

The Story Of The Anthropological Society Of Washington¹

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One of the duties of the President of this Society is to deliver, at the first meeting in February, an address on some anthropological subject. Inasmuch as a history of the Society has never been written and as this is the twenty-seventh year of its existence, I have prepared a brief account of its activities during that period to serve as my presidential address.

Omitting the National Institute, which was founded in 1841 and passed out of existence twenty years later, there was only one scientific society in Washington, so far as I am aware, prior to 1871. This was the Medical Society, incorporated in 1819 and therefore approaching its centennial. The Philosophical Society was established in 1871, and the Anthropological Society in 1879. In 1880 the Biological Society was founded; the Chemical and Entomological Societies in 1884; the National Geographic Society in 1888, the Geological Society in 1893, the Columbia Historical Society in 1894, the Society of Foresters in 1900, the Botanical Society in 1901, and the Washington Society of the Archaeological Institute of America in 1902, making twelve scientific societies, all of which are now affiliated with the Washington Academy of Sciences. It is not difficult to understand how the successive establishment of other societies, the functions of some of which are more or less related to anthropology, drew away a portion of the membership of the Anthropological Society of Washington.

The following advertisement appeared in the newspapers of Washington, February 7, 1879:

"Many persons interested in American Archaeology have expressed a desire for an organization in this city to promote study and diffuse knowledge upon the subject. All willing to join an archaeological association are requested to attend a meeting at the Smithsonian Institution on Monday evening the 10th inst. at 7 ½ o'clock for a conference upon the subject and the formation of such a Society."

This announcement was signed by Dr J. M. Toner, Prof. Otis T. Mason, and Col. Garrick Mallery, U. S. A.

Twenty-five persons, responding to the call, met in the regent's room in the South Tower of

the Smithsonian building on the date named. Those who attended were Dr A. Wellington Adams, then living in Washington, but soon afterward removed to St Louis; Mr S. Yorke Atlee; Prof. Spencer F. Baird, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Mr Otis Bigelow, a banker; Mr George H. Boehmer, of the Smithsonian International Exchanges; Mr E. A. Burdick, of the Pension Office; Mr Frank Hamilton Cushing, of the Bureau of Ethnology; Dr Wills de Hass, temporarily connected with the same bureau; Dr Robert Fletcher, of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office; Prof. G. Brown Goode, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in charge of the National Museum; Mr John C. Lang, an antiquarian; Col. Garrick Mallery, of the Bureau of Ethnology; Prof. Otis T. Mason, then of Columbian College, afterward and now curator in the National Museum; Dr James E. Morgan, a well-known physician; Mr P. W. Norris, of the Bureau of Ethnology; W. W. Reisinger, then Lieutenant, afterward Commander, U. S. N.; Dr Elmer E. Reynolds, of the Pension Bureau; Mr William J. Rhees, of the Smithsonian Institution; Dr Miles Rock, a civil engineer; Mr Lenox w. Simpson; Dr J. E. Snodgrass, well-known in Washington; Dr J. M. Toner, a celebrated physician, historian, and bibliophile; Mr Edwin P. Upham, of the Smithsonian Institution; Prof. Lester F. Ward, of the Geological Survey; and Mr Joseph M. Wilson.

Dr Toner presided at the meeting and Professor Mason acted as secretary. Messrs Toner, De Hass, Mason, and Mallery were appointed a committee to draft a constitution and to report at a meeting to be conducted at the same place, February 17th. The meeting was held, the committee reported, and the constitution was in part adopted. There was some discussion as to a name for the society; some favored the title "The Archeological and Ethnological Society," but the name "The Anthropological Society of Washington" was finally adopted, the fact that the Archaeological Institute of America was then in process of

¹ Presidential address, somewhat abbreviated, delivered May 9, 1905.

organization in Boston lending weight to the selection of our present designation.

The object of the Society, as stated in the constitution, was "to encourage the study of the natural history of man, especially with reference to America," and included Archeology, Somatology, Ethnology and Philology. Afterward Archeology and Ethnology were dropped, and Sociology, Psychology, and Technology were substituted. Still later the sections were rearranged as: *a*, Somatology; *b*, Psychology; *c*, Esthetology; *d*, Technology; *e*, Sociology; *f*, Philology; *g*, Sophiology.

In 1882, and again in 1899, some radical changes were made in the constitution, and minor modifications during the interim. The duties of the officers were much the same as they are now, except in the case of the curator, who had charge of all the anthropological material contributed to the Society, and not deposited in either the National Museum or the Army Medical Museum; he preserved all books, pamphlets, photographs, and clippings (keeping a record of them) and kept a card index of anthropologic data to which members were expected to contribute. Later the card index was discontinued. The constitution made it the duty of all members to seek to increase and perfect the materials for anthropological study in the national collections at Washington; after having been shown to the Society and a record made of them, they were to be deposited as stated – the crania and other somatic specimens in the Army Medical Museum, the remaining objects in the National Museum. A few years ago, however, the crania and other specimens sent by the Society to the Medical Museum, except such as exhibited disease or injury, were transferred to the National Museum.

It was provided that all business of the Society should be conducted by a council, afterward called a board of managers. In this way the Society's meetings, except the annual meetings when officers were elected, have been devoted entirely to anthropologic work, and precious time has not been wasted in discussing business matters.

Theoretically the vice-presidents were then, as now, the officers on whom mainly depended the work of the Society. They presided over their respective sections and represented them in the council, and papers pertaining to the subject of a particular section were referred to the council by the vice-president representing that section. Through him also the section was required to keep the Society informed as to the progress of

research in its particular field, to make special investigations when required by the council, to announce interesting discoveries, to collect specimens, manuscripts, publications, newspaper clippings, etc., and in every way to foster its own branch of the work.

Later, the constitution was so amended as to require each vice-president to deliver annually an address on some subject pertaining to his special field. At present he is required to keep the Society informed of the progress of research in his section, to make special investigations when requested by the board of managers, and to foster in every way the work of the Society; and he is made responsible for the program of one meeting each year, to be devoted to the particular subject intrusted to his section. While the rule is an excellent one in theory, in practice it has not always been strictly adhered to.

At the initial gathering there was much discussion as to the frequency of meetings; it was finally decided to meet twice a month. The season began October 1st and ended July 1st, but this arrangement was not a success, and later the period was changed to include from November to May inclusive. The meetings were originally held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month; in recent years' these were changed to every alternate Tuesday, beginning with the first Tuesday in November. The first meeting in February was set apart for the address of the president of the previous year; at first, he was limited in subject to the work of the Society during his incumbency, but afterward his choice of subjects was unrestricted.

At the third preliminary meeting, February 24, 1879, the constitution was adopted as a whole and the following officers were elected: *President*, Major J. W. Powell; *Vice-presidents*, Dr J. M. Toner, Dr George A. Otis, U. S. A., Col. Garrick Mallery, and Mr Wills De Hass; *Corresponding Secretary*, Prof. O. T. Mason; *Recording Secretary*, Dr E. R. Reynolds; *Treasurer*, Mr John C. Lang; *Curator*, Mr Frank H. Cushing; *Members of the Council at Large*, Mr A. S. Gatschet, Lieut. W. W. Reisinger, U. S. N., Mr G. K. Gilbert, Dr Charles A. White, Dr Thomas Antisell, and Mr J. M. Wilson.

The office of President has been occupied as follows: Major Powell served nine terms in all, 1879-1883, 1884-1887, and in 1895; Col. Garrick Mallery in 1883; Dr Robert Fletcher, three terms, 1888 to 1890; Dr J. C. Welling, two terms, 1891-1892; Prof. O. T. Mason, two terms, 1893-1894; Prof. Lester F. Ward, 1896; Dr Frank Baker, 1897; Dr W J McGee, three terms, 1898-

1900; Prof. W. H. Holmes, two terms, 1901-1902; Miss Alice C. Fletcher, 1903 ; and the writer in 1904 and for the first session of 1905.

I have said that the tenth of February is the date from which the Society counts its anniversaries, this being the date of its initial meeting in 1879. The Directory of the Washington Academy of Sciences and its Affiliated Societies gives February 17th as the date of organization, which is true only in so far that the constitution was partially adopted on that day.

The Directory states also that there were 17 original members, but as a matter of fact there is no record of any membership before February 24, 1879, for which date I find recorded the names of 28 persons. Apparently each of these 28 was as much a founder as any other of the number. At least 16 of the original members are dead, namely, Adams, Antisell, Bigelow, Cushing, De Hass, Goode, Lang, Mallery, Morgan, Norris, Otis, Powell, Reisinger, Rock, Shoemaker, and Toner. Nine are known to survive: Burdick, Robert Fletcher, Gatschet, Gilbert, Gore, Mason, Reynolds, Ward, and White.

The Society having been duly organized, the first regular meeting was held March 4, 1879. The first paper was read by Frank H. Cushing on "Relic Hunting," and Professor Mason was the first to pay dues. The meetings at first were held, by courtesy of Secretary Baird, in the Regent's room of the Smithsonian Institution, but on February 1, 1881, they were transferred to the lower lecture hall of the Medical department of Columbian University, or, as the department was generally called, the National Medical College, at 1325 H St., N. W. Here the Society continued to meet until April 3, 1883, when by invitation of the Surgeon General, U. S. A., it met in the library of the Army Medical Museum, then in the old Ford's Theatre building on Tenth street. The Society again changed its place of meeting December 2, 1884, to the lecture hall of Columbian University, at 15th and H streets, N. W. Since April 5, 1887, it has met in the assembly room of the Cosmos Club, the old Dolly Madison house, corner of Madison place and H street. Occasionally, when large audiences were expected, meetings have been conducted elsewhere.

On March 2, 1880, Major Powell delivered his first annual address as president, on the subject "Evolution in Language." The membership of the Society then numbered 63. On February 3, 1880, an important step was

taken by the Society in appointing a committee to report the most expedient method of exploring and mapping the shell-heaps and other aboriginal remains along the Chesapeake and its tributaries.

In Major Powell's second annual address, delivered February 1, 1881, "On Limitations to the Use of Some Anthropologic Data," he gave a résumé of the work of the Society for the preceding two years and concluded by stating that, in view of the worthlessness of a vast body of anthropological material, "anthropology needs trained devotees with philosophic methods and keen observation to study every tribe and nation of the globe almost *de novo*; and from materials thus collected a science might be established." This and the preceding annual address form part of the *Abstract of Transactions of the Anthropological Society of Washington, D. C., with the Annual Address of the President, for the First Year, ending January 20, 1880, and for the Second Year, ending January 25, 1881. Prepared by J. W. Powell.* Including the constitution and list of members this pamphlet contains 150 pages. It was printed in 1881 at the joint expense of Major Powell and the Society, and was reprinted by the Smithsonian Institution in 1883 as part of its Miscellaneous Collections (publication no.502).

About this time the council appointed a committee on communications, which has been a feature of the Society's organization to this day.

The *Transactions of the Anthropological Society of Washington for the First Three Years of its Organization* (142 pages, 8°) was published in 1882, with the cooperation of the Smithsonian Institution. In addition to the *Transactions*, the pamphlet contains a list of officers and members and the amended constitution, but it lacks the informal discussions and notes on the presentation of specimens that add so much to the interest of the minutes. There are occasional discrepancies between the written minutes and the published account; in these cases I have accepted the latter as more likely to be correct.

The third annual address by President Powell, delivered February 7, 1882, bears the title "Outlines of Sociology;" this constituted also one of the Saturday lectures delivered at the National Museum in April, 1882, under the auspices of the Anthropological and Biological Societies of Washington.

On May 16th of this year Major Powell laid before the Society a project for forming an Academy of Sciences, as prepared by committees of the Anthropological, Biological

and Philosophical societies. Action in the matter was successively postponed until November 21, 1891, when it was announced that the three societies had not been able to agree on a plan and that the joint committee had adjourned *sine die*.

On November 6, 1883, Major Powell delivered his long-deferred annual address on "Human Evolution." Volume II of the *Transactions*, covering the period from February 1, 1882, to May 15, 1883, and including this address, was printed by the society in 1883 with the coöperation of the Smithsonian Institution, which issued it as a part of its *Miscellaneous Collections* (publication no. 544 ; xiii + 211 pages, 8°).

On October 11, 1884, the Society was honored by the presence of the well-known English anthropologist, Prof. Edward B. Tylor, of Oxford University. The meeting, which was largely attended, was held at Columbian University, and Professor Tylor's theme was, "How the Problems of American Anthropology Present Themselves to the English Mind."

On February 3, 1885, President Powell presented his annual address on the subject "From Savagery to Barbarism." The members of the Philosophical and Biological societies were invited to attend. With the cooperation of the Smithsonian Institution the Society published, in 1885, Volume III of its *Transactions*, covering the period from November 6, 1883, to May 12, 1885. This volume (xxii + 204 pages, 8°) was issued in 1886 as a part of the *Miscellaneous Collections* of the Smithsonian Institution (publication no. 630).

On March 16, 1886, President Powell delivered his annual address, entitled "From Barbarism to Civilization." It appears that no presidential address was delivered in 1887.

On February 15, 1887, the Society was honored with the presence of another celebrated English anthropologist, Dr Alfred Russel Wallace. The meeting was held at Columbian University, and the subject of Dr Wallace's address was "Social Economy versus Political Economy." The members of the Philosophical, Biological, Chemical and Women's Anthropological societies were invited to attend.

Colonel Mallery submitted to the Society April 10, 1887, a plan of incorporation, which was adopted; and on December 13 the Society became incorporated, as "The Anthropological Society of Washington," for the term of 1,000 years. As only eighteen of these years have passed, the society is yet quite in its infancy. The incorporators were Messrs Powell, Fletcher,

Mason, Mallery, Seely, Gore, Henshaw, Hoffman, Thomas Wilson, J. C. Pilling, Holmes, and Ward. Half this number (Powell, Mallery, Seely, Hoffman, Wilson, and Pilling) have died.

The special object of the incorporation was to make possible the publication of a periodical magazine and other works relating to anthropology, and the disposal of such publications by sale or otherwise. The incorporation was followed in a few weeks by the appearance of the first number of *The American Anthropologist*, dated January, 1888, and containing 96 pages, 8°. The honor of first place therein was given to Dr James C. Welling, president of Columbian University, and later president of the Society, whose paper bears the title, "The Law of Malthus." The magazine was published under the auspices of the Society, and was printed by Judd & Detweiler of Washington. The first editorial committee consisted of Messrs. Gore, Hampson, Henshaw, Mason, Matthews, Proudfit, and Seely. Hampson was given charge of communications and correspondence, but died a few months afterward, being succeeded by Henshaw. For some years a brief record of the transactions of the Society was published in this magazine.

Early in 1888 a series of evening lectures was begun under the auspices of the Society. The first was by Prof. William Libbey, of Princeton University, on the subject of "Southeastern Alaska and its People." I do not know of any other lectures in this course. President Powell delivered his presidential address on March 6, in the lecture hall of Columbian University, on the subject "Competition as a Factor in Human Evolution."

About the middle of April of this year there was a meeting of a joint committee of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, National Geographic, and Philosophical societies, which recommended that a Joint Commission, to consist of three representatives from each of the five societies, be formed to consider questions of common interest, "that the function of the commission should be advisory, except that it might execute instructions on general subjects and in special cases from two or more of the participating societies, provided that no society should be bound by the commission to any action to which it (the society) had not given instruction."

Dr Robert Fletcher does not appear to have presented a presidential address in 1889 or 1890, but on April 21, 1891, he delivered an address on "The New School of Criminal Anthropology."

On May 3, 1892, Dr Welling delivered his address on "The Law of Torture, A Study in the Evolution of Law."

A committee on Place Names in the District of Columbia made a report on December 13, 1892, which gave rise to an interesting discussion, after which the report was adopted. Mr W J McGee read an appropriate paper on "The Principles of Nomenclature." The next three meetings were devoted to a symposium on the question, "Is Simplified Spelling Feasible?" Among those who participated were Prof. F. A. Marsh and Prof. W. D. Owen, of Lafayette College; Dr A. R. Spofford, of the Library of Congress; Dr William T. Harris, Commissioner of Education; Assistant Secretary Willits, of the Department of Agriculture; Dr Alexander Melville Bell; President Gallaudet of Gallaudet College for the Deaf; Dr John M. Gregory, of the Civil Service Commission; Prof. Lester F. Ward, Mr E. T. Peters, Col. Weston Flint, and Major Powell. The discussion was closed by Dr Spofford. The meetings aroused intense interest and form an important feature of the work of the Society; they were followed by a large accession to the membership.

On February 14, 1893, at Columbian University, Mr Frank H. Cushing addressed the Society on "the Mytho-sociologic Organization of the Cult Societies of Zuni," in which he told of his own initiation into the Priesthood of the Bow. The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides and its popularity was attested by an audience of 379 persons. Some time previous to Mr Cushing's initiation, Dr H. C. Yarrow told me that in order to procure admission to this priesthood it would be necessary for Cushing to show at least one scalp, and asked me if I would obtain one. I understand that the scalp had its appropriate part in the ceremony of initiation.

Dr Welling delivered his presidential address, May 16, 1893, on "The Last Town Election in Pompeii." On successive Saturday afternoons during this spring a series of eight lectures was given at the National Museum by members of the Anthropological Society and under its auspices, the average attendance being 342. The honor of the first lecture was accorded to the writer, following whom were Dr D. K. Shute, Prof: Lester F. Ward, Major Powell, Professor Mason, Dr D. G. Brinton of Philadelphia, Mr McGee, and Dr Thomas Wilson. Mr McGee's lecture on "The Earth the Home of Man" and Prof: Ward's on "The Status of the Mind Problem" were printed by the Society as Special Papers, 1 and 2.

In 1893, a member, Dr Robert H. Lamborn, of New York, offered the Society the sum of \$250 to be awarded as prizes "for the clearest statements of the elements that go to make up the most useful citizen of the United States, regardless of occupation." The Society arranged to grant two prizes, and competition was open to everyone; a limit of 3,000 words was made, and the papers were to be in the hands of the secretary by November 1, but the time was afterward extended to March 1, 1894. The commissioners of award were Dr D. G. Brinton as an anthropologist; President Gilman, of Johns Hopkins University, as an educator; Chief Justice Fuller, of the United States Supreme Court, as a jurist; Vice-president Stevenson as a statesman; and Dr Lamborn. More than fifty essays were received; the successful competitors were Prof. Simon Newcomb, first prize, and Mr W J McGee, second prize. The announcement of the award was made and the papers were read May 20, 1894.

November 27, 1893, a joint meeting of the Anthropological Society of Washington and the Woman's Anthropological Society of America was held at Columbian University in honor of Mrs Zelia Nuttall, and although the weather was inclement there was a large attendance. Professor Mason presided, and Mrs Nuttall was introduced by Miss Alice C. Fletcher, president of the Woman's society. Mrs Nuttall's subject was "The Mexican Calendar System." Brief addresses were also made by Mrs Caroline Dall, Dr Anita Newcomb McGee, and Mr Frank H. Cushing. A reception followed the meeting.

January 30, 1894, Professor Mason delivered his presidential address, the subject being "Technogeography." During the spring, from February 11 to May 26, another series of Saturday lectures was given at the National Museum under the auspices of the Anthropological and Geological societies. Of these lectures four were on somatologic topics, by Surgeon General Sternberg, Dr Frank Baker, Mr F. A. Lucas, and Mr W. Woodville Rockhill; four were devoted to general geology, by Dr George H. Williams, Dr George F. Becker, Mr Bailey Willis, and Mr Manus R. Campbell; then followed the field meeting of the National Geographic Society, and the course was concluded with five lectures on dynamic anthropology by Holmes, Cushing, Mallery, Dr Cyrus Adler, and Mr John W. Hoyt.

On February 4, 1895, Professor Mason read a paper on "Similarities in Culture," which, apparently, was his presidential address. In 1895

and 1896 the Joint Commission of the Scientific Societies, representing the Anthropological, Chemical, Entomological, Geological, National Geographic, and Philosophical societies, printed in folder form an advance monthly program of the meetings of the individual societies. The first issue was for April, 1895; the last was for May, 1896.

A joint meeting of the Anthropological Society of Washington and the Woman's Anthropological Society was held April 9, 1895, the program consisting of a symposium in Folklore, in which Dr Washington Matthews, Miss Elizabeth Bryant Johnston, and Col. Weston Flint took part. On the 23d another joint meeting was held, in which Mrs M. P. Seaman and Mr Frank H. Cushing were the speakers. A third joint meeting, continued from the other two, was held May 14, when Dr W. J. Hoffman, Mercy S. Sinsabaugh, and Ellen P. Cunningham presented papers. At these meetings Miss Fletcher presided.

A joint meeting of all the scientific societies of Washington was held January 14, 1896, at Builders' Exchange hall, to honor the memory of Dana, Pasteur, Helmholtz, and Huxley. Addresses were made by Major Powell, Surgeon General Sternberg, Prof. T. C. Mendenhall, and Dr Theodore Gill. On February 4 Major Powell delivered his presidential address under the auspices of the Joint Commission, at Builders' Exchange hall. His subject was "The Seven Illusions of Science."

In January of this year *The American Anthropologist* was changed from a quarterly to a monthly magazine. Under the auspices of the Joint Commission another series of Saturday lectures at the National Museum was given, from April 4 to May 23, those taking part being T. S. Palmer, L. O. Howard, F. A. Lucas, J. W. Powell, O. T. Mason, Gardiner G. Hubbard, J. Walter Fewkes, and W J McGee. The subjects covered a wide range.

On February 2, 1897, Prof. Lester F. Ward delivered his presidential address at Builders' Exchange hall, under the auspices of the Joint Commission, on the subject "Religion in Science."

In the latter part of 1897, apparently at the initiative of the National Geographic Society, the subject of the Joint Commission was much discussed. A committee representing several of the societies met December 13th, when it was resolved that the "Joint Commission" be changed to the "Washington Academy of sciences," which should assume independent function and

have power to add to its members. The Academy was accordingly formed, and on February 24, 1898, Major Powell was nominated by the Anthropological Society as one of the vice-presidents of the new organization. The first meeting of the Academy was held February 16; Prof. J. R. Eastman was elected president, Prof. G. K. Gilbert, secretary, and Mr Bernard R. Green, treasurer. The final meeting of the Joint Commission was held March 22.

On March 19, Dr Frank Baker delivered his presidential address on "Primitive Man," under the auspices of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

At the winter meeting of Section H of the American Association for the Advancement of Science a committee was appointed to consider the question of an anthropological journal; and a committee, consisting of President McGee and Dr Frank Baker (chairman of the editorial board of *The American Anthropologist*), was appointed by the Anthropological Society of Washington to cooperate with the committee of Section H. It had long been felt that the needs of anthropology in America had outgrown the media of publication, and that with its limited financial resources the Anthropological Society could not afford to increase the size of its magazine, or make it national in scope. There was consequently much discussion at the meetings of the board of managers, during the autumn and winter of 1898, respecting the advisability of transferring the publication of the journal to private hands, and before the close of the year plans were perfected to this end. It was suggested by some that the name of the journal be changed; but, largely through the efforts of Major Powell, the Board agreed that the old name should be preserved, and as the support of the Society was necessary to success, the name *American Anthropologist - New Series* was finally adopted. In order that a legal contract could be made, two prominent anthropologists, one of them a member of the Anthropological Society, became constructive owners, and Messrs G. P. Putnam's Sons, of New York, were selected as publishers. Toward the end of the year a prospectus was prepared by the founding committee and steps were taken at once to carry the project into effect. As the last number of the monthly issue, namely, that for December, 1898 (volume XI, no.12) went to press, the first number of the new quarterly, that for January-March, 1899, was being printed. The editorial board of the new journal consisted of Baker, Boas, Brinton, Dawson of Canada, Dorsey,

Holmes, Hodge, Powell, and Putnam. The Anthropological Society agreed to subscribe for a sufficient number of copies, at a reduced rate, to supply its members, but assumed no further financial obligations connected with the journal.

On November 25, 1898, the Society invited the members of the Woman's Anthropological Society of America to become members of this Society, and on January 3, 1899, forty-nine members of the Woman's Society were elected. President McGee delivered his annual address, February 28, 1899, on "The Trend of Human Progress," under the auspices of the Washington Academy of Sciences, at Columbian University. On April 26, there was a joint meeting of the Anthropological Society and the Medical Society in the rooms of the latter. The subject was "The Spanish-American war: Gunshot Wounds." Those who participated were Drs George M. Kober, L. A. La Garde, W. H. Borden, and E. L. Munson.

On February 13, 1900, Mr McGee delivered his second presidential address, on "The Cardinal Principles of Science," under the auspices of the Academy, at Columbian University; and on February 26, 1901, his third presidential address was given under the same auspices, and at the same place, on "Man's Place in Nature." In March of the latter year a letter was received from the Société d'Anthropologie de Paris, suggesting an interchange of communications. The proposal was accepted, and on December 17, a paper that had been received from M. Paul Sébillot, on "The Worship of Stones in France," was read. Mr McGee was authorized to send a paper on behalf of the Washington Society, which paper was later published by the Société d'Anthropologie under the title "Germe d'industrie de la pierre en Amérique." In March, 1901, the board directed that a quarterly abstract of the proceedings of the Society should be sent to the *American Anthropologist*.

On February 26, 1902, Mr W. H. Holmes delivered his presidential address at Columbian University under the auspices of the Academy, his subject being, "Sketch of the Origin, Development, and Probable Destiny of the Races of Men." Mr Holmes' second presidential address, on "A Genetic View of Men and Culture," was delivered February 3, 1903, at the same place. During 1903 there was much informal discussion in regard to the preservation of antiquities in the United States, and the matter came formally before the Society December 1, when a committee was appointed to consider the subject. This committee reported March 8, 1904,

recommending the support of a bill then before Congress.

Miss Fletcher, who served as President for 1903-04, was unable, because of illness, to present her annual address. During the period of my own presidency, which began January 12, 1904, the only matter of special interest besides that of the preservation of antiquities, just mentioned, was a change in the by-laws, by which the annual meeting for the presentation of reports and the election of officers was made the last meeting in May instead of the first meeting in January. The object of this amendment was to enable the incoming president to take advantage of the summer interval in planning the work of the Society for the succeeding session.

Some time after the founding of the Society, apparently in 1881, the constitution was written in a book and the signatures of some members are appended; but some did not sign at all, and only six members signed after 1884.

In reviewing the records of the Society I find that 479 persons have joined as active members, 137 have been elected as corresponding members, and 73 as honorary members. Some active members later became corresponding members by reason of change of residence, or of occupation, or both; and a few who at first were corresponding or honorary members afterward became active members. Of the active members 16 per cent were physicians; 8 per cent were women; 6 per cent were connected with the Geological Survey; 5 per cent were associated with the Smithsonian Institution and National Museum; 5 per cent with the Bureau of American Ethnology; 5 per cent were army officers; 3 per cent, lawyers; 2.5 per cent, clergymen; 2.5 per cent, naval officers; 2 per cent were employ[e]es of the Pension Office, and 2 per cent were connected with the Department of Agriculture.

During the twenty-six years of its existence 730 papers have been read, of which at least 70 per cent have been published; 74 persons who were not members of the Society have presented, papers.

Professor Mason appears to have read the largest number of papers presented by one individual; Mr Holmes comes next, and Major Powell third. Most members have read only a few papers, or none; they have doubtless been good listeners, however, and in that way have lent encouragement. Moreover, many took part in discussions or casually presented some matter of interest of which little or no record appears.

Of the members who have died, the following may be named as having contributed especially to the life and work of the Society: Dr James C. Welling, who was president for two years, Col. Garrick Mallery, Col. Franklin A. Seely, Rev. James O. Dorsey, James C. Pilling, Capt. John G. Bourke, U. S. A., Dr G. Browne Goode, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Dr Walter J. Hoffman, Mr Frank H.

Cushing, Col. Frank F. Hilder, Dr Thomas Wilson, Major J. W. Powell, who served as president for many terms, and Dr Washington Matthews, U. S. A. As obituary notices of all these have appeared in the *American Anthropologist* it is unnecessary here to give further details.

WASHINGTON, D.C.