
THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held the evening of Monday, December 1, 1958, in the Alms Auditorium of the Cincinnati Art Museum with 175 members and guests in attendance. Mr. Lucien Wulsin, President, presided. Mr. Richard G. Arms, Director, was introduced and extended a message of greeting to the assembled members and guests.

Mr. Henry Lyman Greer, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, read the proposed slate of officers for the coming year, which upon vote resulted in the election of the following:

OFFICERS

President, Lucien Wulsin
Vice-President, John J. Rowe
Vice-President, Joseph C. Dinsmore
Vice-President, Robert M. Galbraith
Recording Secretary, Mrs. John H. Skavlem
Corresponding Secretary, Cornelius J. Hauck
Treasurer, Lawrence C. Bucher
Director, Richard G. Arms

CURATORS

Mrs. William T. Buckner
William T. Earls
Herbert F. Koch
Mrs. John H. Wulsin
Lewis C. Thomson

Dr. Julian P. Boyd, Editor of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson and Professor of History at Princeton University, gave the address of the evening, entitled "Our Uncherished Past," a serious talk with a challenging and stimulating message. At the close of the program, Mrs. Robert L. Black and her hospitality committee, Mrs. Richard G. Arms, Mrs. John B. Hollister, Mrs. Chester F. Kroger, Mrs. Walter C. Langsam, and Mrs. William A. Pease, welcomed members and guests at an informal reception in the Musical Instruments Gallery of the museum.
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

The Society is ending the present year in sound health. By gift and purchase the collections continue to grow, and the Society continues to take a more active role in the life of the community. Our expressed purpose to foster the cause of the history of Cincinnati and the Old Northwest Territory is being discharged in an imaginative and constructive fashion. Within the limitations of numbers on our staff and their individual energies, a creative and capable job is being done. There is, however, ample room for growth and development.

The purpose of this report is to review the events of the year now ended and to provide an indication of our plans for the future.

Spring Meeting

"Cincinnati: Host to the Nation," our annual spring exhibition for 1958, opened at the Taft Museum the evening of April 24. The meeting was conducted by Mr. John J. Rowe, Vice-President of the Society. During the short business session, Dr. Walter C. Langsam, President of the University of Cincinnati, was elected an Honorary Member of the Society. The 140 members present indicated their approval of Dr. Langsam's election and recognition of his eminent position with resounding applause. Mr. Rowe then introduced your director, who provided the audience with a brief account of the highlights of the exhibition. Following the director's remarks, members and guests adjourned to the Garden Gallery of the Museum to view a display of mementos and pictures illustrative of Cincinnati's role as "Host to the Nation," to enjoy each other's company, and to partake of a delicious wine punch concocted from a secret formula supplied by our President, Mr. Lucien Wulsin. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Hook and the cooperation of the staff of the Taft Museum, a fine collection of exhibition material pointing up the "Cincinnati: Host to the Nation" theme was assembled. The show was received with enthusiasm. An attractive booklet, widely distributed; a feature story in the rotogravure section of the Enquirer, Sunday, April 27; an editorial in the Times-Star, May 12; and other pre-meeting and follow-up news coverage helped to attract visitors to the show. The hospitality and the cooperation of the Trustees of the Taft
Community Relationships

In keeping with a healthy trend that has developed in recent years here and with other historical societies, we have endeavored in our activities and functions during the past twelve months to reach a broader segment of the community. These activities may conveniently be grouped under the dual heading of public relations and spreading historical information. (Completely as an aside but to the point, is the fact that foundations are loath to award grants to organizations unless they have a well-developed public relations program. While we currently do not receive any grants, this is to recognize that at some time in the future we may wish to qualify for foundation funds.)

Our Spring Show, which was open to the public from April 25 through July 31, served as a vehicle to alert, in a highly palatable fashion, the people of Cincinnati to the history of this region and to the existence of the Society. The attendance count provided by the Taft Museum stated that 8,616 people visited our show. Many of these visitors were groups of students from the public, parochial, and independent schools who had been invited to attend by letters sent to the schools in the Greater Cincinnati area. Thus, through the cooperation of a public institution, the Society was able to perform a meaningful public service. The acceptance by the newspapers of our prepared press releases, the position given these stories in the papers, and the papers' self-initiated editorial and columnist comment mirrored their recognition of the civic nature of our objective in producing the show.

During the past year both the librarian and the director have made talks before a number of clubs, organizations, student groups, and church gatherings. These occasions have permitted us to bring the Society to the attention of selected community audiences, and they have provided us with platforms to stimulate an interest in local history. Not content to let requests for speaking engagements just come to us, we have announced our willingness to speak by again listing the Society in the "Program Planners' Handbook," compiled and distributed by the Readers' Bureau of the Public Library.

In keeping with our duty to foster an interest in the history of
this region, arrangements were completed in August with the editor of the Sunday *Enquirer*, rotogravure section, for a series of feature stories illustrating aspects of the history of the Greater Cincinnati area. The first of the series appeared on October 19, 1958, under the title "Presenting the Past." The articles carry a distinctive head incorporating both the seal and the name of the Society. Weekly installments have appeared regularly since the initial feature. Reports that have come to the *Enquirer* and individuals who have spoken to your director have commented favorably and enthusiastically about the series. One positive result of the stories has been a mild influx of pictures and other local historical material that readers have sent to the Society. A visit to one of the Cincinnati schools in November provided the occasion for your director to discover with some satisfaction that at least one teacher is posting the features on his bulletin board.

During the first quarter of the year, the Society worked with Mr. Richard Wheeler of the University of Cincinnati and his fifth year students in architecture on a project, “An Historical Museum and Library for Cincinnati.” Both Mrs. Hook and I reviewed with the students the physical needs of a museum-library operation. Later when the projects were completed, we sat on the juries which judged the merits of each student’s design and presentation. Approximately sixty students participated in the project which was reported with considerable interest in the daily press and in the campus newspaper.

Other services which we have been able to provide for the community have been the loan of pictures, objects, and other display material for the use by local television stations, for the historical window series of the Central Trust Company, for the D.A.R. window display at Mabley & Carew, and many others. Our collection of early medical instruments and the exhibit originally prepared for the Centennial of the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine were loaned to St. Mary’s Hospital on the occasion of that institution’s one hundredth anniversary in September.

On Wednesday, June 18, about forty members of the Western Reserve Historical Society of Cleveland visited Cincinnati on one of their pilgrimages to historic places in Ohio. We cooperated with Mrs. Richard T. Keys, a member of both Societies, in making arrangements for the visit. The Cleveland group’s bus tour ended at the Taft Museum, where they viewed our Spring Show and
where we had the pleasure of entertaining them with cooling refreshment on a warm day. Several of our members, including Mrs. Russell Wilson, Mrs. Teasdale Fisher, and Mrs. Stephen Starr, served as hostesses. Other HPSO members attended both the "tea" and the boat ride which followed on the Johnson Party Boat. On board Mr. Herbert Koch gave an interesting talk about Cincinnati and the Ohio River. It was a happy occasion and the Cleveland society was pleased with our hospitality and assistance.

**Special Projects**

The first stage of the photographic project, inaugurated by Mr. John M. Garber and Mr. George S. Rosenthal, to capture on film historic homes, buildings, and scenes in the Cincinnati area was completed during the past year. This initial phase of the project has resulted in the taking of approximately 3,500 photographs which record the architectural detail of nineteenth century Cincinnati structures and settings as they appear today. The artistic quality of Mr. Rosenthal's efforts are noteworthy. The originators of the project and your director are now in the process of editing this impressive number of photographs. Our objective, and this is the second phase of the project, will be to bring this historical material to the attention of our members and the community in the most effective and meaningful manner.

**Virginius C. Hall Memorial**

In December, the Society bought twenty etchings depicting Cincinnati scenes by Edward T. Hurley. These interesting and artistic pictures were purchased with funds given the Society in memory of Virginius C. Hall, director of the Society from 1945 to 1957. Purchase was made after consultation with Mrs. Hall, who approved highly of the proposed memorial. Mrs. Hall expressed the opinion that the Hurley etchings were particularly fitting as a memorial to her late husband, because this pictorial material and its subject reflected Mr. Hall's interests so completely.

**Publications**

Four issues of the quarterly *Bulletin* and an index for the 1957 volumes have appeared and been mailed on schedule during the course of the year. The quality of the contributors' articles remains
high and, as such, reflects the editorial standards of those responsible for publication. The Bulletin is one of our chief contacts with our members and our principal liaison with other historical societies, libraries, colleges, and universities. Letters and comments from our members and from readers across the nation indicate the Bulletin is widely read and held in considerable esteem.

To the late Lee Shepard, who founded the Bulletin in March 1943, and under whose editorship the Bulletin developed from a four page leaflet into an impressive and attractive journal, no amount of credit would be adequate to recognize his dedicated efforts. The Bulletin and the Society in the death of Lee Shepard lost a great and good friend. He will indeed be missed.

In June, the Board appointed your director editor of the Bulletin, thereby reflecting a recommendation made by Mr. Shepard in a letter written shortly before his death.

With no wish to slight other contributors to the Bulletin, this, however, seems an appropriate place to make particular mention of the initial purchase made under the Chester F. Kroger Memorial Fund. In February after careful study, the Society bought three valuable and historically significant manuscripts. These were published in the October Bulletin under the title, "News from the Ohio Valley as reported by Barthélemy Tardiveau in 1783." The documents were presented with an interesting and readable introduction written by Howard C. Rice, Jr., Chief of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections of the Princeton University Library. In purchasing this primary source material and in publishing it immediately thereafter in the Bulletin, we find an outstanding example of the Society fulfilling its expressed purpose.

News Letter

The News Letter permits us to inform our members of the current activities of the Society and its staff, and it provides us with a means of acknowledging publicly the gifts of donors. We try to publish the News Letter so that it will reach our members between issues of the Bulletin. This year the News Letter received a face lifting in the form of a new masthead. The fleet horse with its rider, Mr. HPSO, hurrying "10 mi. to Cin." to bring our
members news, seems to have found acceptance among our membership.

Symmes Book

*The Intimate Letters of John Cleves Symmes and His Family,* edited by Dr. Beverley W. Bond, Jr., Curator Emeritus of the Society and a past president, and published in January 1957, still enjoys a steady sale.

Staff

The full-time staff as the year draws to a close includes Mr. Richard G. Arms, Director; Mrs. Alice P. Hook, Librarian; Miss Lillian C. Wuest, Assistant Librarian; and Miss Mary Eleanor Marks, Secretary to the Staff. Miss Amelia Leist works part time doing valuable work in cataloguing. University of Cincinnati students also work part time during the school year and full time during the summer.

This summer in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Arms attended the six week session of the Institute on Historical and Archival Management, jointly sponsored by the History Departments of Harvard and Radcliffe. In May, he traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, for the National Conference of the American Association of Museums and in October to Mansfield, Ohio, to attend the Fifth Annual Institute on Local and State History.

Mrs. Hook attended the Special Libraries Association Convention in Chicago in June.

Mention has already been made of the death of Lee Shepard. The Society sustained another severe loss on May 11, 1958, when Chalmers Hadley died. His association with the Society spanned almost thirty years during which time he served on the Board of Trustees as Corresponding Secretary (1930–1945) and as President (1945–1952). Upon his resignation as Society President, he was elected Curator Emeritus and served in that capacity until his death. Mr. Hadley was a good friend of the Society, and he too will be sorely missed.

Plans for the Future

What of the future? Francis Bacon once wrote, “What man will not alter for the better Time will alter for the worse.”
Organizations, like buildings, either develop or deteriorate. Man must alter them for the better, or time will alter them for the worse. The HPSO is no exception to this truism. Therefore, our emphasis for the future should be on development.

Development in terms of membership means an increase in the size of our membership. Without in any way diluting the quality of our current membership, we must double the number of members. A concentrated effort needs to be made to get more people interested in the Society, and the Society must do more to make its membership attractive and meaningful for potential members.

Another aspect of our development could very well be an increasingly active educational program. If we are to be of greater service to the community, we must expand our programs to include regular gallery talks, perhaps a series for parents and children on Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons, and to work more closely with the curriculum of the schools. Adequate facilities for such purposes is a limiting factor in our present situation at the University.

In our publications program we should make the Bulletin available to our community's schools for a fee that is economical and attractive. We could well expand our publications program and print more of the historically significant material which we have in our collections.

We should encourage volunteer workers from among our membership. There is more work to be done than staff available to do the job. Volunteer workers offer a constructive source for the accomplishment of important tasks. Moreover, volunteer work has the added advantage of stimulating interest and loyalty among our members through actual participation.

Once our members and the community know and appreciate what HPSO is and what we are doing, and want to do, we will succeed in altering for the better so that time can not alter for the worse. We shall endeavor to make the library and our programs more available to our members and the community in order to more completely fulfill our purpose of collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of Cincinnati, Ohio, and the Old Northwest Territory.

Richard G. Arms,
Director
REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

The activities of the library during the past year have followed the usual pattern with the exception that there seems to be a greater variety of people calling on the facilities and services. Though the library is primarily keyed to working with historical research scholars and genealogists, the need for material for the average layman with some historical interest, for the juvenile historian, and for the wide range of commercial individuals is increasing. Patrons of the library, as well as correspondents and phone calls, have come from all over the United States and range from the serious historian to the fifth grade student. The variety of individual using the library taxes the resources of the collections and the ingenuity of the staff. All this, of course, makes us realize the broadening interest in historical matters and the place our library holds in the educational picture.

Acquisitions

The collection of the library is not devoted entirely to books and magazines as is the usual concept of a library. It includes any form of printed or illustrative material which can, in any way, tell the story of the past. Our pictures, maps, broadsides, printed forms, advertising brochures, etc. play as large a part as the books. The most important contribution to historical research, however, remains in the manuscripts, and it is that collection which it is our hope will be the center of both acquisition and use in the years to come. Manuscripts form the basis of original research and answer the questions still unanswered in our history. The acquisition policy is quite definite, but what we secure is dependent on what is made available to us through gift or purchase. Some of the acquisitions of this past year are well worth describing in full and it is only the limit of space which restricts the following notes about our additions.

Gifts. Through the cooperation of another Cincinnati institution a fine addition was made to the manuscript and picture collections of the Society. The Ohio Mechanics Institute decided to remove historical material and museum objects from its collection and place them where they could be used to better advantage. Fortunately they felt that this Society was the proper depository for the historical matter pertaining to Cincinnati. For many
years certain manuscripts and pictures had been reposing in exhibit cases at O.M.I. When these were removed by the Society staff members, it was discovered that many of them were priceless and of exceeding value to historical research. Along with the manuscripts and pictures, there were also newspapers, pamphlets, maps, broadsides, printed forms, and some three dimensional objects. Much of the museum type material discarded by O.M.I. could not possibly be absorbed by the Society, since it was either irrelevant to its needs or too large to be housed. A good deal of this was transferred to the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. The museum type material which did come to us ranged from a small bombshell from the battle of the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac* to the large lathe used by Hiram Powers. Several large objects have been put in storage with the hope that some day they could be incorporated into a permanent exhibit, since they reflect the printing and publishing arts of Cincinnati: a letter press, a lithograph machine, a printing press, a typewriter. Another object of historic interest is the door from the house occupied by General Arthur St. Clair, first Governor of the Northwest Territory.

The pictures received included over one hundred excellent illustrations of people, places, and events in Cincinnati history. Since most of them are original photographs of the later 19th century, they were accepted eagerly. The use of pictures has broadened to such a degree that the printed word is not enough even for an historical research library. To fulfill the requests made of us, it is essential that from now on illustrative material must be emphasized to a greater degree. The views of homes, factories, buildings, street scenes, and the like will add considerably to the value of this increasingly popular field of study.

The seventy-eight manuscripts turned out to be both interesting and valuable and most welcome additions to our collection. These had not been available to researchers previously and opening them up now will be of considerable moment. Two of the most important documents were of several pages each. One is the *Columbia township return of all taxable property taken in by David Black, 1801*, and the other is *Dayton township general list of taxable property, 1801, Benjamin Van Cleve, lister*. They will certainly be another fine source of early names for this area.

Miles Greenwood (1807–1885), ironmaster, capitalist, civic-minded philanthropist, continues to be a person of real impor-
tance in the history of Cincinnati, whether one is concerned with the fire department, which he organized as the first paid group, the factories, or the Ohio Mechanics Institute, which he helped to establish. Among the manuscripts received were sixteen letters and four documents of his activities, primarily during the Civil War, with orders for and remarks on the guns which he manufactured.

Important manuscripts relating to Cincinnati affairs were: a report of 1799 made by Jacob Burnet, Treasurer of Hamilton County, on the county's finances; petition of 1806 to Commissioners of Hamilton County from inhabitants of the third township and second fractional range for permission to incorporate (46 signatures); petition of inhabitants of the fourth township, first range, 1806, seeking to dispose of donation sections (24 signatures); remonstrance objecting to incorporating townships, 1806 (169 signatures); Miami land warrant to Benjamin Stites, December 1787, signed by John Cleves Symmes (Stites made the first landing in the Miami purchase, November 18, 1788); subscription list to the Circulating Library Society of Cincinnati, 1823; report on the library of the Ohio Mechanics Institute dated 1847; draft from the Committee of Second District petitioning votes for Col. Rutherford B. Hayes, former city solicitor [1864]; statement of John D. Caldwell, president of the Home Guards, concerning the defense of Cincinnati, 1862; several land grants signed by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

Germans in Cincinnati typify another important phase in local history. Two newly acquired manuscript documents add to our knowledge of them. In 1839, a group of German Democratic citizens adopted a declaration to favor the county convention system to insure united action. The manuscript supporting the "whole Democratic Carthage Convention ticket" is signed by 43 Germans. Dated about 1835, there is a manuscript note which was sent to the Republican (newspaper) petitioning the "creation of free schools for German children."

Letters and documents received, but relating to matters outside our immediate territory, include a letter signed by James Monroe, dated November 27, 1813, to Isaac Shelby, Governor of Kentucky, on the subject of confining British officers in the penitentiary in that state and retaliation for British treatment of American soldiers; a three page letter of William Whipple (1730-
The Annual Report for 1958

1785), Revolutionary patriot, dated Portsmouth [N. H.] Sept. 15, 1776, to Josiah Bartlett in Congress; passport, in Spanish, dated 1785, signed by Baron de Carondelet, Governor of Louisiana.

A notable gift received this past year and one which we anticipate researchers will find to be of real historical value was from the Harder estate on Galbraith Road. Through the kindness of Dr. Frank Kirby Harder of Akron and his sister Mrs. F. S. Klein of Pittsfield, Mass., the Society was given the opportunity of going through the house and removing whatever was wanted. The material, some quite hidden and much of it dust covered, was just the kind for which librarians are constantly looking. Two prominent ancestors of the Harder family were Timothy Kirby (1797–1874), lawyer and land agent, and Donn Piatt (1819–1891), journalist and author and husband of Louise Kirby. The collection in the house clearly reflected this ancestry. The truly valuable part is the papers of Timothy Kirby, who in 1828 was appointed land agent for the Bank of the United States and who from then until the affairs of the Bank were finally settled acted as the manager. The collection consists of twenty-eight volumes of his private papers and accounts and some of the Bank of the United States and six large wooden boxes and seven small wooden boxes of papers of the Bank from 1820 to 1845. The estimate of the number of pieces is about 7,500. The boxes have not been thoroughly checked nor the contents calendared, but from the preliminary investigation it would seem that there would be much on the economic history of Cincinnati told here. The financial plight of Cincinnati in the 1820’s is directly attributed to the Bank and its being here was much more detrimental than beneficial. The gift included also excellent books on Cincinnati, scrapbooks, and autograph albums, some Civil War material of the Banning branch of the family, printed forms, and other illustrative matter.

During the past years the library has benefited much from the advice, information, and collection of the late Lee Shepard. Early in 1958, Mr. Shepard gave the Society many items from his own library, many of which were new to the Society’s holdings and which have aided our work a great deal. These included twenty-five maps and charts, notably seven plans of the ancient fortifications in Ohio published between 1818 and 1834, and a series of maps of Ohio from 1818–1842. These, added to the already exten-
sive file of Ohio maps, give us a fairly complete picture of the state as the years made additions and changes. Among the forty-one pictures given us in the spring, there were photographs of people, six views of old Cincinnati, and many pictures of places and events of local interest. After Mr. Shepard's death, Mrs. Shepard sent to the library a large collection of pamphlets, pictures, and other material Mr. Shepard had collected over the years with such care and understanding. Many of the reports and periodicals filled gaps in our files; many of the pamphlets were very desirable additions to our already good collection. The clippings will be especially useful, for he started saving them before the Society library began its system of scrapbooks. The value of the Society library depends greatly on material which is not usually found in libraries of a more general nature. Our patrons come for the unique, the unusual, the so-called ephemeral which here are considered permanent acquisitions. Mr. Shepard knew and understood both our use and our need of such materials.

Due to the cooperation of Mr. Irwin Rhodes of the Legal Documents Committee of the Cincinnati Bar Association and of Mr. Bruce Harding, Ohio State Archivist, the Society became the depository for a collection of early Hamilton County documents which were destined for destruction. The material should serve us well in historical research and should offer our patrons another excellent source for facts on early Cincinnati. Although copies of some of these records are to be found in the Hamilton County Court House, these are the original volumes and have a flavor not to be found in reproductions. The collection consists of over a hundred early deed books from 1796-1860 for which a microfilm index is available. There are also examples of a large quantity of bonds, certificates, coroner's inquests (1885-1899), and a series of plats and maps of the Cincinnati area. The assistance of Mr. Gilbert Shaver, County Recorder, is deeply appreciated.

Brief mention of a few other gifts will serve to illustrate the variety of material received and of the donors: forty-two Strobridge Lithographing Co. posters, sketches and original art work for the Strobridge material by John W. Wuest, uncle of the donor Mrs. Julia Carder, whose gift included German newspapers, calendars, hand decorated marriage certificates, books, and pamphlets. Civil War letters and diaries, relics of the war, Ohio Union presidential ticket of 1864 were among the gifts of
Mrs. Alfred Wunderlich. Miss Ethel Phillips deposited fifteen volumes from the private library of her ancestor James McBride (1788–1859), author, archaeologist, and Miami University trustee, whose papers and books are already in the library. Music, theatre and musical programs, and old receipts comprised most of the collection received from the estate of Horatio Burckhardt through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cavally. From the estate of Mrs. Otto Marckworth, through Mrs. Elsie Marckworth Lewis, came a variety of mementoes of early manners and customs, invitations, visiting cards, as well as manuscripts and diaries 1820–50. Mr. F. H. Lawson gave twenty documents relating to the early history of the F. H. Lawson Company, and Miss Lily Jeanette Boehm a complete file of the reports of the Hamilton Mutual Insurance Co. and a portrait of the founder Henry Rattermann (which at one time had hung in Grammers, Cincinnati’s famous German restaurant). Scrapbooks, clippings, pictures and books came from the estate of Dorothy Fulton through Miss Ruth M. Jones and Mrs. C. Hammond Avery.

Members, friends, strangers, historians, genealogists, authors, and publishers are included among our donors, as are institutions, business organizations, governmental agencies, and of course other historical societies. Without their aid and assistance the collection would not grow to become more and more useful.

Although the collection of museum objects has never been a large one, there is in the library a nucleus of one which has often stood us in good stead in exhibits. Added to it this year were several items worthy of note including a complete set of Ohio automobile license plates from 1906 to 1956 from Mr. Richard P. Windisch; an afternoon dress of the 1870’s worn by Mrs. Charles Schmidlapp from Miss Margaret Conklin; a display collection of U. S. president medallions from Mr. Cornelius J. Hauck; the key from the Lafayette-Franklin bank and a horsecar bell from Mr. Walter Draper; four powder horns and an iron bank in form of a castle from Miss Nelle Hosbrook. These objects, with others already in the collection, often are just the thing needed to illustrate an historical point or highlight an exhibit of books or documents.

Loans, temporary or permanent, are also a form of acquisition in the library. A loan must be handled separately from other library possessions, but we always agree to the restrictions of the
lender in order to have the material available for historical research. An excellent contribution of this kind this year was the file of letters of Frank J. Jones, dated 1861 to 1863, numbering 151 letters, which were deposited with us by Mr. E. Lawrence Jones.

**Purchases.** There has been the usual dearth of activity in this department for the same reasons as in past years — lack of available material in our field and sufficient time to check the many catalogs and publishers' lists received. The policy of book buying has been consistent with the use made of the library. It has not been the custom to purchase new books except in fields vitally important to us or to our work. Since ours is a non-circulating library and use of it is primarily by research scholars, we have left the current buying to the general libraries. The Society has developed its genealogical field as being one of its chief functions, but does not purchase many family histories. Various indexes to material already in the library and the comprehensive volumes on state and county vital data are considered most useful here. The few books added to the general collection pertained to patriotic societies, Ohio and its history, or volumes which covered a broad area and should be of reference use.

Manuscripts continue to be the field where we would like to see more money go and more time spent in preparation and service. Our task is to secure the manuscripts, but to have them and not to make them available seems to be defeating the purpose of acquiring them. This year our major manuscript purchase was the Tardiveau-May-Daniel letters of 1783. Complete transcription of them, with editorial matter, was published in the October 1958 issue of the *Bulletin*, and we shall not need to mention them further here. Two other small collections added this year were twenty-eight letters of the Bean family, written from Cincinnati, Lebanon, and Urbana, Ohio between 1833–1856, and eleven letters of Isaac Jewett to Joseph Willard dated at Cincinnati and Columbus, 1831–1834. Part of the latter collection had been published in the *Bulletin* in 1952, and this library was thought to be the proper depository for these letters which had been in private hands. A large segment of our manuscript volumes is minutes and reports of local institutions, associations, and organizations of all kinds, and we added this year *Cincinnati Principals Association, Minutes, 1894–1904*, and *Mozart Hall, List of tenants,*
1867–1884. Single manuscripts are purchased carefully for they must have some content of worth or be by or about a person of significance in our area. Additions to this collection were an A.L.S. of Otway Curry, dated November 14, 1843, about Cincinnati and William D. Gallagher; and an A.L.S. of Richard Harding Davis, dated Cincinnati, June 16, 1876, during the Republican Convention.

Edward T. Hurley (1869–1950) through his etchings told the story of Cincinnati in a way not often seen. Although his pictures had been published in small volumes, there were only a few of his original etchings in the library. With the encouragement and at the suggestion of Mrs. Russell Wilson, the Society has purchased twenty of the etchings which most clearly show historic scenes in early twentieth century Cincinnati. These were purchased from the funds given the Society in memory of the former director the late Virginius C. Hall, whose interest in the pictorial had added much to that phase of the collection during his administration.

Several other good pictures were secured, large and small. However, the opportunity to purchase views of old Cincinnati does not come often. Two interesting scenes purchased this year were of the interior of the Bellevue Brewery and are excellent character studies as well as examples of gone, but not forgotten, customs. Contemporary views are being considered and occasionally added, as good ones of historical significance become available.

The library, with limited staff but an excellent collection, handicapped with inadequate space but maintaining a pleasant atmosphere, continues to serve a constantly increasing clientele of people interested in history and hopes that, within its scope, is serving them well. With the addition of the above mentioned acquisitions and those which space has not allowed listing, the available sources for historical research have increased. The prospects for the future are limitless.

Alice P. Hook,
Librarian