December 4, 1914, were impressed with the splendid work he has done for the Rhode Island Historical Society. His subject “The Historical Society and the Community” was most interesting and timely and we are indebted to Mr. Roelker for many valuable suggestions for improving the public relations of our Society. His address in part is reproduced in another column.

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

On the afternoon of December 4, 1944, members of the Society gathered in the Library for the annual meeting, which was called to order at 3:00 o'clock by President Bond. The reports made by the officers of the Society appear as follows:

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

The details of the very considerable progress of the Society during the past year will be given in the reports of the officers. May I call especial attention to the notable increase in the membership, and the sound financial situation. Activities have been varied. Valuable additions have been made to the library, and the Society is cooperating with the Ohio War Commission to secure much invaluable material relating to Cincinnati's war effort. For these troubled times the record of publications has been creditable, including the quarterly Bulletins and the volume on the Centennial of the Observatory, which was issued jointly with the University. The Annual Meeting, December 6th, was most successful, with an address, “Romance of a River”, by Mr. Clark B. Firestone. The exhibition of the Harry L. Flesher Collection of Ohio River Steamboats attracted much attention. In noting this varied program which should be even fuller this coming year, let me acknowledge the splendid cooperation of the Board, and of other members of the Society, without which this progress would have been impossible.

Several problems have arisen which demand the attention of the members of the Society. Primarily it is a question of finances. Thanks to the wise policies initiated by the Treasurer our annual income has shown a slight increase, although there is no assurance this situation will continue. But the varied activities of a well-rounded historical society are expensive, and will be increasingly so if the Society is to continue its progress. Most
pressing is the problem of a permanent home. The University library is rapidly growing, and we cannot hope to occupy indefinitely so large a portion of the building. We now use space estimated at 27 per cent, and representing an investment of well over $125,000.00. If we are to remain in the University Library, it will be necessary to reduce materially the space we occupy, and to pay a rent more commensurate with the advantages we enjoy. Obviously these conditions would be present in even greater degree in seeking other quarters. The one solution seems to be to fix the limits of our collections and to avoid needless duplication of the material in other Cincinnati libraries. This problem indeed is involved in a general one, the necessity to define the aims of the Society, and to determine more exactly its place in the community. In order to make adequate recommendations to the members of the Society, the Board decided to avail itself of the considered judgment of the best men it could secure.

The first step was to secure the aid of Mr. Keyes Metcalf, librarian of Harvard University, whose experience in reorganizing important libraries has been wider than that of any other available man. Mr. Metcalf came to Cincinnati, carefully looked into the situation, and made an elaborate report upon the legitimate field of the Society's library, especially in connection with other libraries in Cincinnati. The Board then passed a resolution, based upon Mr. Metcalf's report, that the library of the Society should be limited, both in what is retained and in future accessions, to historical material concerning the following territories in the order indicated:

First of all the Miami Purchase.
Next, Southwestern Ohio, south of Columbus, west of the Scioto River and east of Indiana,
And finally, the Ohio River Valley.
Also, the library should retain or acquire, as they are needed, for general reference purposes, modern histories of Ohio, the Northwest Territory and the United States.

These geographical limitations are not advanced as rigid, but merely as general principles. The disposition of the valuable genealogical collection the Board will consider separately, and a similar policy will be carried out with regard to like problems as they arise.
The next step in reorganizing the library will be to secure the aid of someone thoroughly acquainted with the field proposed, who will make specific recommendations with regard to both existing collections and future acquisitions. It is understood that all books found to be beyond the limits established, shall be made available to the University Library or the Public Library to round out their collections. By such a policy important books that are little used or outside our field, will still be available in Cincinnati.

Of equal importance with the problem of the library is that of public relations. Accordingly the Board invited Mr. William G. Roelker, who has done such notable work at the Rhode Island Historical Society, to report upon our possibilities in this respect. Mr. Roelker's address, at the annual meeting was upon the timely topic "The Historical Society and the Community".

After considering the reports of Mr. Metcalf, of the historical expert we are arranging to secure on the library, and that of Mr. Roelker upon public relations, the Board will be in a position to draw up a really comprehensive report as to the varied activities of the Society and its needs. This report, with recommendations for basic policies, will be presented for consideration at a special meeting of the members of the Society.

Beverley W. Bond, Jr,
President

REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY

Your secretary is glad to report that the Society has had a very busy year. On the third Thursday of each month your Board has met regularly, with the exception of the summer months, and the meetings have been attended regularly by practically every member of the Board. A thorough discussion of all phases of the activities of the Society has been had.

The Membership Committee has been active and due largely to its efforts twenty-eight new members have been added during the year. Although there have been a few losses in members through death and resignation, total membership at the present time is 139. Of this number there are 117 Corporate, 10 Life, 6 Corresponding and 6 Honorary members.

Undoubtedly many of our new members are here today for the first time and it is the hope of your Board that you will
make full use of the privileges of the Library and become ac-
quainted with our various collections built up during the more
than 113 years of our existence.

The issuance of a quarterly bulletin, initiated as a new activ-
ity last year, has been continued and has kept the membership
informed of the activities of the Society and of interesting ac-
quisitions to the Library.

It is our hope that the membership can be still further en-
larged and the activities of the Society become more widely
known throughout the city.

Respectfully submitted,

HERBERT F. KOCH,
Recording Secretary

December 1, 1944.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

The following totals are taken from the treasurer's report:

Cash Balance November 30, 1943 $7,386.88
Receipts ........................................... 11,723.84
Total ............................................... 19,110.72
Expenditures ...................................... 9,467.89
Balance November 30, 1944 ..................... 9,642.83

L. C. BUCHER
Treasurer

December 4, 1944

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REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Cincinnati, Ohio
December 2, 1944.

Your committee on nominations recommends that the incum-
bents of the various offices be re-elected, and therefore nomin-
ates them for election at the Annual Meeting of Members to be
held on December 4, to-wit:

Beverley W. Bond, Jr., President
Lucien Wulsin, First Vice-President
Robert L. Black, Second Vice-President
Chalmers Hadley, Corresponding Secretary
Herbert F. Koch, Recording Secretary
Lawrence C. Bucher, Treasurer
Eleanor S. Wilby, Librarian
Joseph S. Graydon
Mrs. William T. Buckner
Lee Shepard
Mrs. Albert L. Russel
John J. Rowe
Curators
Harry F. Woods, Curator Emeritus

Respectfully
Mrs. A. J. Allen
Cornelius J. Hauck
Chas. W. Dupuis
*Nominating Committee*

The above officers and curators were elected unanimously for another year.

At the close of the annual meeting the members adjourned to the Annie Laws Auditorium of the University where with their invited guests to the number of 150 listened to the annual address. The Society was fortunate in securing William G. Roelker, Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society, who spoke on the subject of “The Historical Society and the Community.” Mr Roelker handled the subject in an interesting and instructive way.

Dr. Beverley W. Bond, President, introduced the speaker and at the close of the address, announced that a reception for members and guests would be held in the adjacent parlors. Mrs Lucien Wulsin and her Committee made this the happy occasion for many to meet Mr. Roelker. Light refreshments were served under Mrs. Wulsin’s direction. Thus another annual meeting has gone into and become part of the history of the Society and those in attendance voted it one of the most successful of recent years. We are sorry not to have the space to print Mr. Roelker’s address in its entirety.

THE ADDRESS

Mr. Roelker opened his talk by asking the question, “Why should a community be interested in the establishment of an historical society?” He shows in answering this question “that history makes stable, well rounded individuals because it gives them a start toward understanding the pattern of society and