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Biennial Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

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BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY- TREASURER

During the two years of the past biennium your secretary-treasurer has continued in residence in Albuquerque, in connection with his work at the University of New Mexico, and by arrangement already in effect between our society and the Museum of New Mexico most of the routine correspondence of the dual office has been handled through the museum office. Correspondence which has been referred to your secretary personally to handle has included communications not only from various parts of the United States, but from Mexico, England, Germany, France, Spain, and Italy, and even from Uruguay.

With limited resources and under limitations also as to time available, we have been continuing the archive work in which our society is interested. From July to December, 1930, your secretary was in Mexico City, by joint arrangement with the University of New Mexico and the School of American Research; and (as has already been reported to you) brought back in photographic form some 17,000 pages of archive material relating to the history of New Mexico prior to the year 1760.

During the summer of 1931, through a small fund provided by the Museum of New Mexico and our society, Mrs. Bloom and daughter, Carol, carried on work—the former in continuing the calendar of the “New Mexico archives” and finishing to about the year 1839; the latter making a start in the large task of printing (a) the archives secured from Spain through our arrangement with the Library of Congress, and (b) those secured in Mexico. After helping them to begin this work, your secretary went to California and did some work at the Bancroft Library, Berkeley, and at the Huntington Library, San Marino. In both of those libraries he found considerable archive ma-

terial which unquestionably once formed part of the official archives in Santa Fe. While the libraries at Berkeley and San Marino are delightful places in which to work, it is unfortunate that the old records of New Mexico should be thus scattered, and an effort should be made to have them restored to Santa Fe.

It was not possible this past fall to continue the archive work in Mexico, but it will be of interest to the members to know that arrangements are now pending, so that this work may be continued during the coming summer, or possibly next fall.

Part of your secretary's correspondence has been in connection with his duties as editor of our *Historical Review*. The results in part are found in the issues of the last two years, to which some thirty different writers have contributed.

One pleasant duty this last fall was to follow up the action by the executive committee in nominating three new Fellows. By the returns received, Percy F. Balwin, France V. Scholes, and Alfred B. Thomas have been unanimously elected to that body. In this connection I might report also that Professor Scholes has been succeeded as an associate editor of our quarterly by Dean Baldwin, of the Agricultural College of New Mexico.

Through our correspondence we are frequently offered accessions for our historical museum or for the library, and far too often it is necessary to reply that we are unable to consider them. Some months ago Mrs. Barbara Aitken reported important documentary material as available from an estate in England, material of value in Southwestern history. An offer was made through her, but we have not yet had any definite word.

Recently the original papers of Lieuts. Emory and Abert, and Capts. Cook and Johnston, of 1846-47, with accompanying drawings of more than seventy battlefields, cities, and ancient ruins were offered in typed copy,—if we would pay for the cost of the transcript. In reply, we

asked whether the owner would allow us to examine the material, especially the drawings. Some of the latter might be of very great interest to us and to the school; but if so, could we manage to buy them? It is the old embarrassing problem of funds which are far too meager to acquire and conserve the historical materials which our state should have.

A summarized statement follows from the treasurer's books for the past two years:

January 21, 1930—Balance on hand	\$ 533.31	
January 1 to June 30		
Received from State Treasurer	1,037.00	
Received from other sources	521.88	
	<u>2,092.19</u>	
Disbursed		\$1,696.61
Balance on hand		395.58
July 1, 1930—Balance on hand	395.58	
July 1, to January 1, 1931		
Received from State	1,000.00	
Received from other sources	1,013.05	
	<u>2,408.63</u>	
Disbursed		2,051.13
Balance on hand		357.50
January 1, 1931—Balance on hand	357.50	
January 1 to June 30		
Received from State	1,000.00	
Received from other sources	889.49	
	<u>2,246.99</u>	
Disbursed		1,866.80
Balance on hand		380.19
July 1, 1931—Balance on hand	380.19	
July 1, 1931 to December 30		
Received from State	1,250.00	
Received from other sources	768.29	
	<u>2,398.48</u>	
Disbursed		2,163.32
Balance on hand		235.16

With regard to our financial record, the following tabulation of revenues during the last two bienniums may be of interest:

	<i>January balance</i>	<i>from State</i>	<i>from other sources</i>
1928:	\$943.67	\$2,166.66	\$ 693.28
1929:	650.46	1,833.34	896.71
1930:	533.31	2,037.00	1,534.93
1931:	357.50	2,250.00	1,657.78

The state appropriations just about carry our overhead, although salary and office expense have about doubled since the preceding biennium. The decrease in the balances is accounted for in part by the fact that, during 1928-1929, \$1,200 was put into archive work in Spain; and, in 1930, \$500 was invested in similar work in Mexico.

The increase in revenue from "other sources" is mostly accounted for by the fact that at the close of 1929 our annual dues were changed from \$1.00 to \$3.00 a year, the present rate carrying with it subscription to our quarterly which until then had been additional. The increase is partly explained also by greater revenue from sales of publications. An interesting fact is that receipts from these two sources just about offset our present expenses of publication. Payments to the press during 1930 totalled \$1,314.51; during 1931 they were \$1,465.80. In other words, our annual dues are not yet sufficient to cover entirely publication costs; but the deficit is covered by the sales of back files, and of our other earlier publications, and also by commissions on sales of the Twitchell publications.

In this connection, it might be well to note that from the sales of our bulletin No. 24, the "Fort Marcy fund" now stands at \$168.06; and the total sales to date of Father Meyer's special paper on St. Francis and Franciscans in New Mexico for the "Cross of the Martyrs fund" have been \$52.00.

Advertising in the quarterly brought in \$150 during 1930, and \$102.85 in 1931. We have had none in the last two issues.

Our society has suffered the loss by death of three of our life members:

José E. Chaves, New York City
Edward P. Davies, Santa Fe
Henry Woodruff, Santa Fe

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In this group there has been one addition, that of Mrs. Willi Spiegelberg, of New York City, whose husband came to Santa Fe in 1859 to join his merchant brothers.

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

Honorary life -----	6
Life members -----	35
Annual members -----	210
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
Total -----	251

This is an increase of 30 over the total shown in our last biennial report. Over half of the annual members have not yet paid their dues for the year 1932, but we do not anticipate that many of them will allow their membership to lapse. Slowness in payment is incident to the present general depression, and a follow-up letter is already bringing a good response.

Respectfully submitted,

LANSING B. BLOOM,

Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer

January 19, 1932

