

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES AT GENERAL CONVENTION

The Society authorizes the Rt. Rev. David B. Joslin, House of Bishops, and Mr. Russell Randle, Diocese of Virginia, to receive non-substantive amendments to the report.

SUMMARY OF THE SOCIETY'S WORK

The Historical Society of the Episcopal Church, by General Convention Resolutions, is the designated publisher of the Church's quarterly historical journal, *Anglican and Episcopal History* (formerly the *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church*). Although publication of the journal remains a major part of its activities, the Society now undertakes a number of other programs as part of its recently redefined mission "to encourage scholarship and to generate and sustain greater interest in Anglican and Episcopal history among the widest possible audience."

In the time since the report to the 73rd General Convention in 2000, the Rev. Dr. John F. Woolverton has continued to serve as editor of *Anglican and Episcopal History*. The journal has published a wide range of articles not only relating to the Anglican Church in America and Great Britain but also extending to the history of the Church in many other parts of the world. An especially pertinent example is the issue of June 2002, devoted to "Essays on the Anglican Church in the Sudan" with an introductory editorial and a review of recent work by Grant LeMarquand, the International Editor of the journal. The timeliness and breadth of coverage of this special issue attracted an unusually large number of orders from non-subscribers. In the succeeding issue of September 2002 Dr. Woolverton compiled under the title "New Frontiers in American Episcopal History" a collection of statements by fifteen Church historians that offer a rich and challenging agenda for fresh areas of investigation. The section of the journal devoted to book reviews and church reviews of the conduct of worship services in a variety of churches also continues to attract the interest of readers.

A second publishing activity of the Society is its book series, *Studies in Anglican History*. Under the editorship of Dr. Peter W. Williams six titles have been published, two of them within the past two years (Michael T. Beary, *Black Bishop: Edward T. Demby and the Struggle for Racial Equality in the Episcopal Church* and David Hein, *Noble Powell and the Episcopal Establishment in the Twentieth Century*). One

additional title is in press, and three others are undergoing revision. While the Board of Directors has been impressed with the quality of scholarship that the series has achieved, members reluctantly reached a decision at the 2002 annual meeting that rapidly increasing costs of publication will necessitate termination of the series in its present form after the four remaining titles have been published. The Board also voted, however, to explore possible alternative ways of encouraging book publication at less cost. The Society also continues to award small grants annually to support research in progress. Seven such awards have been made in the past three years, five to individual scholars and two to aid the preparation of parish histories.

Four years ago the Society embarked upon an ambitious new undertaking—the establishment of the African American Historical Collection of the Episcopal Church that would seek to collect and preserve archival materials relating to the history of African Americans in the Church. With initial financial support from the Society and from outside grants, a special standing committee drawn from present and former members of the Board of Directors has worked diligently to develop a sound and workable plan, including partnership with an institution able to provide professional archival management of the materials received. Those efforts reached a successful end on December 11, 2002, when the Historical Society and the Virginia Theological Seminary signed an agreement whereby the Bishop Payne Library at the Seminary will receive and administer the Collection while the two institutions will work together in the effort to build the Collection and find the necessary financial support to maintain the archive. Both parties recognize that this undertaking may well present a daunting challenge but those within the Society and at Virginia Seminary who have worked very hard to come this far are excited by the prospect of what may be achieved in preserving and making available to researchers this often neglected but vital part of the history of the Episcopal Church.

The Society also works closely with other organizations concerned with the history of the Church, especially The National Episcopal Historians and Archivists (NEHA) and the Episcopal Women's History Project (EWHP). *The Historiographer*, founded as the NEHA newsletter, now carries news of all three organizations and receives partial support of the costs of publication from the Historical Society. The major cooperative activity of the three organizations is, however, sponsorship every third year of a "Tri-Conference" for Church historians. The most recent gathering in June 2001 became, in fact, a "Quad-Conference" when the Canadian Church Historical Society joined in sponsoring "(Re)Making Anglican Tradition(s) in North America: A Conference for Historians and Archivists Commemorating the Tercentenary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," held at Trinity College, Toronto. It proved to be the largest and best attended of the conferences that have been held.

The Historical Society likewise values its working relationship with the Archivist of the Church, Mark J. Duffy, and the Historiographer, the Rev. Canon J. Robert Wright. Both serve as voting members of the Board of Directors of the Society. The report of Canon Wright, appointed as Historiographer in 2000 following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. John E. Booty, appears in a succeeding section of this report.

The Board of Directors of the Society meets annually. In 2000 members convened at Denver during the General Convention. Its now traditional General Convention dinner featured as its speaker, the Hon. John T. Noonan, Jr., Judge of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and author of *The Lustre of Our Country: The American Experience of Religious Freedom* (1998). His address, "Lights of the Law: Madison, Key, Jackson," subsequently appeared in the December 2000 issue of *Anglican and Episcopal History*. The 2001 meeting took place in conjunction with the Toronto Conference, and in 2002 the Board met at the College of Preachers at Washington National Cathedral. The 2003 meeting will take place on August 1-2 at Minneapolis. The speaker for the Convention dinner will be the Rev. Dr. Bruce B. Lawrence, an Episcopal priest and the Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Professor of Religion at Duke University. A specialist in Islamic and other Asian religious traditions, Dr. Lawrence will address the topic "Muslims, Christians, Terrorists: The Crescent and the Crisis, At Home and Abroad, After 9/11."

REPORT OF THE HISTORIOGRAPHER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In the summer of 2000, I was pleased to be nominated by the Presiding Bishop and elected by both houses of General Convention as Historiographer of the Episcopal Church in succession to my distinguished predecessor the Rev. Dr. John E. Booty. I stated in my letter of acceptance that in a general way I took my

assignment to “promote throughout the Episcopal Church the serious study and intelligent use of the history of the church in every place and from every century of its existence.” I added, “This is something I already try to do, and now I shall be pleased to do it in a more formal and official way.” Further role definition of the position of Historiographer is clearly “a work in progress,” and I have already published a preliminary sketch of the development and possibilities of this office in the spring 2002 issue of *The Historiographer*.

During the past triennium, I have sought to work as closely as possible with the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Church Archives, the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists, the Episcopal Women’s History Project, the Conference of Anglican Church Historians, and the journal *Anglican and Episcopal History*. I have traveled to attend a few major conferences, sometimes giving presentations of a historical nature. I have published two major books, one on the history of *Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue* (Eerdmans, 2001; 344 pages and 659 footnotes) which has already sold over four thousand copies and is a selection of the Episcopal Book Club, and the other an annotated, limited reprint edition of *Russo-Greek Papers 1863–1874* (Norman Ross Publishing, 2001, 389 pp). To accompany the latter, I published, with Edward Kasinec, “Charles Hale and the Russian Church: The Biography of Innokentii” in the March 2002 issue of *Anglican and Episcopal History*, Hale having been the secretary of this landmark committee of General Convention and later Bishop of Cairo Illinois (a see that never existed). My personal collection of 226 historical portrait-engravings of Anglican Divines from the 16th to the 19th centuries I have recently presented to the Episcopal Archives in Austin. My latest honorary doctorate is from the University of Bern in Switzerland, and I have been inducted as a life fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

In addition to publishing the usual round of historical articles and papers, I have also fielded various historical enquiries that now come to me from the office of the Presiding Bishop. These have included gathering of evidence at the request of his chancellor for court cases challenging the hierarchical nature of the Episcopal Church and its related jurisdiction of church property based on that principle, as well as preparation of a major legal affidavit of historical, theological, and sacramental testimony for the lawsuit over the church and property of All Saints, Waccamaw, Pawleys Island, SC. Another paper I prepared for the House of Bishops at the PB’s request reviewed the historical and theological basis for “supplemental episcopal pastoral care,” concluding that we do not need to have “flying bishops” as in the Church of England. This paper was published in *The Anglican* for July 2002 and also distributed by him to the Primates of the Anglican Communion.

Just after “9/11” I delivered a full-day seminar of four two-hour lectures on 22 September 2001 on “The Church of England and the Anglican Tradition” at the Smithsonian Institution, which was attended by an audience well in excess of one hundred. I also presented a series of six public lectures on “The Anglican Tradition” for the Church Club of New York, and then served as historical coordinator for a subsequent pilgrimage to Canterbury in June 2002. In September of 2002 I represented the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church by an address given in the Great Hall of Lambeth Palace at the publication of *The Bibliography of the Book of Common Prayer 1549-1999* by David Griffiths, for which I served as the principal American consultant. I also sponsored and arranged a day’s visit for the Board of the Historical Society to the Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of New York in October of the same year.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Robert Wright

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Historical Society financial support comes from endowment, memberships, and donations and does not request funds from the General Convention. In past reports the Society has requested funding for the Historiographer’s office and travel expenses. The Society does not need to submit a funding resolution to the General Convention because the Office of the Presiding Bishop’s budget shall provide this funding in the future.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING TRIENNium

The Historical Society remains committed to its existing programmatic activities such as publication of *Anglican and Episcopal History* and the award of research grants. It will work, however, to replace *Studies in Anglican History* in its present form with a less expensive alternative.

The new African American Historical Collection will constitute a new and extremely important activity for the Society. Over the next several months Virginia Seminary will complete an expansion of its archival space in the Bishop Payne Library while the Society will seek from its members and friends the necessary support for the first-year salary of a part-time archivist. When we have met that goal, we will initiate a more active search for documentary materials to enlarge the Collection and for financial support from outside sources.

The Society, the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists, the Episcopal Women's History Project, and representatives of Canadian Lutherans and Anglicans are actively planning and organizing the "Tri-Conference," titled "Anglicans and Lutherans: The North American Experience of Two European Traditions," to be held in Chicago, June 20–23, 2004. We have already held a first round of discussions with Lutheran historians, who are enthusiastic about joining with us in this effort.

The Historical Society at the same time recognizes that it is significantly enlarging its activities at a time when its membership and financial resources are at best static. The Board of Directors began to address the problem at the 2002 annual meeting by appointing a special committee to conduct a full-scale review of finances, membership, and programs and to make recommendations for the future. The Society has since begun to take steps to implement those recommendations, and a further review will take place at the 2003 Board meeting.

Thad W. Tate, President

Thomas A. Mason, Secretary