The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

Minutes of the 113th Annual Meeting of the Membership

Held at the Society’s House

87 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston

17 November 2005

President Frederick Ballou called the meeting to order at 6.00 P.M.

The reading of the minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting was waived.

**1.  Report of the Membership Committee**

Celeste Walker reported that the membership of the Society now stands at 191 resident members, 119 non-resident members, and 9 honorary members.

The following members have died since the last Annual Meeting:

Maury A. Bromsen, of Boston, a resident member since 1986, died on 11 October.

Richard S. Carroll, of Boston, a resident member since 1990, died on 19 August.

Kathryn C. Preyer, of Lexington, a resident member since 1987, died on 19 April

John A. Schutz, of La Habra, California, a non-resident member since 1982, died on 5 November.

Members stood for a moment of silence.

The following new members have been elected since last November:

Resident members:

Margaret Bratschi, of Cambridge

Stephen C. Bullock, of Worcester

Dean Eastman, of Andover

Donald A. Doliber, of Marblehead

June Namias, of Cambridge

Non-resident members

Rosemarie Zagarri, of Arlington, VA

In September, the Council approved that the names of the following people be read at the Annual Meeting, to be voted upon for membership at the stated meeting in December:

For resident membership:

Alicia Crane Williams, of Hingham, nominated by James Baker and David Case

Amalie M. Kass, of Lincoln, nominated by Frederick Ballou and William Fowler

In addition, the nomination of John Quincy Jr., approved by the Council and read to the membership in February, will be voted upon at the next stated meeting.

**2.  Report of the Treasurer**

**3.  Report of the Nominating Committee**

Chris Jedrey, chair of the Committee, on behalf of the committee, which included David

Burnham and Nina Zannieri,.presented the slate of candidates for 2005-2006:

President Frederick D.  Ballou

Vice Presidents Daniel R. Coquillette, Celeste Walker, Robert Allison

Recording Secretary Leslie A.  Morris

Corresponding Secretary Martha J. McNamara

Treasurer William B.  Perkins

Member of the Council, Donald Friary (2008)

  Three-year term

Continuing Members of

  the Council Mary Sarah Bilder (2006), Dean Lahikainen (2007)

There were no nominations from the floor.  The slate was moved, seconded, and carried unanimously

**4.  Report of the Outgoing Vice President for Outreach**

Linda Smith Rhoads made her farewell as a member of Council, recalling her service as Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, on the Publications Committee, and finally as Vice President for Outreach.  She thanked the membership for all these honors, saying it has been a highlight of her career to serve the Society and to add her mite to its important work.

She highlighted the Society’s outreach activities: in April, the fifth Graduate Student Forum., which helps break down graduate student isolation; the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium; the pilot program for high school students, nine students and their teachers in an all-day program; the Society’s conferences; the Walter Muir Whitehill Prize in Early American History; sponsorship of the New England Quarterly; the teachers’ workshop.  It’s an impressive list for an organization that has no full-time, paid staff.

The Society is appropriately an exclusive organization, recognizing excellence and bringing like-minded people together in fellowship.  Lynn asked that as the members experience tonight the perquisites of that exclusivity, tomorrow she asked them to reflect on its responsibilities, and the forms in which members might choose to satisfy the requirements of noblesse’s corresponding oblige.

**5.  Report of the Curator**

Elton Hall reported that the Society is now near the end of its renovation phase, with the bathrooms on the third and fourth floor almost complete; and commenting that the magnitude of the job seems to be in inverse proportion to the amount of nagging required to complete the job.  With the fabric of the House sound, work was begun on its contents.  The Rembrandt Peale copy of the Borghese Sybil in the front hall was cleaned by Oliver Brothers.  Our two Newport Pembroke tables (one a copy) were conserved for the recent exhibition at the Met on the work of John Townshend.  The Chester Harding portrait of the Rev. Edward Channing went to Lance Mayer and Gay Myers of the Lyman Allyn Museum for conservation, and they are now working on the Feke portrait of Mary Channing.  The Council has been very supportive of work on the house, and it will be in first class condition as it celebrates its 200th birthday next year.

**6.  Report of the Editor of Publications**

John Tyler began by relating the story of the arrival of Josiah Quincy in London, 231 years ago today, segueing into the announcement of the publication of volume 1 of the journals of Quincy by the Society, edited by members Dan Coquillette and Neil York, and displayed on the mantelpiece of the parlor.  In addition, this winter members will be receiving vol. 66, The Sermon Notebooks of Samuel Parris, edited by members Jeff Cooper and Ken Minkema; and vol. 72, The Colonial Church Records of the First Church of Reading (Wakefield) and the First Church of Rumney Marsh (Revere).  And, at last, members will be seeing the long-delayed vol. 69, The Eighteenth-century Records of the Boston Overseers of the Poor, edited by Eric Nellis and Anne Cecere.  This is, arguably, the most important manuscript the Society has published in the years John has been editor of publications.

Three volumes in one year is a major achievement for a small organization, but there is even more in the works.  The second volume of Quincy; the proceedings of the Conference on New England Slavery and the Slave Trade; and the letters of John Cotton Jr.  Two long-term projects continue, with Colin Nicolson editing the correspondence of Sir Francis Bernard; and John editing the correspondence of Bernard’s successor, Thomas Hutchinson.  The Publications Committee has also given approval to a new project, The Letter and Account Books of John Hull, edited by fellow members David Hancock and Mark Peterson.

John also mentioned Linda Smith Rhoads’ work on the Graduate Student Forum, and the high school workshop.  These are all ways of trying to extend the fellowship of the Annual Dinner beyond this single night.

**7.  Report of the President**

Frederick Ballou began by noting the publication of the Membership Directory.  While it took longer than anticipated, the persistence of Charlie Newhall eventually brought it forth; and perhaps every five years or so, it will be brought up to date.  In the meantime, it makes fascinating reading.

Fred also noted the resignation of Lynn Rhoads as Vice President for Outreach because her responsibilities at the Massachusetts Historical Society and the New England Quarterly no longer allow sufficient time for her work at the Colonial Society.  Lynn’s enormous energy and creativity will be missed, and the Society owes her a huge debt of thanks for her enthusiasm and talent in making all the Society’s programs work so effectively.  The Society is fortunate that bob Allison, longtime CSM member, has agreed to take over the outreach post.

Fred concluded with remarks about the members’ library, noting it was one more way of bringing the membership closer together.  The books will be a tangible, personal and permanent association of members with the Colonial Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie A. Morris

Recording Secretary