

## AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

**Meetings of January and February.** The annual meeting of the American Geographical Society was held on January 20, at the Engineering Societies' Building, 29 West Thirty-ninth Street. After the reading of the annual reports and the election of officers for 1925 the Society was addressed by Mr. Merian C. Cooper on "The Migrations of the Bakhtiari." Both films and still pictures were of extraordinary geographical interest. They depicted the life of a nomadic people during their eastward migration from the plains of Arabistan, north of the Persian Gulf, to the Plateau of Ispahan in Western Persia, a journey of forty-six days which involves the crossing of the deep Karun River and the rugged Bakhtiari Mountains.

At the regular monthly meeting of February 24 an illustrated lecture of unusual scientific interest was given by Dr. Philip S. Smith of the U. S. Geological Survey, on "Exploring in Northern Alaska." An article on this subject appears in this number of the *Review*. The field of Dr. Smith's latest work includes the Naval Petroleum Reserve, parts of which have not been explored hitherto.

**Elections to Fellowship.** At the January meeting of the Society, President Greenough presiding, and the February meeting, President Finley presiding, there were presented with the approval of the Council the names of 229 candidates who were duly elected as Fellows.

**Resolution in Honor of President Greenough.** At the February meeting of the Council the following resolution was adopted in view of Mr. Greenough's election as Honorary President of the Society. It was read to the Fellows of the Society at the regular monthly meeting on February 24.

RESOLVED that the following minute be entered upon the record:

Mr. Greenough became a Fellow of the Society in 1883 and a member of the Council in January, 1900. Besides serving on various committees of the Society he was Chairman of the Council from March, 1906, to February, 1907, and February, 1913, to February, 1921; and Vice-President from January, 1908, to January, 1916. In 1916 he was elected President of the Society and in that capacity has served for nine years. In that period there took place many changes in the administration of the Society's professional work. It was he who first proposed the appointment of a professional geographer as Director of the Society. Through an extension of the functions of the several committees, such as the Publication Committee, the Committee on Exploration and Research, the Committee on Medal Awards, and a number of other special committees all of which were appointed at his suggestion, the Council was brought into much more active relation to the work of the several departments than at any previous time. The result of these steps has been greatly to extend the area of general interest in the work of the Society and to bring about a great advance particularly in its publications.

He has presided at the regular meetings of the Society with a fidelity unsurpassed in its history and, like Judge Daly, has left a permanent impression upon the membership of the Society by reason of his unfailing attention to its business. In a period of fourteen years he was absent but once from his place as Chairman at the regular monthly meetings of the Council and Fellows.

In recognition of his service to the Society and as a mark of respect, his colleagues on the Council have unanimously adopted this resolution and directed that the same be read at the next regular monthly meeting of the Council and Fellows.

**Annual Reports of the Society.** At the annual meeting of the American Geographical Society, held on January 21 at the Engineering Societies' Building, 29 West Thirty-ninth Street, the annual reports of the Council, of the Treasurer, and of the Special Committee were read as follows:

#### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

New York, January 15, 1925

*To the Fellows of the Society:*

In our review of the Society's activities for 1925 a place of importance must needs be given to the *Geographical Review*, the quarterly journal of the Society. Each number contains a quantity of scholarly material as great as that found in a book of substantial size, and no less impressive than the amount of it is its extraordinary variety and interest. The thirty-eight principal articles in addition to the seventy-eight notes and sixty-eight reviews published in 1924 deal with leading problems in every branch of geographical science: they are not casual or temporary in nature; we aim to make them permanent contributions to knowledge. The maps which illustrate the several articles are drawn so far as possible from new and original sources and, drawn with high professional skill and accuracy, they have contributed to make the *Geographical Review* one of the leading scientific journals in the world today.

Though the Society has concentrated its research work to a large degree in the field of Hispanic American maps, it has by no means confined itself to that field. It has also supported in one form or another studies in the soils and vegetation of Africa, in historical geography, colonization, population distributions in many lands, in political geography in the problem areas of the world, as well as substantial enterprises in the United States. The Society's point of view with reference to specific projects of publication, field work, and research is that it should undertake to do those things which contribute to the general good of geographical science and professional geographers of every class and which the individual geographer could not do, working as he must, single-handed, and with very limited funds. The Millionth Map of Hispanic America has made excellent progress. The compilation and drawing of new sheets go forward steadily, and the coöperation of various societies, bureaus, and governments in the southern countries has been secured. The governments of Panama, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Salvador have taken an especially active part during 1924 in advancing the purposes of the program. Related publications, such as the map catalogue in process of compilation, and the regional and population studies referred to in earlier reports, are in a state of healthy progress.

The books and maps published by the Society during the past year include the following:

1. THE GEOGRAPHICAL CONCEPTIONS OF COLUMBUS: A CRITICAL CONSIDERATION OF FOUR PROBLEMS. By George E. Nunn.

(A new and original statement of problems to be solved, and established conclusions to be reconsidered.)

2. GEOGRAPHICAL LORE OF THE TIME OF THE CRUSADES. By J. K. Wright.

(A study in the history of geography illustrating the origins and condition of geographical knowledge and tradition in Western Europe.)

3. DESERT TRAILS OF ATACAMA. By Isaiah Bowman.

(A study of desert and high mountain and plateau settlements in the Atacama region of northern Chile and northwestern Argentina.)

## 4. GEOGRAPHY IN FRANCE. By Emmanuel de Martonne.

(A history of the development and present status of geography in France by one of its leading exponents.)

## 5. EARLY TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS. By J. K. Wright.

(Their Geographical and Historical Value as Illustrated by the Maps of the Harrison Collection of the American Geographical Society.)

6. MAP OF HISPANIC AMERICA, 1:1,000,000 (15.78 to 1 inch). Sheets South C-19, Acre, and North 9-12, Baja California-Sur.

## 7. MAP OF THE MOHAMMEDAN WORLD.

(Accompanies "The Mohammedan World," by Isaiah Bowman, *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 14, 1924, pp. 62-74. Shows population distribution, rainfall, interior basin drainage, railways, etc.)

8. MAP OF SAN JUANCITO MOUNTAINS, HONDURAS. By Joseph H. Sinclair. Scale 1:150,000.

9. TRIANGULATION OF AN AREA IN SOUTHERN HONDURAS. By Joseph H. Sinclair. Scale 1:1,250,000.

(Accompany "Notes on the Mapping of an Area in Southern Honduras," by Joseph H. Sinclair, *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 14, 1924, pp. 275-281.)

10. PROVINCE OF ESMERALDAS, NORTHWESTERN ECUADOR. Scale 1:1,280,000.

(Accompanies "Geographical Notes on Esmeraldas, Northwestern Ecuador," by Carlos M. Larrea, *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 14, 1924, pp. 373-387.)

Among the publication projects for 1925 there are two that are especially noteworthy:

## BIBLIOGRAPHIE GÉOGRAPHIQUE

By a coöperative arrangement with the *Association de Géographes Français* the Society participates in the preparation of material and the publication of this scholarly bibliography in order to make a contribution to the facilities for research in the United States. The first number to contain material contributed by the Society is Volume 33, dealing with publications for 1923. It is now in process of distribution by the Society.

## ARABIAN GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Through the interest and generosity of Charles R. Crane, Esq., the Society is enabled to edit, publish, and distribute the results of thirty years' study of Arabian geography and history on the part of Professor Musil, of which fourteen years were spent in the field. The work will be produced in six volumes and will be illustrated by photographs and diagrams. It will deal with the Northern Hejaz, Arabia Deserta, Palmyrena, the Middle Euphrates, the Northern Neged, and the Manners and Customs of the Rwala Bedouins.

Passing to one of our newer activities, the Society's School of Surveying, it may be noted that the equipment has been completed, the course of study arranged, and instruction has begun. There is now available in this country a place where first-class modern training in field methods especially applicable to geographical science can be provided.

During 1924 the Society awarded three gold medals as follows:

Charles P. Daly Medal to Colonel Claude H. Birdseye, Chief Topographic Engineer of the U. S. Geological Survey. (See *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 14, 1924, pp. 465-466.)

Cullum Geographical Medal to Professor Jovan Cvijić of the University of Belgrade. (See *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 14, 1924, p. 466, and Vol. 15, 1925, pp. 131.)

David Livingstone Centenary Medal to Commander Frank Wild of the expeditions of Scott, Mawson, and Shackleton. (See *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 14, 1924, p. 466.)

The Society has also elected the following to honorary Corresponding Membership: Edwin R. Heath, H. L. Shantz, Paul Le Cointe, Lauge Koch, and Byron Khun de Prorok.

Following precedent the Society has sent representatives to important scientific gatherings and occasions of special geographical interest: Section E, Geography, British Association for the Advancement of Science, Toronto; and the Third Pan-American Scientific Congress, Lima, Peru.

Additions to the library during the year comprise 795 books, 708 pamphlets, 6250 new issues of periodicals, 3015 maps, 73 atlases. The collection now numbers 65,448 volumes of books and pamphlets and 64,085 atlases and maps. Among the conspicuous gifts to the library from generous friends of the Society have been the following:

Crown Collection of Maps, from James B. Ford, Esq.

Cassini Map of France, from the Honorable Francis Burton Harrison.

Collection of Colored Lantern Slides, from Mrs. George Kennan.

The lectures of the Society have been unusually well attended. The speakers have been as follows:

Sir Percy Sykes, "The Heart of Asia and the Roof of the World;" Horace D. Ashton, "A Caravan Journey into the Northern Sahara;" Poultney Bigelow, "The Colonies of Japan;" Colonel Claude H. Birdseye, "Boating in the Grand Canyon;" Count Byron Khun de Prorok, "Ancient Carthage and the Dead Cities of the Sahara;" Dr. Lauge Koch, "Explorations in Northernmost Greenland."

The number of Fellows at the close of the year was 4062, of whom 395 are Life Fellows. In addition there are 12 Honorary and 39 Corresponding Members.

The report of the Treasurer submitted herewith gives a condensed balance sheet and a summary of the income and expenses of the Society.

PHILIP W. HENRY  
*Chairman*

#### REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR 1924

##### *Receipts and Expenses*

During the year there have been received from annual dues, interest on investments, and sales of publications . . . . .	\$68,396.26
There have been expended for salaries, house expenses, library, meetings, publications, postage, insurance, etc. . . . .	78,293.17
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Balance charged against Special Deposit Fund . . . . .	\$9,896.91

##### *Condensed Balance Sheet, December 31, 1924*

Cash . . . . .	\$10,842.92
Sundry balances and investments . . . . .	98,976.89
Inventory of publications . . . . .	7,798.03
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	<u>\$117,617.84</u>