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## Biennial Report of the President, 1932–1933

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## BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

1932-1933

Members of the Historical Society of New Mexico:

IT WAS seventy-five years ago that the Territorial Legislature granted a charter to the Historical Society of New Mexico. Fifty years ago, the Assembly adopted resolutions petitioning the United States government to grant the Society the use of the east end of the Palace of the Governors at Santa Fé for exhibition purposes. The year following, the Society moved into the historic building and has occupied it ever since.

Twenty-five years ago, the Museum of New Mexico and the School of American Research took possession of the Palace and in the years since then have gradually made the functions of the Society and its exhibits an integral part of their museum and activities. It is quite fitting therefore that the Museum is this year completing the re-arrangement of the exhibits, supplying them with scientific labels and making them of great educational value to visitors and students.

Since the last biennial report there has been a session of the State Legislature. Thanks to the friendship and aid of the late Governor Arthur Seligman and the interest of members of the Legislature, the Society received generous consideration in the appropriations, so necessary for the maintenance of its work.

Unfortunately, an item of one thousand dollars, to provide cases for the collection of old silver of Mrs. Neill B. Field of Albuquerque, must be permitted to lapse as Mrs. Field is seeking to make other disposal than had been anticipated at the time the Legislature made the appropriation.

My recommendation in the report for 1925-1926 that the various libraries of the Museum of New Mexico, the School of American Research, and the Historical Society be brought together, has been beautifully consummated under

the aegis of the New Mexico Library Extension Service, capably managed by its director, Martha Cochran, and her staff.

Under a Civil Works project, the cataloguing of the newspaper files of the Society has been begun by Mr. Percy Hodges, and while far from completed, sufficient has been accomplished to demonstrate the value of the undertaking. It has been a task which I had urged in previous reports, for its value to those seeking information from the extensive and invaluable files of the Society is self-evident.

Important work was also undertaken by the Civil Works Administration in translating and cataloguing the archives in the possession of the Cadastral Engineer in the Postoffice Building at Santa Fé. Vice-President José D. Sena is supervising the project, which assures its being done efficiently and meticulously. The Society is to receive for its library translations and a list of these archives, and Colonel Sena has promised to give a talk at one of the Society's monthly meetings and also to prepare a paper for the *NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW* covering the results of this project. It is hoped that eventually the archives themselves will be transferred to the Museum of New Mexico and added to those already in its custody.

The Palace of the Governors, and especially the quarters of the Historical Society, are to receive for artistic embellishment, products of the skill of artists employed under a Government project. A large woodcarving, illustrative of the *entrada* of Diego de Vargas is to be fitted into the niche in the room adjoining the library on the south. An artistic woodcarving of the coat-of-arms of Oñate is to be placed on the library walls.

On the outside of the Palace, a tablet of stone, carved by a local artist, is to tell briefly the story of the historic building, so that those who pass under its *portales* may learn something of its import.

Since my last report, eight issues of *THE REVIEW* have appeared. Each number bears the impress of the scholar-

liness and devotion of our corresponding-secretary, Professor Lansing B. Bloom, who not only secures the contributions, does the editing, and himself contributes important papers, but also reads the proof on every word and sees each edition through the press. The recent appearance of a high school textbook of New Mexico history from his pen, gives New Mexico by far the most modern and best short state history of any commonwealth in the Union.

In addition to her many duties the curator of the Society, Miss Hester Jones, has been active in research work, such as a visit to the Navajo Reservation where she interviewed several old men and women as to their recollections of the exile to the Bosque Redondo during the Civil War days. Her notes are to be published during the current year. Similar research among the Pueblos is planned, thus approaching New Mexico traditions and history from an entirely new angle.

Again, I wish to call attention to the arrangement of exhibits by the curator of the Museum, Mr. Paul Reiter. The concisely worded and attractive labels tell the story of New Mexico in a colorful, logical, and impressive manner. Never before has the value of the work done by this Society been made so evident to the public through scientific labeling and chronological arrangement.

Pending before the Civil Works Administration is a project for a survey of county and municipal archives and records. If granted there will be eighteen research workers for the work in New Mexico at an expenditure of \$6,653.00. Your president, in making application for this survey, has emphasized to the National Committee on Research that the proportion of workers and funds to be allotted to New Mexico under the plan is inadequate as compared with the allotments to other states, and that an allotment based upon population rather than upon the scope of the work is illogical.

As in former years, the Society has received valuable

accessions through gifts and has added to its collections through purchase.

Its gratitude is due the Spanish Colonial Arts Society for loan exhibits, supplementing the historic display of the Historical Society itself.

Meetings of the Society have been well attended and addresses by guests of distinction have been notable.

To the Board of Regents of the Museum and to the Managing Committee of the School of American Research, to Director Edgar L. Hewett and to his fellow officers and staff, the president on behalf of the Society expresses his heartfelt appreciation for their wholehearted co-operation.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL A. F. WALTER, *President.*

*February 20, 1934.*

#### BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY-TREASURER, 1932-1933

During the last two calendar years the routine business of my dual office has continued to be cared for by our museum curator, Miss Hester Jones, who by our last election is now recording secretary. The joint arrangement with the State University continues, whereby your corresponding secretary is still associate in history with the School of American Research but is in residence at Albuquerque. One-fourth of my time at the university is allowed for my editorial work and since last summer my academic work is wholly with upper class and graduate students. By some of these students and my faculty colleagues an increasing use is being made of our library and archives at Santa Fé.

For one month each summer the State Museum has made it possible for us to progress in our archive work. Mrs. Bloom has continued her calendaring of our Mexican archives; and last summer also for a month we had the fine

photographic work of Mr. LeRoy Maddison in printing more of the films from Mexico City. Much remains to be done, since we are seriously handicapped by our limited funds.

In the high school textbook, *New Mexico History and Civics*, published last summer in collaboration with Dr. Thomas C. Donnelly, materials were used which came out of the research in Spain and Mexico made possible in part by our Society. I am glad to have opportunity again to express my sincere gratitude to the Society for having enabled me to do such research.

In 1931 Mrs. Sara Bourke James, eldest daughter of Lieutenant (later Captain) John G. Bourke, 3rd U. S. Cavalry, very graciously loaned us her father's field notebooks, thus making available for study and publication this very important body of manuscript material. It is a record of army life and ethnological studies, much of which is from the years during which Captain Bourke served in New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas. Before any of it could be used, much preliminary study and correspondence was necessary, but finally in the January 1933 issue of our quarterly appeared the first installment of "Bourke on the Southwest." This included a chronological analysis of Bourke's army life and a bibliography of all his known writings. The second installment is in the current issue and the material in preparation is so voluminous that the series may extend to the close of this biennium. Later the notebooks are to be deposited in the library at West Point.

About a year ago our good friend and fellow member, Mrs. Barbara Aitken, wrote on behalf of the executors of the Blackmore estate, Salisbury, England, offering a further gift of maps, books and papers relating to grant titles in the Southwest. This second consignment finally arrived this last summer and it was examined and reported upon at our August meeting by Judge Louis H. Warner. In the period following the Civil War, William Blackmore was representative in New Mexico of certain English mining interests, and

it was he who wrote the extended introduction to George Catlin's *North American Indians*. Some of the maps are very important additions to this branch of our library.

During the biennium about twenty new contributors to our HISTORICAL REVIEW have added considerably to the range of studies presented, but because of our financial limitations the quarterly for the past year has been somewhat reduced in size. In 1932 the total was 406 pages; in 1933 it has been 334 pages. If we could hold our present membership and resuscitate those who have dropped out from time to time during these last years we should be in excellent shape and might increase the scope of our quarterly. We should like to add a documentary section; and a section for more general notices and news. In every issue material is being held over or declined because we cannot pay for adequate space.

The following is a summarized statement from the treasurer's records for the past two years:

January 1932—Balance on hand .....	\$ 235.16	
January 1 to June 30		
Received from State .....	1,100.00	
Received from other sources .....	445.95	
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	\$1,781.11	
Disbursed .....		\$1,468.09
Balance on hand .....		313.02
July 1932—Balance on hand .....	313.02	
July 1 to Jan. 1, 1933		
Received from State .....	825.00	
Received from other sources .....	400.25	
	<hr/>	
	\$1,538.27	
Disbursed .....		1,470.14
Balance on hand .....		68.13
January 1, 1933—Balance on hand .....	68.13	
January 1 to June 30		
Received from State .....	825.00	
Received from other sources .....	353.05	
	<hr/>	
	1,246.18	

Disbursed .....	1,101.53
Balance on hand .....	144.65
July 1, 1933—Balance on hand .....	144.65
July 1 to December 31	
Received from State .....	1,665.00
Received from other sources .....	291.23
Disbursed .....	1,523.53
January 1, 1934—Balance on hand .....	577.35

Of the present balance shown (\$577.35), \$500 is half of the thousand which, as our president has already stated, must revert to the state. The net receipts of the past biennium (\$5,063.29) when compared with the similar amount for the preceeding biennium (\$7,677.86) show a decrease of one-third in revenue. This results from loss in subscriptions and decreased sales of our publications, offset only in some measure by the increased appropriation granted by the legislature. In short, our financial condition is not good, and we are able to carry on only by grace of our state appropriation and by reason of our arrangements with the State Museum and the State University.

As of January 1, 1934, our membership stands as follows:

Honorary life .....	6
Life members .....	35
Annual members .....	160
Total .....	201

This is a net loss of 20% since our last biennium report.

Respectfully submitted,

LANSING B. BLOOM,  
*Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer.*

*February 20, 1934.*