



The Historical
Society of
Pennsylvania

*Preserving
History's
Light*

FIVE YEAR REPORT



2000–2004

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*Special thanks to
Staff Photographer, Lou Meehan*

History NEVER Stops

Most annual reports only look back. Not this one. We also are looking forward, because history never stops. And we are not just looking, we are moving forward. We must if we are to meet our commitment to have history inform and enrich our grandchildren. In the end, history may be about the past, but it is for the future. This understanding has guided the board of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania as we have planned strategically, established benchmarks to measure progress, and framed expectations of ourselves and the praiseworthy staff at HSP.

Our planning has been in stages. After assessing aspects of the needs of our collections and our capacities ten years ago, we concluded that we were not being effective and could not afford to act as both a museum **AND** a research library. We decided, therefore, to transfer our museum functions and collections to a colleague institution and to finance transformation of HSP's grand Addison Hutton designed building into a research center.

In the interval we also planned the successful merger of the mission, collections, and staff of The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies with HSP. Next, we developed a strategic vision and plan for the combined institution. We agreed that we in effect are wholesalers, not retailers of historical information and understanding. We are most effective when we serve, in addition to our members, the people who bring history to the public rather than trying to reach the general public directly.

Since arriving at this understanding and preparing our strategic plan, we have further refined our conceptualization of the key programmatic areas which we shall continue to develop. Our primary foci are two:

- **America's Foundations**, including the ideological, material, cultural, social, and economic antecedents, development, and consequences of the nation's revolutionary and constitutional establishment
- **America's Peoples**, ranging over the origins, experiences, artistic and cultural expressions, identities, and interactions of the diverse array of immigrant and ethnic groups in what is now the United States

The other two program areas are subsets of the above. We are working to help develop the Philadelphia region as the nation's **Historical Capital**, examining the area's roles as early home of the nation's government and as national leader in the arts, science, medicine, religion, publishing, and industry, among other things. Finally, as the chief library of printed, non-governmental materials on Pennsylvania (**Penn's Woods**), we are always engaging with the antecedents, development, and influence of the commonwealth from the days of William Penn to the present, across a wide range of social, economic, cultural, political, environmental, and other concerns.

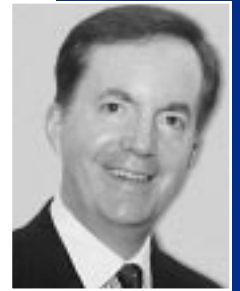
To these ends, we shall continue to:

- Encourage and enrich American historical scholarship through collaboration with area institutions and targeted fellowship programs complementing those already in place.
- Enhance communication and sharing among scholars, educators, historic site interpreters, and others who bring American history and material culture to the public by using the extraordinary resources of HSP and our region.
- Extend and deepen interpretation of current and potential historic sites and historic trails and clusters in the region.
- Enrich the teaching of American history, developing curricular materials also drawing on HSP's and the Philadelphia region's unparalleled resources.

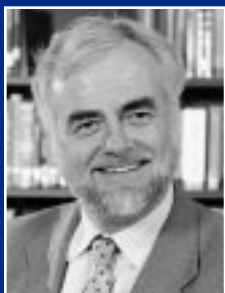
The framing and progressive implementation of these goals has brought us to the present and will move us forward to the future. We are proud of what we have accomplished over the past five years but recognize that most of our challenges lie ahead. It is the generous support of friends, foundations, and other funders that has enabled us to pay off our debt and dramatically strengthen our financial position. Going forward, that support will enable us, in close partnership with other institutions, to continue preserving the past for future generations, while also sharing its important lessons with today's citizens. We hope you will follow our progress with interest, and we invite you to join with us in

Preserving History's Light.

Chair's Report



Collin F. McNeil
Chairman



David Moltke-Hansen
President

SIX YEARS AGO

our building was undergoing major renovations and the library was closed to the public.

To the outside world, it may have looked as if little was happening inside the substantial walls of 1300 Locust Street. By August of 1999, first phase renovations were finally complete and we were ready to unveil our glorious new Reading Room. Our library was no longer a catacomb (as some researchers had dubbed it) but was now a cathedral to history. HSP was ready to reopen its doors—though in very new ways.


With the start of our 175th anniversary year in December 1999, HSP prepared to make the most of what lay ahead. Like many cultural institutions, we had faced the necessity but not yet completed the process of reimagining ourselves. We were still fully committed to being a gateway to historical resources and understanding, but new challenges, we understood, required us to pursue our mission in new ways. Here are a few highlights from the past five years;

- In 2000, we received the first of two grants to help us prioritize and address the needs of our manuscript collections. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, this grant allowed HSP to conduct a comprehensive survey of our archival collections. The protocols refined during this assessment have since become the model for other institutions, such as Columbia University, looking to evaluate the state of their collections.
- In April 2001, The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies initiated discussions on a possible merger of the two institutions. By January 1, 2002, the merger of the Balch into HSP had become effective and the work of assimilating staff, programs, and collections would begin.
- Continuing through 2002 and into 2003, HSP received further grant support—over \$2 million—for continued processing and conserving of our archival collections.
- By December 2003, our Board of Councilors had approved a new strategic plan that would set the stage for further institutional improvements.
- By October 2004, we had paid off our \$5 million debt. Not only was HSP now debt free, but total net assets (exclusive of the collections) had grown nearly 40 percent since 2000 to almost \$33 million by the end of the 2004 calendar year.

We have gained a real sense of momentum in our work as a steward of the public's history over the past few years. We always have reached out to scholars, educators, students, writers, filmmakers, genealogists, and others who are intrigued by the stories of people who settled and built our city, commonwealth, and nation. Now we are doing that and much more—engaging with new immigrant communities and encouraging them to preserve their own histories, for example, and extending ourselves to regional historical sites and organizations as a primary resource. We have worked diligently to accomplish our mission of expanding our collections, education programs, and audiences, as well as to increase our impact as a historic resource. Through strategic alliances we shall continue to build on this momentum as we move toward our larger goal: to extend and deepen HSP's and Philadelphia's roles as a leading center for the study and sharing of American history.


HSP is much more than a superb special collections library; it represents the ongoing narrative of how diverse communities became, and continue to become, American. As history is ongoing, so is our work here at HSP. We would like to thank our members, donors, funders, and other friends who have helped us achieve so much in these past few years. It is with your help that we shall keep the ball rolling.

ENRICHING *the HISTORICAL RECORD*



The Historical Society of Pennsylvania helps us understand who we are, where we came from, and where we're going by documenting our more than three-hundred-year history as residents of a city and region, citizens of the commonwealth, and participants in the ongoing story of America. That story continues to expand and be told anew—and the ongoing growth of our collections reflects this expanding story. Now containing nearly 20 million items, our collection is preeminent in its colonial-era materials, second only to the Library of Congress in documenting the nation's founding, third in comprehensive genealogical resources in the country, and preeminent on the ethnic diversity and immigrant experiences (both early and recent) of people in the United States.

To know where you're going you have to know where you come from. Our constituents—researchers, educators, heritage preservationists, and community history partners—collectively, interpret and share our wealth locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally; to dedicated scholars and the merely curious, to people whose American roots go back centuries, and to those who, having just arrived in our country, want to ensure that their experiences are recorded just as carefully.



HSP has always been a principal destination for tracing the roots of Pennsylvania's early settlers and the nation's founding families and peoples. Our visitors now can also explore extensive holdings of books, records, and documents that offer glimpses into the lives of immigrants who came to this region as recently as last year. Where else might researchers find materials ranging from the third largest collection of Washingtoniana in the world to the records of the Centro Argentino de Gran Filadelfia, an Argentinian immigrant group active in Philadelphia from 1962 to 1994? Where else might a historian researching the role of women in the Revolutionary War work right alongside a scholar writing a book on the Asian immigrant experience?

Such incredible scope makes our collections unique. Right here, on our nearly twelve miles of shelving, are the stories of people from throughout the world who settled and built this region in the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries and on into the twenty-first century. These are the threads from which our daily visitors are weaving the fullest definition of what it means to be "American."

The addition of The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies collections in January 2002 increased HSP's holdings by almost 25 percent. At present, HSP holdings total some 312,000 images, 560,000 printed volumes and microforms, and 19 million manuscripts.

OUR MISSION:

To bring history to the people and the people to history, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania works to expand American history's documentation, accessibility, and use. Founded in 1824 and significantly augmented in 2002 by The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, HSP serves as a vital gateway to historical resources and understanding for educators and researchers, regional heritage preservationists and presenters, and community history partners. HSP preserves and explores the origins, diversity, and development of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the nation as one of the great repositories of United States history, as the preeminent library of Pennsylvaniana, and as a distinguished publisher and educator.

COLLECTING to PRESERVE PRESERVING to SHARE

The large increase in our collections helped make us even more aware of the need to take steps to improve the care of all of our holdings in order to guarantee their accessibility for years to come.

In the spring of 2002, with the support of a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and additional funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, HSP completed a comprehensive survey of the processing and preservation needs of our manuscript and graphics holdings. Having extended that assessment to include our print materials and the archival and print holdings of the Balch, we projected that it would require nearly \$12 million and more than two-hundred person-years of work to meet the processing and preservation needs of our collections. We identified our highest-priority holdings and submitted grant applications to various funders. The Andrew W. Mellon, Barra, and William Penn Foundations, the Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission have made significant grants to support aspects of this work. HSP also received a Save America's Treasures grant to preserve some of this country's national icons (such as our hand-written drafts of the U.S. Constitution and printer's proof of the Declaration of Independence). The newly created Treasures Society of HSP helps to provide matching funds for such projects. Members of the Treasures Society are committed to the preservation of HSP's treasures, and a portion of their donations goes directly to our conservation efforts. With the help of these and other funders and the dedication of HSP library staff, we shall meet all of these needs in the next ten to fifteen years, thus making our collections fully accessible.

Preserving and providing access to, as well as seeking out people who can benefit from our materials is central to HSP's mission as a research library and educational institution that links scholars, citizens, communities, historic sites, and other organizations in their efforts to uncover the past in order to share it with others. We want all members of the American family to understand their connections to the people and places, events and ideas documented in our collections.



Acquisition Highlights 2000–2004

SELECTED NEW ACCESSIONS

1999–2000

William Duane Journals

Five autograph notebooks containing 1,080 written pages from the late 1820s and early 1830s. William Duane (1760–1835) was probably the most notable journalist of the Jeffersonian era. Duane's editorship of the Philadelphia newspaper *Aurora*, in which he succeeded Benjamin Franklin Bache, became the leading organ of Jefferson's party. Jefferson himself attributed his election to the presidency to the *Aurora* and Duane's exertions. Duane's son, also named William Duane, was a librarian at HSP from 1848–1849. [purchase]

Staley/von Erffa Benjamin West Archive

Twenty linear feet of material from the collections of professors Allen Staley and Helmut von

Erffa, both Benjamin West scholars. Using von Erffa's research as a base, Columbia University art historian Dr. Allen Staley literally wrote the book on West (*The Paintings of Benjamin West* by Helmut von Erffa and Allen Staley, Yale University Press, 1986). The collection includes works in the catalog, files on works rejected as West attributions, correspondence about possible West attributions, notes on the book, and miscellaneous items that did not make it into the original West catalogue. [donation]

Emilie F. Davis Diaries

A collection of three manuscript diaries, written by Emilie F. Davis for the full years of 1863, 1864, and 1865. As an African American woman living in Philadelphia, she writes full entries about her life for every day of the year, mentioning the Civil War, the "Coloured" soldiers, and seeing the body of President Lincoln. [purchase]

EXPANDING *History's Audiences*



Did you know?

Between 2002 and 2004 there were:

- 26,433 call slips submitted in the Reading Room
- Over 8,000 photocopy requests
- Research by Mail requests came from all fifty states and more than twenty-five foreign countries
- Wednesday night at 5:00 PM is the busiest time in the Reading Room

Margie B. Howell Diary

Howell was a sixteen-year-old Philadelphia girl who penned this diary of her day-to-day life in 1865. She comments on the war, its end, and her viewing of Lincoln as his funeral train visits Philadelphia. [donation]

Barbara C. Rex Papers

Rex, a native of Philadelphia, was a novelist who (in her son's words) "attempted to swim against the tide of her fashionable upbringing by being a professional person." The papers include diaries, correspondence, copies of her four novels, a typescript of an unpublished novel, and her files as a freelance editor. [donation]

The Historical Society is a place where history comes to life. Through the books and articles written, films produced, lectures given, history lessons taught, and family histories shared, hands-on researchers extend our reach to people who may never set foot inside our doors. Whether tens, hundreds, or even thousands of people see the fruits of the research done at HSP, these works are living proof that our collections, and the great care that we give them, really do make a difference.

We recognize that the most effective way to realize our ambition of expanding our audience is to collaborate with those constituencies that play key roles in engaging the public's understanding and experience of history. Through **researchers** from around the world, we help disseminate and share critical understandings of America's past. Through service to **educators**, we enhance the teaching and learning of both American and Pennsylvania history. Through **heritage preservationists** and **presenters**, we strengthen and build the Philadelphia region's heritage infrastructure and interpretation. Through our **community history partners**, we ensure that diverse local community histories are documented and preserved. Through all four, we promote understanding of the past and appreciation of the experiences of others.

Engaging Our Constituents

A strategic move made in 1999 required us to rethink how best to reach our core constituencies. That year, we signed an agreement that would permit our art and artifacts collections to be transferred to the care of the Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia—effectively allowing HSP to rededicate its resources to its work as a research library. This decision meant HSP could no longer rely on the more traditional “museum-based” mode of education and outreach. HSP began to refocus and embrace new ways of outreach—creating new partnering opportunities, creating and extending library services, enhancing our Web site, and strengthening our scholarly tradition.

2000–2001

Philadelphia Social Scene Photos

Fourteen thousand negatives and several hundred prints from the studio of Edward Jackson, this collection of photos and negatives documents weddings, debutante parties, and other social events of upper class Philadelphia. [donation]

Nurse's Letters in the Civil War

This is a collection of twenty-six letters, dated May 1864–May 1865, written by nurse Fannie H. Titus to the mother of a Union soldier (Edward Mullan) in her care at Columbia College Hospital in Washington, DC. These letters compliment the Edward C. Mullan Collection already at the HSP. [purchase]



In 2001, to continue to build on HSP's strong tradition of offering rich public education programs and activities, we created the new position of director of education and interpretation to lead our programming and publications endeavors. Our Education and Interpretation department acts as a mediator between the raw source material of history and the needs of our constituents. Such mediation is accomplished through a variety of outlets, including teacher workshops and curriculum development, exhibits, and publications. Special programs, such as lectures, book signings, local tours, and collaborative exhibitions inspired by our collections, have focused on a wide variety of topics: the Pennsylvania frontier, concepts of liberty, Theodore Roosevelt's Pennsylvania connections, Pan-American Philadelphia, and more. "How-to" programs have focused on techniques in genealogical research, evaluating historical materials on the Web, doing oral history, and understanding historical documents. Many authors have come to HSP to discuss and share their projects, especially those that grew out of research from our own collections, on topics ranging from women's cookbooks to the life of Philadelphia merchant John Wanamaker. One of our most popular speakers was forensic archaeologist Tom Crist, who spoke about his excavation work at a number of the city's burial grounds and at the site of the President's House, where George Washington and John Adams lived from 1790 until 1800.

With support from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Lindback Foundation, HSP has been developing online materials for teachers



focused on Pennsylvania and Philadelphia ethnic history. These materials emphasize active learning and historical thinking and place primary sources, background readings, and lesson plans directly into the hands of teachers. Topics range from the early contact between Quakers and Native Americans, to the experience of immigrants in the anthracite mining region, to contemporary Latino life. Educator workshops share these materials in an interactive setting, offering professional development credit to teachers. Always seeking to enhance young people's sense of history rooted in the historical record, HSP is also a lead sponsor of a renewed National History Day contest for Philadelphia students.

2000–2001 *continued*

Dallas Family Papers

This is a collection (sixty-nine items), by the Wainwrights, that documents the careers of Alexander James Dallas and George Mifflin Dallas. Individual items provide insight into political and financial activities of the early to mid-nineteenth century and cover topics such as the financing of the War of 1812 and the affairs of the Treasury Department. Correspondents include Franklin Pierce, Richard Rush, John Quincy Adams, and Albert Gallatin. [purchase]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee Appointed by the Committee of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society; for Improving the Condition of the Free Blacks, to Take Charge of Those Sent from Jamaica by David Barclay & Others

The minutes, recorded mostly by secretary Benjamin Kite, trace the fate of twenty-eight Jamaican slaves freed by David Barclay and given to the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. The slaves arrived in Philadelphia aboard the ship *West Indian* on July 22, 1795. After listing the names and ages of the slaves, the minutes of the meetings over the course of a year give updates on their placement as apprentices to local merchants and artisans. The notes include problems with several of the freed slaves' health, the return of several by unsatisfied masters, and an account of the monies paid by the committee in support of the freed slaves. [purchase]

Collaborating for Success

One of our newest and best tools for partnering is through *Pennsylvania Legacies*, our general interest magazine. Launched in 2001, this publication is widening awareness of the richness of our collections and the histories of the Pennsylvania communities they chronicle. Created in partnership with historical societies, sites, and other community partners throughout the state, each issue of *Legacies* explores a topic of Pennsylvania history, such as the history of Altoona and the Pennsylvania Railroad, the experience of coal miners in the anthracite region, or local topics such as the history of work and industry in the Kensington neighborhood. It has tremendous potential to broaden our audience and foster further public interest in history in the Philadelphia region and, ultimately, across the nation. *Legacies* not only speaks to our core constituents, it also provides means for scholars and researchers to share their knowledge gained from work in HSP's collections.

Thanks to our expanded holdings of materials on immigration and ethnicity, HSP has worked to reposition itself as a center for introducing citizens and communities to their own history and the histories of the many communities that have contributed to the American story. In 2002 we embraced the Balch Institute's New Immigrants Initiative, a multiyear series of community-oriented projects focused on documenting the history, culture, and experiences of local immigrant groups from their own perspectives. Throughout 2002–2004, we chronicled the Latino experience in Philadelphia

through oral histories and photographs, creating publications, a traveling exhibition, and education programs. In the summer of 2004 we began outreach to local Korean American residents, and the Initiative will go on to document Southeast Asians in future years. This New Immigrants Initiative has encouraged collaborations with a variety of community groups, including the Welcoming Center for New Immigrants, Taller Puertorriqueño, the Lighthouse, AFRICOM, and the Mural Arts Program (MAP). Our relationship with MAP continues in 2005 as we begin collaboration on a mural celebrating the history of Philadelphia's Mexican community.

We also are collaborating with other communities and groups such as neighborhoods, historic sites, historical organizations, and special collections in the Philadelphia region and across Pennsylvania, in order to heighten our region's profile as a historical destination and resource.

HSP has already established partnerships with a number of local organizations that share our vision. Every year, thousands of tourists and



school children see our art and artifact collections at the Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia. We contributed important loan items to the National Constitution Center for its 2003 opening exhibit and to the Library of Congress's Lewis & Clark bicentennial exhibit. We will be a major contributor to the Franklin Tercentenary traveling exhibit, as well as a partner with the University of Pennsylvania on an exhibit treating Benjamin Franklin and early childhood education.

In 2005, with funding from the Heritage Philadelphia Program, we will help our partners develop neighborhood tours that draw on and link local historic sites and community organizations to tell the stories both of settlement in Philadelphia over three centuries and of the region's important role in the Civil War.

Beyond the Philadelphia area, we are building valuable relationships with such organizations as the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, The Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations, the Association of Pennsylvania County Historical Societies, and local historic sites. By establishing links with local organizations dedicated to history and education, we can enrich this region's awareness of its past, its culture, and its people. And since the history of this city and region is really the nation's history, we all stand to benefit by working in collaboration to convey that message.

St. David's Episcopal Church Records

The St. David's Episcopal Church of Radnor records add nearly fifteen linear feet of material to their existing six feet of material currently at HSP. The new addition consists of sermons, photos, visitor registers, vestry minutes, marriage records, vestry records, and miscellaneous publications. [donation]

2001–2002

Alvah Edwards Simpson Collection

An extensive collection of forty-four diaries and account ledgers of Alvah Edwards Simpson, who worked as a traveling medicine salesman during the early to mid-1900s for companies such as Allen S. Olmsted, O. F. Woodward, and the Dr. Miles Medicine Company. [donation]

J. G. Brill Company

Original catalogues of railroad cars (1891) and trolley cars (1910) manufactured by the company. These catalogues complement our recently processed collection of twenty thousand Brill images, funded by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Brill was one of the dominant producers of railway cars in the world. [purchase]

Centro Argentino de Gran Filadelfia Records

The records of a community group for Argentinians in the Philadelphia area, 1962 through 1994. Materials include meeting minutes, ephemera, and photographs. The Centro was founded by recent immigrants to provide mutual support and assistance within the community. [donation]

Connecting across the Room—and around the Globe

Without public access, even the most outstanding collection of historical documents loses its meaning and impact. HSP's holdings would be lifeless relics were it not for the thousands of researchers who make use of them every year. Over the last several years HSP has faced challenges in making its collections accessible to researchers. HSP and its members had just recovered from living through three years of building renovations when library staff confronted the need to integrate the Balch collections into our existing holdings. Such a large collections increase caused further strain on our already overflowing storage capacity. Some items were sent to off-site storage as staff removed obsolete shelving, repositioned existing shelving, and installed new shelving ranges to accommodate all the collections. In addition, the sluggish economy at that time, along with other variables, required a streamlining of staff and a reduction of public hours in the Reading Room. All of these factors necessitated innovative means for our constituents to access the collections.



Services such as Research by Mail and Rights and Reproductions, as well as an increased presence on the Web, have become critical means of accessing the collections. While our “readers” (those who have researched on-site) have decreased overall, the use of our other services has increased dramatically. Research by Mail and Ready Reference requests increased by 123 percent to 3,670 requests received in 2004. Our Rights and Reproduction department saw its service requests increase over 50 percent for the same time period to nearly 700. Our collaborations with other institutions have led to a rise in the number of exhibit viewers and program attendees, with almost 200 percent and 85 percent increases, respectively. Overall, our collections use increased approximately 15 percent, to nearly 11,000 individuals a year, during a sometimes difficult transitional period. HSP is committed to continuing to foster relationships that will allow us to share access to our collections in new and improved ways.

In 2001, we introduced an Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), a 300,000-record database of nearly all our printed books, serials, and pamphlets, and more than half of our archival collections. Whether researchers are working right in our Reading Room or tapping into HSP's Web site from across the country, they can search our holdings by author or title, subject or publication date. With support from the Barra Foundation, we have since migrated to a more robust OPAC, which has given us the ability to provide more accurate item location information and periodical holdings data, as well as added newspaper and periodical records. We can correct errors from an earlier retrospective conversion project, add authority records to Library of Congress standards, and correct and add collection-level records for our manuscript collections—with links to their finding aids encoded to archival standards.

Through grant funding in 2003, we began a redesign effort of the HSP Web site in part to include more interpretive content, thus making selections from our materials more easily accessible to users. Examples of the types of materials found on HSP's Web site are lesson plans, background readings, and primary sources developed for teachers of Pennsylvania ethnic history. We continue to improve and upgrade our Web site services. Particularly useful tools for researchers are the research guides, which provide descriptions of our major collections. Finding aids that provide detailed inventories of particular collections will be added on an ongoing basis.

2001–2002 *continued*

Lippincott Company Collection

A collection that ranges from the 1860s to the 1950s and includes letterbooks of the company, letters from the London Agency, and financial records documenting the sale of books and the payment of royalties. Lippincott was a long-standing Philadelphia publishing firm, specializing in scientific and medical publications. [donation]

Dilworth Family Collection

Includes the student and war scrapbook (1915–1926) and memorial scrapbook (1974) of Richardson Dilworth, former district attorney and two-term mayor of Philadelphia in the late 1950s and early 1960s. These papers provide an insight into the youth of a future mayor. [donation]

Logan Family Collection

Two Logan family items: the diary of Sarah Logan Fisher (1816 and 1824) and the commonplace book of Deborah Norris Logan (1820). These items complement other Logan and Fisher family material at HSP, as well as our holdings of the early writings of women. [purchase]

Philadelphia Association for the Relief of Disabled Firemen

Five volumes (1834–1907) of this organization's records, complementing the two volumes already in our holdings. Items include minute books, treasurer's accounts, and payment vouchers. Other fire-related material at HSP includes records of numerous early hook and ladder and insurance companies. [purchase]



Henry Lafayette
Collins III, Mary Ann
Coyle, Diane B.
Coyle, James E. Coyle

**The Treasures Society
reception and tour of
The Masonic Temple
of Pennsylvania,
December 12, 2004**

Deborah D. Bishop, Barbara L. Greenfield,
Margaret C. Barringer



Happy Fernandez, Albert M. Greenfield,
Eugene Rudolph III



Enhancing Our Scholarly Tradition

HSP supports the pursuits of scholars who have chosen history as their life's work. Through *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (PMHB), scholarly symposia, and sponsorship of research fellowships, HSP provides a forum for thinkers and writers from some of the nation's leading universities and historical organizations to pursue their interests and share their knowledge and excitement about history.

In its 129th year, *PMHB* is the oldest continuously published state historical journal in the country. It remains a highly respected American history journal that attracts contributions from historians throughout the country. A major achievement in 2001 was the completion of the *PMHB* index covering the years 1952 to 1999. Available on our Web site, this index greatly enhances the value of this resource for scholars, students, and others. A newly active editorial board with diverse interests and expertise has brought wonderful energy and ideas to this work. *PMHB* is positioned to grow as an important scholarly resource for many years to come.

Through our Fellows program, which is hosted jointly with The Library Company of Philadelphia (our next-door neighbor), scholars at all stages of their careers come from near and far to make use of our vast resources. Over the last few years, more than 120 fellows from around the nation and from abroad were in residence at our organizations, investigating a range of topics such as the Atlantic slave trade, the Irish in Philadelphia during the early national period, the life of artist Thomas Eakins, and suburban sprawl and shopping centers in Philadelphia. Of course, our fellows represent just a fraction of the many scholars who have used HSP's collections as the basis for papers and books that have made major contributions to historical understanding.

2002–2003

Richardson Dilworth Collection

A 1940s–1970s collection consisting of files, correspondence, and photographs—about twelve feet. There are ten boxes of Dilworth's papers, including six boxes of alphabetical subject files and a box each of public statements, jury cases, jury charges, and law cases. Photographs are mainly of Richardson Dilworth. There is a small file of clippings and pieces of ephemera, including an invitation to the dedication of the "Richardson Dilworth International Terminal" at Philadelphia International Airport in 1991. Several folders concern Dilworth's correspondence with friends, 1944–1974, and typescripts of speeches by Dilworth, 1947–1951. [donation]

Merchant Shipbuilding Corporation Photograph Album

Photo album (1918–1920) with eighty photographs depicting shipbuilding at the Merchant Shipbuilding Corporation, the development of the company, and numerous ship christenings and maiden voyages. [donation]

West Family Diaries

George W. West, a dairy farmer in Ridley Heights, had two daughters, Lillian (Lilyan) and her younger sister Mary Jane (Mamie). The West family went to Atlantic City or Cape May every summer when the girls were children. The earliest diary was kept by George (1890, 1895) and then picked up by Lillian in 1897. There are nine additional volumes for Lillian (1897–1902) and twelve for Mary Jane (1902–1904, 1906–1910, 1917, 1919). Most of the volumes are composition books. The girls wrote full entries detailing their activities and often pasted in newspaper clippings about the family. *Twenty-two volumes.* [donation]

EXTENDING

Our Operational Capacity



Over the past five years, HSP has streamlined operations and improved management. In 2002, we completed transfer of management responsibilities for our art and artifact collection to the Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia. We have integrated a strategic planning process into management activities and board oversight. We have strengthened the Board of Councilors by streamlining its committee structure and creating a complementary National Advisory Council.

We have increased the efficiency of administrative units by keeping and recruiting good staff, pursuing best practices, and adopting upgraded software packages to support accounting and fundraising, as well as carefully managing outsourcing of certain functions, such as technology support. We moved quickly to respond to the protracted economic downturn, making painful cuts and curtailing public hours. We have come through these difficult decisions to find that productivity is up, and public perceptions of the staff and the organization have improved dramatically.

Specific highlights of gains in operational capacity include:

- Before the effects of depreciation, HSP has reached and maintained a balanced budget. We also have begun reduction of the draw down on our endowment.
- HSP has retired the capital debt assumed to finance first phase renovation of the 1300 Locust Street building.
- HSP established a presence on the internet with a Web site dramatically expanded in 2000 and significantly redesigned in October 2003. The Web site both draws users into our collections and services and broadens the reach of interpretive materials created by HSP staff from the collections. A Content Management System installed in 2003 enables staff from across the organization to post and update content, keeping the Web site fresh and timely.



2002–2003 *continued*

McDaniel Civil Rights Collection

From Swann Auction Galleries in New York, the Thelma McDaniel Civil Rights Collection (1940s–1970s) is a large and extraordinary group of approximately 750 items including handbills, posters, newspapers, photographs, broadsides, leaflets, bumper stickers, and other ephemera. Ms. McDaniel, a Philadelphian, amassed this collection over many years as a participant and eventual beneficiary of the civil rights movement. Not since 1934, with the acquisition of the American Negro Historical Society records, has the Historical Society added such a broad collection of African American culture. A notable, related, recent addition is the archives of the Eastern Area chapters of The Links, Inc. [purchase]

2003–2004

Nelson Diaz Papers

Office files of the Honorable Nelson A. Diaz, covering his tenure as Philadelphia City Solicitor (December 2001–February 2004). There is a small clutch of material for 2001, four boxes for 2002, and three boxes for 2003. (Detailed inventory supplied). *Eight boxes.* [donation, addition to existing collection]

Lighthouse, Inc. Records

Minutes, financial records, membership applications and cards, materials relating to the sports camps and Meals and Wheels program, as well as some photographs and miscellaneous files from this settlement house. *Thirty-nine boxes.* [donation]



Know all men
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and sch. free,
free from Slaves
fifteen years, being
of Saint Thomas
of Pennsylvania
condition. never
bound by inter
Wider, to some

- From the basis established through renovation of the public-service area and installation of an OPAC, HSP has built a robust local-area network, supporting staff workstations and public terminals. Through planning and participation in donation programs, we also have established a sustainable schedule for staying appropriately current on computer equipment and software.
- Beginning with the renovations completed in 1999, HSP has made significant improvements to the building at 1300 Locust Street, including installation and upgrades to environmental controls, security systems, and collections storage, dramatically expanding the total amount of shelving.
- Improvements in technology, facilities, and other related areas have had a great impact on membership services as well. Recent activities have focused on improving overall membership communications along with the development of a new membership brochure and the introduction of *Sidelights*, our quarterly members' newsletter.

Five years ago, HSP had significant debt—\$4.24 million. Our net assets (exclusive of collections) totaled just under \$24 million. Now HSP is virtually debt free and with net assets (again exclusive of collections) totaling approximately \$33 million. Our current endowments of \$22.5 million are almost as much as our net assets were five years ago. Thanks to the elimination of debt service, HSP can now devote over seventy percent of total operating expenditure to mission activities—9 percent more than five years ago.

OUR SUPPORTERS:

Our most important partnerships are with the individuals, foundations, and corporations whose support enables us to do this work. Without them—without you—our work would not be possible. As HSP council member James Mitchell said in 1905, “Guidance for the future is best based upon the experience of the past.” A century later, we still embrace the truth of this statement, and we are grateful for the support of those who share our belief that history does indeed matter. It can help us better understand ourselves, our communities, and our institutions, and guide us as we navigate toward the future as we continue in ***Preserving History's Light***.

Catherine Franklin Sharples Family Papers

Highly important and extensive archival collection of affectionate, detailed, wide-ranging, and revealing intrafamily letters and social correspondence written by and to Catherine Wistar (1769–1824) of Brandywine Farm, Pennsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, before and after her marriage in 1802 to Abraham Sharples (1748–1835) of Sarum Forge (also Chester County). Other family letters and estate papers document the family, spiritual, and material lives (and deaths) of Catherine and her husband, her parents Caspar Wistar and Mary Franklin Wistar (the latter originally of Flushing, L.I., NY), many of her cousins, and her son Caspar Wistar Sharples (b.1803) from the 1780s into the 1840s (with some earlier and later letters and documents). Particularly well documented are minute aspects of family interaction (including child raising), and many family members' participation in rounds of extended Quaker kinship visiting and the long-distance travel many of these visits entailed. [purchase]

Sumiko Kobayashi Papers

The papers of Sumiko Kobayashi document her work with and interest in a large number of Japanese American and Asian American organizations, including the Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese Christian Church, Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. The papers include material about evacuation and internment, lobbying efforts, speeches, correspondence, newsletters, and other mailings. This is an addition to an existing collection. *Nine boxes.* [donation, addition to existing collection]

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

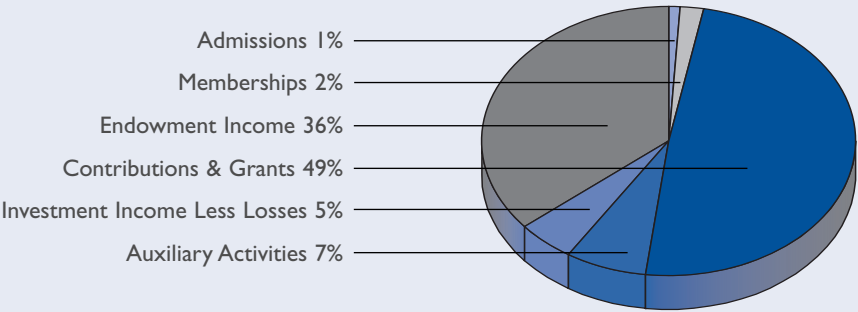
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	BEGINNING AND ENDING 5-YEAR AUDITED FINANCIAL POSITION		UNAUDITED POSITION AFTER RETIREMENT OF DEBT	CHANGE FROM
	<u>June 30, 1999</u>	<u>June 30, 2004</u>	<u>December 31, 2004</u>	<u>June 1999 to Dec. 2004</u>
ASSETS				
Cash	54,010	\$853,789	\$112,390	58,380
Dividends and interest receivable	39,657	41,605	41,605	1,948
Accounts receivable		3,931	323	323
Grants and contributions receivable	258,014	937,702	1,058,186	800,172
Prepaid expenses & other assets	18,567	56,601	42,007	23,440
Perpetual trusts held by third parties	61,500	8,303,601	8,788,008	8,726,508
Investments-endowment	18,893,524	16,480,270	13,735,903	(5,157,621)
Investments-other	827,443		0	(827,443)
Construction in progress	6,459,356			(6,459,356)
Building and equipment, net	1,347,769	8,713,647	8,607,579	7,259,810
Land and building available for sale, net		2,557,500		0
Collections acquired since July 1, 2000		641,055	641,055	641,055
Total Assets	\$27,959,840	\$38,589,701	\$33,027,056	5,067,216
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
LIABILITIES				
Line of credit	\$3,685,527	\$950,000		(3,685,527)
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	99,596	232,783	\$105,729	6,133
Deferred revenue			4,759	4,759
Construction costs payable	458,875			(458,875)
Note payable, bank		3,882,879		0
Loans payable		82,280	75,872	75,872
Total liabilities	4,243,998	5,147,942	186,360	(4,057,638)
COMMITMENTS				
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted	4,080,199	6,103,598	5,772,941	1,692,742
Temporarily restricted	14,597,885	10,971,529	10,216,715	(4,381,170)
Permanently restricted	5,037,758	16,366,632	16,851,039	11,813,281
Total net assets	23,715,842	33,441,759	32,840,695	9,124,853
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$27,959,840	\$38,589,701	\$33,027,055	5,067,215

Note: The change from June 30, 2004 to December 31, 2004 shows consequences of selling the Balch Institute building and paying off the debt—effectively decreasing both assets and liabilities

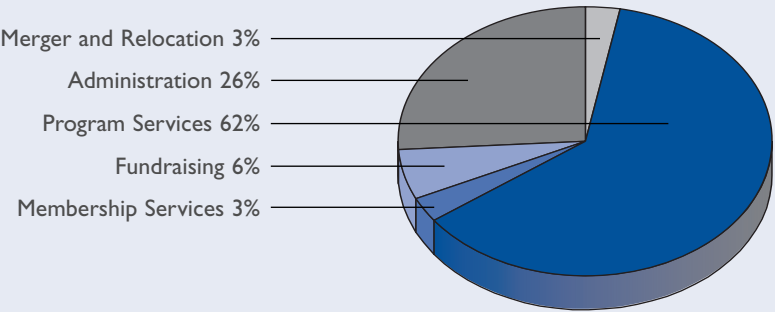
Unrestricted Revenue, Gains & Other Support

July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2004



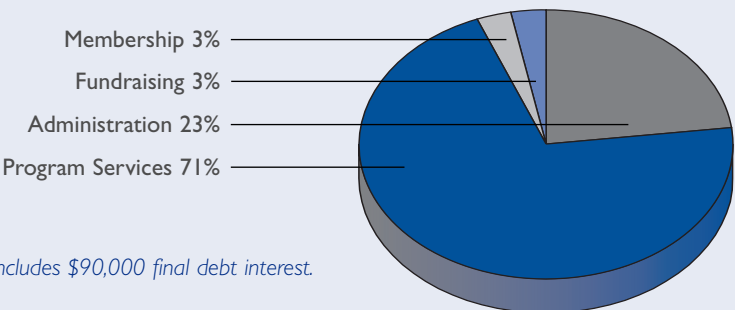
Expenses

July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2004



Projected Expenses

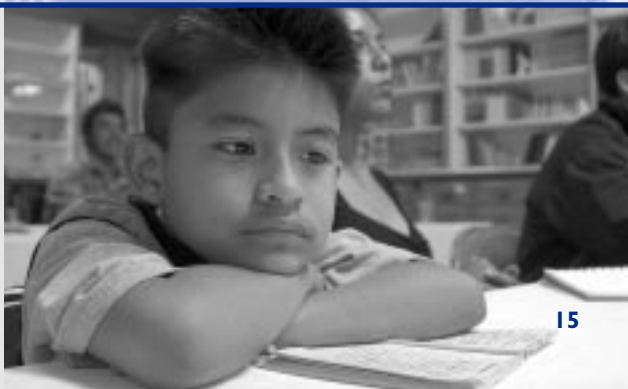
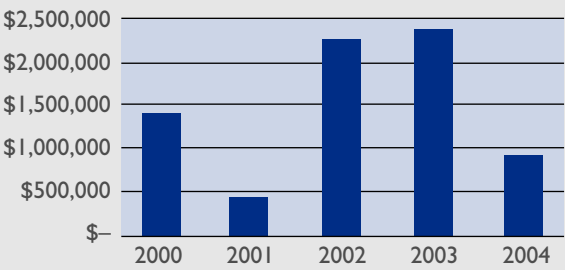
Fiscal year end June 30, 2005



Note: Administration includes \$90,000 final debt interest.

Contributions and Grants at June 30,

2002 and 2003 grants continue into the 2004 year and beyond...



Selected Recent GRANTS



Save America's Treasures awarded funds to preserve documents central to American history, such as John Dunlap's printer's proof of the Declaration of Independence, draft versions of the U.S. Constitution, two copies of the Leland-Boker autographed printing of the Emancipation Proclamation, a hand-written, autographed copy of the "Star Spangled Banner," portraits of Hannah and William Penn, the diary of George Washington's secretary, Tobias Lear, and other iconic documents.

A three-year grant from the **William Penn Foundation**, awarded in 2002, has provided the means to integrate the Balch and HSP collections, ensuring their accessibility to a broad public. The grant has supported development of seamless access to the combined collections through a number of discrete projects, including merger of the catalogs, installation of shelving, improvements to collections storage, and upgrades to technology.

The Barra Foundation awarded HSP grants to help develop its first Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) and to recatalog its Native American imprints to national standards. It also facilitated upgrade of the OPAC through purchase of Endeavor's Voyager system. The Barra cataloging project will end in mid-2005.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (Project I) was the first of two grants to help HSP assess, prioritize, and begin to address the needs of its manuscript collections. Over the course of eighteen months (August 2000–January 2002), this project conducted a comprehensive survey of HSP's archival collections. The data compiled are being used to help determine short-term priorities and formulation of a long-range access and preservation plan for those collections.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (Project II) is currently supporting a three-year initiative to provide appropriate access to HSP's holdings of family archives. These archives often include a variety of historical materials, such as personal papers, business records, legal documents, and photographs. Under this grant, HSP staff is processing forty-seven family archives (2,195 linear feet of manuscripts, or approximately 9 percent of HSP's total archival holdings), which were found in the earlier surveying project to be of high research value.

In a two-year grant ending in mid-2005, funds from the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** have allowed HSP to preserve and process eighty-six collections totaling 1,479 linear feet determined to have high research value but to be in relatively poor condition through the earlier Mellon-funded survey project and a collateral NEH-funded assessment.

In a project ending in 2005, **National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)** funds have addressed the needs of HSP's own records (including those of the Balch). This eighteen-month project has included implementing a records-management program for paper-based and electronic records and formally establishing HSP's Institutional Archives.

In 2001, **The Phoebe W. Haas Charitable Trust** awarded the Balch a four-year grant to process the nineteen largest collections in the Balch holdings. This project is making fully accessible records of beneficial societies and ethnic organizations active in social welfare.

2004 Annual Meeting



Joan Saverino, John P. Kaminski, Tamara Miller



Leonard Combs, Bruce Fenton



Al Jackson, Bruce Robertson, Rachel Onuf



Lee Arnold, Deborah D. Bishop, Sarah Price

In 2000, the **William Penn Foundation** gave the Balch a multiyear grant to pursue its New Immigrants Initiative. The grant funded community-oriented projects with African and Latino communities over the next four years, making possible two exhibits, four publications, and over twenty-five public and educational programs. Additional support for these projects was also provided by **The Rockefeller Foundation, The Philadelphia Foundation, the Samuel S. Fels Fund, and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.**

Since 2000, the **Pennsylvania Department of Education** has underwritten annually Balch and HSP's educational activities related to "Exploring Diversity through Pennsylvania Ethnic History," including online curricular supports.

Looking forward, as this report goes to press HSP is preparing to launch two projects funded by the **Heritage Philadelphia Program** to promote historical tourism. One grant supports development of tours of the Northern Liberties/Kensington and Southwark/Queen Village/Italian Market neighborhoods of Philadelphia, using historical scholarship and knowledge of local residents. The other grant supports HSP and the Civil War History Consortium in planning to develop a tourism framework for the region's Civil War heritage.



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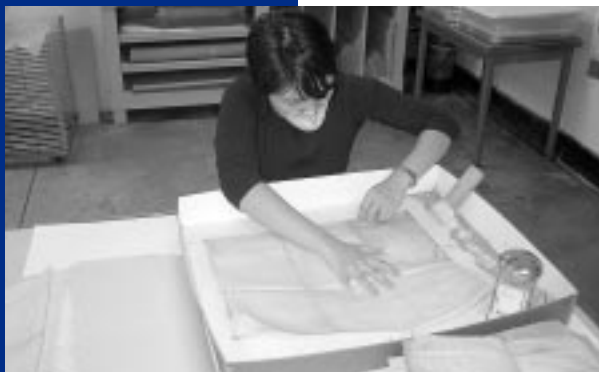
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*Preservation technician Janet Lee uses
eraser crumbs and a soft brush to dry
surface clean a parchment deed.
Removing surface dirt is the first step
before any further conservation treatment
is performed.*

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Sharon Hildebrand removes a linen backing from an oversized map. The linen and adhesive are very acidic, causing damage and staining to the map. Sharon will then apply a lining of Japanese paper with wheat starch paste to stabilize the map.

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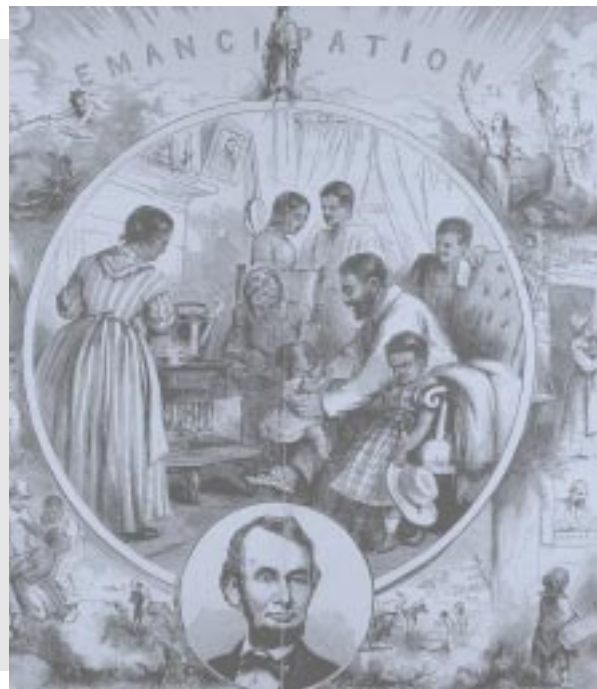
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