

SAA Study Tours. Council affirmed a long-standing position of the Society that it does not compensate Society members who have organized travel tours on behalf of the Society.

Professional Affinity Groups. The Council conducted an intensive discussion of the development of professional affinity groups, which included reviewing the correspondence received from PAG chairs, considering a name change, and suggesting the possibility of increased direction from Council.

It was decided to schedule a meeting of PAG chairs and Council at the Berkeley meeting, for further discussion, especially as the Council would like to continue the policy that each PAG establish its own procedures and goals. In addition to the two mailings sent out to each PAG membership, the Chicago office will also provide all PAG chairs with copies of mailings sent out from each other PAG chair to members. Additionally, PAG chairs will receive regular updates on Society activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

ANN MORGAN CAMPBELL, *Executive Director*

Recent Deaths

DAVID C. MEARNS, 31 December 1899—21 May 1981. The life of David Mearns gave testimony to the accuracy of Thomas Carlyle's description of the true university as a collection of books. David Mearns forsook formal higher education after a year of it, and in 1918 went to work in the Library of Congress. In the Horatio Alger tradition, more familiar then than now, he started at the bottom and worked his way to the top and all the while grew rich, not in material things but in treasures of the mind and spirit, and in friends. His first position was as a humble reference assistant in the Order Department. In 1920 he began nineteen years of service in the reading rooms and stacks, in a succession of positions until he was appointed superintendent of the Reading Room in 1939. In the war years of 1941–43 he moved rapidly upward through still other posts until he became director of the Reference Department. He was appointed Assistant Librarian in 1949, and in 1951 he was named Assistant Librarian for the American Collections, chief of the Manuscript Division, and incumbent in the Chair of American History. From these several positions and active service he retired in 1967. This greatly surprised all who knew him and who confidently expected him to stay a full half-century. He was not able. However, he continued until 1976 his association with the Library, his alma mater, as honorary consultant in the humanities.

From the Library David Mearns learned much, and from the Library he taught many. He became widely known as the master of several subjects, but he was best known for the wealth of his information, and his publications, on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, and the history of the Library of Congress, and the life of its best known librarian, Herbert Putnam. Indeed, the world so constantly consulted him on the life and lore of Lincoln that some wags came to speak of Lincoln as the one true god and Mearns as his prophet, and the Library as the holy see of the church of A. Lincoln. Hearing this gave the prophet much amusement, for he had an irrepressible sense of humor, from which he drew a fine perspective and a healthy outlook on life. His good humor underlay his conspicuous proclivities as playful wordsmith and punster, and permitted him to suffer fools and foolishness with an outward courtesy and an inward amusement. Learning from David Mearns was always pleasant and entertaining, as he meant it to be.

His life had a remarkable unity of place, time, and subject. It spanned about three quarters of a century and was principally devoted to a century of American history, namely, the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth, chiefly as reflected in the holdings of his beloved Library of Congress and largely as enacted in his native city, the nation's capital. Among these places and subjects he spent his career, made his deserved reputation, and from all this drew great satisfaction and contentment.

DANIEL J. REED, *Old St. Mary's City, Maryland*

YVES PEROTIN, distinguished French archivist, died in Perpignan, France, on 1 March 1981. Born in Bordeaux on 15 July 1922, Pérotin attended the Ecole des Chartes from 1942 to 1948, and was a graduate of that institution. Pérotin was successively director of the Archives Départemental of Lot-et-Garonne, of Réunion, of Paris and the Seine, and of Var.

From 1962 to 1966, Pérotin was secretary general of the Round Table of the International Council on Archives. From 1966 to 1969, Yves Pérotin was detailed to Geneva where he not only prepared an inventory and an introductory guide to the records of the League of Nations, but also developed access rules for these records. During his career Pérotin served many times as a UNESCO consultant on archival missions to Algeria, Morocco, Peru, Iraq, and other countries.

One of the first Europeans to adapt American records management techniques for use on the Continent, Pérotin served for two years as records management officer of the World Health Organization in Geneva. He also prepared those sections of the 1970 edition of the French *Manuel d'archivistique* dealing with records management and records centers. The author of many articles on archival administration, some of which were published in the *American Archivist*, Pérotin is probably known best for his *Manual on Tropical Archivology* published in France in 1966 in both English and French editions by the ICA.

During World War II, Yves Pérotin saw early service in the Resistance, first as a maquis in Vercours and later as a volunteer in the First Free French Division. For these services he was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Médaille de la Résistance.

Yves Pérotin was a member of the Society of American Archivists for many years. Those of us, both here and abroad, who knew Yves can recall his gracious manner, his humanity, and his dedication to the archival profession. Yves' career, during times of war and times of peace, documents fully his eagerness to fight for his beliefs. Yves, through his strong personality and his archival contributions, left an indelible impression upon his colleagues. We shall miss him.

ALBERT H. LEISINGER, JR., *Bethesda, Maryland*