

TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN
FOLK-LORE SOCIETY

THE Society met at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, in affiliation with the American Anthropological Association and Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, from December 28, 1908, to January 1, 1909.

The Council of the Society met on December 29 at the Maryland Institute. The Society held its annual business meeting on the same day and at the same place.

President Dixon presided, and Dr. George A. Dorsey was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

The Treasurer presented his report for the period from December 24, 1907, to December 24, 1908.

RECEIPTS

Balance from last statement	\$1,518.73
Receipts from annual dues	831.20
Subscriptions to Publication Fund	231.00
Sales through Houghton, Mifflin & Co. (net of mailing and other expenses):	
Memoirs	47.13
Journal of American Folk-Lore, June 1, 1907, to December 1, 1908, less 10% commission, and charges for expressage, mailing, printing, etc.	638.32
Sales of reprints to authors	34.65
Sales of back numbers of Journal through the Secretary	12.50
California Branch, A. L. Kroeber, Acting Treasurer, balance left over from their fiscal year, 1906-1907.	25.75
Interest account on balance, Old Colony Trust Co., Boston, Mass.	34.11
	\$3,373.39

DISBURSEMENTS

Houghton, Mifflin & Co., for manufacture of Journal of American Folk-Lore, Nos. 79, 80, 81, 82	\$1,350.49
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., for printing circular letter to members	26.22
" " " " " reprints for authors	154.37
" " " " " notice of annual meeting, and sending same to members	7.03
H. M. Hight, Boston, Mass., printing bill forms, envelopes, etc.	7.25
Treasurer's postage	8.50
Secretary's "	10.80
Dr. Alfred M. Tozzer, Permanent Secretary, for typewriting, for rubber stamp, clerk-hire, and express	7.37
Allen Bros., Boston, Mass., rubber stamp for treasurer	1.50
<i>Amount carried forward</i>	\$1,573.53

<i>Amount brought forward</i>	\$1,573.53
American Anthropological Association, one third cost of the Joint Committee meeting at Chicago, Ill.; and one half the cost of printing programmes, postal cards, reply cards, typewriting, etc.	39.06
Helen Leah Reed, Secretary of the Boston Branch, Cambridge, Mass., stamped envelopes	2.16
Edward W. Wheeler, Cambridge, Mass., printing cards for the Publication Fund	7.00
E. M. Backus, for collecting material in the South for the Journal of American Folk-Lore	10.00
Rebate to the Cambridge Branch, M. L. Fernald, Treasurer	17.50
“ “ “ Boston “ A. R. Tisdale, “	36.50
“ “ “ Missouri “ Mrs. L. D. Ames, “	10.00
“ “ “ California “ A. L. Kroeber, Acting Treas.	12.00
“ “ “ Iowa “ E. K. Putnam, Treasurer	5.00
Appropriation by the Council to California Branch	50.00
Old Colony Trust Co., Boston, Mass., collecting checks	2.80
	\$1,772.66
Balance to new account	1,600.73
	\$3,373.39

ELIOT W. REMICK, *Treasurer*.

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

Upon nomination by the Council, officers were elected; and the following list shows the constitution of the Council, including officers holding over from previous elections:—

PRESIDENT, Dr. John R. Swanton, Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D. C.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, Professor F. N. Robinson, Harvard University, Cambridge.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, Professor Alcée Fortier, Tulane University, New Orleans.

EDITOR OF JOURNAL, Professor Franz Boas, Columbia University, New York.

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

TREASURER, Mr. Eliot W. Remick, Boston.

COUNCILLORS. (For three years): Professor H. M. Belden, University of Missouri; Professor E. K. Putnam, Davenport, Iowa; Dr. George A. Dorsey, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. (For two years): Dr. R. H. Lowie, American Museum of Natural History, New York; Professor P. E. Goddard,¹ University of California; Mrs. Zelia Nuttall, Mexico City.¹ (For one year): Dr. F. A. Golder,¹ University of Missouri; Dr. H. M. Hurd,¹ Baltimore.

¹ Councillors holding over.

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 G. L. Kittredge, Miss Alice Fletcher, Professor A. L. Kroeber, Professor R. B. Dixon, Professor F. W. Putnam, Professor R. B. Perry, Mr. Charles Keeler, Miss Mary A. Owen, Professor Charles B. Wilson, Professor A. C. L. Brown.

On December 30 Professor R. B. Dixon gave his Presidential address on "The Mythology of the Central and Eastern Algonkians."

The following papers were presented at the meeting of the Folk-Lore Society:—

LOUISE RAND BASCOM, "Ballads and Songs of Western North Carolina."

DR. C. HART MERRIAM, "Battle of the First People with Dakko, the Sun God, — a Hamfo Myth."

DR. CLARK WISSLER, "Observations on Esoteric Narratives as the Source of Myths."

MISS MARY W. F. SPEERS, "The Importance of Recording Negro-Lore, Dialects, and Melodies."

GEORGE WILL, "Songs of the Western Cowboys."

DR. R. H. LOWIE, "Additional Catch-Words for Mythological Motives."

F. B. WASHINGTON, "Notes on the Northern Wintun Indians."

LEO FRACHTENBERG, "Traditions of the Coos Indians of Oregon, collected by H. H. St. Clair, 2d."

DR. C. HART MERRIAM, "Transmigration in California."

DR. JOHN PEETE CROSS, "Folk-Lore from the Southern States."

PHILLIPS BARRY, "Folk-Music in America."

The following abstract of a portion of the report of the Permanent Secretary to the Council in regard to the activities of the Society and its condition was read and ordered printed:—

GENERAL FINANCIAL CONDITION

The general financial condition of the Society is only fairly satisfactory. The balance in December, 1908, shows an increase of about one hundred dollars over that of December, 1907. This does not by any means represent the relative strength of the finances in these two years. In 1907, there was an item of \$900.83 as part of the cost of printing the Ninth Memoir. No expenses were incurred this year for Memoirs. The statement of Houghton, Mifflin & Company for receipts in 1908 for sale of Journal contains several unusual items, such as receipts from foreign agents, which do not come regularly.

The cost of publishing the Journal has increased \$217.40 from last year. I have made an exhaustive study of the cause of this increase by comparing the detailed bills, and I find that the greater part of it

is due to an increase in the price of typesetting. This, together with a slight increase in the cost of corrections, makes up the difference.

A new item appears also for the first time in 1908, the cost of reprints given to authors. A small portion of this amount is met by authors who order more than the usual fifty copies and by those who order covers. The net cost to the Society for reprints amounted to \$119.72. In former years extra copies of the Journal were printed at slight expense, and these were divided up and served as reprints.

There has been a net loss on the Journal of \$43.44 during the year. This would have amounted to much more if we had not received an unusually large amount from the publishers for the sale of the Journal. This amount does not represent the sum we may expect from this source each year.

From a study of the summary of the Treasurer's report, which is printed on p. 82, it will be seen that we cannot increase the cost of publication without a considerable increase in income. The Journal is not self-supporting.

SUMMARY OF TREASURER'S STATEMENT, AND COMPARISON WITH
THE YEAR 1907

Journal Account				
Receipts	1907		1908	
Dues from all sources				
less rebates	801.65		775.95	
Sales of Journal	<u>338.36</u>	1139.01	<u>650.82</u>	1426.77
Expenses				
Manufacture of Journal	1133.09		1350.49	
Net cost of reprints	<u>0.00</u>	1133.09	<u>119.72</u>	1470.21
		Gain 5.92	Loss	43.44
Publication Fund				
Receipts				
Subscriptions	143.00		231.00	
Sale of Memoirs	<u>172.42</u>	315.42	<u>47.13</u>	278.13
Expenses				
"Los Pastores" (partial)	<u>690.83</u>	<u>690.83</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		Loss 375.41	Gain	278.13
	1906	1907	1908	
Balance in treasury, Dec. 25,	1,931.01	1,518.73	1,600.73	

MEMBERSHIP

I regret to report that the membership has fallen off during the year. Last year we had 379 members, this year there are 358 members, enrolled on the books, a loss of 21. This loss is mainly due to the failure of the Arizona Branch to keep alive. There were 34 members in the Branch. Four remained as members of the general Society.

This loss of thirty members from Arizona was more than made up by a gain in other directions, so that the net loss is 21 for the year.

A number of names of members who have never paid dues to the Society have been dropped from the lists, and it will take another year before we can remove from the list all those who are more than two years in arrears. Several local secretaries are not willing to drop these names, even after repeated warnings from the Treasurer of the Society.

The question of membership should be considered by the Council. At the present time, with the exception of the local secretaries, there is no one whose duty it is to have the question of membership in mind. Large areas are not covered by the local Branches, and it is in these places that work ought to be done to increase the membership. Washington, New York, and Chicago ought to be fruitful fields for missionary work. There are many names of anthropologists, in addition to names of those interested in folk-lore from other sides, which are not on the list of members.

I therefore respectfully request the Council to consider the appointment of a membership committee, appointed or elected according to their place of residence. In this way different parts of the country will be covered, and a little work on the part of each member of the committee would result in an increase in membership, which is needed in order that the Journal may become self-supporting

CONDITION OF LOCAL BRANCHES

Boston Branch. — There are 94 members enrolled, a gain of 4 over the year 1907.

Cambridge Branch. — There is a limit of 40 to membership. This number is usually maintained.

California Branch. — The financial conditions of the Branch are in a much more promising condition than at this time last year. The proceedings of the Branch have contributed much interesting material to the contents of the Journal. The Society has, during the past year, made an appropriation of \$50.00 toward the expenses of the Branch in the hope of enabling it to organize its work.

Missouri Branch. — The membership has remained the same as last year.

The annual meeting of the Branch was held on February 8, at Washington University, St. Louis. There was a morning and afternoon session, and several papers were read. Many of the contributions will appear in the Journal.

Iowa Branch. — The membership has remained the same as last year.

The Branch held a most successful joint meeting at the University of Iowa on November 5th and 6th, in connection with the Iowa Society

of the Archæological Institute of America and the Iowa Anthropological Society. There were four joint sessions, and a large number of interesting papers were presented. Several of these will appear in the Journal.

Illinois Branch.—The Illinois Branch has been organized mainly through the efforts of Professor H. A. V. Jones. Professor A. C. L. Brown of Northwestern University is president of the Branch, Professor H. A. V. Jones of the University of Illinois is secretary.

Arizona Branch.—It has not been possible to keep this Branch alive. The Secretary, Dr. Golder, left Arizona, and no one has been found to take his place.

A Canadian Folk-Lore Society has lately been established, and there is every reason to hope that within a short time it will be affiliated with the American Folk-Lore Society.

JOURNAL OF AMERICAN FOLK-LORE

I am glad to report an increase in the number of libraries and colleges subscribing to the Journal. Last year this list numbered 109. For 1908 the number is 116. A circular letter was sent out to all the libraries on the mailing list of Houghton Mifflin Company's catalogues. This resulted in several additions to the list, and in one or two cases files of the Journal were bought. I propose at the beginning of 1909 to repeat this, and to send in addition a list of the libraries already subscribing for the Journal. This includes all the large libraries and the colleges of the United States. Each new name on this list means a permanent addition to the income of the Society. There is not the same fluctuation as in the case of members.

Report of the Editor.—During the past year the editor has endeavored to obtain for the Journal a number of papers of greater weight. This has made it necessary to print in each number of the Journal at least one long paper. Since the number of pages for each number is only about eighty, it is rather difficult to place papers of such length in a single number, and it seemed advantageous to issue a double number in midsummer in order to gain room for papers of this type. Unfortunately it is not possible to pursue this policy constantly, because the interval between issues of the single numbers would be too long, and also because the regulations of the Post-Office forbid the combination of two numbers into one. The supply of material for the Journal has increased so much that it seems impossible to print all the good papers that are offered now in the space of 320 to 360 pages, which are the limits of the Journal. It seems therefore highly desirable to increase the Journal to at least 400 pages annually. This, however, would increase the financial burdens of the Society by twenty per cent., and it does not seem feasible to make this increase in the size of the Journal unless additional means are forthcoming.

Thanks to the efforts made by Professor G. L. Kittredge and others, a considerable amount of material relating to European folk-lore has been offered for publication in the *Journal*, and it is the hope of the Editor that this department of the *Journal* may be considerably strengthened in coming years.

Unfortunately, the Department of Negro Folk-Lore is still weak, and it will require considerable effort to develop it adequately and to stimulate much-needed activity in this direction.

Another department of the *Journal* that requires further development is that of book reviews. The number of books reviewed is entirely out of proportion in comparison to the material published annually, and reviews do not appear sufficiently promptly. For the development of this department of the *Journal* the coöperation of students is urgently needed.

The thanks of the Society are due to the considerable number of subscribers who have contributed to the expense of preparing and printing the index.

PUBLICATION FUND AND TENTH MEMOIR

By vote of the Council in 1907, the Publication Fund is to be kept separate from that of the other accounts of the Society. The Treasurer's statement will not show this separation of accounts. This was not deemed necessary for the present year, as there has been nothing expended on this account.

By vote of the Council in 1907, the Tenth Memoir is to be an Index of the twenty volumes of the *Journal*, and the Collection of Maryland Folk-Lore which was to constitute the Tenth Memoir was placed on the list of prospective publications. The preparation of the index has been taken up. The Editor reports progress, and hopes to be able to send the manuscript to the printer about the end of February of the coming year.

As I said last year in my report, I think that Memoirs should come out at more frequent intervals than in previous years. Subscriptions to the Fund come in more readily when there is something definite to promise by way of publication. \$231.00 have been subscribed this year for the index.

I suggest to the Council the possibility of dedicating the Tenth Memoir, the Index to the twenty volumes of the *Journal*, to the memory of Mr. Newell. The twenty volumes are largely the result of his individual efforts, and an index to these writings would serve very appropriately as a Memorial to him.

I cannot close my report without thanking the President of the Society and the Editor of the *Journal* for their kind coöperation in the work of the year. The publishers of the *Journal* have also been ready to

furnish me with any details in regard to the financial side of the affairs of the Society.

I can but feel that the Society has started on a new era of prosperity, and that the memory of the founder will be perpetuated in an organization and a publication worthy of him and his associates.

ALFRED M. TOZZER,
Permanent Secretary.

The following recommendations of the Secretary were adopted by the Council: —

The Tenth Memoir, "An Index to the Twenty Volumes of the Journal of American Folk-Lore," is to be printed as a Memorial Volume to the late William Wells Newell, the Founder of the Society.

It was resolved to appoint a Committee on Membership. The President appointed the following Committee: the President *ex officio*, the Editor *ex officio*, the Secretary *ex officio*, Professor Fortier, Mrs. J. G. Bourke, Miss Du Bois, Dr. Gardner, Mrs. McNeil, Mr. S. Hagar, Professor Prudden, Dr. Dorsey, Dr. Gordon, and Miss Wardle.