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The Florida Historical Society

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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS

A called meeting of the board of directors of the Society was held in our library in St. Augustine on July 31, with eight directors in attendance: Mark F. Boyd, president, came from Tallahassee; Richard P. Daniel, vice president, Dena Snodgrass, and Frank H. Elmore Jr. came from Jacksonville; Rembert W. Patrick and Donald E. Worcester came from Gainesville; and Mrs. Alberta Johnson and Albert C. Manucy are residents of St. Augustine.

An invitation to hold our next annual meeting in Miami as guests of the Historical Association of Southern Florida and the University of Miami was accepted with enthusiasm. The date, in early Spring, will be fixed by our hosts. Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, of the University of Miami, will be program chairman.

Approval was given for increase of the rent of our headquarters from \$300 to \$600 per year. The additional amount must be taken from our book fund.

One of the most valuable gifts our Library has ever received was announced, being a large part of the library of the late Dr. James Alexander Robertson. This is described in our accessions below.

The membership drive, now underway, was discussed and Vice President Richard P. Daniel was appointed statewide chairman.

A committee on publicity was appointed with Miss Snodgrass as chairman.

Other matters were considered which will be reported as results are reached.

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Our library has recently received a large and exceedingly valuable gift from Mrs. James Alexander Robertson, being the part of Dr. Robertson's library relating to Florida, including manuscripts of all kinds and maps. As most of those who are interested in Florida history and bibliography know, Dr. Robertson was one

of the foremost historians of Florida, his greatest contribution being as editor of and contributor to the unequalled series of volumes published by the Florida State Historical Society under the leadership and support of Dr. John B. Stetson Jr. He was one of the directors of our Society.

Included in the gift are several unpublished manuscripts, original documents, and a great number of photostats and transcripts, mainly from foreign archives. As these were selected by Dr. Robertson for their relation to Florida's history, their value to our library is evident.

One notable unpublished manuscript is "Life in Camp and Field," a journal of the Seminole War, by J. Rhett Motte of the Medical Corps, U. S. Army. Another is "Banking in Florida" by D. Y. Thomas.

There are a great number of photostats and typed transcripts from the Spanish archives, especially Florida documents from Archivo General de Indias, including cédulas, memorials, and various reports from the colonial government, including the expedition of 1742 against Charleston. The Public Record Office in London contributes documents relating to British Florida, and from the British Museum comes complete photostats of DeBrahm's noteworthy "Survey of the Southern District of North America." From the Clements Library are more than one hundred pages from the papers of the Earl of Shelburne.

Prints and portraits are numerous, including Laudonniere and Hawkins.

There are more than two hundred reproductions of maps of all periods.