

Indiana Historical Society

CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN

The Publications Committee acts for the Society in decisions upon manuscripts which are offered to the Society for publication. Members of this Committee (in 1940) are: Professor Theodore G. Gronert, Crawfordsville, chairman, and Nellie C. Armstrong, Lee Burns, and Professor Clarence Efroymsen, Indianapolis. Miss Armstrong prepared a short statement for the July issue of the *Indiana History Bulletin* on "The Preparation of Manuscripts for Publication" (Vol. 17, pp. 273-275), which has been reprinted as a separate publication and is available on request at the Historical Bureau.

The number and length of the publications of the Society, fortunately or unfortunately, are limited by the relatively small amount of funds which may be used for that purpose—the income from the William H. English fund of \$2500 and the portion of the membership fees not absolutely required for other purposes. This means that frequently a long interval elapses between the acceptance of a manuscript and its preparation for the press. The preparation of manuscripts for the press—checking the accuracy of statements, verifying, correcting references, insuring uniformity and reading proofs—has for some years been done by the staff of the Historical Bureau. The Bureau is authorized by law "to promote the study of Indiana history in co-operation with the Indiana historical society and any other like organizations."

The latest issue of the *Indiana Historical Society Publications* is *Camp Morton 1861-1865, Indianapolis Prison Camp* by Hattie Lou Winslow and Joseph R. H. Moore, which, with the Index, completes Volume 13 of the series. The next *Publication* is to be Irving McKee's edition of the letters and journal of Father Benjamin Petit, covering the removal of the Potawatomi in 1837. Volume 1 of the *Prehistory Research Series* was completed with the publication this year of Number 10 and the Index. The first number of Volume 2 of the *Prehistory Research Series* is to be an account of Rex K. Miller's examination of a prehistoric site in Dubois County.

The Committee on Pioneer Cemeteries and Churches is one of the most active committees of the society. Harry O. Garman, of Indianapolis, is the chairman of this Committee and has representatives in all but four counties of the state. The Committee stimulates interest in finding pioneer cemeteries and in recording names of persons buried therein. The

lists of burials, after being completed, are turned over to the Genealogy Division of the Indiana State Library. These old cemeteries are fast disappearing and the recording of names from the tombstones is a great aid to genealogists. So far this year, members of this Committee and their assistants have turned over to the Genealogy Division records from nineteen cemeteries in Marion County; one in Putnam County; eight in Hendricks County; thirty-five in Cass County; and one in Dearborn County. In the last named county the list of burials in the old Newton Cemetery, which burying place was abandoned and the contents of graves removed to the Greendale Cemetery, was fortunately obtained. Mrs. Ransom Griffin and Miss Thelma Murphy, of Indianapolis, were mainly responsible for obtaining the Marion County records; H. Dale Somers, of Indianapolis, the records for Hendricks County; Mrs. C. C. Collins, of Roachdale, those for Putnam County; and Robert B. Whitsett, Jr., of Logansport, those for Cass County.

The Library Committee is in charge of the Indiana Historical Society Library (William Henry Smith Memorial Library). The members of this Committee are Benjamin D. Hitz, Indianapolis, chairman, Lee Burns, J. K. Lilly, Jr., Perry W. Lesh, Indianapolis, and Frederick D. Rose, Muncie. The Committee determines the policies of the Library and decides upon important purchases. Among the Library's acquisitions this year are: letters of various members of the Owen family to James M. Dorsey; autobiographical notes of Miner K. Kellog concerning a year of his boyhood spent in New Harmony in the Owen period; and letters of Judge Jeremiah Sullivan (a gift of George H. Sullivan). A number of William Henry Harrison manuscripts have been added to the Library's already large collection of his papers. Two hundred sixteen photographic prints of portraits of Indiana men and women, most of them painted by early Indiana artists, have been obtained from Wilbur D. Peat, who is making a study of these early portrait painters. The Library now totals approximately 3,327 volumes, 1,278 pamphlets, and 7,300 manuscripts. It occupies a large front room in the State Library and Historical Building and enjoys the closest cooperation of the State Library and of the Historical Bureau. The general policy of the Committee in receiving and purchasing acquisitions has been to specialize in the rarer and more valuable items, books, maps, and manuscripts that relate to the Old Northwest.