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## Biennial Report of the President, 1930-1931

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BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT  
1930-1931

Members of the New Mexico Historical Society:

I am deeply appreciative of the honor conferred by your re-electing me for the fourth consecutive time for a two-year term as your president. In turn, I point with pride to the achievements for the society and the cause it represents through the faithful and brilliant work of my fellow officers.

Foremost among the attainments of the past two years is the building and completion of the east wing of the Palace of the Governors, especially planned for library and reading room. Its dedication was made an event of state-wide importance in which the governor of the commonwealth and other distinguished guests took part. Under the direction of the librarian of the society, Mrs. Rupert F. Asplund, the books in the various libraries housed on the premises not only of the Palace of the Governors, but also of the Art Museum, were added to the collections of the Historical Society, scientifically catalogued and shelf-listed and placed so as to be available to the scholars and students who frequent the library in increasing numbers. Additions are being made by gift and purchase and while lack of funds prevents the acquisition of many desirable volumes, continuous effort is made to obtain every worthwhile publication appertaining to the history of the state. In addition to the new library, several rooms along the northern boundary of the Palace patio have been renovated and reconstructed for office, newspaper files, stack rooms and library extension pack rooms. No doubt, the librarian will render a detailed account of the noteworthy work that is being done under her supervision.

Under the guidance of Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, director of the Museum, his assistants, as well as the staff of the

library and the Historical Society, all exhibits of the society have been rearranged and scientifically displayed in period rooms and chronological order. Non-essential and duplicate objects have been stored in the fire-proof basements of the Art Museum.

The attractiveness of the exhibits, as now displayed, is commented upon by many visitors who tell us that the material and arrangement compare favorably with those of historical societies of much wealthier states, and even surpass them. There are constant additions by gift or purchase to these exhibits. However, here again, lack of funds compels us to decline the offer of objects which should be kept in the state for their historical value; yet, no effort is spared to obtain objects of real importance. From time to time, new displays of historical material are made, especially in the way of the invaluable manuscripts and maps of which the society has possession.

Mainly through the indefatigable labors of your corresponding secretary and treasurer, Mr. Lansing Bloom, the *New Mexico Historical Review* has appeared regularly each quarter and has added many studies of much interest to available printed material. We can continue to point with pride to this quarterly which is the peer of other historical periodicals both in scholarliness and appearance. The Museum and University Press deserve commendation for the manner in which the quarterly is printed at a cost that has kept it within reach of the society's budget. Several of the more important contributions have been issued as separates or bulletins. The Quivira Society, mentioned in my last report, has just brought out its second volume.

Mr. Bloom continues on the faculty of the University of New Mexico. Since the last biennial report he has been in Mexico City as research worker and obtained much source material for historical study. He will present in his report a review of archive and other work during 1930 and 1931, which has redounded to the advantage and usefulness of the society.

The passing of Curator Henry Woodruff and the resignation of Mrs. Woodruff, both of whom for forty years served the society faithfully, were given recognition in suitable manner and recorded in the state press as well as the *Historical Review*. The selection of Miss Hester Jones to succeed them was a happy one, for she has given every proof of ability and success, both as hostess to the thousands who pass through the Palace of the Governors and as a scholarly and painstaking curator who takes a delight in her duties. Miss Jones is making a special study of the implements, utensils and appliances of the Spanish period in New Mexico, a study that will be published eventually in the *Review*. Her report as curator will go into details of considerable interest to every member of the society.

Governor Arthur Seligman and the legislative assembly were generous in their recognition of the society's needs. There are constitutional limitations to the amount that is appropriated for the general fund of the society but there is no inhibition which prevents grants for special purposes and work. However, there is need for endowments and gifts. Worlds of source material await careful study, hundreds of valuable books and pamphlets are in need of binding, priceless newspaper files need to be sorted, catalogued, indexed and bound, uniform cases for exhibits are much needed.

The Spanish Colonial Arts Society has taken a commendable interest in our work, and it is with sadness that we record the passing of one its leading spirits and a warm friend of the Historical Society, Mr. Frank G. Applegate. The material exhibited by the Arts Society is of an especially attractive nature and adds much to the fame of the Palace of the Governors as a treasure house of historical and archaeological interest.

Every effort is made to hold regular meetings at which papers and addresses of historical interest are presented. The attendance has been good and the addresses well worthy of serious publication.

No sustained effort has been made for the gaining of additional members. The prevailing financial depression seemed to make a membership campaign inadvisable. Some thought has been given to amalgamating the New Mexico Archaeological Society with the Historical Society. This would be desirable for many reasons. Perhaps an arrangement creating several classes of active membership whose dues would be governed by the publications each receives, will prove the basis. The matter of local societies has received attention and it is a pleasure to report the organization of such a society with a museum of its own, at Las Vegas, where, through the efforts and generosity of J. D. W. Veeder and the assistance of Dr. C. H. Gossard, the president of the Normal University, more than a hundred memberships have been obtained and there is every promise of active archaeological and historical research work.

Dr. Edgar L. Hewett and his staff are giving every possible assistance in the proper installation of the museum exhibits in the Meadow City. Branch museums and archaeological societies which are interested in the history of their section have been organized in Silver City in connection with the State Normal School there, at Carlsbad, Roswell, and in other places.

That the New Mexico Historical Society enjoys the good wishes of a host of friends not only in the state, but throughout the nation, is manifest by gifts of exhibit material, books and magazines, by correspondence, exchanges and publicity generously given by the press.

There has been hearty cooperation among your officers, and these look forward confidently to further progress and attainments during the years to come.

PAUL A. F. WALTER, *President.*

January 19, 1932.