added new categories in an effort to increase our income. The complete classification at present is as follows (dues payable yearly):

- Corporate Membership: $10
- Sustaining: $25
- Associate: $50
- Patron: $100
- Fellow: $500
- Benefactor: $1,000

When our new classification system went into effect, about 20% of our members entered a higher-pay category. This was a gratifying development. I would hope that more of our regular members will consider becoming at least Sustaining Members in 1964. I once again inform you that any sum beyond $10 is tax-deductible as a gift.

The move to Eden Park will result in increased operating expenses; it is our intention to meet these rising costs by adding to our membership rolls. It seems strange that our Society should have but about 1,300 members when it is located in an area having a population of over a million people. (In his annual report for 1902, President Joseph Wilby made a similar comment, when he noted that the
Society had but 93 members out of a population of 325,000). We are hopeful of increasing our membership when we are in new quarters in Eden Park. We have no intention, however, of padding our roll with transients. We desire members who have a basic interest in the Society and in local history. Quantitative considerations do not animate us in this endeavor.

In the past two years, we have purposely refrained from embarking on a massive membership drive. Several selective solicitations have been carried out. It was decided to correlate a large membership campaign with the move to new quarters, and we are hopeful of success in this endeavor.

Staff

The past year saw some significant changes in the composition of the staff. Ill health forced the resignation of our competent staff secretary, Mrs. Barbara Williamson. We have been fortunate to secure as her replacement Mrs. Elda Linowitz, who gives every indication of being able to find her way through the maze of duties performed by the staff secretary. Another first-rate addition to our staff was Mrs. Andrew Jergens, Jr., who functions as a Library assistant and whose interest and enthusiasm are pleasantly contagious. Mrs. Carol Chancey, a professional librarian, performed valuable service as a cataloger, and our part-time student assistants (as the year ends), Rita Ramundo, Jan Gatrost and Frank Hardewig, capably carried out a multitude of necessary jobs. Mrs. Margaret Huber continues to perform yeoman service as Membership Secretary. Her untiring efforts have resulted in bringing this phase of our operation to its highest degree of organization and efficiency during the past three years. Any member who has heard her cheerful voice over the telephone recognizes her value to the Society.

With the resignation of our Librarian (effective December 31), Mrs. Alice Hook, another era in the Society's history comes to an end. As Librarian for the past seventeen years, Mrs. Hook brought stability to the staff and order to the variegated holdings. The present Library, with its well-organized catalogs and collections, stands as a monument to her faithful diligence and dedicated devotion to duty. In addition, her friendly manner with patrons from far and near won a host of supporters (and members) for the Society. She gave the maximum of her abilities and all of her time to the Society. No one could have asked for more. I am certain that her many friends join me in wishing her well as she assumes her new duties as Librarian of the Cincinnati Art Museum.
It is interesting to note that in the past 90 years, the Society has had but 6 librarians. Here are the librarians and their dates of service:

- Julius Dexter 1872–1879
- Elizabeth Haven Appleton 1879–1886
- Catherine W. Lord 1886–1905
- Lucretia Belle Hamlin 1905–1931
- Eleanor Stanwood Wilby 1931–1945
- Alice Palo Hook 1947–1963

An undermanned library staff continues to be our prime problem in the administration of the Society. The great need of the present and future is two professional librarians. We have reached a point in our institutional history where the demands upon the Library extend beyond the productive capabilities of the staff. This Society can no longer serve its patrons and effectively fulfill its constitutional objectives with its present small staff. It is our fervent hope that when we take up quarters in Eden Park we shall be in a financial position whereby we can operate with 3 full-time members in the Library instead of two as in recent years.

Postscript

As I close my third year with the Society, I should like to convey my thanks to the Board of Trustees for their genuine interest and cooperative spirit. While all Trustees have made some contribution, it would be proper and fitting to acknowledge the "beyond the call of duty" efforts of President Wulsin and Messrs. Hauck, Miller, Galbraith, Diehl, Dalzell and the late Mr. Giesel. These Trustees have been particularly active in such critical areas as planning for the new building, revising the constitution, procuring business members and assisting in public relations.

More than a word of thanks is in order for our Treasurer, Mr. Lawrence Bucher, who has faithfully and accurately tended the Society’s account books for the past two decades. One of McGuffey’s moral essays has to do with a scrupulous collector of revenues in Berlin who created a deficit in his books by inadvertently saying "once one is two." The thought of this error caused him to go insane and he was hospitalized for the remainder of his life. Visitors often saw the old man, bowed and broken, muttering "once one is two."
Sometimes, he would pause and say, “No, once one is one.” Then he would resume his doleful repetition of “once one is two.” Rest assured that the meticulous Mr. Bucher will never come to such a pathetic end. The Society owes him a massive debt of gratitude for his services. There was a time when Mr. Bucher could regard his job as a part-time diversion, but I am inclined to think that he now ponders the question: Why did I retire?

The death of Frederick Giesel in November deprived the Society of one of its most able and esteemed Trustees. He rendered invaluable service in organizing and getting underway the “Business Members” campaign. His smiling countenance and practical wisdom are sorely missed at Board meetings.

It would be trite to call 1963 an “eventful” year in our history, yet the adjective is apt. How many times has this Society laid cornerstones for new buildings? How often has it changed its name, or revised its constitution? Has it ever received a grant from the County Commissioners in the past? Has it ever had a “Business Member” on its rolls in the past? It was assuredly an eventful year, perhaps the most significant one of our 182-year history. But, as the song phrases it, the “best is yet to come” — in 1964.

Louis L. Tucker
Director
Mrs. Alice P. Hook
Librarian of the Society, 1947-1963
REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN FOR 1963

An annual report is hardly the place to use quotations. It should be a factual statement designed to tell the story of activities of the past year and to serve as a guide for future study of the organization. Historical societies, however, have become the target for research scholars, and the problems stemming from this fact seem to be universal. Here are quotations from the most recent report of the Librarian of Yale University on the Sterling Library, which reflect, on a larger scale, the situation of the Society's library.

The library . . . was planned primarily to house a research collection for advanced scholars. In recent years the . . . undergraduate . . . has been coming to the library not only to do research but also to find a quiet place to study . . . . The librarians . . . are finding it more and more difficult to be all things to all men. We do not have space or sufficient staff, and our salary scales are not competitive enough for us to attract many of the best librarians . . .

The modern scholar is receiving many fringe benefits; one of these may often be the help of assistants in research and even of errand boys. Unfortunately these individuals are not qualified to use a large research library properly and, as a result, they report . . . that the library does not have certain books or has inadequate coverage of certain fields. In the past the scholar did all of his own leg work and research and, if doubtful, did not hesitate to consult a reference librarian for help. Secretaries, bursary boys and even graduate students often have not had the training or experience to use a large and complicated catalogue . . . . Undergraduates [etc.] . . . are not familiar with the classification schemes and other operations peculiar to the . . . library. In fact, more librarians should be available to help with this searching in order to assure its accuracy and completeness . . .

The increase in attendance, and the varied types of patrons, indicate a continually growing interest in history. From the most serious scholar to the seventh grade Ohio history student; from the art museum to the gas company; from the Civil War hobbyist to the genealogist; for each there is something to be found in the library which will answer a question or make an exhibit. The Society may well be proud that its excellent and broad collection can be used so widely. It is truly serving the community and the historical world in its many capacities.

The accelerated use of the library is noticeable, but unfortunately staff coverage has not kept pace. Each new demand for service shows wherein there may be a lack in the Society. To fulfill our purpose, it
would be proper to assume that we should be able to answer any question relating to our expressed areas of interest. Having a title which includes the word "historical" brings to mind such things as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Emancipation Proclamation. It is not strange then that, in the course of the year, there will be several calls for display materials on these subjects. To fill the demand, all such materials have now been filed together and are available on a moment's notice for schools, organizations, television stations, or other groups. When three high school students come to find the answer to Jefferson's problems, or the reason for Hamilton's financial ideas, should we turn them away? Perhaps so, for the next time they return they have added several more to their group. One must remember that the library for many decades served as a general historical research center for the University, and many of the books in our collection, which are of a general character, are not to be found in the University library. It has only been for less than twenty years that our subject interests have been narrowed.

The average observer would hardly believe that some 40,000 books, periodicals and newspapers, 200,000 manuscripts, 30,000 pamphlets, 35,000 pictures, 6,000 maps, and thousands of other printed and pictorial materials, with a few three-dimensional objects, are being serviced by one librarian, a young college graduate, and a couple of inexperienced students. Compressed into small quarters, with every inch of available space filled with something, the material is all close at hand. Card files are all together; working tools and equipment are within a few paces of any desk. Consequently, there is a minimum length of time required to locate the wanted item. There is little problem of supervision. The friendly, intimate atmosphere is conducive to good service and cooperation between patron and staff member. Merely to serve the same number of people with the same number of items is going to take more time and more library attendants in the new building.

Statistics continue to make history in the library. Our record year of 1962 has been surpassed in 1963 when over 2,430 people used our resources and our services. Hundreds more were served over the telephone and by correspondence. As usual, the patrons run the gamut, but we categorize them as graduate students and historians, undergraduate students in college or high school, lay historians and local individuals, and genealogists. It is interesting to note that no group predominates, and that over a given period they make almost equal use of the library. This fact has served to indicate the probable
use which will be made of the resources in the new building — the same groups, only more of each.

Exhibits

Exhibits were constantly changed in the University lobby where the Society has had its own case for over thirty years. Historic Christmas cards for the holidays are followed by calendars from the 1890's to the 1920's, and then old romantic valentines. February sees Washington and Lincoln celebrating their birthdays. Historic spots to visit in the vicinity, the history of the University, the Society publications, and the centennial of the Gettysburg Address were other subjects shown this year. Saved for historic purposes, newspapers describing the assassinations of Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley were exhibited along with the Cincinnati Enquirer edition concerning the late President Kennedy. The nation's history is our history.

Twice during the year, rare books and manuscripts were displayed in the University cases in the lobby — for the exhibit in honor of the Grolier Society in the spring, and for a special display of early and rare travel volumes in the fall.

Our visual materials were seen on television, at schools, in bank lobbies, at the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company, in the Army recruiting office and at the May Festival. They also went to The Taft Museum and to a museum in Texas. The Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, Fort Worth, asked for an exhibit for its show “The Artist sees the City” and large colorful lithographs showing Cincinnati in 1800 and in 1853 were sent.

Reference

From Massachusetts to California, from North Dakota to Florida, have come letters of inquiry. Each writer wanted to know something about Cincinnati or Ohio. Historical questions are separated from genealogical inquiries, but neither are answered to the satisfaction of the librarian or the correspondent. There is not sufficient time available to do this research, and, like many similar libraries, we have resorted to form letters or brief replies. To those who do not even get those, our humble apologies are here stated. First attention must be paid to visitors and second to our local phone calls.

Groups have been discouraged in their requests to visit the library due to the physical limitations and disturbance to our readers. However, each semester the librarian welcomes the opportunity to talk with graduate students in the course called “Seminar for historical
Scenes in the Library

Society photo
research” and to explain the library’s resources as well as the attitudes and cooperation of librarians and scholars in general. This year we also were happy to work with a group of Camp Fire girls and a class of handicapped students from Condon School. Our museum objects, such as replica and relics of Fort Washington, steamboat and canal boat models, and other such displays are popular with these younger people.

**Progress**

Effort has been diverted into two sections of our collection this year, because the assistance we had could be directed to binding and to picture mounting. A number of important reference materials, including county atlases and local city directories, were rebound in anticipation of greater use in the new quarters. Portfolios were made for carefully selected groups of rare books, manuscripts and pictures. The splendid appearance of these unique items enhances their value, although the object itself is still the important part. Not the least of these chosen possessions is the first Minute Book of the Society which includes its merger with The Cincinnati Historical Society.

The excellent and expanding collection of pictures is one of our most-used subjects. The local use of the library by organizations, firms, and the schools is centered to a great extent in our visual materials. They serve our purposes for exhibitions and to accompany speeches. Something had to be done to make them more attractive and to preserve the photographic copies of our thin and fragile illustrations. Consequently, summer help was used to mount and label over 1,300 pictures. Again, the improved appearance increased the value of our collection. The only negative point about this process was that now the pictures take up more space and new and larger files will be necessary to house them. Space has been provided in the new library to prepare, store and service the pictures in much better fashion than at this time.

Except for these two special projects, the work has been primarily from day to day, coping with each situation as it arose, doing the essential things and trying to prevent complete chaos when reference demands exceeded time, energy and even patience.

New equipment added this year included a dry mount machine for processing pictures, a book press for repairs, a dry process photo copy machine. Each has been a help, but has added work. Our graduate school patrons have permission to use the copy machine themselves for staff time is not available, even if it is paid for. Our “poor” scholars welcome the opportunity to reduce the costs by
doing it themselves. The modern machine age has been invading the library for some time now, and though we may never have an information retrieval system, there is no library like an historical library which could benefit from the things which it can do. Information wanted about our early local history will not change and punched cards would never become obsolete!

Cooperation

City, state and government agencies, as well as local organizations, have cooperated with us in many ways. The Cincinnati Urban Renewal Department transferred excellent photographs of city areas under destruction. The Chamber of Commerce and the Municipal Reference Library aided us in numerous ways and we have tried to reciprocate. The Public Library and the Museum of Natural History are friends in need and in deed. Xavier University made a tangible contribution when its librarian lent us a seventy-two drawer file. Only a librarian could really appreciate that gesture of cooperation! The University Library continues to treat us graciously and to lend us needed pieces of furniture, albeit anxious to have our space.

Historical societies, near and far, send their periodicals and newsletters regularly and ours are sent in return. This exchange of ideas profits all organizations and much can be gained, too, by cooperation and passing along of unneeded materials.

Volunteers

The Society is classed as a non-profit organization and, as such, it makes its appeal to other organizations which provide volunteer services. It also makes its appeal for the same reason to individuals, who, through free service, feel that they are making a contribution to a community effort. In the past few years our volunteer assistance has reached tangible proportions, and with this help the Society has been able to accomplish things it could not have done with its meager staff. Mr. J. Wesley Morris continues as our chief assistant and, through his specialty of processing manuscript collections, has made thousands of items available and listed them as part of the resources. Mrs. William B. Jackson, III, as a Junior League volunteer in 1962–1963, continued her work into the summer and this fall returned on her own inclination. Mrs. Clayton R. Sikes, Jr., who served as an individual last year, started this fall two full days a week as her Junior League service. Mrs. Frederic D. Hirons has joined us also from the Junior League. Mrs. Jackson does correspondence; Mrs. Sikes has started on gift arranging, and Mrs. Hirons assumes the portrait
cataloging. Mrs. Teasdale Fisher continues her indexing of Greve on Cincinnati and of Ford on Hamilton County and has added 26,000 cards to our "Local History Index."

Genealogical research plays a big part in the use of the library. Several people do volunteer work for us along these lines. Not only is the library staff grateful, but also hundreds of genealogists profit from their work. Among these are our members Miss Marie Diekoré, Mrs. William J. Cummins and Mrs. Charles E. Helwagon.

Mr. James Barnett has performed real service in assisting with Civil War research and correspondence. He has also worked with Dr. Jerome R. Berman, taking pictures of important contemporary places and events for our files.

Volunteers in the spring included Mrs. Charles W. Eha, and, briefly, Mrs. G. Richard Kauntz and Miss Bessie Hughes. Mrs. Andrew Jergens, Jr., volunteered for a period of four months and the Society was then fortunate in securing her as a regular library staff member.

That we are grateful to all of these people cannot be stated too often or too emphatically. It is hoped that in the new building a far better plan for accommodating these individuals will be provided and that more members can work with us to their own satisfaction and to the advancement of the library.

Acquisitions

Donors to the library collections were fewer in number than the previous year, but there were over 200 individuals and 250 organizations, firms, historical societies and governmental agencies to whom we are indebted for a gift, which in some way makes the library richer and of more value. The statistical count of the contributions reached the staggering figure of over 18,000. With the assistance of volunteers and students, an amazing proportion of these items have been added to their proper categories and are available to the public.

Purchases have been few, and limited to necessities or special offers, but it is hoped that with a change in residence it will be thought both desirable and essential that a larger share of funds be directed to acquisitions. Separation from the excellent reference collection owned by the University to which our staff has had access will have a serious effect on service. Some of these expensive and important reference works will have to be purchased.

Statistics on acquisitions by gift and purchase include 582 books; 450 pamphlets; 208 issues of periodicals; 193 issues of newspapers, and 45 maps. Manuscripts, our important area, was increased by
10,616 single items, 160 volumes, 5 collections and 12 scrapbooks. There were added 2,616 pictures (with 65 framed), 13 volumes and 93 negatives. All the miscellaneous items, such as broadsides, music, leaflets, clippings, printed forms and greeting cards, totaled 1,389. Museum objects counted to 88. Microfilms are yet to be considered a major acquisition for without space or equipment their purchase can be delayed. Only 27 rolls were added. Current periodicals and continuations account for 1,070 items not included in the general gift and purchase figure. 26,439 cards were typed and donated by volunteers, in addition to the uncounted hundreds made in the library.

The most extensive and useful book collection to be given to the Society in recent years was that of Mr. William R. Northlich which included 143 books on the Civil War and on guns. The Society has not invested its funds in the purchase of these publications, so the gift was accepted with great pleasure. The books are cataloged and available for use, and they have made an especially fine showing among the books on the same subject published during or shortly after those eventful years. Along with the books, Mr. Northlich sent 48 colorful and descriptive pictures of war scenes, guns and of Indians, half of them framed and ready for display.

The Civil War was noticeable in the gifts of the year, maybe because the owners learned of their value from the publicity attendant on the commemoration. A German diary of Johann Wellmann, who served with the 10th O.V.I., was an unusual find and of special interest in our German collection. Manuscripts, printed forms, newspapers, old and new publications, were included in the additions, as was a coin advertisement of the Kittredge and Co., military goods firm, in 1863. An interesting, illustrative purchase was Edwin Forbes’ four pictorial volumes, “Thirty years after . . .” 1890 which supplements the portfolio of the original etchings already in the library.

Genealogy is an important phase of any historical society’s activities. Probably one-fourth of the attendance can be credited to that interest. It has become impossible to do any genealogical research for correspondents, but a mimeographed sheet of the Society’s genealogical resources and a page of suggestions as possible sources is sent to each inquirer. To aid the genealogists, professional or amateur, who visit the library, a number of the recent aids have been purchased and are available in the reading room. Several new periodicals on this subject are received regularly, as is the index to the year’s publishing.
A romanticized version of the Battle of Tippecanoe
From William R. Northlich's Gift to the Society
Two very important genealogical contributions were made this year. The Cincinnati Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has deposited the listing of all the burials in Spring Grove Cemetery, 1845–51. This will save many a phone call to the Cemetery. Miss Marie Dickoré has just brought out a new volume which will be of immense help to genealogical searchers. Entitled *Hamilton County, Ohio, Cemetery Inscriptions*, it includes many cemetery records published in various issues of our *Bulletin*. Mr. Robert Craig is the publisher and source of this useful little book.

**Manuscripts**

Manuscript acquisitions continue to be of major importance to the Society, for it is in them that the most serious research is done, and it is from them that Cincinnati’s history can be learned, corrected and enhanced. Several fine additions were made this year, by gift and by purchase. The new quarters for the library were designed with the Manuscript Collection, present and future, in mind, and there should be adequate space for both storing and using these materials. This single area is most desperately in need of proper housing, and not until it is properly arranged will one be able to see the true magnitude of the holdings.

If there is a group of materials in the library on an individual or a family, additions to it are especially welcome. It appears that descendants often part with family treasures by stages, and after they find they can get along without some of them, the ones held back are then given to the Society. Happily we accepted extensive and excellent additions to the Kemper papers on the family, on Lane Seminary, and on the Presbyterian Church from Miss Shirley Kemper. Mrs. William R. Yonker, Atlanta, Georgia, sent back to her former home town the Ella Bateman diaries and letters to add to the important Blinn papers she had given us after the death of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blinn. More papers of the late Russell Wilson, mayor of Cincinnati and leader in the Charter Party, were given by Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Neil Bauer has given more papers and biographical data on her late father, Powel Crosley, Jr.

Graduate scholars are always tracing cultural history, and new information may be found in the more than four thousand manuscript documents on Cincinnati’s world-famous Musical Festival Association, 1874–1953, received from Mr. John W. Warrington, the Association’s president for many years. Other Musical Festival mementos are to be found in the gift from the estate of Joseph Spencer Graydon.
Educational institutions are an integral part of a community. The Farmer's College cash book of 1852-1857 and the journal of accounts in the 1890's of its successor, The Ohio Military Institute, will tell another story. The collection of canal documents add to knowledge on that gone, but not forgotten, era. Manuscripts relating to railroads, banks, real estate transactions, World War I, as well as politics and social life, were included in the 12,000 items added during the year.

Company histories reflect the local economic situation, and business history is becoming increasingly more important as these concerns are reaching their one hundredth anniversaries. Modern and efficient business practices often seem to provide no place for the minutes and records of the founders of the companies. Actually they probably do have little bearing on this year's financial statements, but they do have a place in historical research. The German Mutual Insurance Company was one of those institutions which played an important role in the 19th century and had great impact on the lives of our German citizens as well as on insurance practices in general. Some of the most important Germans in the city were connected with this firm. Through the cooperation of the Hamilton Mutual Insurance Company, its current name, and the courtesy of Miss Lily Jeanette Boehme, its treasurer and comptroller and a member of our Society, 22 manuscript volumes of minutes, accounts, and survey plats, as well as 40 photographs of the founders and officers, were deposited here.

Family papers are important sources of local information and can reveal much about individuals and their personal lives and business ventures, as well as the social, political and economic life of the times. The Gest family has been in Cincinnati since the early 1800's, and its members have played important roles in its history. For many years the Society has owned the survey volumes of Joseph Gest (1776–1863), which are thoroughly indexed. In the 1963 gift of Mr. Henry Gest, we received some of Joseph's correspondence and other business papers, also those of his brother John (1783–1865) and John's children, Clarissa (1816–1901) and Erasmus (1820–1908). Joseph Henry Gest (1859–1935), the donor's father, was director of the Cincinnati Art Museum and chairman of the National Gallery of Art Commission, Washington, D.C., and his correspondence reflects his vast art connections.

Florien Giauque (1843–1921), lawyer, author of legal manuals and land owner, had interests in Ohio, Indiana and Louisiana. His papers had for years been in the attic of Mrs. Richard T. Keys' home in Glendale. Through her courtesy, the documents have been de-
posited with the Society. They contain the records and correspondence of the Giauque, Guillaume and Peppard families in Switzerland and the United States, and the autobiography of Giauque himself. They include the history of the Colorado-Yule Marble Company; records and correspondence relating to extensive land holdings in Louisiana and Deshler, Ohio; correspondence, plats litigation and financial statements of the Mount Auburn Avondale Syndicate Subdivision; records of the publishing ventures of Giauque with the W. H. Anderson and Robert Clarke Companies, and the file copies of his firm’s correspondence with Henry N. McClure. Some of the documents and original surveys pertaining to real estate in Louisiana were forwarded to that state’s Department of Archives where they were gratefully accepted as revealing hitherto unrecorded data.

**Harrison Collection**

The William Henry Harrison collection given in 1948 by the late James Albert Green is one of the Society’s specialties. In the new library, it is hoped that proper focus will be put on it by having the books, pictures and memorabilia on permanent display. This year, a member, Dr. John J. Weisert of Louisville, Kentucky, gave us five more manuscript documents dating 1795 to 1835 to add to it. A pencil sketch of North Bend, similar to the small engraving so famous for illustrating the home of the president, and the three forms of transportation (railroad, canal and riverboat), was among the purchases.

**Pictures**

A question which confronts us constantly is: Should we give people what they want or should we give people what we think they should have? The Picture Collection has been built up because people want pictures. A visual presentation of Cincinnati in 1800 is clearer than a hundred words. A horse-drawn streetcar is hard to describe. A large percentage of our local use is in pictures, and the Society seems to be filling a need and meeting a demand. Fortunately, our members and friends are tremendously interested in this subject, too, as is attested to by the contribution of some 2,695 pictures. Oil paintings, lithographs, photographs, postcards and clippings — the acquisitions cover a wide range of subject and media.

An outstanding purchase was an 1866 lithograph of the Suspension Bridge, the first bridge over the Ohio at Cincinnati. Original illustrations of early Cincinnati are rare, which made the pencil sketch of 1835, donated by Mr. Lucien Wulsin, especially welcome. Mr. Joe J. Marx gave us a ten-foot mural photograph of Cincinnati in 1960,
which, in an exhibition with other panoramas starting in 1788, would clearly show the city's growth.

The Cincinnati Enquirer has an extensive collection of photographs and is always most cooperative in working on mutual problems. A start of what could be an important project was made when we received almost 900 of these pictures of local interest, the kind that they could never use again in the newspaper, but which can serve a most useful purpose in historical study. With its expanding program, the Society should find it helpful in its work with the community to encourage more cooperation with newspapers, advertising agencies, photographers, and the public relations departments of many organizations.

Trivia

Trivia can be most exciting to receive. A story lies in the horse show program of 1923, in the stock certificate of a cable railroad from 1886, in the illustrated menu found in the Specimen Color Book of the Levyneau Company of 1880's, or in the souvenir program of Bellevue House in 1883. Invitations, programs, broadsides, certificates and printed forms — all have their place in describing the past.

Museum Objects

Libraries in our present world do not consider the job complete with only the printed word. Throughout the country it is recognized that visual presentation through exhibits or on television is a necessary adjunct to reading. To make our library a more interesting place to visit and to assist in education, a small collection of objects has been accumulated through the years. These are used constantly and, we believe, for good purposes.

Additions to this minor section of our holdings included a few of unusual interest. Fort Washington came into its own again during the year, and the Society is fortunate to have been the recipient — although only on permanent loan — of the original lock and key of the Fort. Handed down through the family for generations, it was loaned by the young owner, Mr. Norman W. Lawson, Jr. of Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

Lafayette's visit to Cincinnati of 1825 will always be an historic event, and it can be displayed to more colorful heights with the bequest of Miss Rebekah Weaver Alter of two porcelain vases, Sèvres, 1820-1830, decorated with portraits in polychrome of Lafayette and of Washington.

Local color is found, too, in the replica of the key from the Phoenix
Building, given to the club president, J. Walter Freiberg, in 1894. This has been put to practical use as a paperweight.

The above listing in no way shows the quality nor quantity of our gifts. The subjects and examples are to indicate to our readers and potential donors the scope of our collections.

Staff

The addition in February of a part-time professional librarian, Mrs. Carol Chancey, for cataloging has helped alleviate that critical technical phase of the work. However, the acquisition of new titles has almost kept pace with her cataloging. Mrs. Virginia Jergens started as library assistant in September, assuming many detailed tasks.

The resignation of Miss Ruth C. Brill in May ended a two-year siege on the manuscript collections, but her contribution in processing both single manuscripts and collections was notable. As a temporary measure from May to September, Mrs. Rita Rullmann, our former assistant, returned to give her knowledge and experience to the otherwise depleted staff. Our long-time students, Miss Diana Monsey and Miss Rita Ramundo, worked through the summer months, but both were gone by the end of the year. Mr. James Moon, Mr. Donald Sippel and Mr. James Lawrence, all students, covered different months, but in October Mr. Frank Hardewig assumed the necessary tasks fulfilled by the strong-armed male of the library staff. Miss Jan Gatrost, a student typist, is with us as the year comes to an end.

If the library is to perform correctly its myriad duties and attend to its technical and professional functions properly, there must be built up a staff of sufficient size, quality, experience and long-time service to do justice to the collections. To live with and to use constantly the thousands of items in the library are the only ways to learn them. Experience in our library, in conjunction with general and specific historical knowledge, will make a truly useful and efficient librarian.

As librarian, I am writing this report as the last of a series in my seventeen years with the Society. The changes brought about during these past years are many. Great advances have been made along some lines, such as efficient files, organized systems for housing and cataloging, thousands of reference cards, pages of manuscript data. The tremendous increase in use and the continuing widening of our influence must be on our credit side. The negative points to mention, but briefly, might be the lack of staff and time to give the service
we would like to give; the persons to maintain the esprit de corps and the good public relations so carefully built up in the quiet years in the late forties and early fifties; the inability to accomplish even the necessary routines which leave the desirable ones untouched.

Nevertheless, the past years have been ones with activities which brought their own reward in the grateful thanks of the thousands of customers; the acknowledgements in printed works and other visual places; the friendships made with visitors from all over the country; and the satisfaction that, with my help, the library patron may have learned a little more or gotten the answer which made things easier for him. The Society and its library have been built up in the past hundred years through the services of dedicated men and women, who believed that the future success of our country and the ultimate happiness of the world lay in the ability of people to study the past and to profit from the mistakes and experiences of those who went before. In my years as librarian, I have tried to carry on in the tradition laid down by my predecessors. I leave the library to hands and hearts which I hope will try to understand or search out the reason behind many of the routines or collections which will be found. Many were started in the days before professional tools had made work easier and techniques uniform. Many serve a purpose or need peculiar to our Society. Persons dealing with our Historical Society should apply the theories of historical research to its past before judgment, good or bad, is made.

Recent years have found the few staff members working under great difficulties, physical and material. The constant pressures to stretch the walls and get one more thing in a certain space have been too great. The need to continue using furniture long worn out because everything was to be new for the new building and the new staff went almost too far.

It is, therefore, with pleased pride that I realize that before long any new personnel will be working in a library planned, to the best of my ability and based on study and experience, to fill our needs and absorb our collections. New air-conditioned rooms, ample stack space, new furniture and equipment should make the Society an appealing position for librarians. The struggles of the past years will neither be known nor understood by the newcomers. Perhaps, however, they will never be able to derive the satisfaction of working against great odds to accomplish the Society’s aims. The dream of the four librarians who have served the Society since its “temporary” move to the University 62 years ago has materialized, but others will enjoy it.

Alice P. Hook

Librarian
REPORT OF LAWRENCE C. BUCHER,  
TREASURER, FOR 1963

GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance, January 1, 1963 ..................... $ 9,102.87

Receipts:

Income from Investments ........................................ 25,455.84
*Membership Dues ............................................. 24,005.00
Hamilton County Grant ...................................... 10,000.00
Miscellaneous Income ......................................... 694.52
Donations .......................................................... 956.00

$70,214.23

Disbursements:

Salaries .......................................................... $31,283.50
Bulletin and Newsletter ...................................... 7,219.39
Transfer to Book Fund ....................................... 5,000.00
All other Expenses ............................................. 9,618.08

$53,120.97

Cash Balance — December 31, 1963 ..................... $17,093.26

BOOK FUND

Cash Balance — January 1, 1963 ..................... $ 2,251.95

Receipts:

Donations .......................................................... 85.00
From Sale of Books, Manuscripts, etc.................. 337.57
May Journal ........................................................ 403.34
Transfer from General Fund .............................. 5,000.00

$ 5,825.91
**Disbursements:**

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Cash Balance — December 31, 1963: $5,193.53

*As of December 31, 1963, membership stood at 1,309.

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**THE BUILDING EQUIPMENT FUND**

The Cincinnati Historical Society maintains a special fund for the purchase of equipment and furnishings for the Society's new quarters in Eden Park. The estimate for equipping and furnishing the new building is about $50,000. To date, contributions total $7,799.79. Members wishing to contribute to this Fund should direct their checks to: The Cincinnati Historical Society, University of Cincinnati Library, Cincinnati 21, Ohio. Contributors wishing to equip and furnish individual rooms are asked to contact the Director. (281-3091).

With profound pride, we list the contributors to the Building Equipment Fund to date:

- Anonymous
- Mrs. Ralph G. Carothers
- Miss Nelle Hosbrook
- Huenefeld Memorial, Inc.
- Mrs. Harold J. Kersten
- Mr. & Mrs. Louis Nippert
- Miss Dorothy Rawson
- Miss Gwendolyn Rawson
- Rawson Estate
- Mrs. David A. Tucker, Jr.