

1992

Director's Meeting

Florida Historical Society
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**FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
January 23, 1993**

The semiannual meeting of the officers and board of directors of the Florida Historical Society was convened at 1:15 P.M. in the student center of the Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, January 23, 1993, by David H. Colburn, president.

Those attending included Kathleen H. Arsenault, Patricia Bartlett, Canter Brown, Jr., William S. Coker, Emily Perry Dieterich, Hampton Dunn, J. Larry Durrence, Jan F. Godown, Milton Jones, Marinus H. Latour, Lester N. May, Stuart B. McIver, Thomas Muir, John W. Partin, Samuel Proctor, Niles F. Schuh, Jerrell H. Shofner, Rebecca A. Smith, Patsy West, Lindsey Williams, and Executive Director Lewis N. Wynne. Also present were Charles Arnade, Gary Mormino, and Marilyn Potts.

The minutes for the May 1992 meeting, as printed in the October 1992 issue of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, were approved.

Milton Jones reported on the Rossetter gift and its ramifications for the Society's future. A three-way agreement has been signed and executed between the newly formed Rossetter House Foundation, the Rossetters, and the Society. First, the contract calls for the conveyance of the Rossetter House and a \$1,750,000 endowment to the foundation upon the death of the Rossetter sisters; the income from the endowment will support the staffing and operation of the house as a house museum. Second, the Society will move its headquarters to the Roesch House, opposite the Rossetter House, in Eau Gallie. The Rossetters have already donated the house and will donate \$1,000,000 (after their deaths), which will become an endowment to support the Society's operations. An additional \$100,000 was given to help restore the house and offset moving expenses. The Society will not move until the \$1,000,000 has been received. Work on the Roesch House, however, will begin immediately. A \$25,000 grant has been received also from the state of Florida for the restoration.

One of the provisions in the agreement provides that if the Rossetter House should be partially or totally destroyed, the

foundation can dissolve itself and distribute its property to the Society. The Society's executive director is also the executive director of the foundation. The Society president has appointed four trustees— David Colburn, Marinus Latour, Eugene Lyon, and Jerrell Shofner— and the Rossetter Trust has appointed one trustee— William Potter. The foundation trustees are drafting bylaws.

Dr. Wynne added that the Rossetters have agreed to share the expenses of operational staff, which will be available for the Society and the foundation. A special issue of the Society *Report*, with color photographs of the houses, was distributed. Dr. Wynne noted that tours of the Roesch House and Rossetter property would be conducted for Society directors.

Dr. Wynne stated that Ann Prentice has verbally assured him that the University of South Florida's commitment to the Society will continue unchanged until the Society relocates, with an annual contract and financial commitment. The Society's artifacts will be transferred from the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida to the Brevard Museum of Science in Eau Gallie in February 1993. Mr. Jones thanked Marinus Latour for his help in making these arrangements.

Dr. Wynne summarized immediate plans for the Roesch House. The house has not been occupied for some seventy years, and electrical, plumbing, and HAVC systems need to be added or replaced. Total restoration costs are estimated at between \$60,000 and \$70,000. A security system like the one in the Rossetter House will be installed. The family will fund the writing and publication of a family history, to be completed by a part-time associate director of the Society. Dr. Wynne is also working with a Tampa foundation to supplement the project with additional funds to write a history of the Lowry family.

Dr. Colburn noted that the gifts from the Rossetters will give the Society a special identity. He also asked the Society officers to be careful with the money, especially in the current low-interest, uncertain economy. Those attending commended Milton Jones and Nick Wynne for their splendid work on the Rossetter and Roesch houses. A motion was made and approved to accept the Rossetter gift reports with commendation. Dr. Wynne was asked to write a resolution concerning the gift.

The board then reviewed the revenues and expenditures of the Society for fiscal year 1992 and the proposed budget for fiscal year 1993.

Income for 1992 slightly exceeded expenses. Income from membership, however, declined about \$8,000. Sales of Society publications also declined. They seem to have a low priority for libraries and other purchasers until microfilming of the index to the *Florida Historical Quarterly* is completed. Grants income increased. These included a grant from the State Historic Records Advisory Board to survey the Society's archives. The \$20,000 gift from Hector C. Borghetty of Clearwater underwrote the special quinentennary publications of the *Junior Historian*, the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, and the proceedings of the 1992 annual meeting.

Personnel expenses for 1992 were reduced, but operating expenses increased. Programmatic expenses were reduced; for example, one less issue of the *Junior Historian* was published. Unbudgeted expenses related to travel to and from Melbourne; grant proposals; the *Florida Historical Quarterly* index; the collection survey; and the annual appeal.

Projected income for the proposed 1993 budget includes \$100,000 from the Rossetters to assist in the Roesch House restoration and to help prepare for the Society's move; and \$45,000 in grants. With additional income, the total will be \$254,609. Projected expenses (\$184,900) are about the same as 1992, with the addition of a \$1,000 stipend for the *Junior Historian* editor, the salary for a part-time associate director, and the cost of the collections survey.

Larry Durrence commended Dr. Wynne, Dr. Colburn, and the finance committee on the improved financial report and the presentation of the budget. A motion was made and approved to adopt the proposed budget for 1993.

Dr. Wynne reported on the status of the endowed accounts. Last year's rate of return was 2.74 percent. Cubberly, Brevard, Collins, Patrick, Thompson, and Tebeau prizes expenses exceeded income from the endowments in 1992 and will do so again in 1993. Dr. Wynne reminded the board that at the previous meeting the consensus was to match prize amounts to available income. Those attending discussed the situation. President Colburn asked the finance committee to study the handling of endowments, including alternate ways to invest the Society's resources. There will be a recommendation at the May 1993 board meeting.

The board discussed the amounts for prizes for 1993. Points discussed included the solicitation of additional contributions to

the funds, the consolidation of the funds into one account for administrative purposes while still retaining their separate identities, and the solicitation of funds for a general prize fund as well as for specific prizes. A motion was made and approved to ask the finance committee to recommend whether the Society should retain the separate identities of the prizes but combine funds together.

Those attending discussed the proposed associate director responsibilities. The position would be funded for a minimum of one year, during which time the person selected will research and write a Rossetter family history and represent the Society in Melbourne. David Colburn and Marinus Latour will appoint the associate director. A motion was made and approved to create the position.

The board discussed the establishment of a membership committee to assist the executive director in recruiting and retaining members. A motion was made and approved for President Colburn to establish and appoint a committee. Dr. Colburn will consult Dr. Latour and Dr. Wynne in appointing the committee.

Gary Mormino reported on the selection of the editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* to succeed Dr. Proctor, who will retire from that position July 1, 1993. Dr. Proctor has held the post since 1963. The editor serves at the pleasure of the board. Dr. Mormino stated that probably only the University of Florida can provide the considerable resources needed to produce the *Quarterly*. The search committee— Dr. Mormino, Dr. Colburn, and Dr. Michael Gannon on behalf of the University of Florida— recommended George Pozzetta to be appointed editor of the *Quarterly*. Dr. Pozzetta has been a member of the faculty of the University of Florida since 1971; he has demonstrated strong administrative skills; and he has a great sense of service to the profession. Dr. Proctor expressed his support for the recommendation.

A motion was made and approved to accept the committee's recommendation. Those present gave a standing ovation to Dr. Proctor. Dr. Proctor recommended that the July issue of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* be jointly edited; thereafter, Dr. Pozzetta will serve as editor.

Marinus Latour reported on the status of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* index project. The project began in May 1985. There is a hard-copy index for the years 1966-1988, but the index needs to be placed on computer disk. That is now being

done. The remaining volumes, 67-71, need to be included. The committee estimates that printing will cost approximately \$4,000 for 500 copies. Dr. Latour asked for suggestions for possible printers.

Dr. Wynne reported on the status of the Society's artifact collection. Most of these objects are in storage at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida. The Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science has agreed to take the artifacts on extended loan. Efforts are underway to document and identify the location of other Society artifacts. Objects on loan to other organizations that are not on display will be returned to the Society.

Emily Perry Dieterich reported on the status of the Society's manuscript collection. The Society received a \$9,000 grant from the Florida Local Historical Records Grant Project to identify and locate its manuscript holdings at the University of South Florida library and other locations throughout the state. The project began in December 1992, and about 30 percent of the holdings have been surveyed. She distributed a list of papers found missing during the survey. The papers are from the Pleasant Woodson White and Francis P. Fleming collections and are believed to have been stolen. The documents apparently disappeared in the early 1980s and are believed to have been sold to private collectors.

Those present discussed the apparent theft. Canter Brown noted that the White collection is one of the most important Civil War collections in Florida. Dr. Wynne tried unsuccessfully to purchase some of the letters from a private source. He is obtaining photocopies of many of the papers from another individual who was offered, but did not obtain, the papers. Mr. Brown stated that only the owner of an original document can permit use of that document, so the utilization of photocopies may be problematic. Dr. Wynne commented that the completed survey, with refined collections policies, will help the Society decide whether to move the manuscripts collection to Melbourne.

Ms. Perry reported for Dr. Joe Knetsch, who was unable to attend, on the recommendations of the committee on awards procedures. The committee recommended that a calendar year rather than academic year be used for essay awards; students should submit papers with a cover letter by their professor; and Golden Quill print awards should include magazine and journal

articles written in Florida and elsewhere. The committee did not reach a consensus on whether to limit the number of Golden Quill awards to one in each category; whether to charge an entry fee for the Golden Quill awards; whether an author or editor can make a nomination for a Golden Quill print award; and who can submit nominations for the Patrick and Tebeau prizes.

The board discussed the number of Golden Quill awards to present. Dr. Colburn noted that only a few prizes are given for scholarly work as compared to the number of media prizes. Lindsey Williams suggested that one award and additional merit certificates be given for each category. Nine Golden Quill awards were given last year. A motion to present three electronic media and three print Golden Quill awards was not approved. A motion was approved to present one award in each category and to consider developing a program to recognize merit by presenting certificates of merit. President Colburn asked the committee to make recommendations on certificates of merit at the next board meeting.

Those present discussed the book prizes and the *Florida Historical Quarterly* article prize procedures. Dr. Proctor noted that in past years the editor has selected the judges for the Tebeau and Patrick prizes; book nominations are selected through book reviews appearing in journals and review copies sent to the *Quarterly* office; the editor asks publishers to send review copies to the judges; the judges rank their first three choices for a prize; and the Tebeau prize is for younger readers in high school or junior college. He urged that sources for nominations be kept as open as possible. Dr. Colburn recommended that the new editor work with the president and executive director to set up a committee to deal with the awards. Dr. Proctor affirmed that suggestions for nominations are welcome from anyone. Dr. Colburn suggested that the policy continue as it is; it be made clear to the membership that nominations are welcome; and the editor, president, and executive director establish the composition of a committee to consider the prizes. A motion was made and approved to implement Dr. Colburn's suggestions. Dr. Proctor distributed the mid-winter report for the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and noted that there is a backlog of submitted articles.

The amount of the prize awards was discussed. Those pres-

ent were reminded that at the previous meeting the board voted to reduce the Brevard prize to \$250. A motion was made and approved, with two abstaining, to maintain the three literary prizes at \$200 each for the spring 1993 awards.

Gary Mormino reported on arrangements for the 1993 annual meeting. About half of the thirty papers that have been submitted pertain to the meeting's theme, World War II. Others on the program committee are Raymond Arsenault, James M. Denham, and Jane Dysart. Dr. Colburn commended Dr. Mormino on his effectiveness in soliciting papers.

Those present discussed the 150th anniversary of Florida's statehood in 1995. A committee, consisting of Nick Wynne, David Colburn, Samuel Proctor, Gary Mormino, George Bedell, Ann Henderson, and Michael Gannon, met to discuss possible plans. Dr. Proctor and Dr. Colburn met with Secretary of State Jim Smith and Director of Historic Resources George Percy recently. Mr. Percy expressed an interest in publishing a popular history series on Florida. Ann Henderson is enthusiastic about the Florida Humanities Council sponsoring a variety of projects, including television and radio segments and public school programs. Dr. Colburn welcomed any board members who would like to participate in the planning process. One of the ideas is for the Society to meet in Tallahassee in 1995 in the Old Capitol. A local arrangements committee needs to be formed to make that possible.

A motion was made and approved to thank the Florida Institute of Technology for the use of their facility for the meeting.

Dr. Proctor briefly left the room, and those present discussed ways to recognize his contributions to the Society as editor of the *Quarterly* for the past thirty years.

President Colburn thanked Marilyn Potts and Dr. Wynne for their efforts in arranging the board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.