

# Indiana Historical Society

CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN

The Membership Committee of the Indiana Historical Society represents a specialized, but not an exclusive, interest in bringing into the Society as many well-qualified members as possible. The only qualifications required for membership are "good character," interest in history (however mild it may be), and payment of the two-dollar annual membership fee. All of these are assumed to follow sponsorship or proposal for membership by a member of the Society. Election is automatic when the person proposed by a member sends payment for his annual dues to the secretary.

All members of the Society are urged to nominate for membership persons who they think would be interested in the Society and would promote its activities. What might be called the normal membership of the Society for the last ten or fifteen years has been in the neighborhood of a thousand. If each of these members should suggest one or more names to the Secretary and explain the prerequisites for membership to the person or persons suggested, the Society would undoubtedly grow to a normal membership of two or three thousand. In this way the entire Society constitutes, or should constitute, the membership committee. To bring this about is one of the objects of the specialized Membership Committee. The committee also is at least a little more active than other members of the Society in looking around for prospective members—in this, it has been successful in the past in adding many valuable members. The Committee for 1941 consists of Robert G. Bradshaw, Delphi, chairman; Mrs. Harry T. Watts, Vincennes; Ralph Irons, Evansville; Holman Hamilton, Fort Wayne; Minnie Lloyd, Ben H. Riker, Indianapolis; Willard H. Smith, Goshen; Cornelius O'Brien, Lawrenceburg.

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The College Committee consists of the head of the department of history or some other member of the faculty who is a member of the Society in each of the colleges and universities of Indiana. The present members are: Louis M. Sears, Purdue University, chairman; Albert L. Kohlmeier, Indiana University; Robert La Follette, Ball State Teachers College; Roy M. Robbins, Butler University; W. W.

Carson, DePauw University; Heber Walker, Evansville College; William C. Dennis, Earlham College; John F. Cady, Franklin College; Willard H. Smith, Goshen College; Myron Tripp, Huntington College; John J. Haramy, Indiana Central College; Waldo F. Mitchell, Indiana State Teachers College; Andrew W. Cordier, Manchester College; Rev. Robert Gorman, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College; Rev. Thomas T. McAvoy, Notre Dame University; Rev. Cyril Gaul, O. S. B., St. Meinrad Seminary; George Oborn, Taylor University; Walter A. Davis, Vincennes University; Theodore G. Gronert, Wabash College; Rev. Charles H. Metzger, West Baden College.

This Committee is the connecting link between the men and women interested in history, but not engaged in teaching, and professional historians engaged in making students historically minded and in training them in historical work. The importance of this connection can scarcely be exaggerated. Historical societies need the guidance of professional historians and the colleges and universities need contacts with the outside world to keep their faculties from becoming academic and even pedantic. The object of history is to give an understanding of society and its institutions. Progress on this line requires the co-operation of an intelligent people—amateurs and professionals. The Society is fortunate in having a good representation in most of the institutions of higher learning in the state.

Another service of the College Committee is in bringing together occasionally college and university teachers of history and political science so they become acquainted each with the work of the others. This has perceptibly developed an effective as well as pleasant *esprit de corps*. In time, it may even bring about a co-ordination of historical work in Indiana colleges and universities which will provide original research in all important phases of the state's history.

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The Committee on Prehistory and Indiana History began active participation in archaeological work with a meeting at the Columbia Club, Indianapolis, May 16, 1927, at which conference, H. C. Shetrone, Curator of the Museum of the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society, spoke about the work of that society and the possibilities of similar work in Indiana. During the preceding year, the Historical

Bureau had sponsored the excavation of the Albee Mound in Sullivan County under the direction of J. Arthur MacLean, then director of the John Herron Art Museum of Indianapolis. In 1927, the archaeological section of the Society was organized; from then on it took an increasingly large part in the archaeological work carried on in the state. The state Historical Bureau contributed financial support through 1934 and published reports of archaeological work until 1937 when the Society became able to assume entire responsibility for archaeological work in the state. Since that time, the Society has conducted excavations and surveys in different parts of the state, including excavation of the Nowlin Mound in Dearborn County, and surveys in Allen, St. Joseph, and Clark counties. Since 1938, Glenn A. Black, Field Director of Archaeology for the Indiana Historical Society, has been directing a W.P.A. project, sponsored by the Historical Bureau and the Historical Society, for the excavation of the Angel Mounds group near Evansville. Since 1937, the Society has issued as the *Prehistory Research Series* occasional publications upon American anthropology, archaeology, and allied subjects. Volume I with index has been completed, and Volume II, Number 1, "The McCain Site, Dubois County, Indiana," by Rex K. Miller, is in press.

The members of this Committee now are: Eli Lilly, Indianapolis, chairman; William R. Teel, Glenn A. Black, Paul W. Weer, C. O. Warnock, Caroline Dunn, Arthur B. Carr, William G. Sullivan, Gayle Thornbrough, Indianapolis; E. Y. Guernsey, Bedford; C. F. Voegelin, Greencastle; Otho Winger, North Manchester; Hal C. Phelps, Peru, Mrs. Leo Schultheis, Vincennes; and G. L. Bailey, Ridgeville.