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The President's Annual Report for 1927

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THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Fellow Members of the New Mexico Historical Society :

It is not a mere accident that the largest enrollment in any class at the State University is that in New Mexico history under Dr. C. F. Coan, one of the Fellows of the New Mexico Historical Society. Nor is it just a coincidence that the New Mexico press is editorializing at present on the value of historical landmarks to the Commonwealth as an attraction which brings people, money and the best kind of publicity to the Southwest. It is certainly significant that the chief executive of the State, our Senators in Congress and Representative in Congress whenever opportunity offers emphasize as among the main attractions of New Mexico its archaeology, history and historic traditions. It is proof that the work and influence of the New Mexico Historical Society and its publications are bearing abundant fruit and are returning to the State a hundred and a thousand-fold the money, time and effort expended upon them. The officers and members of the Society are therefore justified in taking their duties and privileges most seriously. Only a few days ago, a great Protestant denomination distributed in all of its churches, a folder entitled: "The Logic of History. History doesn't just happen: It is made!" The New Mexico Historical Society has been making history for New Mexico and is also recording it as well as preserving it for future generations. Other agencies are coming to its aid and we should be deeply grateful, even if these other agencies do not always recognize the pioneer work of the New Mexico Historical Society and the effectiveness of its publication and educational efforts. In this connection let me call attention to an editorial printed last Sunday, December 18, one of a series which has appeared in the *Albuquerque Morning Journal*. It says:

NEW WORK FOR UNIVERSITY

The University of New Mexico has undertaken an important work in attempting to preserve a number of places of historical interest in the state. A committee has been named to make an investigation of the scientific resources of the state and to report on ways and means for acquiring these resources for future scientific purposes.

The preliminary announcement points to the fact that the recent report of the state highway department estimated the tourist travel in the state now brings us sixteen million dollars annually. While the announcement does not say, it can readily be seen, that, with our historical places fully developed, the attractions for tourists will be materially enhanced, not only increasing the number of visitors, but lengthening the stay of those who pass through the state.

There are a number of places within a short distance of Albuquerque that can be developed by the university, such as the San Pedro ruins, and going a little further, important exploration and research work can be made in the Jemez country; in fact in all parts of the state as the scope of this work can be increased by the university.

Outside agencies to date have been chiefly interested in scientific researches in the state. It is important that some state agency take a hand in preserving these places of scientific, prehistoric and scenic interests. It will fit in with the work other agencies are doing to attract more tourists to New Mexico.

It is quite proper that the State University and the State Museum take the lead in all research work in the Southwest. It is their manifest duty to co-ordinate the efforts of all other research agencies and to watch jealously over the priceless heritage that the past has bestowed upon New Mexico. They should prevent the indiscriminate scattering of the objects obtained by the excavation and exploitation of archaeological and historical sites. Every effort must be made to conserve to the State, its people and future generations, the historical heirlooms which grow more valuable with each generation. Not only should

there be strict supervision by the State's official agencies of the distribution of duplicate specimens but also of the field work by outside institutions and associations. Italy, for instance, will not permit any outside agency to excavate any of its archaeological and historical sites. Mexico and Guatemala forbid the exportation of archaeological specimens and Egypt retains for its Museum the first choice of all archaeological and historical objects. Other sovereignties have adopted and enforce this wise policy. Of course, every encouragement should be given to all true scientific workers and agencies in the field, no matter whence come the means to pay for the work. It is widely recognized that in its history and historic remains, New Mexico has an asset which neither drouth nor panic can diminish. Crops may fail, industry may sag, but the interest in places hallowed by great deeds and the march of mighty events, always will attract worshippers from far and near. The pilgrimages to the holy places of the Orient have never ceased even though cataclysms were tumbling thrones and destroying entire nations. So materialistic and prosaic a publication as the *Wall Street Journal* recently called upon New England to make more of its historic and scenic attractions. It says among other things words applicable to New Mexico:

New England has herself come to a livelier appreciation lately of that fine heritage; now she is seeking to spread properly—for all around benefit—that new appreciation. . . . Some 200 civic and business representatives, including particularly the automobile men, have just laid plans for a nation-wide presentation of New England's "vacation land" claims. . . . The most comprehensive auto tour of this section ever attempted will be undertaken by the motor clubs next spring. Next autumn when the New England landscape wears yet another glory some 3000 touring clerks from the American Automobile Association will be invited to tour New England. An "all New England" pamphlet will be given distribution through some 900 American Automobile Clubs in the country. By voice and

picture the charms of New England will be set forth. . . . It is not solely a pocketbook proposition on the part of New England interests thus aiming to tell their story more broadly. The cold fact may well be that New England in all that she has to offer is entitled to a larger share of the \$2,500,000,000 yearly motor tourist business of the country—a total sure to grow yet greater. But the case is bigger than the pecuniary angle of promotion or exploitation. It is largely reciprocal—letting the rest of the world know, and be glad of the knowledge. New England has been too reticent. . . . The question is asked me, "How should we capitalize these advantages?" I respond, "You should not capitalize them or issue shares upon them. We should make them serve not only the New England States, but the whole country, and I am sure they will in the future. We can't issue shares on what nature gave us; but we well can let the rest of the country know, and let it come and have its share."

It is gratifying to note in this connection that the Santa Fe Transportation Company is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in publicity to make our historic and scenic attractions known, and that there are plans under way for the organization of a state-wide automobile association that will do for New Mexico what the Association referred to above is doing for New England. However, we must first sell our state, its history, scenery and climate to ourselves before we can convince others that no other state in the Union is as richly endowed as we are by Nature and History.

As I view it, the duties of the New Mexico Historical Society are four-fold: Research, Exhibition, Publication and Education. Let us briefly discuss each in turn:

RESEARCH

It is only in recent years that the New Mexico Historical Society has had the satisfaction of engaging in research work. True, this has been somewhat by proxy,

for it is only through the co-operation of the School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico, that the Historical Society has been enabled to command practically all of the time and all of the results of the research work of its secretary, Lansing Bloom. His work in the Spanish Archives, in the records of the Mexican period of the Southwest and in the military muster rolls, to mention only a few of his lines of endeavor, have been noteworthy, and have resulted not only in bringing to light historical facts but also in such material results as pensions to New Mexico veterans of the Indian wars as well as preserving for posterity New Mexico's record in the Great War. He has through his zeal and scholarship interested other historical research workers in the Southwestern field, and the results have been spread before you each three months in the *New Mexico Historical Review*. In fact, there is no other agency in the State thus far, which has done or is doing as much research work in history as this Society, its Fellows and members, for we must remember that among its Fellows are men like Bolton, Hackett, Hewett, Lummis, Hodge, Hammond, Kidder, Bieber, Espinosa, Mecham, Coan, and others who are giving themselves to Southwestern research such as the University is now recognizing as the most important for the State which it can undertake. We should be grateful to Dr. J. F. Zimmerman, the president, for his vision and his practical views which are placing New Mexico's University in line with the State Universities of the other western States in service to commonwealths to which they owe their existence and maintenance.

The Historical Society will not stand still. Important tasks beckon it. Such fundamental historical facts as the founding of Santa Fe less than 320 years ago, are still shrouded in mist, although it seems certain that somewhere, in some musty alcove, or in some dust-covered pigeon hole in Seville or in Rome or perhaps, in Guadalajara, Durango or Mexico City, there are the very documents which will dispel the fog and disclose clearly the

facts. It seems highly improbable that so important a historic event or episode as the founding of a villa to be the capital of a province, should not have been reported in greatest detail to the authorities, as so many other minor events were reported, and the records preserved. It is only within the past few years, that many of these archives bearing on Southwestern history, have been rescued from oblivion by such research workers as Bolton, and have made certain, among other things, that it was not Oñate who actually founded Santa Fe but his successor Peralta. Necessarily, no one is more interested in laying bare the real facts than we ourselves and we should contribute something toward establishing the record of the founding of this Ancient City. Such an opportunity has come to us, to assist in sending to Spain our secretary, who is especially well fitted to continue in the archives of Seville the depository of the original and official records appertaining to Spanish America, the research work he has begun here. The School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico, possibly with the co-operation of the University, plan to be represented at the American Exposition at Seville, Spain, in 1928. An American building is under construction on the Exposition grounds, in accordance with the plans by William Templeton Johnson of San Diego, well known in Santa Fe and for years affiliated with our work here and in California. It is to be a splendid and worthy building and we have been invited to send an exhibit and a representative. The sum to be allowed Mr. Bloom is meager and he consents to great material sacrifice in going. I would recommend earnestly our participation in sending him to Seville and suggest a grant of \$600 toward his expenses and \$300 additional on research expenses in Europe. In fact, I would urge an annual scholarship for research students in New Mexico history willing to go to the archives and great libraries in which are buried historical data of so great interest to us. It is our duty not

only to record history but to recover it where lost and to keep the facts straight.

EXHIBITION

The Society is true to its original objective, that of maintaining a historical museum. We are making progress toward a more scientific and orderly arrangement of our exhibits which are the admiration of every other historical society. With the aid of Secretary Bloom, Curator Woodruff and the staff of the School of American Research, the classification chronologically in the various rooms has progressed. Mr. K. M. Chapman of the Museum staff is assisting in the labeling, and Mrs. Van Stone, also of the School and Museum, in the library cataloguing. They are both members of our Society also. You will notice in the Pioneer room that the Santos have been displayed to greater advantage. We should use every available scientific method to prevent their going to pieces through age, and to restore as far as possible their fading colors. Expert advice is at hand of which we will avail ourselves during the coming year. Odd S. Halseth, until recently of the Museum and School staff, has compiled a guide and catalog of New Mexico Santos that is to be in print during the coming year. Through the fine spirit of co-operation of the director of the School of American Research and the Museum, Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, the memorials of the Great War have been transferred to the Historical rooms, where they have been placed with the other collections of weapons, the most important of which, the Borrowdale Collection, is also a loan of the School of American Research. The historic old *Sala* or Reception Room, has been restored to something of a semblance it bore centuries ago if the archives can be taken as a guide. These contain detailed descriptions bearing witness to the simplicity, and at times, to the dilapidation of this room, the most historic in all the land, barring none. It has been the scene of so many thrilling episodes,

of such far-reaching events, that its very austereness should stir the imagination of every intelligent visitor and the patriotism of every New Mexican. This room, too, has been added to the domain of the Historical Society, so that through the generosity of the Museum authorities in whose keeping the Palace has been placed by statute, the Historical Society now commands more space for strictly historical exhibits than ever before. Yet, much precious material cannot be exhibited because of lack of space.

The faithful and loyal services of our Curator, Mr. Henry Woodruff and Mrs. Woodruff, who are giving all of their time and effort for the small salary of \$75 a month, to the care of the exhibits and their display to the hosts of visitors, are deserving of more than mere passing mention. We read with something like astonishment that almost 30,000 visitors sought the Carlsbad Cave, one of the world's great natural wonders, during the current year, bringing new prosperity and wealth not only to Carlsbad but to the country round about so that only last week, two counties in Texas authorized the expenditure of huge sums to build and maintain a road that has no other objective than the Cave. Yet, if you will examine the register of the Historical Society for 1928, you will discover that making allowance for those who did not register, almost 50,000 people visited the Historical rooms, and that these people hailed not mainly from Texas but from all over the world. It is proposed that Congress appropriate \$200,000 for the improvement and exploitation of the Carlsbad Cavern, and public money can not be spent to better purpose—but it must be remembered also that the Historical Society manages on an annual appropriation of \$2000, making available to the world not only Southwestern history and historical objects, but also performing manifold other functions for the good of the commonwealth and humanity. Where the Carlsbad Cave has a staff of well-paid superintendents, guides and workmen for whom the Government

is building substantial modern homes, the Historical Society must do with one paid employe and his pay only \$900 a year.

But it is not only in the rooms of the Old Palace that historical exhibits appertaining to New Mexico are to be found. The entire State is such an exhibit and its many historic spots need but to be preserved and properly marked to arouse wide-spread interest. It was to be expected that the suggestion made by one of our members, E. Dana Johnson, that the landmarks associated with the "Lincoln County War" be given proper markers, should be taken up and commended by the press throughout the State. Placards are in preparation and will be printed and simply framed as time and means permit, to be placed in Lincoln county. The Daughters of the American Revolution have placed markers along the Santa Fe Trail beginning in the Plaza in Santa Fe and all the way to Raton Pass by way of the battlefields of Apache Pass and Glorieta. We should not delay the placing of the bronze tablets on the Cross of the Martyrs in order to proclaim the names of the fifty-one Franciscan martyrs who gave their lives so that the Indians of the Southwest might have the Gospel. This matter is in the capable hands of Vice-President José D. Sena. The time is coming when we must be more energetic in helping to organize county and city historical societies to preserve local traditions and relics, to commemorate the deeds of pioneers, veterans and leaders. New Mexico is so rich in historical mementoes and memories that even New England cannot vie with it. Yet in most, if not all of the other states, there are local historical societies while the state societies are richly endowed. Such states as Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, are young as compared with New Mexico, and their history is comparatively meager, yet, their legislatures appropriate from \$20,000 to \$40,000 and upward annually for the work of their historical societies, and such states as Wisconsin have erected magnificent buildings at the Capital to house historical mementoes. Such local societies as that of the Northwest Reserve at

Cleveland, Ohio, have not only spacious buildings but also sums aggregating more than \$30,000 annually at their disposal and yet, find these inadequate to do all that might be accomplished but for lack of means and room. However, no structure, no matter how splendid or commodious, can compare with the Palace of the Governors, which in itself, in its present museum activities, is worth more to New Mexico and its people than would be the most ornate structure that money could provide. The Exposition at Seville, next year, offers an opportunity to proclaim to the world the riches of New Mexico especially in its Spanish American traditions.

PUBLICATION

The Historical Society is doing its full duty in the way of publication. What merit lies there in historical research and study if the results are not communicated to the people? The *New Mexico Historical Review* has set a standard which other societies and institutions are seeking to emulate, judging from the inquiries and comment received. The little folder distributed tonight gives a synopsis of the character of its contents and also of the other publications of the Society. It is due to the tirelessness and scholarship of our secretary that the *Historical Review* is so worth while. That the editorial work is done at no expense to the Society is our good fortune. We know of no instance in which a state historical magazine pays expenses and the *New Mexico Historical Review* has come nearer to it than most publications of that class. The more important papers in the Review have been issued as separates, taking the place formerly held by the Bulletins of the Society although the publication of these has not been discontinued entirely. The biography of the late Colonel José Francisco Chaves, for instance, has been published in Spanish, in Bulletin form, thanks to Hon. Frank W. Clancy and Hon. Amado Chaves. The live interest that the New Mexico press, and

even the Associated Press, are taking in our historical work is gratifying, and is due primarily to the sympathetic attitude of the *Santa Fe New Mexican* which has generously served as a clearing house for the news emanating from the Society and its workers.

EDUCATION

Historical writers of recent days, in Europe as well as in this country, take a gloomy view of the future of civilization. There is an impression created by them that another Dark Age is coming upon humanity. Harry Carr, a student of history and of military science, predicted seriously only a few days ago that the end is not far off and wrote:

Civilization comes and goes like the tides of the sea. The Cro-Magnons gave way to a people little better than animals. The Egyptians were replaced by wild marauding Arabs. The Mayan civilization sank before an ignorant Indian population. The high civilization of Greece and Rome went to sleep for a thousand years, years during which the light was kept burning by a few cloistered monks.

While we do not share such pessimism, yet, if anything can avert such catastrophe if it is on the way, it is an intelligent study by all people of the records of the past. It is a duty of the Historical Society to make easy of access these records not only through its own publications but also through its Library. The death recently of Dr. J. A. Munk in Los Angeles, a member of our Society and subscriber to the *Historical Review*, recalls that he gathered 20,000 volumes of Arizoniana and moved them to California because Arizona was too penurious and shortsighted to place at his disposal a suitable library building. The Munk library is now the much-prized possession of the Southwest Museum and the student of Arizona history must now perforce go to Los Angeles, in another State, to study the his-

tory of his own State. To the University of Arizona in Tucson or to the State Capital in Phoenix, that Library would prove a heritage increasing in intrinsic value with each passing year. New Mexico may be almost as shortsighted. Its Historical Society is crowded for room. Potential gifts to it are withheld because of the lack of space for displaying such manuscripts and maps as it possesses, and because the present rooms are not fire-proof. In our budget submitted to the last legislative assembly, a modest appropriation of \$10,000 was asked to build a wing to the east end of the Palace to complete the quadrangle enclosing the Patio but no appropriation was made. An appropriation of \$30,000 voted to the Museum for the purchase of the National Guard Armory would have given the needed building for library purposes but the exigencies of the situation led to a veto of the item, although the Museum is the only state institution that has not had a building appropriation during the past ten years, and no other building appropriation was vetoed. However, we are in hopes that the Governor, whose warm friendship for the Society and the Museum are manifested in many ways, will prepare the way so that the much needed new building or buildings will become a reality during the next two years. The School of American Research and Museum have turned over to us all of the historical volumes in their libraries and are ready to add their linguistic, art, archaeological and poetry libraries to our treasures as soon as proper facilities are provided. Together with the archives, files of magazines and newspapers, New Mexico would then have at least the beginnings for a library of New Mexicana comparable with that of the Munk Library. The Historical Society has been adding constantly, by gift and purchase, to its Library. It has had bound the files of daily newspapers as far as resources permitted and is preparing additional files for the binder. This too has been done by Secretary Bloom so that the old files are now available and are being used by students and authors. I need but mention one instance, that

of Miss Blanche Grant of Taos, who is writing a volume for early publication, "Santa Fe Today," which promises to be even more fascinating than her "Taos Today," and who is finding in the old files much material of interest for her book. We hope that during the coming year some progress will be made toward indexing the contents of the newspaper files. We have some offers of volunteer help and it may be as enjoyable as it would be profitable to have meetings in addition to the regular monthly sessions, at which all of those present, under proper guidance, would take a hand at indexing the periodicals. With a suitable library building, it would prove practicable to transfer the Museum Librarian to take charge of the consolidated libraries and make them much more valuable to students than at present.

Our Vice-President F. T. Cheetham succeeded in placing on the statute books by the last legislature, of which he was a member, a statute naming the Historical Society as the official custodian of the official documents and records of the State and of the counties. But, for the fulfillment of that purpose, a library building is also necessary. Much official material which cannot be replaced has been lost in the past because there was no official custodian of archives. Such invaluable records as those of military muster rolls were dug out of miscellaneous debris in the basement of the Capitol. The story of the scattering and burning of Spanish archives not so many years ago is but another instance of this kind.

The Society for the Preservation of Spanish Antiquities (a successor of the Society founded more than twenty years ago by earnest men and women affiliated with the Historical Society, under the leadership of the late Dr. L. Bradford Prince, ex-governor of the State) has offered to furnish several period rooms for the Museum and the Historical Society. Here again the lack of room compels us to wait in accepting the fine and generous offer until the

legislature, or some public-spirited philanthropist, enables us to build the proposed eastern wing to the Palace or to acquire the National Guard Armory. Perhaps if the room in which the valuable and valued exhibits of pottery are now to be found could be assigned to the library, then a beginning could be made toward furnishing one of the proposed period rooms in addition to the Sala, already restored to its ancient appearance. Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, director of the Museum, is at present considering a plan to transform the Library in the Art Museum into an Indian art room in which the choicest specimens of the Indian Pottery Fund could be exhibited and rotated so that during the year there would be a succession of new exhibits each month, if the riches of the Indian Pottery Fund and other ethnological collections, together with those gathered by the Museum and its staff, are made available. This would mean the consolidation of the Museum libraries in the Old Palace in very crowded quarters for the time being until additional buildings are acquired.

Other data regarding the activities of the Society and what I conceive should be its plans and methods in the future, may be found in my report to Governor Dillon at the beginning of this year, in which I said that the Society "has prospered in its endeavors for the preservation of historical records and objects, in enlisting the interest of the public far and wide, in publishing the results of its historical research, in teaching history and inculcating patriotism. Its work has reached out to every portion of the State and at the same time it is building up a treasure house of inestimable value for the present and future generations. Every commonwealth deems it a public duty and takes justifiable pride in preserving its historical records, some of them expending many times as much as New Mexico can afford, in order to maintain historical museums and societies. Yet no other commonwealth has such a wealth of historical material, so splendid and continuous a history, or so glorious a record of achievement. In its historical

landmarks, in its history, New Mexico has an asset that is being capitalized to a greater extent with each year, and today brings into the State thousands of visitors, untold treasure, and has centered the attention of the world on this commonwealth, its people and its resources."

I am cognizant of the high honor conferred upon me and the responsibilities it involves, when you re-elected me to preside for another biennium. May I have your help in making the Society of the greatest service possible to the people of the Commonwealth and to Humanity in general?

PAUL A. F. WALTER, president

Santa Fe, N. M.,

December 20, 1927.