INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By HOWARD H. PECKHAM

The Committee on Bibliography is taking pardonable pride in the recent announcement that its first book, *A Bibliography of James Whitcomb Riley*, by the late Anthony J. Russo and Dorothy R. Russo, was selected by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of the "Fifty Best Books of 1944." Judgment is rendered on the basis of typography, presswork, paper, and binding. The honor, of course, goes to the printer, The Lakeside Press, but the decision of the Committee on Bibliography to use that press and to spend the money necessary to obtain a superior piece of bookmaking is now richly rewarded. Both the book and its publisher, the Historical Society, will receive national attention, as the Fifty Best Books are sent on an exhibition tour to libraries around the country.

The Historical Society has been interested in three measures before the state legislature. House Bill No. 88, authorizing the Department of Conservation to assume control of and to restore the Whitewater Canal System as a public memorial, was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. Two other bills were related to the commemoration of the assertion of United States authority in 1796 over the northwestern posts and that part of the Old Northwest previously held by Great Britain. That event is to be marked by Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana in 1946, the 150th anniversary. Ohio has made extensive plans, particularly for marking and beautifying the highways that follow closely upon the routes of Generals Harmar, St. Clair, and Wayne in their campaigns against the Indians and British from 1790 to 1795. House Bill No. 340 authorizes the creation of an Anthony Wayne Trails Commission to determine the routes followed by those winners of the West, after which those routes would become part of the state highway system to be appropriately marked and maintained. This bill has passed the House and the Senate, and has been signed by the governor. Senate Bill No. 219 which would have established an Anthony Wayne Memorial Commission to prepare plans for the erection of a state and national shrine on the site of old Fort Wayne as part of the anniversary

observance, passed the Senate but died in a committee of the House.

Ross F. Lockridge, of Bloomington, deserves the commendation of the Historical Society. Since January he has persuaded thirty-nine persons of the advantages of belonging to the society, collected their membership dues, and delivered same to the secretary's office. We are happy to welcome the new members. And Mr. Lockridge is still in action.

Eli Lilly, president of the Indiana Historical Society, gave a luncheon in Mr. Peckham's honor at Indianapolis on February 8. About fifty society officers, faculty members of the universities, and other persons interested in state historical work, including Governor Ralph F. Gates, were invited. The Governor tendered an official welcome, and several other guests were asked to speak.

In its *Prehistory Research Series*, the society has published "Angel Site, Vanderburgh County, Indiana" by Glenn A. Black, the society's archaeologist. This 76-page booklet constitutes paper Number 5 in Volume 2 of the *Series* and completes that volume. The publication has been sent out free to every member of the society.