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AMERICAN FOLK-LORE.

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FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN
FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of the American Folk-Lore Society was held at the Thorndike Hotel, Boston, Mass., on December 28th, and at the Peabody Museum of American Ethnology and Archæology, Cambridge, Mass., on December 29th.

The Society was called to order at 11 A. M. at the Thorndike Hotel. In the absence of Prof. F. W. Putnam, President of the Society, Prof. Edward S. Morse took the chair.

Professor Morse made brief remarks of welcome, pointing out the interest which all anthropologists must take in the collection and study of folk-lore, and alluding to the manner in which inventions, as well as tales and traditions, were found to correspond in different parts of the world.

Professor Morse then introduced Prof. H. Carrington Bolton as the presiding officer for the morning. Mr. M. H. Saville was appointed to serve as Local Secretary.

Mr. W. W. Newell, the Permanent Secretary, read the report of the Council for the year 1892, as follows:—

At the end of its fifth year the Council of the American Folk-Lore Society is able to make a satisfactory report. The Council has every reason to believe that the Society is about to enter on a period of useful activity, and that increasing numbers and improved organization will render it better able to deal with the extensive field which it is required to occupy. In previous reports, attention has been called to the desirability of promoting the formation of local branches, as the best means of strengthening the general Society. During the present year two additional branches have been formed, in the cities of New Orleans and Montreal, both of which begin with every prospect of a successful career. It is with great pleasure that the Council is able to record the extension of the influence of the Society in two

cities so widely separated, yet in a measure affiliated in consequence of the French influences to which both have been subject, while each is situated in a region still possessing a genuine folk-lore. In the course of the coming year there is every reason to suppose that the number of branches will be further increased.

Under these circumstances, it seems desirable that some uniformity should be established in the titles of local organizations, a correspondence not hitherto effected. It appears to the Council that the name adopted in Montreal, namely, the American Folk-Lore Society, Montreal Branch, is the best hitherto proposed, and the Council therefore recommend that other branches adopt a corresponding designation.

The time seems to have come in which it is necessary for the Society to secure a regular corporate organization. At the last Annual Meeting, a committee on rules and incorporation of the Society was appointed. The committee have given the subject much consideration, and will report at the present meeting a scheme for the approval of the Society. After a careful examination of the laws of the several States, they have come to the conclusion that the purposes of the Society can best be served by obtaining a special act of incorporation from the Legislature of Massachusetts, entitling the Society to privileges similar to those enjoyed by other organizations.

The Council in its last report advised the printing of a series of special memoirs, uniform with the Journal, and authority was given to proceed with such publication. Circumstances have delayed the execution of the plans of the committee of publication, but the first volume of such a series is now ready for the printer. In conformity with the recommendation previously made, a committee appointed at the last Annual Meeting has adopted a plan for providing ways and means for such additional publication, which will be brought to the attention of members of the Society.

It is not necessary further to insist on the importance of taking steps to promote the collection of aboriginal traditions, with the view of securing the best possible record of primitive life in America, inasmuch as such collection forms the chief reason for the existence of the Society, and has continually been dwelt on in its publications. The year in which is to be held a great Exposition in honor of American discovery seems a suitable time for calling the attention of Americans interested in the subject to the necessity of completing the historical record by such an examination of living aboriginal tradition as may furnish means for a comparison which will assist in determining the true character of pre-Columbian American life.

The Secretary reports that he has on his books the names of nine Life Members and four hundred and sixty-nine Annual Members.

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About sixty libraries subscribe through the publishers of The Journal of American Folk-Lore.

The Treasurer reports a balance of \$1,141.15, of which \$200 was received as a donation from the Boston Branch. According to the rules of the Society, sums received as Life Membership fees, now eight in number, must be invested as a separate fund.

Adopted by the Council, December 28, 1892.

W. W. NEWELL, *Secretary.*

The report of the Treasurer, in the absence of that officer, was read by the chair. The following is a summary of the report: —

RECEIPTS.

Balance carried over from 1891	\$637.76
Fees from Annual Members to date	1,367.00
Life Membership fee	50.00
Donation from the Boston Association (for the publication fund)	200.00
Interest on bonds	15.50
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., credits for 1891	65.57
From sales: —	
Sale of bound volume and of covers	1.90
Total	<u>\$2,337.73</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid to Houghton, Mifflin & Co., for Journal of American Folk-Lore, Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18	\$1,107.86
Art Publishing Co., for illustration	8.19
Stationery, printing, etc.	80.53
Total	<u>\$1,196.58</u>
Balance to new account	1,141.15
	<u>\$2,337.73</u>

The report was referred to an auditing committee.

On the suggestion of the chair, the Society adopted a vote of thanks to the Boston Association for their generous contribution.

The report of the Committee on Incorporation of the Society was read by Professor Bolton. The report stated that the committee, after giving the most careful consideration to the subject, had found that the State of Massachusetts offered the most favorable conditions. The committee therefore recommended that the Society procure incorporation from the legislature of that State under a special act.

The committee also reported a set of by-laws. These were amended, on motion, by increasing the number of Councillors from eight to nine, who should divide into classes to serve for one, two, and three years. The by-laws, as amended, are as follows :—

PROPOSED BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

ART. I. *Name.* The name of this corporation shall be The American Folk-Lore Society.

ART. II. *Objects.* The Society shall have for its object the study of folk-lore in general, and in particular the collection and publication of the folk-lore of America.

ART. III. *Membership.* Persons interested in the study of folk-lore, or who desire to aid the Society in its work, are eligible to membership. There shall be four classes of members, namely, Patrons, Honorary Members, Life Members, and Members.

(1.) Members shall be elected by the Council. (2.) Members paying to the Treasurer fifty dollars in one payment shall be designated Life Members. (3.) Honorary Members to the number of twenty-five may be chosen on account of eminence in folk-lore. Their names shall be proposed to the Council, and, if approved by the Council, they may be elected by the Society at any Annual Meeting. (4.) Persons paying to the Treasurer five hundred dollars in one payment shall be designated Patrons. Patrons, Honorary Members, and Life Members shall be exempt from annual dues, and shall enjoy all the privileges of members.

ART. IV. *Annual Dues.* The dues of members shall be three dollars per annum, payable on the first of January in each year. Members in arrears of dues for six months shall not receive the Journal of the Society, and those in arrears for more than one year may be dropped by the Council, provided that due notice be sent to them by the Permanent Secretary. Newly elected members must pay the current dues within three months after the election, or such election may be declared void by the Council.

ART. V. *Officers.* The officers of the Society shall be as follows :

A President.

First Vice-President.

Second Vice-President.

Corresponding Secretary.

Permanent Secretary.

Treasurer.

Curator.

Nine Councillors.

The Permanent Secretary and the Treasurer shall hold office for

five years. The two Vice-Presidents, Corresponding Secretary, and Curator shall be elected annually at the Annual Meeting. The nine Councillors first elected under these by-laws shall divide themselves into three groups, three Councillors to serve one year, three to serve two years, and three to serve three years; and thereafter three Councillors shall be elected annually to serve three years.

The presiding officers of the local branches shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council.

ART. VI. (1.) *Council.* The nine Councillors, together with the seven other officers above named, and the presiding officers of the local branches, shall constitute the Council of the Society. The Council shall conduct all the affairs of the Society, including the finances, the admission of members, the business of the meetings, and the issue of publications.

The Council shall meet at least once a year in connection with the Annual Meeting. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the President and Permanent Secretary, ample notice being sent to members of the Council.

The Council shall have power to fill vacancies until the next succeeding Annual Meeting of the Society.

(2.) *Elections.* Any member of the Society may send nominations for officers, within thirty days of the Annual Meeting, to the Permanent Secretary, who shall lay the nominations before the Council. The Council shall then make up a ticket from the nominations, and present the same to the Society at the Annual Meeting for election.

ART. VII. *Duties of Officers.* (1.) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Council.

(2.) In the absence of the President, the duties shall devolve on one of the Vice-Presidents.

(3.) The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the foreign correspondence of the Society, and, with the Permanent Secretary and the Vice-Presidents, shall form a committee to promote and assist the establishment of local branches of the national Society.

(4.) The Permanent Secretary shall be the general executive officer of the Society. He shall have charge of the documents and library of the Society. He shall superintend the business of publishing the Journal, the memoirs, and other works issued by the Society. He shall keep a correct register of all members. He shall aid the local committee in arranging the meetings of the Society. He shall report to the Council at the Annual Meeting of the Society the expenses of his office and the general status of the Society. He may employ the services of a clerk at a salary to be determined by the Council.

(5.) The Treasurer shall receive the fees of members, and shall pay bills approved by the Permanent Secretary, or by the Council.

He shall set apart the fees received from Patrons and Life Members for a permanent fund, the income of which shall be expended under the direction of the Council. He shall report to the Council at the Annual Meeting the income and expenses of the current year and the financial status of the Society.

(6.) The Curator shall have custody of objects of folk-lore interest belonging to the Society, and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Council.

ART. VIII. *Committees.* The Council shall appoint from within its body the following committees: (1.) On membership. (2.) On publication; (3.) On auditing accounts of the Permanent Secretary and the Treasurer; and (4.) such other committees as may be deemed expedient.

ART. IX. *Meetings.* Meetings of the Society shall be held at least once a year, at such place and such time as may be determined by the Council. The regular business of the Society shall be transacted at the Annual Meeting. Members shall be notified of meetings at least three weeks in advance, by the Permanent Secretary. The details of organization of the meetings shall be conducted by the Permanent Secretary, assisted by the Local Secretary of the preceding meeting and a committee of citizens residing in or near the place of meeting.

ART. X. *Publications.* The Society shall publish a Journal, of a scientific character, for the purpose of preserving and diffusing knowledge relating to folk-lore. This Journal shall be published at such intervals and in such style as the Council shall direct. It shall be conducted by an editor appointed by the Council, and who shall be assisted by the Publication Committee. The Society may also publish Memoirs embodying monographs too extensive for insertion in the Journal, and such other works as may be ordered by the Council. One copy of the Journal shall be sent gratis to each member not in arrears, to Honorary Members, and Life Members. The Memoirs and other publications shall be sold at prices to be determined by the Council.

ART. XI. *Local Branches.* Local branches may be organized, with their own independent officers and regulations, by members of the American Folk-Lore Society, provided the organization is approved by the Council. The presiding officer of local branches shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council of the American Folk-Lore Society.

ART. XII. *Amendments.* These by-laws may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the Society, by a two thirds vote of those present, provided the proposed amendments are approved by the Council, and provided further that, after such approval, notice of the

proposed changes be sent by the Permanent Secretary to each member of the Society at least three weeks before the meeting at which the proposed amendments shall be acted upon.

On motion of Rev. J. Owen Dorsey, seconded by Professor Penhallow, the by-laws, as amended, were adopted by the Society, and the committee was continued, with the addition of Dr. D. G. Brinton, in order to procure incorporation in the manner suggested.

On behalf of the Committee on Publication, the Secretary read the following report : —

PLAN FOR A FUND FOR THE PUBLICATION OF SPECIAL MEMOIRS.

The American Folk-Lore Society was founded in 1888 for the purpose of collecting and publishing the folk-lore — including myths, superstitions, legends, and customs — of America.

The Society holds annual meetings at which reports are received and papers read.

The Journal of American Folk-Lore, a quarterly periodical published by the Society, contains about one hundred pages in each issue and is now in its fifth volume.

As articles printed in The Journal are necessarily limited in extent, a thoroughly comprehensive treatment of a special subject is not possible.

It is therefore desirable to establish the publication of a series of monographs, uniform in style and size with The Journal, to be entitled "Memoirs of the American Folk-Lore Society."

Among works already in preparation as appropriate for such a series may be named the following : Folk-Lore of French Louisiana ; Current Superstitions among the English-speaking population ; Algonquin Mythology.

There are in this country many collections of folk-lore matter as yet unprinted, and there is ample opportunity for collecting additional material. Many vexed questions concerning the religious faiths and customs of pre-Columbian times remain unanswered, in consequence of the lack of printed records for study and comparison.

It is evident that the small annual fee of three dollars, paid by the members of the Society, will not be adequate for the purpose of publishing the contemplated series of Memoirs. A committee of the Society has therefore been appointed to consider the matter of obtaining a publication fund.

The Committee has suggested and the Council has voted that a publication fund be formed by annual contributions of ten dollars,

for a term of five years, or such period as individual subscribers may designate.

These subscribers will be enrolled as members of the Society, and will receive all its publications issued after the date of their subscriptions, including *The Journal and Memoirs*.

Any person contributing fifty dollars at any one time is entered as a Life Member of the Society, and the Council has voted that any person making a gift of five hundred dollars or over to the Society shall be classed thereafter as a Patron of the Society. Contributions of Life Members and Patrons are to be set apart as a permanent Publication Fund.

A list of the annual subscribers will be printed annually in *The Journal* and in each *Memoir*, as long as their subscriptions continue. The names of the Patrons and Life Members will be printed each year in *The Journal* and in each *Memoir*.

Such an undertaking on the part of the national Society will materially strengthen the branch societies in different parts of the country by increasing the interest in this subject, and will draw attention to the importance of collecting and recording much important material which would otherwise be lost.

The outlay of money obtained in this way will be under the direction of a committee annually appointed; and the fund itself will be under the financial management of the Treasurer and Council of the Society.

All persons who are willing to assist in the formation of the proposed fund will please send their names to the Secretary of the American Folk-Lore Society, W. W. Newell, Cambridge, Mass.; or remit their contributions directly to the Treasurer, John H. Hinton, M. D., No. 41 West 32d Street, New York, N. Y.

COMMITTEE.

Major John W. Powell, Director of the U. S. Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D. C.

Doctor Franz Boas, Chicago, Ill.

Professor Daniel G. Brinton, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

Professor Thomas Frederick Crane, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Mr. Stewart Culin, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

Professor Alcée Fortier, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.

Professor Frederic Ward Putnam, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., President of the Society for 1892.

Mr. William Wells Newell, Cambridge, Mass., Secretary of the Society.

On motion of Mr. William Nelson, it was voted that the report be accepted, and the committee continued.

The Council recommended that the Society should be represented at an Anthropological Congress, in case such a Congress should be held in connection with the Columbian Exposition at Chicago during August, 1893.

The next business being the election of officers, Mr. A. M. Williams proposed the appointment by the chair of a nominating committee of three, to report on the following day. The motion was adopted, and the following appointed as members of the committee: Dr. A. F. Chamberlain, of Clark University, Mr. M. H. Saville, and Rev. J. Owen Dorsey.

No further business presenting itself, and the Society proceeding to hear papers, Mr. W. W. Newell read a paper on "Forgery in Folk-Lore."

The paper was followed by a discussion on the invention of popular traditions, and the means of guarding against deception on the part of informants.

At one o'clock, lunch was served in the Thorndike Hotel, provided by the Boston Association, members of the Society from a distance being invited guests.

At 2.30 P. M., the Society was called to order, Prof. D. B. Penhallow taking the chair.

During the afternoon, the following papers were read and discussed:—

Rev. J. Owen Dorsey, Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D. C.: Two Biloxi Tales; one of these being an Indian version of the story of the Rabbit and Tar-baby, and the other an Indian tale of the Rabbit.

Prof. Adolph Gerber, Earlham College, Richmond, Ind.: The Relation of the Tales of Uncle Remus to the Animal Stories of other Countries.

Miss A. L. Alger, Boston, Mass.: Survival of Fire-Sacrifice among Indians in Maine.

Prof. H. R. Lang, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.: Folk-Lore of the Azorian Colonies.

Prof. H. Carrington Bolton, New York, N. Y.: A Modern Oracle and its Prototypes.

It is intended that papers presented at the meeting shall appear during the year in *The Journal of American Folk-Lore*, either entire or by abstract.

Professor Bolton suggested that the adoption of new by-laws had rendered it necessary to elect a full list of officers, and moved that the nominating committee be directed to present nominations as provided by the new constitution. Carried.

The Society adjourned at 5 P. M.

On Thursday, December 29, the Society met at the Peabody Museum, Cambridge. Col. T. W. Higginson took the chair, and made some preliminary remarks regarding the purposes of the Society, and the interest of the study.

The nominating committee reported a list of officers. On motion, the Secretary was instructed to cast a single ballot for the names as contained in the report. The Council subsequently divided themselves into groups, as required by the by-laws, making the officers elected for 1893 to be as follows:—

PRESIDENT, Prof. Horatio Hale, Clinton, Ont.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, Prof. Alcée Fortier, New Orleans, La.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, Prof. D. P. Penhallow, Montreal, Que.

COUNCIL: for three years, Dr. Franz Boas, Chicago, Ill.; Prof. Otis T. Mason, Washington, D. C.; Prof. F. W. Putnam, Cambridge, Mass.

For two years, Rev. J. Owen Dorsey, Washington, D. C.; Miss Alice C. Fletcher, Washington, D. C.; Dr. George Bird Grinnell, New York, N. Y.

For one year, Prof. H. Carrington, Bolton, New York, N. Y.; Prof. D. G. Brinton, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.; Dr. Arthur F. Chamberlain, Worcester, Mass.

PERMANENT SECRETARY, William Wells Newell, Cambridge, Mass.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Prof. J. Walter Fewkes, Boston, Mass.

TREASURER, John H. Hinton, M. D., New York, N. Y.

CURATOR, Stewart Culin, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Secretary read a letter from Prof. F. W. Putnam, President of the Society, regretting that his duties in the Columbian Exposition detained him in Chicago. Professor Putnam congratulated the Society on the good it had already accomplished, and its prospects of increased usefulness in the future. He pointed out that it devolved upon the Society to collect and preserve by printing all native and introduced folk-lore, as well as to publish critical studies of the material, and that for this purpose the Society needed a large publication fund. He alluded to the aid which archæology and ethnology might expect from such labors, and urged the formation of local societies which should be subordinate to the general Society, and which might be annually represented at the yearly meetings. He concluded by expressing his regret that he was unable to offer in person the hospitalities of the Museum.

The papers presented during the morning were the following:—

Mr. Archibald R. Tisdale, Cambridge, Mass.: Tales of the Abenakis.

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Mr. H. H. Kidder, Cambridge, Mass. : Chippewa Tale of the End of Hiawatha.

Mr. George Bird Grinnell, New York, N. Y. : Pawnee Mythology.

Dr. John Maclean, Macleod, Port Arthur, Ont. : Blackfoot Mythology.

Mr. J. C. Hamilton, Toronto, Ont. : The Algic Manabozho.

Mr. Henry Mott, Montreal, Que. : Medicine Men and certain Indian myths.

Dr. Franz Boas, Chicago, Ill. : Doctrine of Souls among the Chinook.

Lunch was served at 1 P. M. in the library of the Museum.

The Society was called to order at 2.30, the chair being occupied by Rev. J. Owen Dorsey. The following papers were offered :—

Dr. A. F. Chamberlain, Clark University, Worcester, Mass. : Christ in Folk-Lore.

Mrs. Fanny D. Bergen, Cambridge, Mass. : Animal and Plant Weather Proverbs.

Prof. D. P. Penhallow, McGill University, Montreal, Que. : Customs and Traditions of the Ainos of Japan. (With lantern illustrations.)

Mr. Dana Estes, on the part of the Boston branch, thanked the Society for the pleasure it had conferred upon the members of the local society by meeting in Boston.

Professor Chamberlain moved a vote of thanks to the Boston Branch Association, and expressed the satisfaction of visiting members with arrangements made for their enjoyment. The motion was adopted, and the Society adjourned at 5 P. M.

After the proceedings, tea was served in the Museum, and a reception was held by Cambridge members of the Society.