

## NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

THE Society met at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, in affiliation with the American Anthropological Association and Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, from December 30, 1907, to January 3, 1908.

The Council of the Society met on Tuesday, December 31, 1907, at 2.30 P. M., at the Field Museum of Natural History.

The Society held its annual business meeting on Wednesday, January 1, 1908, at the Haskell Assembly Room, University of Chicago.

The Treasurer presented his report for the period from December 24, 1906, to December 24, 1907.

### RECEIPTS.

Balance from last statement . . . . .	\$1,931.01
Receipts from annual dues . . . . .	816.10
Subscriptions to Publication Fund . . . . .	143.00
Sales through Houghton, Mifflin & Co. (net of mailing and other expenses):	
Memoirs . . . . .	172.42
Journal of American Folk-Lore, September 1, 1905, to June 1, 1907, less 10 per cent. commission, and charges for expressage, mailing, printing, etc. . . . .	338.36
California Branch, S. A. Barrett, Treasurer . . . . .	42.05
Iowa Branch, Edward K. Putnam, Secretary . . . . .	12.00
Interest account on balance, Old Colony Trust Co. (less charge for collection) . . . . .	37.37
	\$3,492.31

### DISBURSEMENTS.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co., for manufacture of Journal of American Folk-Lore, Nos. 75, 76, 77, 78 . . . . .	\$1,133.09
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., for manufacture of "Los Pastores" . . . . .	690.83
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., for printing 1000 memo. "To the Author" . . . . .	1.60
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., for publishing 200 copies of "Open Letter to Members" . . . . .	2.83
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., for pulling proofs of mailing list . . . . .	2.25
Caustic, Claflin & Co., Cambridge, Mass., printing for Secretary . . . . .	2.25
H. M. Hight, Boston, Mass., printing bill-forms, letter-headings, envelopes, etc. . . . .	7.75
Old Colony Trust Co., 12 shillings deposited as \$3 . . . . .	.08

## *Nineteenth Annual Meeting.*

75

Treasurer's postage . . . . .	\$8.00
Secretary's postage . . . . .	10.75
Harvard Coöperative Society, for Dr. Alfred M. Tozzer, hand-stamp, pad, typewriter paper, printing, and folded covers . . . . .	4.60
Dr. Alfred M. Tozzer, Acting Permanent Secretary, typewriting and express . . . . .	2.00
Dr. Alfred M. Tozzer, Acting Permanent Secretary, express on books belonging to the Society in the possession of Mr. Newell . . . . .	2.90
Dr. Alfred M. Tozzer, Acting Permanent Secretary, for photograph and print of Mr. W. W. Newell for Journal . . . . .	.95
Edward W. Wheeler, Cambridge, Mass., printing cards, bill-forms, envelopes, etc. . . . .	17.75
Dr. Franz Boas, part of expenses of the Joint Committee of the A. A. A. S., to memorialize the Carnegie Institution in regard to the organization of anthropological work, — postage, typewriting, and printing . . . . .	6.00
Rebate to Boston Branch, A. R. Tisdale, Treasurer . . . . .	35.00
Rebate to Cambridge Branch, M. L. Fernald, Treasurer . . . . .	23.00
Rebate to Missouri Branch, Miss M. L. Dalton, <sup>1</sup> Treasurer . . . . .	13.50
Rebate to Arizona Branch, Mrs. F. J. McCormack, Treasurer . . . . .	7.00
Miss Elizabeth Coggins, Cambridge, Mass., typewriting for R. B. Dixon, President . . . . .	1.35
Old Colony Trust Co., collecting one check under new system . . . . .	.10
	<hr/> \$1,973.58
Balance to new account . . . . .	1,518.73
	<hr/> \$3,492.31

ELIOT W. REMICK, *Treasurer.*

This report was duly accepted, and the President nominated a committee, consisting of Messrs. A. M. Tozzer, H. J. Spinden, R. G. Fuller, to audit the same.

The following nominations were presented by a Nominating Committee appointed from the Council.

PRESIDENT, Professor Roland B. Dixon, Harvard University.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, Professor H. M. Belden, University of Missouri.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, Professor E. K. Putnam, Davenport Academy of Sciences.

EDITOR OF JOURNAL, Professor Franz Boas, Columbia University.

PERMANENT SECRETARY, Dr. Alfred M. Tozzer, Harvard University.

TREASURER, Mr. Eliot W. Remick, Boston, Massachusetts.

<sup>1</sup> Died June, 1907.

COUNCILLORS (for three years): Dr. J. R. Swanton, Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D. C.; Professor P. E. Goddard, University of California; Mrs. Zelia Nuttall, Mexico City. (For two years): Mr. F. A. Golder, Tempe, Arizona; Dr. H. M. Hurd, Baltimore. (For one year): Dr. C. Wissler, American Museum of Natural History; Miss Alice C. Fletcher, Washington, D. C.

The following are also members of the Council, either as Past Presidents of the Society within five years, or as Presidents of local Branches: Professor Livingston Farrand, Professor G. L. Kittredge, Professor A. L. Kroeber, Professor F. W. Putnam, Professor R. B. Perry, Mr. Charles Keeler, Colonel J. H. McClintock, Miss Mary A. Owen, Professor Charles B. Wilson.

The Acting Secretary was empowered to cast a single ballot for the officers as nominated. This was done, and they were duly declared elected.

On Wednesday, January 1, 1908, PROFESSOR R. B. DIXON gave his Presidential Address on "Some Aspects of the American Shaman."

The following papers were some of those appearing on the programme of the joint sessions of the three Societies:—

PROFESSOR FRANZ BOAS, "A Report of the Committee on the Concordance of American Mythology."

PROFESSOR CHARLES B. WILSON, "A Number Form from Folk-Lore Medicine."

DR. A. M. TOZZER, "A Note on Star-Lore among the Navajos."

MR. H. J. SPINDEN, "The Mythology of the Nez Percé Indians."

MR. V. STEFÁNSSON, "The Treatment of Disease among the Mackenzie River Eskimos."

The following abstract of a portion of the report of the Acting Secretary to the Council in regard to the activities of the Society, its condition and relative strength as compared with former years, was read and ordered printed:—

The death of Mr. William Wells Newell, the Permanent Secretary, came as a blow to the members of the Society on January 21, 1907. As Founder of the Society, Editor of the *Journal of American Folk-Lore* from 1888 to 1900, Permanent Secretary since the beginning of the Society, and the main inspirer of folk-lore research in America, his loss is most keenly felt by a large circle, and more especially by the officers and members of the Folk-Lore Society.

The Council of the general Society and the officers of the various Branches passed resolutions of respect upon the death of Mr. Newell. A Memorial Meeting was held in the First Parish Church, Cambridge, on Sunday, March 10, 1907, through the initiation of the Folk-Lore Society. An account of this meeting, together with a copy of the resolu-

tions passed by the various Branches, was given in the *Journal of American Folk-Lore* for January-March, 1907 (vol. xx, no. lxxvi).

The encouraging results set forth in the report which follows are in great part due to the energies and devotion of Mr. Newell in behalf of the Society.

GENERAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT. BALANCES IN THE TREASURY ON  
DECEMBER 31 FROM 1900 TO 1907.

1900,	\$1435.45	1904,	\$1240.47
1901,	1868.32	1905,	1429.97
1902,	2195.88	1906,	1931.01
1903,	2313.85	1907,	1518.73

The balances for the years 1904 and 1907 show a falling off owing to the publication of *Memoirs* during these years. It will be seen that with these exceptions the figures show a very slight decline from the years marked by the largest balance, 1902, 1903.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY FROM  
1900 TO 1907.

	Honorary	Life	Annual	Total
1900,	15	11	336	362
1901,	15	12	336	363
1902,	15	12	298	325
1903,	14	12	285	311
1904,	13	9	209	231
1905,	13	9	239	261
1906,	13	9	329	351
1907,	14	8	358	379

It will be noted that in the years 1904 and 1905 there was a decided decrease in the membership of the Society. Since 1905, however, an increase has taken place. This is due in part to the formation of new State Branches which are powerful factors in furthering the interests of the Society. We are reaping the benefits of the late Secretary's untiring devotion to the causes of the Society. He was mainly instrumental in the formation of the new branches.

No new life members have been added to the list since 1901. This opportunity of life membership is one which might well be grasped by members who desire to aid the Society with their support.

MEMBERSHIP BY BRANCHES FOR THE YEAR 1907.

Boston Branch,	91
California Branch,	49
Cambridge Branch,	40

Arizona Branch,	34
Missouri Branch,	33
Iowa Branch,	13
Members at large,	119

The members at large are those who do not reside in the vicinity of one of the local Branches. They receive the Journal, and are always welcome at the meetings of any of the Branches whenever it is possible for them to attend. They have the same rights of voting at the annual meeting of the general Society as the members of the local Branches.

Several of the Branches have started with a nucleus of those residing in the vicinity who are already members of the Society, but who belong to no local branch.

#### QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LOCAL BRANCHES.

As a general rule, the annual dues of three dollars are to be collected by the local Treasurer of the members of the Branch. The general Treasurer sends bills only to those who are not members of any Branch.

The local Branch receives a rebate of fifty cents a member for all dues which are paid before April 1st. Otherwise, unless specially provided for, the entire three dollars is handed over to the general Treasurer. In communicating with the general Treasurer, the local Treasurer is advised to send the sum of two dollars and a half of the three dollars collected from each member and a receipt for the remaining fifty cents per paid membership which is retained by the Branch. In this way uniformity is obtained.

In the cases of founding new Branches the Council has made certain special inducements, which remain in force for one year only. A larger rebate is given so as to enable the Branch to meet expenditures which naturally are greater during the period of organization.

It is recommended to the Council that members who are two years in arrears in regard to dues should be dropped from the list of members after receiving due warning preceded by at least two bills. In looking over the membership list it has been found that this rule has not been observed, and that many names appear on the mailing list without a corresponding appearance upon the books of the Treasurer. Such cases have been investigated as carefully as possible.

#### CONDITION OF LOCAL BRANCHES.

The Boston and Cambridge Branches report a prosperous year with the usual number of meetings. The Boston Branch has increased in membership. The Cambridge Branch limits its membership to 40.

The Missouri and Arizona Branches were started in 1906. Special rebates were given for the first year. Since that time it has been found

possible to carry on the Branches upon the rebate of fifty cents per member. The Missouri Branch has suffered a loss in the death of its Treasurer, Miss Mary L. Dalton.

The California Branch, owing to peculiar conditions upon the Pacific Coast, has found it impossible to pay its necessary expenses upon the usual rebate. It is recommended that this matter be taken under consideration by the Council, and that some definite agreement be entered into between the California Branch and the general Society to govern the present as well as future years.

During the year 1907 the Iowa Branch was founded under most promising conditions.

The success which has marked the founding of the new state branches might well be duplicated in other States. It should be the endeavor of the Council and members of the Society to interest persons residing in different parts of the country in founding local or state branches.

Negotiations are now under way with several persons in relation to starting branches. The Secretary would be glad to receive any communication in regard to suitable persons who might be induced to interest themselves in such an object.

#### FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN FOLK-LORE.

The cost of publishing the Journal averages about \$1000 a year. There are four numbers, and this cost includes all the expenses connected with mailing as well as printing the publication. The total cost for the years from 1900 to 1907 was \$8061.84. The net receipts from membership dues and for subscriptions from libraries and other institutions for the same period was \$7963.19, showing that for the last eight years, there has been a loss of \$98.05. For the year 1907, the Journal has more than paid for itself.

This is satisfactory as far as it goes, but such a condition does not warrant increasing the size of the Journal and thus increasing the cost. An enlargement will become necessary in the course of the growth of the Journal in importance and in scope. This increase in cost ought to be covered by a corresponding increase in the number of libraries subscribing to the Journal as well as by an addition to the membership.

There has been a slow and steady rise in the number of libraries and other institutions subscribing to the Journal with 76 in 1900 and 109 in 1907. This number could undoubtedly be increased, and the Secretary suggests that some means be taken to interest College libraries and those of other institutions which are not now upon the list.

#### NUMBER OF BACK COPIES OF JOURNAL NOW ON HAND.

It has been found that there is a great difference in the number of back copies of the Journal now in the hands of the publishers, ranging

all the way from eight of one issue to one hundred and over of others. There are, therefore, but eight complete sets of full volumes of the Journal. Some method should be adopted so that these complete sets might be sold. Complete volumes could then be offered when they do not break into the full sets, and single copies in turn when they are in excess of the number of each issue which is being kept to fill out the sets and volumes.

#### FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE MEMOIRS OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

Nine Memoirs have been published by the Society at a total cost of \$7379.43. The total receipts from the sale of Memoirs through the publishers and through the Secretary have been \$5046.54. The total subscriptions to the Publication Fund have been \$4073, making a total receipt of \$9119.54. This compared with the total cost shows that there has been a net gain on the nine Memoirs of \$1740.11.

This is in a way very satisfactory. The appearance of the Memoirs has been very irregular, and the conditions are not such as to suppose that a Memoir appearing every year would pay for itself. The nine volumes have not paid for themselves without the aid of the Publication Fund.

There has been a decided fluctuation in the receipts from this fund since the year 1894, when it was started. Then it reached the sum of \$673. It steadily decreased from that figure to \$110 in 1905. Since that time there has been a very slight increase, reaching \$143 in 1907. It is essential that this fund be kept up and increased so as to make possible the appearance of a Memoir every year. A little extra work on the part of the officers of the Society might easily tend to increase the number of subscribers to this fund.

It is furthermore recommended that the Publication Fund be kept entirely separate from the general account of the Society. This has not been done in the past. The Publication Fund should rightly be an invested fund to include all the subscriptions. Those from life members might well be added to this fund.

The ninth volume of the series of Memoirs of the American Folk-Lore Society appeared in 1907, "Los Pastores," a Mexican Miracle Play. Translation, Introduction, and Notes by M. R. Cole. With Illustrations and Music, pp. xxxi + 234. It is gratifying to note the reception which has been given this last Memoir of the Society.

Number of Memoirs now on hand: vol. i, 0; vol. ii, 45; vol. iii, 28; vol. iv, 0; vol. v, 56; vol. vi, 269; vol. vii, 152; vol. viii, 221; vol. ix, 396.

THE TENTH MEMOIR.

It was proposed to publish as the Tenth Memoir a collection of Maryland Folk-Tales. Certain delays which have occurred seem to make it advisable to postpone this publication until the manuscript is in the hands of the Publication Committee.

This Committee are now considering the question of the advisability of publishing as the Tenth Memoir a complete and classified index of the twenty volumes of the *Journal of American Folk-Lore* (1888-1907), which are now complete.

Several other manuscripts are also under consideration which are available for publication as Memoirs.

The Secretary is pleased to record that the following recommendations were taken up by the Council and rules passed which covered them.

Members whose dues are two years in arrears shall be dropped from membership unless otherwise regulated by action of the Council.

All dues must be paid before April 1 in order that the local Branch may receive the rebate. All dues paid after this date are not subject to the rebate unless by special ruling of the Council. This rule does not of course apply to branches which are founded immediately before or after April 1.

The Treasurer shall be requested to keep a separate account for the Publication Fund and all receipts and expenditures in relation to the Memoirs.

It will be seen from the preceding report that the Society is in a prosperous condition. The outlook is bright and a period of renewed usefulness seems assured. It has been planned to enlarge the scope of the *Journal* so as to include articles not only on the folk-lore of the American Indians and the negroes, but upon other aspects of the subject as well. It seems certain that there is a distinct field in America for a publication limiting itself to the general subject of folk-lore, but not by any means confined to any one side of this study.

I cannot close this report without taking this opportunity of thanking the publishers of the *Journal* and the Memoirs for the most obliging way in which they have met my many questions regarding the past history of the Society.

ALFRED M. TOZZER,  
*Permanent Secretary.*