

A Centennial History 1878-1978
Beginning the Second Century 1979-1994

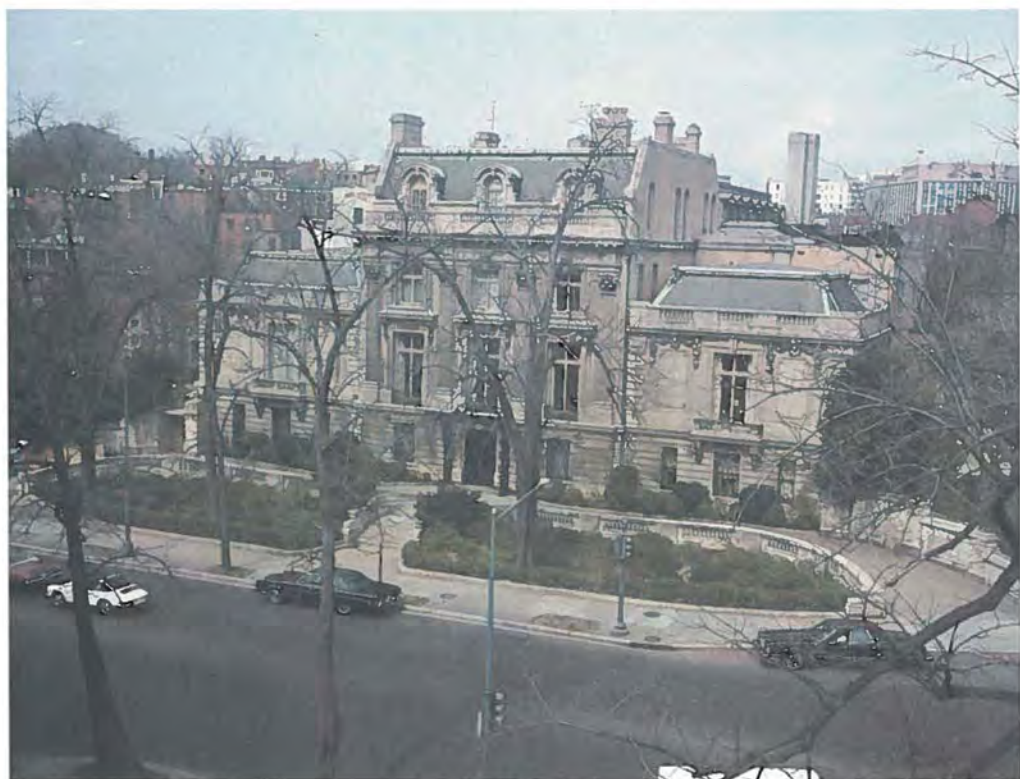


Corporate seal of the Cosmos Club,
authorized November 13, 1882;
adopted February 1, 1886;
redrafted in 1966.

A Centennial History 1878-1978

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THE
COSMOS
CLUB
OF
WASHINGTON

By Wilcomb E. Washburn

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THE COSMOS CLUB OF WASHINGTON
IN NOVEMBER 1978, ON THE OCCASION
OF ITS ONE-HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY
WITH ADDENDUM IN MARCH 1995

Frontispiece: Photograph of the Clubhouse taken by George Crossette in the autumn of 1976.

Endpaper illustration: From a watercolor painting by Walter Paris (1842-1906), "View of Pennsylvania Avenue Looking toward the Capitol," 1895.

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PREFACE

THIS book is the product of a long-term project of the Cosmos Club's History Committee, which was first appointed by President Charles S. Piggot in 1957. Although attention to recording the Club's history was not lacking before that date, as revealed in many of the Club's publications, its Board of Management minutes, and sporadic archival accumulations, the formation of the History Committee spurred action and served to draw members' attention to their Club's long and distinguished past.

The first chairman of the committee, E. John Long ('38), resigned after a few months' tenure to pursue his literary activities in another city. He was succeeded by Kip Ross ('55), eminent National Geographic Society photographer and writer. Kip sparked the project to life and during the time it was gestating promoted further research into the records and wrote several segments originally intended to be chapters of the book. It is only appropriate that in introducing this book we pay particular tribute to Kip. With his death in 1967 further progress on the writing of the history was halted until its reactivation under the direction of succeeding committees and Dr. Washburn, the present author, a professional historian, accepted the heavy assignment. It was agreed that the publication of the

book should be one of the principal events of the Club's celebration of its one-hundredth birthday.

The demands of rhetorical integrity in the execution of the work made it impracticable to use the earlier sections authored by Kip Ross, other than as source and background material, but his contributions are preserved in the Club *Bulletin*. His chapter "Fateful Evening, Fateful Year," in the November 1958 issue, is recommended reading for all Club members; it stands apart from the present work and should be remembered for its role as the genesis of the final product. Neither was it feasible to use directly other segments written by committee members. The author of course has freely drawn upon these, as well as from *Bulletin* articles and vignettes of members, in weaving the fabric of his story.

All committee members participated in various aspects of this project, and some devoted considerable time and talent to specific tasks. Grateful acknowledgment is due them, and we are glad to expand a little on their work (for the sake of the record and completeness the undersigned lay aside for the moment their customary modesty by including their own names):

Elliott B. Roberts, former assistant director for research and development, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, was chairman of the Club's Program Committee for thirteen years. Among other duties as a member of the History Committee he promotes and collects vignettes written by members about their fellow Club members. He has, indeed, written many of them himself.

Donald H. Williams, former Club Secretary and present editor of the *Bulletin*, is technical director of the Dairy and Food Institutions Supply Association, an ardent bibliophile, and an authority on Powelliana. Because of his intimate knowledge of Club affairs he was able to offer valuable criticisms of the manuscript.

Homer L. Calkin, former chief of the State Department's special studies division, has spent long hours extracting data

from some 10,000 membership cards to feed into the Club's new computer, producing a classified roster of all Club members from the beginning. He has also led a program to formalize the Club's archives, which are under the jurisdiction of the History Committee.

Harald A. Rehder, retired curator of mollusks at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, and Henry H. Work, deputy medical director, American Psychiatric Association, have been busy assembling "honors to Club members," which are posted each month and when space permits reported in the *Bulletin*. They also keep our gallery of Pulitzer and Nobel prizewinners up to date and are writing a descriptive booklet to be placed with the portraits for the benefit of members and guests.

Homer T. Rosenberger, formerly personnel officer of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons and later personnel-training officer of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, is a prolific writer, Pennsylvania historian, and philosopher. He is a past-president of the prestigious Columbia Historical Society. The *Bulletin* has published several of his fine vignettes of Club members. His assistance in reading the manuscript and advice on various phases of this history have been invaluable.

Leonard J. Grant, an associate secretary of the National Geographic Society, and Ralph Gray, editor of the Society's *School Bulletin* and its successor the *National Geographic World*, have contributed materially in obtaining photographic illustrations, drawings, and centennial items. Mr. Grant served as chairman of the centennial committee.

Because of the long-range nature of this history project the membership of the History Committee has been kept, so far as feasible, intact over a period of years. For example, the present chairman, Paul H. Oehser, has been a member of the committee for about twenty years. He has served also not only as Club Secretary and editor of the *Bulletin* (1950-1969) but also

as President (1974). Mr. Oehser was formerly chief of the Smithsonian Institution's editorial and publications division (now the Smithsonian Press) and its public-relations officer. He is the author of two books on Smithsonian history, and his contributions to the *Bulletin*, both in prose and verse, are many and varied. He has served as general editor of the present book and has directed it through the press.

George Crossette, Club President in 1977 and History Committee chairman for nine years, is the retired chief of geographic research, National Geographic Society. He is the author of *The Founders of the Cosmos Club*, editor of *Selected Prose of John Wesley Powell*, and co-compiler (with Mr. Oehser) of the Club's *Red Book*, a listing of all members through 1968. He has written twenty-five vignettes of Club members in addition to the sixty biographies in the *Founders* book.

The committee considers itself most fortunate, to put it modestly, that its member Wilcomb E. Washburn was induced to include in his busy schedule the writing of this book. Dr. Washburn is a graduate of Dartmouth College and received his doctorate from Harvard in 1955. Presently he is director of the office of American studies at the Smithsonian Institution. Besides being an authority on the American Indians and Colonial history in general he has long been interested in the institutional and intellectual history of Washington, D.C., and has published notably in that area of investigation. He is currently president of the Columbia Historical Society. His extensive bibliography includes books, many articles, and technical papers.

It is most difficult to describe the Cosmos Club and its members without some degree of perhaps pardonable boastfulness. But where else, indeed, will one find a club with such a representation in all ramifications of intellectual pursuits? In their infinite wisdom and foresight the founders chose the name *Cosmos*, which uniquely signifies the nature of the Club and its breadth and diversity. Although it is not *per se* a professional

organization, such as a chemical society or a press club might be, virtually every profession under the sun that has anything to do with scholarship, creative genius, or intellectual distinction is represented—and it has been that way since the beginning. The Club's corporate objectives contemplated "the advancement of its members in science, literature, and art" and also "their mutual improvement by social intercourse." Founder Grove Karl Gilbert put it this way: "It is a prime function of the Cosmos Club to bind the scientific men of Washington by a social tie and thus promote that solidarity which is important to their proper work and influence." No member is admitted by virtue of wealth, position, social standing, or because his name is in *Who's Who*. The criteria are that he will enjoy, and profit by, association with men of similar achievements, tastes, and interests; and that he meets the standards of attainment in science, literature, or the arts that have been set by the Club itself. "When men are thus knit together by a love of society, not a spirit of faction, and do not meet to censure or annoy those that are absent, but to enjoy one another; when they are thus combined for their own improvement, or for the good of others, or at least to relax themselves from the business of the day, by an innocent and cheerful conversation; there may be something very useful in these little institutions and establishments." So said Joseph Addison in writing of English clubs more than two and a half centuries ago; and so must have thought that handful of men who met on the evening of November 16, 1878, in Major Powell's parlor on M Street and organized the Cosmos Club, which ever since that night (as Wallace Stegner has written) has been "the closest thing to a social headquarters for Washington's intellectual elite."

We are tempted to cite by name and accomplishment examples from the roster of distinguished men who have held membership in the Club (such as three Presidents of the United States, at least two Vice Presidents, twelve justices of the Su-

preme Court, eight members of the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, and many of the nation's top scientists, writers, and artists), but such a list immediately gets out of hand and threatens to become endless. Perhaps we should rest our case somewhat in a lighter vein by repeating William Henry Holmes's eleven categories of Cosmos Club members, which he enumerated in 1904 at the Club's twenty-fifth anniversary dinner:

1. Geologists, Biologists, Anthropologists, Chemists, and Astronomers—including many scientific men;
2. Writers of prose, poetry, and editorials—mostly literary men;
3. Painters, Engravers, and Sculptors—all men of genius;
4. Doctors, Dentists, Physicians, and Specialists—but no quacks;
5. Lawyers—but no shysters;
6. Army and Navy Officers—all heroes;
7. Teachers, and Professors, and some Educators;
8. Preachers and Ministers—all Divines;
9. Bankers and Financiers;
10. Designers of buildings—all Architects;
11. Statesmen, Diplomats, Secretaries, Directors, Chiefs, Superintendents, Chief Clerks, office holders, and others; some 400 in all, and absolutely select.

The title of a book published in 1967, *The Cosmos of Arthur Holly Compton*, a compendium of the public papers of that distinguished scientist, suggests that every man builds up around him his own *cosmos*. It would not be quite accurate to say that the *cosmos* of each of the 10,000 or so members of the Cosmos Club, past and present, would merit preservation in a bound volume; but we ponder on the immensity of that combined *cosmos* that would represent our membership. Every club is in essence an amalgamation of the persons who comprise it, and so a history of our Club must be not only a matter of facts, figures, chronology, and records but also a distillation of the spirit that has united the members and of what might be called their composite personality. We believe Dr. Washburn has met these re-

quirements and produced not only a work of special interest to the Club's members but also one that in the years to come will be viewed in some degree as an important contribution to the scientific and social history of Washington and even the nation. We hope, indeed, that it may have some appeal to the general public, some of whom may need proof that a private gentlemen's club can be more than "the scene of savage joys and the school of coarse good fellowship and noise" (as the poet William Cowper put it); it can be a haven of accomplishment that well deserves to have endured and flourished for a hundred years—through national crises of wars and rumors of wars; through the anxieties of panics and depressions; through twenty-one Presidents of the United States, from Rutherford B. Hayes (R., Ohio) to Jimmy Carter (D., Georgia); and, *mirabile dictu*, through ninety-seven Club Presidents, from John Wesley Powell to Lloyd Wesley Swift.

The Club's successive Boards of Management have unfailingly supported the work of the History Committee and particularly the efforts that went into the making of this volume. For this we thank them all. We extend special thanks also to John F. Peckham, president of The Meriden Gravure Co., and Roderick Stinehour, of The Stinehour Press, for the unusual attention they have given this production and the expertise in design and printing that is so evident.

PAUL H. OEHSE

Chairman, History Committee, 1977-

GEORGE CROSSETTE

Chairman, 1968-1977

PREFATORY NOTE

When the supply of the *Centennial History* became exhausted, the Board of Management determined to reprint it with an addendum covering the momentous events that have taken place in Club history over the past twenty years. The Board assigned responsibility for the book to the History Committee. The History Committee at once turned to Wilcomb E. Washburn, the author of the centennial volume, and asked him to write the addendum. He graciously agreed to undertake the task, even though he knew some of the difficulties he faced. He has now completed the work in a most outstanding manner. He wishes to acknowledge the review assistance of members of the Board of Management and of the History Committee assigned to that task. However, Wilcomb E. Washburn himself is responsible for the distinguished history and the addendum you now hold in your hands. For this he deserves great credit and the gratitude of all members of the Club. The appendices in the original volume marking a century of Club history have not been changed. The *Centennial History* remains a snapshot in time; the addendum bring us up to date as we approach the beginning of the new century.

WAYNE RASMUSSEN

Chairman, History Committee

A Centennial History 1878-1978

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

HISTORY OF CLUBS

THE origin of clubs is perhaps as old as man's association with his fellow men. Definition is all important. How formal an organization is required to render an informal association a club? And for what purpose? Is the mere pleasure of social exchange sufficient to define a club? The history of English clubs provides a clue to the definition of the term.

The first English club, the Court of Good Company, was founded by Thomas Occleve (or Hoccleve) about 1400. Occleve was a government employee and poet who was known for his disdain for convention. He had intended to become a priest (taking a civil service job to prepare for it) but when he failed to achieve the priesthood turned to a life of pleasure. One aspect of this life was the creation of a dining club of definite membership with "traditions so firmly established that they may well be called rules." While the sociological explanation given by Jack C. Ross, in his *An Assembly of Good Fellows: Voluntary Associations in History* (Westport, Connecticut, 1976), page 207, that "the theme of role failure leading to hedonism" was "probably not an uncommon cause of club life," it need not necessarily be accepted as a cause either of the origin of English clubs or of the Cosmos Club, although the latter owed its inspiration to another government employee—John Wesley Powell—who was

also known for his disdain for convention. Occleve and his companions, Ross notes, "found in the lusty life of the tavern the stimulation for poetry and creativity that they wanted," an atmosphere that "could not be tolerated in the closed confines of the court and church areas of the old City of London."

The next English club known to history was founded by Sir Walter Raleigh, another unconventional government official and, like Powell, an explorer. The membership of Raleigh's club, like that of Occleve, was laced with literary and political leaders. Raleigh's group met at the Mermaid Tavern. Shakespeare is reputed to have died of a fever contracted after a drinking bout there with other club members.

With the introduction of coffee into England in the mid-seventeenth century club life was given a big impetus. The coffeehouse became a center for discussion, trade, and debate. It was "a kind of neutral territory," in the words of Ross, "providing formalized informality." Like the tavern it was a place where "men could have the company of other men, without the ties of family life." It was also a place where ideas could be debated in an atmosphere free of the restrictions of the medieval university. A voluntary association (club), like the Royal Society, provided a more fertile ground for the reception, growth, and dissemination of ideas than the universities did, as Isaac Newton, who knew both, noted.

The Royal Society—the focal point of English scientific thought in the seventeenth century—provides a not inappropriate analogy to the Cosmos Club. Samuel Pepys, the famous diarist, on the occasion of his election to the Royal Society, recorded in his diary for February 15, 1665, how the Royal Society combined a formal scientific discourse with a hearty "club supper" on the day of his election. The Cosmos Club, as James K. Flack, in his *Desideratum in Washington: The Intellectual Community in the Capital City, 1870-1900* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1975), has shown, also drew its membership from the intellec-

tual elite of a capital city and combined intellectual discussion with hearty good fellowship.

Other groups in England and America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, unified by common interests—for example, in literature, travel, politics, and military affairs—formed similar associations in which the professional interests of their members could be nurtured in a socially agreeable atmosphere.

The attractions of a club environment are much greater than the facilities, such as a fine library, that they may contain. As one observer of London clubs put it:

Every member is master; he can come when he pleases, and stay away when he pleases, without anything going wrong; he has the command of regular servants, without having to pay or manage them; he can have whatever meal or refreshment he wants, at all hours, and served up as in his own house. He orders just what he pleases, having no interest to think of but his own. In short, it is impossible to suppose a greater degree of liberty in living.

In his club the member is freed from the inconveniences of home and office. Whether the "great chair of a full and pleasant town club" is, as Dr. Samuel Johnson, the epitome of the eighteenth-century clubman, asserted, "the throne of human felicity," it has certainly seemed so to continuing generations of clubmen.

EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A CLUB HISTORY

"Happy is the Club whose annals are dull." So reads the report of the Board of Management at the annual meeting of January 12, 1880. Fortunately, for the historian, the Board's observation was not prophetic insofar as the Cosmos Club itself was concerned.

That the Cosmos Club was always conscious of its responsibility to record its history is evident from the preservation and

continuity of its minutes from its initial informal meeting to the present day.

A definite commitment to add a historical dimension to its current records occurred during the Club meeting of March 1, 1886, when, with forty-six members present, Garrick Mallery moved that the Board of Management be directed "to provide suitable albums to contain photographs of all members of the Club and make arrangements to obtain the photographs of members." The motion was seconded and agreed to. In compliance with the directive, arrangements were made with Photographer Prince at 11th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, to take photographs of members of the Club at \$2 per half dozen and \$3 per dozen cabinet size. The Treasurer was requested to provide the albums.

A further concern for history was demonstrated during the Board of Management meeting of January 23, 1888, when, on motion of Jerome H. Kidder, the Secretary was authorized to have a list of members printed for the bulletin board, and, also on motion of Dr. Kidder, the Secretary and Treasurer were authorized "to have some suitable arrangement made for the preservation of their records."

At the October 12, 1891, meeting of the Board, the Secretary was authorized to "prepare for publication, for Mr. Alfred Benson, a brief sketch of the History of the Club with list of members, and to allow a copy of the work when published to be placed in the club rooms."

The first major move toward preparing a Club history, however, derived from a resolution of Grove K. Gilbert, at the December 12, 1898, Board of Management meeting, that the Club hold a special meeting to commemorate its twenty-first anniversary. The Board was charged with selecting the date and making the arrangements and was also instructed to consider the desirability and feasibility of publishing a historical volume in connection with the commemorative meeting.

The Board, in responding to this resolution, recommended that the proposed celebration be postponed until the twenty-fifth anniversary of the birth of the Club and "that the Club authorize the appointment of a committee of 3 to collect data appropriate to a memorial volume to be published at that time." In a Club meeting held on March 13, 1899, the membership approved the recommendation of the Board and authorized the President to appoint a committee of three for the purpose.

Grove K. Gilbert, Robert Fletcher, and William A. DeCaindry were appointed a committee for the memorial volume.

Little was heard from the committee for the following two years, but on June 3, 1903, at a special meeting of the Club, a letter was read from the chairman of the committee transmitting a manuscript entitled "Documentary History of the Cosmos Club" prepared entirely by Mr. DeCaindry. On motion of Richard Rathbun the report was received and the committee discharged.

The Board then discussed the appropriate date for the twenty-fifth anniversary meeting. Three dates were given consideration. "November 16 (being the date in 1878 when the first informal gathering was held at the residence of Maj. J. W. Powell), December 13 (being the date in the same year when the Club was incorporated), and January 13 (being the date in 1879, when the first annual meeting for the election of officers was held)." On resolution of Mr. DeCaindry, it was decided that the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration be held on November 16, 1903, with various distinguished members invited to deliver addresses on that occasion. On motion of Mr. Rathbun, it was resolved that the documentary history of the Club prepared by Mr. DeCaindry be made a part of the volume contemplated by the resolution providing for the twenty-fifth anniversary meeting. The celebration went off as planned.

Anyone aware of printing costs today will be astounded at the price charged for printing 750 copies of the 351-page Club

history. The Harrisburg Publishing Co. was low bidder in offering to print 750 copies of the work for \$425. The Manz Engraving Co. of Chicago offered to do the plates for \$175.

As the fiftieth anniversary of the Cosmos Club approached, another occasion for considering the Club's history arose. On January 27, 1928, at a special meeting of the Board of Management, Leland O. Howard announced that he wished to bring up at the next regular meeting of the Board the matter of suitable recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Club. At the February 20 meeting Dr. Howard noted that the fiftieth anniversary would occur in November of that year and suggested that members be encouraged to suggest ways of commemorating the anniversary including the possible publication of a Club history. At the meeting of March 12, suggestions from Club members were read. Dr. Howard was ready with the outline of a proposed history. Thomas W. Page endorsed Howard's suggestion for a history volume provided the right men could be persuaded to write the various chapters. By the April 16 meeting of the Board a committee for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary had been appointed with Howard as chairman and Marcus Benjamin and Lawrence B. Evans as members. At the June 18 meeting Dr. Howard presented the report of the committee recommending that the celebration be held on Monday, November 12, with addresses by several Club members. Howard's recommendations were approved by the Board. By October 15 Howard had arranged for ten 10-minute addresses.

The fiftieth anniversary celebration was held on November 12 in the Lafayette Square Clubhouse in the large room on the first floor "formerly used as an assembly hall." Two hundred and fifty members were present, though Dr. Howard was forced by illness to miss the meeting and Mr. Evans had died in the interim. Short addresses were made by Henry Smith Pritchett, one of the five surviving founders, Charles E. Munroe, Harvey W. Wiley, Marcus Benjamin, George Otis Smith, Gifford Pin-

chot, and Roland Cotton Smith. A poem was read by President Wendell P. Stafford. William H. Holmes, one of the five living founders, although present, asked to be excused from giving an address.

The proceedings of the fiftieth anniversary meeting were once more printed with astonishing economy. Gibson Brothers of Washington offered to print 2,000 copies of the 47-page pamphlet for \$180, while the Lord Baltimore Press bid a high \$240. Cost of the seven plates showing signatures of the members was \$35 extra. Marcus Benjamin, in charge of obtaining a printer, was authorized by the Board on March 18, 1929, to have the book printed by the lowest bidder. By May 13 the proceedings were printed and ready for distribution.

The Club's concern for its history took several novel turns in the 1930s. On January 13, 1937, the Board of Management authorized the typing of the minutes of the Club beginning with the first organizational meeting. The minutes, so typed, were then to be bound in permanent and uniform volumes. The typing was done by Mrs. Myrtle Poe Donaldson, a former clerk in the bookkeeper's office of the Club, whose meticulous care has left the Club with an outstandingly efficient official record. The first volume of the minutes was exhibited to members of the Board of Management at its June 16, 1937, meeting. The completed project—eleven bound volumes incorporating the minutes of the Club since its founding—was exhibited on the table for the inspection of Club members at the annual meeting of the Club on January 15, 1940. The volumes have been kept up to date and are available for inspection by Club members.

The creation of a permanent record of Club minutes undoubtedly inspired thoughts of compiling a permanent history of the Club, a subject discussed at the September 15, 1937, meeting of the Board of Management. "It was pointed out that unless this be done in the very near future, the record would lose those interesting personal anecdotes which, in an organiza-

tion of this sort, constitute such a valuable part of its history, and which only those who participated in the early life of the Club would be able to furnish.”

In February 1939 a committee was appointed to consider the feasibility of establishing the office of Club Historian and a biographical file relating to Cosmos Club members. On March 15, 1939, the committee reported to the Board recommending that the Board of Management appoint a Historian who would establish a card index of references to Club members past and present. The committee estimated that the data could be obtained from *Who's Who in America* and other published sources in 85 percent of the cases. Questionnaires and research in obituary notices, etc., would attempt to fill in the biographical gaps on the remaining 15 percent. The committee recommended an appropriation of \$100 to cover expected costs in 1939. The Board accepted the report insofar as it involved no cost but deferred authorization of any expenditure to support the project.

A project to study the possibility of compiling a complete list of Cosmos Club members was, in 1940, put in the hands of a special committee consisting of W. C. Huntington, J. E. Graf, and L. H. Adams. On September 26, 1940, the committee reported to the Board of Management that it was “unanimously favorable towards the idea of publishing such a list.” The list would, the committee noted, constitute a valuable historical record. For reasons of economy the committee recommended that the reference for each individual be kept to two printed lines. Thomas M. Spaulding was recommended as a “happy choice” for editor. The report of the committee was approved in principle and the President was authorized to appoint a committee to undertake the preparation of the proposed listing, which was to include in it “a concise statement of the Club’s history.”

The list—the so-called “Red Book”—was published in 1941 and listed all members from the beginning to March 1941. It included a short preface by Colonel Spaulding. Spaulding, in

his *The Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square* (Washington, 1949), noted that "page proof was read by the compiler, after some months of work, on the day that he was recalled from contented retirement to active duty with the army. If the job had started only a little later it would never have been completed, or at any rate would have been delayed several years." Spaulding's *Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square*, a 56-page survey of the Club's history, was the most complete account of the Club's past to that time.

The "Red Book" has since been updated, bringing the list through September 1968—about 7,500 names—by the History Committee under two chairmen, Kip Ross and George Crossette. Crossette also updated Colonel Spaulding's preface in the 1968 edition.

Another major component of the Club's commitment to its history was the establishment of the *Cosmos Club Bulletin*. Although the first issue did not see the light of day until November 1947, the establishment of such a publication was contemplated by the Club Secretary, Charles S. Piggot, in 1939. The war intervened and the project was not revived until President Waldo Leland took steps to make it a reality. As the annual report for 1947 noted, the *Bulletin* "is intended to serve the purpose of an official gazette and also to provide a medium for the presentation, to the members, of the problems facing the Board of Management and the various committees, and also to provide a medium by means of which these problems may be discussed and commented upon by the members." The *Bulletin* has continued since that time serving not only the needs of the moment but the needs of the future as it looks to the past. It has had three editors in its 30-year history: Frederick G. Fassett, Jr., Paul H. Oehser, and Donald H. Williams.

On March 17, 1954, the Board of Management appointed Solon J. Buck chairman of a committee to study the records and archives of the Club "with a view," as Secretary Paul Oehser's letter to Buck noted, "to preparing a full-length Club history."

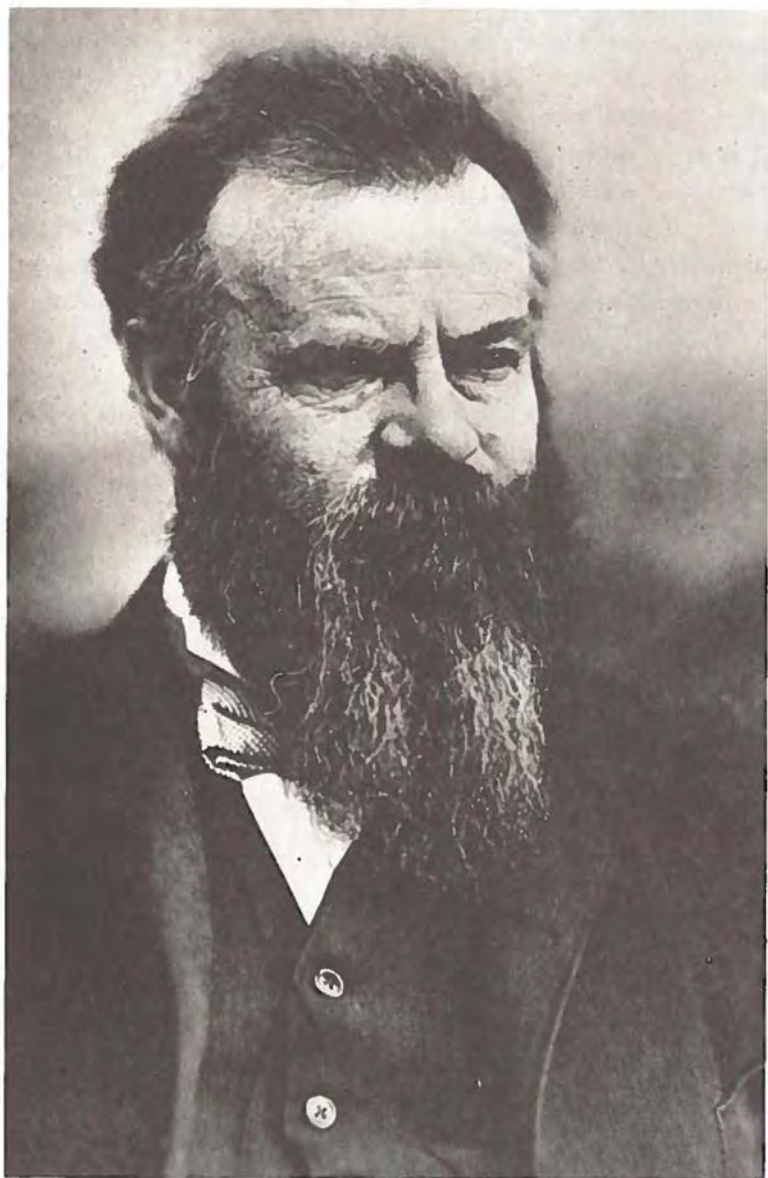
Ernst Posner and Waldo G. Leland were the other members of the committee. The proposal to prepare a history was a byproduct of the Special Committee on Admissions Policies and Procedures chaired by Leland, which, among its several recommendations, had urged "that a complete and major history of the Club might be an important means of perpetuating the high character of its membership."

Dr. Buck's committee, however, had its eyes primarily on preserving the records of the Club. His group brought in Norman Pfeiffer of the staff of the National Records Management Council of New York to make a walk-through survey of the Club records, which were found in at least three different places in the Clubhouse and garage. The Council also submitted to the committee about February 3, 1955, a report entitled "The Cosmos Club: Archival Appraisal and Control Program." Buck's committee concluded that the records problem of the Club could be solved only by providing at least a part-time paid employee to serve as archivist or record officer, who should assemble all the noncurrent records of the Club in one place, should eliminate and dispose of any material of no further value, and should arrange, file, pack, and shelve the remainder in such manner that its continued preservation would be likely. Buck hoped that it might be possible to employ a full-time archivist-librarian to serve both library and archive functions, but efforts to achieve an understanding with the Library Committee were unsuccessful. He concluded that the Club should do nothing further about its noncurrent records until it could see its way clear to obtaining the services of a competent archivist or records officer. Buck recommended that his committee be discharged and a new one appointed if the objective of a "complete and major history" was desired.

The Club Executive, David J. Guy, concurred in Buck's recommendation, at the same time pleading the inability of the Club staff and the librarian to extend their work beyond their

regular duties. The archival appraisal and control program, recommended by the National Records Management Council, was never implemented.

In 1957, under the presidency of Charles S. Piggot, Club history matters reached a more formal standing when the History Committee came into being. Operating at first on an *ad hoc* basis, under the chairmanship of E. John Long, it soon was given permanent status. The prime objective of the committee, now headed by Kip Ross, was announced in the committee's first annual report: "We propose to write a History of the Cosmos Club which will be more than the usual kind of club history with its long list of members, description of physical features, tributes to sainted founders, and catalogues of their relics." The committee, under Mr. Ross and its succeeding chairmen (George Crossette and Paul H. Oehser), has pursued that objective. It has taken the occasion of the Club's centennial to bring the project to fruition.



Major John Wesley Powell as the second director of the U.S. Geological Survey (March 18, 1881, to June 7, 1894).

A CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF THE CLUB'S HISTORY

FOUNDING AND EARLY HISTORY

INSTITUTIONS are often marked by the character of their founders and if anyone can be called *the* founder of the Cosmos Club, that man is John Wesley Powell. The organization meeting took place in his house at 910 M Street, NW, on November 16, 1878. At Powell's instigation, the members of the already existing Philosophical Society of Washington, at its December 12, 1878, meeting, voted to join with the new club to prevent a purposeless rivalry between two groups with similar aims.

Powell's personality also determined that the Cosmos Club would be unlike the pre-existing scientific and literary clubs in Washington. The Cosmos Club was to be selective and discriminating, as the other groups were. But it was not organized for the purpose of hearing and commenting upon papers, formal or informal. Rather, Powell adapted his own persuasive, pragmatic approach to governmental science to the formation of the Club. High achievement was a prerequisite to admission; but the atmosphere inside was to be informal and easy-going.

This is not to say that Powell created the Cosmos Club single-handedly. Those who gathered at his house that Saturday in November had similar ideas. It was Powell's genius to organize their thoughts and express their will. One of those whose thoughts

ran in the same channel as Powell's was Clarence Edward Dutton, a soldier and geologist. Dutton, in his remarks at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Club, reported that at the end of September 1878 he had returned to Washington from New York where he had dined at the Century Club with old friends. "Why have you not in Washington a club like the Century?" he was asked by his New York friends. To Dutton the question was a challenge and he took the first opportunity to confer with Powell and Garrick Mallery on the question. Dutton reported that Powell and Mallery welcomed the suggestion.

The same day Dutton met William Harkness, a physician and astronomer, in the lobby of the Ebbitt House and found him receptive to the idea. Harkness agreed to canvass individuals in the Naval Observatory. Another conference with Powell and Mallery led to the decision to sound out other scientists such as Edward Singleton Holden of the Naval Observatory, Frederick Endlich of the Hayden Survey, and Jerome Kidder of the Smithsonian, "all young and energetic men heartily in favor of the project."

Another individual in whom the idea of a scientific and social society was germinating was Henry S. Pritchett, astronomer and educator. Pritchett was among the many American and English astronomers who observed the total eclipse of the sun in Colorado in August 1878. As he noted in his address on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Club, the astronomers gathered at Colorado Springs after the eclipse for a symposium. Arthur C. Ranyard, secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society, a delightful talker, "pictured in such alluring words the joys of social intercourse in the Royal Astronomical Society that, as we listened to his descriptions, we highly resolved to go back to Washington and found a social-scientific club." Recollections years after an event are notoriously unreliable, but we can vouch for those of Dutton and Pritchett concerning the several influences that joined to produce the Cosmos Club.

Something was in the air in 1878 that found expression in its creation.

The spirit uniting the founders of the Cosmos Club was well expressed by Pritchett. "They believed," he noted, "that no philosophy is so serene and so comforting as that which unites the love of study and of books with the fellowship of men." It was Powell, however, who harnessed this sentiment to the practical requirements of founding a social club.

The character of Washington's scientific elite at the time of the founding was also well described by Pritchett: "There were no rich people. Everybody had his daily work in some department of the government, and carried his lunch with him. The more aristocratic wrapped their luncheons in cotton napkins, the bourgeoisie carried theirs in paper bags. They all came home to a half-past five o'clock dinner." Could anyone shape this inward-looking bureaucracy into an outward-looking company of free spirits?

Powell prepared the ground carefully. First he invited those who had indicated interest in the plan to meet at his house to discuss the matter informally. Although no minutes were kept, we have the reminiscences of several of those in attendance. It is clear that there was a wide diversity of opinion on what sort of club should be established and that Powell served as a skilled manager of the debate and brought about a practical resolution of the differences of opinion.

What emerged was a commitment to "a just mean, in which anything like luxury or ostentation was regarded with disfavor, and only the essentials of comfort and the conveniences for rational intercourse were considered." Dutton was to characterize the agreed-upon philosophy as "that temperate, simple, and thrifty line of policy which has always characterized the Club and from which it has never deviated since the first preliminary meeting." Although Dutton's judgment was pronounced on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Club, it is not

inconsistent with the character of the Club on its hundredth anniversary.

Two days after the November 16 meeting, a circular was sent to various individuals proposed as original members taking note of the November 16 meeting and indicating a resolution to organize a social club in Washington on the model of the Century Club of New York and the Scientific Club of London, to be called the Scientific Club of Washington and to be composed of "men devoted to or interested in science, professionally or otherwise." The circular noted the intention to procure rooms in some central part of the city for use during the afternoon and evening only; to form a library of periodicals; to provide only "extremely simple refreshments, at least at first; and, in general, to make a place where it will be possible for the members of the Club to meet socially at any time under pleasant surroundings." Those interested were invited to a second meeting at Powell's house on November 25.

A rough draft of a constitution was adopted on November 25. The admission fee was set at \$25 for resident members with \$20 annual dues. A special committee was also set up at this meeting to report on possible quarters, which a majority of those attending recommended be found near the site of the United States Treasury at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

The special committee, of which Powell himself was a member, reported back on December 2 recommending the lease of rooms in the Corcoran Building at the corner of 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, where the Washington Hotel now stands. The rooms, described on pages 24-26, looked out on the Treasury Building, the White House beyond, and on the Washington Monument.

A name for the Club was also approved at the December 2 meeting. Garrick Mallery proposed the name *Cosmos Club*, but one member pointed out that the appropriate Greek spelling of the word began with a "K." In the discussion that followed, the

Secretary *pro tem* proposed sardonically that the word *Club* should also be spelled with a "K"—"just for symmetry, you know." Pritchett, in reminiscing on the matter at the fiftieth anniversary of the founding, reported that Professor Holden had proposed the name Saturn Club but that after long discussion the name was turned down. The records indicate, however, that the name *Saturn* did not make it to the final balloting stage at which "Kosmos" garnered four votes, "Scientific" one, "Joseph Henry" one, and "Cosmos" twenty-one. The name *Cosmos Club of Washington City*, as originally proposed by Mallery, was thereupon unanimously adopted, and the meeting adjourned to January 6, 1879, at 8 p.m. in the new Club rooms in the Corcoran Building.

Before the next meeting could take place, however, the Club's first crisis arose. It was learned that several members of the Philosophical Society of Washington proposed the establishment of a club similar to the Cosmos, perhaps by transforming the Philosophical Society into a club. The Philosophical Society, a formal outgrowth of the informal "Scientific Club" or "Saturday Club" established by Joseph Henry, first secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in the 1850s, acknowledged Henry's leadership. Formed in the Regents' Room of the Smithsonian on March 13, 1871, at a meeting called by Henry in response to the request of forty-three Washingtonians interested in creating such a society, the members chose Henry as its first president. As "a society for the *advancement* of science" it served a role Henry thought necessary in order to establish a more authoritative position for science in American society. Its tradition of evening dress for participants (still maintained by the president and speaker at each meeting) symbolized its concern with establishing the dignity of science. Its formal papers and careful comments constituted the main business of its meetings. Refreshments were allowed, but only at the conclusion of the scholarly session. The Cosmos Club reversed the priorities.

Perhaps it was only coincidental but the death of Joseph Henry in the spring of 1878 seemed to lift the mantle of grim seriousness from the shoulders of the founding members of the Cosmos Club. While revering the memory of Washington's leading scientist, as indicated by the single vote to name the Club for him, the Club founders sought to push off in new directions.

Powell and his cohorts moved rapidly to forestall the threatened conflict with the Philosophical Society. An emergency meeting of the Cosmos Club was called for December 12 at the Army Medical Museum at 7:30 p.m., one-half hour before the regularly scheduled meeting of the Philosophical Society at the same site. The business of the meeting: to ask members to vote yes or no on inviting any member of the Philosophical Society who wished to do so to join the Cosmos Club before January 1, 1879, as one of the original members. If the vote was yes, the offer would be made to the members of the Philosophical Society meeting at 8 p.m. The vote was in the affirmative and James Clarke Welling, a member of both organizations, was instructed to invite any present member of the Philosophical Society who wished to become a member of the Cosmos Club to attend a meeting to be held on Monday, December 16, at Major Powell's house. The next morning copies of the resolution were mailed to every member of the Philosophical Society confirming the invitation. This brilliant tactical move, usually attributed to Powell, prevented the potential conflict and cemented the interlocking relationship that has existed ever since between the two groups. The Philosophical Society continues to maintain its formality within the more informal confines of the Cosmos Club.

The next day, December 13, the Cosmos Club was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. "The particular objects and business of this association," the incorporation document noted, "are the advancement of its members in science, literature and art, their mutual improvement by social intercourse, the acquisition and maintenance of a library, and

the collection and care of materials and appliances relating to the above objects, under the restrictions and regulations established in its by-laws." The officers of the Club were then elected: President, John Wesley Powell; Vice President, William Harkness; Secretary, Edward S. Holden; Treasurer, John Shaw Billings; Trustees, Clarence E. Dutton, James C. Welling, Garrick Mallery.

At the December 16 meeting at Powell's house, Powell welcomed potential new members from the Philosophical Society and announced that the Treasurer stood ready to enroll those who wished to join and to take advance dues of any who wished to pay at that time.

On January 6, 1879, a meeting was held in the Club rooms in the Corcoran Building at 7 p.m. and a set of bylaws, rules, and regulations unanimously adopted. A resolution naming the original sixty members as Founders was also passed. An admission fee of \$25 was fixed with annual dues of \$20 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents. Annual meetings and election of officers were set for the second Monday of January of each year.

The first annual meeting, on January 13, 1879, a week after the meeting described above, elected Spencer F. Baird, Henry's successor as secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, as President; James C. Welling as Vice President; Edward S. Holden as Secretary; and John S. Billings as Treasurer. John Wesley Powell, Garrick Mallery, and William Harkness were elected Trustees. A Committee on Admissions, consisting of W. M. Mew, E. M. Gallaudet, Otis T. Mason, Edward Goodfellow, John R. Eastman, F. M. Endlich, Henry Adams, Henry Gannett, C. H. Davis, and G. K. Gilbert, was also chosen. Powell's step down from President to Trustee undoubtedly reflected his desire to avoid charges of self-aggrandizement against one so closely identified with the founding of the Club. Powell and Mallery assumed their more justified roles at the annual meeting of 1881 when Powell was once again elected President and Mallery Vice President.

The creation of the Cosmos Club and the consolidation of four governmental surveys of Western lands coincided, and Powell was the master manipulator who accomplished both tasks. Because of the coincidence it has sometimes been charged that Powell founded the Cosmos Club in order to enhance his dominant role in shaping the federal government's scientific policy. James K. Flack, in his study *Desideratum in Washington: The Intellectual Community in the Capital City, 1870-1900* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1975), has rejected this inference and pointed out that while the establishment of the Cosmos Club and the consolidation of the surveys were not merely coincidental, and while Powell's achievements were inseparable from the Club's successful beginning, in fact Powell contributed far more to the Club than he could possibly have gained from it.

It will not serve any valid purpose to rehearse the complicated fight over the government surveys, Powell's role in suggesting a rational alternative, and his eventual appointment as head of the U.S. Geological Survey and of the Smithsonian's Bureau of American Ethnology since these facts are not directly related to Club history. It should be noted, however, that Clarence King, Powell's candidate for the directorship of the proposed U.S. Geological Survey, which Powell recommended be formed to undertake the geological investigations previously carried on by the competing surveys, was not only the most distinguished candidate for the job but also a close Cosmos Club friend of Powell and one of the original founders of the Club. But the Club as such played no Machiavellian role in the matter; rather, it served as Powell intended it to serve: as a place where scientific men could gather informally and discuss the problems facing the scientific community in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than of hostility.

While the debate over the consolidation of the Western surveys may not be directly related to the founding of the Cosmos Club, it surely influenced its founding. The Cosmos Club was,



“Cosmos Club ’88”: Reproduction of linecut after crayon drawing by Paul Renouard, reproduced in *Harper’s Weekly*, September 29, 1888, showing (left to right) Garrick Mallery, President, 1882; William Harkness, President, 1884; Adolphus W. Greely, Army officer, member 1887–1935; George Brown Goode, President, 1893; John Shaw Billings, President, 1886 and 1887; and John Wesley Powell, President, 1878 and 1881.

to some degree, an experiment in conflict resolution: the conflict was not between those on the side of good versus those on the side of evil. It was a conflict between good men and other good men whose personalities and interests varied widely. Misunderstanding and suspicion can govern the relations of good men separated from one another. Disagreements and misunderstandings are more readily overcome if one can meet one’s peers informally and socially than if both sides remain removed and aloof. Communication by published polemics is no substitute for face-to-face conversation. The Cosmos Club was designed to provide an arena of informality and sociability that did not previously exist in Washington. Doubtless Powell saw the Cosmos

Club as one way to reconcile the diversity and divisions rapidly emerging in the American scientific establishment. Not only the divisions over the Western surveys but also the increasing proliferation of scientific specialities called for the existence of a club like the Cosmos Club. Charles Edward Munroe, in his talk at the fiftieth anniversary of the Club, noted that in an era of more intensive specialization, with its "narrowing influence upon the practitioner himself," the Club provided that, "by association, they would be broadened again." Munroe attributed this far-seeing purpose to the founders' vision, and there seems no reason to doubt his judgment.

Probably no time was more appropriate for the founding in Washington of an informal association of those concerned with putting the American scientific establishment in order than the year 1878. John Wesley Powell's role as the principal founder of the Cosmos Club and as the effective manager of that process of scientific rationalization brought together the two events in a significant reciprocal relationship.

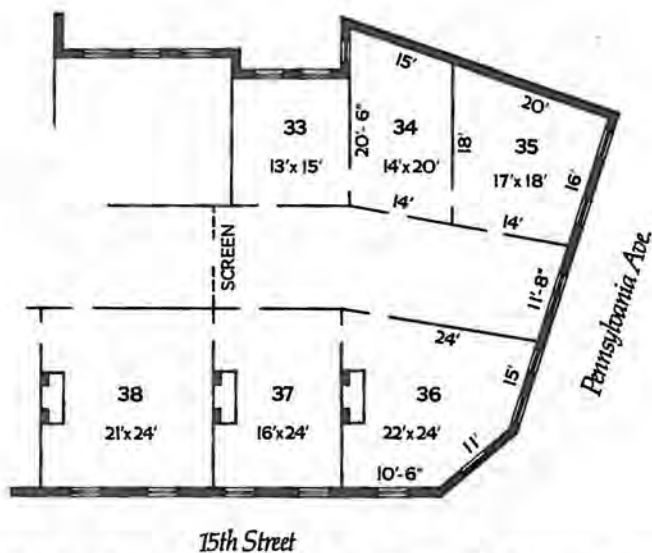
THE SUCCESSIVE HOMES OF THE CLUB

Serving as it does as a "home away from home," a club's location and physical layout are of no little importance. The Cosmos Club has been fortunate in its successive homes. All have been close to the center of official Washington; each successive home has gravitated toward the northwest as the city's power and influence moved in that direction.

The Club's first headquarters were three rented rooms on the third floor of the Corcoran Building then standing opposite the U.S. Treasury on the corner of 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue where the Washington Hotel now stands. The three rooms, shown on the accompanying sketch, occupied the cor-

ner of the building where the avenue turns into 15th Street. Few locations in Washington can surpass this corner for drama and excitement, and one can imagine Club members surveying the Presidential inaugural parade of 1881 from this vantage point.

The original three rented rooms, 33, 36, and 37, were opened to Club members on January 6, 1879. Originally Room 33 was the steward's room, Room 36 the smoking room, and Room 37 the library. During the first year, Room 33 was temporarily given up (to be reclaimed in December) and two additional larger rooms (34 and 35, which became the steward's new quarters) were rented. A screen was placed across the hall to separate the Club quarters from the rest of the offices on the floor. The five rooms and hall (which provided 2,200 feet of floor space)



Plan showing the several rooms of the Cosmos Club quarters on the third floor of the Corcoran Building at Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street, NW, 1879-1882.



View from Treasury Building to Capitol showing Cosmos Club quarters, 1879–1882, on third floor of Corcoran Building at northeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street, NW.

rented for \$53 a month. The cost included light, heat, and the services of a watchman. The Club's location provided easy pedestrian access from government offices (such as the Department of Agriculture and the Smithsonian Institution) centered on the Pennsylvania Avenue and Mall axes.

On February 6, 1882, on the motion of Simon Newcomb, the Club appointed a select committee of five to consider measures to assure the future well-being of the Club. Among the recommendations of the committee was the lease or purchase of a separate building. A subcommittee of three was appointed to determine whether a suitable building could be obtained. At the November 6 meeting of the Club, the availability of a house and lot on Lafayette Square was reported. On November 13, the committee's recommendation that the Club rent No. 23 Lafayette Square (or Madison Place) for one year at a rent not to exceed \$1,680 was adopted and the lease made.



Watercolor sketch of Lafayette Square, 1822, by the Baroness Hyde de Neuville, showing St. John's Church and the Dolley Madison House. Photographic reproduction of original in possession of St. John's Church.

View showing the several Lafayette Square homes of the Cosmos Club acquired 1882-1917.



On December 28, 1882, a reception was held in the Club's new quarters in the middle of the block on the east side of "the President's Park." The park looked on the homes of many famous individuals, and the Club's growing need for space soon saw it expanding to incorporate some of those houses. A second house was acquired at the northeast corner of the square, built in 1818 by Richard Cutts, brother-in-law of President James Madison. Madison had purchased the house from his brother-in-law in 1828. After Madison's death in 1836, his wife, Dolley, occupied the house until her death in 1849. In 1851, Admiral Charles Wilkes purchased the house, replacing the gable roof with a flat one and changing the entrance from Madison Place to H Street. The original doorway was converted to a window. The house served as General George B. McClellan's headquarters during the Civil War. In 1884 Mrs. Mary Wilkes, widow of Admiral Wilkes, offered to sell the house to the Cosmos Club. The sale was consummated in June 1886, and in July a third story was added to the existing two. A one-story assembly room was built on the adjoining lot south of the house.

John Wesley Powell, at the Club meeting of December 6, 1886, a month before the house-warming for the new quarters was held on January 5, 1887, introduced a resolution thanking the architect, William M. Poindexter, for his services in planning and supervising the reconstruction of the building "which he has made a delightful home for the Club." The resolution assured Poindexter that his fellow members profoundly appreciated his devotion to the Club's interests "exhibited in this monument of his talent, the beautiful home of the Cosmos Club."

A special committee, chaired by G. Brown Goode, on April 7, 1890, presented its report on the means by which a side entrance could be provided so that organizations like the Philosophical Society of Washington and the National Geographic Society could conduct their meetings without disturbance to Club members. On February 9, 1891, Grove Karl Gilbert, who had been



Dolley Madison House after purchase by the Cosmos Club and addition of a third story, 1886. The H Street entrance had replaced the original Madison Place entrance after Charles Wilkes purchased the house in 1851 following Mrs. Madison's death in 1849. Wilkes also replaced the gable roof seen in the Hyde de Neuville sketch of 1822 with a flat one.

instrumental in obtaining Cosmos Club support for the fledgling geographical society, moved that the side door be numbered 1518 and the Clubhouse door 1520, which motion was adopted.

On March 13, 1893, the architect and Club member James R. Marshall presented a report to the Board of Management on improving the Clubhouse at a cost of \$13,300. Marshall proposed to install electric lights and a fan to improve ventilation in the assembly hall and to add two stories over the front portion of the assembly hall (making one large room on the second story and four chambers on the third). He further proposed to construct a grillroom in the basement, to build over the then existing areaway on the northeast to provide committee rooms



Dolley Madison House showing alterations made by architect and Club member J. R. Marshall in 1893. The existing entrance doorway was replaced with a large window and a new entrance created through what was formerly the northeast window of the lunchroom. To the south is the five-story Club building that replaced the Club structure at 23 and 25 Madison Place in 1909.

“isolated from the Club proper” for scholarly societies using the Club’s facilities, to make the Club entrance pass through the existing northeast window in the lunchroom, and to replace the existing entrance doorway with a large window. The Club, at a membership meeting on March 13, voted to spend \$15,000 to carry out the plan.

Combination electric lamp and gas burners were authorized in the bedrooms on January 10, 1894. But the improvements to the assembly hall by Marshall did not satisfy all members. On January 15, 1894, William H. Dall complained of the lighting

and ventilation in the assembly hall, and William Henry Holmes, chairman of the Art Committee, complained that the lighting was insufficient for a satisfactory exhibition of paintings. Architect Marshall reported at the February meeting concerning plans for improving the conditions, and a skylight estimate of William M. Whyte of \$180 was accepted by the Board of Management. The plan for a skylight was ordered carried out.

In March of 1903 the Club discussed the possibility of purchasing the building next to it on the south (No. 25 Madison Place) for \$35,000. It was, rather, leased and then, in 1906, purchased. In 1907 the original home of the Club (No. 23), which had been leased, was purchased. With the acquisition of the entire half block from the northeast corner to No. 23, major alterations were proposed. A motion by Cyrus Adler to the March 16, 1908, meeting of the board, which proposed that a dining room and roof garden be placed on the top floor of No. 23 and No. 25 Madison Place and that the entrance of the Club be on Madison Place, carried. Adler proposed also other improvements such as an auditorium seating 300 persons, an elevator, and improved accommodations for scientific societies associated with the Club. Adler's attempt to change the main entrance of the Club to Lafayette Square echoed a resolution that had been made to the Board on June 10, 1907, which had been rejected.

More mature consideration of the proposals to remodel No. 23 and No. 25 Madison Place to provide improved facilities led the Board of Management to the conclusion, expressed at its March 11, 1909, meeting, that such improvements could not be achieved by remodeling the existing buildings but would require construction of a new five-story fireproof building on the site. A resolution directed the President to appoint a building committee and select an architect as well as to appoint a finance committee to devise plans to raise \$100,000 for the purpose.

The proposal to increase the indebtedness of the Club in order

to embark upon such a venturesome proposal worried some members. William A. DeCaindry offered a resolution at the March 15, 1909, meeting of the Board to slow down the process until the Club had built up more of a surplus. He noted that No. 25 had been altered and repaired for \$8,000 only five years before. DeCaindry's motion was defeated. Herbert Putnam next offered a motion that the Board of Management should not increase the Club's indebtedness without an increase of annual dues of resident members by \$10. Putnam's motion carried. At the April 12, 1909, meeting of the Club (133 members present), Putnam presented the Board of Management's recommendation for the erection of a five-story structure at 23 and 25 Madison Place instead of remodeling the existing structures as previously contemplated. After much discussion of the possible effect of the decision on the dues of Club members, the Board was authorized to move ahead in accordance with the sketch plans of architect Thomas J. D. Fuller, presented at the same meeting. The Club was authorized to seek a loan of \$100,000 for the purpose.

The Clubhouse on Madison Place was still not complete. In 1917 the Club purchased the elegant Benjamin Ogle Tayloe House at No. 21 Madison Place (built in 1828) just to the south. The Tayloe House, famous for the taste of its occupants and the fame of its visitors, had passed from the Tayloes to Senator Don Cameron of Pennsylvania, Vice President Garrett Hobart, and Senator Mark Hanna of Ohio, before its acquisition by the Cosmos Club. It is still possible, as Frank L. Campbell noted in the May 1973 issue of the *Bulletin*, to lunch in the Tayloe portion of the old Clubhouse which, under U.S. Court of Claims jurisdiction, now houses a government cafeteria.

James R. Marshall was retained as architect for the improvement of the new facilities. On December 10, 1917, the Board approved a series of changes:

- (1) Consolidation of the Club's office force on the H Street



Cosmos Club Lafayette Square homes. Nos. 23 and 25 (at right) were replaced by the five-story building (above) between the Tayloe House and the Assembly Room.



H Street

<p><i>Dolley Madison House</i> <i>Admiral Wilkes House</i> <i>General McClellan Headquarters</i> <i>Housewarming January 1, 1887,</i> <i>including ...</i></p>	<p><i>Assembly Room</i> <i>(one floor)</i> <i>In 1893 two floors added</i></p>	<p><i>No. 25</i> <i>Leased 1904</i> <i>Purchased 1906</i> <i>Torn down 1909</i> <i>Neo Club Building built</i> <i>Housewarming December, 1910</i></p>	<p><i>No. 23</i> <i>Leased 1882</i> <i>Purchased 1907</i></p>	<p><i>No. 21</i> <i>Tayloe House</i> <i>Hobart House</i> <i>Mark Hanna House</i> <i>Cameron House</i> <i>Little White House</i> <i>Purchased December, 1917</i></p>
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Madison Place

Lafayette Square

side of the second floor of the Dolley Madison House in rooms then used for cards, by Dr. Coolidge (the Club manager), and for a Board room. These rooms were to be connected by a "lift" with the office on the main floor. Toilet facilities were to be re-arranged to provide for women clerks.

(2) Remodeling the Cameron stable for an assembly hall.

(3) Establishing a commissary and cold-storage plant in the existing assembly hall.

(4) Utilizing the third and dormer floors of the Cameron House for bedrooms.

World War I, with its influx of scholars into Washington, many of whom found lodging and board at the Cosmos Club, delayed the completion of the alterations, but on January 13, 1919, in the new assembly hall converted from the Cameron House stable, the Board of Management proudly reported on the completion of the renovation of the Cameron House. The new assembly hall, costing \$15,000, was thirty-one feet wide, sixty-four feet long, and twenty-four feet high and had a seating capacity of about 300. It was equipped with a fireproof lantern booth containing a Simplex motion-picture lantern and a 1,000 candle-power, nitrogen-filled Balopticon projection lantern. The Board reported that the hall was already reserved for virtually every night of the year.

Although each acquisition of property was looked upon as meeting the needs of the Club for the foreseeable future, the rapid growth of membership and their needs brought the unforeseeable future quickly in view. In October 1921, John C. Hoyt, former chairman of the House Committee, addressed the members of the Club in a printed pamphlet entitled *Development of the Cosmos Club*. Hoyt, in his introduction, noted that within the next year the Cosmos Club would have to consider the question of refunding its indebtedness on the Cameron-Tayloe House, which was then covered by a \$200,000 deed of trust due November 24, 1922. Hoyt observed that in its 42-year history

the Club had at nine different times found it necessary to provide increased facilities to accommodate its growth. Four of these increases had involved purchases that had provided the Club with one of the most valuable sites in Washington. In order to stimulate thought about the future policy the Club should adopt, Hoyt presented a well-reasoned argument for an expansion of Club facilities that would accommodate the needs of the future without violating the traditions of the past.

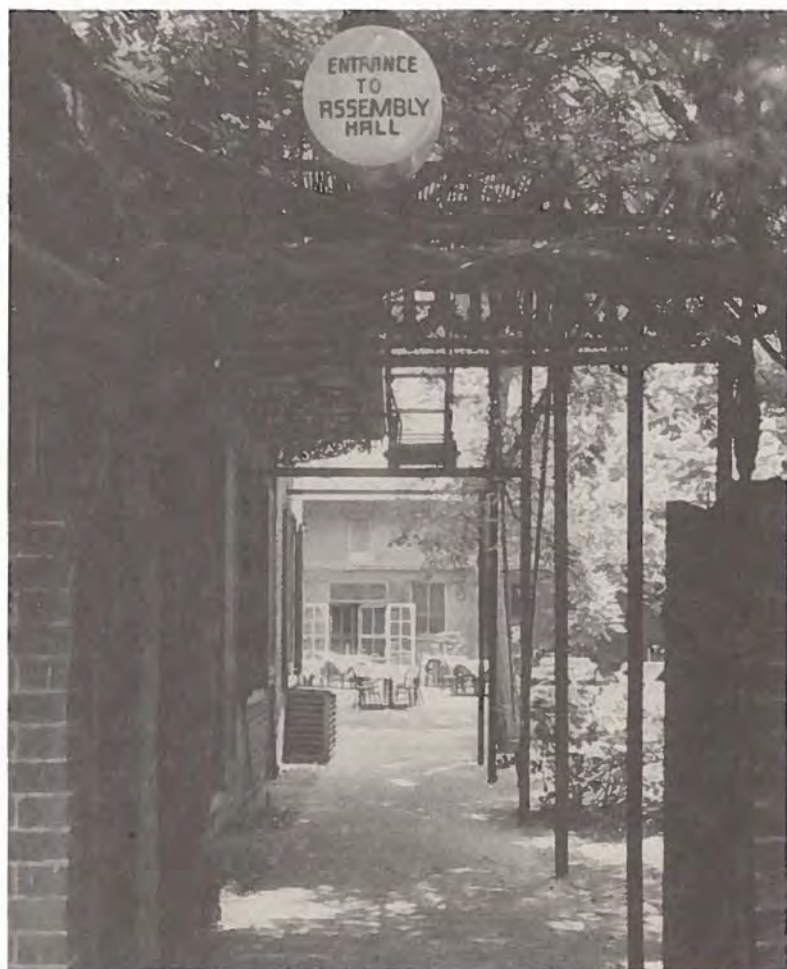
The Cosmos Club, Hoyt pointed out, because of its increase in nonresident membership and its liberal policy for the introduction of guests and visitors, had become a national as well as a local place for the meeting, socially, of men engaged in all lines of intellectual pursuits. Hoyt saw a way of utilizing the Club's special relationship with those organizations "which represent the same activities technically as the Club does socially" to provide the resources for a financially sound expansion of Club facilities. Citing preliminary studies of the possibilities of developing the Club's properties (made in cooperation with J. Rush Marshall), Hoyt suggested that the H Street corner portion of the Club's property could be used to provide revenue-producing quarters for associated scientific organizations as well as additional sleeping rooms for resident members desiring permanent quarters and for nonresident members desiring temporary quarters. On the basis of the estimated income that might be received from a new building on the H Street corner, Hoyt estimated that the additional fixed charges and operating expenses resulting from the construction of such a building could readily be paid.

In another proposal, which anticipated the actual establishment of the Cosmos Club Foundation, Hoyt proposed the establishment of a fund to be known as the Cosmos Foundation, to provide for such an expansion. The entire fund, built from donations large and small, would be reserved as capital, invested in land, buildings, or securities, and would not be subject to

final disposition by any board of officers except after a full opportunity of the Club itself to pass on any proposal.

No specific action was taken as a result of Hoyt's initiative, but the Club continued nevertheless to expand. Early in 1928 the availability of 1516 H Street just to the east of its existing property was brought to the attention of the Board. On March 12, 1928, the Secretary reported the purchase of the property at a price of \$80,000. It was assumed that the carrying charges of the building would be more than balanced by the increase in sale value of the total property of the Club thus enhanced, but in fact the Depression put the Club under grave financial strain to meet its payments on the house. During 1932 it cost \$2,873.26 more in interest, taxes, etc., than receipts for rentals brought in although the entire building was occupied throughout the year. With the mortgage coming due in 1933, the Club was faced with a crisis, which was resolved at an April 3, 1933, meeting at which it was determined to use the Endowment Fund to reduce the mortgage indebtedness to the extent necessary to secure an extension of the mortgage note for a future term.

The growth of the executive branch of government in the vicinity of the White House in the period between World Wars I and II cast doubt on the ability of the Club to maintain its presence on Lafayette Square. The intentions of Congress were made explicit by an act of March 31, 1930, directing the Secretary of the Treasury to acquire all the privately owned land on Madison Place, though no time limit was set. In September 1939 the United States offered the Club \$1,000,000 for its properties on the square. The offer—which could also be perceived as a threat since few doubted the power of the U.S. government to take the property by eminent domain if the Club refused to sell—set in motion feverish activity on the part of concerned members. A diehard minority urged holding out at all costs. Herbert Friedenwald, in a letter of March 26, 1940, to Louis H. Tripp, insisted that “there was enough intelligence



View of entrance to Assembly Hall of Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square. Photo by Walter Willcox, c. 1942.



View of Garden dining area, Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square.
Photo by Walter Willcox, c. 1942.

among the members of the Club and enough familiarity with the Members of Congress” to see that the Club was preserved as a national monument. Others urged tactical maneuvers to force the government to up its price. Still others scurried around to locate alternative sites. George E. Fleming, the Club’s Treasurer and a Union Trust Co. official, opposed the sale for \$1,000,000 because, he pointed out, after clearing the \$400,000 mortgage debt, only \$600,000 would remain, not enough to obtain a new house of an appropriate character. Since the offered price was \$62,000 below the assessed value and since the Club’s holdings possessed a most “unusual exposure, really being on

what might be termed the Palace Square," Fleming urged further negotiation not only with the government but also with other potential purchasers. "The Cosmos Club now needs a David Harum," Fleming wrote, "—a good 'Hoss Trader' is always an excellent asset in any organization."

A special committee under Leason H. Adams was appointed by the Board of Management to consider certain aspects of the proposed sale of the Cosmos Club property to the government and especially to determine what funds would be available for securing other quarters if the property were sold. The committee's report of January 6, 1940, after discussing aspects of the proposed sale to the government, listed various alternative sites and indicated its belief that "any new location should preferably be within two or three blocks and not more than four or five blocks from the present location." It noted that a map prepared in the Secretary's office showed strikingly that the geographical center of the office addresses of the Club membership was not far from the Club's Lafayette Square site. Although generally sticking to its four- or five-block rule, the committee considered a few sites further away. One site was the Levi P. Morton property at 1500 Rhode Island Avenue and another was the Patton property at 2122 Massachusetts Avenue at Q Street just across the street from the Townsend Mansion, which was eventually to become the Club's new home.

One of the most interesting possibilities considered by the committee was an amalgamation with the Metropolitan Club. The proposal—never formalized—was broached late in 1939 in a conversation between Sidney Taliaferro and the president of the Metropolitan Club in which the latter indicated that the Metropolitan Club might consider favorably the sale of its property to the Cosmos Club for the amount of the Metropolitan's indebtedness (\$635,000), the Cosmos Club waiving its membership requirements for a limited period and taking over the entire membership of the Metropolitan Club. As Adams

noted in a discussion with the Board of Management, there seemed to be "little sentiment" in the special committee for such an amalgamation.

The Board of Management, which considered the report of the special committee on January 8, 1940, decided not to take definite action toward approving tentatively or eliminating any site. It did not agree with the special committee's recommendation that in moving to new quarters there should be no indebtedness except possibly a small amount for furnishings.

In order to settle the question of the Club's future home, a general meeting of the Club was called for March 27, 1940, at the Chamber of Commerce Building at H Street and Connecticut Avenue (it was believed that the Club's auditorium was too small for the purpose) to act upon resolutions prepared by the Board of Management authorizing sale of the Lafayette Square Clubhouse to the United States for \$1,000,000 and appointment of an Advisory Committee of eleven members of the Club to advise the President and Board of Management on the purchase of a suitable replacement at a total cost not to exceed \$750,000. The Board of Management, in its presentation before the meeting, indicated that it had attempted to increase the amount of the government's offer but that on March 6 the administrator of the Federal Works Agency had "stated categorically to the President of the Club that the sum of one million dollars could not be increased."

The Club membership, at that fateful meeting on March 27, accepted the \$1,000,000 offer of the government and directed the President and Board of Management to appoint an Advisory Committee and on the advice of that committee to take all necessary action for housing the Club at a new location. But the membership modified the Board's resolution, on a motion of Judge J. Wilmer Latimer, to the extent of limiting the total cost authorized to the net proceeds of the sale of the Club's property.

Meanwhile the architects of the Club had not been standing

idly by. As early as December 21, 1938, Frank Conger Baldwin discussed before the Board the feasibility of forming the architects of the Club into "a group of 'Allied Architects' for the purpose of rendering architectural service to the Club at such times as the Club may need them, more especially when it undertakes new construction at some new location." Baldwin's offer to assemble such a group as his service to the Club met with "enthusiastic approval." Little was done, however, until on March 28, 1940, the Board of Management received a letter from Past President Adams refreshing the Board's memory about Baldwin's offer. The Board thereupon expressed the hope that the offer could be brought up for definite action at the proper time.

The architects of the Club gathered on May 3 under acting chairman Louis A. Simon and acting secretary Horace W. Peaslee, following an invitation of April 27 from the chairman to express their opinions on the best method for the Board to adopt in selecting an architect for the proposed new building. Fifteen architects attended the meeting and others wrote letters. Many of the Club's architects advocated some sort of team or group competition organized in the fashion of the already existing Allied Architects organization. No one went so far as Mr. Peaslee who advocated, as he put it in his minutes of the meeting, "a modified form of allied cooperative competition, whereby the best ideas could be culled from any scheme submitted." Peaslee proposed that the architects, as an example to the landscape architects, sculptors, painters, and builders of the Club, contribute their talent without pay. A normal fee would be charged for the direct and indirect costs of drafting, overhead, etc., as well as for the time of the architects' work, but the net profit would be donated to the Club for some special feature such as richly carved woodwork. All the architects agreed that the prime requirement was to capture the atmosphere of the old Club in the new, but many saw the job in more prosaic terms as a restaurant or hotel problem. The meeting ended with Peas-

lee's chiding his colleagues for making the Club program appear to be "just another job; with no takers on the proposal to make it a full-fee, but no-profit undertaking."

In a later memo to Mr. Simon, dated June 4, 1940, Peaslee again deplored the lack of support for his proposal and related the reaction of Charles H. Tompkins, builder-member of the Club, to whom he had also mentioned the matter. Tompkins immediately exclaimed, according to Peaslee, "Why not give the builders the same opportunity?" "On my direct question," Peaslee wrote, "he said that he would be glad to do whatever work the club required on a basis which would return to the club in some special contribution any portion of a regular fee that might rate as profit." Peaslee expressed his hope that the Board of Management would get behind his proposal and envisioned a series of discussions in which the best ideas of all the Club's architects and artists, including some "conscripted for consultation in the initial stages," would be reduced to sketch form. "All this talk about the necessity of individual inspiration merely for adaptation and extension, of loving and painstaking thought for each room, is the bunk," Peaslee exclaimed, "and I wouldn't give carte blanche to anyone."

The architects recommended that after the site had been selected, the architect or architects of the building be selected by competition among members of the Club, such competition to be held under the rules of the American Institute of Architects. The architects concluded also that the architect winning the competition should carry out the design in cooperation or consultation with such architects, landscape architects, painters, and sculptor members of the Club "as may volunteer their services as consultants or advisers." The architects also recommended Francis P. Sullivan to advise the Board of Management on the selection of sites, pending selection of an architect to design the building. The Board of Management at its May 7 meeting authorized the President to appoint a committee on

sites to report to the Advisory Committee of Eleven and to the Board of Management. Henry C. Morris was appointed chairman of the committee and Sullivan was invited to act as consulting architect to assist the committee.

While the Club's architects were trying to decide how they should approach the problem of designing a new Clubhouse, the Board of Management was attempting to select an adequate site. A prime candidate was the Porter property on the southwest corner of 16th and Eye Streets, NW, and a serious negotiation with the owner, the Library of Congress Trust Fund, explored the possibility of its acquisition by outright purchase, by lease with option to buy, or by deferred payment.

The Advisory Committee of Eleven, on May 23, 1940, after hearing from the Committee on Sites, voted to recommend to the Board of Management that a firm offer for the Porter property be made on a \$13,000-a-year-rental basis (4 percent of an agreed option price of \$325,000) with an irrevocable option to purchase the property at an agreed price on or before thirty years from the date of the contract. Refinements in the proposed agreement were made on both sides, by Archibald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress and secretary of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board, and by the Board of Management of the Cosmos Club in June and July 1940. Although agreement was nearly reached, negotiations broke down over the reluctance of a majority of the members of the Board of Management to accept a proposal to get around the prohibition imposed by the Club membership on March 27 against spending more than the net proceeds of the sale of the old Clubhouse. The proposal, by Frederic A. Delano, called for a deferred payment plan which would have kept the Club's expenditures within the \$600,000 limit set by the Club membership but would have incurred a mortgage indebtedness that would have imposed a future obligation on the Club.

The Advisory Committee of Eleven approved Delano's plan

on July 18, 1940, on the understanding that it be submitted to, and approved by, a special meeting of the Club. At a July 25 meeting of the Board of Management at "Journey's End," Clarke County, Virginia, the home of W. Chapin Huntington, a motion to submit the Delano proposal to a special meeting of the Club was killed after absent President William McClellan's letter opposing the motion was read. Only Henry Morris and Mr. Huntington voted for the proposal. The opponents felt that they had, in the meantime, located on the north side of H Street, between 17th and 18th Streets, several potential sites that could be acquired and built upon within the cost allowance set by the Club membership. The Advisory Committee of Eleven had originally recommended the H Street site on July 8, 1940, but the Board of Management, on July 11, had deferred action on the recommendation, requesting that the Advisory Committee consider additional sites. On July 31, after the Board of Management refused to proceed further with the Porter property, the Advisory Committee of Eleven once again recommended that the Board of Management acquire options on several adjoining parcels of ground on the north side of H Street between 17th and 18th.

TIME BEGINS TO RUN OUT

As the Cosmos Club sought to resolve its problem, the national emergency brought on by the expansion of Nazi Germany increased the likelihood that the government would soon require the Club to vacate its old premises. In order to give the Club more time to find a new home Louis Simon, Vice President of the Club, on July 12, 1940, urged upon John Carmody, administrator of the Federal Works Agency, that the Club be allowed to stay in its old home for a fair rental for a period of two



View of basement dining room, Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square. Photo by Walter Willcox, c. 1942.

years or until equally adequate facilities could be provided. Carmody, on July 15, gave the Club six months breathing space with the possibility of an extension.

Three days later the architect members of the Club, both resident and nonresident, recommended Francis P. Sullivan, Arthur B. Heaton, and Frederick V. Murphy as the three architects best qualified to serve as architect of the Cosmos Club in the creation of its new home. The Board voted to ask Sullivan and Heaton, who had received the same number of votes, to serve jointly as architects.

With the Club's future home seemingly tentatively, if not finally, resolved, additional suggestions of sites were sometimes

rather casually rejected. When former Club President Gifford Pinchot, on July 26, 1940, at the suggestion of Frederic Delano, offered his property near Scott Circle near the junctions of Rhode Island Avenue, 17th Street, and N Street, Henry Morris, chairman of the Committee on Sites, responded on July 29 that "the location is too far from our present site to satisfy the promise made to the Club members when they agreed to sell the present club building." Frank B. Scheetz reiterated the rejection in a letter of August 19 with the same argument of the distance separating Pinchot's houses from the existing Clubhouse.

It soon became increasingly and painfully obvious that the Club was unable to reconcile its aspirations and its resources. Under the resolution of the Club membership of March 27, 1940, the cost of the new housing was limited to the "net proceeds of the sale" of the old Club property rather than to the \$750,000 originally proposed by the Board of Management. In its notice of a special meeting of the Club to be held on January 9, 1941, to consider certain problems incident to the construction of a new Clubhouse, the Board noted that while an excellent site had been secured at a cost of less than \$200,000, "it will not be possible to include certain very desirable features in the new structure within the limits of the funds available." The President and Board did not feel justified in proceeding with the structure without reference to the Club for its determination of what constituted "suitable and adequate accommodations for the housing of the Cosmos Club," in accordance with the March 27 resolution, "and of ways and means of securing more extensive accommodations if it so desires." The Board made no overt mention of borrowing to achieve the end desired, but the implication was there if the members could not bring themselves to eliminate an auditorium, air conditioning, one bedroom floor, or some of the other features whose costs made it impossible to comply with the financial restrictions of the Club vote of March 27.

As inflation lowered the value of the dollars the Club was holding in anticipation of building its new house, the Finance Committee met to consider whether the Board of Management should recommend the investment of a portion of the Club's surplus funds in real estate "as an hedge against inflation." At the December 16, 1942, meeting of the Board of Management, Harold N. Graves, chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that "it was the unanimous opinion of the Committee that the Club should not put any of its funds into additional real estate purely as a matter of investment, (a) because of the speculative risks involved, and (b) because of the difficulty which probably would be involved in realizing upon property of this character at the time when the funds were needed." The Board of Management "generally agreed to accept the advice of the Finance Committee and invest Club funds in War Bonds up to the legal limit permitted rather than to put any substantial amount of Club funds into Washington real estate or common stocks during War time."

At its January 9 meeting plans for the new building were discussed, and it was recognized that owing to greatly increased building costs the new Club would necessarily cost more than the net proceeds of the sale of the old Club. The membership recognized the possible necessity of borrowing, and the Board was instructed that when the building plans were complete, estimates of costs should be obtained and reported to the Club at which time authority should be requested for incurring a loan.

As matters dragged on without resolution, the Board of Management felt constrained to issue a printed "Progress Report" on October 18, 1941, recounting its efforts to utilize the balance of funds remaining after the sale of the Lafayette Square property toward the purchase of a site and construction of a new Clubhouse. The Board noted the action of the Club at its January 9, 1941, meeting, recognizing the possible necessity of

borrowing and the instructions of the membership to the Board to bring to completion plans for a new Clubhouse.

Although the architects had finished their plans in July 1941 the rapid rise in the cost of construction material and labor caused the estimates of the cost of the proposed building to be far in excess of the funds available. Because of the international crisis the Board also considered it "extremely problematical as to whether the construction of the new building could proceed without great risk of interruption for possible long periods of time, and the consequent increase in cost to the club if the contractor were relieved of the risk which he would otherwise assume." The Board concluded, therefore, that it was not advisable at that time to attempt to start building construction. It hoped that the government, in consideration of the service the Club was rendering to the national defense, would allow it to continue in its old quarters on lease.

While the Club's existence was preserved during the war by the government's continued willingness to lease the Lafayette Square Clubhouse to the Club, future prospects for an acceptable new Clubhouse grew increasingly dim. In 1944 a newly adopted zoning regulation of the District of Columbia required that thereafter any building erected as a lodging, private club, or the like had to provide space to accommodate motor-driven vehicles according to a formula relating to the number of sleeping rooms in the building. The Club was thus faced with the alternative of modifying its existing plans or securing additional land for parking. When a lot became available to the west of its purchase on H Street it was acquired with accumulated reserves and the step ratified by the Club at its annual meeting in 1945. The enlarged site made possible a greatly expanded building plan, and the architects, at the request of the Board of Management, prepared a new scheme. This plan was approved by the Building Committee and submitted to a joint meeting of the Board of Management and the Advisory Committee of

Eleven on July 30, 1945. The plan was approved at this meeting and the architects authorized to proceed under it.

But as building costs continued to rise, so did the Club's problems multiply. Although the architects explained the new plans at a general Club meeting on December 18 at which lantern slides were shown and discussed and authority requested to borrow up to \$300,000, the meeting adjourned without action. The latent resentment of those who had not wished to sell the old Clubhouse or who had preferred a different location for the new Clubhouse was evident in the attacks on the character of the new building plans. The opponents of immediate acceptance of the building plans introduced a motion to table those plans and instruct the Board of Management to ask the government to allow the Club to continue in its old home as long as possible. Reconsideration of the Porter site and other sites was also urged. The acrimony was not one-sided. Members of the Club leadership attacked the opponents of the proposed new building with more than a little heat. To add to the frustration of all concerned, the overcoats of both Louis Simon, chairman of the Building Committee, and Arthur Heaton, one of the architects, were evidently stolen from the Club cloakroom during one of the preliminary meetings preceding the Club meeting.

At the annual meeting of January 21, 1946, the Building Committee reported on its five-year effort to bring the Club's building project to a successful issue. The report noted that the architects had been requested to stop work and that the project once again stood suspended. Although the Club accepted a Board resolution designed to get the project on track again, even to the point of estimating the borrowing required if the Club lacked sufficient cash, the following year was spent largely in handwringing. The architects complained about the frequent changes made in the Club's plans and the basis on which their fees were computed. By the end of the year it was apparent that a new approach was required and, on the recommendation of

the Building Committee itself, that committee was dissolved and replaced by a Committee on Building, Finance, and Construction, which was to advise the Board of Management on the creation of a new home for the Club. In its final report to the membership at the annual meeting of January 20, 1947, the Building Committee noted a fundamental division of the Club membership into two "schools of thought." One school held that the Cosmos Club should plan for years to come on the theory that the Club was a "going concern"; the other took a more cautious attitude believing that the proposed new building should be limited in size and character to the funds that might be available when construction was undertaken.

By December 15, 1948, the Board of Management was informed by a working committee on plans for raising funds for a new Clubhouse, headed by Hugh L. Dryden, that the cost of constructing a new Clubhouse was then estimated at \$1,400,000. The committee reported that the Club could prudently borrow at most \$350,000 to \$400,000. With an estimated amount in the Building and Endowment funds of \$583,340, the committee estimated that the available resources were at most \$1,183,340. "This falls short of the amount needed by nearly \$300,000," the committee reported. "The conclusion is inevitable—the building of a clubhouse according to the plans approved by the Club is beyond the financial means of the Club."

While President Amos E. Taylor noted that the Club was "living on borrowed time," escape from the impasse was sought in two directions. One was to drop the building plans and find an existing modestly priced private structure outside the immediate vicinity of Lafayette Square. The other was to combine revenue-producing space with the new Club quarters on the H Street site.

It will be recalled that inquiries about the Club's interest in houses to the north along Massachusetts Avenue and Rhode Island Avenues had earlier been brushed aside. As late as June 16,

1948, the Board of Management had instructed the Secretary to reply to a real-estate agent calling attention to the property at 2020 Massachusetts Avenue that the Cosmos Club was not interested in its purchase. But late in November Secretary Piggot inquired of the trustees of the estate of Mrs. Stanley McCormick of Chicago, who had just died, concerning the availability of her property at 1785 Massachusetts Avenue. The Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust indicated that it had been Mrs. McCormick's wish to continue the lease of the building to the British government as long as the British wanted it, but the bank was willing to consider an offer under some arrangement whereby possession would be postponed. At a joint meeting of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee and the Advisory Committee of Eleven, on December 29, 1948, the possibility of purchasing or leasing an existing structure on Massachusetts Avenue near Dupont Circle was discussed at some length. But, as the minutes of the meeting noted, "this was regarded as only a last resort."

A more radical approach to the problem was provided by Frank Lyon at the January 17, 1949, annual meeting of the Club. Lyon proposed that the new Clubhouse be constructed as promptly as possible and that provision be made in the new Club building for rental space for commercial purposes. A motion that a committee of five be appointed by the President to consider the suggestion of Mr. Lyon was carried by a voice vote. Lyon was appointed chairman. The new approach was accepted as hopefully as it was because the report of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee at the same meeting concluded that "construction of our club house according to the second plans is out of the question within the foreseeable future." The committee added: "While this conclusion may come as a shock to many, the club membership may as well recognize the futility in planning hopefully on something it cannot afford." As an alternative the committee recommended restudying the

first plans and perhaps constructing the new Clubhouse in stages to see if the Club could stay within its means.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lyon called a quick meeting of his committee, which included Henry C. Morris, former chairman of the Committee on Sites, and Charles H. Tompkins, the Washington builder. The committee proceeded to meet every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in the offices of the Club. The committee relied heavily upon Mr. Tompkins who, at the request of the committee, prepared two studies showing in detail the estimated cost and estimated income that might be derived from erecting a ten-story office building or ten-story hotel-apartment building, with the top three floors reserved in both instances for Club purposes. Disregarding the possibility of either inflation or deflation, the committee concluded that it was feasible to combine revenue-producing space with new Club quarters on the land then owned by the Club on H Street between 17th and 18th Streets. More specifically it presented estimates to show that "a ten-story office building could be erected upon the land, with the Club using the top three floors without charge, that would produce sufficient revenue to pay operations, taxes and to discharge the required 4% mortgage in about 19 years. The Club after that date would own the building free of all encumbrance and would have a net annual income of \$139,988.36 after payment of all taxes, including Federal income."

The committee presented its report to the Board of Management at its June 22, 1949, meeting, which voted to thank the committee and to refer the report to the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee for study and comment at the next meeting of the Board. At the July 20 meeting of the Board the reaction of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee had not yet been received and the Board voted to forward the Lyon committee report to the Club architects for information and comment but to await the report of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee before referring the Lyon report

to the Advisory Committee of Eleven. The Board decided also to put a carefully worded discussion of the issue before the membership after the reports had come in.

At the August 17 meeting of the Board Curtis P. Clausen, chairman of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee, reported, after a recent meeting with Mr. Lyon, that the latter was "determined to send a statement of some sort directly to the Club members despite the desire of the Board of Management not to do so." Although the Board had preferred to issue a fuller and more informative statement after study of the Lyon report by other cognizant committees, it voted to duplicate the Lyon report *in extenso*, and to distribute it to all Club members with a covering letter from the Board of Management explaining that the report raised "certain significant questions" that were being studied by other committees of the Club.

The Lyon committee report, as issued August 22, 1949, contained a covering letter signed by Secretary Piggot pointing out the risks to the Club in carrying an indebtedness in excess of \$3,000,000, the questionable validity of calculating rental income on a 95 percent occupancy rate, the possible adverse effect of a commercial-type building on Club members' exemption from taxes on dues, along with similar cautionary comments. The letter asked for opinions and comments from the membership.

In the meantime, Curtis Clausen, chairman of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee, reported to the Board of Management in a letter of September 16, which was considered by the Board at its September 21 meeting. The Clausen committee report accepted the financial feasibility of the Lyon report but felt that "intangible things . . . such as the distinctive atmosphere and environment, which we feel the Club now possesses, would be most difficult to perpetuate." The committee also worried about the desirability of borrowing for the purpose.

So the Clausen committee recommended that no action be taken on the Lyon report. Following the meeting of the Board of September 21, at which other letters of opposition to the Lyon proposal were read, the Clausen committee report was referred to the Advisory Committee of Eleven.

A particularly negative letter was sent to Secretary Piggot by Arthur Stanley Riggs, dated October 6. In his letter Riggs attacked the calculations of the Lyon committee report. Riggs suggested that a 35 percent vacancy rate should have been assumed for the rental property rather than a 5 percent rate, and questioned other calculations of the committee. Riggs, a member since 1917, feared that acceptance of the proposal would mean "that the Club, from being the intellectual, scientific, literary and artistic group which has stood head and shoulders above every other in the country, will be degraded to the level of just another club of no distinction beyond a terrific debt, a white elephant building, and bankruptcy in the offing."

Fortunately for the opponents of the Lyon scheme, a realistic alternative presented itself almost simultaneously. At the same meeting of the Board of Management at which Mr. Clausen presented his negative report on the Lyon proposal, he also made a favorable report on the Townsend (Welles) property then on the market at Massachusetts and Florida Avenues. It was the "overwhelming opinion of the Board," as the minutes noted, "that this property provides an ideal solution to the Club's problem of a future home." It was thought that the property could be obtained at a figure which, after some remodeling, would still leave the Club with a substantial bank account. It was voted to refer the proposal to a joint meeting of the Board of Management, the Advisory Committee of Eleven, and the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee.

The joint meeting was held on September 26. It was pointed out that the Townsend House was still in the first taxi zone (an important feature of all Washington transportation decisions)

and near a rapidly developing street-car system then being created at Dupont Circle. It was also asserted that parking could be created near the building without intruding on the beautiful garden area facing Massachusetts and Florida Avenues. A motion by Mr. Lyon (serving as one of the Advisory Committee of Eleven rather than as head of the special committee on the feasibility of a commercial-type structure) that the Club *not* move to the Townsend location received but one favorable vote.

In a special meeting of the Board of Management immediately following the joint meeting, President Dryden, seeking a formal motion on the Townsend property, was directed to instruct Mr. Clausen to proceed with further negotiations with respect to the property and to secure a sixty-day option to purchase it.

The *coup de grace* to the Lyon report was administered on September 30 at a special meeting of the Advisory Committee of Eleven. The committee concluded that though the Lyon report dealt convincingly with the financial and engineering feasibility of a commercial-type structure, "that in view of the character of the Club, and the fact that its governing body changes from time to time, it is undesirable for the Club to enter into a long-range financial venture such as the suggested type of building would involve" and "that the human and emotional values which are the principal assets of the Cosmos Club would not be preserved and continued as well in a commercial-type structure as in a building dedicated solely as the home of the Club." The committee voted unanimously (Mr. Lyon did not vote) that it recommend to the Board of Management that it consider only a club-type building as opposed to a commercial-type building for the future home of the Club.

The Board of Management, on October 19, voted unanimously to recommend to the Club that it erect or occupy a resident-type building. In its November 18 meeting the Board determined to make an offer of \$364,635, the exact value set by

the District appraisers on the Townsend property, subject to approval of a general Club meeting (a price of \$425,000 had been put on the house by the trustees).

The debate over the proposed move to the Townsend Mansion brought forth numerous letters pro and con. Horace M. Albright, in a letter of January 9, 1950, opposed the move on the grounds that it made use of the Club for luncheon by non-resident members conferring with government officials particularly difficult. Albright felt that purchase by the government of the old Clubhouse could have been avoided. Fred H. Colvin, in a letter of January 8, 1950, welcomed the proposed new location because of the parking space, "as most of my future visits are likely to be made by car."

D. H. Burnham of Chicago, son of the great architect and city planner, wrote on December 28, 1949, expressing amusement at the apprehension shown by some of a decline in lunch business with a move to the new Clubhouse. The same fear, he noted, had been expressed when the Pacific Union Club of San Francisco had abandoned its downtown location after the 1906 earthquake and moved to the "beautiful old Flood Residence on Nob Hill, which our old firm of D. H. Burnham & Company remodeled and enlarged for them approximately as you now propose for the Townsend House. My recollection," Burnham went on, "is that the lunch business, after the move, was bigger and better than ever." W. Chapin Huntington, in a letter of November 29, 1949, noting that "the center of gravity of the city is rapidly moving this way," asserted that "by actual measurement on a scale map of Washington the site is just as accessible at noontime for the majority of our members as the H Street site." Miller D. Steever, after noting in a letter of January 12, 1950, that the Cosmos Club "has for some years been the most effective unofficial and informal organization for the clarification, the stimulation, and the intelligent stabilization in our particular society of government policy, particularly at the ad-



House of Judge Curtis J. Hillyer built in 1873 and incorporated into structure of the Townsend Mansion at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.

ministrative level," went on to assert that he did not believe that "our interest in the fine arts goes to such an extent that we should load up with a white elephant for the purpose of preserving a masterpiece of Mr. Carrère."

The issue was settled at a special meeting of the Club called for January 10, 1950, in the auditorium of the United States Chamber of Commerce. By a vote of 377 to 56 the Club resolved to acquire the Townsend Mansion despite an impassioned plea by one member against leaving the "simple republican simplicity" of the old Clubhouse for the "baroque splendor of the Anheuser-Busch period." The same member asserted that parking would be an insoluble problem at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue and that "we will dine to the musical background of stalled cars and the delicious aroma that proceeds from exhausts." A second resolution to sell the H Street property was passed by a rising vote with twenty noes and the rest in favor. (The H Street lot was eventually sold for \$560,000.) A third resolution to approve expenditures to carry out the plan required prior approval at a separate meeting of the Board of Management before the membership could vote on it. After such consideration the Club membership at its annual meeting on January 16, 1950, voted that the cost of improvements should not exceed \$850,000 without further authorization. The resolution passed by unanimous vote.

The land thus purchased, on which the Cosmos Club now stands, is just within the boundary of the original city laid out by Pierre Charles L'Enfant. Boundary Street (Florida Avenue), which marks the western edge of the Club's property, also marked the line at the base of the surrounding hills within which L'Enfant laid out the streets of the Federal City. The region remained a wilderness until the 1870s when development in the area began. The Cosmos Club plot had been acquired by Curtis Justin Hillyer on June 14, 1871, as part of a real-estate venture in the area, entered into jointly with fellow Californian Senator

William M. Stewart. Hillyer's parcel covered the pie-shaped area between Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Florida Avenues. In 1873, Hillyer built a brick house about fifty feet wide and fifty feet deep, which still serves as the central portion of the present Clubhouse. Access was from the west side of Connecticut Avenue roughly along what is now Hillyer Place. Massachusetts Avenue was little more than a trail at this time. Judge Hillyer lived in the house for twenty-five years, raising three sons. In 1898, the house passed to Mrs. Mary Scott Townsend, granddaughter of Gustavus Scott, one of the commissioners of the District of Columbia from 1794 to 1800. Interestingly enough, Mrs. Townsend and her husband made their home at 22 Lafayette Square until their move to 2121 Massachusetts Avenue in 1900.

Mrs. Townsend's plans for reconstructing her new house (after plans by Carrère and Hastings) required the creation of a main entrance on the terrace level (the floor below the Hillyer front door) and the addition of large two-story wings (where the library and the Warne Lounge are now located). The reconstruction and renovation, carried out in the period 1899-1901 by Thompson & Adams, General Contractors, 1123 Broadway, New York City, converted the old house into something resembling a French nobleman's townhouse. Indiana limestone on a Milford granite base were the principal building materials. Under Carrère and Hastings' loving hands, individual rooms of the house varied in style from the Henry II library to the Louis XVI main hall. Included in the service quarters of the house were two novelties for the time: a central vacuum cleaning system and an automatic clothes dryer.

Shortly after the Townsends' move to 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, tragedy struck. In November 1902 Mr. Townsend was thrown from a horse and died of a skull fracture soon thereafter. Mrs. Townsend remained one of Washington's social leaders, entertaining lavishly with the assistance of thirty servants. Her

daughter Mathilde married Senator Peter Goelet Gerry of Rhode Island in 1910 in the ballroom, now the Warne Lounge. The marriage ended in divorce in 1925, and Mrs. Gerry became Mrs. Sumner Welles, wife of the Under Secretary of State during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt. President-elect and Mrs. Roosevelt lived in the house in January 1933, prior to his inauguration.

During World War II, the stable of the house was operated by the American Women's Volunteer Service, while the house was leased to the Canadian Women's Army Corps to house 150 women.

On Mrs. Welles's death in 1949, the property passed to Mr. Welles, one of the trustees of her estate, from whom the Club purchased the property.

Reaction to the acquisition of the Townsend Mansion was varied. Sumner Welles, on February 7, 1950, from Palm Beach, Florida, wrote that "I feel certain that my wife would have been glad to have had her mother's house bought by the Cosmos Club since in this way a dignified and worthy use can be made of the property and in this way also the façade of the house can be preserved." "The façade," Welles noted, "always seemed to both of us one of the finest examples of the work of Carrère and Hastings and I am thankful that it can now be preserved."

RENOVATION BEGINS

Charles H. Tompkins, writing to Curtis P. Clausen, newly elected President of the Club, on January 18, 1950, sought to explain the pique he had displayed in a comment to Mr. Morris upon hearing that another construction organization had been called in to prepare an estimate of the cost of remodeling the

Townsend Mansion. Having expended much time and money on committees such as the Lyon committee without obligating the Club, and having, with his wife, he asserted, "been the ones to suggest that the Club consider the Townsend Property," he felt that the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee might at least have thanked him for suggesting the Townsend property and, in selecting another construction organization to provide estimates, at least have let him know before doing so. Nevertheless, Tompkins expressed himself willing to continue to advise on any matters of Club interest, as he had in the past, "without obligation" to the Club.

Mr. Tompkins also suggested that the Club take advantage of the architectural talent in the Club "before remodeling plans are consummated rather than having them all shoot at the ideas of one or two architects after plans had been completed at considerable cost to the Club." In a suggestion reminiscent of Horace Peaslee's early proposal in 1940, Tompkins urged that all or at least the majority of the Club's member architects be employed as a consulting group to decide on the comprehensive scheme for remodeling and rebuilding. "Then, after their scheme had been agreed to from sketch plans, a single architectural organization could be given the job of completing all working drawings, their work being subject to the approval of the consulting group." Tompkins hoped by this method that the "subsequent potshots in a 'trap-shooting contest' would be eliminated."

The scheme proposed by the architect members of the Club to determine who would take charge of the architectural renovation followed roughly the suggestions of Peaslee and Tompkins. The architects proposed to the Board of Management on February 15, 1950, that all architectural members of the Club who wished to do so submit preliminary schemes in sketch form. Preferred schemes would then be selected by the architect members for further study. The authors of the preferred schemes

would repeat the procedure in a final stage for which more detailed plans would be prepared.

An agreement between the Associated Club Architects, as the seventeen architects finally involved styled themselves, and the Cosmos Club, was signed on May 10, 1950. By June 20 the second stage of the contract between the group and the Club was completed and its report forwarded to the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee, which reported on the competition to the Board of Management on July 19. The report noted that the three preferred schemes, those of Horace Peaslee, Julian Berla, and Louis Justement, had been voted upon by the participating architects by a weighted ballot (3 points for first place, 2 for second, and 1 for third). Berla and Peaslee each received four first choices and Justement three, but Berla received twenty-six points to twenty for Peaslee and Justement. Berla was accordingly recommended by the architects participating as the architect of the renovation.

The Building, Finance, and Construction Committee held several July meetings and circulated written comments among its members on each of the three schemes. While strong and weak points were found in each scheme, the committee, in its report, asserted that "the Peaslee scheme came nearer to preserving the desirable aspects of the present structure and thus harmonizes with the committee's conception of the desires and objectives of the Club." The committee proposed, however, that Peaslee's scheme for a ladies' dining room on the eastern side of the building should be eliminated and certain features of the Berla scheme substituted. The committee recommended also that the Peaslee scheme be revised to provide for a separate entrance into the quarters for ladies "to conform to the objectives and policies of the Club membership."

The decision of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee, made without the participation of the Associated Club Architects, was discussed by that body on July 25 and

several dissenting opinions were expressed. But Tompkins, now chairman of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee, in justifying his committee's decision, pointed out the "indecisive character of the balloting among the architects in which the votes of only 11 out of 17 members of the Associated Club Architects were cast and that out of these 11 four voted for Mr. Berla and four for Mr. Peaslee as their first choices."

Peaslee threw himself enthusiastically into the job of reshaping the Townsend House for Club use. In a long letter to Tompkins he outlined his approach to the task and gave his reactions to the many suggestions received from committee members, other architects, and Club members generally. Perhaps the most controversial aspect of his plan dealt with the question of parking. Many members feared the loss of the gardens surrounding the Club. Charles Trowbridge Tittmann, a member since 1920 and son of a founder and former President of the Club, wrote to Club President Curtis Clausen to "*protest most emphatically against any plan to use the west garden for anything but an ornamental garden. To do otherwise would be to commit a folly of the most lasting kind imaginable.*" Peaslee was particularly irritated when members of the architectural group signed a petition against the use of the grounds bordering on Florida Avenue for car parking, since parking in the area had always been a part of his scheme of renovation. Peaslee pointed out that the pressure from the antiparking group had to be balanced against the pressure from those who wished to turn the larger part of the grounds into a parking lot to facilitate noontime diners. By eliminating "a meaningless central panel, obviously intended for a pool," Peaslee pointed out, he had created a "spacious parking area with no appreciable loss of garden area—and with no damage by grading to the dominant trees."

Peaslee, who later served as Garden Committee chairman, also sought to integrate the main dining room with the garden by providing an "enframing loggia, doubling as a passageway



Fireplace (in Members' Dining Room of the Cosmos Club on Massachusetts Avenue) as it appeared in 1915 as part of the Townsenc Mansion. Photo by Frances Benjamin Johnston, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

and as a semi-outdoor dining space, not subject to hasty retreat in time of sudden shower." Peaslee's dining room occupied the space of a former laundry yard. Incorporated into the dining room are the eight Byzantine-style columns and a marble pool that formerly stood in an open-air garden pavilion adjacent to the laundry yard. The top of the pavilion was framed with carved cedar rafters covered with wistaria, a plant associated with the Club premises on Lafayette Square and incorporated into the present Clubhouse on the balcony overlooking the West Garden. The wall fountain, now installed above the marble pool in the Garden Dining Room, was transferred from another wistaria-covered structure along the old stable wall. Peaslee converted the stable and coach house into the present assembly room providing high ceilings and a stage at the west end, with entrances from Florida Avenue as well as from the garden and Clubhouse proper.

The marble urns, well-heads, griffins, and steps now incorporated into the design of the West Garden were originally scattered in unrelated parts of the grounds. A copy of the great fountain of land and sea monsters in the Piazza della SS. Annunziata in Florence, which decorated the west grounds of the Townsend Mansion, was rearranged by Peaslee during the renovation. The largest portion of the fountain presently stands in the East Garden while one section, which had been badly damaged by vandals, was converted into a planting receptacle visible from the western portion of the present Members' Dining Room on the second floor.

It was Peaslee, in a memo to the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee of August 14, 1950, who relayed "a suggestion"—which we know came from his wife—that the four walls of the taproom (originally planned near the second-floor Members' Dining Room) be used for a mural of the old buildings on Lafayette Square. The murals were eventually painted on the four walls of the "Old Club Room," which forms an

anteroom to the Garden Dining Room. The murals, by member Everett Warner, show the original buildings occupying the four sides of Lafayette Square at varying periods.

Peaslee's preference for allowing ladies to use the main entrance to the Club was vetoed by the Board of Management who required that a separate entrance be provided. Peaslee at first thought that a separate garden entrance would suffice. If, by chance, as he put it, "one of the so-called gentler sex were to enter the sacred precincts" through the main entrance "she would be shown immediately into the ladies' suite without loss of face. It would not be necessary to send her around the corner in the rain." By decision of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee, however, following receipt of a petition signed by thirty-one members protesting the absence of a separate front entrance in Peaslee's plans, an additional entrance through the forecourt wall, under the landing of the steps from the second-floor terrace, was provided in order to keep the entrance lobby from being a vestibule or passing-through place for women. The "Ladies' Entrance" from the garden was re-designated "Garden Entrance" by the House Committee at its December 8, 1952, meeting, and enhanced by an all-weather vestibule for the use of both male members and female guests, donated by member Waldron Faulkner.

On December 20, 1950, the Board of Management asked Charles H. Tompkins's firm to act as general contractor for the renovation and member Tompkins accepted. But the Club seemed fated to relive the trauma of World War II and its aftermath. As the Korean War exploded costs of materials escalated, and at a special meeting of the Board of Management on January 10, 1951, Chairman Tompkins of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee warned that the costs of rehabilitating the Townsend Mansion would far exceed the limitation imposed by the membership of \$850,000. The Board voted to present to the annual meeting of the Club on January 15 a reso-



View of the library of the Townsend Mansion prior to the alteration of the mantel over the fireplace. Photo by Frances Benjamin Johnston, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

lution empowering the Board to spend the entire amount in the Building Fund and such amounts as might be necessary (to an estimated total of approximately \$800,000). The resolution, with some amendments, was approved by the membership.

The experience of World War II seemed to be on the point of repeating itself when the National Production Authority of the Department of Commerce, on February 13, 1951, rejected the Club's application for relief from the provisions of its Order M-4, issued October 27, 1950, and amended January 13, 1951, which prohibited the use of materials the Club sought in its

remodeling and reconstruction efforts. Although the Club did not claim it was a club for "social welfare purposes" (one of the organizations exempted from the restrictions) it did, citing *Cosmos Club v. U.S.*, 70 Ct. Cl., 366 (1930), assert that it was not merely a social club but had educational and scientific purposes that overshadowed its social features. Nevertheless, the National Production Authority rejected the claim in February and again on April 6, the latter time in response to Club President Huston Thompson's March 9 plea reiterating the request and noting that the Club was being hard pressed by W. E. Reynolds, Commissioner of Public Buildings, to vacate its present quarters in the old Clubhouse.

In July, however, the government relented and authorized the Club to go ahead with its reconstruction. In August the contractor was authorized to proceed with the remodeling, but by early September it was clear that the Board of Management would have to go again to the membership to ask for additional borrowing authority (up to \$160,000 over the funds then available in the Building and Endowment Funds) to proceed with the architect's complete plan. The plan as approved included three floors of bedrooms in the annex above the *two* floors of bedrooms, which, the Board of Management reluctantly concluded, were all that could be constructed with the money available. In its September 19, 1951, notice of a special meeting of the Club membership called for October 1, the Board of Management sadly noted that "it is not possible to carry out plans for such a club house as the membership has voted for with the money now available."

At the October 1 meeting the Board was authorized to negotiate a bank loan for a sum not to exceed \$238,000 to finance the construction and occupancy of the Club property. It was the sense of the meeting also that the Endowment Fund should be used as part of the \$238,000 with or without interest. The next day the Building Committee was authorized to proceed without



View of West Garden of Townsend Mansion prior to its conversion to parking lot for the present Cosmos Club, c. 1952.

delay with all negotiations and contracts toward that objective.

Remodeling now moved rapidly ahead but was plagued by another problem: frequent changes of plan. Architect Peaslee, who asserted in a memo of January 30, 1952, that he had "devoted practically his entire time to this work for the past eighteen months," protested vigorously against the frequent changes that were forced upon him which had the effect, he pointed out in a letter of January 3, 1952, of upping his costs and reducing his fee to the point that he was \$8,000 "in the red" because of the necessity of paying engineers and production costs out of the architectural fee he had received. As examples of the frequent



View of the Library of the Cosmos Club on Massachusetts Avenue (formerly the Townsend Mansion) after alteration of the mantel over the fireplace.

changes forced upon him by the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee, the Club Executive, the Board of Management, and the membership generally, he cited the Ladies' Dining Room, which was changed from the east wing to the west court, then back to the east wing, and then back again to the west court. The location of the billiard room was changed from the third floor to the second floor, then to the east annex, then to the basement, then to the west room, and finally back to the third floor. Peaslee listed twenty-six areas or rooms that had gone through changes in their planned development.

In a later memo, of November 21, 1952, shortly after the Club's move to the new location, Peaslee told the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee that after reviewing his work of the past two years to find out his costs and receipts, he concluded that "his total returns, as nearly as they can be gauged, have been a sub-average draftsman wage for the period. This has forced consideration of contract provisions for relief." Peaslee then rehearsed the story of the "seemingly endless changes" in the plans after the Club had filed for a building permit, citing in particular the billiard room and the ladies' suite and entrance.

Peaslee's plea that the responsibility and cost for the change orders be shared became the subject of an inquiry by a special subcommittee of the Building, Finance, and Construction Committee which, on January 9, 1953, recommended that the committee approve payments for fees (including payments previously made) of \$87,098.71. The subcommittee concluded after its review of the architect's claim of approximately \$22,000 for extra work on account of changes, for work designed but not executed, and for extra services of structural and mechanical engineers, that the claim was fully justified. The subcommittee conceded that "some work was done which in the light of hindsight might have been avoided," but pointed out that the end result—at a cost of \$1,000,000 for alterations, improvements,

and additions—was an “impressive home” for which the architectural fees were extremely reasonable in relation to the capital investment.

Early in 1958 the Board of Management began to consider acquisition of property behind the Club to expand the parking facilities over which there had been such an intense debate in the process of remodeling the Townsend House. Several committees, including one concerned with long-range planning, recommended the acquisition of individual lots on the “Triangle” north of the Clubhouse between Florida Avenue and Hillyer Court not only for the purpose of additional parking but also for the extension of the Club’s kitchen and related facilities. At a special meeting of the Board of Management on February 22, 1960, plans for an extension to provide additional space for the Members’ Dining Room on the second floor and additional private dining room space above, as well as improved kitchen facilities below, were considered.

The years 1959–1962 were busy ones for Club officers concerned with expansion of the Club’s property and facilities. At a special meeting of the Club on November 21, 1960, the Board of Management asked for and received authority to borrow \$400,000 to acquire the properties eyed by the Club for expansion and to plan the proposed additions to the Clubhouse. Properties acquired at this time included the Admiral Leahy house at 2168 Florida Avenue, the property at 2156 Florida Avenue, the property at 2162 Florida Avenue, the “Triangle” property at 6 Hillyer Court, and the Leiter Apartment garages at 5 Hillyer Court. The Club was able to tear down the structures on some of these properties in order to increase its parking facilities; at the same time it obtained the abandonment of the public alley that previously snaked its way through the middle of the block.

The snares and pitfalls of dealing at this time in the fast-breaking Washington real-estate market led to the creation of



Grand staircase leading from lobby of ground floor of Cosmos Club on Massachusetts Avenue.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony on occasion of opening of the new east dining room of the Cosmos Club on Massachusetts Avenue, May 18, 1962.

a corporation entitled the Potomac Valley Development Corporation. It was composed of members of the Club who pledged their own funds to enable the Club to move rapidly in the acquisition of adjacent property and thus to forestall speculators who might otherwise purchase property needed for Club expansion and wring additional dollars from an otherwise straitened Club treasury. Treasurer Julius H. Parmelee conceived of the idea of organizing such a corporation, had it incorporated and a draft of bylaws prepared, and had elaborate certificates certifying membership printed. Parmelee announced that he would purchase \$25,000 worth of the certificates, and other members of the Long Range Planning Committee pledged additional thousands with the understanding that the corporation would purchase property and dedicate it to the interests of the Club, selling it to the Club at the original price when the Club needed and could afford it. Parmelee's death in 1961 and the ability of the Club to move rapidly in the purchase of some of the desired property made it unnecessary for the scheme to be put into effect. The concept of members of the Club offering to risk their own money in behalf of the Club was, however, noteworthy and interesting.

Along with the expansion and renovation of the kitchen and dining-room facilities, it was proposed that a taproom be installed in the area to the right of the main entrance (where the present office staff is located). According to the printed program presented to the membership by the Board of Management for consideration at the November 21, 1960, meeting, the new taproom would be "not only completely masculine in character, but more private than the present cocktail areas." Though the membership beat off an attempt to delete the portion of the renovation plan calling for a taproom, that portion of the plan was ordered deferred by the Board of Management on January 6, 1961, and ultimately abandoned.

Member George Lipscomb was approved as general contrac-

tor on February 15, 1961, and the new addition, less the tap-room, was opened on May 18, 1962. In addition to expanding the kitchen, the extension doubled the capacity of the Members' Dining Room on the second floor and added three private dining rooms and a Board Room on the third floor. Architect Frank W. Cole was in charge of the renovation.

A more recent modification of the Clubhouse was the modernization of the Cameron-Tayloe rooms (redesignated the Heroy Room in 1970) adjoining the Garden Dining Room. As refurbished by Nicholas Satterlee, architect and former Club President, the rooms demonstrate that stuffiness is not synonymous with clubbiness. Utilizing a dramatic skylight at one end, which bathes the area with soft natural light during the daylight hours, and sharp colorful accents in the wall hangings, Satterlee converted what had been an area of questionable decor and convenience into an esthetic strong point.

In view of the history of rapid change and alteration of the Club's physical home, one would be rash to say that the Club's existing facilities represent any permanent culmination of a building program. But certainly the existing structure represents a plateau of achievement, recognition of which came on April 3, 1973, when the Cosmos Club at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on recommendation of the Joint Committee on Landmarks of the District of Columbia.

Some assert that the character of an individual can be perceived in the physical aspects of his house. Cosmos Club members can, perhaps, collectively be characterized by the warmth and dignity of their elegant quarters.

THE CLUB'S WISTARIA

The oldest living "member" of the Cosmos Club is the wistaria vine that covers a portion of the Warne Lounge Terrace in the West Garden of the Clubhouse at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. The vine links the old and new Clubhouses and provides a tradition that has become a symbol of the Club's purpose and continuity.

When the Club sold its home on Lafayette Square the purchaser, the United States government, agreed that the Club might move the vine to the Club's new location, wherever it might be. The vine was more than 200 feet long, and its twisted trunk was more than forty inches in circumference near the ground. A member, Morris L. Cooke, offered to act for the Club in securing possession of the vine from the government and having it removed and planted in the Club's new location.

At a special meeting of the Board of Management on March 6, 1941, Cooke was authorized to do the job and was granted \$40 for the preliminary work. He was asked to secure bids from local contractors for the ultimate removal of the vine. All his work was to be done with the cooperation of such landscape architect as might be responsible for landscaping the Club's new property.

Cooke had previously consulted Henry R. Frorer of Wayne, Pennsylvania, an expert in plant removal, who had advised that the concrete walk be taken up to a radius of three feet six inches, the roots pruned back to this line, and the hole then filled with a plant food in preparation for the expected move the following year.

"There will, of course, be no object in moving this vine to the new location," Mr. Cooke wrote in a letter dated March 6, 1941, to Secretary Piggot, "unless the architect in his designs of



View of wisteria-covered Tayloe and Cameron Houses of Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square. Photo by Walter Willcox, c. 1942.

the façades allows for it and thus permits it to become integral to the new building.”

The vine did not bloom the first summer after the operation, as expected, and the failure of the Club to move to a new location allowed the vine to grow back in succeeding years. In the meantime plans for the new Clubhouse (never built) incorporated iron balconies on its exterior to accommodate the famous vine.

When the Club moved to 2121 Massachusetts Avenue the move of at least a portion of the old wistaria was accomplished. Exactly when is uncertain. On December 15, 1954, the Board of Management approved a sum not to exceed \$100 for the Garden Committee to purchase some old ironwork from the south side of the Clubhouse on Lafayette Square, to be used for supporting the wistaria vine in the development of the West Court terrace of the new Club. The plan was to be subject to the recommendation of the Art Committee. A memorandum of the architect, Horace W. Peaslee, dated July 23, 1956, tells how “I acquired (with the authority of the Board) one of the old club balconies and also I had some of our ancient old wistaria grafted, to use over the ironwork, as a decorative sun screen. Erection has been deferred for two reasons—first, because I felt that its cost (perhaps \$500) could be covered by one of the many memorial gifts which have been forthcoming; second to give time for the wistaria to become established. It has now reached a state where it needs a treillage to keep it untangled.” Peaslee asked for the concurrence of the House Committee (to whom his memorandum was addressed) in his proposal to erect a simple frame of bamboo poles, painted, to train the vine for a couple of years until it was large enough to need the iron frame—“at which time prospective donors can be shown something tangible.” “I have the bamboo,” Peaslee noted, “—and the patience to train the wistaria.” Peaslee also noted that “I have another wistaria started in one of the roof terra cottas with the

idea of relieving the wall expanse above. A larger planting receptacle for wistaria on the roof of the Assembly would make the west end of the 'cell block' less bulky and overpowering."

On August 21, 1957, the Board of Management's attention was directed to the new "wistaria balcony" installed by the Garden Committee overlooking the West Garden. The wistaria, derived from the great old vine of the Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square, continues to shed its beauty on the West Garden—no longer, unfortunately, the scene of outdoor dining, but enjoyable nevertheless to those who enter the Club through the Garden Entrance from the West Parking Lot.

AIR CONDITIONING THE CLUBHOUSE

Air conditioning and television may seem like necessities in the present era, but they did not easily achieve recognition in the Cosmos Club.

In 1940, when the Club was studying proposals for a new Clubhouse, the architects Arthur Heaton and Francis Sullivan presented the possibility of air conditioning to the Board of Managers. The Board, on September 25, 1940, "agreed that while funds available would probably not permit the installation of complete air-condition equipment, the duct system should be installed and an alternative bid taken on the installation of machinery, thus providing for consideration by the club in case it decides to secure additional funds, or to provide for future installation at such time as funds may become available."

The desirability of air conditioning was generally agreed upon by members of the Board. But cost was a limiting, and at first a prohibitive, factor. On December 19, 1940, the Board passed a motion "that it is the opinion of the Board that air conditioning is a requisite to an adequate club building." But

the motion was amended to recognize that what the Board wanted was more expensive than what the Club could afford. A priority list was drawn up in which an attempt was made to rank air conditioning, parking, an auditorium, and bedrooms on various floors, on a priority scale. It proved impossible to come to a decision on the matter. Louis H. Tripp, chairman of the House Committee, reported at the next meeting, on December 23, 1940, that some members were indifferent to air conditioning, some opposed, but of those with an opinion, those in favor were "probably in the majority." The Board of Managers, however, voted to defer a decision on the question because of the necessity of borrowing money to achieve the end sought.

When the Club moved to its new Clubhouse on Massachusetts Avenue on August 25, 1952, there was no provision for air conditioning. Soon complaints arose. August Gutheim, a member of the Building Committee while the new Clubhouse was being renovated, wrote to Waldron Faulkner, President of the Club, on July 2, 1953, asserting that it was "nothing short of ridiculous" that the Board of Management did not install some kind of window air conditioning at least in the Members' Dining Room on the second floor and perhaps also in the library. Complaints, Mr. Gutheim noted, were most frequently centered on the discomfort experienced in the second-floor dining room. (It should be kept in mind that the Cosmos Club has always maintained a strict dress code, normally requiring the wearing of coats and ties in the Clubhouse.) President Faulkner, after taking up the question with the House Committee, wrote Gutheim, on July 6, 1953, that "it was decided that we should do no more air-conditioning until we begin to pay off our debts."

Many Washington residents traditionally abandoned the city in the summer and passed the hot months in mountain or beach second homes. Use of the Clubhouse was traditionally low in the summer months. Hence not only the cost of the air conditioning but also the habits of several generations as to how to beat the

heat conspired to defeat the ever-growing demand for cooler air. Some scientific members may also have shared Dr. René Dubos's belief, as expressed in a proposal addressed to the National Academy of Sciences some years later, that an intensive investigation should be first made to determine whether the body's natural ability to adapt to extreme heat or cold is not reduced and respiratory and circulatory disorders increased by the shift from hot humid summer air to cool dry air-conditioned air.

The proponents of air conditioning grew more vocal as the summer heat increased. On July 30, 1953, seventeen Club members (among them Elliott Roberts and Julian Berla) signed a petition to President Faulkner expressing their belief that "a widespread desire among resident members for air-conditioning of the clubhouse" now coincided with the financial ability of the Club to afford this improvement. The signers noted that "if we can judge by the almost universal example of restaurant operators, air-conditioning is just simply good business."

The concern with air conditioning led to the formation of a committee on air conditioning. In its report of December 15, 1953, the committee, utilizing the expertise and estimates of fellow Club member M. X. Wilberding, a mechanical engineer expert in air-conditioning matters, calculated that air conditioning could be achieved in most areas of the Club (eliminating the Main—Warne—Lounge and Auditorium) for an estimated cost of \$28,035. The committee suggested that a bond issue be floated among the membership for \$30,000 and hoped that many of those calling for air conditioning would feel constrained to contribute toward a fund for the purpose.

In the following years the debate over air conditioning continued. David J. Guy, the Club's Executive, pointed out that the loss in revenue in the dining rooms in the four summer months (amounting to a total of \$66,689 for the years 1941-1954), if reduced by \$2,000 a month, could help pay for the in-

stallation and maintenance of an air-conditioning system. Bar sales would also rise, Guy thought, possibly as dramatically as room rents, which, in 1954, after the installation of room air-conditioners, increased to an occupancy rate of 66 percent over the 33 percent rate of the previous summer. Guy accompanied his argument with a chart showing monthly gain and loss for dining-room operations for the period 1941 to 1954. He pointed out that during the previous two years most of the city clubs in Washington had installed air-conditioning equipment, among them the Army and Navy Club, the Metropolitan Club, the Press Club, and the University Club. Air-conditioning the dining rooms, he pointed out, was a "competitive necessity."

Air conditioning, financed by a \$10 assessment per member, came to the Cosmos Club in 1956 with the approval of a contract with United Clay Products Co. in January of that year. Mr. Wilberding, who donated his personal services, rode herd on the work as it was performed. The Club was air-conditioned for the summer of 1956 and has remained air-conditioned since. Perhaps a club full of scientists for whom experimentation is a way of life will be able to answer Dr. Dubos's question as to whether air conditioning increases respiratory and circulatory disorders. So far, the verdict is not yet in.

LATER HISTORY

The history of a club like the Cosmos Club is in many ways the story of the meeting of the minds that took place within its confines. The Club has been the site of many meetings, some casual, some significant, throughout its history.

In the early 1890s, for example, Rudyard Kipling (according to historian Frank Freidel) recalled listening to Theodore Roosevelt in the Club. "I curled up on the seat opposite," Kipling



said, "and listened and wondered, until the universe seemed to be spinning 'round and Theodore was the spinner."

The great city planner and architect Daniel H. Burnham of Chicago (whose son was a member though he was not) stayed occasionally at the Club, particularly when he was in the process of replanning Washington in 1901-1902 as chairman of the Senate Park Commission. Indeed, on January 15, 1902, when the models created by the Commission were shown to the President, his cabinet, and members of Congress in the Corcoran Gallery, Burnham and other members of the Commission stayed at the Club where, as his biographer Charles Moore notes, "The group talked till the small hours grew larger."

During World War I the Club assumed a more vital role in the nation's life than it had ever before held. As America mobilized, her chemists, psychologists, and engineers had to put their heads together to meet the challenge that culminated in America's entry into the war in 1917. The young chemist James B. Conant, in a personal interview late in his life, recounted how he looked with awe and jealousy on the older men like Arthur Lamb, Roger Adams, and Robert Millikan who were invited to join the Cosmos Club in this period or who were already members. The giants who organized the Chemical Warfare Service at this time would lunch at the Club, but Conant normally had to view them from a distance as a young person "looking over the fence."

In meeting the unexpected emergency brought on by World War I, the Club expressed its patriotism in a manner typical of the time. At a May 31, 1917, special meeting of the Board of Management, a letter from George S. Rice and others was read requesting that the privileges of the Club be denied to all members not willing to make a sworn statement that they would support this country in the war. The Board, in considering this request, voted that further details, including the names of persons suspected of being enemies of the country, be obtained before any action was taken.

At the June 11 meeting another letter from Rice to the same effect was read. It was voted to lay the matter on the table. As enthusiasm for the war mounted, the Club took various steps to support the government's programs for winning the war. On July 9, 1917, the Board of Management agreed to cooperate with the Food Administrator by serving no beef, mutton, lamb, or pork at midday meals of the Club from July 15 to October 1.

As the war heated up, the Club's concern reached—by today's standards—almost irrational levels. On May 13, 1918, the chairman of the Library Committee asked for instructions on what action to take regarding a petition to have the *Staats-Zeitung* restored to the Club files. The Board voted to defer action pending further information.

On July 8, 1918, the Board received letters from several members urging that member Charles E. Stangeland be dropped from the Club as soon as possible in view of the fact that he had been indicted in a federal court for violation of the "Trading with the Enemy Act." The Board voted to suspend Mr. Stangeland pending the presentation of charges against him at the next stated meeting. Judge J. F. Smith was, meanwhile, appointed as head of a committee to confer with the Department of Justice to obtain information regarding members of the Club suspected of pro-German sympathies.

At a meeting of the Club on October 14, 1918, with forty members present, the President reported the suspension of Stangeland because of his indictment by a federal grand jury. The Board of Management recommended the suspension be continued until a decision of the court was rendered. Despite the Board recommendation, Naval Chaplain Roswell Randall Hoes moved that Mr. Stangeland be expelled from the Club. On a show of hands seventeen voted in favor of the motion and nineteen against it. The Club then unanimously adopted a resolution that the Board of Management take all necessary action to insure that "all members of the Cosmos Club shall be sincere

and loyal supporters of the cause of the United States and her Allies in the present war.”

The Stangeland affair would not down. On October 28, 1918, the Board received a letter from Francis Walker noting that though Stangeland's guilt was still in question, it seemed safe to assume that he had acted in a manner that would render further association with the Club undesirable. Walker urged that Stangeland be dropped from Club membership, adding, “I think there are also several other members of the Club—some of them residents—whose loyalty is justly under suspicion and I would favor dropping them also.”

Another letter, from Simon N. D. North, the Secretary of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, on June 22, 1918, asked that article 10 of the bylaws, which provided that no member could be suspended from the privileges of membership or expelled by the Club except by vote of three-fourths of the members present and voting at a stated meeting with one month's previous notice given, be suspended during the war since the bylaw had been adopted in time of peace without consideration of the changed conditions which a state of war involved. North thought it the duty of the Board of Management to take immediate action by regarding this bylaw as temporarily suspended by the laws of the United States and urged the Board to proceed at once to the suspension of Stangeland.

Other members joined the chorus seeking to expel Stangeland, but the Board of Management resisted the pressure to suspend the bylaws, and, on January 20, 1919, the Board was informed by the Secretary that Stangeland had been acquitted of the charges brought against him. Judge Smith was requested to report on the matter, which he did on January 27 noting that the case had been dismissed by the government because there was no evidence to sustain the truth of the charge. Indeed, a letter from James Smith, U.S. Court of Customs Appeals, on January 24, 1919, called the matter a “tempest in a teapot,” the

grounds for even suspecting Stangeland having been of no substance whatever. The Attorney General's office held Stangeland entirely blameless. The Board, therefore, recommended to a meeting of the Club on February 10, 1919, that Stangeland's suspension be terminated and he be restored to the privileges of membership. The Club accepted the recommendation of the Board. Indeed, the dues of Stangeland were remitted for the second half of 1918, by an action of April 14, 1919, because of his "undeserved suspension."

In the period between World War I and World War II the Club continued to serve its usual purpose of a meeting ground of minds. On January 7, 1934, John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs (as his biographer notes), called a conference at the Cosmos Club to unite various groups such as the Indian Rights Association, the American Indian Defense Association, the National Association on Indian Affairs, and other groups behind a program to replace the Dawes Severalty Act of 1887 with what became the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. Lewis Merriam, whose published report, *The Problem of Indian Administration*, had laid the ground for the reforms of the Collier era, chaired the session. The groups meeting at the Cosmos Club proposed some of the reforms that marked a turning point in America's legislative treatment of the American Indian.

Just before World War II the Club, as recounted in another section, sold its Clubhouse to the U.S. government. But because of the difficulty, if not impossibility, of building a new Clubhouse on another site, the Club was forced to request the government to allow it to continue to occupy its old premises on a rental basis. Various efforts were made at this time to convince high government officials that the Club was serving a useful national defense purpose. As World War I was the chemists' war, so World War II was the physicists' war, and the Club was flooded with scientists—especially physicists—from all over the country. This time James B. Conant dined on a basis of intimacy

with the physicists who sought to provide the United States with an atom bomb.

Hence, when, in the summer of 1940, Club President W. Chapin Huntington urged influential members of the Club like Vannevar Bush, who had just been appointed chairman of the National Defense Research Committee, to write John Carmody, administrator of the Federal Works Agency, to allow the Club to continue to use the building, Bush and others did so. John C. Hoyt pointed out that in World War I a temporary war membership had been established for about 400 nonresidents of Washington and that the Club was prepared to render the same service in World War II. Observers of the Club, Hoyt noted, had often referred to it as "a quasi-Governmental Institution." Bush noted that "the scientific group habitually foregathers there and it is possible at the dinner hour and in the evening to quickly locate a number of individuals for a conference. If there were no such gathering place," Bush went on, "I think that the work of the scientific group would proceed in a somewhat halting manner until there was an equivalent place in which the group would informally meet by habit."

In response to the barrage of letters, Carmody, on July 15, 1940, agreed to give the Club six months' rental and to reopen the question at the end of that period in the light of the emergency situation at that time.

When, in November, the Public Building Administration demanded further proof of the increased use of the facilities of the Club by organizations participating in the National Defense program, the Secretary of the Club on November 22 responded with another barrage of letters from top scientists indicating how essential the Club was as a clearinghouse for contacts among those engaged in national defense.

An example of the type of contact that took place at this time occurred, in the telling of Arthur H. Compton, on the fateful day December 6, 1941. Vannevar Bush, having just received

authorization from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, had called a meeting to assign duties to those who were to initiate the atom bomb program. To Harold Urey went the responsibility for developing the diffusion method for separating the isotopes of uranium. Ernest Lawrence was told to go ahead with the effort to separate the isotopes by means of a large magnet. Compton's job was to design the bomb itself. As he put it in his book *Atomic Quest*:

After the meeting of the committee, I went with Bush and Conant to lunch at the old Cosmos Club. In the table conversation I remarked that we should give further thought to the production of plutonium as an alternative to the separation of uranium 235. In spite of the unknown difficulties in establishing a controlled nuclear chain reaction, did not the advantage of chemical extraction in the case of plutonium instead of isotopic separation in the case of U-235 make this process a worthy competitor? Bush called attention to the obvious uncertainties that lay in putting into production a kind of process that was completely unknown to industry and which had yet to be shown possible in the laboratory. Conant added that, even if we could produce plutonium, we would know almost nothing of its chemistry. Even when we had this knowledge the task of extracting the plutonium from the uranium would be greatly complicated by the intense radioactivity. It would take years to get the chemical extraction process in operation. This was Conant, the expert chemist, speaking from experience.

"Seaborg tells me that within six months from the time the plutonium is formed he can have it available for use in the bomb," was my comment.

"Glenn Seaborg is a very competent young chemist, but he isn't that good," said Conant.

Actually the time from pulling the last activated slugs from the Hanford piles until the metallic plutonium that they contained was ready for use at Los Alamos for the first bomb turned out to be hardly two months. . . .

This was Saturday noon. Immediately after lunch I went to my room in the Cosmos Club and wrote out a preliminary plan of attack and an initial operating budget. If plutonium was to be made we

needed to get action at once. The same afternoon I called on Conant and Briggs in their offices and got their approval of my initial budget, some \$300,000 for the first half year.

Using the Cosmos Club telephone in my room I spent most of the evening talking with people whom I needed to work with me on the project. Among these in particular was Enrico Fermi, then in New York City.

On the following morning, Sunday, December 7, I left the Club to take the train for New York. At Wilmington, a passenger boarding the train said the radio had announced that the Japanese were attacking Pearl Harbor.

The Cosmos Club was called upon throughout the war to justify its existence and its need to continue to occupy the old quarters. And it continued to do so to the satisfaction of the government. Perhaps the service that the Club performed for the government at this time—"a service that the Government cannot perform for itself, that cannot be commanded, that cannot be organized and directed"—was best put by Waldo G. Leland in his address to the sixty-fifth anniversary dinner of the Club on November 16, 1943:

The service lies in this: that the Cosmos Club provides the place, the occasion, and the opportunity for that informal and intimate meeting of minds among those who have to do with the mobilization and application of the nation's intellectual resources that must be assured if that mobilization is to be in the highest degree effective. The most fruitful meeting of minds does not ordinarily come about through formal meetings and conferences—the occasion must be more intimate, more casual; it must take place in an atmosphere conducive to free exchange of views and to a certain sort of intellectual expansion; it must also take place where many intellectual roads cross and where ideas of the most different sorts will encounter each other. Such a place is the Cosmos Club.

This war has been called the physicists' war, just as the first World War has been called the chemists' war, but of course those terms fall far short of describing the scope of the effort that we are making. It is a war of all intellectual processes, of search for knowledge and the

application of knowledge in all fields. We take for granted the part of the sciences and of technology, but we are also well aware of the important part of such other fields as history, economics, psychology, linguistics, anthropology, and most of the rest of the social sciences and the humanities, as well, of course, as of education. The Cosmos Club is undoubtedly the place where the representatives of so many different fields, who are actively engaged in war activities or who come here to Washington for consultation, are surest of meeting each other.

Often it happens that casual meetings may be accompanied by unexpected and important results. Many examples could be given, if one were free to recount them, of contributions to the solutions of difficult problems that have resulted from the meeting of men in fields so far apart that only chance would have brought them together, who, in the discussion of their problems, suddenly found the answer to questions that had baffled them.

But the Cosmos Club is constantly the scene of planned meetings, as well. We all realize how important and at the same time how difficult it has been to bring together persons working on the same or closely related matters, but in different branches of the Government. The Cosmos Club has been the place where such have been brought together, usually by some non-governmental organization, such as one of the research councils. . . .

Perhaps one of the most important services that the Club renders to the war effort is through the facilities that it furnishes to numerous governmental agencies to hold special, and often important, though informal, consultations over the luncheon table. One cannot fail to note that our fellow members—Vannevar Bush, Director of the Office of Scientific Research and Development; James B. Conant, Chairman of the National Defense Research Committee; Harvey N. Davis, Director of the Office of Production Research and Development; Leonard Carmichael, Director of the National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel; Harry A. Millis, Chairman of the National Relations Labor Board; Leo Pasvolksy, in charge of special research for the Department of State; and Charles A. Thomson, Chief of the Division of Cultural Relations of the same Department; as well as Amos Taylor, Director of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce—rarely have luncheon by themselves. Certainly they always appear to be in earnest consultation with others about matters of public import. . . .

Finally, I would like to point out that the Cosmos Club is the natural meeting ground of the official with the non-official. In time of war and mobilization of intellectual resources much of the non-official is absorbed into the official, but there remains, nevertheless, an important element of the non-official. No one can have failed to observe the trend during the last quarter of a century toward consultation of Government agencies with scholars and scientists not in Government service. The growth of advisory committees attached to Government agencies indicates how general this practice has become. The development of the great research councils has made available to Government as never before—in normal times as well as in times of emergency—the services of the nation's intellectual personnel. In time of war, still greater dependence is placed upon these non-official agencies, and new specialized agencies, like the Ethnogeographic Board, are formed to meet new demands. The Cosmos Club is the place, indicated above all other places, for the establishment and maintenance of such contacts, and it has served as such with increasing frequency and effectiveness for many years.

The desire of the Club to further the public service that the intellectual world may render to the nation, its liberal policy with regard to the use of its privileges, and its atmosphere of cordial and simple hospitality, have brought it about that the Cosmos Club has become a valued auxiliary of the Government, performing services that Government itself cannot perform and yet that are indispensable and that are rendered without cost to the public treasury.

Indeed, it has often been said, perhaps jocularly, that the most important place in Washington, during World War II, was the Cosmos Club, unless it was Union Station at the moment when the night train from Boston arrived.

The role of the Cosmos Club as a "common meeting ground" for scholars in the "soft" and "hard" sciences as well as in the humanities has been acknowledged by the leading historian of Washington, D.C., Constance McLaughlin Green. In her *Washington: Capital City, 1879-1950* (Princeton, 1963), Mrs. Green cited the diverse array of intellectuals who found exchange of opinions at the Club valuable: men like Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam, statistician Francis Walker, biologist Austin

Clark, Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Smithsonian Secretary Charles Walcott, "or some still obscure young scholar engaged in research at the library. No university campus in America offered more varied intellectual nourishment than the 'city of conversation.' "

in *Topaze* in its July 24, 1959, issue:



Caricature of Kip Ross ('55), from Chile's weekly *Topaze*, July 24, 1959. Mr. Ross was chairman of the History Committee from 1957 to 1967.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CLUB

THE knottiest of all problems facing a club dedicated to the special purposes of the Cosmos Club is admission of new members. A club that has both a scholarly and a social character will often be torn between the respective poles of intellect and congeniality. As the Special Committee on Admissions Policies and Procedures put it in its Interim Report of May 19, 1953, membership in the Cosmos Club is "not a right but is a privilege which can be conferred only by consent and which may justly be considered a recognition of merit, character and personality."

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

A committee on admissions was elected at the first annual meeting of the Cosmos Club on January 13, 1879, along with a House Committee and a Library Committee. The Admissions Committee was to consist of ten members while the House and Library committees were constituted with three members each. The ten members of the Admissions Committee elected at that first meeting were W. H. Mew, E. M. Gallaudet, O. T. Mason, Edward Goodfellow, John R. Eastman, F. M. Endlich, Henry Adams, Henry Gannett, C. H. Davis, and G. K. Gilbert. The committee, after a preliminary screening process, recommended to the entire Club membership at its monthly meetings those

individuals, proposed for membership by other Club members, whom it approved. Two negative votes within the committee prevented a nominee's name from reaching the floor. If the nominee (then called a candidate) passed the screening of the Admissions Committee, and was considered at one of the monthly Club meetings, he could still be defeated by negative votes equal to a third of those cast by the members present and voting. In 1887 the formula was changed to either ten negative votes or one-fifth of those cast.

Almost from the start the tension that frequently exists between an admissions committee and the membership of a club as a whole emerged. At the May 3, 1880, meeting two non-members of the Admissions Committee proposed changes in the bylaws to alter the manner in which the Admissions Committee could screen candidates. Theodore Gill proposed that the number of negative votes required to block a recommended candidate in the Admissions Committee be raised from two to three. Henry C. Yarrow proposed that the limit be upped from two to four. Both proposals failed to pass. Another proposed change, to authorize the chairman of the Admissions Committee to communicate confidentially with the proposer of any candidate about any objection brought against the candidate, was also defeated.

The attempt to alter the procedures of the Admissions Committee led the chairman of that committee, immediately after the attempt to change the committee's rules of procedure, to tender the resignation of his entire committee. The Club, however, refused to accept the resignations and the first crisis in the delicate admissions process of the Club was overcome.

At the June 7, 1880, Club meeting an example of the embarrassment that can sometimes stem from the admissions process of a private club was illustrated when a letter from C. H. Kleinschmidt was read in which he stated that his name had been proposed for membership without his consent and that he had

just learned of his rejection. He requested that the facts be given to the Club.

At the February 6, 1882, meeting Simon Newcomb proposed that a select committee of five be appointed by the chair to take into consideration the future membership of the Club and to recommend such measures for its increase as they should deem conducive to the prosperity of the organization. The resolution passed unanimously. At the March 6 meeting the select committee on membership recommended the passage of the following resolution for the guidance of the Admissions Committee: "Resolved: as the sense of the Club: That the Committee on Admissions should confine its selection of candidates to members of the learned professions, authors, artists, men of letters, and men known as promoters of the objects of the Club." That resolution was taken up at the April 3 meeting, with forty-one members present. The resolution was adopted with one change, proposed by Horatio C. Burchard, substituting the words "men of science" for "men of letters."

Dissatisfaction with the admissions procedure seemed impossible to eliminate. On November 3, 1884, a proposal to change the bylaws to reduce the number of members of the Admissions Committee from ten to nine had been presented. Clarence Dutton, on December 1, sought to amend the proposed amendment to expand the number from nine to twelve. His motion carried twenty to two. At the next meeting, on January 10, 1885, thirteen members of the Club resigned, including a future Club President and an Admissions Committee member; but whether there was any connection between the change in the admissions procedure and the resignations cannot be determined.

At the annual meeting held January 10, 1887, Grove Karl Gilbert "called attention to the desirability of altering the composition of the Committee on Admissions so that the various interests of the Club shall be properly represented." It is impossible to document exactly the nature of the dissatisfaction

and cleavages that developed in the continuing controversy over how best to conduct the admissions process, but suffice it to say that the words of the Board of Management, in its January 10, 1881, report were accurate in describing the Admissions Committee as the "most important committee of the Club," while characterizing its task as "thankless."

Originally voting involved the use of a ballot box and black balls. At a January 13, 1890, meeting all candidates proposed by the Admissions Committee were accepted by the membership except for one who received nineteen votes in the negative and was declared not elected. Garrick Mallery moved that, because the ballot box "was not in the proper condition" when the vote on the particular candidate was taken, the rejection may not have been a correct expression of the Club's opinion. The chair supported Mallery's charge that the box was not in proper condition and declared the election "spurious." A motion by William Harkness to refer the name back to the Admissions Committee was lost by a close margin, twenty-five to thirty. A second ballot on the candidate resulted in fifty-six votes in the affirmative and seventeen in the negative and the individual was declared not elected.

The effect of rejections worried many members and at the January 19, 1891, meeting of the Board of Management, Dr. Gilbert submitted a draft of a circular relating to the duties of members of the Club and of the Admissions Committee in the case of persons proposed for membership against whom objections were raised. Gilbert pointed out "the disastrous effect on the harmony of the Club of the silent exercise of the right of black ball without putting the Committee on Admissions in such cases on special guard as to the candidate." On motion the draft was accepted and adopted by the Board and directed to be communicated to the members of the Club.

Whether the defective condition of the ballot box in the 1890 case was related to the black balls which were then used is not

known, but at a Club meeting on March 10, 1902, with seventy-eight members present, on motion of Melville Church, "the House Committee was directed to remove the round black balls from the ballot boxes, substituting therefor square black balls."

The double screening of candidates for admission led to a crisis in 1910 when ten members of the Admissions Committee, annoyed because the recommendations of the committee were sometimes overridden on the floor without forewarning and for reasons that did not seem compelling, resigned. The committee took this action to focus the Club's attention on the bylaws relating to admission, which, it charged, "fail to protect the candidate, the Club, and the Committee against adverse action without notice to the Committee." Too often, the committee charged, candidates whose names had been cleared by the committee were turned down by the membership in response to "vague rumors." The issue was grasped directly by the membership in the January 1911 meeting. A motion was made by Henry C. Rizer to require any member objecting to a nominee to communicate his objections or intention to vote against the applicant to the Admissions Committee before the vote on his formal admission was taken. Although the motion was defeated, reform was achieved. A substitute motion, by Karl F. Kellerman, approved by a vote of 138 to 13, gave the Admissions Committee power to elect members directly rather than merely to recommend admission to the Club membership. The only restriction on this new power of the Admissions Committee was the provision that twenty-five adverse letters from members, "giving their reasons therefor," were to be regarded as equivalent to rejection of the applicant. At the February 13 meeting of the Board of Management, the Board voted not to accept the resignation of the members of the Admissions Committee who had precipitated the reform.

POST-WORLD WAR II CONTROVERSIES

Another controversy over the admissions process developed in the period of the "Cold War": 1949-1953. A special committee to study the admissions procedure of the Club and recommend changes was appointed by the Club President pursuant to a motion at the annual meeting in 1949. Chairman of the committee was Edgar Turlington. Mr. Turlington was particularly concerned about the secret procedure of the Admissions Committee which, in some of its aspects, he equated to the activities of the House of Representatives' Un-American Activities Committee. Turlington felt that sponsors whose candidates encountered objections should have the right to appear and refute any allegations against them. But other members of the committee, notably Waldo G. Leland and Edward Wichers, felt that Turlington's suggestion of providing a hearing to proposers was unnecessary or useless. Turlington's proposal that the Admissions Committee should be required to prepare two nominations for each vacancy to the Admissions Committee was also opposed by other members of the committee. The final report of the committee, on March 28, 1949, eliminated these suggestions and, anticipating the Membership Goals Committee of future years, called instead for "advisers on membership" who could give informal advice to those proposing candidates for membership. The committee suggested also that the printed "Instructions" to those seeking to sponsor members be revised in various ways and that the terms "cultivated," "distinguished," and "fitness for membership" (the last of which had been interpreted in terms of personal rather than professional qualifications) be more formally defined.

Little change resulted from the recommendations of the 1949 committee, but the feeling of some that unwarranted and irrel-

evant criteria were being applied to nominees resulted in the resignation of the chairman and one member of the Admissions Committee early in June 1952 after a nominee—a political scientist—was rejected by the Admissions Committee. The two committee members circulated a mimeographed letter to members of the Club, dated January 8, 1953, complaining that the Admissions Committee in the previous two years had come increasingly to accept letters objecting to candidates “based on the nominee’s economic, social, religious, philosophical, or political views or affiliation.” The two charged that in one case the committee had “disregarded the scientific spirit” and had resorted to “guilt by association.” They suggested that “essential changes” were necessary and proposed a special committee to consider the matter.

Although the two were censured by the Board of Management on February 18, 1953, for their infraction of the bylaws in circulating to members of the Club a letter containing confidential Admissions Committee matters, a Special Committee on Admissions Policies and Procedures (SCAPP), on the motion of Waldo G. Leland at the annual meeting of the Club held January 19, 1953, was constituted to examine the admissions process. Leland’s resolution called for the President to appoint a five-member committee chosen from among former Presidents of the Club and former members of the Admissions Committee. Leland, in presenting the resolution, noted that the report of the 1949 committee on admissions procedures, of which he had been a member, “was never considered in any meeting of the Club and no effect was given to its recommendation beyond a slight revision of the form for the Proposal of Members.”

The new committee appointed consisted of Past Presidents Albert W. Atwood, Henry Grattan Doyle, Amos E. Taylor, Alexander Wetmore, and Waldo G. Leland, chairman. The committee proceeded with dispatch and thoroughness to consider past admissions policies and to recommend new procedures. At

its first meeting, on February 4, 1953, it unanimously agreed that the Admissions Committee should continue to have sole jurisdiction and power in the election of new members. It agreed also that it was not the special committee's function to deal with the incidents reported by the two former members of the Admissions Committee.

On May 19 the committee's interim report was completed and presented to the Board the next day. The Board ordered that it be published in the June *Bulletin*. The report indicated that the committee was considering the interpretation of various terms in the bylaws, the creation of special advisory services, the publication of a membership supplement to be enclosed with the monthly Cosmos Club *Bulletin*, and the publication of a classified list of Club members to show their distribution among occupations. The committee urged members to communicate their opinions on these and other matters concerning the reform of the admissions process.

The SCAPP's final report to the Board of Management and the members of the Club, dated January 12, 1954, was a thorough review of the history of the Club, its admissions procedures, and the committee's recommendations on how those procedures should be modified. Its recommendations included proposed amendments to the bylaws to change the phrase "meritorious original work" to "substantial and meritorious work," and to reduce from twenty-five to ten the number of members whose letters, "which must be independent as well as separate" in opposition to a candidate, were equivalent to rejection. The SCAPP reaffirmed the right of the Admissions Committee to exercise the power of admission in behalf of the Club even though Leland himself had been elected by the Club as a whole in 1909, two years before the Club authorized the Admissions Committee to both screen and elect.

The SCAPP also made recommendations that were not related to proposed changes in the bylaws. Not the least of its sug-

gestions was that "a complete and major history of the Club" be written to demonstrate that "the Cosmos Club is in fact a national institution of scientific, scholarly, cultural, and educational interests, exercising an important influence upon intellectual life and the public service."

The committee noted also that while the intellectual range of the Club's membership had broadened to keep pace with the rise of the social sciences and their application in administration and government, it had lost representation in the humanities. The report pointed out that creative artists, "who were numerous in the early days of the Club, are now few in number." The committee made a statistical breakdown of the fields in which members were expert and urged that an "annual table" be published showing the "distribution of the total membership of the Club among the fields of intellectual interest and the professions.

BACKGROUND ON QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

One of the objectives of the Club, as stated in its Articles of Incorporation, December 13, 1878, was the "advancement of its members in science, literature, and art." The initial bylaws of the Club, adopted in 1879, specified the qualifications of its 200 potential members as "persons interested in science or literature." On December 11, 1905, the report of a committee on the revision of the bylaws was discussed and certain amendments were adopted. Among them was the provision that the Club shall be composed of men "(a) who have done meritorious work in science, literature, or the fine arts, (b) who, though not occupied in science, literature, or the fine arts, are known to be cultivated therein, (c) who are distinguished in a learned profession or in public service."

On March 11, 1918, Victor S. Clark, secretary of the Admissions Committee, presented the committee's view that the by-laws be amended by inserting the word "original" after the word "meritorious" in the first clause, the word "well" before the word "known" in the second clause, and the words "recognized as" before the word "distinguished" in the third. The change, which was approved by the Club, made the qualifications more stringent. Although some members feared that the qualifications prevented young men, in particular, from having a chance of qualifying, the stricter regulation accompanied a continuing increase in membership, the limit on which was periodically revised upward in increments in 1884, 1886, 1897, 1911, 1914, 1919, and 1924 and later too.

A subcommittee of the Admissions Committee reported to its parent committee on November 1, 1937, that it thought it undesirable to suggest a change in the bylaws concerning qualifications for membership since such a change would lessen the attractiveness of the Club to the particular groups for which it was organized, even if only the impression of a radical change was given. The committee felt "unable to suggest any alteration in the wording of Article I, Section I [the criteria for membership] which would not involve danger either of gradual change in the character of the membership of the Club or of giving the impression that such a change was involved."

The conservatism of the Admissions Committee was not shared by John C. Hoyt, chairman of a special committee on membership, who wrote on January 3, 1938, to the Admissions Committee that "strict interpretation of membership qualifications makes it appear difficult for anyone to qualify for membership. It therefore appears that the election of a member will depend, in the main, on the policy of the Admissions Committee in making elections." Leason Adams, responding for the Admissions Committee, insisted that the committee was bound by the bylaws but noted that the latter are silent on the subject of the

personality of the nominees and that "it appears that past committees have considered it within their rights to reject nominees solely on grounds of personality if they so desired."

The final report of the SCAPP on January 12, 1954, recommended that the qualification of "meritorious original work" be changed to "substantial and meritorious" in order to avoid the "possible, if unlikely, interpretation of 'original' in the sense which might serve as a bar to the election of persons whose contributions to the advancement and diffusion of knowledge have been through the preparation of important tools of research, through interpretative writings, or through teaching or administration, or which might, on the other hand, serve to rationalize the election of persons whose work, though original, is of minor or slight significance." Leland, in a letter of February 17, 1954, to members of his committee, feared that scientists might object to substituting the word "substantial" for "original." "This is largely a matter of semantics," he asserted, "but such matters are sometimes the most troublesome."

SCAPP's proposed change in the qualifications for membership was not accepted, but the committee's report focused attention upon the need for clearer definitions of admissions procedures and for fuller understanding by the members of the qualifications for membership. The heavy preponderance of admissions (about 85 percent) is still in the first of the three categories under which candidates qualify: those men who have done "meritorious original work in science, literature, or the arts." "Recognized as distinguished in a learned profession or in the public service" is the second most frequently used category under which candidates are admitted. National or international recognition that an individual is eminent in his field is requisite for admission under this category. The least-used category of membership is that of men who, "though not professionally occupied in science, literature, or the arts, are well known to be cultivated in some field thereof." A candidate

under this category would be someone who might not qualify in his own field of professional concern but who would be widely recognized as cultivated in another field, as, for example, a lawyer who was also an outstanding musician.

The SCAPP, as did its predecessor committee of 1949, urged the Admissions Committee to provide more precise definition of the qualifications that sponsors were required to demonstrate their candidates possessed. While accepting the need for secrecy of Admissions Committee deliberations, SCAPP urged the adoption of a code of internal procedures and the keeping of a book of precedents to furnish guidance to later committees. The SCAPP also urged that nominations for membership on the Admissions Committee should specify the field or fields of intellectual interest which the nominee was deemed competent to represent. Although never previously incorporated in the by-laws, the concept of Admissions Committee members' representing certain fields had been mentioned as a reason for enlarging the committee in 1884, and as a reason for keeping the Admissions Committee large and representative in 1930.

The SCAPP recommendation reflected the frequent criticism of the Admissions Committee for its alleged inability adequately to judge the qualifications of candidates in fields outside the fields of competence of Admissions Committee members. While not challenging the practice by which the members of the Admissions Committee nominated their successors, the SCAPP sought to blunt the charge of "self-perpetuation" frequently directed at the Admissions Committee by encouraging nominations from the Club membership generally and by requiring specification of the fields the individual nominees were expected to represent.

The special meeting of the Club of April 20, 1954, which considered the recommendations of the SCAPP, approved some but disapproved others. It approved the requirement that nominees to the Admissions Committee represent specific fields of

knowledge. But it not only failed to vote for the proposed bylaw change to allow ten negative letters rather than twenty-five to overturn the favorable decision of the Admissions Committee, but also ended by repealing the original section allowing twenty-five negative letters to do so.

The absence of any thorough discussion of the merits of the SCAPP report at the 1954 meeting, and the continuing unease of some members about the authority of the Admissions Committee, led to a further consideration of admissions procedures at the annual meeting of January 19, 1959. To achieve such a consideration, Waldo Leland, chairman of the SCAPP, concerned at how little reform had taken place in the admissions process, associated himself with members who wished to allow a sufficient number of adverse letters to override the favorable decision of the Admissions Committee. These members presented a petition proposing an amendment to allow ten letters "objecting to the election of a person proposed for membership and giving their reasons therefor" to be "equivalent to adverse action by the Admissions Committee." After discussion by the membership, the proposal was voted down. Not the least of the reasons for the defeat was the eloquent statement of the outgoing chairman of the Admissions Committee, Malcolm C. Henderson. Henderson pointed out that a single letter, "if it contains substantial allegations that are not later controverted clearly by other evidence before the committee, has in my experience always sufficed to prevent election." He pointed out also that the ten letter writers, who could, under the proposal, block the election of a member, were not required to have any substantial evidence to support their objections. Henderson felt that the provision would weigh heavily against any prominent man, particularly one who had held public office. It would be easy, he asserted, to find ten individuals to block the admission of such a candidate. Henderson called the amendment "an unworthy debasing of our present procedures" and asked for a

continuance of a "deliberative, responsible, committee process." Henderson was supported by the Board of Management and ultimately by the Club membership.

Yet the issue did not die. In 1963 a petition by thirty members alleging the onset of a "divisive crisis," urged the restoration of the provision that made receipt of twenty-five separate letters objecting to the election of a person to be equivalent to adverse action by the Admissions Committee. The complaint was considered by the Board of Management and by a Special Committee on Revision of the Bylaws. The Special Committee noted that the provision allowing the twenty-five negative letters to invalidate the favorable action of the Admissions Committee had stood unused during the period of its existence from 1911 to 1954. The Special Committee also recommended that "if opponents of a nominee have not sent letters to the Admissions Committee, they should not be encouraged to nullify its system by a counter procedure." The committee recognized that objections to the Admissions Committee's self-perpetuating character and secrecy rules had been frequently expressed. Yet the tradition of the Admissions Committee recommending its successors, which had been formally written into the bylaws on the recommendation of SCAPP in 1954, was upheld as consistent with the continuity required of such an important committee. Nevertheless the Special Committee recommended that a Nominating Committee, upon which a member of the Admissions Committee would sit, nominate all Club officers including members of the Admissions Committee. The members of the latter could still recommend their successors to the Nominating Committee and indicate the fields of knowledge their successors were deemed capable of representing.

CONTROVERSY OVER RACE

Another test of the strength of the admissions process arose in the tumultuous 1960s. Although a private club is not public in character, it is not isolated from the world around it and from the currents of change within that world. During the 1960s the United States experienced the turmoil of racial conflict, change, and reconciliation. Passions and fears were higher than in the period of the Cold War. The tragedy of assassination heightened the feelings with which members of different classes, races, and political parties regarded one another. Irritation was directed not only at the public character of leading figures but also at their private lives: where they lived, where they sent their children to school, what clubs they joined.

The Cosmos Club in 1962 had no black members. No "color bar" existed, but the fact that the Club had no black members caused some to believe that in fact (if not in theory) a color bar did exist. Two members, newspaper columnist Raymond Gram Swing and Edwin Kretzmann, a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, nominated a black, Carl Rowan, who had succeeded the latter in his government office after pursuing a career in the field of journalism. Informal contact between one of his sponsors and the Admissions Committee had led the sponsors to believe that there would be no effective opposition to the nomination. But Rowan was rejected by the Admissions Committee. No reasons are given for the rejection of any nominee by the Admissions Committee, whose proceedings are secret. In the charged atmosphere of Washington at the time, however, the case soon became a *cause célèbre*.

Although Rowan expressed no bitterness, his sponsors and some of those who had written in support of his nomination felt that the rejection had been based on racial prejudice. The name

of President John F. Kennedy had been proposed about the same time, but was withdrawn when his principal sponsor, with a number of others, resigned from the Club in protest over the exclusion of Rowan. The issue was quickly picked up by the newspapers and the country was treated to the spectacle of another incident of alleged insensitivity toward, and discrimination against, blacks. Because such matters were supposed to be nonpublic, the Club officers were bitter toward those who sought to air the matter in the press. Their attitude was shared by several editorial writers. An editorial in the *New York Times* on February 14, 1962, criticized those who resigned in protest rather than staying in the Club to remove the alleged bias. The editorial charged those public officials who resigned with considerable fanfare with having "political purposes" in mind rather than the good of the Club. A *Washington Post* editorial of January 11, 1962, also suggested that a "more sensible thing" than resigning would be for members to stay in the Club and, on the assumption that racial discrimination did exist, work for a nondiscriminatory policy. On the other hand, those of Rowan's supporters who had resigned took the position that their resignations and the publicity given the issue made work inside the Club against the alleged discrimination more effective.

Those concerned with the issue who had stayed within the Club sought to make sure that nominees for the Admissions Committee up for election in January 1962 would repudiate racial prejudice. An even larger number of members urged that Club policy of nondiscrimination be clarified. In accordance with this purpose the former chairman of the Admissions Committee, Malcolm Henderson, introduced a resolution at the annual meeting of the Club on January 15, 1962, "that the members of the Cosmos Club . . . do hereby declare that the exclusion of any person from membership on account of religion, color, race, or national origin is incompatible with the principles of the Cosmos Club." After considerable discussion the resolution was passed by an overwhelming voice vote.

The divisiveness engendered by the Rowan affair took some time to subside. When eleven members who had resigned between January 9 and 17, 1962, sought readmission as a group late in December, the Board of Management decided to refuse their readmission. The Board, in reaching its decision, felt that those who had resigned had "acted with undue haste without careful investigation of the facts and upon unwarranted assumption as to the basis of the Admissions Committee's action." The Board noted that "the fact of their resignations was widely interpreted as a condemnation of Club policies that in fact did not exist." The Board was willing to permit their nominations for readmission as individuals through the usual Admissions Committee procedures.

An attempt was made at the January 21, 1963, annual meeting of the Club to reconsider and approve the applications for reinstatement of the eleven former members of the Club. The resolution noted that the members had resigned "before the Club's policy had been clarified and after the press had published reports, not at the time contradicted by any official organ or action of the Club, that the Club followed a policy of racial discrimination." Waldo Leland spoke in favor of the resolution, regretting "what seems to me to be the tragedy of errors in which the Club has been involved during the past thirteen months."

Leland cited as the first error the proposal of a political appointee as the first black to be presented to the Admissions Committee instead of one of the many distinguished black scientists, scholars, or educators who might instead have been nominated. Secondly Leland criticized the assumption that racial prejudice within the Admissions Committee caused the rejection of the nominee. The third error was the hasty resignation of those who felt the action of the Admissions Committee had been based on racial prejudice. A fourth error Leland considered the assumption that great harm had been done the Club by the episode. In

fact, he said, if harm had been done, it was more than offset by the declaration at the 1962 meeting that discrimination by race was incompatible with the principles of the Club. Fifth, Leland felt the Club authorities erred in not making a public declaration at the time protesting against the assumption of prejudice. Leland indicated his personal regret that he himself had not written a letter at the time to this effect and that he had not suggested to other members to do the same. Finally Leland felt that it was an error for the Board of Management to refuse to reinstate the members who had resigned and who had applied for reinstatement under the provisions of the bylaws. He himself had urged one of those reapplying to do so. "I am not sure as to the legal validity of the action" [refusing reinstatement], Leland asserted, "but I am convinced that it did not have moral validity. . . ."

Still, Leland believed that the only way to proceed was to request the Board of Management to reconsider its action and not attempt, as some members had done, to present a separate slate of officers in opposition to the regular Club nominees. Despite Leland's attempt at reconciliation, the resolution he presented to achieve it failed to win the necessary two-thirds vote.

The turmoil over the Rowan affair gradually subsided though not without leaving a residue of bitterness. As a way of "inaugurating a new 'era of good feeling'" Club President Dean B. Cowie in a letter of May 31, 1963, to all members announced plans of the House Committee and Admissions Committee for "a program to welcome and honor newly elected members to the Club" with an informal reception on June 17, 1963. Subsequent elections brought into the Club a number of distinguished black intellectuals. The era of good feeling lasted until the 1970s when another challenge presented itself to the membership: the proposed admission of women members.

CONTROVERSY OVER WOMEN AS MEMBERS

Although the Articles of Incorporation of the Cosmos Club of December 13, 1878, stated one objective of the club to be the advancement of its "members"—unspecified by sex—in science, literature, and art, and their mutual improvement by social intercourse, there is no doubt that the founders did not contemplate the admission of women as members. One hundred years ago the social revolution that has since taken women out of the home and into the nation's offices, pulpits, businesses, universities, and laboratories had not occurred. The woman's world was almost completely a domestic one, and the home its locale. A social club, even one composed of scientists and scholars, was conceived of as a place away from home where the cares and responsibilities of the father, the husband, the master, and (in an era of extended families) even the son-in-law and son would not impinge upon the member's free association with his intellectual peers.

The original bylaws of January 9, 1879, also failed to be sex-specific in defining membership. Instead they read that "This Club shall be composed of persons interested in science or literature." The word "persons" remained in the qualifications for membership until February 15, 1906, when Article 1, Section 1 of the bylaws was changed to read that the Club "shall be composed of men," a change made presumably to reflect the original intent of the founders.

The original rule of January 6, 1879, that "no ladies shall be admitted to the Club Rooms," was modified almost from the start. Within a month it was proposed that exceptions be made to the rule and within a year it was modified by the addition of the phrase "except when allowed at specified times by the Board of Managers, and after due notice shall have been given by

the Board of Managers by a notice posted in the Club Rooms." Ladies were thereafter admitted for receptions, housewarmings, and a variety of other exceptional circumstances. Finally, on September 16, 1918, shortly after the Club's acquisition of the Cameron-Tayloe house on Lafayette Square, provision was made for a ladies' dining room in the Clubhouse with access through the rooms to the new assembly hall in the converted stable.

In 1941 the Board of Management asked the House Committee to codify the rules relating to women, and in 1943 a new by-law relating exclusively to women was passed stating exclusions and privileges. The committee decided that wives and widows of members, still defined as "guests," had "privileges" and were not merely guests or visitors. A later revision of the bylaws formalized the ruling and authorized issuance of women's "privilege cards," which entitled the holder to the use of the dining rooms and parlors "under the same obligations and limitations as apply to members."

When the Club moved to the Townsend House in 1952, women continued to hold "privilege cards" that entitled them to the use of the new Clubhouse. Though excluded (except upon special occasions) from the use of the upstairs library, parlors, and Members' Dining Room, the downstairs Garden Dining Room and Ladies' Parlor provided handsome facilities for holders of the women's "privilege cards." The status of women in the Club was strengthened in 1949 by the provision that widows could qualify for the privilege card upon their own request rather than upon that of another member. In 1965, however, such applications were restricted by the proviso that the widow not have remarried at the time she applied for the issuance or renewal of a privilege card. The number of women, including widows, holding privilege cards is approximately the same as the number of resident members. While the presence of women in the Club is thus undeniable, they continue to bear a direct

family relationship to elected members, whether living or deceased.

In the annual meeting of 1973 and at a special meeting in 1975 attempts were made to amend the bylaws to admit women to full membership in the Club by virtue of their intellectual achievements. The mover of the motion to add the words "and women" to the bylaw qualifications for membership in the Club was Carl Bode, professor of English at the University of Maryland. "Feeling that both equity and expediency were on my side," as he put it, Professor Bode, during the 1971 annual meeting, announced his belief that women should be admitted to full membership. Ruled out of order in 1971, Bode began circulating a petition to have the matter brought up at a later meeting. At the 1972 annual meeting he announced his intention of pressing forward with his petition with the help of Louis Joughin, executive secretary of the American Association of University Professors. The requisite number of signatures were obtained on the petition, which was transmitted to the Board of Management in October 1972 in order to have the question put on the agenda for the 1973 annual meeting.

Nearly 500 persons attended the 1973 meeting, overflowing the Auditorium. Loudspeakers carried the proceedings through the Garden Dining Room into the front lobby. Club member Floyd M. Riddick, parliamentarian of the United States Senate, was present on the platform as usual to advise the President on parliamentary procedure. Debate was polite but pointed. The principal argument of the proponents of the amendment was that the Cosmos Club has a national and even international status that eclipses its status as a local social club. In an era when women are making meritorious original contributions in the arts and sciences, the proponents argued, it was unfair to exclude them from the possibility of membership in a club of similarly distinguished males. As graduate schools continue to turn out an increasing proportion of female scholars, the stand-

ing of a scholarly club composed exclusively of males would, they argued, become increasingly undermined.

Opponents of the motion emphasized the unbroken male traditions of the Cosmos and other men's clubs. While conceding that exclusion of females could be objectionable if the Cosmos Club were a professional society, the opponents pointed out that it was not such a body, but a social club of men with intellectual interests. The right of free association for individuals of either sex, for whatever purpose, was also asserted as a basic principle threatened by the motion. Underlying the argument over women, but not fully developed in the 1973 meeting, were the potential economic effects of female integration (would the Club have to be remodeled to provide expensive new facilities for women? How would the Club survive financially if many men resigned in protest?) and the social effects (how would one distinguish between the nonmember spouse of a female member and a male member? How would nonmember wives of male members feel about female members consorting with their husbands in areas from which they were excluded?).

Members were asked to vote on two propositions: Should women be admitted to full membership in the Club? Should the separate women's entrance be abolished? To the first proposition the vote was in the negative, 274 to 203. Since a two-thirds vote was necessary to amend the bylaws, the proposition failed by a wide margin. To the second proposition, the vote was in the affirmative, 296 to 99. While a subsidiary issue, the question of the separate women's entrance had become an embarrassment to many members who were forced to require their women guests, however distinguished, to submit to a distinction reminiscent of abandoned forms of racial discrimination.

After the excitement of the 1973 debate, the proponents of the admission of women allowed the dust to settle before bringing up the matter again at a 1975 meeting. Although no precise statistics are available, it was noted by both sides that newer

and younger members of the club seemed to lean toward the proposed change while earlier and older members seemed to be arrayed against change. All living Past Presidents, for example, opposed the change. Proponents of the move to admit women reasoned that as the years went by their position would be strengthened and that of the opponents weakened. Nevertheless, in the 1975 debate, the proposal, though debated with equal intensity, was defeated by an even wider margin. The arguments of 1973 were sharpened and expanded in 1975. Detailed and expensive cost estimates for refurbishing the Clubhouse were presented by opponents of the motion. The confusion and embarrassment attendant upon identifying and separating non-member spouses of members in different areas of the Club were set forth. The opponents charged that the proposed change, by making the retention of the distinction between members and nonmembers impossible to maintain, would reduce the Cosmos Club to "just another social club."

The proponents of the change, on the other hand, asserted that failure to admit women would undermine the intellectual distinction of the Club. While both sides conceded the goodwill and honest motives of the other side, there was an undeniable tension and sense of annoyance and frustration beneath the surface. Each side worked to rally the undecided to appear at the meeting to vote on the question. Members had to be present to vote. Nonresident members, who, according to proponents of the change, strongly supported the admission of women, were not eligible to vote unless present at the meeting. The final tally was 407 against the proposal to 204 for.

A few resignations followed the two votes denying admission of women as members. An official of the National Academy of Sciences, for example, resigned after the 1973 vote, publicly stating his unwillingness to bring female intellectuals to lunches or meetings in a club in which they were ineligible for full membership. Others, while disagreeing with the decision of

their fellow members, have stayed in the Club hoping that their minority view will later become a majority one. For the Cosmos Club the battle over women is one of the many storms it has faced, and will continue to face, in its long history.

SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

The subject of special categories of membership—young, junior, senior, emeritus, associate, foreign, and the like—has periodically provoked discussion within the Club. Although the founders were comparatively young men, the average age of the Club began to rise rapidly in the twentieth century. Although much concern with attracting younger members was expressed, particularly in the period of the Depression when the Club was suffering from abnormal resignations and declining income, little positive effort was made to achieve the purpose. Indeed, so restrictive did the Club's admission standards seem to some that, as John C. Hoyt, chairman of a special committee on membership, noted on January 3, 1938, "No young man can qualify under the strict interpretation of qualifications."

Club Treasurer George E. Fleming, in January 1938, proposed to the Board of Management that a class of "junior members, paying a smaller rate of annual dues," be created, but after many expressions of disapproval by members of the Board, the idea was referred to the newly created committee on the revision of the bylaws where the idea died. It was not until the report of a special committee on emeritus membership, as noted below, that a provision for lessening the dues of younger members was proposed and accepted by the Club.

At the other end of the spectrum the increasing numbers of older Club members experiencing hardships as their incomes fell in retirement posed another problem. Although the Board

of Management had from an early period possessed authority to waive the dues, or special assessments, of members for good cause, most older members hesitated to plead for a remission of their dues and some quietly resigned because of a financial inability to continue their membership.

At the June 27, 1940, meeting of the Board of Management a member applied for exemption of dues on the grounds that he had been a member in good standing for thirty-two years, was over seventy years old, and had retired from active work. The Board granted him life membership and remission of dues. It was voted to hold in abeyance the resignations of seven other members who had submitted their resignations at the same time. Following its action the Board created, on the motion of John E. Graf, a committee consisting of the chairman and secretary of the Admissions Committee and one other member to be chosen by the chairman to consider all resignations and to furnish the Board with recommendations thereon, with particular reference to the possible granting of life or emeritus memberships.

The newly appointed committee corresponded with three clubs with which the Cosmos Club had reciprocal relationships and read the yearbooks of seventeen clubs on file in the Club library. It noted various attempts by other clubs to cushion the financial burden of old age in the case of long-time members and recommended that on written request of any member who had paid dues for forty years, or on written request, with showing of probable cause, of any member who had paid dues for twenty-five years and had reached the age of seventy, that further payment of dues be waived.

The proposed reforms of 1940 were never implemented, and in 1956 the matter once again rose to the surface. Again financial considerations were intimately linked with policy and humanitarian considerations. As the Board of Management late in 1956 wrestled with the problem of maintaining the Club's finan-

cial house in good order it received letters from Eric H. Biddle proposing several ways of increasing revenues. In a complicated statistical analysis, Biddle showed that if a new class of "emeritus members" were established, its numbers not to be charged against the total authorized membership, the Club would increase its revenue, even though emeritus members would be relieved of most of their financial obligations after a certain number of years of continuous membership and after attaining a certain age. A committee to study the matter, consisting of Chester Morrill (chairman), Waldo Leland, and Wallace R. Brode, was appointed. After long and arduous work, the committee reported to the Board of Management on April 6, 1957. The committee's recommendation to the Club, that it institute a plan of emeritus and senior members who would either be exempt entirely from dues or pay one-half the regular dues, incorporated careful calculations concerning the amount of income lost or gained in the process. Although it was hoped that a 25- or 30-year period of Club membership would qualify a member for emeritus status, the financial implications were too serious and the figure of forty years (or eighty years of age) was eventually arrived at and is still the basis on which emeritus status is granted. Also established was a class of senior members with twenty-five years or more of membership who were to be eligible for one-half the regular dues.

The implications of reduced payment for older members had some bothersome features. As one member of the committee put it:

Should the Cosmos Club be essentially populated by retired persons or should it strive to maintain an average age in the 50's with a reasonable number of members in the 30's and 40's to balance those in the 60's and 70's?

I think we would all agree that the Club cannot continue indefinitely to have an increasing average if it is also to maintain its objective of broad cultural influence. I personally believe that the average

age of 65 is now too high and that it would be better to operate with an average age of 55.

In order to provide some support for increasing the number of younger members, the committee proposed allowing men under forty to pay their entrance fee in eight quarterly installments and also to exempt men under forty from half of their dues until they reached the age of forty. The Admissions Committee was also asked to give priority to the nomination of qualified men under forty over all other pending nominations.

The question of whether emeritus members should be allowed to hold offices in the Club was also debated, some feeling that the influence of the older members, already strong in Club leadership, would thus be unjustifiably enhanced. President Piggot was also concerned with the various comments and criticisms that he had heard, some charging that the leadership was "dishonestly" increasing the membership and "buying the support of the older members for an increase in dues by reducing or eliminating their dues."

At a special meeting of the Club on December 5, 1957, to consider the plan to formalize the principle of emeritus membership and to increase Club revenue, members of the special committee presented the well-thought-out proposal. Waldo Leland pointed to the "real need of those old enough to attain emeritus status" to "companionship with their peers and the sense of belonging." "They can find comfort in Cicero's consolations and hope in Browning's assurance that 'the best is yet to be,' and courage from the example of Ulysses as imagined by Tennyson, who with his aged but valiant companions set out from the rocky shores of Ithaca to sail 'beyond the sunset and the paths of all the western stars,' resolved 'to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.'" The Cosmos Club, he pointed out, is "not a mere club; it is a national institution deriving its special character from the men devoted to the intellectual life—to

science, literature and the arts—who compose it. . . . The members of long standing are the natural guardians of this tradition; they are its trustees who cherish it and who pass it on, unchanged in essence however it may be adapted to changing needs, to the younger generations of members.” Leland hoped that the proposals of his committee would have the effect of encouraging membership at an earlier age. But his special concern was with those who had already grown up in the Club. The Club membership adopted the proposals of the special committee on emeritus membership and has continued to support the concept ever since.

The Club has always maintained a liberal policy of welcoming to temporary privileges of the Club individuals with compatible interests. The bylaws of January 6, 1879, provided for distinguished “strangers” and rules and regulations for “visitors.”

At the December 4, 1882, and January 20, 1883, meetings of the Board of Management it was resolved that persons admitted to the temporary privileges of the Club should be known as “associates,” the bylaws at the time being silent as to their proper designation.

At its May 12, 1902, meeting the Board of Management recommended an amendment to the bylaws to allow individuals to have the privileges of the Club as associates for not less than three months or more than one year. The provision was for the benefit of members of learned professions and the armed services who might be temporarily sojourning in Washington. The associates were to be recommended by two resident members of the Club and to pay \$30 per annum. An example of the way in which the provision worked was the proposal of Charles Moore and O. H. Tittmann to the Board of Management on October 14, 1901, that associate memberships be granted to the members of the Senate Park Commission then planning Washington’s future development: Daniel H. Burnham of Chicago, Charles F. McKim of New York, Augustus Saint-Gaudens of New York,

and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., of Brookline, Massachusetts. All were elected for six months from October 15, "conditioned upon their desire for such election." McKim and Saint-Gaudens were later elected to full membership.

The report of the committee on revision of the bylaws, presented at the Club meeting of December 11, 1905, recommended that the Board of Management be allowed to extend the privileges of the Club to any foreign ambassador during his residence in Washington, as also to "strangers of distinction" in science, literature, fine arts, the learned professions or public service. Such privileges were extended, sometimes to the discomfiture of regular members who saw Club facilities being crowded by such temporary members, particularly during the war years. At the beginning of 1917, for example, there were only three associates but 292 were elected during the year and on November 21, 1917, there were 228 active associates. In addition, the Club was issuing 300 guest cards monthly. The Board, at its December 10 meeting, thought it wise to fix a limit of associates at 300. A petition presented to the Board on April 8, 1918, even requested the Board to reduce the number of associates. By the revision of the bylaws of December 11, 1905, "associates" were required to possess the traditional qualifications for membership under Article 1.

Discussions in 1925 and 1926 sought to allow the Admissions Committee to extend associate privileges to foreign diplomats assigned to Washington without regard to the duration of their residence in Washington, but the Club membership, at the annual meeting of January 11, 1926, declined to make this concession. More recently such foreign-visitor privileges have been linked to the duration of the visitor's stay in Washington or three years, whichever comes first.

The relationship between members in resident and non-resident status has been a point of continuing debate within the Club. The original bylaws of January 6, 1879, made no distinc-

tion between resident and nonresident members, providing simply for a membership of 200. The distinction between resident and nonresident members first appeared in the revision of the bylaws of January 9, 1888, which provided that "members residing in the District of Columbia more than three months in the year shall be classed as resident, others as nonresident." The Board of Management determined the status of the individual resident or nonresident.

A member of Congress, Richard Hooker, of Springfield, Massachusetts, asked the Board of Management on March 11, 1907, whether he was properly designated a resident member since he was in Washington only during the sessions of Congress. He was informed that he was properly designated a resident member and the Board resolved that any other Members of Congress on the nonresident list be transferred to the resident list on January 1, 1908.

In 1938 and 1940, suggestions were made to the Club leadership to increase the membership of the Club by bringing in Senators and Representatives ("probably the largest reservoir of potential members") by authorizing their membership in the nonresident category. The fact that Members of Congress must retain their residences in other states for legal and political reasons was cited as the justification. Although there was some support for the notion of bringing in Members of Congress as nonresident members, the policy was never established.

As the Club authorized increases in its total membership from 200 in 1879 to 2,000 in 1947, a ratio between resident and nonresident members was prescribed only for the period 1884-1887 when 200 of the 250 authorized members were required to be resident. A special committee to consider the advisability of increasing nonresident membership, with Frank J. Warne as chairman, was appointed early in 1926. The committee, which noted that the Cosmos Club was a national as well as a local meeting place because of its liberal policy on the introduction of

guests and visitors, recommended an increase in the nonresident membership as being in the best interest of the Club, "provided it occurs without undue stimulation."

Nonresident members have exceeded resident members since 1951, despite the fact that resident members are elected in a higher proportion. Attrition by death, resignation, and transfer to nonresident status of retired resident members has kept the balance of membership tipped in the direction of nonresident members.

Changes in the definition of what constitutes a resident and nonresident member have occasionally been made. At the December 9, 1918, meeting of the Club a clause—"within 30 miles"—was substituted for the District of Columbia in the section of the bylaws defining resident membership. On May 22, 1933, the 30-mile rule defining the resident/nonresident status of members was reaffirmed. In 1964 a special committee on the revision of the bylaws considered a proposal to increase the radius to fifty miles (from the zero milestone south of the White House rather than from the Clubhouse as previously calculated) as roughly proportional to the improvement of transportation in the previous thirty years. On examination, however, it was determined that only forty-five nonresident members would thereby have their status changed to resident, fourteen of them Baltimore residents. The proposal to extend the radius to fifty miles was not presented to the membership for its consideration.

The bylaws, in recent years, have emphasized that the informal designation of resident and nonresident members should not obscure the fact that all are members, some of whom are in "resident status" and some in "nonresident status."

MEMBERSHIP GOALS COMMITTEE

In 1969 a Membership Goals Committee was created in order to tap the reservoir of potentially qualified men in the Washington area to fill the vacancies in the Club's roster. The Board of Management was concerned that there was "too frequently a gap between a member's desire to propose candidates for membership and his knowledge of the mechanism for doing so; that he is too easily scared off by the amount of paper work and research involved." The committee was authorized to maintain a continuing review of Club policies and practices for maintaining full membership. Its most important assignment was to "assist sponsors in the preparation of effective nominations, but not in any way, as a committee, to become an advocate of nominations or to encroach on the role of the Admissions Committee." The early work of the committee, under Julian E. Berla, emphasized the committee's "advisory and catalytic" role in locating qualified nominees for membership and assisting sponsors in getting them through the admissions process.

Under the later chairmanship of Burton W. Marsh, the committee conducted a survey of the membership and assembled data on members' attitudes toward the nominations and admissions procedures. Marsh found that many members hesitated to nominate potential members—particularly young men—for fear of rejection. Marsh's committee also received complaints from those who objected to the secrecy of the process by which sponsors were often unaware of the reasons for rejection of their nominees.

The Membership Goals Committee has succeeded in helping to reduce the number of vacancies in the Club's roster by its helpful activities and will, it is hoped, continue to play a useful role in the future.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elections of officers of the Club and of members of the Admissions Committee have periodically been challenged as smacking too much of self-perpetuation. In the early years the nomination of Club officers was a simple process handled by the membership as a whole without any special nominating procedure. E. S. Holden, in his notes on the earliest meetings of the Club, recorded the balloting for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer at the meeting of January 13, 1879. In the informal ballot for President, Spencer Baird received twenty-one votes, John Wesley Powell seven, and James C. Welling five. John Shaw Billings then moved that the Secretary be authorized to record a single ballot for Baird as President, and this was done. In the balloting for Vice President, Welling received nineteen votes, Powell ten, and Billings two. In the balloting for Secretary Holden received twenty-six votes, Garrick Mallery four; Theodore Nicholas Gill one, and William Harkness one. Billings overwhelmed Mallery in the voting for Treasurer thirty to one.

On December 18, 1905, the Club adopted a resolution offered by Alpheus Henry Snow that the President appoint a committee of seven members consisting of not more than four Past Presidents of the Club to make nominations for each office. A printed ballot was to be furnished with the names of all persons nominated for each office. The committee was authorized to nominate one or more individuals for each office and "shall nominate" at least fifty percent more persons for membership on the Board of Management and on the Admissions Committee than the number of vacancies to be filled. On November 12, 1906, chairman Edward Gallaudet, of the committee on resolutions concerning nominations of officers, appointed under the

provisions of resolution of December 18, reaffirmed its support of the new method of nomination. A resolution to accept the committee's report was adopted.

The opportunity to make a choice between candidates for Club offices was not normally exercised, however, and periodically suggestions for reform were made. On October 21, 1929, L. O. Howard reported that a member of the Club who was about to draft a will leaving a large amount of property to the Club had been advised by his lawyer not to do so on the ground that provision for nomination of Club officers by a committee appointed by the Board virtually made the Board a self-perpetuating body. Dr. Howard noted also that there had been "a good deal of unfavorable comment on the lack of contest in the last election." He suggested that two persons be nominated for each office. At the November 11, 1929, meeting of the Club, he moved to strike out the provision in the bylaws for selecting the nominating committee and the Club voted to eliminate the provision and return to "the old method of making nominations."

In the Club's *Annual Report* for 1951, retiring President Huston Thompson recommended that in the future "the Club look into the procedure for the election of its President and Vice-President and consider the possibility of choosing these officers by the primary system and final election." The following year there was a contest for both President and Vice President with only a few votes separating the nominees for each office.

Current nomination and election procedures, codified by the Special Committee on Revision of the Bylaws appointed February 28, 1963, and reporting July 21, 1964, allow the Nominations Committee to nominate more than one person for each office, though no more than two names for each position are authorized. There is also a provision for the members to nominate others by petition (signed by no fewer than twenty-five members) for any position within the Club. Normally only one person is nominated for each position. The Nominations Com-

mittee, under present bylaws, is organized by the President and Secretary and consists of the two persons who last served as President, the one who is currently serving as a member of the Board of Management being designated as chairman; three persons, one each respectively from the Admissions Committee, Endowment Fund Committee, and House Committee, as designated by those committees; and two members at large elected by the five members of the Nominations Committee named above from among members of the Club whose length of membership is not less than five years and who are not currently serving in any elective office or on any of the above-named committees.

USE OF CLUB BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

As befitted an organization which saw itself as constituting a scientific elite, the Cosmos Club invited other organizations to use its facilities when it thought those organizations were compatible with its high standards.

The first recorded offer to an outside organization to use Club facilities occurred at the Board of Management meeting on April 12, 1879, when William Harkness moved that the privileges of the Club be extended for ten days to all members of the National Academy of Sciences during their Washington meeting then in progress. The Board of Management, in accepting Harkness's motion, voted to authorize the House Committee to furnish punch to the members of the National Academy if they could spare an evening to visit the Club. A similar invitation was extended to the National Academy the following year during its April session. Other organizations, such as the National Board of Health and the American Pharmaceutical

Association, were invited to use the Club facilities during their meetings in May 1880.

But the welcome mat was not always out. William C. Winlock, chairman of the House Committee, at the December 3, 1883, meeting of the Board of Management, reported that "of late various committees of scientific societies have held meetings in the club parlors thus causing much inconvenience to other members of the club."

At the November 1, 1886, meeting of the Board, on the eve of the Club's acquisition of the Dolley Madison property on the corner of H Street and Lafayette Square, Colonel Mallery attempted to clarify the policy on the use of the Club's facilities by the rapidly growing scientific community of Washington. He introduced a resolution "that the Board of Management be requested, soon after the completion and occupancy of the new club house, to invite the Philosophical Societies, the Anthropological and the Biological Societies to hold their meetings in the auditorium of that building, under such arrangements as the Board may deem proper." Henry C. Yarrow amended the resolution to include the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. Colonel Mallery spoke in opposition to the amendment on the ground of the private and strictly professional character of the Medical Society. The amendment was defeated. Grove Karl Gilbert then moved that the Chemical Society be invited and the motion carried. The resolution, as amended, was then carried.

In response to a request for information on the relationship between the Club and such societies when the latter were holding their meetings, Major Powell and others explained that the provision to allow the use of the auditorium by the associated societies was to be consistent with the convenience of Club members. For that purpose a separate entrance had been provided and the building so arranged that there would be no interference with the Club.

As the scientific societies of Washington expanded, subsections were created and new organizations founded. On January 5, 1888, a committee from the Biological Society asked to use the rear portion of the assembly hall for one Wednesday evening each month for the meeting of its botanical section. In addition, a communication was received from several members of the Cosmos Club asking for the use of the hall on the evening of January 13 for the purpose of forming a Society of Geography (which emerged as the National Geographic Society). The Board of Management, "not deeming itself authorized to grant such requests," referred them to the Club at large.

At the annual meeting of the Club on January 9, 1888, Mr. Winlock moved that the request in relation to the Society of Geography be granted. Mr. Gilbert moved to amend by giving the Society two additional nights, if necessary, to perfect its organization. In response to remarks by Professor Harkness, Mr. Gilbert asserted that "it was not the purpose of the resolution to commit the Club to the granting of any further privileges to the society when organized." The amendment of Mr. Gilbert was accepted by Mr. Winlock. Joseph M. Toner next moved that the resolution be laid on the table, but his motion, though seconded, failed. Mr. Winlock's motion was then put and carried.

As a result of the January 9 meeting a committee was appointed to consider the question of the relationship of scientific societies to the Club. The committee consisted of William Harkness, Lester F. Ward, and John R. Eastman. It noted that blanket permission to all the scientific societies of Washington to use the hall would abridge its use by members. It recommended that the use of the assembly hall be given "only to societies whose membership embraces a considerable proportion of the members of the Club." As a guide, it noted that resident members of the Cosmos Club made up 41.7 percent of the membership of the Philosophical Society of Washington, 32 percent of the Anthropological Society of Washington, 24.2 percent of the

Biological Society, and 7.2 percent of the Chemical Society. About 22.5 percent, it concluded, will "probably be members of the new Geographical Society." Exceptional cases might arise, the committee noted, but in general the use of the hall should be granted to societies on the following conditions:

1. The Society should be purely literary, artistic, or scientific and in no way concerned with the regulation of business or commercial affairs.

2. The membership of the society should embrace not less than forty-five members of the Club (20 percent of the present resident membership).

3. The use of the hall should not be granted to any section of a society unless at least twenty members of the Club habitually attend the meetings of the said section.

Under the provision of the rules, which were adopted by the Club, the National Geographic Society was authorized to hold its meetings in the Clubhouse provided at least forty members of the Cosmos Club were members of the Society.

On April 2, the Board of Management voted to charge societies meeting twice a month \$70 a year and those meeting once a month \$35 a year. On May 21, after the reading of a letter from Captain Dutton complaining that the amounts charged were excessive, a \$3-a-night charge was adopted.

At this time the scientific societies used the eastern half of the hall for reading of papers and discussion and the western half for short periods each meeting night by the governing boards of the societies. On March 9, 1891, the Club considered a letter from the National Geographic Society asking for a general arrangement by which officers of the Society could obtain permission to use the entire assembly hall on individual evenings for the hearing by that Society and its guests of lectures and papers on geographical subjects. Mr. Gilbert moved that the request be complied with and, if desired, similar privileges be accorded to the other four scientific societies which met in the

assembly hall. Robert Fletcher spoke with kindly feeling toward the societies involved, being himself a member of four of them, but was opposed to enlarging the use made of Club property by the societies. After a long discussion, Gilbert's motion was defeated.

Frequently during this period the use of the Club was extended to officers and members of various scientific, historical, and technical bodies meeting in Washington.

On January 6, 1894, the Joint Commission of the Scientific Societies of Washington offered to furnish the room tentatively set aside for meetings of the governing boards of the various scientific societies that met in the assembly hall. The Board of Management expressed itself as favorably disposed to the suggestion. On November 12, 1894, the Board accepted the proposition of the Joint Commission that it furnish chairs for the assembly hall of the Club. The governing boards of the societies using the assembly hall met in various rooms of the Club, but on October 14, 1912, the Board voted that the small room in the basement, in front of the assembly hall, be designated the council room and fitted up for the use of such governing boards. The Board Room of the Club, which had evidently been used for the purpose, was by the same resolution, reserved for Club purposes.

The policy of affording meeting facilities to scholarly organizations, for a fee, has continued to this day. As the Board of Management put it on June 22, 1949, the Club should continue to grant its facilities for meetings of "established, recognized, scientific, literary and artistic organizations, but that requests from other groups be referred by the Manager to the House Committee, for approval—approval in all cases to be subject to sponsorship of the meeting by a member of the Club and to his personal guarantee as to its financial obligations to the Club," and to be further contingent upon explanation by the Club member at the meeting that any publicity or any journalistic report not identify the meeting as a Cosmos Club function.

CLUB MANAGEMENT

The Cosmos Club began with a policy of having members manage its day-to-day affairs. But, as the Club grew to its present 3,000-member size, that policy came periodically into conflict with the imperatives of good business management. The outcome of those conflicts was greater control in the hands of nonmember professionals who were nevertheless expected to act in conformity with Club ideals and customs.

The philosophy that was to make the Cosmos Club a member-run club was expressed early in its history. Reporting on the state of the Club on January 10, 1881, when one hundred men (eighty-five residents, fifteen others from out of town) constituted its membership, the Board of Management pointed out:

The original plan was to make an inexpensive Club, where persons of like tastes should be able to meet freely and on an absolute equality and to provide rooms to which the members would not be ashamed to invite their friends from other cities.

The difficulties to be feared arose from the fact that no club recruited from our own class of men had previously existed in the city and from the further fact that to make our undertaking successful, we should be obliged to make both fees and dues small. We may fairly say that like the Latin Reader we have filled a much felt want.

Our Club fees and dues are far lower than those of any American or English club of the kind.

How was the Club able to function so economically? The Board pointed out that "The work of the Club is done by individual members from a desire to make it a success and from a hearty interest in its welfare—and it is not left as is usual in other clubs to servants. For example the members of the House Committee have personally superintended the ordering, purchase and distribution of their stores, at an expense of time and

labor which we can hardly appreciate." The Board concluded that in order to preserve in the future what had been gained in the past the same policy of "doing the work of the Club ourselves in order to be sure that it is well done" should be adhered to.

The close supervision exerted over Club management by the members, however, occasionally led to recrimination and conflict. The first such incident occurred in 1881 when a special meeting of the Board of Management, on October 17, considered charges against the Club's steward of neglect of duty and suspicion of dishonesty. The steward was called and responded to questions from the Board. The Board resolved that the charge of dishonesty could not be substantiated but concluded that "he has not properly attended to his duty." The Board ordered that in the future the steward and his assistant must be found at the Club during the hours to be ordered by the House Committee.

When the Club moved from casual refreshments to formal dining even greater demands were placed on the members charged with managing Club affairs. While a small "dining room" was established by 1888, only a handful of members used the facility. As membership grew, however, the popularity, income, and expenses of the food service rose, and with it all the need for more professional management of Club affairs.

The first sign of discontent with the way the House Committee was managing Club affairs occurred on January 16, 1890, when the Secretary read to a special meeting of the Board of Management a petition signed by thirty-nine members requesting that "greater care and a more liberal policy be adopted in the management of the affairs of the Club by the House Committee" and suggesting the names of three candidates for the House Committee for 1890. A special committee of two was appointed to consider the petition. It reported that the "entire management of the restaurant has, with the concurrence of the Board, been assumed and controlled by the chairman of the House Committee [William M. Poindexter] during the past

year." It noted that this policy "was a re-action from that entertained by his predecessor [John F. Head], and the result has been highly beneficial to the Club." The committee reported that accountability for money and stores was better, the discipline of employees superior, and "the losses from the pantry have dwindled into insignificance in comparison with what they were at times within a couple of years past." The committee acknowledged that "some personal feeling has been entertained towards the chairman by some of the members who were captivated by the plans of his predecessor, and who were chagrined by the abandonment of those plans." But the committee charged that the realization of those plans would have meant an excessive use of capital to be "devoted to the restaurant" and an excessive amount of time and labor required of the House Committee member in charge. "The preparing of cooked food in the Club house is not now practicable for several reasons," the committee insisted, largely because of the "utter unsuitableness of the building for the purpose, even were the Club ready to sink the money that the undertaking, whenever attempted, will involve." The committee's report was received on January 20, and after extensive discussion ballots were cast for the three members of the House Committee. James M. Flint, William M. Poindexter, and Thomas M. Chatard were declared elected. At the same meeting a resolution proposed by Treasurer William DeCaindry requested that the House Committee furnish the Board of Management an estimate of contemplated expenses for 1890 with specific details. Dr. Chatard, on behalf of the new House Committee, presented the estimates at the February 3, 1890, meeting of the Board of Management.

Although greater communication between the House Committee and the Board of Management seemed now the rule, the pressure under which members of the House Committee had to work began to tell. On March 3, 1890, Dr. Chatard resigned

from the House Committee, but the Board asked him to withdraw the resignation and resolved that the House Committee be requested "to harmonize the differences known to exist in the Committee." At the next monthly meeting, however, Mr. Poin-dexter resigned from the House Committee, the resignation was accepted, and Henry R. Webb was elected to fill the vacancy.

Very little authority was delegated to the Club's steward. One example of the steward's limited authority was in determining who should obtain the use of committee rooms in case of conflicting demand. The Board of Management noted (February 16, 1891) that the steward could make the determination only "in the absence of the members of the House Committee." Although the members of the House Committee were solicitous about getting a raise in salary for the steward, the latter continued to function in a well-defined subordinate capacity.

Dissension among those managing Club affairs broke out again in 1891 and the Board of Management, at its November 23 meeting, noted that it had "received with surprise and regret the resignation of the House Committee." Since the resignation had been accompanied by no reason or explanation, it was returned for reconsideration or explanation. On November 30 the members of the House Committee set forth their reasons for resigning. The House Committee felt aggrieved that certain matters it had expected to deal with exclusively had been referred to other committees of the Club also. The Board disclaimed any want of confidence in the House Committee, which it felt the House Committee letters of resignation implied as the reason for their action, and therefore refused to accept the resignations on the grounds tendered. Nevertheless, the House Committee, on December 14, 1891, insisted that their resignations be accepted immediately and the President authorized the Treasurer and Secretary to perform the duties of the House Committee until the annual meeting in January.

The tension that could exist between the House Committee

and the other officers of the Club was suggested in the resolution of Treasurer DeCaindry, approved by the Board of Management on January 22, 1894. The resolution required all bills for major furnishings and the like to be paid by the Treasurer and limited House Committee payments under the heading of contingencies to ordinary expenses; it required reforms in the House Committee's manner of keeping accounts of income and expenses "of the 'Grill Room' "; and it required the House Committee to submit a list of the number and designation of employees desired by the House Committee during 1894 along with the proposed rates of pay. The House Committee complied with the request in February, but in April Ward Thoron resigned as a member of the House Committee and recommended a change in the bylaws to permit an increase to five in the number of House Committee members. The bylaws were changed, and on June 18, 1894, the Board elected two new members to fill the vacancies created by the amendment.

With the growing popularity of the Club's dining facility, the opportunity of the House Committee to create a virtually independent fund with the profits brought in by the facility made for potential conflict with the Treasurer. On January 12, 1903, the Board of Management invited Robert Stead, chairman of the House Committee, to appear before it. Stead commented, as the minutes put it, on "House Committee profits." On motion, the House Committee was "requested to turn over to the Treasurer \$400 of the grill profits."

With the appointment of Augustus B. Coolidge to the House Committee on January 15, 1903, the winds of a change in Club management began to blow. Dr. Coolidge, on May 9, 1904, on behalf of the House Committee, called attention to the increasing credit account in the restaurant and grill, which reduced the cash on hand so that the House Committee "is continually embarrassed by not being able to meet bills promptly." Coolidge's effective presentation of the House Committee's responsibilities

in managing the Club's operations was sympathetically reviewed by Treasurer DeCaindry, who nevertheless proposed certain measures to regularize the financial administration of the Club.

At a special meeting of the Board of Management on March 31, 1905, Dr. Coolidge, for the House Committee, presented a plan of changing the conduct of business that called for someone on duty at the clerk's desk during all hours when the Club was open (which at that time was from 7:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.). At that time the Club employed a clerk at \$900 per annum, a steward at \$900 per annum, an assistant clerk at \$600 per annum, and a bookkeeper at \$500 per annum. Under the proposed reorganization, \$1,000 was proposed for the clerk, \$720 for a new bookkeeper, \$480 for an assistant bookkeeper, and \$780 for the steward. The plan, which would allow for an employee to be on duty whenever the Club was open, was adopted by the Board.

At a special meeting of the Board on January 10, 1906, Dr. Coolidge was made chairman of the House Committee with authority to nominate other members of the committee. At the same time former chairman Stead submitted his letter of resignation from the committee. After these actions, the Board of Management resolved that the House Committee be instructed to employ "a clerk for service under the Treasurer as well as under the House Committee and the Secretary, when required, at a compensation not exceeding sixty dollars per month."

With the accession of Dr. Coolidge to the chairmanship of the House Committee the process of rationalization of the Club's management began in earnest. On February 12, 1906, Dr. Coolidge nominated four other members of his committee and then introduced a resolution, which was adopted by the Board, "that the office of the Club shall consist of a Superintendent, a clerk and two assistant clerks. This force shall keep the books and accounts of the House Committee and the Treasurer, and perform such clerical duties for the Secretary as may be required. The Superintendent shall have general charge of the

Club under the direction of the House Committee and be held responsible for the reserve stock of wines, liquors, and cigars, and shall keep a correct inventory of the personal property of the Club contained in the Club House, making regular returns in conformity with rules and regulations established by the House Committee." Dr. Coolidge's resolution contains the first mention of the title "superintendent" to refer to an employee of the Club. The title "steward" is heard no more. The superintendent (L. E. Wright) was authorized a salary increase from \$1,000 to \$1,200 on October 8, 1906.

Dr. Coolidge was elected Treasurer of the Club at the annual meeting on January 13, 1908, to replace Mr. DeCaindry and served for a few weeks as both Treasurer and chairman of the House Committee.

In 1909, when the Club was expanding its home, James Knox Taylor was designated by a resolution of the Board of Management on June 14 as "Supervisor of Construction and Equipment" of the new building of the Club. As such he was empowered to act for the Board in cooperating with the House Committee in vacating the old buildings and in supervising the construction of the new building on Lafayette Square.

Club management under a nonmember superintendent continued for ten years. Then, on May 21, 1917, the Treasurer and acting chairman of the House Committee both reported that "Mr. Hill was not performing his duties as Superintendent in a satisfactory manner, in spite of admonitions on their part." The Board of Management voted that the Treasurer—Mr. Coolidge—be placed in temporary charge of the management of the Club and that Mr. Hill be directed to turn over to him immediately all papers and property of the Club then in his possession.

At the May 28 meeting of the Board Dr. Coolidge was appointed "manager" of the Club at a salary of \$2,400 per annum to begin on May 16. The Board added that "it was the sense of the meeting that it would not be good policy to have the posi-

tions of Treasurer and Manager held by the same person," and a committee was appointed to recommend a successor. At the June meeting the resignation of Dr. Coolidge as Treasurer was accepted, and Milton E. Ailes was elected to fill his unexpired term.

On November 10, 1919, Dr. Coolidge recommended that Mrs. Minnie Brooke be employed at \$4,000 a year as superintendent of the dining department of the Club. Mrs. Brooke was to give up her lease on the dining room, which she had operated at a profit since September 30, 1918. In the following year, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Thornton were engaged when Mrs. Brooke resigned. The Club purchased from Mrs. Brooke the furniture and kitchen equipment she had brought into the Club when she ran the dining room on a concession basis.

With the passage of a law in 1920 fixing minimum wages of women employed in hotels, restaurants, and clubs, the chairman of the House Committee foresaw only two consequences: "either the discharge of all women whose wages are below the minimum or their employment in some way to get around the provisions of the law." In fact, the Club soon found that it could accommodate itself to the increase in operating costs.

On October 31, 1922, D. M. Zirkle was brought into the Club as acting manager and Mrs. J. Harvey accepted a position, under Mr. Zirkle, as manager of the main kitchen.

Early in 1924 the structure of Club management, as constructed in the previous two years, fell apart. On February 12, 1924, the House Committee ordered that a Miss Virginia Pamell be employed as caterer and housekeeper with full authority to engage and discharge all personnel in her departments. A week later Dr. Coolidge expressed his desire to be relieved of the duties of manager but indicated his willingness to stay on as comptroller. The Board of Management accepted his resignation as manager and allowed him to continue as comptroller. On April 8 Mr. Zirkle submitted his resignation as acting man-

ager, which was quickly accepted by the House Committee.

During 1924 the management of the Club was in the hands of the House Committee, which assumed the over-all direction of the Club operations. The Board of Management, concerned about the feasibility of this approach, called for a report regarding the Club's accounts from an outside expert. In May 1925 the report of Robert Hamilton Smith, dated April 9, 1925, was received, recommending that the Club appoint a committee to consider the subject of appointing an operating manager. Such a committee was appointed, much to the irritation of the House Committee, whose chairman, John C. Hoyt, denounced the Smith report, saying little consideration had been given to the House Committee's point of view. Hoyt was particularly irritated at the "various insinuations against the House Committee in general and of specifically charging it with usurpation of the functions of the Board of Management." Hoyt pointed out that in 1924 and 1925, under Committee control, the Club had made a profit, while under manager control in 1923 it had reported a loss.

The protestations of the House Committee did not still the concern of the officers of the Club. The Budget Committee, on February 21, 1927, also urged that a manager be employed. Again the House Committee responded that "nothing is to be gained by the employment of a manager." Indeed, the House Committee went on in its next meeting, on February 8, 1927, to assert that "the plan proposed by the Budget Committee for the employment of a manager was unworkable." Nevertheless the Board, taking note of the "frequent expressions of discontent and criticisms of the manner in which the Club was being operated," appointed a special committee of the Board to make a study of the situation and suggest a remedy. The recommendation of the committee, presented late in 1927, was that lack of a single responsible head in the Club management was the cause of the Club's problems. No private concern, the committee asserted,

would think of operating without a competent manager. The special committee, which had been authorized to travel to New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to interview potential managers, selected Daniel F. Shay to be manager effective January 1, 1928.

With the simultaneous presence of a manager, comptroller, and a strong House Committee, the need for definition of roles became clear. On the request of the House Committee that the duties of the comptroller and manager should be more precisely defined, the Board of Management called a special meeting of the Board on October 19 at which it accepted the House Committee recommendation that the manager control all personnel except the clerks in the financial department, who were to be under the comptroller, Dr. Coolidge. In turn, the manager would report to, and be directly responsible to, the House Committee.

On January 21, 1929, the Board of Management praised the work of manager Shay and noted: "When authority and responsibility are lodged in a single individual, minor faults of operation may be corrected promptly as they develop." Yet Shay's stay was short. On April 22, 1930, after being refused his request to employ his wife or daughter in the Club, Shay informed the House Committee that he wished to leave at once. The House Committee accepted his resignation and appointed Dr. Coolidge to take temporary charge of all departments of the Club. After considering several applicants for the position of manager, the House Committee grudgingly agreed to engage F. H. Geyer for two years at \$5,000 per annum.

The 1930s were a period of crisis for the Club. As more and more members, pinched by the Depression, failed to pay their dues or to use the Club (the list of members in arrears for dues on October 17, 1932, reached two full pages), expenses shot up above income, and the Board considered reductions in the pay of all Club employees. The pay cuts were made, and although

the possibility of restoring the cuts late in 1933 was proposed the Board determined to continue them until the incoming Club administration had had an opportunity to see if the increased patronage of the Club, then noticeable, was likely to continue through the year.

In fact there was a turnaround. Although the percentage of rooms occupied for the first three months of 1933 was the lowest for that period in the history of the Club, the percentage during July and August was greater than for the same two months in any other year since 1918. The dining-room statistics told the same story. After giving serious consideration to closing the Club's two dining rooms, the House Committee noted the gratifying increase in use during the summer and fall of 1933, as the New Deal brought experts to Washington to plan the recovery of the country. There is no question that the increased use of the Club was brought about by nonresident members and guests whose accounts, in the summer of 1933, increased by 59 percent while those of resident members decreased by 2 percent. The reversal of the Club's economic fortunes brought recommendations to restore the employee salary cuts.

Late in 1935, Dr. Coolidge, after thirty years of service to the Club beginning as a member of the House Committee and ending as comptroller, died. The position of comptroller was discontinued on his death. Early in 1936, another pillar of Club life, Daniel Lyman Hazard, Secretary of the Club from January 9, 1911, to January 20, 1936, retired. The loss of these key persons caused the Board once again to attempt to define the authority the various officers and committees had over Club employees. As the Board noted in a special meeting of January 27, 1937, the bylaws empowered the House Committee to engage employees, but did not fix their responsibility. The manager and house personnel seemed logically responsible to the House Committee. But were the bookkeeper and office personnel responsible to the Secretary? No obvious answer to the question presented

itself. The special committee appointed to consider the question, reporting on May 19, 1937, recommended that the bookkeeper and his assistants (formerly responsible to the comptroller, Dr. Coolidge) should be placed under the jurisdiction of the House Committee. However, the special committee, consisting of Edward Wichers, chairman, Walter L. Treadway, and Alexander Wetmore, believed that the House Committee should exercise supervision over the bookkeeping staff directly and not through the manager, "as is done with respect to other employees." Important decisions regarding duties, and decisions to engage or discharge employees, should, nevertheless, the special committee continued, be submitted to the Treasurer for approval since a large part of the bookkeeper's work was closely related to the Treasurer's duties. Although not formally adopted by the Board of Management until January 15, 1947, the subcommittee's report was generally adhered to in the interim.

The year 1937 was one in which the Club sustained heavy operating losses and the Board employed the services of Peters, Smith & Co., accountants, to make a study of the operations of the Club and present a budget for 1938. The report was highly critical of the powerful role played by the House Committee. It noted that in 1924 the manager had been relieved, and the House Committee and "its staff assumed charge, thus instituting the rather unusual, if not highly impracticable, divided control management of the Club as it exists at the present time." The report recommended that an operating manager be appointed. The Budget Committee, somewhat miffed at an outsider's involvement, reported that it did not feel the Peters budget was workable. The Budget Committee prepared its own budget, which the Board of Management approved on February 5, 1939, after adopting some of the Peters firm's suggestions.

The difficulties of keeping the Club in the black, temporarily solved by the imposition of a \$10 assessment on all members, led to a controversy between the House Committee and the

Board of Management. The House Committee wanted to get rid of the manager, and although the Board did not at first agree, it eventually accepted the recommendation of the House Committee and approved the hiring of a new manager, Arnold Foster Sanborn, late in 1939. The House Committee, under Frank B. Scheetz, combined with its recommendation for managerial change a proposal to revamp some of the Club's operations with a view to increasing the net income of the Club about \$6,500.

On February 25, 1942, Mrs. Margaret S. Kinney was brought in by the House Committee as assistant manager with duties of supervision of the services of all dining rooms and with responsibilities for housekeeping operations as well. On September 13, 1942, after discussing the question of "inefficient management of the Cosmos Club and the losses in the Dining Room," the House Committee decided to ask Mr. Sanborn for his resignation. Mrs. Kinney was appointed acting manager on October 10 and, on December 21, 1942, her title was changed to manager.

Although Mrs. Kinney continued to manage the Club with a firm hand for the next eleven years, the House Committee did not lose its power. Frank B. Scheetz, a member of the House Committee, assumed the role of "management engineer" for Cosmos Club property, a continuing responsibility approved by the Board of Management with such salary as might be agreed upon between Mr. Scheetz and the President of the Club. The influence on management procedures at this time of Club members Scheetz and Charles S. Piggot (who had succeeded Mr. Hazard as Secretary of the Club) was considerable. Piggot was assigned to two years of government duty in England on January 6, 1950, however, and Paul H. Oehser was selected to fill the office of Secretary, which he held until 1969.

A reorganization plan approved March 19, 1953, reduced Mrs. Kinney's powers considerably and she offered her resignation two days later. The plan divided the operations of the Club

into three major areas of responsibility (business, food, and maintenance) and put Frank Scheetz in charge as "executive." Scheetz assumed the duties of executive on October 13, 1952, even before the formal introduction of the plan. Under the plan Mrs. Kinney might have chosen to remain as dietetic supervisor, but she chose instead to resign and to file an appeal before the District of Columbia Unemployment Compensation Board. A hearing on her appeal was held with the executive and chairman of the House Committee present.

Since Member Scheetz celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday about the time he took on the responsibilities of executive (with a salary of \$6,000 offered, which he chose not to accept) his tenure as executive was brief. On November 18, 1953, Scheetz requested to be relieved of duties as Club executive and recommended another Club member, David J. Guy, a retired official of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, to replace him. The House Committee accepted the recommendation, praising Scheetz for the competent management he had given the Club following its reorganization. The Board of Management approved, and on December 1, 1953, Scheetz retired and was succeeded by Guy.

As financial worries again began to beset the Club with the added burdens of the move to the Townsend Mansion, recommendations for a professional manager once more began to be heard. Club members have traditionally questioned management practices when told that an increase in dues or a special assessment—frequent methods for raising money in the past—are absolutely necessary to keep the Club solvent. A more professional management of the operations of the Club has periodically seemed a more appropriate alternative to many members. Although the House Committee tended to be supportive of member-run management of the Club, other voices urged reform. One such voice was that of Charles S. Piggot, former Secretary of the Club, who wrote to the President of the Club on October 14, 1955, that "in my opinion the managerial organi-

zation of the Club is top-heavy in numbers, and obviously lacks professionalism." Piggot was "convinced that one energetic and professional manager, given adequate support and authority, could function with far less administrative staff and by the exercise of energy, imagination and initiative" provide a more economical management than the Club had heretofore received.

The debate on the organization of Club operations became the subject of study for a special committee but that committee, on November 18, 1959, recommended that all changes in internal organization be deferred until a new manager, E. Guenter Skole, had arrived. Skole had been hired to fill the place of Mr. Guy, who had indicated a few months earlier his intention to resign. The new manager, not a Club member, gave the Club thirteen years of professional management until his resignation on March 15, 1973, to become manager of the Metropolitan Club. After a brief interlude in which Francis J. Burke, long-time head of the business or accounting office of the Club, served as manager, another professional, H. B. Cruickshank, a Scotsman, took over on June 30, 1975.

In a tribute to Guenter Skole at a farewell dinner March 13, 1973, President Calvin Linton praised Skole's "untiring and successful efforts to generate in the Club an atmosphere of congeniality without mushiness, and to provide ever-present service without intrusion." He urged former manager Skole that

if, during the long winter days and evenings of the future, the company of giants of commerce palls, and if you find that incessant conversation about Dow Jones averages, breakage points, and the vagaries of unassimilated peripheries of quasi-investment capital fails any longer to grip, wander back through the snow to our warmly lighted windows, press your nose against the pane as the flakes whiten your costly garments, observe our revels (probably involving Dr. Keshishian on a table with a bottle of rare vintage in his hand and vine leaves in his hair), see the fatted calves, well-roasted, being rolled in from every door, listen to the patter of well-shod (if rather elderly) feet as they tap out rhythms of ancient fertility dances—look,

gaze, yearn, and sigh, quoting Jeremiah (not, I am sorry to say, a former Club member): "Oh, that it were with me as in days past!"

Perhaps the most clear-cut measure of success is survival. The Cosmos Club has definitely survived, both under nonprofessional and professional management. From a Club of less than one hundred members with a handful of employees it has moved to a Club of 3,000 with a staff of over one hundred. The fact that the Club on its hundredth birthday is now firmly under professional management may indicate the "wave of the future" insofar as the form of management is concerned. But certainly the Club continues to demonstrate that its members have an intense care about the management of the Club. Though that commitment can be shown only on a part-time basis, through service on committees and positions of leadership on the Board of Management, it is a commitment to which members have given more than lip service.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

The Club's attitude toward its employees has been one of paternalistic affection tempered by budgetary caution. To the extent that the Club provides the comforts of home—specifically a home dating from a bygone era when servants existed—that atmosphere is provided by a dedicated and devoted staff.

Employees of the Cosmos Club, as befitted a club where members were noted more for the size of their minds than of their pocketbooks, were expected to share the economical spirit that pervaded the Club. At periodic intervals, committees would recognize that employee pay at the Club lagged behind that of similar establishments elsewhere. Adjustments would be made, but soon the familiar pattern was reestablished.

When, on September 8, 1913, the Board of Management was presented with the request of the chef for an increase in pay, it voted to direct the House Committee to tell him that if he would improve conditions in the kitchens so as to increase the revenues from the dining room, the Board would consider the question of a raise.

Club members occasionally remembered the staff in their wills. When the Reverend George A. Smith died in 1927 he left \$1,000 to be divided by the Executive Committee of the Cosmos Club among the employees who had extended their personal services to him. The Secretary recommended the manner in which the bequest should be divided, providing for eighteen full shares and eight half shares depending upon the estimated time various members of the staff had devoted to the Reverend Smith. One employee, who had been dismissed "for general inattention and carelessness; later the Club discovered that he had at least one volume from the Club library in his room," was nevertheless in good standing at the time of Smith's death and so was awarded one share in response to his letter indicating that he had rendered "some part of that service which no doubt prompted the noble and generous mention of *us*" in Smith's will.

When a long-time employee found himself in unexpected financial difficulty, as did William Jackson, the Club's doorman, in 1937, the Board of Managers took steps to help him out of his predicament.

Length of service has always counted for much at the Cosmos Club, as the House Committee demonstrated in January 1938 when it noted, in response to the report of an outside consultant, that two young women could quite easily accomplish the work of four elderly chamber maids who had been serving the Club for many years. "These women are really too old and feeble to do the required work expeditiously and efficiently," Louis Simon of the House Committee noted, "yet the Club has made no provision for their retirement or insurance, and the general

sentiment of the Club is strongly opposed to discharging them without some form of retirement compensation."

When the federal social security tax was first introduced in 1938, the matter of possible exemption from the tax for the Club was discussed as a way of keeping the wage bill down. But a committee of the Club concluded that the objectives of the Social Security Act were good and that as a matter of policy the Club should have its employees entitled to the benefits of the act whether or not the Club might be able to obtain an exemption. So it was decided not to seek such an exemption.

The Club has always attempted to maintain a rigid prohibition against individual tipping of staff members. Acceptance of such a gratuity can be, and has been, cause for dismissal. In March 1938 the head waiter was dismissed for accepting a tip from the sister of one of the members.

The Club also expected loyalty and diligent service from its employees. Early in World War II a printed notice to employees entitled "You and the War Effort," signed by manager Sanborn, equated loafers on the staff with saboteurs and asserted that those who hung back from the enthusiastic performance of their duties were "impeding the War Effort."

Particularly loyal and helpful employees have been remembered with fondness. On July 6, 1949, on the occasion of the thirty-sixth anniversary of Bacon K. Page's employment at the Club, the Secretary sent him a letter stating that, throughout this period, "in your capacity as master of the front desk you have symbolized to all, both members and guests of the Club, the hospitality and cordiality which makes this Club such a delightful place." The Secretary's letter went on: "We feel that the satisfying atmosphere of the Cosmos Club is due in large measure to your loyal efforts throughout these many years." In responding to the Club's letter, Mr. Page wrote that "the thirty-six years of my connection have passed so quickly it seems a miracle. Greetings, smiles, compliments from all parts of the

world have made me happy and proud to be a part of the grandest club and body of men on earth, truly a Cosmos family." Four months later, Mr. Page died, evoking expressions of regret and personal affection from the Board of Managers.

The absence of a pension system to provide for the retirement of Cosmos Club employees was remedied by the approval of a report to the Board of Management drawn up in 1950 by a Pension Committee appointed by the Board. The Club pension system, which supplemented retirement benefits received under the Social Security Act, provided for benefits at age sixty-five for those employees who had served thirty years or more, and at sixty-eight for those who had twelve years of continuous service. The system was (and is) noncontributory on the part of the employee. In 1956 an outside specialist, hired to project the future costs of the system, recommended that the Club budget \$10,000 for the purpose in 1956. In 1977 the Pension Plan was revised to bring it in conformity with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Under the new plan, employees have (under certain conditions) an option of early retirement at age sixty. They also have the option (with the approval of the Club) of deferred retirement on a year-to-year basis beyond the normal sixty-five years. However, such deferred retirement cannot be extended beyond the mandatory retirement age of seventy. The plan also includes a provision for benefits to those fifty years or older with fifteen years of service whose employment is terminated by reason of total and permanent disability.

In November 1957 a subcommittee of the House Committee, concerned with wages of employees and chaired by Jesse Saugstad, made an eloquent plea for an increase in wages for the 112-person staff of the Club. It asserted that "No single asset is of greater importance to the Cosmos Club than dependable, effective and unobtrusive employees. While the spirit of the Club is created by the character of the membership, the atmosphere in which that spirit dwells is largely the creation of

its professional staff." The committee was not uniformly laudatory. While noting that length of service is an important criterion of an excellent staff, "a dish washer does not appear to turn out a cleaner glass nor break fewer dishes after years on the job than he does the first day of employment." "On the other hand," the report noted, "the chef, with expert observation of members' response to his offerings, may easily offset the bartender's bad gin, lukewarm martinis and unpolished glasses." The subcommittee concluded that "In a commercial dining room the tendency might be towards personnel turnover in order to maintain the lowest wage rate. In a Club the presence of a familiar figure assists in creating a homelike atmosphere—a highly valuable Club asset."

Perhaps the best testimony to the character of the Club employees is a story told by Morris L. Cooke about Frank Warne, who left the Club its largest legacy. Meeting him in the Club one day, Cooke, who recounted the incident in a letter of October 20, 1959, to Sam Broadbent, said, "Frank, where have you been? I haven't seen you for some time." "No," he said, "I have been sick." "At what hospital?" Cook inquired. "No hospital," he replied, "right here in the Club. They know more about taking care of sick people than any hospital does." While Warne's requirements for service were sometimes trying to the staff and led to several disagreements with the management, the Cosmos Club was, nevertheless, his true home. Ultimately the Club was the unexpected recipient of a large portion of his property, which has since provided a support to the Club's continued existence.

The close bond that developed over the years between the Club's members and its employees was evident also in the creation and growth of the annual Christmas Fund under which thousands of dollars each year are distributed in a lump sum to employees in the Christmas season on the basis of length of service to the Club.

The custom originated at the January 14, 1884, meeting of the Board of Management when, "on the motion of Prof. Harkness, \$25 was appropriated as a Christmas gratuity to the Club's four servants, to be paid by the Treasurer."

By the 1920s the custom had become well established with the manager or comptroller presenting a list of employees eligible for the annual gift to the House Committee, which distributed the fund.

The House Committee at its July 26, 1926, meeting considered the recommendation of the Board of Managers that a portion of the Christmas Fund be set aside as a fund for use in case of the death of a worthy employee. No action was taken in July, but on December 14, 1926, the House Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Management that 10 percent of the contribution to the Christmas Fund be put in a special relief fund provided it did not reduce below \$3,600 the amount to be divided at once. The relief fund would provide for worthy employees or their families in cases of emergency. The House Committee pointed out that the Christmas Fund was "instituted for the purpose of giving recognition to faithful service, as a club rule prohibits fees to employees." The giving of individual Christmas presents, the House Committee noted, "is regarded as a violation of this rule and acceptance of such presents will be considered cause for disciplinary action."

In December 1928 the House Committee voted to distribute the fund in the same manner as in recent years "except that the factor 'discipline' be eliminated." How severely this factor had been applied as a qualification in the past, along with longevity, is impossible to state, but there seems no doubt that eligibility was based on more than simple duration of service. Indeed a printed reminder from "MANAGEMENT" to staff dated September 15, 1944, noted that "Your Christmas bonus is based upon your attendance record. That means the number of days you are present on time and work a full day. Unexcused absences count against you."

On December 5, 1938, the House Committee approved a resolution to return the Reserve Fund (which included the Employees' Relief Fund)—then \$1,444.91—to the Christmas Fund, its source of origin. The House Committee noted that only \$1,000 was then deposited in the Christmas Fund so that with the addition of the Reserve Fund, only about \$1,000 would have to be borrowed to make up the "usual \$3,500" for the Christmas Fund.

On June 15, 1942, the House Committee recommended that "the present Christmas and Relief Fund Bank Accounts be consolidated and termed the Cosmos Club Employees and Relief Fund Account." The 1942 committee established a definite plan for the distribution of the Fund which, in the years following, continued to grow. In 1944 the Christmas Fund amounted to \$5,286. In 1947, \$8,845.

As the late 1940s saw the development of a plan for old-age pensions (discussed above), some members felt that the Reserve and Relief Funds account, which included the Christmas Fund, was sufficient for the purpose. But one member, D. C. Bronson, wrote that "Voluntary Christmas Fund OK, but I do not believe in a voluntary method for items which are basic personnel features—believe a set charge should be made."

The Christmas Fund has continued to grow. In 1977 it was \$68,500. Whether one sees the Christmas Fund as deferred income, programmed relief, or a generous gift, the tradition of Christmas giving to Club employees has become established as a strong Club tradition.

The long list of employees with many years of service to the Club, published every year by the Club, is perhaps the truest testimony to the mutual satisfaction felt by the Club's employees and the members they serve.

THE PRINT SHOP

The Cosmos Club is unusual in having its own convenient Print Shop from which the *Bulletin* and the many printed menus, cards announcing future events, and the like emerge. It is a small operation, housed in the basement of the Clubhouse. The shop has a power press and a limited amount of type. It does not print the Cosmos Club *Annual Report* and other large documents that have to be composed and printed elsewhere. The shop's origins date back about 60 years. On June 10, 1921, the House Committee voted to authorize the expenditure of \$100 for a proof press for the Print Shop, which seems already to have been in existence. The next week, the House Committee voted to authorize installation of a sink for the shop. Four hundred and forty square feet were authorized for a print shop for the H Street Clubhouse (never built). When the move to the Townsend Mansion at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue was made, approximately the same amount of space was allocated to the Print Shop, and Architect Peaslee's plans for its installation called for it to be "close to management for last-minute changes."

Over the years the Print Shop has been manned by a succession of printers, but the man who held that job the longest was Wesley C. Gannaway, who retired in 1956. When the *Bulletin* was started in 1947, he set all the type by hand, and it would be an interesting statistic to know how many ems he turned out during his twenty-three years as Club printer.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

One of the continuing efforts of Club members has been to create some form of endowment fund to assure that the Cosmos Club attains the permanence that is characteristic of great institutions of learning.

Late in 1921 a pamphlet was mailed to members of the Cosmos Club proposing the creation of a "foundation" for the receipt of contributions, bequests, and endowments to be used to support the future development of the Club and to pay off existing indebtedness. After several meetings to discuss the proposal, a committee of twelve prepared a plan to effect this purpose and it was submitted to the annual meeting on January 9, 1922. Although the plan was discussed at length, action was deferred until the next annual meeting unless a special meeting was called by the Board of Management prior thereto for such a purpose. The plan was not brought up again and, in fact, it was superseded by later proposals.

The next step toward the creation of an endowment fund occurred at the meeting of the Board of Management on December 18, 1922, under the chairmanship of Gilbert Grosvenor, President of the Club in that year. Grosvenor (having been informed of the fact by the clerk of the Club, Bacon K. Page) pointed out that the Arts Club of New York had been successful in securing an exemption from a war tax on dues and had secured a refund of tax previously paid. Grosvenor indicated that George E. Hamilton, a member of the Cosmos Club, who had represented the Arts Club in the matter, believed that the Cosmos Club would be entitled to a similar exemption. After some negotiation, in which 20 percent of the amount that might be recovered was recommended as a legal fee, Mr. Hamilton was asked to seek the appropriate exemption. The Club's application for re-

fund of taxes in the amount of \$32,556.47 on previously paid dues was, however, denied by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue on October 30, 1923, and, after a subsequent hearing before the Assistant Solicitor, denied again, on May 22, 1924. There the matter rested for several years.

In 1926 the Treasurer of the Club, George E. Fleming, raised the question with Mr. Hamilton and his partner John F. McCarron of the advisability of bringing suit in the Court of Claims for a refund of the disputed tax. The lawyers were optimistic about the outcome of such a suit, and the Board of Management, on December 20, 1926, authorized them to go ahead on the basis of a contingent fee of 25 percent of the amount that might be recovered.

The first step was to apply to the Internal Revenue Service for a refund of \$26,532.05 in taxes collected between February 6, 1923, and December 15, 1926. The lawyers argued that the tax had been illegally collected because the Cosmos Club "is not a social, athletic or sporting Club within the meaning of Section 801 of the 1918 and 1921 Internal Revenue Acts and Section 501 of the 1924 and 1926 Internal Revenue Acts and Regulations 43 revised."

The case was argued before various administrative officials of the Internal Revenue Service, and on April 30, 1927, the unemotional response of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue was that the evidence on file in the commissioner's office indicated that the Club was in fact a social, athletic, or sporting club within the meaning of the above-mentioned sections of the revenue laws. The commissioner concluded that since the taxes in question were "properly due and paid, the claim is rejected in full." Following that rejection, the lawyers filed suit in the Court of Claims on May 27, 1927, to recover the \$26,532.05.

In the meantime, help came from an unexpected source. On June 6, 1927, the Court of Claims, in *The Chemists' Club v. The United States*, found that that club, incorporated in the State of

New York, could rightly claim a refund for taxes on initiation fees and annual dues collected by the collectors of internal revenue of the second and third districts of New York, despite an earlier rejection of its claim for exemption by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. The Chemists' Club was not, the court held, a "social, athletic, or sporting club" within the meaning of the revenue acts referred to. After detailing the stated purpose of the club, the character of its membership, and the use to which its lecture hall and library were put, as well as noting that the club had "no ball room, card room, gymnasium, swimming pool, tennis court, golf course, or similar social, athletic, or sporting facility" (it did note the existence of a pool table, billiard table, and a checkerboard), the court concluded that "its social features are not a material purpose of the organization but are subordinate and merely incidental to the active furtherance of a different and predominant purpose, such as, for example, religion, the arts, or business." Since the revenue acts under which the club was being taxed exempted clubs whose social features were subordinate to their scholarly purposes, it followed that the Chemists' Club, having been defined as predominantly scientific in nature, was exempt from the tax.

Emboldened by the decision of the Court of Claims in the case of the Chemists' Club, the Club's lawyers, on October 10, 1927, returned to the fray, pointing out the decision to the still adamant D. H. Blair, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. The lawyers respectfully reiterated the proposition that the Cosmos Club was not a social, sporting, or athletic club within the meaning of the revenue laws and requested that the earlier claim for \$32,556.47 be reopened and allowed. An agent of the Internal Revenue Service made a thorough survey of the Club on June 27, 1928, examining the character of its library as well as excerpting data from its previously published histories. But the Commissioner was still reluctant to concede the propriety of the argument.

On June 16, 1930, the Court of Claims made its ruling, following the reasoning of its decision in the Chemists' Club very closely. It concluded that "the predominant purposes of the plaintiff are educational and the advancement of its members in science, literature, and art, and its main activities are conducted with the view of accomplishing such purposes." The court particularly noted the importance of the Club as a meeting place in Washington for men engaged in scientific activities during World War I. The court was also impressed by the fact that "every scientific organization in Washington, biological, botanical, sociological, and medical, started in the plaintiff club and used the club for its meeting place until some of them became so large as to require their own buildings." The court found the game rooms of the Club almost as sparsely furnished and used as those of the Chemists' Club. It recorded for posterity that the pool and billiard room was used by about ten members each day and that fifteen members participated in a billiard tournament each year. Aside from a small cardroom, the Club, the court noted, had no gymnasium, swimming pool, golf course, tennis court, or ballroom.

Although the Treasury Department filed a motion for a new trial, its motion was denied by the Court of Claims, and the government declined to appeal to the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the Court of Claims. The way was now cleared for the Club to collect on its claim for a refund of the taxes in question. On August 7, 1930, the Board of Management sent a printed notice to members noting that the amount of the return to individual members of the refund would be small, but "the aggregate, however, will be considerable, and if contributed to the Club to create a fund to promote its charter purposes, would materially aid in its development." The Board strongly recommended the creation of "an endowment fund" and hoped it would serve as "a nucleus for further contributions" and that each member would "avail himself of

this opportunity to contribute to the stability, the progress and the future growth of the Club.”

As a result of the decision of the Court of Claims, the Club received from the Treasurer of the United States \$67,790.83. Twenty-five percent of the amount was paid to the attorneys for their fee, and \$6,085.63 was paid to members and former members who asked for their shares of the refund. But what to do with the remainder? On the motion of Frank J. Warne, at a Board of Management meeting on January 24, 1931, a special committee on tax refunds was appointed, consisting of Warne and two others, to take proper action concerning the 1931 taxes and to recommend the proper procedure in regard to the refunds resulting from the decision of the Court of Claims.

Warne's committee presented its report at a special meeting of the Club on April 6, 1931. Warne moved the adoption of the amendments to the bylaws recommended by the Board of Management providing for the establishment of an endowment fund and the creation of an Endowment Fund Committee to administer the fund, under the supervision of the Board of Management, in accordance with a plan to be adopted by the Club. A plan was not presented at this meeting because of the then prospect of the Club's being compelled to sell its property to the government. The only amendment from the floor accepted by the membership, which approved of the concept of an endowment fund but differed somewhat on the best method to secure its establishment, was that "no part of this fund may be used other than for investment."

One of the recommendations of the Committee on Tax Refunds, the special committee headed by Warne, was that the fund "be used at first to reduce the amount of the mortgage on the Cameron property of the Club" and "that on the sale of the Cameron property to the Government an amount of money, equal to the amount by which the mortgage on the Cameron property has been reduced from tax refunds, shall be set aside in

a special fund." That recommendation was approved by the Board of Management and by the Club at a special meeting on April 16.

At a meeting of the Board of Management on May 18, 1931, the Treasurer questioned the advisability of using the Endowment Fund for reducing the Cameron House mortgage as provided in the recommendation of the Committee on Tax Refunds and subsequently approved by the Board and by the Club. Subsequent to the meeting the Board instructed a special *ad hoc* committee appointed by the President to make disposition of the tax refund other than as directed by the special meeting of the Club (specifically giving the new committee the authority to invest the funds released to the Club by members in certificates of deposit or government securities). Mr. Warne who, as a member of the Board of Management, voted against this action, followed his objection with a stinging letter to President William Charles White challenging the authority of the Board to take such action which, he asserted, was not only unconstitutional and unlawful but also in violation of the bylaws and a breach of trust. The Board's action, he concluded, also defeated the fundamental purpose of the report of the Committee on Tax Refunds, which was to have the Club itself—not the Board of Management—control and be responsible for the Endowment Fund.

Warne's special concern for seeing that the Endowment Fund was well managed led to his appointment as chairman of the Endowment Fund Committee, which acted as a watchdog over the fund in its early years. In Warne's first annual report of the Endowment Fund Committee, adopted January 4, 1933, the committee reiterated its view that "a plan for the operation of the Fund" and a decision on how the fund should be managed should be postponed "until it becomes possible to invest the Fund safely so as to secure a larger annual income."

It should be recalled that the Club did not exist in a vacuum.

The Great Depression had struck. Bank failures were growing, culminating in the temporary suspension of all banking business in March. Further borrowing from banks became impossible. It was in this critical period that Warne's Endowment Fund Committee, in a meeting held at the Club on March 21, 1933, approved the proposal of the Board of Management to rescind the action taken at the April 6, 1931, meeting concerning the temporary use of the Endowment Fund. The committee recommended that the Board be authorized to use the fund in the reduction of the mortgage indebtedness upon the property at 1516 H Street, NW, which had earlier been purchased, "and to meet such other important obligations of the Club as the Board may deem most pressing." The Board promised that the full amount used for the above purposes "shall be treated as a loan from the Endowment Fund to be repaid, with interest at four per cent, either in cash or in notes or bonds of the Club secured upon its real estate, as soon as the refinancing of existing mortgages shall occur." The Endowment Committee, in approving the loan, upped the interest payable to 5 percent.

The use by the Board of Management shortly thereafter of some of the sum borrowed to pay operating deficits (taxes, debts, and other obligations) drew another sharp response from Mr. Warne. The bylaws, he noted, specified that "No part of the (endowment) fund may be used other than for investment." In using the money borrowed from the fund to meet operating deficits, the Club had, in Warne's view, violated its trust and rendered the members of the Board of Management liable individually and personally for such sums so spent contrary to the bylaws. Because Warne could not approve of such action he tendered his resignation from the Board of Management.

In November 1937 an additional loan of \$9,000 from the Endowment Fund was secured by the Board of Management to meet an emergency situation.

The grim emergency of the Depression caused succeeding

Endowment Committees to continue to defer action on the preparation of a plan of operation for the Fund on the grounds that such a plan could more appropriately be drawn when the uncertainties—both financial and physical—surrounding the Club's future were resolved. In 1940 some of those uncertainties were resolved. As noted elsewhere in this history, the Club property was sold to the United States government. With the million dollars received from the sale, the loan of \$46,000 from the Endowment Fund to the Club was repaid, bringing the total amount of the Endowment Fund at the end of 1940 to \$63,367.62, of which \$45,000 was the principal amount in the fund and the remainder interest.

As war clouds loomed over the country, the Endowment Fund Committee, on November 28, 1941, approved a resolution of the Board of Management to invest \$50,000 of the Endowment Fund in Defense Savings Bonds, Series F. In May 1942 an additional purchase of war bonds in the amount of \$13,690 was made, again in response to a resolution of the Board of Management.

With little to do during the war the Endowment Fund Committee became relatively dormant; few members seemed interested in serving on the committee. Yet after the war, the thoughts of some turned once more to defining a purpose and use for the Endowment Fund. At the annual meeting of January 20, 1947, a proposal to amend a section of the article of the bylaws dealing with the committee was adopted which mentioned specifically the possibility that the principal of the Endowment Fund "may be used to provide or equip an auditorium or other Club educational facility."

But perhaps an even more important fillip to the consideration of the purpose of the fund was provided in the will of Frank Warne, the outspoken first chairman of the Endowment Fund Committee, who died on January 9, 1948. In his will, Warne, after making provision for members of his family during their

lives, provided that after the death of the last life tenant the principal of his estate would come to the Cosmos Club. A large portion of that estate consisted of real estate in Parkersburg, West Virginia (valued at \$126,000 in 1975), in which the Club still owns one-half interest, although it has on occasion (as at the annual meetings of 1949 and 1950) approved selling its interest in the estate. Attempts to sell this interest have not been successful, though the Endowment Fund Committee still seeks opportunities to do so. In the meantime the property produces a yearly income of over \$10,000 for the Club.

As the Club moved into its new Clubhouse at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, rising costs of construction pushed expenditures beyond the \$800,000 estimated and authorized for the job of renovation. At a special meeting of the Club on October 1, 1951, the Board of Management was authorized to negotiate a bank loan not exceeding \$238,000 to finance the construction and remodeling of the property at 2121 Massachusetts "and it is the sense of the meeting that the Endowment Fund should be used as a part of the \$238,000, with or without interest." Accordingly, in 1952, the government bonds purchased during the war were cashed and a loan of \$81,000 was made to the Club in return for a promissory note for \$100,000 payable on or before June 1, 1962.

The fact that the Club seemed to owe money to itself struck some as unnecessarily legalistic and in 1953 a proposal was made to cancel the Endowment Fund note. The Board of Management, however, responded with a reassertion of its view that the Club's indebtedness to the Endowment Fund should be regarded as a valid obligation, subordinate only to the Club's legally incurred indebtedness to outside sources.

The period of the early 1950s marked a low point in the history of the Endowment Fund. An amendment was prepared by a Special Committee on Bylaws, for consideration at a special meeting of the Club on January 8, 1954, to abolish the Endow-

ment Fund Committee and transfer its functions to the Finance Committee. One member of the Endowment Fund Committee, Samuel B. Detwiler, Jr., commenting on what he thought would be the final report, or "swan song" of his committee, regretted that previous Endowment Fund Committees had not aggressively prepared a plan for the operation of the fund, but had all deferred action under the conviction that a plan could more wisely be drawn when refinancing the Club property had been accomplished. It was still not too late, he believed, for the committee to serve the Club "as something more than a holding agent for war bonds or promissory notes and the butt of affectionate contempt." "Some small spark," he speculated, "still remains." He asked his fellow committee members: "Shall we pass quietly from the twilight of obscurity to the darkness of oblivion, or shall we go the final yard and fling the flickering torch to our successors?"

The spark was not extinguished. At the special meeting the following day the proposed amendment was defeated. The Endowment Fund survived and, along with it, the hope of the Endowment Fund Committee that it would remain "separate and inviolate . . . from other assets of the Club."

The Endowment Fund Committee in December 1955 reviewed the history of the fund and calculated its growth from 1931 to its projected state in 1962 as equivalent to an interest rate of 2.6 percent compounded annually. "It is obvious," the committee report noted, "that this rate of growth, dependent largely on interest income, is too slow to produce in the near future a fund large enough to earn sufficient income to make a very useful contribution to the Club's cultural or other activities." The committee proposed that the Club set a goal of building an Endowment Fund principal of a million dollars in the following ten years. It suggested many uses that could be made of the income of such a fund: new reference works for the library, works of art for the Clubhouse, lecture courses by fa-

mous authorities in various fields, annual prizes or awards. It called upon the Board of Management to endorse its view that the principal of the Endowment Fund should be used only for investment purposes and that the bylaws should be amended to delete the statement permitting expenditure of the Endowment Fund principal. The committee noted that Club members needed positive assurance that the fund would endure. The statement of one member at the special meeting of January 8, 1954, was recalled, to the effect that he had often considered inserting in his will a bequest to the Club, but had always hesitated because of the repeated efforts to abolish the Endowment Fund and devote the principal to the most pressing current Club obligation.

Succeeding Endowment Fund committees in the late 1950s turned their attention to hammering out an "active purpose" for the income of the fund, which by 1958 was totaling \$8,000 a year, and taking steps to assure that the loan to the Club in 1952, for the purpose of remodeling the stables and carriage house of the Townsend Mansion into an auditorium, would be repaid, as scheduled, in 1962. In casting about for appropriate cultural activities that the fund might support, the Endowment Fund Committee requested an opinion of the Legal Affairs Committee of the possibility of receiving tax-free contributions to the fund.

On May 15, 1958, the Legal Affairs Committee, Paul F. Myers, chairman, rendered an opinion on the subject. The committee unanimously agreed that the Cosmos Club did not qualify under the federal taxing statutes as an exempt organization. Only groups "organized and operated *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, testing for public safety, literary, or educational purposes" qualified for exemption. Hence, the opinion concluded, gifts to the Club were not deductible for income-tax purposes by the donor, nor were bequests deductible for estate-tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code. What distinguished its opinion, it pointed out, from the opinion of the

Court of Claims in the cases alluded to above, was that the latter applied to the imposition of a tax on initiation fees and annual dues of a club whose "predominant" purposes were educational and the advancement of its members in science, literature, and art. The income and estate-tax provisions provided for exemptions only when the organization being supported was "organized and operated exclusively" for educational or scientific purposes.

The committee concluded also that contributions to a trust or foundation set up by the Cosmos Club would not be deductible under the federal income-tax or estate-tax laws if the foundation had the close relationship to the Cosmos Club postulated for the Cosmos Club Endowment Fund.

The Legal Affairs Committee considered also the effect of the District of Columbia tax law upon the Endowment Fund. In an opinion of October 12, 1959, the committee noted that under the District Code clubs organized and operated exclusively for pleasure, recreation, and other nonprofitable purposes were no longer exempt from a District of Columbia tax. However, the District law, in defining gross income, excluded dues and initiation fees but not, in the opinion of the committee, rents or dividend income received from any source including the Endowment Fund. Despite these tax provisions the committee saw no difficulty in maintaining an Endowment Fund out of the proceeds of gifts, donations, and bequests, nor did it see any impediment to the Club's borrowing from these funds and repaying the loans out of income.

During the early 1960s additional borrowing from the Endowment Fund enabled the Club to purchase lots adjoining the Club property to enlarge the parking facilities available to members. The \$100,000 note due in 1962, on which \$19,000 of accrued interest remained unpaid in that year, was extended to 1967, with interest payable at the rate of 2½ percent.

In 1962 the Endowment Fund Committee, in response to a

motion at the annual meeting on January 15, 1962, proposed an annual award to be made by the Club to a person of national or international standing in a field of scholarship "who has made significant contributions to the world of learning." The committee felt that it was time to start using a portion of the fund for cultural purposes rather than solely for property and building expansion programs of the Club in order to "help establish the Endowment Fund on a continuing basis with clearly defined objectives that will appeal to the Club membership." Before selecting the award proposal the committee considered a suggestion made by a Club member not on the committee that the Club set up the machinery to seek out and make known original research by individuals that was not publicized and applied through established academic and industrial channels. While looking on the proposal with favor, the committee felt that funds were, at that point, inadequate to support this alternative suggestion.

Though the Endowment Fund Committee's proposal to begin a cultural program was approved by the Club, the committee continued to be attentive to the financial needs of the Club in time of emergencies. Late in 1963 the committee offered to donate \$3,500 from Endowment Fund income (in the absence of a Cosmos Club Award for 1963) to the operating funds of the Club and another \$5,000 to the Building Fund. The committee coupled its offer, however, with a resolution to the Board of Management indicating its concern over the effect of "repeated demands on the Fund in depriving the Fund of the benefit of increasing its principal to the extent of its earnings." While acceding to the Finance Committee's request for aid in reduction of the anticipated operating deficit for 1963, the Committee did not consider that a precedent had been set for regular or automatic renewal of these donations during succeeding fiscal periods "because it is paramount that the Fund develop early financial stability and growth."

The regularity with which donations were made by the Endowment Fund Committee to the Club in the late 1950s and early 1960s, nevertheless, led to the expectation on the part of the Treasurer that the amount would continue as an annual contribution due the Club account from the Endowment Fund. That expectation was frustrated by the Endowment Fund Committee which, in 1965, again responded to the assumption with a vigorous denial that such contributions in previous years had established any precedent for future years. That assertion was upheld by the Board.

In January 1967 a group of incorporators—members of the Club—established a Cosmos Club Foundation to advance the arts, humanities, and sciences through awards and grants to stimulate scholarship, finance symposia, and promote other appropriate projects. The Foundation is legally distinct from the Cosmos Club itself, and its activities are not designed to be of direct benefit to the Club though some affect the Club. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible. Trustees of the Foundation are the Club Treasurer, the chairman of the Club Endowment Fund Committee, chairman of the Club Finance Committee, and two Club members appointed by the Club President with the approval of the Club Board of Management.

Under William T. Pecora (Cosmos Club President, 1968), the Endowment Fund was reorganized and redesignated a Consolidated Endowment Fund. The fund consists at the present time of the following component funds: Members' Special Fund (derived from the 1930 tax refund to the Club); Warne Memorial Fund (derived from the Warne bequest); Centennial Fund (created in 1975 to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the Club on November 16, 1978); General Memorial Fund (consisting of general donations but including some bequests for specific purposes); and the Club Development Fund (deriving from reinvested Endowment Fund earnings prior to 1969 with subsequent donations). The Consolidated Endowment Fund

has three general categories: those funds the principal of which can be expended only by action of the membership but the income of which is available for assignment by the Board of Management for capital improvements, those funds (consisting exclusively of sums available in the Club Development Fund) where the principal and interest are both available to the Board, and those funds where the donor specifies a particular use for the income.

An example of the functioning of the Consolidated Endowment Fund was demonstrated in the disposition of the bequest of William B. Heroy (1914-1971) of \$50,000 without any qualifying restrictions as to its use. The Board of Management assigned the entire Heroy bequest to the Consolidated Endowment Fund where it was established as the William B. Heroy Memorial Fund with earnings available for Club capital purposes. The Endowment Fund Committee pledged to the Club the amount needed for refurbishing the Cameron-Tayloe rooms —\$40,000—over a two-year period, from the Consolidated Fund income, guarding the principal of the Heroy gift in the process. The refurbished rooms were renamed in honor of Mr. Heroy.

In commemoration of the approaching hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Cosmos Club the Board of Management in 1975, upon recommendation of the Endowment Fund Committee, set a goal of increasing the principal of the Consolidated Endowment Fund by \$500,000 within three years through the establishment of a new component fund designated the "Centennial Fund." The principal of the fund would remain intact and invested, not to be depleted except by a vote of the membership at an annual or special meeting. Earnings are designated for capital purposes as directed by the Board. The total of the donations by Club members and privilege cardholders to the Centennial Fund will be formally presented to the Club as a birthday gift at the hundredth anniversary celebration on November 16, 1978. The presentation of the gift will

mark the culmination of a saga that has seen the concept of an endowment for the Club born in hope, threatened with extinction, and now triumphantly emergent a hundred years after the Club's founding.

EXCHANGE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER CLUBS

One of the most enjoyable features of membership in the Cosmos Club is the opportunity to make use of clubs of similar character elsewhere in this country and the world. In 1977, the Club possessed sixteen reciprocity agreements with clubs around the globe. In 1976 (the last year such statistics were maintained) 540 members availed themselves of the opportunity to use these clubs, at least to the extent of obtaining cards of introduction from the Secretary of the Club. Eighty-five visitors were received by the Cosmos Club from other clubs during 1976. The one club sending more visitors to the Cosmos Club than the Club sent to it was the Melbourne Club of Australia.

How did such reciprocal relationships develop? Their origin can be found in a letter from the Vice President of the Cosmos Club of San Francisco, read before the Board of Management on November 11, 1901, applying for an interchange of courtesies between the Cosmos Club of San Francisco and the Cosmos Club of Washington. (No other club *like* the Cosmos Club seems to have existed but several clubs with the same name have periodically come to the attention of the Club.) On motion, the Secretary was directed to write "that such arrangements are contrary to the precedents of the Club and that this Club does not care to begin the system at the present time."

Two years later, at the July 13, 1903, meeting of the Board of Management, a letter from the Secretary of the Johnsmian Club of Brisbane, Queensland, proposing an "interchange of

members visiting America and Australia," was read. The Board of Management was still not in a receptive mood. It directed the Secretary to reply that "such action is contrary to the policy of the Cosmos Club."

The idea of reciprocal relations would not die, however. On November 13, 1905, the Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Grosvenor Club, Piccadilly, West, London, inviting the Cosmos Club to exchange the privileges and hospitality of visiting membership with the Grosvenor. The Board, perhaps intrigued by the attractions of that center of club life—London—instructed the Secretary to obtain further information. That information was not long in coming. The next month a copy of the club register of the Grosvenor Club was examined by the Board. No action was taken at this time pending further investigation "into the standing of the Grosvenor Club."

The inherent conservatism of the Board of Management seems to have prevailed even under the tempting offer of the Grosvenor Club, although the minutes are silent on the outcome of the investigation.

There was no doubt in the minds of the Board, however, when the Commercial Club of Chattanooga offered an exchange of club privileges. The Board, on February 10, 1913, voted that it was "inadvisable" to accept the Commercial Club's offer.

Offers of reciprocal relationships kept coming, nevertheless, and the Board seems to have begun to waver on the advisability of accepting such offers. On February 9, 1914, a letter from the American Club of New York City extending the privileges of that club to members of the Cosmos Club visiting in New York City was laid over for further information. The offer of the Boston Arts Club to exchange club privileges was sidestepped by the Board on June 11, 1917, because "it was deemed unwise to consider it at this time in view of the congested condition of the Club-house."

The policy of exclusiveness was finally breached in 1932 when the St. Botolph Club of Boston suggested reciprocal guest privileges for members of the two clubs. A committee, consisting of Charles A. Neill, Charles L. Sturtevant, and Daniel L. Hazard, was, on June 20, 1932, appointed to consider the matter. On September 19, the committee reported that an examination of the membership list of the St. Botolph Club showed only a few members of the Cosmos Club. (The committee feared the possible loss of Cosmos Club members if members of the other clubs could enter the Cosmos Club through the proposed reciprocal relationship.) It therefore recommended that the request of the St. Botolph Club be granted. The Board voted to arrange for such reciprocal privileges, the House Committee to look after the necessary details. On October 17 John E. Graf reported that a subcommittee of the House Committee had drafted regulations to govern the exchange of guest privileges and that Neil M. Judd was expected to confer with the secretary of the St. Botolph Club while in Boston to get his views, "it being thought possible that the St. Botolph Club had entered into a similar arrangement with other Clubs." On November 21 Mr. Graf, reporting for the House Committee and following the suggestion of the secretary of the St. Botolph Club, recommended that the clubs should exchange lists of members and see that they were kept up to date as a means of identification, and that guest privileges be limited to one month on any one occasion. By January 13, 1933, the arrangements for exchange of guest privileges with the St. Botolph Club had been completed.

After some years of operation, the system of identifying guests was altered. On March 15, 1939, the Board of Management ordered that guest cards be provided interested members by the secretaries of each of the two clubs as a means of identification because it had been found impracticable to maintain membership lists always up to date.

Soon the Cosmos Club began to accept reciprocal relation-

ships with other clubs. Arrangements with the Lotos Club of New York were carried to a state of completion at the Board meetings of April 19 and May 17, 1939. The Union League Club of San Francisco was the third club with which the Cosmos Club established a reciprocal relationship though that relationship was dropped when the Union League Club amalgamated with another club in San Francisco of different character. Yet the policy was a cautious one. The subcommittee charged with considering reciprocal relations placed great stress on the need for similarity of purpose in the clubs being considered for association with the Cosmos Club. The Board, on September 20, 1939, rejected the suggestion of the Wichita Club of Wichita, Kansas, for reciprocal relations and ordered the Secretary to thank the Wichita Club but to inform it that the Cosmos Club was not at that time increasing the number of clubs with which it maintained reciprocal relationships.

Moreover, during the emergency created by World War II, the Board of Management, on February 19, 1942, ordered that the reciprocal relationship with the Lotos Club "be terminated, and that the Secretary inform the president and managers of the Lotos Club that this action has been made necessary by the inability of the Cosmos Club to adequately care for its own non-resident members now visiting Washington in more than ordinary numbers."

During the war the Cosmos Club extended courtesies and hospitality to members of the Athenaeum Club of London on their visits to Washington. When Secretary Charles S. Piggot, on November 8, 1943, suggested the appropriateness of an exchange relationship, the Athenaeum, on December 16, 1943, rejected the proposal, and indicated a preference for continuing its existing practice of electing to temporary honorary membership any members of the Cosmos Club visiting the British Isles who were recommended by members of the Athenaeum.

Following World War II requests for reciprocal privileges

became more frequent and a more specific policy to meet such requests emerged. When the secretary of the Nassau Club of Princeton inquired in May 1948 of the possibility of establishing reciprocal relations between the two clubs, the Board of Management, on June 16, voted that the Secretary inform the Nassau Club that the Cosmos Club did not desire to enter into reciprocal arrangements because it would be impracticable to enter into similar arrangements with faculty clubs throughout the country in view of the fact that most of the Club's out-of-town members were also members of various faculty clubs.

Suggestions for establishing reciprocal relations with foreign clubs became more numerous after the war. A relationship with a club of similar purpose in London was urged by former Secretary Piggot, then stationed in London, and on April 19, 1950, the Board of Management voted to leave the matter in Piggot's hands with authority to make arrangements on an informal basis with the club he deemed best suited to Cosmos Club members. The Board thought the most likely exchange would be with the Savile Club. A relationship with the Savile Club was inaugurated that summer.

The Board of Management showed more reluctance to enter into reciprocal relations with clubs in smaller cities of the United States. Efforts to establish reciprocal relations with the Commonwealth Club of Richmond from 1950 through 1954 were rejected. The Board, at its February 17, 1954, meeting, adopted a resolution that "the Cosmos Club establish reciprocal arrangements with other organizations only upon thorough demonstration that the suggested organization is in fact one having standards and objectives closely similar to those of the Cosmos Club." The proposers of an exchange relationship with the Commonwealth Club were informed that they should furnish evidence that the Richmond club met those requirements.

On June 18, 1958, the President appointed a committee consisting of Paul Scherer, Lowell Mellett, and Secretary Oehser to

“investigate the question of whether there may be some other clubs with which the Cosmos Club might wish advantageously to arrange reciprocal privileges, and to report thereon to the Board.” The committee began a careful survey of clubs with which the Cosmos Club might associate.

On February 21, 1962, Secretary Oehser suggested the possibility of resuming relations with the Lotos Club of New York, and the Board of Management appointed a committee to study the suggestion. In the years following, several committees, particularly the present committee under the chairmanship of Allen V. Astin, studied the question of possible additional reciprocal relationships with clubs around the world and on its hundredth anniversary the Club can point to sixteen such relationships as listed below:

UNITED STATES

- Cliff Dwellers Club, 220 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois
60604
- Detroit Club, 712 Cass Avenue at West Fort Street, Detroit,
Michigan 48226
- Lotos Club, 5 East 66th Street, New York, New York 10021
- Pacific Club, 1451 Queen Emma Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
- St. Botolph Club, 199 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston,
Massachusetts 02116
- University Club of Chicago, 76 East Monroe Street, Chicago,
Illinois 60603
- University Club, San Francisco, Powell & California,
San Francisco, California 94108
- University & Whist Club, 805 N. Broom Street, Wilmington,
Delaware 19806

ENGLAND

- The Athenaeum, 107, Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5ER
- Savile Club, 69, Brook Street, London, W.1.
- Travellers' Club, 106, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
- United Oxford & Cambridge University Club, 71, Pall Mall,
London, S.W.1.

SCOTLAND

The New Club, 86 Princes Street, Edinburgh

FRANCE

Union Interalliée Club, 33 Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Paris

BELGIUM

Cercle des Nations Club, 25 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, Brussels

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Club, 36 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria

THE CLUB'S POSSESSIONS

ART AND MEMORABILIA

THE Cosmos Club is the proud possessor of important collections of art and memorabilia. While few items are of museum quality, they are important to the Club by virtue of making it livable and homey. They enhance both the public and private rooms. Now that the Cosmos Club has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places, the art collection takes on added significance.

The Club, in the first two years of its existence, received, framed, and insured photographs to decorate the Club quarters on the third floor of the Corcoran Building at the corner of 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Not until 1880, however, was the first traditional art received by the Club. In that year, William H. Holmes (distinguished founding member of the Club) was authorized to frame at the expense of the Club not more than six of his watercolor paintings he had offered to lend to the Club to hang in its rooms. The paintings were to remain the property of Mr. Holmes, the frames of the Club.

The growing art consciousness of the largely scientific Club was institutionalized at the annual meeting of January 10, 1887, when a resolution offered by John Wesley Powell was passed appointing a committee of three to "consider and report upon measures looking to the encouragement of art by the Cosmos

Club." Powell's resolution was in response to a motion by Samuel Hay Kauffmann to give the use of the assembly hall at a suitable season each year for an annual joint free exhibition of original works of art and architectural drawings executed by resident artists and architects of Washington on the same conditions under which the hall was offered to other organizations. Kauffmann's motion was laid over until the next meeting and in the meantime the committee appointed at Powell's suggestion (consisting of Kauffmann, Holmes, and Augustus Goodyear Heaton) sought to evolve policy.

At the meeting of February 7, 1887, Kauffmann offered a resolution that the Board of Management appoint a "standing advisory committee on Art, of three members whose duty it shall be to consider questions relating to the encouragement of art in the Club, to arrange for art exhibits in the Cosmos Club Hall, to advise with regard to decorations of the Club Mansion and to propose measures relating to the above subjects to the Board of Management for final adoption or rejection." The Art Committee was, on March 7, 1887, authorized to increase its membership "at its discretion." Club President John S. Billings announced at the same meeting that it was intended to have special exhibitions of objects of interest on the third Monday of each month, under the control of the Art Committee, which now joined the House, Library, and Admissions Committees as the only standing committees of the Club. An exhibit of Navajo blankets, held on February 14, 1887, was one of the many exhibits organized by the Art Committee in this period.

At the February 6, 1888, Club meeting Mr. Kauffmann gained approval for his plan to put the assembly hall at the disposal of the artists and architects of Washington for the exhibition of their work. Kauffmann's resolution, as approved by the Club, provided that the exhibition would last not less than four and not more than six days beginning May 1, provided that it did not interfere with the use of the hall by societies entitled to

its use. No charge or fee for admission was to be made and persons not members of the Club were allowed access only by the H Street door and on presenting an admissions card signed by a member of the Club or by an exhibitor.

An exhibition of Japanese paintings followed in May, but the Club's Western orientation was reaffirmed in August when the Secretary was directed to write to Major Powell thanking him for his action in having Bierstadt's painting of Mount Hood (the property of Senator Jones of Nevada) hung in the assembly hall.

The success of the art exhibit (which became a yearly feature of the Club) was remarkable. Mr. Heaton, chairman of the Art Committee, on May 5, 1890, reported that the total attendance at that year's exhibit of local Washington artists had been about four thousand.

The Club's promotion of art made the Club known throughout the city and even nationally. But with the development of the National Gallery of Art (now the National Collection of Fine Arts), the public art exhibits of the Club were, as Club President Gilbert Grosvenor noted in a letter to George Hamilton dated December 22, 1922, discontinued "until the quarters of the Club are enlarged."

The Club's acquisition of the Dolley Madison house stimulated members to seek to secure a portrait of the former first lady for the Clubhouse. William A. DeCaindry asked the Board of Management on November 14, 1892, for authority to secure from the Club members subscriptions for a portrait of Dolley Madison to be painted by E. F. Andrews. The suggestion was referred to the Art Committee. That committee, after some delay, responded to the Board on February 13, 1893, though details of its response, and the Board's subsequent actions, are absent from the Club's records.

The first painting offered to and accepted by the Club was a portrait painted by E. F. Andrews in 1892 of Dr. William Lee

(1841-1893), a founding member of the Club. It was offered by the executors of the estate of Mrs. Lee in December 1894. The mid-nineties also saw the first appropriation from Club funds for the purchase of art. The Board of Management in 1895 approved \$100 for the purchase of a picture selected by the Art Committee from the exhibition of the Washington Society of Artists then showing in the Club. The choice fell on a painting entitled *The Princess* by a Miss Curtis. The practice of purchasing a painting from the pictures exhibited by the Society of Washington Artists was continued and, in 1896, \$200 was appropriated for the purpose.

Soon member artists began a practice that continued for some years—painting pictures for the Club in lieu of dues. First to do so was E. H. Miller (a member from 1893 to 1899) who was allowed two years' dues for doing a portrait of John Wesley Powell, the Club's first President. First exhibited in June 1897, this work apparently is the pastel portrait of Powell now in the lobby hallway. The same year the purchase of a picture by a well-known artist member, Hobart Nichols, entitled *Autumn Afternoon*, was recommended, but no action taken. In later years Nichols gave paintings in lieu of dues as did DeLancey Gill and W. H. Holmes. Holmes's painting *Orizaba from the Gulf*, one of the most important of his many gifts, was presented in 1900 in lieu of dues for 1899.

The Club acquired in April 1901 the painting of *Fuji Yama* by Hiroshi Yoshida, which today graces the panel behind the Members' Dining Room bar. In February 1903 *Sunset on Long Island Sound* by H. B. Snell was acquired.

The Board of Management did not acquire art solely for the public rooms. On April 14, 1902, the sum of \$200 was appropriated for the purchase of pictures for the transient lodgers' rooms, "the pictures to be selected by the Art Committee in consultation with the House Committee." The tradition of decorating the guest rooms of the Club with works of art continues

to this day. One of the most prominently represented artists in the guest rooms is the Swedish etcher Axel Herman Haig, who spent most of his life in England and died in 1921.

In the spring of 1902 the Club accepted the offer of E. F. Andrews of a loan of his portrait of Mrs. Dolley Madison, apparently the picture for which Mr. DeCaindry had hoped to raise a subscription to purchase. This, no doubt, is the portrait of Mrs. Madison now hanging in the Ladies' Lounge, which was later given to the Club by the artist. Although of less than the highest artistic quality, it has acquired a sentimental place in the hearts of many members and was restored and refurbished in the 1970s.

The year 1903 was a milestone in the Club's history—its twenty-fifth anniversary. Art played an important part in the anniversary rites. The Art Committee arranged for a loan exhibition of paintings for the evening. The Board also authorized the Art Committee to "address a circular letter to members of the Club requesting subscriptions for the purchase of a marine picture by W. T. Richards at present hung in the Club as an anniversary present to the Club." Presumably this is the oil painting by Richards entitled *Near St. David's Head, Wales*, which is reproduced on page 43 of *The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C., with a Documentary History of the Club from Its Organization to November 16, 1903* (Washington, 1904).

As chairman of the Art Committee, W. H. Holmes had prepared an address for the occasion that sparkled with wit and relevance. His address was not delivered in the flesh, however, because of the late hour and heated condition of the room following Mr. DeCaindry's extended presentation of the historical record of the Club's past. Holmes suggested that his remarks instead be incorporated in the printed version of the proceedings.

Holmes noted that the Art Committee, during the years of his chairmanship, had been "renowned quite as much for the

functions it did not have as for those it failed to perform." In a good-natured dig at the meddling of the House Committee, with which the Art Committee has traditionally feuded, Holmes noted that "although the aesthetic contingent of the Club should in all justice be expected to regulate matters of *taste*, the Art Committee has never been called upon by the autocratic House Committee to aid in mixing drinks or in sampling the soup." Holmes wryly noted that the Club's beautiful intaglio head of a young girl in an oak frame without glass had been ordered cleaned by a member of the House Committee and was cleaned with a mop, scouring the casting.

Despite the problems faced by the Art Committee, Holmes could point to a solid record of art exhibitions to which non-members, men and women, who had no interest in the scientific activities of the Club, had been admitted with pleasure and gratitude. "This combination of scientific and art interests in a social club," Holmes pointed out, "is unique and could occur only in this unique city." Holmes ended his address hoping that "science will be considerate of all interests, and that for twenty-five years more the Cosmian Lion—the scientific—may not refuse to lie down with the Cosmian Lamb—the aesthetic—and the other fellows." It is in no small measure owing to Holmes's personal example (ten of his paintings grace the Club) as well as to his ability to link art and science in his own career that the scientific lion and esthetic lamb have found a common meeting ground in the Club.

Drawing the dividing line between the responsibility of the Art Committee and that of the House Committee has never been easy. One could say that the relationship, from Holmes's day to the present, has always been one of "creative tension." The bylaws prescribe that "the Art Committee shall have charge of all esthetic property of the Club including paintings, statuary, rugs, and decorative objects and shall advise the Board of Management and the House Committee in all matters relat-



View of bronze figure of the Marquis de Lafayette by Paul Bartlett (after the original in the Louvre) seen through the window of the Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square.

ing to the decoration of the Club." When, in 1950, the House Committee purchased an antique sofa without consulting the Art Committee, Art Committee Chairman A. G. Wenley complained, on February 8, 1950, that if such actions are to occur, there was "really no reason" for the Art Committee's existence. As a result of the fracas the two committees signed a pact in which they "mutually agree to consult, confer and consider the recommendations of each other on all matters relating to the public rooms of the Club in which they have a common interest, such as interior and exterior painting, and the purchasing, repairing, refurbishing, rearranging, or storage of furniture, draperies, rugs, light fixtures, or other equipment jointly essential to the operation and beauty of the Club."

In 1969 Hugh Newell Jacobsen, chairman of a subcommittee of the Art Committee, concluded that the bylaw laying down the powers of the Art Committee meant that

the Art Committee has the authority and responsibility to accept or reject decorative and art objects, paintings, rugs, statuary, for the Clubhouse. Decorative objects would include furniture, chandeliers, lighting devices, etc. It also has the authority and responsibility to select new objects to be purchased and installed in the Clubhouse. This selection is to be on esthetics, design and appropriateness. The above decisions are then presented to the Board of Management and House Committee for implementation. Rejection of these decisions by the Board of Management or House Committee is possible only if they are in excess of budgetary allotments.

No final solution is liable to be reached relative to the problem of where the Art Committee's responsibility ends and where the House Committee's begins. Coordination between the two committees will, no doubt, resolve any issues that may arise in the future.

That the Art Committee's broad claims of jurisdiction are real is evident from the Club's experience with animal heads and pool tables.

On November 9, 1904, as the Club was planning an expansion into its new quarters, the Board of Management requested and received the loan of four heads of deer and one each of elk, mountain sheep, and caribou from member William A. Richards. On November 13, 1905, the Board of Management authorized the House Committee to mount animal heads in the Club. Yet when Richards offered to sell his loaned animal heads to the Club the Board of Management decided, on April 8, 1907, to decline the offer. There seems to have been a growing disinclination to decorate the Club with animal heads. On November 13, 1916, the Board of Management read a letter from Frank Edward Johnson of the Art Committee after which it decided to decline the offer of some fine deer and stag horns for lack of suitable place to put them. Similar reluctance to accept animal decoration continued. On February 12, 1912, the Board of Management voted to decline the swordfish offered to the Club by Gifford Pinchot. But, on December 16, 1929, the Board of Management received a report that Frank C. Baldwin had deposited in the Club nine game heads and that they had been placed in the billiard room under the direction of the Art Committee.

Some years after the Club moved from Lafayette Square to the Townsend Mansion the Art Committee proposed bringing the pool and billiard tables down from the third floor to the second floor in order to bring "life" to what was otherwise a "bland and lifeless" area except at lunch. Nicholas Satterlee of the Art Committee, in 1963, proposed that the addition to the Members' Dining Room on the second floor be designated the "Pool Dining Room" and that the Club's two tables should be placed, unabashed, and unconcealed, in the new room. By 1964 the Art Committee was recommending that the pool tables be located in the east end of the Long Gallery. But the House Committee, though anxious to "breathe life into the second floor of the Club," was nevertheless "unable to convince itself that relocat-

ing the tables would attract significantly more use of the second floor, increase use of Club facilities generally or achieve restoration of Old Club atmosphere." The idea was thus effectively killed.

The pictures most prominently displayed in the Club are the portraits hung in the Long Gallery on the second floor. As one enters the Long Gallery from the Newspaper Room, one sees portraits of two distinguished men wearing goatee beards. One, an oil, is of Otto H. Tittmann (1850-1938), a founding member, by J. W. Forster. Dr. Tittmann became superintendent of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and was one of America's most distinguished geodesists. The portrait was donated to the Club in 1962 by his son and fellow Club member, Charles Trowbridge Tittmann.

Nearby is an oil portrait of Swan Moses Burnett painted by Jerome Uhl and signed "A mon ami Dr Swan M. Burnett, S. Jerome Uhl, Washington, D.C. 1892." Dr. Burnett was the father of Vivian Burnett from whom the story-book character "Little Lord Fauntleroy" was drawn by Dr. Burnett's wife, Frances Hodgson Burnett.

Over the fireplace in the Long Gallery hangs an elegantly framed portrait of Henry Clay, Senator from Kentucky and three times candidate for President of the United States, by Samuel Lovett Waldo. The portrait was given to the Club in 1939 by M. Blakiston Wilkins as an expression of his appreciation of being made a member of the Club. The portrait is the best and most valuable painting in the Club.

To the right of the fireplace are portraits of Simon Newcomb by C. H. L. MacDonald, on loan from Simon N. Wilson, and of Joseph A. Conry (1868-1943), painted by M. Matzkinn in 1920. Conry, a lawyer and member of the 57th Congress, 1901-1903, was a member of the Club from 1935 to 1943. Conry, "a boisterous, Chesterfieldian-in-manner man, tall and conspicuous," as one friend described him, was affectionately called "Judge," although he was no real jurist.

Portraits of two founding members grace the corner. One is of Henry C. Yarrow (1840-1929). The painting is unsigned but apparently was done by E. F. Andrews. Yarrow served with distinction in the Medical Corps during the Civil War. He was curator of reptiles in the National Museum, 1872-1880, and in the summers of 1886 and 1887 conducted expeditions through the West collecting specimens for the Medical and National Museums. The portrait of Garrick Mallery (1831-1894), also by Andrews, was bequeathed to the Club by his wife, Helen Marian Mallery, in 1920. This handsome founding member had a distinguished career as soldier, lawyer, ethnologist, and writer. In later years he associated himself with John Wesley Powell at the Bureau of American Ethnology, where he became an expert in the interpretation of Indian sign language.

The south wall of the Long Gallery features the portraits of three Presidents of the United States who were at one time members of the Club, namely, William Howard Taft (member 1904-1912), Woodrow Wilson (member 1913-1923), and Herbert Clark Hoover (member 1921-1934). The portraits are a monument to Charles S. Piggot who, during his presidency of the Club (1957), headed the successful drive to acquire them. With the help of member Charles Bittinger, he secured from the artist, John C. Johansen, the gift of his portrait sketch of Hoover. In a letter to Thomas Beggs at the time, Bittinger wrote that it was one of several the artist made of Hoover at his apartment in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. The other two presidential portraits are not originals but are copies by the gifted copyist C. Gregory Stapko of McLean, Virginia. The portrait of Woodrow Wilson is after an original by Stanislaw Rembski now in the Woodrow Wilson Room of the Library of Congress. The portrait of William Howard Taft is after an original painted by William V. Sherill, lent for copying by Charles P. Taft, the President's son. The original was painted in 1905 when Taft was Secretary of War. The three portraits were unveiled at a

short ceremony following a dinner in the assembly hall on January 3, 1958.

There are other portraits of distinguished former members in the Long Gallery. Hanging between the portraits of Presidents Wilson and Taft is a three-quarter-length portrait of Charles Edward Munroe (1849-1938), chemist, painted by H. Ludden in 1931. Munroe (member 1882-1885, 1892-1938) is renowned for his discovery of the "Munroe effect" in explosives. A historic exhibit of the Munroe effect produced by a series of shaped explosive charges on multiple layers of steel armor plate is located in the Main Lobby. The exhibit (in the form of a fire screen) was acquired by the Club in 1911. On May 8 of that year the Board of Management appropriated \$19.50 to pay for costs incurred in connection with the screen, which had been presented by Professor Munroe.

Between the portraits of Taft and Hoover hangs a portrait of Samuel Wesley Stratton (1861-1931), physicist. It was painted by Charles Bittinger although no signature is visible. Dr. Stratton was first director of the National Bureau of Standards. He later became president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The portrait of the white-bearded man in the corner is of Henry Stevens Washington (1867-1948) by Edwin B. Child, 1930. It was a gift of the artist. Dr. Washington was a chemist who was an expert in the analysis of rocks, but was also archeologist, linguist, and raconteur. He is the subject of one of the vignettes reprinted in this work.

In the same corner is a portrait of another giant of the Club's past, Harvey W. Wiley (1883-1930), chemist, painted by E. L. Morse. Wiley is renowned as the father of the Pure Food and Drug Act signed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906.

In the Members' Dining Room are two portraits that have become fixtures. On the left as one enters from the Long Gallery is a portrait of the inventor Samuel F. B. Morse (1791-1872). He was, of course, never a member, having died before the Club

was born. The name of the artist is unknown in spite of many attempts at identification. According to an old label it is the gift of William Gates (member 1921-1927). It shows Morse as an old man, with snowy white beard and chest covered with decorations. Morse, though a well-known painter in his youth, quit painting about 1845. From information furnished by Vernon Porter, formerly director of the National Academy of Design in New York, David Scott of the National Gallery of Art came to the guarded conclusion that the Cosmos Club portrait is a copy after an original portrait by Alonzo Chappel.

The portrait on the opposite side of the bar is of Simon Newcomb (1835-1909), who is also the subject of a portrait in the Long Gallery. Newcomb, at one time director of the Naval Observatory in Washington, was a member of the Club from 1880 to 1909 and served as President of the Club, 1906. The portrait was given to the Club by the painter, F. H. Waltman.

In addition to the full-length portrait of Dolley Madison by E. F. Andrews mentioned earlier, there is a three-quarter-length portrait of Dolley hanging in the Newspaper Room on the second floor. The minutes of the Board of Management for June 12, 1916, record that "upon recommendation of the Art Committee the bill of C. Y. Turner for his painting of Dolley Madison amounting to \$350.00 was approved and ordered paid."

The wall and ceiling paintings in the second-floor Members' Dining Room, Warne Lounge, and Newspaper Room, "of somewhat Boucheresque generosity in epidermal exposure," as Eric Pawley remarked in the June 1958 *Bulletin*, were cleaned in 1958 by Henri Courtais, of New York, and brought to life again. While their origins are uncertain, Mr. Courtais believed that they were painted about 1800 in France. Whatever their origin, their excellence rarely fails to evoke expressions of admiration from visitors.

One of the Club's finest paintings, reminiscent of Bierstadt,

and one evoking its connection to the exploration of the American West, is Thomas Hill's "Yosemite" presently in the reception room adjacent to the West Garden entrance. On loan to the Club from 1937, it was given to the Club in 1960 by Henry C. Morris.

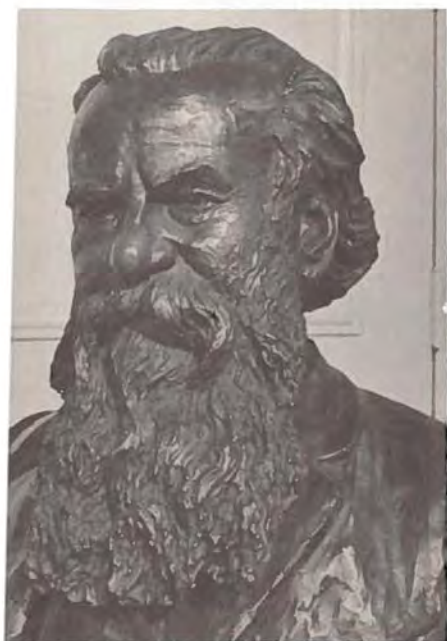
The Club is blessed with a number of fine sculptured pieces. Perhaps the most significant is Ulric Stonewall Jackson Dunbar's portrait bust of John Wesley Powell, who posed for it in 1891 at the peak of his scientific career. Marcus Baker (member 1884-1903) frequently accompanied Powell to the Canadian sculptor's studio for sittings during which he generally read aloud from some piece of literature that Powell liked. "One thing read was Ruskin's Essays, and as the reading proceeded he would interpret, analyse, and criticize, pointing out the author's strength, weakness, and limitations. Poetry also interested him, and we read Tam O'Shanter, which he knew by heart." Dunbar's bronze of Powell was made by the Roman Art Bronze Works of Corona, Long Island, from the original terra cotta or "clay" bust in the U.S. Geological Survey library.

The Club is also privileged to have several sculptures of Paul Wayland Bartlett (1865-1925), stepfather of the late Mrs. Armistead Peter III. A bronze cast of Lafayette on horseback was given by Bartlett to the Club when he became a member in 1914. It dominates the center of the Warne Lounge. Mrs. Peter also gave to the Club in 1960 five small bronzes modeled by her stepfather: *Head of Victory*, *Young Robin*, *Leopard*, *Mother and Child*, and *Standing Nude*.

The Club is also the possessor of a bust of Harvey W. Wiley by Gutzon Borglum, a gift of Mrs. Wiley.

The Club possesses a fine collection of prints, notably of the Swedish etcher Axel Herman Haig (1835-1921), mostly presenting precise renderings of European cathedrals and street scenes.

On January 17, 1940, the Board of Management authorized



Bust of John Wesley Powell.
Sculptor: Ulric Stonewall Jackson Dunbar.



Bust of Harvey Washington Wiley.
Sculptor: Gutzon Borglum.



Bust of Samuel Pierpont Langley.
Sculptor: Joseph A. Atchison.



Bust of Alexander Graham Bell.
Sculptor: Moses Dykaar.

the Art Committee to commission Benson Moore, a Washington painter and etcher, to make three etchings of the Cosmos Club (one exterior and two interior views) for sale as souvenirs to Club members. The original plates are preserved in the files of the Art Committee.

The riches of the Club in Oriental rugs, tapestries, silver vessels, furniture, chandeliers, and the like are too numerous to discuss at length in this history. Two examples may be mentioned. The handsome Chinese wall hanging at the head of the grand staircase from the lobby was presented to the Club in May 1923 by Mrs. R. H. Thayer, widow of a former President of the Club. At the landing of the staircase is a Flemish tapestry of the sixteenth or seventeenth century, entitled *Warrior on Horseback*, donated to the Club by member Frank A. Vanderlip, Jr., in 1972. One of the Club's best Oriental carpets is a Persian Kerman covered with Arabic inscriptions taken from a poem of the eighth century when the Persians were conquered by Islam. It is now displayed in the Powell Auditorium. One of the inscriptions, translated by Raiko Ruzik, reads: "Wherever she sits, there is great excitement."

The Club is also the owner of one of the largest Navajo rugs in existence (11½ by 20 feet), woven in two years by one Navajo family, purchased from the McGee Trading Post, Keams Canyon, Arizona, and presented to the Cosmos Club in 1951 by member Daniel T. Kelly of Santa Fe, New Mexico, in memory of his son, Henry Warren Kelly. The utilization and display of the rug have taxed the ingenuity of the Art Committee. At one time it was used on the floor of the Board Room; at another it was displayed on a wall of the Auditorium.

Late in 1944 two members of the Art Committee, Charles Bittinger and Everett Warner, decorated with lighthearted gaiety the wall over the bar in the billiard room of the Clubhouse at Lafayette Square. The wall was already decorated with a reclining nude. Bittinger and Warner added monkeys



View of Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square looking north. Reproduction of an etching by Benson B. Moore, 1940.

—some of whose faces resembled those of Club members—peering lasciviously through the foliage at the voluptuous nude. Not all members were pleased by what they saw. A Catholic priest and others introduced a resolution in the annual meeting on January 15, 1945, ordering that the painting be removed. The motion was later withdrawn in favor of a motion that “the disposition of the mural on the Tap room wall be referred back to the Committee on Art and Decoration with the request that changes be made to meet the criticism of this meeting.”

Chairman Bittinger, in his report the following year, spoke



Fireplace in main lounge of the Dolley Madison House portion of the Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square. Reproduction of an etching by Benson B. Moore, 1940.

jocularly of the “labor troubles” that had ended with the removal of the murals.

The employee artists—almost always sensitive souls—who started to decorate this room heard of the written comments of a few members of the Club concerning the first painting on the west wall (a creation artistically in keeping with the political and economic theories of the times). Whether such opinions caused the artists to suffer a traumatic paralysis of the wrists and fingers, or whether the artists merely went on strike to keep up with the world is not clear.

At any rate, production was suspended, and if the cause was the latter one, it differs from the popular run-of-the-mill Detroit variety, and should be given special consideration by the N.L.R.B. under the classification of an esthetic walkout of a mural turpitude strike. It might be emphasized that the artists had never received or expected any remuneration other than the slight bonus of spoken appreciation; and the apparently forthcoming salary, of perennial criticism, by its very generosity overwhelmed them into inactivity.

The Committee believes that the situation is now well in hand, however, for as a result of complicated negotiations and agreements, the present decoration in the tap room will be removed. The membership should not be surprised at some subsequent time to see it in the Mellon Gallery.

In his report for the following year, Bittinger added: "In compliance with the wishes of twenty-seven art connoisseurs, the mural painting, which had brought cheer and uplift to so many of the less privileged members, has been obliterated; but its soul goes marching on."

Some of the art objects of the Club have disappeared without explanation; others have been purposely discarded; some were ruined in a fire that broke out in the linen storeroom of the third floor of the Cameron House on July 1, 1923. Water damage occurred in the cardroom beneath. As a result of the fire, W. H. Holmes, chairman of the Art Committee, recommended to the Board of Management that "36 Civil War subjects and 6 pictures of scenes in the recent World War be turned over to the Department of History of the National Museum and that a number of pictures damaged in the fire, various other pictures so defaced as to be of no value, and poor portraits of Major Powell, Dr. Lee and Dr. Fletcher be destroyed." Mr. Holmes was authorized to carry out the recommendations.

The Club's inventory of works of art is now complete and up-to-date. However, it has taken some time to achieve the care and order the collections deserve. When the annual report of the Art Committee for 1921 was submitted, on January 9, 1922,

to the Board of Management, it was accompanied by a card catalogue of works belonging to or accepted as loans to the Club. That catalogue was compiled by William H. Holmes who, in a letter to Club Secretary Hazard two years later which accompanied the revised catalogue, noted that

Little data regarding the works came to me from my predecessors on the Committee. Mr. Smillie, who preceded me, states in a letter dated March 6, 1919 that according to his recollection "a list was prepared some seven or eight years ago and it is possible that it lurks in some pigeon hole of the Manager's desk." Mr. A. H. Baldwin in a letter dated March 31, 1919 states that "I made a list myself when I was on the Committee some twenty years ago and I assume that this list must be in the Club's office."

But the first inventory that remains in the Club's files is that of Erwin O. Christensen completed in April 1947.

The present orderly state of the Club's art records is due in no small measure to the work of Rutherford J. Gettens (member 1952-1975). Gettens devoted many hours to cataloguing and labeling the works of art in the Club. He sought to regularize the procedure by which works of art were acquired, catalogued, preserved, and exhibited. His recommendation to the President and Board of Management of the Club, incorporated in a memorandum dated July 11, 1973, stated the reforms he thought necessary. Most important was the establishment of the post of Honorary Curator of the Cosmos Club Collection of Art and Memorabilia. The position, for which he proposed no emolument, would be filled by someone like himself willing to dedicate his valuable time to the more professional care of the increasingly significant Club collections. The position recommended by Gettens was established, being held by Kennedy Watkins following Gettens's death, until July 1, 1977, when Armistead Peter III was appointed Curator of Club Art.

The monetary value of the decorative and utilitarian objects

of artistic merit in the Club has shown a surprising increase from the time of the 1938 inventory to the present time. The Club can truly be proud of its cultural possessions, but it can be equally proud of the rebirth, in recent years, of the earlier tradition of presenting exhibitions of the work of contemporary artists. Still to be revived, perhaps, is the tradition of acquiring by purchase, or in lieu of dues, works of art by outstanding artist members of the Club.

Reading room of the Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square. Reproduction of an etching by Benson B. Moore, 1940.



THE LIBRARY

"The acquisition and maintenance of a library" was one of the purposes of the Cosmos Club as expressed in its articles of incorporation. The Club's Library continues to represent "one of the Club's principal cultural aspects" as the Library Committee expressed it in 1963 after the Library had grown to 10,000 volumes and 130 periodicals.

Since the Club was composed of men who both read and wrote books, it early occurred to the Club officers that one way of acquiring a library was to ask members to deposit copies of their own works in the Club Library. On March 1, 1880, on motion of John Wesley Powell, the Board of Management resolved that the Secretary be instructed to place a notice on the bulletin board requesting each member to deposit in the Library a bound copy of each of his printed works.

But early acquisitions tended to emphasize periodicals, which most members found difficult or expensive to acquire personally. At the annual meeting of January 12, 1880, the Library Committee reported that the Club was receiving 56 periodicals: 8 quarterlies, 15 monthlies, 1 semimonthly, 23 weeklies, 3 semi-weeklies, and 6 dailies. Of these periodicals, thirty-four were American, eighteen English, three French, and one German. The Library Committee reported only 47 books in the Club Library at the time.

As the journals began to accumulate the question of binding them presented itself. On February 7, 1881, the Board of Management reported that it was not prudent to bind the journals since they were available in this form in the Library of Congress and State Department. The Board recommended that the additional outlay of funds go to purchase additional periodicals. The Board did, however, recommend that *Punch* (4 volumes), *Puck*

(4 volumes), *Notes and Queries* (2 volumes), and *Nature* (4 volumes), for the years 1879 and 1880, be bound.

The decision to preserve in bound form a mixture of serious and lighter literature was reversed in 1889 when the Board of Management authorized the Library Committee to have only *Silliman's Journal*, *Nature*, *Notes and Queries*, and *Science* bound, but not *Punch* and *Puck*.

In November 1882 a renewed effort was made to have members donate copies of their own works, a recommendation that the Art Committee supported in February 1890 with the suggestion that an exhibition of the literary productions of members be staged as an incentive to members to contribute to "such a collection."

The problem of abuse of Club literary property came early to the attention of the Board of Management and has never been successfully overcome. On October 2, 1882, Professor Harkness called attention to the mutilation of some of the journals and offered the following resolution, which was carried: "The Board regrets to find that in a number of cases the files of journals belonging to the Club have been mutilated, both by tearing out pages and by abstracting complete numbers. Such conduct is so dishonorable that it is hoped every member will do his best to detect the culprit in order that he may be properly disciplined." The Secretary was instructed to read the resolution in the Club meeting and to post one copy in the smoking room and one in the Library.

Variations on this stricture have followed with regularity in the Club minutes. On November 2, 1953, the House Committee directed that the quotation from Thackeray's *Book of Snobs* with respect to the abuse of periodicals by Club members be engrossed and put on the bulletin board. No final solution to the problem of mutilation and theft of periodicals and books is to be expected, particularly in an era when some contemporary authors encourage their readers to "steal this book."

On November 9, 1891, the Library Committee asked the sanction of the Board of Management to arrange with a bookseller, Mr. Morrison, to have new books placed on the Library table for a week or ten days, the books to be available for purchase through the steward. The proposal was approved with the understanding that a reasonable discount would be allowed Club members.

At a Club meeting attended by sixty-two persons on February 14, 1903, the Library and Art Committees were authorized to have a bookplate prepared and placed in the books belonging to the Club. The handsome bookplate that resulted, reproduced on the facing page, was designed by William Fuller Curtis and engraved in 1906 by Edwin Davis French, the distinguished American copperplate engraver.

Libraries must discard as well as acquire books, and on February 11, 1907, the chairman of the Library Committee, Robert Lee Preston, reported that the miscellaneous collection of U.S. government publications belonging to the Club would be disposed of by sale to Lowdermilk & Co., Washington, D.C.

At the same meeting of the Board at which the Library Committee reported its intention to discard U.S. government publications, it was reported also that the will of recently deceased member George L. Bradley, a member from 1883 to 1906, contained a clause leaving all his books in the city of Washington to the Cosmos Club but with a residuary interest to be held in trust for Mrs. Bradley during the term of her life. The Bradley bequest was received upon Mrs. Bradley's death in 1919. Not all the books went to the Club. Some (mostly engravings bound together) went to the Library of Congress, and others (mostly popular literature) were given to the Bradley Home for Incurables (now the Emma Pendleton Bradley Home) in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Club received twenty-six rare early printed books from the Bradley bequest of which Franciscus Columna's *Hypneroto-*



Cosmos Club bookplate, originally engraved by Edwin Davis French.

machia Poliphili (Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1499), which James McManaway has described as “possibly the most beautiful illustrated book printed in the fifteenth century,” is perhaps the most important of the incunabula. An exhibition of the Bradley books was held in the Folger Shakespeare Library in November and December of 1947, with a catalogue prepared by Mr. McManaway, then acting director of the Folger. The *Cosmos Club Bulletin* discussed the collection in several issues, including accounts by Edward N. Waters and Donald H. Williams.

The Bradley Collection was kept by the Club in the second-floor silver vault in the Townsend Mansion after the move there in 1952, but in 1965 the Library Committee recommended that the collection be deposited in the Library of Congress on permanent loan. The Board of Management supported the transfer of the materials from the Cosmos Club but suggested the Folger Library as a possible depository and urged that the condition of the loan be "indefinite" rather than "permanent" and "subject to termination at any time by the Board of Management of the Cosmos Club." The transfer to the Folger Library was effected early in 1965. The Bradley Collection was sold at auction in 1978 for a handsome figure, the proceeds going to the Endowment Fund.

The receipt of the Bradley Collection in 1919 led to the hiring of a professional librarian to organize the Club's wealth of new books. With the authority of the Board of Management the Library Committee, as it noted in its annual report for 1919, hired Henry E. Lower, "Assistant in the Library of Congress, who is spending a little time at the Club nearly every day in performing much of the work of detail devolving upon the Library Committee." Succeeding reports of the Library Committee indicated that the Club continued to employ a "trained librarian" who, through 1924, was identified as Lower and who probably served until George H. Milne replaced him in 1929. In the Depression year of 1933, the new librarian suggested that his own pay be reduced from \$50 a month to \$30 "upon completion of the rearrangement and cataloging of the books." Milne continued as part-time librarian until 1948 when he was succeeded by Laud R. Pitt. Charles Ryan succeeded Pitt in June 1966 and worked until September 1967, when he was succeeded by Miss Caroline M. Burgess, who was still the Club's librarian in its centennial year.

The relative importance of the Library in comparison with other activities of the Club can be measured in various ways.

When the tentative plans for the new Clubhouse (never built) were being discussed at the annual meeting of the Club on January 20, 1941, it was noted that "some criticism" had been directed at the plans "because greater floor space was allotted to the tap room than to the library." But the Library Committee somewhat sarcastically noted that "such feeling seems to have been entirely allayed by the ingenious device of deleting the word *taproom* and substituting therefor the words *coffee room*." In the spirit of accommodation and good fellowship, however, the Library Committee noted that "aside from this drastic modification, the literary facilities seem adequate, for one should consider not only the floor space of the library itself but also that of the periodical and newspaper rooms."

One of the most interesting achievements of the Library Committee was the introduction of a series of "Book and Author Suppers" which continue to this day. The first such supper was held on March 23, 1954, attended by a capacity crowd of one hundred. The idea came from William N. Fenton, the new chairman of the Library Committee, who stimulated his committee at its first meeting on February 15 to carry out the scheme in order to increase the appreciation of the Cosmos Club's books and their authors. Dwight Gray of the Library Committee organized the suppers. Dr. Fenton's idea was to ask members to discuss their latest volumes at special Club dinners which would be informal enough to be called suppers. A. Powell Davies, pastor of All Souls' Unitarian Church, the first speaker, discussed his book *The Urge to Persecute*. The ground rules for the suppers were laid out in Dwight Gray's notes introducing a later speaker, Winfred Overholser. The notes indicate: "A. We are a Club of gentlemen. B. Differences of opinions are welcome, nay courted. C. Immunity from the press. D. No sermons from the floor."

Shortly after his election as President of the Cosmos Club, Charles S. Piggot, on January 28, 1957, wrote the chairman of

the Library Committee that he wished to join the committee at an early meeting "to discuss with it means for furthering interest in the intellectual and literary activities of our Club." Piggot joined the committee at its February 15 meeting and expressed the hope that gatherings, "perhaps smaller than the book-author suppers, could be arranged at which topics of a controversial nature might be discussed." Piggot, in a letter, of March 17, 1958, noted that the proposed dinners were based on the "very successful ones held at the Athenaeum in London" where Piggot had been stationed after World War II. The discussions, Piggot noted, could be based on a recent book, or could spring from some current or historical topic of interest. In a related suggestion, President Piggot asked the committee to explore a subject "dear to his heart," the possibility of entertaining notable men at receptions and subscription dinners. The "restoration of this practice," Edward Waters, chairman of the Library Committee, noted in his minutes reporting Piggot's suggestion, "might do much to emphasize the intellectual proclivities of the Cosmos Club which, if not in abeyance, have need of some stimulation to regain their former eminence." The receptions would also foster fellowship among members by cutting through the "structures of special disciplines."

Both suggestions were acted upon. A subscription dinner for James B. Conant was proposed for March 14, 1957, and an evening of "intimate, unrehearsed, intellectual discussions" was proposed for the evening of April 3 with Glen Levin Swiggett, Dante scholar, talking on "A Translator's Problems with Poetry, Ancient and Modern." However, Piggot had in mind more controversial topics for his "Discussion Dinners." Under Piggot's urging, after he stepped down as President and became a member of the Library Committee, dinners featuring controversial themes were instituted "in an effort," as he put it in a letter to Edward N. Waters on March 17, 1958, "to regenerate the atmosphere of worthy argument and friendly disputation of

the 'good old days' of Powell, Wiley, Howard and Washington." Among the themes provided by Piggot to the Library Committee on March 3, 1958, were the following:

The public schools are in the grip of a teachers' union which has produced the present disastrous condition.

Corporal punishment (flogging) is appropriate for corporal crime.

The Panama Canal should be owned and operated by the United Nations.

Foreign aid is a delusion and harmful to a policy of intelligent self-interest.

Our courts protect the criminal more than society (the community).

Washington is the wrong location for the capital of the United States.

Some of these themes were discussed in the dinners that followed, the first theme being considered by Louis B. Wright on April 15, 1958.

As the number of books in the Club Library grew, the restrictive circulation policy of the Club caused grief to members and problems for the Club. A house rule forbidding removal of books and periodicals from the Clubhouse or to the sleeping rooms, except under rules provided by the Library Committee, encouraged, in the opinion of some, illegal removal of reading material and its permanent loss, as well as discouraging use of the Library. Club Executive David J. Guy, on April 6, 1954, proposed to William N. Fenton, chairman of the Library Committee, that a "legal" way of checking out a book be devised. "There being no legal way," Guy noted, "a fellow who wants a book will more than likely stick it in his briefcase and forget to bring it back anyway."

In 1957 the Library Committee urged that a self-charging system (with an adequate blank to be filled out and placed on the librarian's desk) be instituted and that volunteer assistance be solicited from Club members able to give time each day to

the supervision of the Library. The self-charging system, under the supervision of the part-time librarians of the Club rather than of volunteers, was instituted and continues to function, though not without the perennial problem of loss. Still, the system fulfills the recommendation of one member, Tell Ertl, who in a postcard sent from Grand Valley, Colorado, on April 15, 1957, informed the Library Committee that "libraries should not be repositories; they should be banks. Like banks a very high percentage of their assets should be on loan at all times. Please make it easy for members to take books out of the library. Perhaps a reasonable charge may permit purchase of *additional* volumes."

A measure of the strong Club interest in the Library was the outraged reaction which greeted the attempt to paint the ceiling beams in the Library in 1964. The purpose of the suggested changes was to improve local and general illumination, appearance, seating, and sound control in the Library. The principal recommendation was to paint the ceiling an off-white color. A joint meeting of the House Committee, Art Committee, and Library Committee reviewed the recommendation and voted unanimously that the work proceed.

A "sheaf of letters from members objecting to the painting of the ceiling beams in the Library" were read by the Secretary at the July 20, 1965, meeting of the Board of Management, which caused the Board to defer a decision on the painting of the plaster beams. The Board, feeling the heat of the general membership on the one side, proposed to bring up the question at the annual meeting in January 1966, a proposal that generated a backfire from the committee chairmen involved. The House Committee chairman urged at the December 21, 1965, meeting of the Board that the proposal to refer the question to the annual meeting be deleted from the agenda of that meeting. His motion was lost.

Part of the problem lay in the belief of some members that

the true architectural character of the room was being defaced. In fact, as the joint committee pointed out in its July 28, 1965, "Report on the Ceiling of the Cosmos Club Library," the design of the room, while echoing design elements of a room in the chateau of Blois whose Francis I mantelpiece provides the inspiration for the Cosmos Club mantelpiece, is in fact quite different. In the original room the ceilings are beamed in wood. The beams are structural and "honestly expressed as such," as the report of the joint committee pointed out. "The top of the mantel is capped by a cornice that touches the ceiling," the committee noted. "In the original everything is harmonious." The Club mantel, on the other hand, was a later addition to the Library. "It terminates in a straight line with no cap. This architectural flaw gives the effect of an inept improvisation." As for the ceiling and cornice, the committee pointed out that "They are not wood as some individuals mistakenly believe. They are plaster in the manner of Henri II. . . . There is no logical structural system expressed. It is frankly purely decorative." The paneling in the Club Library, the committee noted, is based on a still later period—possibly Louis XIII. "The wood is very handsome and has a rich patina. The ersatz graining of the cornice and 'beams' suffers enormously by comparison." The committee urged that the handsomeness of the Library would be enhanced by the painting of the ceiling as recommended.

So heated was the Club reaction that Nicholas Satterlee, in a letter of September 16, 1965, to the House Committee, noted that "the extravagance of Cruickshankian horror [no reference to the present manager] poured on me over the telephone yesterday by an esteemed colleague outraged over the prospect of the painting of the library ceiling prompts me to write in support of the very able presentation of the case *for* painting by my fellow member on the Art Committee, Mr. Frederick Fryer. . . ."

At a general meeting of the Club in January 1966, by a vote

of thirty-one to sixty-nine, the proposal "to paint the beams and panels of the library ceiling in a uniform light-gray color" was defeated.

On April 11, 1964, the Library Committee proposed to the Board of Management the formation of a Special Collection of books by Cosmos Club members that "are considered classics in their fields." Each title selected for inclusion in the special collection would be represented by a sound copy of the first or best edition, with presentation or association copies especially sought. The Special Collection would be shelved in locked cases in the Library or in some other location in the Club, with restricted access.

The Board of Management did not enthusiastically welcome the suggestion. It wondered whether it was a proper function of the Cosmos Club Library to build up collections of rare books *per se*. The committee chairman, James G. McManaway, in a letter of June 8, 1964, to the Board of Management, urged that the collection of distinguished books and pamphlets by Cosmos Club members could be displayed in the Warne Lounge but be available for use by members who would have access to the locked cases through a key available at the front desk. "The Committee intends to make this collection a useful addition to the Club Library as well as a monument to the authors honored by inclusion in it," McManaway noted. "The criterion for selection would be the author's contribution to the advancement of knowledge or his preeminence in American literature."

While the Library Committee failed to convince the Board of Management to support its dream of a collection of important books by Cosmos Club authors, it has periodically floated another dream: the preparation of a card catalogue of the major published works of Cosmos Club members. Dwight E. Gray, of the Library Committee, on April 6, 1953, estimated that the search to convert from names of members to card numbers (which cards could then be purchased from the Library of Con-

gress Card Division) for three thousand deceased Club members could be done by one person in one to two weeks. The Library Committee's report for 1954 estimated the cost of "carding" deceased members at \$600 and expressed the hope that living members would be willing to donate catalogue cards for their own publications.

When Max Lowenthal, remembering the "pleasant evenings I spent in the Club library" as a guest of Julian W. Mack, gave \$1,000 in 1954 for the purchase of books for the Club Library in honor of Judge Mack, whose law secretary he had been, the Library Committee proposed the assembling of a card catalogue of publications by Cosmos Club members as one of the uses to which the money might be put. But the committee later dropped the plan to compile such a catalogue with the Mack donation and used the money instead for purchase of new books.

Late in 1957 the matter was again pushed by the Library Committee, which prepared an announcement published in the February 1958 Cosmos Club *Bulletin*. While recognizing that "not *all* writings of *all* members can be preserved indefinitely; indeed, they can't even be assembled or collected," the committee expressed its wish to "attempt to maintain a complete bibliographical record of Club members" and it solicited support from the membership for complete lists of members' writings to be sent to the Club librarian. While the Club possesses folders containing bibliographies and biographical information on many of its members, it continues to lack a card catalogue of books of even a small portion of its members.

Among the few special collections possessed by the Club are the books written by its founder, John Wesley Powell. Powell's bibliography published in 1903 by the Washington Academy of Sciences lists 251 titles. Of the 251 there are five books by Powell of which the Cosmos Club has four. The volumes were described in the November 1972 *Bulletin* by Donald H. Williams.

An important section of the Cosmos Club Library is the hand-

somely bound set of the *National Geographic Magazine* which, along with other cherished volumes owned by the Club, is located in bookcases in the National Geographic Room adjacent to the Library. The renovation of the room as an annex to the Library was the gift of the National Geographic Society in 1974.

Inscriptions and marginal notations in books in the Cosmos Club Library form a diverting subsection to the history of the Cosmos Club Library. Wirth F. Feger, reporting in the May 1966 *Bulletin* on a discussion in the Library Committee of a book donated anonymously to the Club Library, noted that another Club member, also anonymous, had supplied a pasted-in note which read: "This is a filthy, distorted, sexy, depressing travesty on American academic life, and should be thrown on the trash heap." A passage from the book quotes the suicide note of a disillusioned young instructor to the effect: "The world is badly out of joint, so I'm leaving the joint."

Perhaps more pertinent to Cosmos Club life is the inscription in the presentation copy of Robert Carter Cook's book *Human Fertility: The Modern Dilemma*. The inscription reads: "To the members of the Cosmos Club among whom fertility has ceased to be a dilemma and has become an abstraction."

Club members' biological fertility may be suspect but their intellectual fertility is evident, on the "New Books by Members" shelf, from the number of books to which they have given birth. New books by members come in constantly by this means and serve to enrich a Library already filled with the intellectual production of earlier generations of Cosmos Club members.

THE LIFE OF THE CLUB

GLIMPSES OF CLUB LIFE

INCIDENTS of Club life are infinite; a few aspects of that life will be presented in the following pages. Other glimpses into the life of the Club may be gleaned from the vignettes of prominent members contained in a later chapter.

Club quarters were not originally as dignified and sumptuous as they are at present. That the original suite of rented rooms in the Corcoran Building left something to be desired is suggested by the resolution passed by the Board of Management on March 1, 1880, that the Secretary be instructed to communicate with the agent of Mr. Corcoran "in regard to the present filthy condition of the hallways and approaches to the Club." The minutes note that contact was made on March 3 and we hear no more about this defect.

In its infancy, before the development of a staff that could cater to the members on a round-the-clock basis, each member possessed a key which enabled him to enter the Club. The House Committee, on September 5, 1881, was authorized by the Board of Management to procure a new lock and one hundred keys for the outer door to be sold to members at such price as the committee should fix.

At the November 6, 1882, meeting of the Board, Albert Leahy Gihon offered a resolution that the House Committee be requested to have the Club rooms opened at 10 a.m. every day in

the week. The resolution was modified at the instance of Edward Miner Gallaudet by the proviso that the additional expense of the opening not exceed \$20 per month.

Club rules have always laid stress on a studious and intense decorum. Among those rules is one forbidding members to "recline at length" in the public rooms of the Club. The rule was initiated on May 11, 1891, at a meeting of the Board of Management, when Henry Randall Webb informed the Board that the House Committee had warned certain members "who used the sofas on the Club for undignified lounging, or sleeping" to cease and desist. The Board approved the House Committee action.

On June 8, 1891, the House Committee informed the Board of Management that "the practice of lounging in an objectionable manner by a certain member had been continued." The Board voted that the Secretary advise the offending member that it considered his manner of using the sofas in the Club rooms objectionable and that he discontinue the practice. The objectionable lounging of the member continued to be a subject for Board action, and when the member fell in arrears in payment of his room rent he came close to being expelled. He was saved by an appeal from G. Brown Goode on October 12, 1891.

An authorization for \$14.50 "for the repair of Sleepy Hollow Chair" voted by the Board of Management on June 10, 1895, may or may not have been related to the penchant of some members to nod while in their favorite chairs; but we do find that there was a popular, sleep-conducive Victorian chair known as the "Sleepy Hollow Armchair," said to have been the favorite of Washington Irving, of "Sleepy Hollow" fame.

A prohibition against removing newspapers, magazines, and books from the Clubhouse or taking clippings from Club papers was among the earliest Club rules but has always been difficult to enforce. On January 14, 1901, the chairman of the House



Views of Club life taken by Club members experimentally with remotely operated camera, late 1880s or early 1890s.

Committee informed the Board of Management that a "member had been seen to tear off a section of one of the New York papers and put it in his pocket and that the offense had frequently been complained of by members." The Secretary was directed to refer the letter to the member in question. Four days later the member was reported by one of the servants to have carried off a current number of a magazine and to have been detected replacing a missing magazine. When called to account the member admitted the charge and gave his word of honor not to repeat the offense. The Board decided to let the matter drop. Similar occurrences were occasionally reported in the Board minutes. The offending member usually got off with a warning.

New house rules were adopted by the Board of Management on March 11, 1912, during the presidency of Herbert Putnam. The new rules, which for the most part repeated rules in effect from the earliest days, provided that the office of the Club should be open from 7:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. No refreshments were to be served between 1 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. Nor were refreshments to be served in the Library, periodical room, reception room, or on the veranda in public view. No minors were to be brought into the Club rooms, and, following one of the original house rules, no dogs were allowed in the house. The ninth rule reiterated the earlier commandment that "neither members nor guests will be permitted to recline at length or to sleep in the public rooms of the Club House."

An early crusader against smoking in the Clubhouse was A. K. Fisher whose letter suggesting that smoking at Club meetings be eliminated was read by the Secretary at the March 10, 1919, meeting of the Board of Management. It was voted to present the matter to the Club membership for consideration. No decision seems to have been reached in the matter because on April 20, 1925, Fisher again wrote the Board urging that smoking be forbidden at meetings and lectures and in at least two of the dining rooms of the Club provided for women. The letter

was sent to the House Committee with the comment that Fisher's request seemed reasonable and no doubt expressed the sentiments of a considerable number of members of the Club. The House Committee thereupon prepared and distributed a questionnaire that showed 320 resident members favoring existing arrangements allowing smoking in all Club rooms as against 70 who were opposed; 35 members accepted the existing arrangements as a general rule but urged a prohibition against smoking at Club meetings and at lectures when ladies were present.

Among the nonresident members, 159 favored smoking throughout the house, 27 opposed, and 1 preferred the qualified arrangement. To the question as to whether smoking should be prohibited in the assembly hall during Club meetings, 126 resident members answered that it should be prohibited, 286 that it should not, and 40 that it should be prohibited when ladies were present. Among the nonresident members, the figures were 57 for the prohibition, 111 against, and 6 for the prohibition when ladies were present. To the question as to whether one of the women's dining rooms should be set aside for nonsmokers, resident members voted for the suggestion 237 to 173 and nonresident members 126 to 70. As a result of the poll, the House Committee recommended that no action should be taken regarding smoking in the assembly hall but that in the fall, after the main dining room was reopened, the following notice should be placed on the tables in the dining rooms:

In deference to those to whom smoking is objectionable, it is requested that there be no smoking in this room, and that the adjoining room be used by those desiring to smoke.

It is requested that the adjoining room be used by those to whom smoking is objectionable, as it is understood that there are no restrictions on smoking in this room.

At the June 15, 1925, meeting of the Board of Management the House Committee reported on the poll and gave its recommen-

dition that one dining room should be made free from smoking when the main dining room was reopened in the fall.

One of the amenities familiar to most Club members is the service of a barber. The origin of the service goes back to a special meeting of the Board of Management on January 10, 1906, when the House Committee was authorized to secure the services of a barber at not to exceed \$50 a month and of a bootblack at not to exceed \$12 a month, the committee to arrange a scale of prices for the services of these employees.

Maintaining a barber was easier than retaining a bootblack, and many members will remember Dominic Valenza who retired on January 1, 1952, and was placed on the pension list. The Club continued with a salaried barber until January 25, 1968, when James Harper, who began work in the early 1960s and is the current Club barber, switched to a concessionaire role, furnishing his own tools and laundry. The Club provides the facilities as well as one free meal each working day and a share in the employees' Christmas fund. The barber collects the full amount of the charges, which are set by the House Committee.

As in other establishments, public and private, the shoe shine has become a thing of the past. On May 23, 1924, the House Committee ordered that shoe shining in the barbershop be discontinued and that the employee shining shoes for occupants of the bedrooms be required to furnish his own materials. Shoe-shine service, even in this limited fashion, was gradually phased out. As David J. Guy, the Club Executive, noted in a letter to Frank L. Campbell on June 11, 1958, when the latter urged the reestablishment of the service, "there is clearly not enough business to keep a boy here for this chore alone. Most of the resident members and guests who want a shine put their shoes outside their bedroom doors and the night watchman uses up his spare hours shining them up." On June 21, 1960, Manager Skole announced receipt of the loan of a shoe-shine stand, which

he planned to put in the barber shop or men's room to be operated by a shoe-shine attendant who would also act as a men's room attendant. The House Committee approved the plan but it proved impossible to staff the stand.

Visitors to the present Clubhouse in winter often share the warmth of the fireplace in the Long Gallery. The old Clubhouse on Lafayette Square was even more homey. Grate fires were maintained in the front room of the Dolley Madison House and at the east end of the main lounge. As the House Committee ordered on January 5, 1926, the fires were to be built up each day about 4 o'clock. A fire was also maintained in the main dining room.

There is general agreement that after World War I some of the earlier relaxed social exchange within the Club disappeared. Whether the change was real or apparent can be debated, but contemporary observers tended to regret the change as they perceived it. A. K. Fisher, for example, after thirty-seven years' membership, urged the Board of Management on May 29, 1939, to consider the "desirability of promoting social intercourse among the members and pointed out that there was an astounding lack of this essential factor today as compared with twenty-five years ago."

If real, what caused the change? One factor was certainly the automobile. As W. J. Humphreys noted at a meeting of the Club on June 20, 1938, to consider the Club's financial problems, the modern automobile and existing parking conditions caused members to go home immediately after work rather than come to the Club, as many formerly did. Once home, they tended not to come back downtown when outlying restaurants and places of amusement were more accessible. Dr. Fisher in 1938 looked back fondly on the vigorous and wide-ranging discussions at the Monday night meetings of the Club and regretted that in the previous ten or fifteen years there had been a decline in "camaraderie" in the Club, "less inclination on the

part of the older members to chat with newer and unknown members." This "lack of cordiality," the cause of which he did not try to determine, had cost the Club several young members, he asserted.

Certainly there was a decline in evening use as members adopted a more suburban pattern of living. Oldsters like Harvey Washington Wiley, in recalling the old Club, observed that "I was so well satisfied to be a member of this club that I didn't take time to get married until I was sixty-seven years old." Wiley noted that "in those days, as I had no place to go, except to the club, I used to spend all my evenings here, when not otherwise occupied, and sometimes I stayed until the wee, small hours."

When the Club decided to move uptown to the Townsend Mansion at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, the initial thought of many was that parking would no longer be a problem. "It may be that fewer lunches will be served," one Club officer predicted, "but in all probability many more dinners will be served and there will be much more use of the Club after office hours." Though the Club experiences a good nighttime use, the greater use is during the noon lunch period, and parking is still a problem.

The Club has in recent years maintained a rather strict dress code. It is not clear whether a similar code existed in the early years of the Club.

On July 20, 1942, the House Committee received a letter from one of its nonresident members who complained of suffering from Washington's heat and suggested that the House Committee adopt a rule permitting members to remove their coats. After some discussion it was left to the chairman, Frank B. Scheetz, to make a reply. "There is no rule in print," Scheetz concluded, "governing the removal of coats to my knowledge and it is my intention to contact the member making the request and tell him to use his own pleasure as to removing his

coat during the trying hot sultry weather which adds to the discomfort of mankind. This rule would be applicable to any further complaints of this nature."

But Chairman Scheetz's rule did not end the matter. As the August 17 minutes of the House Committee noted, it occasioned rather a great deal of discussion both pro and con from members of the Board of Management. The House Committee noted that about ten years earlier a notice had been issued by the House Committee "begging courteously to remind members that gentlemen are not expected to remove their coats in the public rooms of the Club.' However, the latest copy of our House Rules and By Laws make no mention of a rule governing this suggestion." The House Committee, after much discussion, indicated its preference for a rule that "when the weather is very hot, coats can be removed in the Lounge, Reading Room, Billiard and Card Rooms, and the Main Dining Room, and that coats should be worn at all time in the presence of women."

But the Board of Management thought otherwise. On August 19, when the chairman of the House Committee sought the opinion of the Board on the rule recommended by the House Committee, the recommendation was disapproved by a majority vote and the subject referred back to the House Committee with the suggestion that the Board of Management did not approve of the removal of coats in the public rooms of the Club.

The question of whether a member could remove his coat in the rooms where ladies were not allowed continued to provoke debate. The House Committee persisted in noting that no by-law or house rule covered the situation but the Board of Management refused to authorize the removal of coats in the Club rooms. As the summer heat built up in June 1944, the question was again raised and the House Committee noted on June 19 that it was a question "which is not mentioned in the rules or by-laws," adding cryptically that "unless the Board takes some further action that perhaps the question would take care of itself."

The next summer, on June 20, 1945, the following resolution was ordered posted on the bulletin board: "Resolved, that the Board of Management supports the long established tradition of the Cosmos Club that no person shall at any time appear in the public rooms of the Club, with the exception of the Tap Room, after having removed his coat. This resolution does not apply in any way to the uniforms authorized for the members of the Armed Services."

The Board's mandate requiring the wearing of coats in the public rooms of the Club (with the exception of the taproom and cardroom) was incorporated in the house rules approved by the Board on June 18, 1947. The House Committee now began to enforce the rule with rigor. On June 16, 1948, it agreed that the "Rules of the Club should apply to all parts of the Club. Complaint has been made of members sitting on the porch of the Dolley Madison House without coats." Again, on August 4, the House Committee wrote to a member who had lunched in the main dining room on July 29 with a guest, neither of whom was wearing a coat. The chairman wrote to the offender calling his attention to Rule No. 15 requiring the wearing of coats in the Clubhouse. Several other delinquents were warned about their violation of the rule.

The next year, on August 14, 1949, the House Committee "strongly" recommended that House Rule No. 15 "be modified to the extent that the wearing of coats, except in the ladies' parlor, ladies' dining room and garden, be not compulsory." But again a more conservative Board refused to allow relaxation of the rule.

When the Club moved to its new quarters in the Townsend Mansion, President Spaulding, on September 9, 1952, called the attention of the House Committee to the need to revise and adapt the house rules to fit the Clubhouse. It was decided that coats should be worn in all public rooms on the first and second floors and also in the West Garden, terrace, and balcony.

In the late summer and fall of 1953 complaints were received by the House Committee about persistent violations by at least one member of the rule requiring wearing of coats in the public rooms of the Club. On July 20, 1953, the House Committee voted that from that date to September 8 the rule relating to wearing of coats was to be relaxed in all parts of the Club above the first floor, but long sleeves and neckties were required. "Belts instead of suspenders, please."

On May 3, 1954, the House Committee approved a "coats off" policy above the first floor from May 15 to September 15. Coats would continue to be worn on the first floor and in the West Garden. The rule was reiterated on August 10, 1955, by David Guy in a letter to Paul H. Oehser, Secretary of the Board of Management, pointing out that Rule 15 had been modified to allow the House Committee to authorize exceptions to the requirement that "men shall not remove their coats in the public rooms of the Club." The advent of air conditioning has eased but not entirely eliminated the controversy over summer dress in the Club.

Changing styles in dress have more recently put a strain on those charged with defining and maintaining the rules of sartorial decorum within the Club. One Pulitzer prize recipient reacted violently to the Club's refusal to put his photograph on the wall with other Club Pulitzer winners because the photograph he submitted for the purpose showed him in informal attire without a tie. The rule has not been applied retroactively, however. Edwin B. Child's portrait of Henry Stephens Washington, presently in the Long Gallery, shows the famous petrologist coatless with rolled up shirt sleeves, his tie partially covered by his flowing white beard.

Most recent discussions over what constitutes appropriate attire have centered on neckware as well as shirt and jacket styles. In its most recent interpretation, the House Committee has stated that house rules relating to acceptable dress within

the Clubhouse "are to be interpreted as consistent with normal standards of social acceptability for neatness of dress by gentlemen. These criteria include a shirt (with a tie—bow, four-in-hand, ascot, cravat, or string with or without slide) or turtle neck, together with a business suit or long-sleeved lounge jacket and slacks. Formal attire, military uniforms, and national dress also are acceptable." In the unlikely event that a member, or guest, finds himself still beyond the pale of the rules as thus liberally interpreted, the Club manager maintains several jackets of different sizes in order to meet any emergency needs.

Another rule that has been strictly enforced is the prohibition against women in areas of the Club reserved for members, except when special permission has been obtained. A rather poignant example of the effects of that rule is contained in correspondence between George F. Bowerman (1905-1960) and the chairman of the House Committee. To mark his fifty years as a member, Mrs. Bowerman presented a clock to the Club which stands in the Members' Dining Room. On April 13, 1956, Bowerman wrote the House Committee, noting:

As my ashes are to be buried in a cemetery remote from Washington, I have come to think of this clock with its inscription as a sort of tombstone, erected in my lifetime, but, I hope, to last several years after my demise.

In view of my pride in the clock, I have ventured to try to show it to a few groups of close friends and relatives (including ladies); always at times when the men's dining room was not occupied by diners. In such efforts I have always been successful, but always in spite of nerve-wracking difficulties.

In the hope of being able to show the clock to the very few other relatives (chiefly from out-of-town) and friends who have not yet seen it, I most humbly appeal for such permission. I can assure the Committee that the privilege will not be abused; also, at worst, it will be used for only a few years, since I am nearly 88 and, in the course of nature, am not likely to last much longer.

Very respectfully
George F. Bowerman

The chairman of the House Committee replied three days later regretting that the House Committee "has no authority to set aside the bylaws of the Club or to make any exceptions for individual members":

You will understand that the great majority of the members of the Club object very much to permitting ladies in the man's part of the Club. In regard to the clock which Mrs. Bowerman was kind enough to present to the Club in your honor we can, if you agree to it, take it from its present place in the Dining Room and place it in the Ladies' Parlor where you may have all your friends inspect it. However, I must point out that if we do this the Club will be put to the expense of replacing your clock in the upstairs Dining Room. May I call your attention to the fact that every autumn we do have at least one open house during which time you would be at perfect liberty to take your friends to the Dining Room to inspect the clock.

Bowerman responded three days later:

I fear I cannot arrange for my women relatives and friends, who live rather remote from Washington, to time their visits for the autumn open house date.

Inasmuch as it is the idea of your committee to enforce the rules as though they were those of the fabled "Medes and Persians," I must expect that the club employees will be similarly stiff necked in enforcing them.

I repeat that in view of my advanced years, in the course of nature, it is not to be expected that I shall much longer be an annoyance to the employees of the Club.

Cheer up, I'll probably go before long!

A sad but continuing problem has been the loss of coats, gloves, umbrellas, and the like in the Clubhouse. On December 18, 1950, the situation became serious to the extent that the House Committee recommended that each member should be recognized by the doorman and members should show their cards as they entered the Clubhouse. The House Committee also proposed greater care in seeing that members registered their guests. It noted that on a certain day when an article of

clothing was lost, thirty members introduced forty-seven guests without registering them. One irate member, on April 10, 1951, protested against "the archaic method of handling members' hats and wraps. Last fall in bitter weather, someone carried off my overcoat, and it was not recovered for some time and only at considerable bother. Last night someone took my hat from the coat room, and left a substitute of a slightly different size. I do not know any way to protect myself against this sort of thing except to wear my hat and coat in the dining room and lecture room when I frequent the club." The House Committee could only reply that the Club was looking into the possibility of mechanical equipment (locking hooks) to meet the difficulty, which has never been satisfactorily solved.

Excessive drinking has not been unknown in the Club, but is very rare. On October 3, 1951, one member complained about "the habitual drunken sprees" of another. As an instance of the member's objectionable behavior, the complaining member asserted that the other had appeared "already drunk about 8 p.m. shortly after dinner, and began playing the fool. At 9 p.m. he went out and returned bringing an Abyssinian native drum. He made considerable noise with this, pounding it and giggling in maudlin fashion. At 10 p.m., now in very unsteady condition, he staggered over to the bar, thumped the drum noisily, laid it in the middle of the bar, interfering with the barmen and waiters serving the customers in the Ladies Division, and remained there, clinging drunkenly to the bar and babbling at the bartender for one solid hour until closing time, 11 p.m."

Another member in the middle 1950s made his frequent resting place a chair at the end of the Long Gallery. There he was frequently seen fast asleep, sometimes with his feet on the round table next to his chair. As one guest noted, on being shown the area in 1953, "This must be the drunkard's corner." Two years later the Club Executive wrote the member:

I have been extremely annoyed for over a year now because of the growing number of holes burned by cigarettes through the leather in the chair in the corner of the Long Gallery that you occupy when in the Club House.

At 1:10 a.m. this morning the night watchman found a fire smouldering in the chair which he promptly extinguished. This morning I took another survey and counted eight holes burned in the chair seat and arms, ten burns and scorches in the Oriental rug and one black cigarette burn on the hardwood floor beside the chair. These are facts that I am obliged to report to the House Committee.

I am giving you this prompt warning in the hope that no more fire hazard may be incurred. The House Committee will advise you of its action in due course.

After checking the member's liquor consumption (he drank between ten and twenty Manhattans a day) and considering refusing him liquor service, the House Committee warned him to reform and ultimately suspended him for one month.

The aplomb with which Club members have met emergency situations was perhaps apocryphally recounted in an amusing column by Bill Gold in the *Washington Post* after a fire broke out in the fireplace area in the Long Gallery of the Clubhouse on January 16, 1957. Gold described members continuing to discuss whether all matter in the universe was held together by particles that spun right or left. The members engaged in the debate, Gold wrote, complained about the noise of the fire bell and asked that it be turned off so that their discussions could be undisturbed. In fact, the fire department interrupted a Board of Management meeting and efficiently extinguished a blaze, after which the Board returned to the consideration of drafts of annual reports of the Board and Club committees.

The Club has always respected the right of a member to be uncommunicative but at the same time it has encouraged free interchange of opinion and friendly discourse among those using the Club. When Orville and Wilbur Wright lived at the Club during the time the Army was conducting official tests of their

Model A Flyer at Fort Myer in 1909 (they took the streetcar for Georgetown before dawn and then the Fort Myer trolley), the brothers sometimes found the gregariousness of the Club more than they cared for. Orville wrote to his sister on August 27: "I find it more pleasant here at the [Cosmos] Club than I expected. The trouble here is that you can't find a minute to be alone. . . ." The fame of the Wright Brothers caused the Board of Management to relax its restriction on the presence of women in the Club. At its June 14, 1909, meeting the Board granted to the Aero Club of Washington permission to give a luncheon to the Wright Brothers on June 10. Ladies were admitted to the Clubhouse for the occasion.

Sometimes guests at the Club, unlike the Wright Brothers, seek actively to strike up a conversation with members. A businessman guest, after several unsuccessful attempts at initiating a conversation, finally discovered an unbeatable opening gambit. "Well, doctor," he would say, "and how is the new book coming along?"

And the story is told of Leland O. Howard, who liked to have his breakfast in uninterrupted solitude at the old Clubhouse, while reading the morning paper. One morning a well-wisher stopped at the Doctor's table and remarked, "Good morning, Dr. Howard, isn't this a fine day?" At which Howard looked up somewhat irritated and replied, "Sir, I am perfectly capable of making my own meteorological observations." This urbane abruptness, perhaps quite typical of club life in general, is reminiscent of the story told of Bertrand Russell's brother who, in a London club, was approached by a fellow member with the query "May I take this chair?" "Yes," Russell replied, "if you'll take it with you."

As a device to facilitate friendly exchange of opinions, Table One (the long table in the Members' Dining Room) is maintained as a common table where individual members can come and join whoever may be already in attendance. Young and

old, scientist and artist can learn and be refreshed at this table. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, long a habitu  of the table in the Clubhouse when located on Lafayette Square, often preferred to talk with architects and others not of his own profession at the table. His chair is commemorated by a plaque attached by his friends. Many members since Putnam's time have been enlightened about atomic physics (if they happened to be artists) or art (if they happened to be atomic physicists) at this table. Table Two, in the same form, serves spillovers from Table One. Past Presidents have urged more extensive use of both tables as an aid to Club fellowship. One of the most notable present-day regulars at Table One is Waldron Faulkner, architect and father of architects, whose skills as a conversationalist have been honed for many years at the table.

Nicholas Satterlee, in a message on his accession to the presidency of the Club, took the occasion, in the Club *Bulletin* for February 1970, to urge more members to take advantage of the "satisfying exchange available at the Long Tables" as a way of realizing the Club's statement of purpose as "the advancement of its members in science, literature, and art, and their mutual improvement by social intercourse. . . ." "To me," Satterlee wrote, "these tables at lunch time are the symbolic center of the Club, yet more often than not Table II is but sparsely occupied."

Despite the effort to bring members together in more friendly intellectual companionship, there will always be some who prefer to remain aloof or who find the subjects discussed within the Club not to their taste. Hamlin Garland, in his *Roadside Meetings*, spoke of his visit to Washington at the turn of the century.

At the Cosmos Club I walked among swarms of specialists, men who knew all about bugs, earthquakes, electric machines, Hottentots, and air currents, a singular company, each man walking his narrow way exact and dryly cautious. I found it exceedingly difficult to develop with them any conversational theme. Literature as I understood it

and imagination as they understood it, were out of place in their world. That we who paint and model and write are equally one-sided I readily concede, but we have many enthusiasms, rages, and revolts, which these scientists have not. They pursue a cold undeviating course whereas writers are forced to be sympathetic with other interests.

Since Garland's visit, the Club has shed some of its "scientists only" image and if he chanced to return to the Club today he might find a literary and artistic element suitable to his taste.

PROGRAMS AND ENTERTAINMENT: THE MONDAY NIGHT LECTURES

Monday evenings have always been something special in the Club. At the membership meeting on February 2, 1880, "It was *Resolved*. That Monday night be considered as Club-night on which evening members may expect to meet more than the usual number of fellow members at the rooms." Punch was soon provided at the expense of the Club on such occasions though occasionally this policy was questioned, as at the October 17, 1887, meeting of the Board of Management. In addition to providing for companionship, Monday night meetings often provided an opportunity for special events such as a scheduled exhibition of autographs and manuscripts on November 21, 1887.

The haphazard character of the Monday evening affairs inspired G. Brown Goode, the indefatigable Smithsonian scholar and administrator, to propose, at the January 19, 1891, meeting of the Board of Management that "an auxiliary committee be appointed to assist in devising ways and means of inaugurating entertainment, in the way of exhibits, conversations, addresses, etc., for the pleasure of members on club nights." The Board deferred any decision on the suggestion at its January meeting,

but on February 9 Goode followed up his original proposal with a motion that a committee of three be appointed to consider the subject of an Entertainment Committee as proposed at the previous Board meeting. The motion carried and Goode, William Crawford Winlock, and Charles Elwood Mendenhall were appointed the committee.

At the April 13, 1891, meeting of the Board Goode spoke of the increasing number of social clubs in Washington offering many comforts and attractions. He urged the Cosmos Club to take active measures to retain its prestige. On his motion, a committee was formed by the President of Goode, John Robie Eastman, and Grove Karl Gilbert to present recommendations to the Board on the subject. Meanwhile, the special committee on entertainment had gone right to work. On May 4, the Board thanked J. M. Flint for the exhibit of "a series of Foraminifera exhibited by an original device, under the microscope," which he had organized in the Clubhouse at the request of the special committee on entertainment. An even more impressive exhibit was organized on February 8, 1892, Mr. Eadweard Muybridge's photographs of animal locomotion, which Muybridge had kindly offered to provide for the occasion. This was one of the first exhibits of Muybridge's experiments in the persistence of vision, which led to the invention, manufacture, and use of the motion-picture projector.

So effective was the work of the special committee that it continued to exist along with the three standing committees: House, Library, and Art. At the January 16, 1893, and February 12, 1894, meetings of the Board of Management Swan Moses Burnett was appointed chairman of the committee.

Occasionally a gathering of one of the scholarly societies meeting in the Clubhouse was called to the attention of the members. Thus at the November 12, 1894, meeting of the Club, John Wesley Powell announced that Paul Carus would lecture on Buddhism at the November 10 meeting of the Anthropologi-

cal Society of Washington and that all members of the Club were invited. William A. DeCaindry moved that the use of the entire hall be given to the Society for the evening, which was done.

Early in 1913 the Club moved to change the form of its monthly Club business meetings, which were scheduled on Monday evenings. At the January 20, 1913, meeting of the Board of Management it was voted "that a committee consisting of the four officers of the Club consider the question of eliminating or changing the character of the monthly meetings of the Club and report to the Board their conclusions." At the February 10 meeting of the Board the committee recommended that the monthly Club meetings be continued and the experiment tried of providing some special feature on the evening of the meeting in the form of "one or more short addresses or other suitable feature, and that a committee be appointed by the Board to arrange the programs." The report was approved and the President directed to appoint a committee of three to carry out the idea.

The introduction of lectures at the monthly Club meeting proved an immediate attraction. After a short business meeting, to which many were attracted by the prospect of the lecture that followed, various speakers held forth. For example, after the business meeting on December 8, 1913, with seventy members present, Colby M. Chester spoke on "What is Left of Turkey," basing his remarks on his personal experience in that country. On March 10, 1913, William Kearney Carr gave an illustrated address on "Matter as a Manifestation of Force." On April 4, 1913, Robert J. Gamble spoke on "Observations Concerning the Sioux Indians in South Dakota." On October 13, 1913, Henry S. Washington read a paper on "The Diamond Fields of Brazil."

On January 19, 1914, at a special meeting of the Board of Management, "It was voted to continue the practice of having

talks or lectures at the monthly meetings and the President was authorized to appoint a committee of three to arrange the program." The committee was authorized, subject to the approval of the President, to invite "strangers of distinction" to be guests of the Club. At the November 9, 1914, meeting, after the minutes were read and approved, 175 members listened to Club member Nevil Monroe Hopkins speak on "What I Saw of the War."

The term "Program Committee" occasionally replaced the old "Entertainment Committee" label in these years. Under either guise the programs were a success. The annual report of the Board of Management at the January 8, 1917, meeting of the Club notes that "the addresses given in connection with the monthly meetings have covered a wide range of subjects, and that the Committee on Programs has been particularly successful in its selection of speakers has been attested by the large attendance at the meetings."

The difficulty of providing a constant succession of speakers led the Secretary to report to the Club, at its March 10, 1919, meeting that, on recommendation of the Committee on Program, the practice of having a lecture or talk of some kind "every Monday evening" would be discontinued after the meeting of April 7 and that "such talks would be given only when some topic of unusual interest was available." In all probability the reference to lectures "every Monday evening" was a reference to the fact that lectures were occasionally scheduled on Mondays other than the single monthly scheduled Club meeting.

Concern over the irregularity of the lecture program led F. E. Farrington, H. B. Meyer, and H. K. Bush-Brown to ask the Board of Management, on November 10, 1923, to take steps to restore the old order of things with a regular monthly meeting and a speaker to address the meeting. The request of the three was accompanied by a letter from A. B. Coolidge stating that

subsequent conversations with Mr. Farrington had indicated that the latter did not desire a business meeting every month but only that there should be a specified Monday in each month at which members could count in advance on having an address or some other form of entertainment. The Board referred the suggestion to the Program Committee with the suggestion that the practice be adopted.

The strong Club sentiment for incorporating the Monday night lectures into the regular fabric of the Club was also expressed in a letter from Lawrence B. Evans to Club President Charles S. Hamlin on November 16, 1925. Evans noted that an Entertainment Committee had been appointed from time to time but that it was not a permanent committee and had often been allowed to lapse. "It seems to me," wrote Evans, "that the work of this committee is of sufficient importance in the life of the Club to justify its being made a permanent committee, and that its work will be more likely to be done with regularity if it is made one of the Club's standing committees."

At the annual meeting of the Club on January 11, 1926, an amendment to create an Entertainment Committee as a new standing committee of the Club received the necessary two-thirds vote. Mr. Evans, on behalf of the Committee on Entertainment for the previous year, asked for an opinion on the question of admission of ladies to the entertainments. "After much discussion, a motion that ladies be invited only on exceptional occasions was adopted."

The existence of a solid program of lectures undoubtedly played a role in the decision of the Court of Claims in the case of *Cosmos Club v. United States*, 42 F. 2d 321, decided June 16, 1930. The Court ruled that dues of members of the Club were not taxable because the Club's predominant purpose was educational. The program of Monday night lectures on science, art, literature, and education, by men distinguished in the professions, was prominently mentioned in the Court's decision. The

importance of the Club's lecture program was reiterated by Club President William Jackson Humphreys, who served also as chairman of the Committee on Entertainment, at the January 18, 1937, meeting of the Club. Humphreys called attention to the significance of the Monday night lectures in relieving the Club of taxes it would otherwise have had to pay if this free educational activity did not exist. He noted that since no honorarium was paid a lecturer (still the case) and none of his expenses were met (no longer the case) it was incumbent upon members to insure good attendance at the lectures.

By the early 1930s the lectures had virtually supplanted the monthly Club business meetings as Club attractions on Monday nights and in its annual report the Board of Management, on January 16, 1933, recommended an amendment to the bylaws doing away with stated meetings of the Club other than the annual meeting. "In recent years," the Board noted, "there has seldom been business to transact at these meetings and it seems much more sensible to have a special meeting when there are matters requiring the consideration of the Club."

The subject of fees to speakers at the Monday night lectures has sometimes been broached, if only indirectly. Charles T. Tittmann, chairman of the Committee on Entertainment from 1946 to 1954, on September 22, 1953, urged the Board of Management to pay a fee or honorarium to the musicians he had assembled for several musical recitals. But the Board of Management, at its December 16, 1953, meeting, noted that it had been the traditional practice not to pay fees or honoraria to lecturers and others invited to appear before the Club at its meetings, and conceived that the policy, which it thought good, should be preserved. Were fees or honoraria given to musicians and artists, the Board reasoned, a precedent would be established that might extend to include lecturers as well "and so lead to our abandonment of a good tradition."

In 1954 the Committee on Entertainment was designated the



Participants in the Cosmos Club's eightieth birthday dinner, November 15, 1958, dedicating the John Wesley Powell Auditorium.

Program Committee. From 1959 until 1972 Elliott B. Roberts was the chairman of the committee. His term exceeded that of the previous record-holding chairman, W. J. Humphreys, who served from 1934 through 1945.

In recent times, in accordance with the philosophy of Chairman Roberts, narrowly specialized subjects have been avoided in order to attract the attention of a broad spectrum of Club membership. It has also been a principle of the committee to offer few travel topics, which, though popular, particularly when well illustrated, are well cared for by the National Geographic Society and, within the Club itself, by the Cosmotographers.

Important figures, such as Carlos Romulo of the Philippines and Madame Chiang Kai-shek of the Republic of China, have addressed the Club on political themes. Women as well as men have been frequent lecturers before the membership. Elsie May (Mrs. Gilbert) Grosvenor, indeed, inaugurated the Club's John Wesley Powell Auditorium at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, in 1952 with a lecture entitled "Around Africa by Air."

A conclusion reached in recent times is that the Monday night lectures should provide information and entertainment, but not necessarily education. Some kinds of social problems, such as educational and civic affairs, have stimulated little interest. On the other hand, lectures on problems of world importance, such as our relations with the Soviet Union and our involvement in the 1960s and 1970s in Southeast Asia, have had great popularity. Literary topics have been few and far between, and are now customarily taken care of by the Book and Author Suppliers of the Library Committee.

Testimony concerning Monday night meetings in the early years of the Club depicts a more controversial, contentious scene than that evident in recent years. A. K. Fisher, at a Club meeting on June 20, 1938, asserted that "in the good old days" (he became a member in 1902) the Monday night meetings "took the form of general, and sometimes violent, discussions in almost every department of intellectual effort." Fisher described these meetings and discussions as "an impromptu university to which the younger members of the Club in particular were attracted, and from which they took away interest, enthusiasm, and information." Fisher regretted the loss of the old camaraderie and the lesser inclination on the part of older members to chat with newer and unknown members.

Herbert Friedenwald (a member for forty-five years), in a letter to Louis H. Tripp dated March 26, 1940, opposing the proposed sale of the old Clubhouse, wrote: "I grew up in this Club, and I have known and sat at the feet of the men who

founded the Club, and I am free to admit that I have derived more of my education, such as it is, from listening at informal Monday nights to the words of wisdom that crossed their lips in the days when the Club was small and we did not have the necessary formality which now prevails. 'Them days,' unfortunately, 'is gone forever,' for the whole conditions [*sic*] of life have changed, but I see no reason why something approaching the intelligence of those times might not reasonably well be revived."

The decline of the earlier tradition seems to have been related to several factors. The "free Monday night suppers"—that is, buffet with punch or beer, which was a feature of Club night for many years—were discontinued in the summer of 1954 (during the period when lectures were not given) on the recommendation of the Board of Management. There was some experimentation in the following years with providing free wine or beer with Club dinners on Monday nights in the summer, and with providing a snack service—charging for coffee and alcoholic beverages—following the lecture, but in general the attractions of free food and drink in association with the Monday night programs were lost.

Similarly as lectures began to replace the more informal character of earlier Club nights, the role of women increased. Whereas in earlier years they were invited only in exceptional cases, by 1931 they were invited to most lectures, and, in 1932, it became the practice always to include them, a circumstance, in the words of Elliott Roberts (writing in 1968), "long since taken for granted, and thoroughly exploited. Latter-day program committees have considered their interests as a matter of course." The presence of women and the absence of free food and drink seem to have encouraged a format in which more popular and less controversial subjects have been featured and a more formal decorum achieved. This is not to say that women preferred this format: only that the men of the Club assumed that they did.



Scene following lecture, November 28, 1977, on "The Adirondacks, My Backyard," by Anne LaBastille, in John Wesley Powell Auditorium. *Left to right:* The lecturer; George Crossette, chairman of the History Committee, 1968–1977, President of the Cosmos Club, 1977; Paul H. Oehser, Secretary of the Club, 1950–1969, chairman of the History Committee, 1977– , President of the Club, 1974.

While it is impossible for an individual to experience personally the entire range of Monday night activity in the hundred-year history of the Club it is possible for the historian to conclude that the values achieved in the more recent years of the Club may have been won at a cost of some of the values that marked the earlier years of the Club.

MUSIC IN THE CLUB

Music and science were originally more closely associated than they are today, and it is not surprising that the Cosmos Club has a musical tradition—albeit a modest one.

The first mention of a musical evening at the Club occurs in the November 12, 1906, minutes of the Board of Management. Letters from Charles Rabold to William Bruce King, from Mr. King to Thomas Wayland Vaughan, and from Dr. Vaughan to A. B. Coolidge suggested that the Club at some convenient time should sponsor a song recital by Mr. Rabold. The Board authorized the House Committee to make arrangements for such a recital, with the understanding that it *not* be held on Sunday.

In 1920 the House Committee dealt frequently with the Friday Morning Music Club about the use of the Club's assembly hall for concerts. The relationship was not always smooth, for on October 24, 1921, the House Committee voted to authorize the manager to dispose of the piano in the Cameron House. "It was the opinion of the committee that pianos should not [be] allowed to be placed in any of the chambers of the Club." The House Committee clarified this seemingly sweeping injunction when, on May 19, 1925, "it was ordered that music not be allowed in the Club, except in the Assembly Hall."

With the move to the new Clubhouse, the chairman of the Committee on Entertainment suggested that concerts be held periodically in the Main (Warne) Lounge. The Board of Management, on September 15, 1952, approved the suggestion insofar as members and male guests were concerned but disapproved the admission of ladies to the second floor of the Club for such concerts.

The Club was more receptive to the use of the assembly hall for such concerts. On September 29, 1952, the president of the

Friday Morning Music Club, in conference with the House Committee, reached an understanding that the Friday Morning Music Club would move two pianos into the assembly hall after October 26. The large grand would be on stage; the smaller grand on the floor.

The auditorium in the new Clubhouse afforded problems to performers who frequently complained about its poor acoustics. Consequently, on June 14, 1954, a subcommittee of the House Committee, consisting of Elliott Roberts, chairman, with members Charles T. Tittmann and Richard K. Cook, acoustics specialist from the National Bureau of Standards, investigated the acoustical properties of the auditorium. In their report the committee recommended experimental placing of sound reflecting screens in various positions on the platform.

The effect of the change was not entirely satisfactory. Paul Hume, the *Washington Post* music critic, in a review of a recital by William Masselos on March 30, 1957, declared the concert fascinating but "The Cosmos Club Assembly Hall, however, is so soundproof that it is a wonder anything so massive [as one of the selections played by Masselos] is even attempted there. Why doesn't someone rip off that ridiculous, zealously inspired wall-board so we can hear the music? Or else move concerts away from there?"

A song composed by member Francis Marion Wigmore (to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers") was presented to the Board of Management by Wigmore with the suggestion that it be adopted as the official Club hymn. The Board, on May 21, 1952, thanked Wigmore for his suggestion but expressed its opinion that the nature of the Cosmos Club "did not seem to require an official song or hymn."

Women were finally authorized by the Board of Management to attend a concert in the Main (Warne) Lounge on July 21, 1954. Responding to Mr. Tittmann's request for three or four concerts, to be followed by buffet suppers, to be held in the

main lounge and open to wives and lady guests, the Board agreed to authorize one musicale from 5 to 6 p.m. followed by a buffet supper from 6 to 7 p.m. "as an experiment to further sociability among the members and lady guests." The Board prescribed that the event take place some Sunday afternoon during the month of October or November, the exact date to be left to the decision of the Program Committee.

In the March 1972 issue of the *Bulletin*, the editor, Donald H. Williams, in discussing "Music over the Years" in the Club, wrote: "Of the arts represented in the membership of the Club, music may have come in for less than its share of recognition over the years. But professional competence in music has been manifested in a number of ways by Club members. Both currently and in the past music as an artistic discipline has been represented by conductors, composers, critics, musicologists, and performers. The Club has also had generous patrons of music, and at least one impresario; and the number of performing musicians, especially the accomplished amateurs, would probably be a story in itself."

By 1974 the sentiment for more music in the Club's programs persuaded the Board of Management to separate the music activities from the aegis of the Program Committee and to form a new Music Committee, under the chairmanship of Patrick Hayes. This committee, which now has bylaw status along with the other standing committees of the Club, includes among its membership some of Washington's most eminent musicians and musicologists. It has inaugurated a series of "co-ed" evening concerts, usually of chamber music, performed in the Warne Lounge by professional musicians. In order for the Club to pay honoraria to the performers, a small fee is now charged for tickets to the concerts. On April 22, 1974, the dedication of a new Steinway piano, purchased largely through members' donations, was the occasion of a gala concert given by the distinguished Washington pianist Evelyn Swarthout (Mrs. Patrick Hayes).

In a city, especially since the completion of the Kennedy Center, where music has become a dominant feature of its cultural programs, it is perhaps not too much to claim that the Club, in a tangential sort of way, is adding its widow's mite to Washington's cultural life.

NEW FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

The Cosmos Club has been slow to introduce modern means of communication such as radio and television, since such innovations may have seemed to many members to pose a threat to personal communication by word of mouth, the form of social interchange characteristic of the early years of the Club.

Not that members have been against modern devices as such. A telegraph "machine" was installed soon after the Club's founding but was ordered removed from the rooms by the Board of Management on January 5, 1880. The Board, on February 6, 1888, moved that the House Committee inquire into the possibility of having a clock connected with the United States Naval Observatory so that standard time could be maintained in the Clubhouse. On April 9, the House Committee was authorized to contract for a control clock to be connected with the Observatory at a rental of not to exceed \$30 per annum. However, on November 9, 1891, the Board of Management, apparently as an economy measure, voted that "the controlled electric clock in the hall be dispensed with" along with the Monday night punches except at monthly Club meetings.

In the meantime, however, on September 7, 1891, the Board of Management authorized the President and Secretary to execute a contract for telephone service to January 1, 1893, at a rental of \$110 per annum. The presence of the telephone in the Club grew in the following years until on February 10, 1913, the

House Committee was asked by the Board to consider the advisability of making a charge for the use of the telephone. At the same time the House Committee was authorized to employ a switchboard operator at \$20 a month. The House Committee recommended that a charge of five cents for each telephone message going out from the Clubhouse be made. The recommendation was approved.

On November 13, 1916, the Board authorized telephones (eight in all) to be installed in the bedrooms and in the middle room on the second floor of the old building on Lafayette Square. Five years later, on May 20, 1921, the House Committee voted to place a telephone in each room on the top floor of the Cameron House and to remove the telephone from the hall on that floor. By August 26, 1924, the "engagement of a second experienced telephone operator" for the evening shift was authorized.

When a member, after World War II, applied to have a private telephone installed in his room, the House Committee, on December 17, 1947, was reluctant to authorize the installation, especially when "there appears to be definite indication that the Club is being used as a business headquarters." The House Committee finally agreed that approval would not be granted for such private telephones "except in special cases where the need is fully demonstrated and where its use would not be primarily on business matters."

The telephone functioned primarily to increase an individual's ability to communicate with another individual without interfering with his fellow Club members. The radio was a different matter. On April 8, 1924, the House Committee considered a letter from R. B. Wilcox requesting permission to place an aerial on the roof of the Club. "It was the opinion of the committee that aerials should not be allowed." But the next week, with two additional members of the House Committee in attendance, it was voted to allow Wilcox to run an aerial from

near the roof at the southeast corner of the main Club building to the window of Room 34 with the understanding that "proper lightning arresters" be installed and that the work be done in accordance with District of Columbia regulations. The House Committee also stipulated that no loud speaker be used. On January 20, 1925, the House Committee authorized another member, William M. Mann, "to string a radio wire from Room 41 to the opposite roof." Still, radio did not enter the public rooms of the Club, even temporarily, until November 2, 1928, when the House Committee authorized the manager to "rent a radio to be used in receiving election returns at a cost not to exceed \$10.00." Despite these hesitant examples of accommodation, the Club acted on Gifford Pinchot's observation, made at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Club's founding a few weeks after the election of 1928, that "radio is the enemy of all clubs."

Temporary installation of a radio receiver for national election returns was occasionally approved, as in 1936, but, although the House Committee discussed the purchase of a radio in 1943, it was not until June 20, 1945, that the Board of Management requested the House Committee to provide a radio in the Tayloe Room "which, under the control of the House Committee, should be used during programs of general interest." The House Committee minutes for April 16, 1947, note that "a small portable radio has been removed from the Tayloe Room and consideration was given to making it available elsewhere for the use of members. It was finally concluded that the most practical arrangement would be to have the instrument available at the front desk and obtainable upon request by members. At the time of requesting it they can be informed as to the rooms in which it may be used, these being the Tayloe Room, Board Room, Card Room, and Colonial Room whichever may be most suitable at the time."

A petition dated July 27, 1948, and signed by thirty-three

members, requested the Board of Management to purchase a first-class radio and install it in a suitable place with the necessary aerial for the use of members "on important occasions." The Board, in response, on August 4 voted up to \$100 for a suitable model radio to be installed in the rear of the Ladies' Parlor. On August 18 the House Committee approved the purchase of a Zenith model 7H-820 with special eight-inch speaker, with eight tubes, wired for both AC and DC, at a price of \$79.95.

Television had an equally hard time gaining acceptance in the Club. On February 15, 1950, Secretary Paul H. Oehser read a letter from Charles T. Tittmann, chairman of the Entertainment Committee, suggesting that a television set be purchased for the taproom. The Board of Management voted to defer action on the request. The matter was referred to the House Committee which, on March 6, reported that it was "unanimously opposed at this time to the purchase of a television set for the taproom." On March 15 the Board of Management accepted the House Committee recommendation against the purchase of a television set.

The next year, on January 17, 1951, the purchase of a television set was again discussed by the Board of Management, but it was decided that the matter should be deferred until the Club occupied its new quarters. In an article appearing in the *New York Times* on October 19, 1952, describing the move of the Club into its new quarters, the writer—member E. John Long—quoted the reaction of a "prominent lawyer" member when the issue was raised the previous year: "Television?" the lawyer snorted. "Why, we haven't accepted radio yet!"

Even the lure of election-night coverage did not sway the traditionalists. On October 20, 1952, the House Committee rejected the suggestion that a television set be rented for use in the Clubhouse on election night. Nor did the prospect of viewing the inaugural of Dwight David Eisenhower from the comfort of

the Clubhouse convince the doubters. On January 5, 1953, the House Committee minutes record: "Disapproved: The suggestion that a Television be rented for use in the Club during Inauguration."

The Board of Management, on July 15, 1953, declined an invitation from the Greater Washington Educational Television Association inviting the Club to name a representative to attend a meeting at which an Advisory Council to the Association was to be organized.

The ice began to break in the fall of 1953 when, on September 29, the offer of a television set from Sylvania Electrical Products Co., Inc., through a member, Henry M. O'Bryan, was discussed. The House Committee refused the gift, arguing that there was no facility in the Club suitable for the reception of a television set. On receipt of a letter from another member after the meeting, however, the House Committee agreed to consider the matter further at a later meeting. On October 5 the House Committee reconsidered the proposed gift of a television set. "It was pointed out that Room 304 would be suitable for location of a television, and the only space so suitable in the Club. Directed: That the gift of a television through Dr. Henry O'Bryan be accepted with appreciation and that up to \$60.00 be authorized for the expense of proper installation, if necessary, and that the television set when received be installed in Room 304."

The Club has maintained a television set ever since, usually discreetly tucked away in Room 304. Occasionally, however, the television has invaded more sacred precincts of the Club. The House Committee, on January 11, 1954, after listening to various opinions, agreed that "the television should be returned to Room 304 until some other and better location be found. For special national occasions, the TV may be brought downstairs (when authorized) by the Executive." For a time it "enjoyed" quarters in the southeast corner of the Warne Lounge.

On February 20, 1957, the Board of Management passed a

resolution suggesting that the House Committee "investigate the removal of the television set from the main lounge and its location in such place as is not dedicated primarily to conversation." Evidently the television was not permanently removed because on January 10, 1961, the House Committee received a complaint from Thomas W. Huntington that the use of the television in the Warne Lounge frequently monopolized the use of that room. Huntington suggested that it be located elsewhere in the Club.

A suggestion that television be installed in some of the Club's dormitory rooms was, on April 2, 1963, tabled when the manager, Guenter Skole, pointed out that the rooms were not sound-proof.

The Cosmos Club has gradually come to terms with television. Club Executive David Guy's printed instructions to "All T-V Devotees" is probably no longer necessary. Guy, among other instructions, cautioned members to operate the set "*by hand only*." "Do not use a cane or other means for distant control," he warned. Guy also begged members not to turn the sound volume control knob off and on frequently, "as [is] done sometimes to cut out commercials interspersed during programs." "It is bad practice and injurious to the switches," he noted.

At present only a handful of Club members watch television in its only Club home—Room 304—a converted bedroom—and rarely is a cane used to control the machine. The Cosmos Club is still devoted primarily to personal exchange of opinions. It may be that the Club, in its suspicion of TV, was ahead of its time.

FOOD AND DRINK

Drinking and eating have always been integral parts of Cosmos Club life, but it seems clear that in the early history of the Club drinking took precedence over eating. A steward was for long the principal employee of the Club and one of his principal duties was to manage the stock of liquor and cigars.

Edward S. Holden's "Secretary's Book No. 1," one of the treasures of the Club's archive of historical material, reveals that on January 2, 1879, "48 thin glass tumblers for beer and ale were ordered, along with 24 tumblers for whiskey and 48 dessert plates for crackers and 48 small plates for cheese." An undated later entry records the possible order of "3 Cheese boxes." On April 7, 1879, the chairman of the House Committee announced that "coffee could, in future, be had by any one requiring it."

A Club dining room is first mentioned in the minutes of the Board of Management on April 9, 1888, when the chairman of the House Committee requested authority to purchase a refrigerator and two tables for the dining room. The early food service of the Club seems to have consisted chiefly of sandwiches and light snacks to accompany the more liquid refreshments. Indeed, one of the principal complaints, as recorded in the Board of Management minutes for January 15, 1892, was early closing of the bar. On motion, the Board of Management voted, on February 8, 1892, "that the House Committee be authorized to close the bar at 1 a.m."

In addition to refreshments, the Cosmos Club early began to serve weekly punches, usually on Club Night—Monday—and on April 11, 1892, Ward Thoron of the House Committee asked the Board of Management for authority to vary the weekly punches with beer. The House Committee was authorized to exercise its discretion in the matter, the Board expressing a favorable interest in serving beer for a change.

Those acquainted with the Club when it was located on Lafayette Square may recall that a Club rule prevented the serving of alcoholic beverages to members seated on the piazza or so near the windows as to be visible from the street. This practice stemmed from what the Board of Management, on June 12, 1893, termed the "400-foot rule"—apparently derived from a District of Columbia law, then recently enacted, concerning the restrictions accompanying the granting of liquor licenses.

Club members were not so bibulous as the foregoing review might suggest, although occasionally a member would be cited for "boisterous conduct" and warned to behave. Increasingly food service begins to overshadow alcoholic refreshments in the Club records. The first notice of the employment of a cook (at \$40 per month) occurs in the minutes of the Board of Management for January 22, 1894. At the same time the Treasurer and House Committee began to spar over how to handle the receipts and expenses of the "Grill Room," which was established in the basement of the Clubhouse on Lafayette Square. The House Committee wanted to plow back the profits derived from food service into enlargement and improvement of facilities for dining. The Club Treasurer was somewhat more cautious about allowing the House Committee a free hand in spending the receipts of the operation.

Improvements were made in the grillroom in February 1894 (laying linoleum on the floor) and March (\$75 for a sideboard for the grillroom) and April (screens for the grillroom window). On April 17, 1894, L. O. Howard, Secretary of the Club, issued a printed circular directed particularly to nonresident members to announce that "the Club grillroom is now in successful operation and that when they have occasion to visit Washington they will be able to get satisfactory meals in the house."

During the summer of 1894 the improvements in the grillroom continued apace. A special committee reported on "summer arrangements" for the room. And the Club agreed to make a trial of a gas stove lent by a member.

The profits from the grillroom operation led to a formal request from the House Committee, on October 14, 1895, that the unexpended balance of \$245.62 remaining to the credit of the grillroom fund be allocated to the House Committee to use for permanent betterment of the room. The request was granted. On October 12, 1896, the House Committee asked that grillroom profits be devoted in the future to the improvements of the grill. The Board of Management granted the request until further notice.

Improvements in the grill are frequently mentioned in the minutes for the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. New ranges, a new fireplace in the grill, new chairs, and new tables were approved in June 1900, along with a new sink and fan for the pantry, at a total cost of \$1,264. An oil painting, *Still Life*, as well as six rugs, was authorized for inclusion in the grillroom on March 11, 1901, by the Board of Management.

As the Club purchased and renovated houses adjoining the original Clubhouse, a new approach to food service was considered. It was proposed in August 1904 by the House Committee that the grillroom be removed from the basement of the old building to the first floor of the annex. The Board considered the use of the front room on the first floor of the annex as "impractical" but expressed its willingness to consider removal of the grillroom elsewhere.

Pressure on the Board of Management, nevertheless, continued. At the Club meeting on December 12, 1904, C. G. Lee made a motion that because the Club "is at present very deficient in dining room facilities," the House Committee be directed to fit up the first floor of the new building as a dining room and move the Library to its former quarters. When the President pointed out that such a resolution needed prior consideration by the Board of Management unless it pertained to a matter under \$100, Mr. Lee added the phrase "Provided the

expense of the same does not exceed \$100" to his resolution. On a standing vote the motion carried thirty-three to twenty-nine, but when a teller vote was called for, the motion was defeated thirty-three to thirty-five.

Eventually, however, a dining room was established in the new building.

A petition for provision of a ladies' lunchroom was considered by the Board on April 15, 1909, and opinion on the subject was invited from the Club membership. On June 14, 1909, Herbert Putnam offered a resolution that in the opinion of the Board of Management "it is inexpedient to include in the plans for the new building provision for a ladies' dining-room." The recommendation of the Board was accepted by the Club membership at its meeting the same evening. On October 30, 1918, the women's dining facilities were expanded by the creation of a women's dining room and parlor on the ground floor of the Cameron House, which until that time had been used only for sleeping rooms and servants' quarters.

As the Club's dining operations continued to grow, they were leased out to women managers who undertook to provide service on a contract basis. In 1919, about the time that A. B. Coolidge succeeded the House Committee as the manager and principal executive of the Club, Mrs. Brooke, who had been running the Club's dining room on a lease basis, was hired at \$4,000 a year to act as superintendent of the dining department.

Among the innovations that were introduced in this period was the practice of giving the diner one principal course, with a choice of two or three meats, instead of having both fish and meat, as the custom had been. This change was the suggestion of Waldo Leland, then a young member of the Club, who had signed a petition complaining about the food in August 1921. In responding to a request for specifics, Leland complained that the dinners were "rather heavy, not as appetizing as they should be and not sufficiently varied." Leland called for special dishes

on the a la carte menu such as onion soup, Italian pastas, salads, etc., "which were so appreciated a few years ago." Leland also complained about the charge for bread and butter when paying a la carte. "It seems to me that the price of food has declined sufficiently to allow the inclusion of bread and butter with all orders totalling seventy-five cents or more."

Mr. Leland's concerns were not ignored. On November 15, 1921, the House Committee voted that no charge for bread and butter should be made on a la carte orders amounting to fifty cents or over. At the same time it ordered cryptically that "ice should not be crushed before eight o'clock in the morning except in case of emergency."

Leland's victory was short-lived, however. On March 14, 1922, the House Committee voted to restore the charge of ten cents for bread and butter in the main dining room.

At this time meals were served in bedrooms on request and at an extra charge. The House Committee, in keeping with the spartan image of the Club, voted on February 28, 1922, that in the future meals were to be served in bedrooms only in cases of illness of a member or guest and that no extra charge would be made for such service.

On the fiftieth anniversary of the celebration of the Club's founding, in 1928, Charles Edward Munroe commented on the simplicity permeating the Club's operations. "Go to the dining room," Munroe exclaimed. "I don't recall that I have found among our cooks a *cordon bleu*, or among our stewards or managers a Savarin. We have had epicures in the Club, but epicurean feasts have been rare."

By the 1930s the Club possessed a main dining room on the fifth floor of the Clubhouse, as well as ladies' dining rooms on the first floor and private dining rooms on the fourth floor. The scattered location of these dining rooms made for some inefficiency, and the Club was constantly faced with the problem of uneconomical operation of the food department. Early in 1937

it was proposed to get the taproom out of the basement and relocate it in enlarged quarters elsewhere. The proposal to move it to the cardroom ran into stiff opposition from the card players of the Club who refused to countenance a shift in their own facilities to any less adequate ones. The House Committee reported on January 16, 1939, at the annual meeting of the Club, that it had received many suggestions for saving money. Some proposed laying off employees. Others suggested placing the taproom in a better location so that it "might result in the Club's drinking itself back to prosperity."

The "wife of one of the 'Ever-in-debt Cosmos Club' members" wrote the Board of Management on June 23, 1938, suggesting a way of solving some of the Club's financial difficulties while at the same time keeping the wives in good humor. Her suggestion was "to apply the wage hour bill at home and at least once in two weeks (preferably once a week) reduce the wife's hours to a minimum by taking her to the Club for dinner." The writer noted that "I balked on the Sunday dinners long ago and I know 'it works.'" The letter "made such a favorable impression" on the Board that it was ordered referred to the House Committee with the suggestion that it be copied (with the names omitted) and distributed to members of the Club.

Although Dr. Munroe at the fiftieth anniversary dinner noted the rarity of gourmet dinners, the Club has not been entirely derelict in this regard. On December 3, 1936, an Indian Dinner—"only Things of American origin and Indian Use"—was held. The dinner was repeated on December 5, 1940. Included in the 1940 dinner was a "Cherokee cocktail," which one of the diners has described in a pen-and-ink notation to the menu as "best corn whiskey, by volume 8 parts, Virginia Dare wine 8 parts, pineapple juice (clear) 8 parts, and maple syrup 1 part."

On June 17, 1959, a Board of Management dinner was held under the aegis of Board member Stanley P. Young, featuring

buffalo grass, Sioux Indian soup, broiled buffalo steak, dried buffalo chips (at least the menu so asserts), buffalo gut greens, Western sunset on the stiff cob, sourdough biscuits, wild queen bee honey, shepherd's pudding with pellets, and instant poison camas root.

On March 25, 1961, a "Lucullan" dinner was held duplicating the dinner given to a group of her distinguished guests on March 24, 1909, by Mrs. Townsend at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue. The menu, with appropriate wines, consisted of

Canapés de Caviar Lorenzo
 Potage à la Victoria
 Terrapin à la Philadelphie
 [unavailable in 1961]
 Mousseline Tétrase aux Truffes
 Rôti d'Agneau à la Gelée de Menthe
 Champignons à la Crème
 Petits Pois à la Française
 Pommes à l'Anglaise
 Chaud-froid de Cannedon à la Lucullus
 Jambons de Virginie Glacés
 Haricots de Saison
 Petits Poussins Rôtis au Cresson
 Salade à la Waldorf
 Asperges à la Hollandaise
 Glace aux Fraises Bordure
 Petits Fours
 Café

The dinner, served in the Warne Lounge, was attended by thirty-nine gourmet-minded members and guests, at \$25 per head. Although the event elicited enthusiastic sentiment to "do it again," the Club has not seen fit to repeat what was certainly a most delightful and memorable tour-de-force.

Scheduling food service required experiment and revision particularly in the period after the move to the Townsend Mansion, which altered Club visiting habits. The move had been

attended with predictions that the lunch business would fall off but the dinner trade would increase. In fact the commuting and residential habits of members caused such predictions to go awry.

On April 15, 1953, Thomas M. Woodward, on behalf of the House Committee, proposed buffet dinners for members and guests, including ladies, as a way of increasing the number of diners. The Board approved and suggested that the House Committee consider holding buffet suppers in the Members' Dining Room for members and male guests on nights other than Mondays.

The Cosmos Club has traditionally provided some sort of refreshments on Monday "Club Nights" as a way of encouraging fellowship and sociability. Even though these refreshments were usually free, they were occasionally the subject of complaints by members. Late in 1927, in a report to the Board of Management by a special committee that had solicited complaints from resident members, it was reported that one member had complained that it was "undignified to require members on Monday nights to prepare their own sandwiches." The unhappy member asserted that the practice was "reminiscent of an old fashioned bar room." Another complained that the food service on Monday nights was unsanitary. On April 21, 1954, the House Committee recommended that the Monday night "free buffet suppers" be discontinued on the grounds that few members of the Club availed themselves of this feature and therefore the benefits were not sufficiently well distributed to justify the cost (about \$1,200 a year). However, the Board did not want this traditional feature of the Club to be "peremptorily discontinued." The House Committee and Executive came back with a compromise: that the free beer should be discontinued and that downstairs and upstairs the bars should open after the lecture and liquor be sold by the usual practice of signing chits. The House Committee also recommended that the "free lunch"

be reduced to the "customary type of snack served at cocktail parties, namely, cheese spreads, canapes, crackers, snack breads, potato chips, olives, pickles, etc. . . . , and coffee demitasse." The Board approved the experiment and, on December 15, 1954, authorized a continuation of the Monday night buffet suppers on the new plan.

A later study (September 13, 1954) of the "free suppers" on Monday night led to a recommendation by the House Committee that the practice be discontinued since the number of people participating did not usually exceed forty "and these were usually the same persons." The total cost to the Club was estimated at \$40 a night. The Board agreed to discontinue the Monday night suppers for the time being and to reconsider the matter in the fall.

The matter of the Monday night suppers continued to bedevil the House Committee and Board of Management in succeeding years. The post-lecture offerings were gradually reduced to coffee and alcoholic beverages served at chit prices, along with some simple complimentary cheese spreads and the like.

Frequent attempts have been made to increase Club use of the dining facilities on weekends. A buffet dinner served on Sunday nights was approved by the House Committee on November 3, 1941, and given its first trial on November 16, 1941.

Friday night dinners became a problem as the extended weekend, the distant suburbs, vacation homes, and what the American Automobile Association once referred to as the "freedom of automobility" became more pronounced in the 1950s. As a result, the House Committee, on October 19, 1953, proposed that the use of the Members' Dining Room for Friday dinners be eliminated when, at the discretion of the Executive, there was not sufficient use of the room to warrant maintaining service. Use of the Members' Dining Room at night is now limited to special occasions.

An inroad on the declining use of the Club for dining on

weekends occurred when the first Sunday luncheon, on December 6, 1953, proved a temporary success. Yet the experiment was not permanently successful. Effective January 5, 1964, the House Committee announced the closing of the dining rooms on Sunday for any meal service with the exception of breakfast. The Sunday luncheon, however, was later transformed into the Sunday brunch, which has proved a continuing and distinct attraction to Club members and their guests.

The Club's tradition of an open house to mark the new year seems to have begun in 1945 when the Board of Management, on recommendation of the House Committee, ordered that such an open house be kept on January 1, 1945, from 4 to 10 p.m. for members and guests, including women. It is not known what was served on the occasion. Later, women were excluded from the open house and eggnog was served, and the party shifted to New Year's Eve.

Members have frequently suggested additions to the menu. A discussion of the Board of Management on February 17, 1943, concerned "serving codfish balls for lunch." Three years later, on October 15, 1946, the Board was confronted with a letter from Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the famous Arctic explorer and member of the Club, who advocated the introduction of horse meat to the Club's diet. The letter was referred to the House Committee with the recommendation that it use its judgment in the matter. Horse meat never attained a place on the Cosmos Club menu as it did on the menu of the Harvard Faculty Club. At other times (September 17, 1947), the manager sought to obtain an elk from the National Park Service for the members' table, and on February 18, 1964, a buffalo feast was served in the Members' Dining Room. Lobsters, flown in from Maine fresh on Friday nights, became a "staple" for gourmets in the 1960s. Occasionally a dish was inadvertent, as was the "salt-coated baked apple" for which the manager apologized in the April 1964 *Bulletin*.

Although Waldron Faulkner, during his term as President of the Club in 1953, periodically inquired about the serving of oysters on the halfshell—a service formerly rendered by the Club—it was pointed out by an economy-minded House Committee and Executive that this service required a special oyster shucker and it was doubtful that the Club could find one of its employees with the experience to handle the job.

A less savory aspect of the Club's dining traditions was the constant war on rodents. Nineteen rats, the House Committee noted on March 20, 1944, had been caught in the downstairs kitchen the previous weekend. But, though the Club employed some of the best exterminators in Washington and enjoyed the cooperation of the Board of Health of the District of Columbia, the problem continued "particularly in the Garden, where," the House Committee noted on June 6, 1944, "rats come over the wall from other property." Although the picture of rats streaming over the garden wall into the Garden dining area of the old Clubhouse is not the most attractive picture one can paint about this outdoor facility, the attractions of the garden for dining were sufficient to make it a popular spot for Club patrons during the summer months when the garden was open for dining. The attempt to transfer the habit of dining *alfresco* to the new Club was not entirely successful. Although the downstairs dining room of the Townsend Mansion is called the Garden Dining Room, and although food service has been provided in the open air at 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, the practice has never caught on. Perhaps the advent of air conditioning discouraged outdoor dining though the practice enjoyed a rebirth in Washington commercial restaurants in the 1970s.

Diners at the Cosmos Club have usually enjoyed cloth napkins and attractive china and silver, but periodically the Club has attempted to reduce expenses by resorting to paper napkins. On June 29, 1933, in the middle of the Great Depression, the House Committee decided "to utilize paper towels to sup-

plement the supply of linen towels" in the downstairs lavatory. The use of paper napkins in the dining room was not, however, approved. On February 7, 1944, the House Committee approved the recommendation of the manager, Mrs. Kinney, that "because of the War and laundry conditions, paper napkins be used at breakfast and luncheon." Victory in World War II did not automatically bring back with it linen napkins. In an outraged letter of May 9, 1947, George F. Bowerman expressed the wish that members "may again enjoy the linen napkins instead of the *tissue paper affairs* we now have to put up with." The House Committee, on June 4, 1947, somewhat taken aback by Dr. Bowerman's letter, estimated that the use of hand towels in the wash room would increase costs about \$2,500 per annum, an amount the committee did not feel the Club could afford. The House Committee did approve, however, the replacement of paper napkins with cloth napkins in the main dining room.

Nine years later, Dr. Bowerman returned to the fray writing the chairman of the House Committee (March 5, 1956) regarding "the absence of strawberry ice cream on the menu."

Other members have given the House Committee advice on food service in the Club. Frederick M. Feiker on April 5, 1956, provided a list of seven instructions "in the friendly and simple art of serving a meal." No. 3 read: "Arrange the food properly—i.e. I like my pie pointed at me!" Feiker's Rule No. 7, "Remember the finger bowls and have more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of water in them for a man-sized hand," has since gone by the board as the Club, some time thereafter, stopped the practice of providing finger bowls.

Seating arrangements at the Cosmos Club have allowed for privacy but encouraged sociability. The principal foci of sociability are the Long Table in the Members' Dining Room and the Round Table in the Garden Dining Room. Herbert Putnam always sat in the same chair at the Long Table at the old Club-

house. Any member might come and join the group (a practice still in effect in the new Clubhouse). However, Putnam is reported to have shown some annoyance when "his" chair was inadvertently occupied by a stranger. Today, as noted in Denys Myers's vignette (p. 321), Putnam's chair is graced with a plaque and is frequently occupied by "strangers" at the Long Table in the Members' Dining Room.

A tradition of the habitués of the Long Table dating from the 1920s and 1930s was for a member returning from a vacation abroad to treat his table mates to pie. As Albert Atwood recalled in the February 1959 *Bulletin*, the pies were apple, mince, cherry, lemon meringue, and chocolate. Atwood concluded that the rising cost of food had something to do with the demise of the tradition.

One of the most significant innovations involving food at the Club was the "Book and Author Supper," previously mentioned, initiated on March 23, 1954, by William N. Fenton, chairman of the Library Committee. Fenton hoped to acquaint members of the Club with Club authors and their new books. The practice did, indeed, become a Club tradition.

Another innovation in eating habits was the establishment in 1971 of the Cosmos Club Noon Forum. Subjects dealt with at the Forum are various topics of contemporary political, economic, and social concern, and are presented by individual speakers or by a panel of experts. The Forum has been limited to members and male guests and has virtually achieved the status of a "tradition."

Wine tasting as a formal event at the Club seems to have begun with a New York State wine-tasting affair on September 9, 1965, sponsored by Konstantin Frank, a New York State wine-grower. Wine-tasting sessions, conducted by experts in oenology, achieved a growing popularity in the 1960s and 1970s and have dealt with the wines of Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, the Near East, Mexico, Australia, and other countries.

Though the Club's wine list has never aspired to meet the standards of the snobbish connoisseur, it is a respectable one and has received the perennial attention of the House Committee and other officers of the Club. During his assignment as science attaché in London, Charles S. Piggot wrote to the Board of Management that something ought to be done to improve the "wives" of the Club. Puzzled, the Board finally decided that Charles's dubious chirography was at fault and that he meant "wines."

The importance of a chef in a Club in which eating constitutes an important activity is obvious, but it is hard to penetrate the veil of anonymity that shrouds those who prepared food in the early years of the Club's history. The name of the first cook hired, in 1894, was not recorded. Nor was that of the second cook brought on in the next decade.

By 1941 John Kirchhofer was established as chef, as indicated by an appeal for an increase in his salary by the House Committee on May 5, 1941. Kirchhofer was given a \$25 a month increase effective January 1, 1942; \$15 extra was given to the second cook, John Bowlding; to the baker, John Wiesner; and to the third cook Goodwin Herndon; as well as \$10 extra to the vegetable cook, Fred Lester.

The House Committee minutes for June 3, 1946, recorded approval of an additional two weeks' sick leave for another chef, Abraham Grob, who had been absent for six weeks after an eye operation. When Grob retired November 1, 1953, John Bowlding was promoted to chef for a probationary period. Grob was kept on as a consultant. On June 20, 1955, the House Committee concluded that "in order to get the best results, we shall have to employ a full-time Chef." But the House Committee noted that good chefs commanded up to \$150 a week and "this is more money than is received by anyone now in the Cosmos Club's employ." While former Secretary Piggot suggested importing a chef for less money, the House Committee worried that it would be impossible to keep him on the job once he was here.

A chef, John Altamare, was hired early in 1957 but resigned in 1958 and, as the House Committee reported on April 16, was replaced by a new chef, Victor Scotti, then employed at the Rive Gauche restaurant in Georgetown. Later chefs have included Johannes Geldorf, Emile Freyche, and Alfred Lorenz.

CLUBS WITHIN A CLUB

The Cosmos Club has spawned other "clubs within a club," groups of like-minded men who have met together regularly for their "mutual improvement by social intercourse," as the original Articles of Incorporation stated the Club's purpose. Each group had (or has) its own character. Some focused on a particular approach to knowledge, such as the Cosmotographers; others enjoyed a wide-ranging, unbounded approach to any subject of intellectual interest. Some have formal organizations and procedure; others, such as a Bible study or prayer group, which often meets at the Clubhouse for breakfast, have no formal organization. All were bound by their ties to the Cosmos Club as an intellectual home whence the membership of most of the organizations was almost exclusively drawn. The following account of these "clubs within a club" has been drawn from the various notes, reminiscences, and the like, left by members of these clubs, with the exception of the account of the Cosmotographers, which was taken almost entirely from the history of the group written by one of its founders and still active member, Elliott B. Roberts.

The Cosmotographers

In the spring of 1951, Hal H. Hale ('42), Elliott Roberts ('47), and a few others, lunching at community Table One of the old Clubhouse on Lafayette Square, discussed their common interest in photography and agreed that there ought to be a

“shutterbug” organization in the Club. The name “Cosmotographers” was suggested and finally agreed upon as acceptable, overriding an objection that it failed to specify the intended field of photography. No one could think of a better word. That the name took some time to become established is indicated by a reference in the House Committee minutes for August 31, 1953, to the “‘Cosmo-Photographers,’ a group of members interested in photography.” In October of that year, Hale and Henry H. Kelly ('50) participated in the Vth Pan American Highway Congress, in Peru, a sufficiently photogenic land to stimulate their best shooting instincts and to return them aching to show off their new color slides. On November 7 they lunched at the Club and talked of how they would show their pictures to their friends. The upshot was that, on January 16, 1952, Hale wrote to a number of members inviting them to meet at the Club the following Friday, the 18th, to organize a camera group.

The meeting was duly held, and the Cosmotographers came officially into existence, with Louis Jordan ('42) elected acting general chairman, and the others present designated acting vice chairmen as follows: Burton W. Marsh ('45) for records, Henry H. Kelly ('50) for refreshments, Elliott Roberts for funds, Charles Mahoney ('46) for rooms, Victor H. Cahalane ('48) for programs, Charles D. Curtiss ('45) for membership, and Hal H. Hale for equipment. Henry Curtis Morris ('20), who was in California at the time, was elected acting vice chairman for public information. These were the founders.

It was established that the third Tuesday evening of each month (except during the summer) would be meeting night. A notice to the membership was posted on the Club bulletin board on January 28, announcing the birth of the new organization. On February 26 the first formal meeting was held, but the records do not show why this event took place on the fourth, rather than the third, Tuesday, or what the program consisted of.

Gradually increasing numbers of Cosmos members, on becoming aware of the new interest offered them, came to meetings, but formal records were never kept to tell who they were. Among others, it is reported that Victor R. Boswell ('48), Julian E. Berla ('46), Richard S. Burington ('44), and Samuel B. Detwiler, Jr. ('42), were early and enthusiastic members of the loosely drawn group. Cosmotographer membership, so-called on the basis of regularity of attendance, has probably never varied very much above or below a score of Cosmos members and their wives. Attendance at meetings has varied more widely, falling to a mere dozen at times during the early years and exceeding, more recently, a hundred persons on occasion, depending on the drawing power of the program.

No set rules or regulations have ever been drawn up, nor have regular dues been exacted, the trivial expenses having been met by a passing of the hat, usually at the first meeting of a season, a procedure that usually extracted a few dollars from those who happened to be present.

While the motivating force was originally that of providing a forum for the display of pictures, it was considered at the outset that discussions of photographic equipment and processes would be important elements of Cosmotographer activities. The field was held to be wide open to motion pictures, color slides, and monochrome photographs. Excursions into these fields of interest have occasionally been held, even to the extent of meeting on one occasion to vie with one another to take art photographs of a live model, guaranteed to be neither stout, middle-aged, bald, nor male! A definite tendency gradually set in for those attending to prefer color-slide shows, often on travel subjects by returning voyagers, although specialized subjects, including a show on the subject of cat photography, had a place in the programming. Such slide shows are the prevailing fare now. Member competitions for excellence in such color photography have been held almost yearly in recent times, sometimes with outside

judges, and sometimes with amateur judges from the group itself. On occasion, winners have been announced, or even rewarded with badges; at other times the fun has been confined to critical comment on picture submissions. It is probable that the group has maintained a critical interest in good photography transcending a simple interest in travel subjects.

Initially a small serving of refreshments constituted a part of the meetings, particularly during the times when exotic equipment, the pride of the owners' eyes, or an easel show of photo-prints, was the center of interest, and those present moved about discussing such treasures. Later, with more emphasis on set shows, this became impracticable, whereupon it became habitual to meet for cocktails and dinner in the regular Club rooms prior to the sessions.

The group was hardly recognized, perhaps because of its casual nature and small number of adherents, as an quasi-official Cosmos activity until rather long after the move to the Massachusetts Avenue Clubhouse. It was even proposed at one time to charge the group for the use of the Powell Auditorium, which might otherwise have been gainfully rented out to other groups on the third Tuesdays; however, cries of anguish from the members persuaded the Board of Management to recognize the Cosmotographers for what they have always been—a valid, and, to some, important activity of the Cosmos Club.

The Palaver Club

The Palaver Club was organized by Rufus Washington Weaver, a Baptist clergyman who served as secretary-treasurer of the National Advisory Committee on Illiteracy in Washington, after a career as president of Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, from 1918 to 1927. With seven friends he organized the club at a dinner meeting at the Cosmos Club on November 24,

1930. Two months later, on January 26, 1931, the group held its first regular meeting with a host, a paper, and guests. The host at the first meeting was William H. Allison, a retired professor from Colgate University, also a Baptist. The subject of Allison's talk was "Was William Vaughan Moody a Humanist?"

Though not all of them are Cosmos Club members, Palaver Club members have possessed the usual distinguished qualifications of Cosmos Club members. Since the Palaver Club has no dues and no elected officers, the process of selection is informal, individuals usually being suggested by other members, and invited to join by the existing membership if their company seems desirable. Members have represented every shade of opinion and profession including two former Archivists of the United States, Robert D. Connor and Solon J. Buck.

When Dr. Weaver died on January 31, 1947, Linton M. Collins, a judge of the U.S. Court of Claims, took his place in the Palaver Club as organizer and secretary. Collins did not take over the chairmanship responsibilities of Weaver, the host at each meeting performing that function. When Collins died, Gerard D. Reilly was elected chairman, being succeeded in that role by Cabot Coville. Judge Collins's secretary, Miss Charlotte Kimball, continues to circulate notices of the forthcoming meetings.

Meeting once a month except in the summer period, usually but not always in the Clubhouse, the number and variety of the papers have been great. Titles have ranged from Paul Siple's talk "Is the Earth's Axis Shifting?" to George Hart's "The Dictatorship of the Federal Judiciary" and from Walter Myers's "Euthanasia" to Paul H. Oehser's "Tobogganing on Parnassus." The club's membership is small enough (usually about ten or twelve people attend each dinner meeting) to give everyone the chance to engage in a dialogue with the speaker.

The Palaver Club was defined by Dr. Weaver as a "fellowship" and by Linton Collins as a "study group." It has alter-

nated between these two poles in the memory of those who know it best, among whom are Francis W. Reichelderfer, who became a member in 1943, and George F. Howe, whose association dates from 1946. Howe prepared an informal Palaver Club history that served as the basis for one of his talks before the club.

Dr. Hill's Round Table

Another club within a club was Joseph A. Hill's Round Table, which continued from its founding in 1916 to 1949. "The Round Table" had a formal constitution (dated January 25, 1916), an executive committee, and a secretary. Leon E. Truesdell, one of the later secretaries of the Round Table, put together the records of the group. Membership was limited to fifteen (amended on October 3, 1916, to twenty). Its program consisted of one paper not to exceed forty minutes and "one review not to exceed twenty minutes." A syllabus of the paper to be presented was distributed in advance of the dinner meeting of the group. The group had small dues and a strict attendance policy. The Round Table ceased operations ten years after the death of its founder, who had served as chief statistician of the Division of Statistics of the Bureau of the Census.

The Third Monday Dinner Group

Several less formal organizations have established regular meeting times in the Club. The "Third Monday Dinner Group" had its beginning on the first Monday of October 1924 and became a "third Monday group" in 1940 when one of its members, Henry E. Allanson, found that his duties on the Montgomery County Draft Board preempted the first Monday. Because Neil M. Judd, a Smithsonian archeologist, made all the Club arrangements for the group's first twenty-five years it came to be known about the old Club kitchen as "the Judd group."

The "Outlanders"

Another informal group of this period was called the "Outlanders." This group, whose rudimentary organization was centered in the office of Knowles A. Ryerson, who acted as the "shepherd of the flock," began about 1928 or 1929. Whenever a member was leaving on an expedition, the group gathered in the Clubhouse for dinner in order to hear his plans and to give him a proper send-off. On his return the members gathered again to learn the results of the expedition. When Dr. Ryerson left Washington in 1935 for California most of the group, on the invitation of the Third Monday Dinner Group, joined that organization.

Sam Broadbent's "Salmon Circle"

Presently a Monday "Salmon Circle" meets in the Warne Lounge before dinner mostly for the sake of sociability. Sam Broadbent, one of its leaders, has encouraged the members to "chip in" to provide an occasional plate of smoked salmon for the group. As a result it is sometimes called Sam Broadbent's "Salmon Circle." The group functions without a formal organization or records. It always welcomes newcomers to the group.

RECREATION AND DIVERSIONS

Life at the Cosmos Club has concentrated on the mind rather than the body. Nevertheless, the ancient Greek ideal of a sound mind in a healthy body has not been honored entirely in a one-sided fashion.

A billiard table was procured for Club use soon after its founding. Its use may have been troubling to some members,

however, for in December 1879, on motion of Garrick Mallery, the Board of Management authorized the Treasurer to refund to any member so requesting "the amount subscribed by him for the Billiard Table in case he does not wish that his subscription shall be an absolute gift for the general purpose of furniture and refitting rooms including the expenses of moving into the new rooms." The Board also resolved, on the motion of Professor Harkness, seconded by Major Powell, that the House Committee be instructed that "the use of the billiard table on Sunday is contrary to the judgment of this Board." Major Powell was himself an enthusiastic billiard player, even though he had lost an arm. His "left-handed" billiard mace can now be seen in the billiard room.

Card playing soon followed billiards as a Club diversion. At the July 3, 1882, meeting of the Board of Management, on the motion of Dr. Gallaudet, a committee was appointed to "fix up and furnish the card room" with authority to spend as much money as might be necessary for the purpose.

Chess followed soon after cards. At a special meeting of the Board of Management, on June 6, 1884, it was agreed "after examination of the suggestion book to authorize the purchase of a set of chessmen and board at a cost not exceeding \$5.00. . . ." At the same time the purchase of wire screens for the billiard room windows was authorized.

Billiards continued to dominate the recreational facilities of the Club in the following years. On February 2, 1885, the Board received an estimate for fitting up a room in the basement for a billiard room. A committee was appointed to put the billiard table in first-class condition and look into the removal of the table to the front basement room of the Clubhouse. On February 27, 1885, the committee recommended, and the Board agreed, that the existing billiard room should become a third parlor, and the rear second-floor room be turned into a card-

room. Although some enthusiasts asked that the vacated room be turned into a poolroom instead of a third parlor, on March 2, 1885, at a special meeting of the Club, twenty-four members present, the Club voted to make the billiard room a third parlor and to fit up the room used by the Board of Management for the exclusive use of card and chess players, turning over the cardroom to be used for the Board of Management and the office of the Club.

When the Club expanded to acquire the Dolley Madison House on the corner of H Street, the House Committee, on November 29, 1886, was authorized to buy a new billiard table and a new pool table, the total cost not to exceed \$500.

Joseph B. Marvin, in an article describing the Cosmos Club in the October 31, 1894, issue of the *Baltimore News*, noted that "the fascinating game of poker has not yet been introduced, but whist and chess are played with zeal and skill." Marvin reported that Adolphus Washington Greely, the Arctic explorer (also described by Marvin as "the handsomest and one of the most entertaining members of the Cosmos"), was "one of the masters in whist, and Prof. Simon Newcomb is usually victorious in chess." Whether, as Marvin asserted, "men of science, as a rule, are unsocial and a club is the one thing they need to cultivate their social side," the sociability of Cosmos Club members was nowhere more in evidence than around the billiard, whist, and chess tables.

Card playing, billiards, and pool continued to provide the principal recreational diversions of Cosmos Club members in the period prior to and immediately following World War II. F. C. Brown, in a letter to Sam Broadbent on October 8, 1959, recalled how the cardroom in World War I was a gathering place for players, kibitzers, and jokesters. Frank Warne was among the many attendants. "He would almost always respond when an extra player was needed but frequently would retire to kibitz

when he observed that other kibitzers seemed eager to play. Thus he did much to the popularity of the card room and the Club generally, as a place for relaxation and fun."

Evidence of the popularity of the Club's recreational facilities is shown by the fact that during the Depression, as noted in the annual meeting of January 18, 1932, "every source of revenue with the exception of billiards showed a decrease over 1931."

In 1937 the Board of Management sought to provide a more spacious and better-located taproom by moving the cardroom to the small lounge in the northwest portion of the first floor of the Club. The card players strenuously objected to yielding their cardroom unless provided with another equally to their liking. A compromise was finally reached.

With the move to the Townsend House in 1952 the location of the billiard and pool tables again became an issue. Some members urged that the tables be located in the Main (Warne) Lounge, but the House Committee and Art Committee, as noted in the House Committee's minutes of its January 12, 1953, meeting, felt that the tables should be kept out of the area as destructive to the character of the room. Other proposals to put the tables in the Long Gallery or elsewhere on the second floor, on the plea that they provided life to otherwise dead space, were vetoed on the grounds that such locations would also be out of character. The tables were installed on the third floor where they now are relatively unused.

The increasing invisibility of the Club's recreation facilities caused Thomas Woodward to complain to Executive David Guy on June 10, 1955, that the " 'recreation facilities' of the Club have become little more than 'vestigial remains,' " and urged their extension and restoration. Executive Guy, in responding on June 7, noted that the recreational facilities of the Cosmos Club "have never been anything to brag about." He noted also that since the move to the new Clubhouse, "the



Scene in the cardroom (National Geographic Room) of the Cosmos Club on Massachusetts Avenue.

number of people playing cards has declined considerably." Guy noted that a horseshoe court had been created in the East Garden but "it is seldom used." The Executive agreed with Woodward that "a little reactivation" of the Club's few recreational features would be desirable.

Although a small group, the card players continue to hold out in the nicely appointed "cardroom" (the National Geographic Room) at the end of the Long Gallery. On July 27, 1957, in a petition to the House Committee signed by fourteen members, they vigorously protested the "recent occupation of the card room for the Thursday lunch expansion." They noted that "the card players have always been a minority group, even when some of its members were at the manager level." Alluding to the former practice in the Clubhouse on Lafayette Square, of serving lunch on side tables, they asked for a reestablishment of the tradition. "Frankly this service, nibbling while bidding, was good for the digestion of the fast eaters like myself" wrote the drafter of the petition. The card players were indulged.

A shuffleboard court replaced the horseshoe throwing pit in 1958, paid for by funds collected for the purpose by architect Horace Peaslee, but it too suffered from neglect and has since been painted over.

Suggestions for sun bathing on top of the annex and, more recently, a plea for the construction of a handball or squash court have been made, but all such proposals have come to naught.

The Club remains essentially intellectual and sedentary.

POETRY AND WIT

Members of the Cosmos Club, like letter writers to the *Times* of London, are noted for the wit and humor of their expression. The pages of the Cosmos Club *Bulletin* are often graced with erudite disquisitions on good usage and occasionally with humorous thrusts at the foibles of mankind. Occasionally this expression appears in poetic form, as in Paul H. Oehser's "Ballad of the Cosmos Club for Christmas, 1950," which appeared in the December 1950 issue of the *Bulletin*:

BALLAD OF THE COSMOS CLUB

For Christmas, 1950

Comes now this joyous season once again . . .
 God rest you merry, Cosmos gentlemen!
 Sing now your best, all members of ye Club,
 Though "best" be none too good (aye, there's the rub);
 Sing "Merry, Merry Yule," sing "Happy Christmas,"
 To one and all, from the Arctic to the Isthmus.

To, first of all, our president, C. Clausen;
 To Foreign Service Officer William Dawson;
 To all past-presidents, e.g., Dean Doyle;
 To engineers, like David Cushman Coyle;
 To Harry Truman's right-hand man Bill Hassett;
 And to the man who runs this mag., Fred Fassett . . .

To all of them may Santa Claus be good,
 As well as Henry Morris and B. B. Hood,
 Charles Chambliss, Charles Tompkins, Charles Trowbridge
 Tittmann,
 Karl Fenning, Karl Compton, Carl Wheat, Carl Mitman;
 Both Joseph Roes; the Bucks, all five of them:
 G.H., J.L., R.S., S.J., H.M.

The doctors, lawyers (but no merchants, please),
 Scientists with their numerous degrees,
 Writers, painters, and those who practice music,
 And those in foreign lands, like Raiko Ruzic . . .
 May joy and peace be theirs, with Christmas cheer;
 Include, too, Dr. L. F. Schmeckebier . . .

Biologists galore, like Raymund Zwemer;
 Also historians, like Philip L. Hamer;
 Professors by the score, like Elmer Kayser;
 Economists, like E. A. Goldenweiser . . .
 Put them together like apples in a tub,
 And what you got? You got the Cosmos Club!

Forget not one of them! Oh, there are yet more:
 There's Joe S. Wade and Alexander Wetmore;
 The pair of Putnams—Herbert and George R.—
 And R. M. Kauffmann, of the *Evening Star* . . .
 Yes, here, by cracky, are some damn fine people.
 So ring the bells for them in every steeple . . .

Ring a couple of times for Victor Deitz,
 And pull strong on the rope for Frank B. Scheetz,
 For the parasitologist Charles Rees
 And the Editors Grosvenor, père and fils;
 The Knights as well as Days, the Flints and Stoneses,
 The Browns and Whites and Blacks and all the Joneses . . .

And ring for Huston Thompson, now our Veep;
 Ring for those in the lobby sound asleep;
 Ring for the office force, the chef, the waiters,
 As well as those who only peel potatoes;
 For all Committees and the sounding brass;
 For Morris Cooke and Leeds and Maurice Crass . . .

With ribbon candy fill their learned socks,
 And kill the fatted calf for Reavis Cox;
 Give Dr. Tuckerman an extra dram,
 Send up to Maine salaams to William Ham;
 And don't forget (who could?) R. L. O'Brien,
 Or Father Edmund Walsh or Father Ryan.

But hold! Enough? We don't yet have 'em all . . .
Suppose we start again, with Miles DuVal;
Let's throw a popcorn ball to Doc McBurney,
And drink a Christmas toast to Malcolm Pirnie,
To Rabbi Gerstenfeld and Raymond Swing,
And those whose names don't rhyme with anything.

The billard sharks—may nought deflect their shots;
May no bridge fan o'erestimate his spots . . .
Joy to Mrs. Kinney! May she be able
Always to raise the standards of our table
And by some great supernal inspiration
Give Cosmos the best victuals in the Nation!

Heap well the plate of Sidney Taliaferro,
Serve up white meat to Douglas Oliver;
Speed up the service, keep nobody waitin';
Bring extra muffins to William A. Dayton;
And when you see our friend Stan Young walk in
Stint not the jiggers for his double gin.

Put on the door a wreath of Christmas holly
For Reverend Tippy and for H. R. Tolley;
Send greetings round to Ruel Pardee Tolman,
Best wishes to Laurence and Russell Coleman,
To Charles S. Piggot, now, alas, in London,
And to Standards Bureau Chief, Dr. Condon.

Also a merry Yule to Russell Lord,
To Robert C. Cook and Guy Stanton Ford:
But for their magazines we'd be no wiser . . .
The same applies to Howard [C.] Zahniser,
To Geoffrey Hellman, writer, of New York,
Beverly Smith, and Johnny T. O'Rourke.

Hang high the branch of shining mistletoe . . .
Heigh-ho to Paul and Wilson Popenoe;
Bring in the well-known log, build up the fires,
For Denys, Lawrence, George, and Paul F. Myers;
Hand out the shirts and socks and ties and galluses
To all the Taylors, Smiths, and Wrights, and Wallaces.

The Season's happiness and cheer we hope'll
 Catch up with Dr. P. Constantinople,
 Hunt down, where'er he is, our friend Bill Vogt, 'n'
 Visit Augustus S. and H. C. Houghton;
 Call at the hearth of Dentist Daniel Lynch,
 And increase the clients of George A. Finch.

Save a spot on the Cosmos Christmas tree
 For monosyllabic members, such as Lee,
 Thom, Zahm, Ogg, Boggs, Hill, Gill, Heard, Bird, Bush, Guy,
 Cobb, Lamb, Gay, Grant, Shaw, Show, Swann, Tate, and Fry;
 Long, Lodge, Pope, Poos, Roos, Flood, Mudd, Judd, Crum,
 Weed,
 Zook, Zon, Zoch, Zies, Finn, Wolf, Coons, Lent, Wood,
 Tead . . .

And that's not all—there's Gile and Knapp and Lapp,
 There's Morse and Nourse and Baehr and Sayre and Clapp,
 Pyle and Wile, Back, Lack, Briggs, Riggs, Biggs, and Price,
 North and West, Fitch, Rich, Hale, Gale, Graf, and Rice;
 There's Hard and Ward, Parr, Park, Carr, Stine, and Ross,
 Toole and Poole, Thorp, Todd, Cyr, Das, Marsh, and Moss . . .

Ah well, the Hurley Burla's done . . . the names
 Crowd in too fast—Schmitt, Campbell, Colton, James.
 And hundreds more—indeed, two thousand strong—
 That make the burden of this Christmas song . . .
 So sing it, young and old, sing loud and clear,
 And thank God Christmas comes but once a year.

When Oehser soon after took over the editing of the *Bulletin*, his poetic essay prompted some mock alarm. As the new editor noted in the August 1951 issue: "Already one member, with a backward leer to the December 1950 issue, has inquired whether *The Bulletin* is henceforth to be composed in *blank* verse. The answer is NO. Prose will continue to reign supreme, with verse kept in its customary peanut-gallery position, looking down on the cosmic scene with its hungry and supercilious eyes."

The publication in the March 1964 *Bulletin* of a catalogue of twenty-five collective nouns that are applied to different groups of animals stimulated Cosmos Club members at the luncheon tables and at their writing tables. The original list included a covey of partridges, a hide of pheasants, a wisp of snipe, a bevy of quails, a flight of doves or swallows, a muster of peacocks, a siege of herons, a building of rooks, a brood of grouse, a plump of wildfowl, a stand of plovers, a cast of hawks, a watch of nightingales, a clattering of choughs, a flock of geese, a swarm of bees, a school of whales, a shoal of herring, a herd of swine, a skulk of foxes, a pack of wolves, a drove of oxen, a troop of monkeys, a pride of lions, and a sleuth of bears. The editor, in commenting on the list, noted that

It has been a long time since we have seen a chough around our place, and whales have almost disappeared from the Fairfax County countryside; so may we add a few items to the above list, representing more immediate faunal problems, as, for instance, a spate of sparrows, a passel of dogs, a welter of wasps, a mess of moles, a jug of Japanese beetles, a tournament of termites, a scratch of chiggers, and maybe a diet of worms.

Two members, in correspondence with the editor, added to the list of collective nouns "a mess of fish" and "a flight of fancies."

How should Cosmos Club members be addressed? The plethora of titles and honors held by Club members caused the Secretary to announce, in the May 1963 *Bulletin*, that

in the future, in official correspondence of the Club, members will be addressed as Mr., all other titles being supplanted by this more dignified if less discriminating form. This practice, he believes, will be in the interest of efficiency and will obviate the not inconsiderable task of trying to verify whether a man is Dr., Prof., Hon., Pres., H.E., Sen., Col., Gen., Capt., Adm., Esq., etc., etc., etc. It may be a little time, however, before all the names on the Club's stenciled mailing list can be changed, so please be patient.

Despite the attempt to ban titles in the Club, they have

tended to persist since in the Washington atmosphere rank and titles are of continuing importance. In January 1974, in another effort to challenge the proliferation of titles, President Calvin D. Linton ('58) published "A Humble Plea for More Honorary Misterates." Linton noted that

Like many other learned organizations, the Cosmos Club probably has more doctors of one kind and another among its membership than it has misters. If rarity bestows distinction, therefore, the holders of the latter title are demonstrably the more estimable.

In view of which, might it not be constructive and humane (quite unofficially, in ordinary conversation) to award the honorary misterate on those of the common herd, namely, the doctors? Such an innocent deception would raise their self-esteem, and would amply repay the small effort involved. (Possibly we should deny this privilege to the medical profession. Not that they are not worthy of it, for many of them, like the rest of mankind, display an almost human intelligence; but unless one can identify them positively, it's hard to get free medical advice during lunch. One does not wish to describe his interior symptoms in intimate detail to someone who turns out to be a doctor of corporation management or something.)

After all, "doctor" comes from *docere*, "to teach," and few Club members engage in their verbose and dubious profession within the precincts of the clubhouse. Furthermore, "mister" is a variant of "master," and all Club members are masters of their subjects or they would not be here. Implementation of this compassionate proposal has ample traditional warrant. The Literary Society, for example,—which is somewhat older than the Club—has long honored its male members by making all of them honorary misters, regardless of their education, vocations, or other deficiencies.

Perhaps most controversial of the English usage upon which Cosmos Club members insist on passing is "governmentese": the peculiar expressions that emerge from the federal bureaucracy with which many members are associated. In March 1966 the editor of the *Bulletin* capitulated to at least one neologism. As he noted:

We have decided, after much prayer and fasting, to swallow our pride and join Webster's NID (ed. 3) in admitting the word *finalize* to the English language. Hereafter we shall use and defend it without apology whenever the occasion dictates. Our natural inclination toward linguistic purism has fallen flat on its face, and we have been overcome by that ancient injunction to forget occasionally our principles and do what we think is right. For a long time now, whenever we came to a point in our anguished prose when we were tempted to employ the aforementioned trisyllable, we resisted, fearing the imagined comments of our imagined readers. Whereupon, dutifully rephrasing our sentence, we ended up with a circumlocution conspicuously wide of the mark. *Finalize*, though it may have been bred and born out of wedlock in government gobbledygook, is a word that conveys an exact meaning. It is nonguttural and not unmellifluous. It slips easily out between the lips and front teeth. It is so useful that, as with Birdseye frozen peas, we wonder how we got along without it for so long. It should not be overused—but no word should be. It has a certain finality about it. And now, in bringing this declaration to a conclusion, may we invoke a paraphrase of a piece of Scriptural common sense—language was made for man, not man for language. And may the English language never be finalized.

Let it not be supposed, however, that editor Oehser could easily be pushed around. When a fellow member sent him "a gentle reproof for letting the redundant phrase *from whence* get by in one of the Club's publications," Oehser, speaking from the heights of the editorial "we," noted: "We stand chagrined but are comforted by the thought that the infelicitous pleonasm was long ago condoned by the 47 men who gave us the Authorized Version of the Scriptures when they allowed the Psalmist to say (in translation): 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.' This, we suppose, proves only that, as an attorney general of England once opined, a precedent embalms a principle."

The Cosmos Club dining tables seem to spawn humor in rhyme of which two examples may suffice.

Lindsay Rogers ('34) contributed a jingle to *Page 2: The Best of 'Speaking of Books' from the New York Times Book Review* which he acknowledged picking up from an unknown luncheon companion at the Cosmos Club. The lines, illustrating a contribution dealing with "Metaphors," read:

Where can a man buy a cap for his knee?
 Or a key for the lock of his hair?
 Can his eyes be called a school
 Because there are pupils there?
 In the crown of his head,
 What gems are found?
 Who travels the bridge on his nose?
 Can he use in building the roof of his mouth
 The nails on the ends of his toes?
 Can the crook of his elbow be sent to jail?
 If so, what did it do?
 How does he sharpen his shoulder blades?
 I'll be hanged if I know, do you?
 Can he sit in the shade of the palm of his hand?
 Or beat the drum in his ear?
 Can the calf of his leg eat the corn on his toe?
 If so, why not grow corn on the ear?

For William F. Claire ('74), the Club rules provided the occasion for a poetic effusion at the dinner celebrating the ninety-sixth anniversary of the founding of the Club. In mock despair at the meaning of a Club rule, Claire wrote:

I am, in short, perplexed by number fifteen
 In trying to interpret just what it means
 NO PERSON SHALL BE PERMITTED TO RECLINE
 AT LENGTH IN THE PUBLIC ROOMS OF THE CLUB
 And ask humbly if this refers to the passage of time?
 Or simply to the contours of the body's outline?

Club members continue to amuse their luncheon partners with literary flights in poetry and prose, though too many such flights disappear without a trace.

REPRESENTATIVE MEN OF THE CLUB

SELECTING "representative men" of such a group as the Cosmos Club, every member of which is reputed to be eminent in his field or to have done "meritorious original work," is at best a perilous exercise. But we have made a selection based on the "vignettes" of Club members that have appeared during the past thirty years in the *Club Bulletin*. The first such "vignette," in the January 1948 issue, was not of a man but of a "thing"—the wistaria vine that we have described elsewhere herein. The second, appearing the following month, was about member Arthur B. Farquhar, "friend of the Presidents from Lincoln to Harding." Somewhere in the second hundred of these "vignettes" the editor stopped numbering them, but they are still today being continued in the *Bulletin*, and getting them written is now one of the ongoing projects of the History Committee. In 1978 the editor of the *Bulletin* began publishing the vignettes as separate leaflets. It is the hope of the Committee that a collection of the best of them may sometime be assembled and published. Obviously no attempt is being made to write up every member of the Club from the beginning (the total number must now be approaching ten thousand).

The fifteen "vignettes" here reprinted have been selected for their illumination of Club life and to illustrate the diversity of personalities that compose our Club. The subjects are as follows:

- W J McGee, by Paul H. Oehser (April 1948)
 John Wesley Powell, by H. C. Bryant (June 1948)
 Henry Stephens Washington, by Charles S. Piggot (July 1948)
 Henry Stephens Washington, by Austin H. Clark (March 1953)
 Frank Julian Warne, by Edward Keating (September 1948)
 Albert Kenrick Fisher, by Paul H. Oehser (October 1948,
 with addendum October 1949)
 Otto H. Tittmann, by F. Barrows Colton (June 1949)
 Frank G. Carpenter, by "Domina Gratiosa" (July 1949)
 William Henry Holmes, by Neil M. Judd (March 1952)
 Leland Ossian Howard, by Austin H. Clark (October 1952)
 William Jay Hale, by Carl B. Fritsche (May 1956)
 Joseph Meredith Toner, by Homer T. Rosenberger (April 1957)
 Herbert Putnam, by Denis P. Myers (September 1957)
 Frank Beates Scheetz, by David J. Guy (May 1965)
 Charles Bittinger, by Elliott B. Roberts (December 1974)

W J McGEE

IN HIS RECENTLY PUBLISHED AUTOBIOGRAPHY, *Breaking New Ground* (Harcourt, Brace, \$5), the late Gifford Pinchot (member of the Cosmos Club for nearly half a century and its president in 1908) pays high tribute to another fellow-member who was active in the scientific life of Washington fifty years ago. His name was W J McGee, and he insisted that the periods be omitted after his initials. He was a truly eminent anthropologist, geologist, and hydrologist and was a member of the Club from January 12, 1885, until his death on September 5, 1912. There are some still alive who remember him well. Walter Hough (another C.C. member) wrote

him up for the *Dictionary of American Biography* (q.v.), but let Gifford Pinchot give us his vignette:

"So far as such a thing can be said of any one man in a movement so extensive, W J McGee was the scientific brains of the Conservation Movement all through its early critical stages. McGee was responsible for formulating the plan for T.R.'s Inland Waterways Commission, which for the first time considered the wise handling of all the natural resources of the Continent as a single problem. Of all his services to the Conservation Movement, this was the one which carried most clearly the mark of his personality and in which his contribution was most effective. McGee was always ready to put his knowledge and his ideas at the service of his friends. Almost alone among the scientific men of Washington, he cared nothing for credit. . . . The fertility of McGee's mind was as amazing as his generosity. He was ready to speak to any audience on almost any subject at a moment's notice, and he always spoke with effect. I have never met a man whose imaginative suggestiveness in scientific work, and in the application of scientific results, could equal his. It was always the application of knowledge that appealed to him. . . . He was one of the most kindly and genial of men, a lover of his neighbor as himself, and full of that finest courtesy which is never out of fashion. . . . He began life as a blacksmith; turned, self-educated, to science; and made in the State of Iowa the most extensive geological and topographical survey ever executed in America without public aid. He made it on foot at the rate of forty miles a day, and the reason he made it on foot was because he could not find a horse that would carry him so far and keep it up. . . . It was McGee who headed the first exploration of Tiburon Island in the Gulf of California. . . . W J McGee died of cancer. The certainty that his days were numbered . . . left him cheerful, clear-eyed, wholly without self-pity, calm and sane, and as keenly and unselfishly interested in the affairs of his friends as he had been in the days of his greatest vigor. Until pain robbed him of consciousness just before death, he kept notes on the progress of the disease in the hope that they might be of use to others. He was a great gentleman and a great American."

The record of such men as McGee makes us younger ones proud to belong to the Club they belonged to. Recently the Club offered for sale to members about three hundred books that the Library Committee saw fit to weed out of the Library to make room for more

recent accessions. Among these battered volumes was the *Life of W J McGee*, by his sister Emma R. McGee. It contains a biography and extracts from his writings. Though making no pretensions as a great work of literature, this book appealed to me as worth at least twenty-five cents; so I bought it. I have read a good deal of it and am convinced that Pinchot was right: McGee was a great scientist and a great public servant and an inspiring personality. If, at some future time, the Library* should ever want to place this book back on its shelves where it belongs, the undersigned present owner may be reached at the Smithsonian Institution. There is every reason to suppose that he would yield to a reasonable offer and that he might not, if the Club were particularly hard-pressed, even insist on getting his quarter back.

PAUL H. OEHSER

* It does.—Library Committee.

JOHN WESLEY POWELL

IN THE FORMATIVE DAYS of the Cosmos Club, one of the scientific leaders in Washington was Major John Wesley Powell, director (without salary) of a newly formed Bureau of Ethnology (1879) under the Smithsonian Institution, and director of the Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior, he having urged its creation and having been appointed after the resignation of the first director, Clarence King, in 1881. John Wesley Powell's name heads the list of founders who, in 1878, brought into being the Cosmos Club as we know it today. Powell held until 1894 his post as director of the Geological Survey. This period of his life, spent as an outstanding organizer and administrator, followed after years spent as a college science teacher and additional years as a Western explorer and natural history collector which brought him national acclaim.

Powell was born in Mount Morris, Livingston County, New York, on March 24, 1834, the fourth of nine children in the family of Joseph and Mary Dean Powell, who had migrated to America from England in 1830. The father became an ordained preacher in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and was known for his religious fervor and anti-slavery attitude. Like many pioneer families, this one moved west-

ward first to Ohio, and then in 1846, to a farm in Wisconsin. After his earlier education in country schools, John Wesley Powell studied at Janesville, Wisconsin; and after the family moved to Illinois, at Wesleyan College, Wheaton, Illinois; Illinois College at Janesville, Illinois; and at Oberlin College in Ohio. At the latter institution, he took a course in botany and soon became an avid field botanist, making a complete herbarium of the plants of the county. Returning in 1858 to Wheaton, Illinois, where the family had settled, he joined the Illinois State Natural History Society and became a leader in the study of conchology, and soon had assembled a complete collection of mollusca of Illinois. While principal of the public schools of Hennepin, Illinois, he devoted all his spare time to collecting zoological and botanical specimens.

With war inevitable in the winter of 1860-61, we find Powell studying military tactics and engineering; and with the first call for troops, we find him enlisted and helping to organize a company. He rose rapidly through the ranks of lieutenant and captain. His artillery battery took part in the battle of Shiloh, and he lost his right arm below the elbow as a result of a bullet which shattered his forearm. With the wound healed, Powell took part as Division Chief of Artillery in the siege of Vicksburg—even while on active duty continuing his collecting of geological and paleontological specimens. A billiard mace still affixed to the wall of the Club taproom is the one with which, as an inscription recites, Major Powell could make draw shots as well as caroms despite the loss of his arm.

In 1862, Powell married his cousin, Emma Dean, and she was his companion in the Army and on western journeys. After the war was over, he accepted the chair of geology at Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois, soon moving to a similar position at the State Normal University in Normal, Illinois.

Henceforth he used most of his salary to finance western expeditions, which culminated in his famous exploration of the Colorado River in 1869-1871. From exaggerated stories of subterranean passages and great waterfalls in the canyons of the Colorado River told around campfires came the inspiration to find out the truth and his first expedition was organized. On May 24, 1869, nine men and four boats started from Green River, Wyoming. After many mishaps and near starvation, the party arrived at Callville at the mouth of the Virgin River on August 30, ninety-nine days later. In the many up-

sets, all the scientific instruments and all written data were lost. As a consequence, the second expedition was undertaken in 1871. On the dangerous trip through the rapids from Green River, Wyoming, to where the Hoover Dam now stands, he directed his expedition from an armchair lashed to the deck of the leading boat. His report to the government, published 1875, has become classic.

This one-armed scientist, John Wesley Powell, was a thinker, a great producer of scientific papers, and an organizer of rare ability. It was he who advocated a complete topographic map of the United States and the preservation for the people of the waters and irrigable lands of the arid West. It was he who headed the effort to establish the Bureau of Ethnology and organize its work. And it was through his endeavor that early explorations and survey activities were removed from the War Department and concentrated in the Geological Survey. Like many another thinker, in his later years he turned attention to psychology and philosophy, producing two volumes.

He died on September 23, 1902, and was buried in the National Cemetery in Arlington. On the second anniversary of his death, at a meeting of the International Geological Congress at Grand Canyon, Arizona, a memorial monument on the rim was recommended, which was dedicated May 20, 1918, after Congress had made an appropriation for its construction. Secretary of Interior Franklin Lane said on this occasion: "Major Powell, throughout his life, was the incarnation of the inquisitive and courageous spirit of the American. He wanted to know and he was willing to risk his life that he might know. This was the spirit that he showed in making the hazard of his life in exploring the Colorado River canyons." Nor is this monument the only memorial, for bearing his name are the Powell National Forest in Utah; within Grand Canyon National Park: Powell Plateau and Powell Saddle; and near Needles, California, Powell Lake; and the town of Powell in Mohave County, Arizona. And, of course, it was Powell who appropriately named the greatest of all canyons, the Grand Canyon.

H. C. BRYANT

HENRY STEPHENS WASHINGTON

ON THE NORTH WALL of the main lounge of the Cosmos Club is a portrait of a man with shaggy white hair and beard, in his shirt sleeves, whose occupation is indicated by a chemist's wash-bottle and a chemical drying oven of the period of about 1900. The subject of this portrait is one of the very picturesque characters of whom this Club has had many. The formal biographies of him in the standard reference books state that Henry Stephens Washington was born in Newark, New Jersey, in 1867 and was prepared for Yale University by private tutors, that he traveled widely in the Caribbean, Pacific, and, particularly, in Europe, Egypt, Algeria, and Asia Minor, and was for a time a member of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. His original interest was archeology but his lasting reputation was made as a petrologist and particularly as the man who made a chemical analysis of the earth. These formal biographies, however, give no hint of the charm and fascination of this man of the world, who was literally at home everywhere, whether contemplating boiling Halemaumau, peering into Mt. Etna, writing scientific papers for the rather uninformed director of the Volcanological Laboratory on Mt. Vesuvius, or discussing the virtues of pressed duck at The Tour d'Argent.

Henry Washington enjoyed Athens immensely but his archeological interest spread throughout all Asia Minor. He became interested in petrology in 1893 when he studied briefly under Professor Zirkel at the University of Leipzig where he received his Ph.D. degree. He lived for a while in Venice, and after returning to his home in Locust, New Jersey, he transformed the smokehouse of this country estate into a chemical laboratory from which poured a voluminous stream of scientific papers dealing with the chemical analyses of the igneous rocks of the earth. Washington was soon able to point out that, although there were many chemical elements in the periodic table, only some three or four of them account for more than three-quarters of the earth. He helped to establish the conviction that the center of the earth is a great ball of iron. These chemical analyses were so numerous that, by 1913, the book that contained both his own and those of others which he had critically examined comprised more than five hundred closely typed pages of tables.

At one time Henry became interested in diamonds in Brazil and traveled on horseback a great many miles through little-known areas of that great country. He was interested in good food and could discuss in great detail from his personal knowledge the merits of little-known eating places in Istanbul, Alexandria, Cairo, Messina, Venice, Trieste, Casablanca, St. Pierre, Santo Domingo, as well as those of Torino and Pougher, here in Washington (he died in the home of the last in 1934). In 1918-1919, he was scientific attaché at the American Embassy in Rome. About 1934, he returned to have a look at Mt. Etna which was threatening to boil over. He was asked by the Italian government to visit the site of ancient Carthage and advise in archeological work being done there. His scathing criticism of the Italians included complaints that they could not distinguish between Carthaginian and Roman mortar, were not judges of good wines, and had failed to make friends with the Arabs. This last deficiency he corrected by purchasing an Arab grammar and going down and living in the Arabian workmen's camp where he was soon hobnobbing and getting tight with the Arab foreman, to the entire satisfaction of both. His facility with languages is illustrated by an observation of the writer who, in the course of an hour spent with him, saw him read with ease an ancient Greek text, a modern Greek newspaper, French, German, Italian, and Norwegian scientific articles, and finally close the evening deep in a Spanish volume. He complained bitterly of the inadequate drinking facilities of the Cosmos Club which in those days were located in the small room in the cellar where he and his intimate companion, Charles Munroe, discoverer of the Munroe effect, the original specimens of which constitute the fire screen in the lounge, and whose portrait also adorns that room, spent many hours in bibulous and happy argument. Charles and Henry were two of the outstanding characters of the good old days of which Henry was the most picturesque of them all.

CHARLES S. PIGGOT

HENRY STEPHENS WASHINGTON

HENRY STEPHENS WASHINGTON (1867-1934)—Harry to a few close friends—used to describe himself as the enemy of every wife in Washington. One of the most learned and versatile, and at the same time most jolly and companionable, of our Club members, he was the friend of everyone, old and young. For he had something in common with all.

He belonged to that coterie of scholars, now almost extinct, with an interest in everything and with a beard, the product of cultured homes with plenty of servants and no distracting radios or television sets, and thus able to devote all their time to their special intellectual pursuits. Most of the scholars of that type—and we had a number of them in the Club—were rather aloof and stuffy individuals, strong on personal dignity and solemnity but with a marked lack of the convivial spirit.

But not Harry. He was convivial and highly gregarious. Most of the Club members, especially the younger ones, knew him as an enthusiastic devotee of bridge, billiards, and cowboy pool, a cheerful partner or adversary at any game. Their fondness for his company often led them to spend their evenings at the Club when they should have been at home with their wives.

Harry was moderately good at all games, but he did not take them too seriously. He played for relaxation with a complete absence of that grim tenseness that characterizes so many players. He did not seem to care whether he won or lost, which made him popular with some, much less popular with others, I can still hear his cheerful "Sorry, partner" when he lost a game of bridge. His partner was sorry, too, but not cheerfully sorry.

Conversationally he was at home in almost any subject. As a young man he had converted the old smokehouse on the family estate at Locust, New Jersey, into a laboratory in which he carried out chemical researches on rocks, and where he kept his botanical collections. He was especially interested in archeology, and a combination of his interest in this subject and in the composition of volcanic rocks led him to spend much time in the Mediterranean region in southern Europe, northern Africa, and Asia Minor. He also visited the West Indies and lived for a time in Brazil.

He was fluent in French, German, Italian, and Portuguese, but it was difficult for him to keep up his speaking knowledge of Greek as the only practice he had was with the shoe-shine men he patronized. His Arabic was very sketchy. Once he made a bet with me that he would learn to read Russian in six months. But instead of a relatively simple text he chose *Anna Karenina* and never even mastered the first page.

His vast fund of knowledge, personal charm, and linguistic ability made him a favorite in a wide circle outside the Club membership, especially among the representatives of foreign governments. Chief among these was the last Russian ambassador of czarist days, who used to complain that he was dying of intellectual starvation in Washington. Like Harry, the ambassador was interested in ancient history and in geology, especially in gems, of which he had a fabulous collection from the Urals. So quite frequently he would invite Harry to an informal lunch. He served most excellent meals on plates of gold with golden accessories, in a setting of Oriental splendor. The splendor was all right, but the gold service was a bit of a trial, as nature never intended such a soft metal for any such use. And the ambassador used to enjoy coming to the Club for a quiet dinner with Harry and a few friends. After dinner the ambassador used to produce a cigar about eight inches long especially made for him in Havana. He explained that his doctor had forbidden him to smoke more than one cigar a day.

Once the Club gave an evening reception to the Prince of Monaco. Everyone was dressed in white ties and tails in excited anticipation of meeting His Serene Highness. Shortly after his arrival the Prince asked if Dr. Theodore Gill was present. He was, but hidden away in his special armchair on the second floor. Having no idea of meeting the Prince he was dressed in the old Prince Albert he habitually wore. He was hastily gathered up, and the Prince was delighted to meet him.

At about this time Harry appeared, and slunk away to a remote and inconspicuous corner. He had been out on a geological field trip and was arrayed in an old gray suit with a soft shirt. I told him he should meet the Prince, but he objected strenuously because of his attire. After being assured that the Prince was no stickler for dress, he was finally brought up and introduced. The Prince was keenly interested in early man and archeology, and they at once became

engaged in lively conversation—in Italian. Harry showed the Prince many things of interest around the Club, in particular the iron fire screen that he and Professor Munroe had made many years before. There were still some members waiting to meet His Highness, so various attempts were made to get Harry away. But the Prince was so absorbed in the conversation that it just could not be done, and the two continued to talk until it was time for him to leave.

On another occasion the Club gave a reception to a group of foreigners which included the President of Haiti, a very large, very stately, and very courteous man. Most of the Club members did not seem to know he was in the room. Seeing the situation, Harry introduced himself, and the two had a long and cordial conversation, in French.

Although a rather extreme conservative in his views of society, Harry was perfectly willing to concede to others the right of having other ideas. I especially remember one evening after a dinner given by Cleveland Moffett, spent mostly in a lively though entirely friendly discussion of the merits and demerits of socialism with that enthusiastic advocate of socialism Charles E. Russell.

Although Harry Washington was so very well known and so well liked by the Club members, most of them regarded him as a bit of a mystery, for his really intimate friends were few and he was very reserved about his personal affairs. He once told me that his name originally had been John Henry Stephens Washington but that he had dropped the "John" early in life. I have not been able to confirm this. The city clerk of Newark, New Jersey, where he was born, writes me that there seems to be no record of his birth in the Bureau of Vital Statistics. That is one of the many things he and I had in common. There is no public record of my birth, and the town in which I was born, Grantville, Massachusetts, has disappeared.

AUSTIN H. CLARK

FRANK JULIAN WARNE

I FIND IT DIFFICULT to write about Frank Julian Warne. He is too close to my heart. I can't treat his work, and more particularly his personality, objectively. He was a strong character,

but very lovable. It's too bad he died a bachelor. He would have made a great husband for some good woman.

I remember one day, during his last illness, he inquired about my wife, and I replied: "Oh, she continues to boss me in the most shameless fashion." There was pathos in his answer: "I wish I had someone to boss me."

Fortunately, he had the Cosmos Club, filled with devoted friends, and there he lived while the sands of time ran out.

For various reasons, I have had a lot to do with economists and statisticians. I do not pretend to a knowledge of either of those weird sciences—if that is the proper term to apply to them—but I have had opportunity to watch their devotees at work and to pass judgment on the results achieved. Based on that experience, I express the considered judgment that Dr. Frank Julian Warne was one of the most capable and conscientious economists and scientists of our day. He served his clients faithfully, but he never sacrificed a principle for a fee. He was the author of a dozen books, all worth reading, and the final volume, a carefully prepared summary of his writings and activities, will, I hope, leave the presses in the near future.

Dr. Warne was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia, in 1874. In the public library of that attractive little city is one of his monuments, a collection of his books and manuscripts. Students will find it a rich mine of precious material.

When Frank headed north to the University of Pennsylvania, he had no thought of becoming an economist. In fact, he wasn't quite sure what line he desired to pursue. Cost of living decided the issue—as it has in so many cases. He found he could make a rather flattering income by corresponding for Philadelphia papers. This adventure brought him in contact with many world leaders, attracted to the university to teach or lecture.

Young Warne might have continued to be a reporter and editorial writer, but a great strike flamed in Pennsylvania's anthracite fields. John Mitchell, young, handsome, eloquent, was leading the men. Warne was dispatched to the scene of action by his paper. He listened to Mitchell. He talked with the operators' representatives. He moved among the miners and their families, entered the smelly shacks where they reared families and was appalled by the evidence of poverty all around him.

He discovered that thousands of these miners were from the south

of Europe and Poland. They had been imported by the mining companies under contract. They were driving out the English, Scotch, Welsh, Irish miners who preceded them. Naturally, the English-speaking miners fought back. They demanded laws forbidding the importation of contract labor. They organized unions. They struck. Strangely enough, the non-English-speaking miners gradually came over to his side.

And always, there was John Mitchell, the knight in shining armor, who looked like a Catholic priest and had the kind of eloquence God seldom bestows on a human being.

Out of that struggle Frank Julian Warne found his way. He traveled through Europe and became an authority on immigration, helped frame the laws eventually passed by Congress, and assisted in enforcing them.

He became the outstanding economist for the railroad brotherhoods and other large labor organizations, taught them how to fight scientifically. In preparing their cases he introduced a new gadget, which has grown very popular. It's called the "graph." We are all familiar with it. It can tell a story much more effectively than any editorial.

Warne opened a correspondence school in order that others might use this device. He established the first school of journalism at New York University. He wrote and worked and served incessantly.

I discovered I could learn more sound economics from him during a half-hour chat in the Cosmos Club than I was ever able to dig out of books. He insisted I reached my conclusions by "rule of thumb." He taught me there was a better way, but when I wished to take advantage of that better way, I always went to Frank Warne, appreciating that a smart man consults a master when that is possible. Dr. Warne was a careful businessman, but for a good cause his generosity was limitless. For example: When he decided to retire, he called me in and offered to turn over to the railroad brotherhoods all the precious material he had accumulated and classified during a long and busy life.

"How much do you want for it?" I asked. He smiled and replied: "Not a cent."

That was Frank Warne. That's why I find it difficult to write about him. To anyone who didn't know him it is difficult to convey a picture of the man.

EDWARD KEATING

ALBERT KENRICK FISHER

DR. A. K. FISHER, veteran naturalist and Cosmos Club member, died at Garfield Hospital on the afternoon of Saturday, June 12, 1948, after only a few days' illness. His age was ninety-two years, two months, sixteen days. According to his wishes, his remains were cremated. His ashes have found their last resting place on Plummers Island, the home of the Washington Biologists' Field Club.

Situated in the Potomac River not far above Cabin John, Maryland, Plummers Island is perhaps the one spot in the whole world that A.K. loved best. Forty-odd years ago he helped found and organize the Washington Biologists' Field Club, and as the years passed he became one of its guiding spirits. Weekends found him spending long hours on the island, which became a little naturalists' paradise. Sometimes he went alone but often with his friends, enjoying the outdoors, seeking out the fauna and flora of the region, cutting wood for the fireplace, or cooking meals for his fellow club members and their guests—and for himself, too, for how he loved to eat! A major tragedy of Dr. Fisher's advancing age came when he was no longer able to take long walks and had to give up his frequent visits to the island. He missed his familiar trees, his birds, and mammals, and the eternally changing river. A walk in Lafayette Park was a poor substitute for the things he knew so well. On Sunday, May 2, 1948, the day of the Club's annual shad bake, he made his last trip to Plummers Island. With his friend Bill Hassett he rode out along the canal, reached the south shore of the island by rowboat, and then under his own power climbed the hill to the cabin. He was in fine spirits, full of Fisheresque reminiscence and talk. From the sidelines he presided unofficially over the cooking of the shad on the big grill, and later at the head of the long table made the only "speech" of the day. It was a little sad, but he seemed completely happy.

His keenness and awareness of mind dimmed but little even as he passed the ninety-year mark. Though his hearing became somewhat impaired, in small groups he was usually able to follow the conversation and never failed to contribute his share of wit and wisdom. His chuckle was a delight to his friends, and his characteristic expression, "Don't-cha-know?" will long be remembered by all who knew

him. As was once said of George Meredith, "Age could not alter his inexpressible charm of voice, manner, and look."

His enthusiasm for the things he liked remained to the end. Only a few Sundays before his death he rode with his friend Aubrey Marrs to Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park. Always on the alert for birds, he could scarcely control his excitement when he saw two majestic northern ravens, high up in their Blue Ridge retreat. It was the crowning event of a glorious day away from the city.

At the Cosmos Club, where Dr. Fisher lived, he made many friends. He chose them carefully, and was proud of the fact that he had as many young friends as old ones. His capacity for making new friends kept him young in spirit, and it was the thought of having to leave them that saddened him most when contemplating death. He loved life and people, and he was faithful to them. His friendships were reciprocal matters, but most of us felt that he gave more than he received.

Of course, he also had his hates, for both people and things, and was singularly outspoken in expressing them. But these antipathies were part and parcel of him, as they are of us all, and gave a zest and color to his personality that no one would have wished otherwise. He did not ask you to agree with his opinions, but if perchance you shared some of his aversions you were his friend indeed!

His birthday fell in March 21, the first day of spring, and on each of the last four of these anniversaries his Cosmos Club friends gave a dinner in his honor. These were memorable and convivial occasions, noted chiefly for the excellence of the roast beef (A.K. was no vegetarian!) and the fellowship that emanated from a common friendship. He came to look forward to these parties; he enjoyed being lionized; but everyone knew he had earned his laurels.

Dr. Fisher outlived most of his contemporaries—Merriam, Henshaw, Nelson, Stejneger, Bailey, Goldman—those with whom he had been closely associated during forty-six years of government wildlife work. From time to time he was called upon to write memorials of those who preceded him in death. This was not a pleasant task for him, but he felt an obligation to record the things that his long memory held. The last memorial he wrote was of his good friend Gifford Pinchot. At one time, a few years ago, he began writing his own memoirs, but it proved too big an undertaking for an old man. Had he finished it, it would have been a revealing self-portrait and a unique

chapter in American natural history, and it would have made highly colorful reading. But it would not have contained all. It would not have included the countless memories of A.K. that his friends will hold and treasure as long as they live. It won't matter much now whether a book about him is ever written, for his name and nature are not likely to be forgotten. It is more likely, we believe, that he will become a sort of legend, to be recalled with a certain nostalgia, representing a generation and a type that belong unmistakably to the old Clubhouse at 1520 H Street.

PAUL H. OEHSER

FINALE

In the October 1948 number of this *Bulletin* there appeared a vignette of Albert Kenrick Fisher, beloved member of the Cosmos Club and veteran naturalist who died on June 12, 1948, in his ninety-third year. Therein it was said that Dr. Fisher's "ashes have found their last resting place on Plummers Island, the home of the Washington Biologists' Field Club." As it turned out, this statement was about six months premature; and inasmuch as several of A.K.'s friends in the Club have inquired of me and others the facts of the matter, it is thought that this supplemental note may not be out of order.

It was Dr. Fisher's oft-expressed wish that no ceremony or religious services attend his obsequies. He directed that his remains be cremated, and designated Plummers Island, Maryland, as the place where he wished them finally to rest. There was little doubt about how he felt concerning such matters. We can laugh about "pushing up the daisies," but that was literally what A.K. envisioned as the *summum bonum* for our earthly bodies. He took comfort in the hope that there would be enough nourishing substance left in his mortal residue to help push some frail petal toward the eternal sunlight.

Accordingly, on the afternoon of Friday, April 22, 1949, a group of members of the Washington Biologists' Field Club (plus the undersigned who went as a guest) journeyed to Plummers Island to carry out the wishes of their departed friend and those of his surviving son, Dr. Walter K. Fisher. It was not too salubrious a day—overcast above and April-muddy under foot—but the woods clearings were still blue with wild phlox, and the May-apples were blooming all

around. A short distance upriver from the clubhouse a spot was selected, and without formal speech or rite A.K.'s ashes were reverently committed to the pungent woods-soil of this mid-Potomac island that he loved so well and where he passed so many happy hours. Overhead flew a pair of wood ducks and an osprey, and the ornithologists of the party called out the names of the smaller birds whose spring voices sang no solemn dirge but rather a sort of paeon to that renewal of life that comes with every spring and that was everywhere then so evident. Atop the spot a little clump of twinleaf (*Jeffersonia*) was planted, a beautiful native wildflower fairly common on the island. The spot is otherwise in no way identified, and that too, certainly, is as A.K. would have wanted it. Not far away, however, on the west face of a great rock, the Washington Biologists' Field Club has set a bronze memorial lettered simply with his name and dates.

Three distinguished Washington naturalists now rest on Plummers Island: Edgar Alexander Mearns (1856-1916); Eugene Aman-dus Schwartz (1844-1928); and Albert Kendrick Fisher (1856-1948). They were all members of the Cosmos Club. *Requiescant in pace.*

PAUL H. OEHSER

OTTO H. TITTMANN

ON JULY 14, 1890, the steamship *La Gascogne* arrived in New York harbor from Le Havre with two small but precious pieces of cargo carefully stowed under a sofa in one of her staterooms.

These consisted of sealed boxes in which were packed a bar and cylinder of platinum iridium alloy, precisely calibrated respectively to the length of exactly one standard meter and the weight of one standard kilogram. The meter bar was packed in hay to protect it from vibration.

Attentive guardian of these two unique pieces of metal was Dr. Otto Hilgard Tittmann of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, who personally had shepherded his valuable charges all the way from Paris, literally almost never letting them out of his sight. The bar and weight were destined to become the standard meter and kilogram for the United States of America, having been made under direction

of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures near Paris.

As the *La Gascoigne* dropped anchor at quarantine, Dr. Tittmann heaved a sigh of relief, thankful that the Atlantic crossing had been accomplished safely and that he soon would be able to deposit the meter and kilogram in the fireproof vault prepared for them at the Office of Weights and Measures in Washington, of which he was in charge. But his relief was a little premature. Suddenly the ship's bells clanged. Fire mysteriously had broken out in the stateroom directly adjacent to the one in which he had devotedly kept watch over his charge for the eight days of the crossing. In the nick of time the precious meter and kilogram were hurried to a place of safety. They repose to this day at the National Bureau of Standards, still serving as the nation's standards after nearly sixty years.

During his entire career of forty-eight years in the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Dr. Tittmann was a conscientious guardian of standards, a precise measurer of distances and angles, a scientist zealously devoted to his work of establishing boundaries, dimensions, and locations. His task was on the grand scale, for he was primarily a measurer of nothing less than the Earth itself; the entire planet was his field.

One of the founder members of the Cosmos Club, and its President in 1904, Tittmann obtained his first job with the U.S. Coast Survey (as it was then called) in 1867 at the age of seventeen. The salary was \$20 per month and board. He rose steadily through the ranks to become superintendent in 1900.

Even after his retirement in 1915 his work for science did not cease, for he acted as president of the National Geographic Society from 1915 to 1919. He was also one of the original incorporators of the Society when it was organized at the Cosmos Club in 1888, and served as one of its trustees for fifty years until his death in 1938. Dr. Tittmann, with Henry Gannett and Admiral Colby M. Chester, U.S.N., served on the subcommittee of the Society's Board of Managers which was appointed to examine the claim of Commander Robert E. Peary that he had reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909. This committee voted unanimously in support of Peary's case.

Like all Coast Survey men, Tittmann spent his early years with field parties working on the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts, and in the interior, and had his share of adventures. He surveyed Pike's Peak. During a survey of the Alaska boundary his entire camp on the

Stikine River was washed away, with a complete loss of all equipment, when the stream rose suddenly during the night.

When only twenty-four years of age he was sent to Japan in 1874 as assistant astronomer on an expedition to observe the transit of Venus, the rare event of the planet's passage across the face of the sun. This phenomenon occurred only twice in the nineteenth century, will not be seen during the twentieth, and will be visible again in A.D. 2004. The observations were undertaken as a means of measuring accurately the distance between the Earth and the sun, but the method later was superseded by more practicable procedures.

An interesting sidelight on Tittmann's character is revealed by an incident that occurred just before one of his field trips in the West. Applying for life insurance, he was told by the examining physician that he should put his affairs in order, for he had not long to live. But Tittmann went ahead on the trip anyway, and lived to attain the ripe age of eighty-eight years almost to the day, enjoying robust health nearly all his life.

As chief of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Tittmann cooperated with the Prussian Geodetic Institute in a test of the Wegener theory that the continents are gradually drifting across the face of the globe. Telegraph signals sent by ocean cable were used to check any changes in longitude that might result from the drift. World War I prevented completion of this project, but even so, Dr. Tittmann once drily stated, it "threw much doubt on the peripatetic habits of the continents."

When the Klondike gold rush was under way near the turn of the century, disputes arose locally in the Klondike region concerning the location of the boundary between American and Canadian territory. This had an important bearing upon police jurisdictions and other legal matters. Dr. Tittmann was appointed a United States commissioner, to cooperate with Dr. W. F. King, the Canadian representative, in marking out a provisional boundary along the Klehini River and across Chilkoot and White Passes in the summer of 1900.

Present-day boundaries of the United States and Alaska are accurately surveyed and marked largely as a result of Dr. Tittmann's work. He was the United States representative in 1902 on a joint commission to re-mark the boundary with Canada from Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean. In 1903 he was sent to London to help present the case of the United States before the Alaska Boundary

Tribunal, set up to resolve the dispute between the United States and Canada.

Under the American-Canadian treaty of 1908 he was named sole United States representative for re-marking the land sections of the entire northern United States boundary all the way from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific.

Tittmann also deserves much of the credit for the fact that North America is the only continent that has a single, unified system for its horizontal control surveys, charts, and maps. This results from his establishment of the United States Standard Datum for the triangulation system of this country and incidentally also for the charts of the coasts and the maps of the interior. He was influential in the adoption of this same datum by Canada and Mexico in 1913, at which time it was designated the North American Datum. As a result this continent is spared the gaps, overlaps, and offsets that exist in the maps and charts of the countries of other continents, which sometime lead to controversies over the location of international boundaries.

During Dr. Tittmann's term as superintendent, the Coast and Geodetic Survey made important progress in many fields of geodesy and related sciences. The figure, or shape, of the Earth was determined with high accuracy and the data first were accepted as standard by the International Geodetic Association.

Dr. Tittmann's small trim goatee, white hair, and distinguished appearance led him to be dubbed the "typical southern colonel" by his neighbors around Leesburg, Virginia, despite his birth in the decidedly Yankee community of Belleville, Illinois, of parents who both came to this country from Germany. His father, incidentally, had served as a major in the Union Army.

In a day when life in Washington was more leisurely than now, and government office hours were from 9 to 4, Dr. Tittmann spent much leisure time at the Cosmos Club, a convenient place for a pleasant interlude between work and dinnertime at home. Even on Sundays, after escorting Mrs. Tittmann (prior to her marriage she was Kate Trowbridge Wilkins of Detroit) to St. John's Episcopal Church at H Street and Lafayette Square, he would go to the nearby Club to spend the time until he picked her up again at the close of the service.

F. BARROWS COLTON

FRANK G. CARPENTER

AT THE TIME of his death in 1924, his fellow members of the Gridiron Club drew up the following expression of their esteem for Frank G. Carpenter, journalist, author, and world traveler.

"Frank G. Carpenter shed a resplendent light in American journalism. Frail of body, unconquerable of spirit, daring in adventure and with a consuming zest for travel, to wander afar was his pastime. Today in the salons of cultured civilization, in the marts of trade, or in the centers of industry and finance, on mountain or on plain; tomorrow in the jungle of the savage and the beast.

"With his flowing pen he pictured the story of lands near and remote. His contributions to the press of America, his volumes of journeys, his educational textbooks, made his name familiar to his countrymen from ocean to ocean.

"Possessed of abundant means, necessity was not the stimulus of his untiring toil. It was his inherent love of labor and effort, his insatiable ambition to be up and doing. In distant China, fighting he fell. Ranking among the most gifted of its members, the Gridiron Club may well affirm with pride and affection the memory that endureth."

During the last four years of his life, the Cosmos Club was home base for Frank G. Carpenter. When his wife died in 1920, he broke up his home on Connecticut Avenue, near the old British Embassy, and remodeled it as a store (now occupied by Martin's China Shop). Into the spacious east half of the Cosmos Club's Ladies' Parlors, which was then available as a suite for members' occupancy, he moved a substantial part of his library, his portraits, and other personal belongings which made it a homelike and pleasant apartment. Two sleeping alcoves made it possible for him to welcome overnight guests, among whom were often his son John C. Carpenter, lawyer of Chicago, and his son-in-law, W. Chapin Huntington, then living in Paris, both of whom also were members of the Cosmos Club.

The slender, redhaired Washington journalist was thus a familiar figure in the Club during those years, and in fact during all the years of his membership from 1907, the year of his election. Monday nights at the Cosmos Club were occasions which he hated to miss. Dinner jackets were the rule in the more formal early years of this century

but the stimulating discussions and delightful contacts of those Club Nights seemed to him well worth the trouble of dressing.

One of the firm convictions of Frank G. Carpenter was that "the happiest man is he who is moderately well paid for the work he likes best to do." It is safe to say that in all of his forty-seven working years, he never met anyone whom he really envied or with whom he would have changed places, and this in spite of the fact that he knew most of the celebrated men of his time. He loved to write, travel was the breath of life to him, and his ability to sell himself and his work brought him a remuneration far beyond that of the average newspaper writer or author.

On the matter of such remuneration he liked to tell of one of his interviews with the renowned Chinese premier Li Hung Chang. He had been warned that a good interview with Li was impossible because the astute old diplomat always made it his practice to ask the questions himself. Frank Carpenter, however, found a way to circumvent the clever Oriental official. Each time Li asked a question he answered, but he also tacked a question of his own onto the end of his answer. For instance when Li Hung Chang asked, "How much money do you make, Mr. Carpenter?" he replied, "Not enough to interest you, I'm sure, Your Excellency, for isn't it true that you have the income from some \$50,000,000?"

In order to obtain the material for his syndicated Sunday feature articles which ran in some newspapers for nearly forty years without a break, Frank G. Carpenter traveled many hundreds of thousands of miles. This was in the days before speedy air travel. His absences from Washington were long, often lasting as much as a year at a time. Once his fan mail produced this little parody of the old hymn, dedicated to him:

From Greenland's icy mountains
To India's coral strand,
He's lived more in every country
Than in his native land.

His travels took him to almost every corner of the earth, and he brought the interest and charm of those far places into millions of American homes. Seizing upon the newly evolved idea of syndication, he formed his own syndicate in 1888 which he ran successfully throughout his writing life. Modern college courses teach that Frank

G. Carpenter was one of the very first successful syndicate writers in the history of American journalism.

As a byproduct of his world travels and his newspaper work, Mr. Carpenter in 1897 brought out the first volume of his famous *Carpenter's Geographical Readers* under the imprint of the American Book Company. For fifty years, this and other volumes of the series have been used in the elementary schools of the United States. To him belongs the distinction of being the first to humanize the teaching of geography. His stories of people in far places were used by many teachers as a reward to their pupils for satisfactory performance of the more stereotyped geographical tasks. Their popularity stimulated the writing of supplemental readers by others until now the school libraries are more than amply supplied. On many of their shelves, side by side with the most recent, still stand these little gray-green readers by Frank G. Carpenter. A set of twenty volumes of *Carpenter's World Travels*, published by the former firm of Doubleday & Page, contains the record for adults of his lifetime of travel and writing.

Recognition came to Frank G. Carpenter from many quarters. His own university, at Wooster, not far from his birthplace, Mansfield, Ohio, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Letters, and the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, in the ancient College of William and Mary in Virginia, elected him to honorary membership because of his achievements in the realm of literature. He was a member of the Authors Club of London, and a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of England. Honor came to him also from the National Geographic Society of Washington, which presented him with a life membership because of his contribution in the dissemination of geographic knowledge.

All of these honors and memberships were highly gratifying to Frank G. Carpenter, but none did he prize more highly or enjoy more keenly than his membership in the Cosmos Club.

DOMINA GRATIOSA



United States postage stamps honoring Cosmos Club members (*from left to right and top to bottom*): President William Howard Taft, 1904–1913 (1930); jurist John Bassett Moore, 1887–1917; President Woodrow Wilson, 1913–1923 (1925); Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1905–1918 (1965); President Herbert Hoover, 1921–1932 (1965); anthropologist John Wesley Powell, 1878–1902 (1969); chemist Harvey W. Wiley, 1883–1930 (1956); Dr. Walter Reed, 1893–1902 (1940); sculptor Augustus Saint Gaudens, 1904–1907 (1940); newspaperman William Allen White, 1922–1944 (1948); inventor Alexander Graham Bell, 1880–1921 (1940).



Foreign and Canal Zone postage stamps honoring Cosmos Club members (*from left to right and top to bottom*): George W. Davis, 1881–1885 (Canal Zone, 1948); Dr. William C. Gorgas, 1914–1920 (Canal Zone, 1928); John F. Wallace, 1904–1921 (Canal Zone, 1948); Sidney B. Williamson, 1915–1928 (Canal Zone, 1940); inventor Alexander Graham Bell, 1880–1921 (Canada, 1947); physicist Albert Michelson, 1918–1929 (Sweden, 1967); chemist Leo H. Baekeland, 1912–1942 (Belgium, 1955); publicist Leo S. Rowe, 1901–1946 (Nicaragua, 1940); physicist Wernher von Braun, 1958–1960 (Paraguay, c. 1965); President William Howard Taft, 1904–1913 (Republic of Panama, 1939); President Woodrow Wilson, 1913–1923 (Republic of Panama, 1939); Dr. William C. Gorgas, 1914–1920 (Republic of Panama, 1939).

WILLIAM HENRY HOLMES

BORN ON A FARM in Harrison County, Ohio, schooled for a teaching career and self-taught thereafter, William Henry Holmes was a man of diverse interests. He achieved distinction in art, geology, and archeology. His unique, linear method of portraying geological formations, best exemplified in his panoramic drawings of physiographic features of the Grand Canyon, is known to geologists the world over. His scientific writings, noted for thoroughness and literary quality, won the Duc de Loubat prize in 1898 for the most important work in American archeology during the previous three years and, later, a lesser award for the most valuable publication in American archeology for the five year period ended in 1920. His *Handbook of Aboriginal American Antiquities* was awarded a second Loubat prize in 1923. Holmes's report on the geology of Yellowstone National Park, published in 1879, is still a primary reference. George Washington University, in 1918, conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Science, but he was known to everyone, high and low, as "professor."

Professor Holmes was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a founder and president (1907) of the Cosmos Club. From boyhood, art was his paramount interest: first the pencil, then watercolors, then oils. He was intense and dynamic in whatever he did. His pointed beard, slender frame, and erect carriage made him seem cold and austere to many, but actually he was friendly and warm-hearted, modest and self-effacing. He was severe and exacting, with himself as with others, even while his brown eyes sparkled with suppressed humor. His preciseness of speech and action merely reflected his impatience with wasted time. Painting was his pleasure and his relaxation. Of the many paintings he gave the Cosmos Club, five hang in the Holmes Room, one of the dining rooms in the Tayloe House.

Holmes's third trip to Yucatan and Central America, partly on mule back, was made with the late Sylvanus G. Morley in the spring of 1916. His seventieth birthday, on December 1 that same year, was recognized with *The Holmes Anniversary Volume*, a collection of forty-four essays by his "friends and colaborers" in anthropology: his eightieth, by a volume of letters from fellow scientists throughout the

world. When he was seventy-four his left leg was amputated above the knee, but he was soon back on a full-time schedule although dependent upon a wheelchair and crutches. "Let's get on with the job" was his daily challenge to himself and those about him. He came to Washington in the spring of 1871; married Katherine Clifton Osgood eleven years later. Their home on Belmont Street, overlooking the city, was known to intimates for its gracious hospitality, wit, and wisdom. After Mrs. Holmes's death in 1925, Professor Holmes resided at the Cosmos Club until his retirement from government service in 1932. And then, true to his nature, he left Washington without saying a farewell to anyone.

Like many another, Holmes had no thought of staying when he first came to Washington. His purpose was a brief course in painting under a local artist, but he expected to follow this with advanced study at the Massachusetts State Normal School, at Salem. In 1871 visitors to the Capital City visited the Smithsonian Institution, as they still do. But young Holmes differed from the average sightseer. On his first visit to the famous red-sandstone building he stopped just inside the door to sketch a colorful tropical bird; he attracted the attention of a visiting scientist from Costa Rica and was invited upstairs to see a new volume on the birds of Central America. While examining the bird book he was introduced to Dr. F. B. Meek, the paleontologist, who was so impressed with Holmes's artistic ability that he hired him on the spot to draw fossil shells. In later years Holmes found amusement in saying that skill with a pencil rather than ability won him his first government position.

Skill with a pencil kept him at the Smithsonian until the following spring, when he was offered employment with Dr. F. V. Hayden, in charge of the U.S. Geological and Geographical Surveys of the Territories. As artist on the Yellowstone Expedition of 1872, Holmes spent his spare time studying geology and so profitably that Hayden appointed him assistant geologist in 1874 and leader of the southwestern, or San Juan, division.

In 1875 the San Juan division had over six thousand square miles of unexplored territory to map—an area lying mostly in Colorado but including adjoining portions of Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. Its only settlement was Parrot City, a year-old mining camp of 40 or 50 men on La Plata River. Supplies were hauled in by wagon from Denver by the way of Abiquiu and Tierra Amarilla, in the Territory

of New Mexico. Holmes and five companions were camped in southeastern Utah one night when Ute Indians ran off with all their saddle and pack animals. Except for the midnight alertness of one of their packers, the whole party would have been left afoot two hundred miles from the nearest chance of aid. The canyon where the animals were recovered has been known ever since as "Recapture," although few people today know why. The same week and only a day's journey away, a second survey party escaped alive but lost all its supplies and equipment after being under Indian fire for twenty-four hours.

The men of the Hayden surveys were rugged individuals, devoted to their leader, their work, and each other. Holmes climbed mountains as vantage points for his panoramas, and his journal records that, within three months one summer, he climbed eleven Rocky Mountain peaks fourteen thousand feet high, more or less, and many others. Returning to camp one evening, he surprised a grizzly bear on the opposite side of a log and killed it with the last cartridge in his pocket. It is fitting that his colleagues of the period gave his name to two mountains, one in Utah and the other in Wyoming.

In addition to his duties as artist, geologist, and leader of the southwestern division in 1875, Holmes was asked to report upon all prehistoric ruins encountered. This happy assignment was to provide a new interest and alter the future course of his life. It resulted in his first archeological report, "A Notice of the Ancient Remains of Southwestern Colorado Examined in the Summer of 1875." For the next forty-five years Holmes was primarily an archeologist, and among the 191 titles in his published bibliography for this period, 177 pertain to archeology and at least five of them still rank as classics in their field.

In 1880, after a year's study in European art museums, Holmes was assigned the task of closing up the work of the Hayden surveys which, with others, by act of Congress had been merged to form the United States Geological Survey. During the next decade he led a dual life: as geologist with the Survey and as artist and archeologist with the Smithsonian Institution. He participated in the preparation and installation, usually as the one in charge, of Smithsonian and Survey exhibits for the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, 1876, the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, 1893, and a dozen

others. On June 30, 1889, he resigned from the Geological Survey to devote his entire time to archeological researches for the Smithsonian Institution; he conceived and conducted for the Bureau of American Ethnology investigations into the development of primitive arts and industries that have fixed his name indelibly on the pages of North American archeology. Then in, 1894, he accepted appointment as head curator of anthropology at Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, but was persuaded to return to Washington three years later to occupy a comparable position in the National Museum. His attachment to the Smithsonian Institution was to be expected, he explained, because both were born in the same year. In 1902, upon the death of Major J. W. Powell, Holmes succeeded to the directorship of the Bureau of American Ethnology but left that post in 1909 to resume museum work when the new National Museum building was completed. In addition to his regular administrative duties, Holmes in 1906 was named temporary curator of the original National Gallery of Art (subsequently renamed the National Collection of Fine Arts), which increased substantially in size and quality under his guidance. When this collection was reorganized in 1920 as a separate unit of the National Museum, Professor Holmes was designated its first director and was relieved of other responsibilities. He held the position until his retirement twelve years later. Thus a long and unusually productive life came full cycle and ended where it began, in the field of art.

NEIL M. JUDD

LELAND OSSIAN HOWARD

SERIOUS DISCOURSE, jovial companionship, billiards, bridge, and cowboy pool—all these are associated in the minds of everyone who really knew Dr. L. O. Howard. His thirteen years of service as Secretary of the Cosmos Club, beginning in 1894, combined with his friendly attitude toward everyone, gave him a very wide acquaintanceship among the members. He knew personally more than three-quarters of them, and was universally popular.

In the early days of this century it was the custom of many members to spend the time between the close of the official day and dinner at the Club, in discussions with other members, in the billiard

room, or in the cardroom. In those days everyone who could sent their families away to cooler regions during July and August, taking their breakfasts and dinners at the Club. In these late-afternoon gatherings and at the summer dinners Dr. Howard was always an important participant. His jovial nature, keen sense of humor, and wide knowledge of affairs, especially entomological affairs, made him a wonderful companion in any gathering.

Dr. Howard had two specialties. One of these was entertaining out-of-town, and especially foreign, guests. These entertainments commonly took the form of small dinner parties of four to six congenial spirits, and all of them were memorable occasions. Whether his guests were entomologists or not, he always had something in common with them. One of these little dinners I remember as especially noteworthy. Shortly after the Russo-Japanese War he gave one of his dinners to Surgeon-Admiral Zohrt of the Russian Navy, who had been the chief medical officer of Rodjesvensky's fleet in the battle of Tsushima Strait. After the battle, in which his ship was sunk, he had been picked out of the water by a Japanese destroyer. He was a very large and stout man, and the Japanese officers were much disturbed because none of them had any clothes large enough for him. He was taken to Japan as a prisoner. His confinement consisted in his being restricted to the grounds of a sumptuous hotel, with permission to visit the various hospitals every day and talk to the Russian patients. He said that the Japanese were most solicitous regarding his welfare, and did everything possible for him. Incidentally, Dr. Zohrt was very fond of champagne, but insisted that he pay for all he drank. His champagne bill for this dinner, I remember, was \$16.* Many of the other dinner parties given by Dr. Howard were just as interesting. As he spoke fluent French, he was able to entertain almost anyone who came to Washington.

His other specialty was association with and encouragement of young men. It was in December 1902 that I first met Dr. Howard. Thomas Barbour and I, two young and diffident undergraduates, had come to Washington to attend the meeting of the American

* In his book *Fighting the Insects*, Dr. Howard recorded this of Dr. Zohrt: "I put him up at the Cosmos Club on our arrival in Washington, and one night, when I visited the Club, I found him in the library, where he found a book entitled 'The Bartender's Guide,' and was engaged in copying the recipes for rather more than fifty different kinds of cocktails."

Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Howard greeted us as cordially as if we had been important colleagues, which made a deep impression on us. This impression was further deepened in 1906, when I again came to Washington and was greeted by him as an old friend. I soon found that putting young men at their ease was instinctive with him. At the Club he associated largely with his junior colleagues in the Bureau of Entomology, playing bridge, billiards, and sometimes cowboy pool with them.

But it was at the meetings of the Entomological Society of Washington that he was at his uninhibited best. This society was made up of an enthusiastic group of professional and amateur entomologists and met in the old Saengerbund. After a formal paper or two, the members adjourned to reassemble for informal discussions and the consumption of beer. Seniority was forgotten. Everyone could have his say. No one who ever attended one of these meetings can ever forget the experience. None of the other scientific societies in Washington had meetings that could compare with them for none of them had a recognized leader with the infectious joviality and good fellowship of Dr. Howard.

His good fellowship and love for action, both mental and physical, led him to seek relaxation in games rather than in serious discussion. He was very fond of billiards, but here he encountered difficulty. Few of the seven hundred Club members were good enough players to make it interesting for him, and two or three were such good players that he found it uninteresting to play with them. Most of the players who frequented the billiard room were devotees of cowboy pool, a rather bizarre game in which luck plays an important part. In this game Dr. Howard exhibited more skill than almost anyone else, but luck was often unkind to him. He would make a nice run, only to see the cue ball plump into a pocket. So he preferred billiards in which luck is not such an important factor. He also played ordinary pool, but here again he found it difficult to find opponents good enough to make the game interesting—but not too good.

The bridge players were divided into those who took the game seriously and those who did not. Also, there were good and indifferent players in each category. As is often the case, the more indifferent the player the more anxious he was to join a rubber. Dr. Howard was a good player, on the serious side, and liked to select those with whom he played. He did not approve the Club custom then of

having a table consist of six players, two cutting in after each rubber. So if he could find a partner he played billiards. In both the card-room and the billiard room he was very jovial—usually. Occasionally, however, a bridge partner would make an unusually stupid play (some bridge players display marked genius in that direction), which would elicit a sharp remark from Dr. Howard. But he never failed to apologize later, often calling the culprit on the telephone the next day to make amends. A favorite saying of his was, "No one can stay mad with me very long." And nobody ever could.

Few American scientific men have received as many honors as Dr. Howard, not only in his own country but also from Italy, France, Canada, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Imperial Russia, South Africa, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, and Chile. Yet he never changed. It has been said that scientific men avoid the tribulations of amassing wealth, and are occupied with the work they love. They are contented, but not static; curious but not acquisitive. They do not work to be able to stop work, but they outline long programs of investigation, study, and research which keeps them young in the anticipation of accomplishment. This might well have been written of Dr. Howard. When he died, on May 1, 1950, at the advanced age of ninety-three, a great scientist and a beloved spirit departed this earth.

AUSTIN H. CLARK

WILLIAM JAY HALE

DURING THE THREE DECADES of his active association with the Cosmos Club, perhaps no member inspired more stirring discussions on a wider variety of subjects—scientific, sociological, political, and otherwise—than did Dr. William Jay Hale, who on last August 8 forsook the narrow habitat of mere man for the universal cosmos. Whether his boundless curiosity has since disturbed the harmonious system of the firmament is a matter for conjecture. That some solar observatories report that sunspots have flared with unusual brilliance and cosmic rays have been acting in rather peculiar fashion of late may be but a coincidence. More than likely, however, as this man of many talents gazes down, with his contagious chuckle, he is saying:

"Why can't those poor mortals forsake greed and selfishness and learn to live together peaceably? There is a superabundance of nature's resources to satisfy the needs of all peoples if the knowledge and tools of modern science are rightfully employed in the manner the Creator intended. Why don't they boldly proclaim that far greater chemical possibilities are locked within the output of living nature than ever could be possessed by processing the entire fossilized plant life bequeathed to man from the faraway Carboniferous era? Truly a cornucopia for all mankind awaits, if men of science will assert themselves and concentrate their major talents on the renewable resources of nature."

For this doctrine, "Billy" Hale coined the word "chemurgy," which has to do with the growing, processing, and utilization of the fruits of the soil, not only for foodstuffs, but for industrial uses as well. He never ceased to marvel at the simplicity of the biochemical processes occurring within the chlorophyll cell of the green leaf that bring forth chemical compounds and even living tissue under conditions of low temperature and low potential energy change, all in contradistinction to man-conceived methods of manufacturing calling for high temperatures and violent energy change. Therein, he would always say, lies the most fruitful field for scientific research for the ultimate good of man.

He abhorred ruthless exploitation of nature's resources which enriches the few and leaves an impoverished land behind. He warned that man's chief reliance should be on the autonomous products of nature, thus wisely living off current income, in contrast to the folly of exhausting one's capital by prematurely depleting the mine, the well, and the forest. Therein, was his firm conviction, lies hope for the peace and survival of the world.

Dr. Hale was born on January 5, 1876, in Ada, Ohio, a small town in the Miami River Valley, which general area contemporaneously produced such pioneers of American science and industry as Charles F. Kettering, John Patterson, Charles W. Deeds, Wilbur and Orville Wright, Howard E. Coffin, Norval Hawkins, Hugh Chalmers, and others who helped to usher in the automotive age and, most audacious of all, the flight of man. After completing his undergraduate work at Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio, he enrolled at Harvard, where he earned three degrees: A.B. in 1898, A.M. in 1899, and Ph.D. in 1902 along with a traveling fellowship in

Europe, where he pursued advanced studies in organic chemistry and in languages, principally at Göttingen and Heidelberg. While working on his doctorate at Harvard he was an instructor in chemistry, and, after completing his European fellowship, he became an associate and later a full professor at the University of Michigan, where he remained as a member of the faculty until 1918, when he resigned to become director of organic research for the Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Michigan. As such, he was the driving force behind that company's early achievements, including, among his other discoveries, original work in indigo dyestuffs and the joint development, with Dr. E. C. Britton, of the celebrated chlorobenzene process for producing synthetic phenol. He was primarily responsible for the famous Dow Scientific Library, considered one of the finest in the industry, and combed Europe for basic reference books many of which are now out of print. Several score of patents covering various products and processes were credited to his name.

In 1934, Dr. Hale voluntarily assumed the less active title of research consultant with Dow, in order to devote more time to writing, travel, and lecturing. His writings included college textbooks on chemistry and various other works devoted principally to the theme of "chemurgy" and its potential contribution to the solution of the farm-surplus problem. In 1935, together with Henry Ford, Francis P. Garvan, Dr. Charles H. Herty, Wheeler McMillen, and other men of vision, he founded the National Farm Chemurgic Council, which, under its revised name, the Council for Agricultural and Chemurgic Research, continues its activities.

One of his students at Michigan was Helen Dow, who was the eldest daughter of Herbert H. Dow, founder of the Dow Chemical Co., and whom he subsequently married. To them one daughter was born, Ruth Hale, who is now the wife of the ambassador to Luxembourg, the Hon. Wiley T. Buchanan. Helen Dow Hale died while Ruth was still a young girl. Dr. Hale immersed himself in laboratory work and never remarried. He found recreation in travel during vacations with Ruth, and the devoted companionship of father and daughter was so genuine that it always excited admiration. Later, Ruth attended the Connecticut College for Women, and her father became a visiting professor of chemurgy there. He deplored the college's lack of laboratory facilities and expressed the desire to be helpful in adding a modern chemistry building to the resources of the

college. Thus, through the joint effort and generosity of the father and daughter, the long-planned building came into being on December 7, 1955, and was dedicated four months after his death. Known as "The Hale Laboratory," it is inscribed in memory of both parents—Helen Dow and William Jay Hale.

When the Cosmos Club occupied its new quarters on Massachusetts Avenue, Dr. Hale engaged Room 302, which his daughter furnished in exquisite decor. On December 29, 1955, Ruth donated the furnishings to the Club, and the room was dedicated to the memory of her distinguished father. In recognition of this gracious gift, the officers of the Club had a silver plate bearing his name attached to the door and presented Ruth with an appropriate parchment scroll from which the following is quoted:

"As a scientist, Dr. Hale bridged over the narrow stream of self-interest, earnestly lifting his vision to a much higher plane. As a nature lover intrigued particularly with bird-life, he preferred photography and feeding stations to Nimrodry. Generous in his tolerance of the views of others when differences in opinion arose, his argument left no affront. As a prophet ahead of his times, even though impatient with progress, his unfailing good humor confounded his adversaries. Retaining his youthful enthusiasm to the end of the road, his faith was unconquered and unconquerable.

"As a Christian, he frowned upon the pious zealot, preferring to interpret the Holy Scripture, not in a restrictive sense, but as a guide toward good deeds, and to the betterment of human conduct. A man serene in mind and soul, well can it be said of Dr. Hale that he walked with his Maker, pleasing both man and God. His departure marks the passing of a beloved member from our midst; of a devoted father; and of a steadfast friend whose memory always will bring inspiration."

CARL B. FRITSCHE

JOSEPH MEREDITH TONER

IN 1878 when the Cosmos Club came into existence Joseph Meredith Toner was a leading physician in Washington. He was one of the sixty founders of the Club. He came to the District of Columbia in 1855, at the age of thirty, after having practiced medi-

cine for several years in his native Pennsylvania and elsewhere. For the remainder of his life he took an active part in the civic and cultural life of his adopted city. In his declining years he resigned from the Club, effective January 1, 1895. On December 31, 1894, the Club had 263 resident and 86 nonresident members.

Toner was an avid collector and a prolific writer in the fields of medicine, history, and biography. He made significant contributions to the history of American medicine and was a pioneer in the writing of biographies of leading American medical men. A considerable number of his early writings are listed in the enormous work prepared by John Shaw Billings (President of the Club in 1886 and 1887), *Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, United States Army*. In addition to publishing such items as "A Paper on the Propriety and Necessity of Compulsory Vaccination," he wrote *Free Parks and Camping Grounds; Or Sanitariums for the Sick and Debilitated Children of Large Cities During the Summer Months*, 1872. For Van Nostrand in New York he prepared the *Dictionary of Elevations and Climatic Register of the United States*, 1874. His *Notes on the Burning of Theatres and Public Halls*, 1876, dealt with causes of these catastrophes and offered suggestions as to how they could be avoided.

Dr. Toner wrote several precise and well-documented works dealing with the history of American medicine. One of these is entitled *The Medical Men of the Revolution*, published in 1876. Another, entitled *Anniversary Oration Delivered Before the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, September 26, 1866*, is an excellent treatment of the history of medicine in the District of Columbia to 1866. In the *Anniversary Oration* he included the name and exact location of each hospital and each building used as a hospital in Washington during the Civil War. He also inserted a list of productions written or edited and articles contributed to medical journals by professional men no longer living in 1866 but who had lived in Washington for a large part of their lives. Like quite a few of Toner's writings, the *Anniversary Oration* began and ended rhetorically, as was typical of his time. The first two and a half pages and the last three-quarters of a page of the eighty sound somewhat like a Daniel Webster speech. In general, Toner's writings are neither cumbersome nor dull. Some of his historical writings, and perhaps some of his medical, are still important. His "Washington in the Forbes Expedition of 1758," published several months after his death, is written delightfully and continues

to be an important source of information concerning the wresting of Fort DuQuesne and the Allegheny and Ohio Valleys from the French.

Toner amassed an enormous library and was eager to see that it would be preserved, intact. When he wanted to present it to the Library of Congress he met with some opposition. However, an Act of Congress of 1882 provided for its acceptance. He transferred twenty-seven volumes and additional holdings to the Library.

Dr. Toner was a shrewd collector. In the National Library of Medicine there is a reprint of his *Address on Medical Biography*, delivered before the International Medical Congress, at Philadelphia, September 5, 1876. A strip of paper approximately two and one-half by five inches, on top of the lower part of the title page, is bound into the reprint. On the strip, in high quality letterpress printing, the following is found: "Compliments of Dr. J. M. Toner, Washington, D.C., 615 Louisiana Ave. Please acknowledge by exchange of Documents or otherwise."

The Toner Lectures at the Smithsonian Institution were established by J. M. Toner to encourage the "discovery of new truths for the advancement of medicine." He placed a fund in the care of a board of trustees composed of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Surgeon General of the Army, the Surgeon General of the Navy, and the President of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. Nine lectures were given, 1873-1885, as follows: "On the Structure of Cancerous Tumors and the Mode in Which Adjacent Parts Are Invaded," by J. J. Woodward; "Dual Character of the Brain," C. E. Brown-Séquard; "On Strain and Overaction of the Heart," J. M. Da Costa; "A Study of the Nature and Mechanism of Fever," Horatio C. Wood; "On the Surgical Complications and Sequels of the Continued Fevers," William W. Keen; "Subcutaneous Surgery: Its Principles, and Its Recent Extension in Practice," William Adams; "The Nature of Reparatory Inflammation in Arteries after Ligature, Acupressure and Torsion," Edward O. Shakespeare; "Suggestions for the Sanitary Drainage of Washington," George E. Waring, Jr.; "Mental Over-work and Premature Disease Among Public and Professional Men," Charles K. Mills.

Among the numerous positions held by Dr. Toner were the presidency of the American Medical Association in 1873 and of the American Public Health Association in 1874. In his later years he withdrew more and more from the practice of medicine and devoted a

great part of his time to historical research, particularly concerning the life and writings of George Washington. He edited several of Washington's journals and saw them through the press in 1892 and 1893. In 1894 he was active in the formation of the Columbia Historical Society and became its first president. Among the thirty-six founders of the Society there were numerous Cosmos members: Henry Brooks Adams, historian and a founder of the Club; Marcus Baker, geographer; Swan M. Burnett, physician; G. Brown Goode, zoologist and President of the Club in 1893; Alexander B. Hagner, Justice, Supreme Court, District of Columbia; Tuenis S. Hamlin, clergyman; William T. Harris, educator; Gardiner G. Hubbard, scientist; Samuel P. Langley, physicist and secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; W J McGee, geologist, who insisted that no periods be used with his initials! Randolph H. McKim, clergyman; Theodore W. Noyes, journalist; John W. Powell, geologist and a founder and President of the Club; E. Francis Riggs, banker; John W. Ross, Naval Officer; Ainsworth R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress; James C. Welling, President, Columbian University (now George Washington), and a founder and President of the Club; and William L. Wilson, Member of Congress and Postmaster General.

Both of Toner's vice presidents in the Columbia Historical Society, his recording secretary, his treasurer, his entire publications committee, and half of his board of managers were Cosmos members. The first two meetings of the Society were held at the Columbian University, the next five in Toner's home, where, as at the Cosmos Club, many worthy projects originated.

On May 7, 1894, Toner delivered his inaugural address as President of the Columbia Historical Society. In it he laid grand and careful plans for an organization that would preserve the history of the Nation's Capital systematically and make it readily available. It is interesting to note that the first president of the Society, in 1894, was a founder of the Cosmos Club and that a current member of the Club's Board of Management, Major General U. S. Grant, 3d, is now president of the Columbia Historical Society and, through acquiring the Heurich House, a few blocks from the Club, and expanding the activities of the Society, he is putting into effect the last dreams of Joseph Meredith Toner.

HOMER T. ROSENBERGER

HERBERT PUTNAM

HERBERT PUTNAM ('99), after his notable forty-year stint as Librarian of Congress, regularly came to the Club for luncheon, and usually dinner. When we were on Madison Place he chose a seat at one of the long tables in the main dining room on the fifth floor, and by tacit understanding his preemptive right to that chair was respected by all the members who habitually frequented that table. Two incidents centering around that chair occur to me.

One day, I think it was in 1949, Mr. Putnam, who invariably took luncheon early, was late in coming to the dining room. When he arrived his customary seat was occupied by a nonresident member who did not know the habits of the table. Mr. Putnam, standing at the door and surveying the scene, turned and went downstairs. The interloper, unconscious of his infringement on a vested right, finished his meal and vacated the chair, only to be followed by a resident member, who knew whose chair it was but either thought that Mr. Putnam had eaten and left or had not been at the Club that day. He had hardly seated himself when Mr. Putnam again appeared at the door, scanned the situation, and was going down on the elevator before any one could hail him.

The incident was noted by regular attendants at the table. So far as I know, no one inquired whether Mr. Putnam had any lunch that day. But the interruption of the fixed habits of a distinguished member had its aftermath.

The next day the incident was discussed by the habitués of the table, Mr. Putnam not being present at the time. The spontaneous and unanimous verdict was that such an infringement on a vested right ought not to happen again either by ignorance or design, and particularly not to a member of Mr. Putnam's standing. Others who were there attribute the solution to Elliott B. Roberts ('47), though he modestly says it just grew out of the conversation. Be that as it may, it was Captain Roberts who proposed that a collection of ten cents apiece from those present would provide a silver plate on which an engraver he knew would inscribe Mr. Putnam's name for affixing to the chair. So it was done, and ever afterward the labeled chair was sacred to the use of Herbert Putnam at the first round of luncheon and dinner when he was in Washington.

Mr. Putnam spent the summers—roughly from June to September—in Maine. When he first left after the plaque was on his chair, Alexander Wetmore ('25) recalls that he invited other members to sit in the chair—and rub the plaque with their shoulders to keep it shining.

The plaque is permanently on the chair in the Members' Dining Room. After Mr. Putnam's death on August 14, 1955, it was removed and replaced with his closing dates added. It is a silver plate $3\frac{5}{16}$ by $1\frac{5}{16}$ inches in size and reads:

1861	Herbert Putnam	1955
	Cosmos Club Member	
1899		1955

Members who knew or knew of him, when sitting in that chair, can fittingly give the plaque a rejuvenating rub in memory of a gentleman who most typically was all that a Cosmos Club member ought to be.

Mr. Putnam's fixed habits changed with the times. In the old Clubhouse on Madison Place he ate dinner in the Tayloe rooms only when he had lady guests. Executive David J. Guy ('29) and Robert W. Webb ('37) recall that his dinner in the new Clubhouse was taken habitually at the round table in the spacious Garden Dining Room. Prompt early arrival and choice of a chair facing the room were customary. Mr. Putnam became master of ceremonies at the large round table to which Club members naturally drifted when alone. He freely introduced members and guests to each other, making them feel at home and at ease, and took the lead in stimulating intellectual as well as jovial conversation to the benefit and pleasure of those present. Many of his cryptic comments and questions were classic. And his subtle, clever way of drawing people out of their shells and encouraging them to express themselves was uncanny.

When I became a member in 1942 I found myself sitting beside Mr. Putnam one day. I asked him to confirm, if he could, a story which I had in 1920 from Raymond B. Fosdick who, as the designated Under Secretary General of the League of Nations, had orga-

nized the Secretariat in collaboration with Sir Eric Drummond, the Secretary General named in the Covenant. The two men began that job under a resolution of the Paris Peace Conference of May 8, 1919. Their first chore was to outline the duties of the Secretariat and then to find heads for its various sections. Both men were embarrassed at constantly finding that only Americans, Britons, or occasionally Frenchmen seemed qualified to fill the several posts, for they both believed that an international secretariat should be widely distributed geographically.

The problem came to a climax when Sir Eric Drummond expressed a determination to appoint a Pole as librarian.

"I hate always to be putting Americans forward," said Fosdick, "but no one has developed the management of libraries like them."

Drummond demurred, but suggested that perhaps some Pole had studied library science in the United States.

"Herbert Putnam is in town," countered Fosdick. "He knows all about libraries and librarians. I'll ask him for a suggestion."

"It has been some time since I was in Poland," Mr. Putnam told Mr. Fosdick when they got together, "and the only libraries I recall of any size were in Warsaw and Cracow. They kept the books on the shelves according to size."

I told Mr. Putnam the story, and it was obvious from his attention that he did not recall the incident.

And that is the point of my story here. Fosdick brought that word to Drummond, who reluctantly gave up his Pole and agreed to the appointment of Florence Wilson, librarian of the United States delegation to the Peace Conference, as acting librarian. She held the post for seven years and was succeeded by a Netherlander who had American training. The League of Nations library was one of the greatest official collections.

Mr. Putnam had set it on its way, by a casual remark which passed from his mind. How many other things of significance or importance does a man of his ability and integrity initiate or encourage without really knowing that he does it?

And, for the matter of that, how many projects of importance have been similarly started by members of the Cosmos Club, or begun in an informal conversation at its tables or from its lounge chairs?

DENYS P. MYERS

FRANK BEATES SCHEETZ

A BUSINESSMAN for whom I had prepared speech material on aspects of commerce and industry once commented, "I don't see why you always start with the Medes and the Persians." I thought I had learned my lesson, but as I take my pen in hand to record a testimonial to Frank Beates Scheetz ('30) I find the old inclination back again. How else can one discover sources of the motivating power that kept this battering-ram of a man in active, fruitful service for eighty years?

Mrs. Scheetz once wrote of the "Ring Master," as she characterized Frank, "When he starts a thing *nothing* can stop him." The theme of his life's work was economy of operation. The downbeat was cost cutting. This was Frank's line, the only line he ever professed. It was a straight line from which he never veered. His outstanding characteristics were perseverance, loyalty, sincerity, self-reliance, and independence. And, being a civil engineer of the long, long ago, Frank believed in, and relied upon, the affirmative gospel of works. He spurned postulation.

We shall begin our search for the Scheetz dynamo right here at the Cosmos Club. Those of us who have had our three-score-and-ten years and are inclined to class ourselves among Frank's contemporaries become dumbfounded when we realize that he finished that seventy-year stint back in 1937 when he was a freshman member of the Club and unrecognized as the forthcoming most-undefatigable Club worker of all time. Let's look at the record of his official holdings with the Cosmos Club:

House Committee (3 times chairman)	17 years	(1939-1945)
Budget Committee	7 years	(1939-1945)
Building Committee	4 years	(1951-1954)
Board of Management	5 years	(1941-1942, 1953-1955)

Executive October 1952 - November 1953 inclusive

This record brackets the special assignments, but from the day in March 1930 when Frank was elected a member until his unfortunate fall while on an afternoon walk in February 1963, the Club had a willing volunteer worker and a "watchdog."

Frank Scheetz's major professional work was with the Bureau of Valuation of the Interstate Commerce Commission. He entered the service of the Commission in January 1914 as a senior structural engineer, western district, and later came on to Washington to have charge of the structural branch of the newly consolidated organization. He was retired from government service in July 1935. Says *The In-Com-Co* in an article entitled "F. B. Scheetz Retires":

"No man on the Bureau's staff was better loved, or commanded more respect among the employees with whom he came in contact; quiet and unassuming, yet thorough in his methods, he had the confidence and respect, as well, of the representatives of the railroads with whom he had to deal."

In preparation for this meticulous government service, Frank had thirty-five years of railroad engineering experience. He doubtless learned the rudiments of surveying helping his father, Henry Capelle Scheetz, who was county surveyor and who had prepared and published *The 20th Century Atlas Map of Marion County, Missouri—compiled this First Year of the 20th Century*. In the preface Surveyor Scheetz states, "I have lived in this county sixty years, nearly half that time connected with County Surveyor's office." The atlas gives every "section" of land, township and range, name and number of school districts, photographs of school houses, each landowner's name and acres owned, assessed valuation, school children (white and colored) in each school district, miles of county road and how many miles were "graveled." The *Atlas* contains a complete history of the county, concluding with tabulation of the prices of farm machinery for the years 1850, 1880, 1900 (example: Cheap buggies [top], 1850, \$90.00; 1880, \$60.00; 1900, \$43.00). In fact, here is the father's blueprint for the life his son Frank chose to follow.

Upon completing civil engineering studies at the University of Missouri, Frank went immediately into railroad location work, but soon graduated into designing and constructing bridges and buildings. In length of service the Missouri Pacific and the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroads were Frank's principal employers, but from a tall stack of railroad passes that he had saved, it "doth appear" that his railroading covered the Great Plains from the Mississippi to the Rockies and south from the Minnesota-Iowa line into Louisiana and Texas—surveying, building, supervising, inspecting—the trained eye, the sound judge, the cost-conscious engineer. They nicknamed him "Let's-Go Scheetz."

Frank Beates Scheetz was the product of heredity *and* environment. He was born on December 14, 1867, in Marion County, Missouri, just across the county line from Monroe City. On his father's side was grandfather the Reverend Frederick Beates Scheetz, Episcopal minister, founder of St. Jude's Parish, Marion County, Missouri. It was about 1847 that Episcopal church clergy, mostly from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, came to Palmyra, Marion County, and opened a school for boys in a log cabin. Applicants were so numerous that in 1850 a brick building was erected and St. Paul College was incorporated. Among the incorporators was the Reverend Frederick Beates Scheetz, who later was called to take charge of the St. Jude's mission. Everywhere among Frank's memorabilia is evidence of his great reverence for his grandfather. Frank once told me that it was from him that he learned to "cut corners."

His great grandfather, the Reverend George Scheetz, was born in 1785. In 1817 he became rector of Trinity Church, Oxford, and All Saints Parish, Holmesburg, and remained for thirty-eight years. During this time he was active in building St. Mark's Church, Frankfort, a Philadelphia suburb.

The mother of Frank Scheetz was Frances Matilda Green. Her mother was Mary Van Antwerp, as recorded in the "Van Antwerp Genealogy, Translated from Records of Columbia College in Dutch Language," and dating back to June 9, 1625.

The confluence of these two bloodstreams of puritanical, colonial stock, which became the inheritance of Frank Beates Scheetz, made puritanism live again in him.

Environment played a large part in determining Frank's vocation. Had he grown up in a large city, he might have been another bishop. But Marion County, Missouri, presented a different life, a new world. Missouri, the first state west of the Mississippi (except Old World Louisiana), together with its "westward-facing" St. Louis, was already the gateway westward for trappers, explorers, the Pony Express, covered wagon caravans, and now had come the steam railroad. What they needed most was engineers, men like Frank Scheetz to build bridges and the thousands of miles of railway over which millions of settlers would pass to find new homes. I believe that Frank, like his ancestors, worked as if he were fulfilling a mission.

A column of figures to Frank Scheetz was as incontrovertible as the Ten Commandments. Undoubtedly he read such tabulations—

ages, heights, depths, cost (per inch, per mile, per day, per meal)—with the insight of an artist, as a trained musician would read an opera score. When words failed him, as they often do engineers, he would pound the table and swear in defense of his computations. And yet, except under such circumstances, I never heard Frank Scheetz use profanity or say an unkind word about anyone.

The Cosmos Club was very dear to Frank Scheetz. But this was characteristic of the man. What he joined, he became a part of. He was also a member of the D.C. Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, American Society of Civil Engineers (fellow, and made life member in 1954), Association of Railway Superintendents of Buildings and Bridges (since 1905), American Railway Engineering Association (made life member in 1938), Washington Society of Engineers (life member), Washington Academy of Sciences (since 1927), and was many years president of the University of Missouri Alumni Association, Washington, D.C.

On December 14, 1951, on the occasion of Frank's eighty-fourth birthday, when we were still at the old Clubhouse, the late W. Chapin Huntington wrote him as follows:

"Congratulations on another milestone!

"You have built many bridges and buildings in your long and well spent life but you have built no structure more solid and permanent than the affection and respect of your many friends!

"Many happy returns!"

Yes, everybody liked Frank Scheetz—but the Club employees, *they loved him.*

He died on March 16, 1965, at the Sleepy Hollow Manor Nursing Home, Annandale, Virginia.

DAVID J. GUY

CHARLES BITTINGER

WITH THE PASSING on December 18, 1970, of Charles Bittinger at the advanced age of ninety-one, the Club lost a charming mild-mannered man whose bright eyes shone with a faintly quizzical expression, and the world lost the author of a thousand pleasantries, a scientist wont to turn amazing tricks in the use of color, including the protection of American warships through deceptive coloration,

and a great portraitist whose works included the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, the late Gilbert Grosvenor of the National Geographic Society, Admiral Nimitz of World War II fame, and many another great and small personage. His paintings have hung in numerous galleries in Chicago, New York's Metropolitan, Versailles, Paris Salon, St. Louis, Washington, and elsewhere.

He was born June 7, 1879, in Washington. He attended Woodbury School, then Massachusetts Institute of Technology, moonlighting meanwhile at an art school, but he left MIT before graduation, impatient with being required to study French, going then to France where he studied at the Sorbonne and at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts. (His French remained poor throughout his life, nevertheless!) At MIT at the turn of the century, he acquired the taste for science that influenced his long career as artist and colorist. L'Ecole des Beaux Arts brought out his talent for portraiture. Cosmos members need go no farther afield than the Club precincts to view the beautiful painting of the mansion at Mount Vernon (1946) and the portraits of Samuel W. Stratton (1930) and Matthew Fontaine Maury (the latter a color reproduction of a painting of unknown date). Some may have seen the delicately colored lunar globe at the National Geographic Society, painted long before the day of our Apollo astronauts.

He had been prevented by his mother from enlisting in the Spanish-American War, but, in 1917, stirred by the prevalent war clouds, he responded to the call, becoming a Navy machinist's mate in the unbeautiful clothes of a bluejacket. The Navy, worried over the submarine menace and the need to camouflage the ships, was casting about for help. At a meeting it was said by a lecturing scientist that the Navy already had a specialist handy in the person of the unassuming Bittinger. Secretary of the Navy Daniels promptly sent for the painter-scientist, and, during a later briefing when Bittinger was standing at the rear, Daniels arrived, grabbed him by the arm, and escorted him up front, to the lifted eyebrows of the assembled brass. From then on, he was lionized in the highest circles, being personally invited to dine at the White House—probably the only such invitation ever issued to an enlisted sailor. All this seemed too much for the proud Washington Society; so it wasn't long before the situation was adjusted by the appearance of gold stripes on those talented sleeves, from which starting point he rose in due course to the rank of captain.

He was sent to Rochester to work with experts in the use of light. His early work in this period, and that later during World War II, were undoubtedly decisive factors in the protection of numerous ships carrying the subtle gray tones of his color schemes. In the second of those wars he was chief of the Section of Camouflage Design. Notwithstanding his sixty and more years and a previous heart attack, he climbed to dizzy heights on the ships to study coloration, dived in submarines, and jumped into and out of bouncing small boats.

Broken only by periods in New York, and in Washington, where he spent winters after 1929, he lived in Duxbury, Massachusetts, in a house built in 1807 by the famed Gamaliel Bradford—a house of harsh lines rendered soft and beautiful by the gardening work of his talented wife, Edith, whom he had met in France and married in 1904 in London. He started the Duxbury Art Association in the 1920s and for a time ran painting classes. The Duxbury house boasted a wealth of paintings, and during fifty years it resounded to the bubbling air and solemn discussions of art-world celebrities, Navy officers from five-star rank on down, and of all sorts of other notables. Admiral Nimitz was a frequent caller. Bittinger's popularity with admirals was bolstered by the love of their wives for the flowers so skillfully raised and arranged by Edith. One admiral, David Taylor, was so poor a portrait sitter that Bittinger called in his life-long friend and neighbor Gershom Bradford to tell sea tales to brighten the Admiral's face while he worked feverishly to capture the mood.

During his extensive studies of color, he discovered certain hitherto unknown applications of the invisible spectral differences of color, holding some twenty patents in the field. (This important achievement was later incorrectly claimed by another physicist—a matter that the talented Bittinger could well afford to disregard.) With a brush that knew no formal rules, he created fantastic creations with color. A painting of a white horse by a tree became a gorgeous girl when beheld through a red filter. A theater curtain decorated with a summertime scene became a winter landscape under a different light. His murals at the Franklin Institute are invisible until bathed with ultraviolet light.

His *joie de vivre* and impish delight in jokes found expression in many ways. A typical story of Club interest concerns the decorations he and the late Everett Warner ('42) added to the large reclining

nude over the bar in the billiard room of the old Clubhouse at Madison Place, later painted out because, some say, Bitteringer's monkeys peering lasciviously through the foliage at the voluptuous nude had faces too much resembling certain Club members. While he was at Pelham Bay during his early Navy days, the Admiral, hearing that Bitteringer was a painter, ordered him to the house to paint a bathtub. With a companion, Charles started on the job, but didn't finish; so they had to go another day. This went on for a week, when he had to explain that the sight of the Admiral's two daughters playing about the swimming pool so distracted them that they could proceed only very slowly. Besides, painting all the fishes and mermaids in the tub was slow work. Charles finally admitted that the bathtub was probably the best painted one in creation.

In a 1948 letter to Charles Piggot, of the Club, commenting on the dropping of the word "Joint" from the name of the Joint Research and Development Board, of which Piggot was executive director, he said he was glad because he didn't like the idea of Piggot working in a "Joint." He was once quoted as saying to a prospective sitter, "Now we must get together at Duxbury and start the portrait that will make Reynolds, Gainsborough, and Company 505 μ with jealousy!" Gershom Bradford tells of the time when he asked Charles, in Duxbury, to bring a bottle of *Serutan* from the drug store. Charles returned, and, to point up his success, backed the car, instead of driving forward, into the driveway. When he and Bradford, late in life, were invited to ride out to the Gurnet Lighthouse over the sand dunes, Bradford declined, but Charles would not refuse. Cushioned between two husky riders against the jerks and jolts of the Jeep, he made the trip and, when they reached the place, they had difficulty restraining the eager eighty-nine-year oldster from climbing the tower for the view.

Throughout life, though inept at most manual tasks, he maintained a deep interest in everything technical—what went on in a geomagnetic observatory, the reasons for the gentle purring of a well-tuned car, the endless procession of the spring and neap tides—as well as in the subtle beauty of a cloud looming in the setting rays of the sun, or the color saturation of a deep blue sky. He painted the corona of a total solar eclipse at Canton Island, working feverishly fast to capture the evanescent details of light and shadow. At Bikini he did the same, producing a remarkable picture of that historic event—one that received wide circulation.

He was an associate of the National Academy of Design, a member of the Paris Beaux Arts, president of the Optical Society and of the Duxbury Art Association, member of the Massachusetts State Planning Board, and he was associated with many other organizations. His club memberships included Washington's Arts Club, The Landscape Club, and The Salmagundi and McDowell Clubs of New York.

His numerous medals included one from the St. Louis Exposition of 1904, while he was still a student, the second Hillgarten prize from the National Academy of Design, a silver medal from the San Francisco Exposition of 1905, first prize from the Washington Society of Artists in 1925, and the Legion of Merit from the Navy.

ELLIOTT ROBERTS



Caricature of David J. Guy ('29), by Charles Dunn, presented at the Club's birthday dinner, November 16, 1959, in honor of his retirement as Club Executive.

CURRENT PROBLEMS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND FUTURE

AS the Club reaches its hundredth anniversary its members can take pride in its past even while showing concern for its future. For there are signs that the multiplying problems of the present have not all been anticipated or solved by the Club. Among these problems, which, of course, are not unique to the Cosmos Club, is the physical one brought on by the centrifugal movement of agencies and residences to the periphery of the Washington metropolitan area. Many members have found it more difficult or less convenient to use the facilities of the Club, either for lunch or for dinner. With the return to the central city of many younger people, and with the development of the METRO rail rapid transit system, it is possible that the movement outward will be reversed and that the intimacy of club life in an era when gentlemen walked to the Club from their offices and homes will return.

A more vexing problem is the growing split in the unity that bound Club members in an earlier day. Advocacy, rather than harmony, dominates the life styles of many of today's intellectual leaders. The universe of clubmen of the past was homogeneous and congenial; the new generation of clubmen is diverse and sometimes contentious. Disagreements characterize contemporary intellectual discourse more frequently than they did in the past. Those disagreements reflect the heightened divi-



Former Cosmos Club quarters today (1978) at H Street and Madison Place, with new Court of Claims building in background.

sions in our society based on race, class, gender, and age. The consequences are divisiveness rather than harmony, leading sometimes to contention within the Club, withdrawal from it, or refusal to join it.

When the statutory limit of membership (not counting senior and emeritus members) was raised from 2,000 to 2,500 in 1964, many of the vacancies created were filled, but attrition in the succeeding ten years began to exceed the influx of new members. Resignations, in some years, outpaced deaths in creating the vacancies. In more recent years the percentage of resignations has declined and the number of vacancies to be filled has decreased. Nevertheless the warning signs are clear. While the economic significance of these lost members has not directly threatened the Club's financial stability, it has given cause for worry.

Along with the danger of a reduced growth in membership the increasing age of Club members has been another matter of concern. The average age of the ten Club incorporators was 40.7 years and that of the sixty Club founders was 42. Samuel Pierpont Langley, in his address on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the founding of the Club, in 1903, compared the Cosmos favorably to the renowned Athenaeum of London, despite the latter's acknowledged reputation for joining the "most notable gathering of scientific and literary and artistic celebrities to be found anywhere." "But the Athenaeum," Langley noted, "is a club of elderly, if not of old men. There are few heads there that are not touched with gray, and there is an almost too decorous solemnity about all its aspect. . . . How different it all is from this our Cosmos Club, where we can meet so informally and pleasantly, and where so many belong less to the past than the future. As years go on we may attain to frigid decorum, but I am glad we are not there yet." Langley spoke of the Cosmos Club members of 1903 as belonging "not indeed only to young men, but yet to so many who are still touched with that enthusiasm that belongs to the age of hope."

In 1930 the average age of new members of the Cosmos Club at the time of election was 45. In 1974 it was 53.7. Will that trend continue? Youth is no panacea for the ills of any institution, but in a rapidly changing society and world an institution must be watchful of undue isolation from the influences of the oncoming generations.

The Club has recognized and vigorously attacked the problems it faces. The Club is in a healthy position with respect to its physical plant and its financial stability. It can count on the loyalty of its older members, whether or not they can recall the now nearly legendary days of the Club on Lafayette Square. With vigorous leadership the Club should be able to attract and hold the loyalty of its recent and future members without being false to its past traditions.

NOTE ON THE SOURCES

PUBLISHED work dealing with the Cosmos Club has been limited. *The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the Cosmos Club of Washington, D.C., with a Documentary History of the Club from Its Organization to November 16, 1903*, compiled by William A. DeCaindry, Treasurer of the Club, and member of the committee to collect data for a historical volume of the Club, was published by the Club in 1904. *The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Cosmos Club, 1878-1928*, published by the Club in 1929, contains the speeches made at the fiftieth anniversary celebration. A 56-page account of *The Cosmos Club on Lafayette Square* by Thomas M. Spaulding was published by the Club in 1949. *Founders of The Cosmos Club of Washington, 1878: A Collection of Biographical Sketches and Likenesses of the Sixty Founders*, by George Crossette, was published by the Club in 1966.

Periodically a listing of current members has been issued by the Club. The most recent list of members, that of September 15, 1977, like previous lists, includes also the house rules and Articles of Incorporation and bylaws as well as listing officers, committeemen, and former Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers. Earlier bylaws and house rules were issued at irregular intervals throughout the Club's history.

A comprehensive *Membership of the Cosmos Club, 1878-1968*, compiled by the History Committee on the ninetieth anniversary of the Club (Washington, 1968), was the successor both in

the color of its binding and in its purpose to Thomas M. Spaulding's 1941 "Red Book," also entitled *Members of the Cosmos Club*, the first such attempt at a cumulative listing of members. The book provides the names of all members, past and present, their dates of membership, and their professions. The list has been brought up to date by computerized listing created in 1977 and held in the Club offices, on the basis of which the statistical data at the present volume have been compiled.

Annual Reports of the Club have been printed and published yearly since 1918.

The *Cosmos Club Bulletin*, a house organ containing much historical material, has been published monthly (with a mid-year issue combining the months of July and August) since November 1947. A card index to the *Bulletin* is kept current in the Club office, and a printed version is under consideration.

Two editions of a lavishly illustrated brochure on the Cosmos Club have been published, the most recent in 1975.

Periodically the Club has printed slim leaflets containing reports of committees (such as that of the Special Committee on Admissions Policies and Procedures) and other material which it wished to circulate to Club members. Copies of such material are located in the files of the committees concerned and in the records of individual members.

Manuscript sources for a history of the Club are numerous. The all-important minutes of the meetings of the Board of Management exist not only from the first organizational meeting prior to the formation of the Club, but also in uniform, typed, and bound form, thanks to a decision of the Board in 1937 to have the early records so organized. In addition minutes of various committees (including the Art Committee, Library Committee, Admissions Committee, House Committee, Endowment Fund Committee, Legal Committee, and others) exist, usually from a more recent date. In 1977 these files, along with early printed publications of the Club, were located in the safe on the second floor of the Clubhouse.

The Art Committee, in addition to its minutes, maintains a four-drawer file cabinet containing accession, location, artist, and donor records relating to the works of art in the Clubhouse. The Art Committee file, in 1977, was located in the Club's business office, as was the Membership Record File, a collection of biographical data in folders provided for individual members of the Cosmos Club. The file is more complete for recent than for earlier years. It was initiated by a suggestion of the Admissions Committee. Though the proposal was turned down by the Board of Management on December 9, 1904, it was, on the Admissions Committee's renewed appeal, approved, in March 1905.

In the manager's office and in the accountant's office (in 1977) are contained current records of the Board of Management and of the various committees along with day-to-day records of Club operations. In addition, some files of historical interest, such as those of the Special Committee on Admissions Policies and Procedures, are maintained with the current files.

Miscellaneous files of correspondence between Club members and the Board of Management, House Committee, manager, and the like are contained in files located, in 1977, in the makeshift Club "archive" on the fifth floor of the Clubhouse. The files are particularly detailed concerning the purchase and architectural renovation of the various Club properties.

Important manuscript materials related to the Cosmos Club are contained in several collections of the Library of Congress. Perhaps the most notable is that of Waldo G. Leland, a member of the Club from 1909 to 1966, who served on various committees and was Club President in 1947. Leland, like his colleague in the historical and archival profession Solon J. Buck, maintained extensive files of his Cosmos Club association. The papers of both men are located in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. The papers of Raymond G. Swing, also in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, contain

extensive documentation on the "Rowan affair" dealt with in the chapter on admissions. The papers of John C. Merriam, paleontologist member of the Club, and Albert Kenrick Fisher, biologist member, are also deposited in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress and contain data on the Club. Scattered letters about Club matters are contained in the papers of other individuals whose papers are located in the Library of Congress, as well as in the Smithsonian Institution Archives in the files of prominent Club members who also held high positions in the Smithsonian. Most notable of the Smithsonian collections dealing with the Cosmos Club is that of William H. Holmes, whose papers are preserved in the library of the National Collection of Fine Arts (of which he was once director) and National Portrait Gallery.

The three principal depositories for photographic views relating to the Club are the Club itself, the Columbia Historical Society, and the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. Particularly noteworthy are the eighteen photographic prints of the Townsend Mansion taken in 1915 by Frances Benjamin Johnston, which are now in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress (LC-USZ62-42963-42980).

Interpretive studies of the role of the Cosmos Club in the history of Washington and of the nation have been scarce. The most extensive study is a chapter in J. Kirkpatrick Flack's *Desideratum in Washington: The Intellectual Community in the Capital City, 1870-1900* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1975). Flack, a professor at the University of Maryland, did original research in the Club archives as well as in other standard depositories.

From time to time magazine and newspaper articles on the Cosmos Club have been published. Copies of many of these are in the files of the History Committee.

Footnoting has been avoided in this work although precise references to dates of Board of Management meetings, and the

like, have been made throughout the text. The research notes upon which this work has been based will be deposited in the Club archives, where they will be available to scholars wishing to check the references in greater detail.



From the murals in the Old Club Room of the Cosmos Club on Massachusetts Avenue showing Lafayette Square buildings of various periods. Reproduction of paintings (1952) by Everett Warner ('42).

APPENDICES

○F the fifteen appendices that follow, Numbers I–VI are self-explanatory. The data in the statistical tables (VII–XV) are taken from the newly computerized records of the Club's membership over the hundred-year period of its existence. Although the Club's records are in excellent order, a good deal of work was needed to supplement existing information and to organize it into categories suitable for inclusion in the Club history. The job was done primarily by Homer L. Calkin, of the History Committee, who prepared the work sheets from which the data were put into machine-readable form, and by Andrew Kabling, of the Club's office staff, who overcame numerous difficulties to produce the computerized printouts with a minimum of error and a maximum of clarity.

Appendix VII shows the age of members at election and at death for the entire hundred-year period of the Club's history. The data (unknown in detail before the preparation of this table) reveal the surprising fact that the youngest member ever elected was twenty-year-old Thomas Herbert Means, an engineer, born November 15, 1875, and elected January 13, 1896. He was closely followed by another twenty-year-old, William Richards Blair, a physicist, born November 7, 1894, and elected October 4, 1915. The oldest member ever elected was (and is) Carey Herbert Brown, born May 2, 1886, and elected January 8, 1974, at the age of eighty-eight. Brown, a retired Army engineer, graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1910. He resides in Washington, D.C. The average age of all mem-

bers in the hundred-year period will be seen to be near the fifty-year mark.

Appendix VIII shows the age of members at election and at death by ten-year intervals. The tables enable us to see how the average age at election gradually increased from the thirties in the early years of the Club to the fifties in the most recent decade.

Appendix IX shows the proportion of those ceasing to be members (1) by death and (2) by resignation, both in absolute numbers and in percentages on a year-by-year basis. The early years show an understandably greater proportion of Club members leaving by resignation than by death. As the Club aged, the proportion of members dying became greater than the number of members resigning, except in the years 1971 and 1974. A near equality of resignations and deaths occurred during the period of the Great Depression in the 1930s. Larger than normal numbers of resignations also occurred during periods of controversy over the Club's admissions policy in the 1960s and 1970s.

Appendix X shows the number and proportions of members (over the hundred-year existence of the Club) in the twenty-eight professional fields into which the membership has been categorized. The Club has also coded the members in 400 specific professional titles within these twenty-eight fields, but those data are not included in this appendix. It will be seen that the largest proportion of members is in category 14: History, Economics, and Political Science. This fact will come as a surprise to those who have identified the Club as predominantly scientific. However, if one totals the large number of members in physics (category 8) and chemistry (category 5), perhaps adding earth sciences (category 2) and possibly engineering (category 7), it will be apparent that those with scientific interests do form the largest proportion of Club membership. Medical doctors (in the category of health sciences) and lawyers and

judges (in the category of law) also constitute important blocks of members. Practitioners of art and literature, as can be seen, constitute a small percentage—perhaps too small—of the membership.

Appendix XI indicates the percentage of members having academic degrees and their types. The popular impression of the Club as a nest of eggheads is perhaps confirmed by the fact that nearly one-half of the members have possessed, or do possess, the Ph.D. degree. On the other hand, a surprising 7 percent register lack of any degree: a factor that reflects both lack of information about some and lack of a degree in others.

Appendix XII lists, in ten-year intervals from 1878, the universities attended by members. In the first decade, first place was held by members of no university (or none known). In the second decade, the George Washington University moved into first place. Harvard University took the lead in the third decade and has never relinquished it.

Appendices XIII and XIV list the cumulative totals of states and foreign countries in which members were born, and of states and foreign countries where members resided at the time of their admission. New York and Massachusetts have been the birthplaces of the two largest number of members, while the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia have been the most popular residences of members at the time of election.

Appendix XV shows the pattern of residential location, by ZIP-code, of resident members of the Club in 1978. It is possible to show the location by ZIP-code of resident and nonresident members of the Club throughout the country. Appendix XV, however, shows only those in the Washington area. The addresses of members whose Club mailings go to business addresses have been adjusted (when information was available) to place them in their appropriate residential ZIP-code. The table reveals the overwhelming predominance as favored residential areas of the upper northwest sections of the city, in the follow-

ing order: 20016 (American University Park on both sides of the District of Columbia line); 20015 (Chevy Chase on both sides of the District of Columbia line); 20008 (the area between 34th Street, NW, and Rock Creek Park, plus the Kalorama area east of the Park); and 20007 (Georgetown).

No effort has been made in these tables to calculate the constantly changing record for length of continuous membership, but when Frank L. Campbell made such calculations in the July-August 1976 *Bulletin* the record was held by Walter F. Willcox, who was elected in 1899 at the age of thirty-eight and died in 1964 at the age of 103, with a record of sixty-five years of continuous Club membership. At that time a number of members "still on the course" threatened Willcox's record, and it was in fact later broken by William H. Waggaman, who was elected in 1912 at the age of twenty-eight and died on February 1, 1978, at the age of ninety-four, after sixty-six years of continuous membership.



APPENDIX I · ORGANIZATIONS
FOUNDED AT THE COSMOS CLUB

A NUMBER of organizations date their origin from a meeting in the Cosmos Club. Other organizations have maintained a long association with the Club and have sometimes been thought (erroneously) to have been founded in the Club. After study by the History Committee, and most notably by one of its members, Dr. Henry H. Work, it is possible to say that the following organizations, which are listed in the order of their founding, were definitely organized at the Cosmos Club:

1. National Geographic Society. Organized in 1888 as related on page 131.

2. National Parks Association. Organized at the Club on May 29, 1919, as an outgrowth of the conservation movement, most of whose early leaders were closely identified with the Club. See *Cosmos Club Bulletin*, March 1958.

3. American Geophysical Union. Organized at the Club on February 27, 1919.

4. The Wilderness Society. Organized in 1935.

5. Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains (CRAR). Organized July 20, 1944, at the Club with planning meetings going on until 1946.

6. The Cosmotographers. Organized in 1951 as related on pages 263-266.

7. Friends of the Austro-American Institute of Education. Organized at the Club on October 1, 1970.

8. National Nutrition Consortium. Concept was elaborated at the Club on July 11, 1972. Organized on July 9, 1973, at the Club.

9. Hereditary Order of Descendants of Loyalists and Patriots of the American Revolution. Organized at the Club on September 18, 1973.

10. American Committee for International Conservation (ACIC). An outgrowth of the American Committee for International Wildlife Protection. Planning for ACIC took place at the Cosmos Club in 1974 and 1975. The first meeting was held elsewhere in 1975.

Other groups, such as the Philosophical Society of Washington, the Authors' Club, the Westerners, and the "Washington Papers" group of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, have traditionally met at the Club.

APPENDIX II · PUBLICATIONS BY CLUB MEMBERS: A SUBJECTIVE AND SELECTIVE LIST

THERE IS a Cosmos Club tradition that has an out-of-town visitor surprised at the paucity of books in the Club library. His host, a member, explained: "Oh, I should have told you! In this Club the members don't read books, they write them."

In trying to give a sampling of the literary production of the members, the historian is faced with a back-breaking task. Every time the Library Committee has attempted to compile a bibliography of writings of members it has given up in despair. The job is too vast. Many of the folders containing biographical and bibliographical data on Club members possess bibliographies running to fifty or a hundred titles.

The following list is, as indicated in the heading, a subjective and highly eclectic sampling. No attempt has been made to select necessarily the best books and articles or the most important Club au-

thors. Nobel and Pulitzer prizewinners are deliberately slighted because another appendix lists these individuals and most members are aware of at least some of their writings. Though not altogether omitted, living members also are slighted because it would be virtually impossible to select the right title (in the eyes of the living writer chosen) to represent his work.

Hence, the emphasis is on former members of the Club: those who have left it either by death or resignation. The selections from the bibliographies of these former members are, one might as well confess, haphazard if not capricious. No one can claim to know all the fields represented in the Club. I have frankly revealed my bewilderment and bemusement by isolating some titles that seemed curious as well as others that seemed representative.

Many of the works here, because they date from an earlier generation, may be outmoded, but none lacks interest to the historian of the disciplines they represent. Taken together, they will, it is hoped, encourage the reader to reflect on the catholicity and universality of Cosmos Club members, while at the same time providing an occasional touch of humor.

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APPENDIX III · PRESIDENTS,
SECRETARIES, AND TREASURERS
OF THE COSMOS CLUB,
1878-1978

PRESIDENTS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| John Wesley Powell, 1878, 1881 | Frederick V. Coville, 1915 |
| Spencer Fullerton Baird, 1879 | Hugh M. Smith, 1916 |
| James C. Welling, 1880 | Frank W. Clarke, 1917 |
| Garrick Mallery, 1882 | Arthur P. Davis, 1918 |
| Edward M. Gallaudet, 1883 | David White, 1919 |
| William Harkness, 1884 | George R. Putnam, 1920 |
| Robert Fletcher, 1885 | John C. Hoyt, 1921 |
| John Shaw Billings, 1886, 1887 | Gilbert H. Grosvenor, 1922 |
| Henry C. Yarrow, 1888 | Lyman J. Briggs, 1923 |
| Clarence E. Dutton, 1889 | Charles L. Marlatt, 1924 |
| Joseph K. McCammon, 1890 | Charles S. Hamlin, 1925 |
| John M. Browne, 1891 | George Otis Smith, 1926 |
| John R. Eastman, 1892 | George K. Burgess, 1927 |
| George Brown Goode, 1893 | Wendell P. Stafford, 1928 |
| Grove Karl Gilbert, 1894 | Vernon L. Kellogg, 1929 |
| J. Rush Marshall, 1895 | Charles G. Abbot, 1930 |
| Swan M. Burnett, 1896 | William Charles White, 1931 |
| Henry Gannett, 1897 | John H. Hanna, 1932 |
| Charles D. Walcott, 1898 | Arthur L. Day, 1933 |
| Bernard R. Green, 1899 | Frederick G. Cottrell, 1934 |
| John R. Procter, 1900 | Charles P. Neill, 1935 |
| Rufus H. Thayer, 1901 | William J. Humphreys, 1936 |
| George M. Sternberg, 1902 | J. Wilmer Latimer, 1937 |
| Joseph C. Hornblower, 1903 | Alexander Wetmore, 1938 |
| Otto H. Tittmann, 1904 | Leason H. Adams, 1939 |
| Richard Rathbun, 1905 | William McClellan, 1940 |
| Simon Newcomb, 1906 | Louis A. Simon, 1941 |
| William Henry Holmes, 1907 | Albert W. Atwood, 1942 |
| Gifford Pinchot, 1908 | John E. Graf, 1943 |
| Leland O. Howard, 1909 | Harold N. Graves, 1944 |
| Harvey W. Wiley, 1910, 1911 | Henry Grattan Doyle, 1945 |
| Herbert Putnam, 1912 | Eugene C. Crittenden, 1946 |
| Charles E. Munroe, 1913, 1914 | Waldo G. Leland, 1947 |

Amos E. Taylor, 1948	Dean B. Cowie, 1963
Hugh L. Dryden, 1949	Louis B. Wright, 1964
Curtis P. Clausen, 1950	Allen V. Astin, 1965
Huston Thompson, 1951	Ashley Sellers, 1966
Thomas M. Spaulding, 1952	C. Canby Balderston, 1967
Waldron Faulkner, 1953	William T. Pecora, 1968
Chester Morrill, 1954	Anthony P. Dean, 1969
Thomas M. Woodward, 1955	Nicholas Satterlee, 1970
Ralph E. Gibson, 1956	Fred E. Hornaday, 1971
Charles S. Piggot, 1957	Philip H. Abelson, 1972
Archibald G. Wenley, 1958	Calvin D. Linton, 1973
Charles H. Mahoney, 1959	Paul H. Oehser, 1974
Sam R. Broadbent, 1960	George W. Irving, Jr., 1975
Paul A. Scherer, 1961	Gerard D. Reilly, 1976
Francis L. Adams, 1962	George Crossette, 1977
	Lloyd W. Swift, 1978

SECRETARIES

Edward S. Holden, 1878-1880	Leland O. Howard, 1894-1907
Theodore F. Dwight, 1881	John W. Hayford, 1908
Frederick W. Taylor, 1882-1883	George R. Putnam, 1909-1910
Francis T. Bowles, 1884-1885	Daniel L. Hazard, 1911-1935
Thomas M. Chatard, 1886-1887	Charles S. Piggot, 1936-1949
Joseph H. Bryan, 1888-1889	Paul H. Oehser, 1950-1969
William C. Winlock, 1890-1893	Donald H. Williams, 1969-1976
	Dwight E. Gray, 1976-

TREASURERS

John S. Billings, 1878-1879	Laurence F. Schmeckebier, 1946-1955
Robert Fletcher, 1879-1884	Julius H. Parmelee, 1956-1961
John R. Eastman, 1884-1886	Burton W. Marsh, 1961-1962
William Brough, 1887-1888	Sam R. Broadbent, 1962-1973
William Harkness, 1888-1889	Dean B. Cowie, 1974-1975
William S. DeCaindry, 1889-1907	Frank H. Weitzel, 1975-1977
Augustus B. Coolidge, 1908-1917	Sam R. Broadbent, 1977-1978
Milton E. Ailes, 1918-1925	Willis H. Shapley, 1978-
George E. Fleming, 1926-1945	

PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS
OF THE PRESIDENTS



John W. Powell, 1878, 1881



Spencer F. Baird, 1879



James C. Welling, 1880



Garrick Mallery, 1882



Edward M. Gallaudet, 1883



William Harkness, 1884



Robert Fletcher, 1885



John Shaw Billings, 1886,
1887



Henry C. Yarrow, 1888



Clarence E. Dutton, 1889



Joseph K. McCammon, 1890



John M. Browne, 1891



John R. Eastman, 1892



William B. Smith, 1893



Charles W. Gilbert, 1894



J. Bush Marshall, 1895



Swan M. Burnett, 1896



Henry Gannett, 1897



Charles D. Walcott, 1898



Bernard R. Green, 1899



John R. Procter, 1900



Rufus H. Thayer, 1901





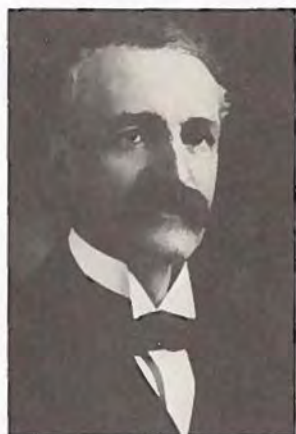
Richard Rathbun, 1905



Simon Newcomb, 1906



William H. Holmes, 1907



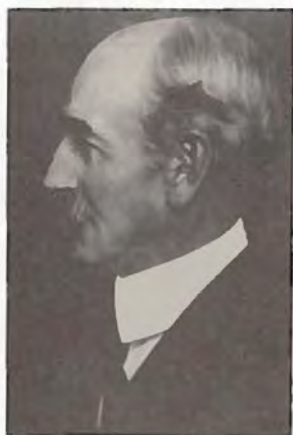
Gifford Pinchot, 1908



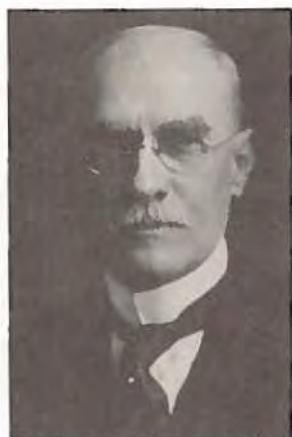
Leland O. Howard, 1909



Harvey W. Wiley, 1910, 1911



Frederick V. Coville, 1915



Hugh M. Smith, 1916



Frank W. Clarke, 1917



Arthur P. Davis, 1918



David White, 1919



George R. Putnam, 1920



John C. Hoyt, 1921





Charles S. Hamlin, 1925



George Otis Smith, 1926



George K. Burgess, 1927



Wendell P. Stafford, 1928



Vernon L. Kellogg, 1929



Charles G. Abbot, 1930





Frederick G. Cottrell, 1934



Charles P. Neill, 1935



William J. Humphreys, 1936



J. Wilmer Latimer, 1937



Alexander Wetmore, 1938



Leason H. Adams, 1939





John E. Graf, 1943



Harold N. Graves, 1944



Henry Grattan Doyle, 1945



Eugene C. Crittenden, 1946



Waldo G. Leland, 1947



Amos E. Taylor, 1948





Thomas M. Spaulding, 1952



Waldron Faulkner, 1953



Chester Morrill, 1954



Thomas M. Woodward, 1955



Ralph E. Gibson, 1956



Charles S. Piggot, 1957





Paul A. Scherer, 1961



Francis L. Adams, 1962



Dean B. Cowie, 1963



Louis B. Wright, 1964



Allen V. Astin, 1965



Ashley Sellers, 1966





Nicholas Satterlee, 1970



Fred E. Hornaday, 1971



Philip H. Abelson, 1972



Calvin D. Linton, 1973



Paul H. Oehser, 1974



George W. Irving, Jr., 1975



APPENDIX IV · COSMOS CLUB
WINNERS OF NOBEL AND
PULITZER PRIZES

NOBEL

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. A. Michelson, <i>Physics</i> , 1907 | William Shockley, <i>Physics</i> , 1956 |
| Woodrow Wilson, <i>Peace</i> , 1919 | George W. Beadle, <i>Medicine and Physiology</i> , 1958 |
| Robert A. Millikan, <i>Physics</i> , 1923 | Willard F. Libby, <i>Chemistry</i> , 1960 |
| Arthur H. Compton, <i>Physics</i> , 1927 | Melvin Calvin, <i>Chemistry</i> , 1961 |
| Sinclair Lewis, <i>Literature</i> , 1930 | Robert Hofstadter, <i>Physics</i> , 1961 |
| Harold C. Urey, <i>Chemistry</i> , 1934 | Eugene P. Wigner, <i>Physics</i> , 1963 |
| I. I. Rabi, <i>Physics</i> , 1944 | Charles H. Townes, <i>Physics</i> , 1964 |
| John Boyd Orr, <i>Peace</i> , 1949 | Robert S. Mulliken, <i>Chemistry</i> , 1966 |
| Edwin M. McMillan, <i>Chemistry</i> , 1951 | Murray Gell-Mann, <i>Physics</i> , 1969 |
| Glenn T. Seaborg, <i>Chemistry</i> , 1951 | Gerald M. Edelman, <i>Medicine</i> , 1972 |
| Edward M. Purcell, <i>Physics</i> , 1952 | Henry A. Kissinger, <i>Peace</i> , 1973 |
| Vincent du Vigneaud, <i>Chemistry</i> , 1955 | |
| Juan Ramón Jiménez, <i>Literature</i> , 1955 | |

PULITZER

- | | |
|---|---|
| Henry Adams, <i>Biography</i> , 1919 | Archibald MacLeish, <i>Poetry</i> , 1933, 1953; <i>Drama</i> , 1959 |
| James Truslow Adams, <i>History</i> , 1922 | Tyler Dennett, <i>Biography</i> , 1934 |
| Charles Warren, <i>History</i> , 1923 | Andrew Cunningham McLaughlin, <i>History</i> , 1936 |
| William Allen White, <i>Editorial Writing</i> , 1923; <i>Biography</i> , 1947 | Felix Morley, <i>Editorial Writing</i> , 1936 |
| Jay N. Darling, <i>Cartoon</i> , 1924, 1943 | Ralph Barton Perry, <i>Biography</i> , 1936 |
| Michael I. Pupin, <i>Biography</i> , 1924 | Thomas L. Stokes, <i>Local Reporting</i> , 1939 |
| Edward Channing, <i>History</i> , 1926 | Ray Stannard Baker, <i>Biography</i> , 1940 |
| Sinclair Lewis, <i>Letters</i> , 1926 (refused) | Herbert L. Block, <i>Cartoon</i> , 1942, 1954 |
| Samuel F. Bemis, <i>History</i> , 1927; <i>Biography</i> , 1950 | |
| Bernadotte E. Schmitt, <i>History</i> , 1931 | |

- | | |
|---|---|
| Carlos P. Romulo, <i>Foreign Correspondence, 1942</i> | Allen Drury, <i>Letters, 1960</i> |
| Howard Hanson, <i>Music, 1944</i> | David Herbert Donald, <i>Biography, 1961</i> |
| Stephen Bonsal, <i>History, 1945</i> | Walter Lippmann, <i>International Reporting, 1962</i> |
| Leo Sowerby, <i>Music, 1946</i> | Joseph A. Livingston, <i>Journalism, 1965</i> |
| Nat S. Finney, <i>Journalism, 1948</i> | Ernest Samuels, <i>Biography, 1965</i> |
| Herbert Elliston, <i>Editorial Writing, 1949</i> | William H. Goetzmann, <i>History, 1967</i> |
| Roy Franklin Nichols, <i>History, 1949</i> | Marquis W. Childs, <i>Journalism, 1969</i> |
| Herman Wouk, <i>Fiction, 1951</i> | Daniel J. Boorstin, <i>History, 1974</i> |
| Merlo J. Pusey, <i>Biography, 1952</i> | |
| Bruce Catton, <i>History, 1954</i> | <i>Writing, 1975</i> |
| Lauren K. Soth, <i>Editorial Writing, 1955</i> | Robert N. Butler, <i>Nonfiction, 1976</i> |
| William S. White, <i>Biography, 1955</i> | Paul Horgan, <i>History, 1976</i> |
| Walter Lippmann, <i>Special Citation, 1958</i> | Carl Sagan, <i>General Nonfiction, 1978</i> |
| Arthur Walworth, <i>Biography, 1958</i> | |

APPENDIX V · RECIPIENTS OF THE COSMOS CLUB AWARD

- 1964 – Elvin C. Stakman, Biologist
 1965 – Henry Allen Moe, Humanist
 1966 – Merle Antony Tuve, Geophysicist
 1967 – McGeorge Bundy, Foundation Executive
 1968 – Samuel Eliot Morison, Historian
 1969 – Robert D. Calkins, Economist
- 1971 – Kenneth Mackenzie Clark, Art Historian
 1972 – Howard A. Rusk, Physician
 1973 – Louis B. Wright, Historian
 1974 – Horace M. Albright, Conservationist
 1975 – Helen Hayes, Actress
 1976 – Roger Tory Peterson, Ornithologist-Artist
 1977 – Archibald MacLeish, Poet
 1978 – Caryl P. Haskins, Biologist

APPENDIX VI · LIKENESSES OF
COSMOS CLUB MEMBERS IN THE
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

- Adler, Felix, member 1917-1929, photograph
 Baird, Spencer Fullerton, founder member - 1887, photograph
 Bartlett, Paul Wayland, member 1914-1925, oil on canvas
 Bell, Alexander Graham, member 1880-1921, marble bust
 Bien, Julius, member 1885-1909, oil on canvas
 Billings, John Shaw, founder member - 1913, photograph
 Collins, Michael, member 1973-, *in* oil painting of Apollo 11 crew
 Compton, Arthur Holly, member 1939-1962, bronze bust
 Davis, John William, member 1922-1940, bronze bust
 Douglas, William Orville, member 1936-1942, ink on paper; etching;
 and pencil on paper
 Evans, Robley Dunglison, member 1883-1901, oil on canvas
 Frankfurter, Felix, member 1913-1940, pencil on paper
 Gilman, Daniel Coit, founder member - 1882, 1903-1905, photograph
 Grinnell, George Bird, member 1914-1933, photograph
 Henderson, John Brooks, member 1906-1913, oil on canvas
 Hill, David Jayne, member 1898-1932, bronze bust
 Holmes, Oliver Wendell, member 1905-1918, two photographs
 Hoover, Herbert Clark, member 1921-1934, two oils on canvas; bronze
 bust; photograph
 Houston, David Franklin, member 1913-1940, oil on canvas
 Hurley, Patrick Jay, member 1938-1963, oil on academy board
 Kettering, Charles Franklin, member 1930-1958, oil on canvas
 Lane, Franklin K., member 1913-1921, oil on canvas
 Lewis, Sinclair, member 1921-1951, charcoal on paper; photograph
 McNamara, Robert Strange, member 1962-, oil on cardboard
 Mellon, Andrew William, member 1921-1935, oil on canvas; terra cotta
 life mask
 Nagel, Charles, member 1909-1927, oil on canvas
 Peary, Robert Edwin, member 1904-1907, photograph
 Penrose, Richard Alexander Fullerton, Jr., member 1889-1897, oil on
 canvas
 Powell, John Wesley, founder member - 1902, oil on canvas
 Reed, Stanley, member 1930-1935, pencil on paper
 Saint-Gaudens, Augustus, member 1904-1907, bronze relief and
 two etchings
 Taft, William Howard, member 1904-1913, oil on canvas; two etchings;
 oil on cardboard
 Tarbel, Edmund Charles, member 1919-1927, oil on canvas

Thomas, Norman, member 1954-1968, cast stone
 Wallace, Henry Agard, member 1933-1949, bronze bust
 Weir, J. Alden, member 1917-1919, plaster
 Wilson, Woodrow, member 1913-1923, two bronze busts; two oils on
 canvas; one oil on linen; one halftone poster
 Wood, Leonard, member 1895-1897, oil on academy board

APPENDIX VII · AGE OF MEMBERS
 AT ELECTION AND AT DEATH,
 1878-1978

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>
20		2	48	18	278	76	123	7
21		2	49	18	316	77	103	13
22		3	50	16	285	78	114	6
23		6	51	19	282	79	101	5
24		8	52	29	271	80	118	4
25	1	15	53	27	265	81	104	2
26		18	54	29	240	82	105	4
27	1	43	55	30	258	83	105	2
28	1	34	56	39	233	84	93	2
29		45	57	39	218	85	65	
30		57	58	58	213	86	74	
31		61	59	61	170	87	73	
32		90	60	56	165	88	59	1
33		83	61	59	140	89	43	
34	1	130	62	88	127	90	50	
35		145	63	73	96	91	45	
36	2	167	64	75	101	92	23	
37	1	162	65	68	96	93	25	
38	5	204	66	93	76	94	15	
39	2	205	67	113	70	95	12	
40		231	68	105	79	96	9	
41	3	238	69	105	42	97	5	
42	5	243	70	104	45	98	5	
43	5	272	71	93	40	99	4	
44	8	278	72	122	18	100	3	
45	10	297	73	121	19	101	2	
46	7	322	74	110	20	103	1	
47	3	315	75	97	16	104	1	

APPENDIX VIII · AGE OF MEMBERS
AT ELECTION AND DEATH, 1878-
1978, AT 10-YEAR INTERVALS

1878-1887

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>					
			55		3	36	6
			56		3	37	9
			57	1	4	38	10
			58	1		39	10
21		1	59		5	40	5
23		2	60		1	41	2
24		4	61		5	42	7
25		2	64		4	43	5
26		2	65		1	44	3
27		7	75		1	45	6
28	10		81	1		46	2
29		3				47	5
30		5				48	1
31		8				49	5
32		5				50	4
33		5	1888-1897			51	4
34		5				52	5
35	11					53	3
36		9	<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>	54	1
37		9				55	3
38		3				57	1
39		5	20		1	58	1
40		5	21		1	60	1
41		7	22		1	61	4
42		3	23		3	62	1
43		4	24		2	63	1
44		7	25		6	64	1
45		6	26		5	65	1
46		7	27		8	66	2
47		3	28		8	67	2
48		2	29		3	68	1
49		2	30		10	69	2
50		4	31		6	70	1
51		4	32		6	71	1
52		3	33		13	73	1
53		3	34		9	75	2
54		5	35		7	76	1

THE COSMOS CLUB

1898-1907			64	2	6	39	18
<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>	65	3	2	40	21
			66	2	3	41	1
			67	3	1	42	1
			68	3	1	43	2
			69	1		44	3
23		1	70	3		45	29
24		1	71	2	1	46	1
25		2	72	3	1	47	23
26		5	73	2	1	48	1
27		7	74	1		49	3
28		6	75	1		50	17
29		12	77	1		51	3
30		12	78	3	1	52	3
31		7	79	1		53	3
32		16	80	1	1	54	2
33		13	81	2		55	3
34	1	17	84	1		56	5
35		14	85	1		57	6
36	1	12				58	3
37		6				59	4
38	1	10				60	3
39		9				61	4
40		15				62	2
41	2	9				63	3
42	1	15				64	5
43		18				65	3
44	1	4	<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>	66	5
45	2	8				67	2
46		18				68	3
47		12	20		1	69	3
48		5	22		1	70	6
49	2	5	24		1	71	3
50		7	25		2	72	5
51	2	1	26		2	73	5
52		9	27		12	74	5
53	1	5	28		4	76	2
54	1	5	29		14	77	7
55	1	6	30		11	78	3
56	1	5	31		11	80	2
57	3	5	32		17	81	1
58	1	5	33		8	82	1
59	6	7	34		18	83	4
60	4	4	35		22	84	3
61	3	2	36		21	87	2
62	2	5	37	1	18	88	1
63	1		38		21	89	2

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1918-1927

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>
25		3
26		4
27		6
28		3
29		9
30		9
31		15
32		18
33		13
34		26
35		29
36	1	28
37		36
38	1	37
39		41
40		34
41		31
42		37
43	1	34
44		35
45	2	41
46	3	28
47	1	29
48	5	29
49	3	40
50	4	29
51	2	28
52	8	21
53	5	26
54	5	19
56	5	20
57	5	18
58	4	11
59	7	11
60	6	14
61	5	10
62	8	11
63	5	4
64	6	8
65	7	9
66	11	6

67	12	4	38	22	
68	7	6	39	23	
69	11	8	40	27	
70	9	5	41	27	
71	8	5	42	1	22
72	10	2	43		31
73	8	1	44		27
74	6	3	45	1	21
75	6	2	46		30
76	9		47	1	27
77	6		48	3	19
78	7		49	1	26
79	8		50	5	18
80	6		51	1	22
81	7		52	2	19
82	4	1	53	7	21
83	2	1	54	6	15
84	3		55	10	12
85	1		56	5	15
86	3		57	3	13
87	1		58	9	10
88	1		59	8	13
89	2		60	8	9
91	1		61	11	10
95	1		62	17	9
97	1		63	15	8
			64	12	2
			65	9	5
			66	12	6
			67	18	9
			68	15	5
			69	11	2
			70	20	5
			71	11	8
			72	15	1
			73	22	1
			74	13	3
			75	9	
			76	12	
			77	12	2
			78	18	1
			79	14	
			80	9	
			81	9	
			82	11	1
			83	5	
			84	10	

1928-1937

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>
22		1
27		3
28		1
29		3
30		4
31		9
32		15
33		6
34		19
35		13
36		19
37		18

			1948-1957		
			<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>
85	3	52	1	33	
86	4	53	4	39	
87	2	54	2	38	
88	2	55	1	44	
89	1	56	3	31	
90	2	57	5	30	
91	4	58	11	31	31
92	1	59	8	14	32
94	1	60	9	12	33
97	1	61	12	23	34
		62	17	23	35
		63	9	8	36
		64	8	10	37
		65	10	11	38
		66	14	9	39
		67	13	5	40
		68	14	11	41
		69	20	5	42
		70	18	2	43
		71	12	3	44
		72	19	3	45
		73	24	3	46
		74	19	1	47
		75	16	1	48
		76	19	2	49
		77	23	1	50
		78	17		51
		79	12		52
		80	14	2	53
		81	19		54
		82	8	1	55
		83	15		56
		84	14	2	57
		85	4		58
		86	10		59
		87	8		60
		88	14		61
		89	3		62
		90	5		63
		91	7		64
		92	1		65
		94	3		66
		99	1		67
					68
					69
					70

1938-1947		
<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>
22		1
28		2
29		1
30		3
31		2
32		7
33		10
34		13
35		16
36		26
37		21
38	1	32
39		26
40		35
41		46
42		46
43		46
44	3	44
45	2	40
46		49
47		51
48	4	50
49	4	43
50	2	34
51	1	37

71	19	6	42	39
72	23	3	43	36
73	17	2	44	44
74	22	3	45	60
75	17	6	46	2
76	34		47	1
77	15	1	48	3
78	12		49	1
79	19	1	50	2
80	30	1	51	5
81	23	1	52	10
82	18		53	6
83	18		54	3
84	18		55	2
85	12		56	7
86	20		57	5
87	14		58	8
88	8		59	10
89	7		60	11
90	6		61	12
91	7		62	10
92	6		63	11
93	4		64	20
94	4		65	12
95	4		66	17
97	1		67	17
98	1		68	20
			69	25
			70	18
			71	16
			72	24
			73	18
			74	21
			75	22
			76	21
			77	12
			78	33
			79	30
			80	23
			81	17
			82	29
			83	29
			84	20
			85	21
			86	22
			87	11
			88	15

1958-1967

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>
30		1
32		2
33		5
34		9
35		10
36		23
37		8
38		20
39		27
40		28
41		34

89	15
90	20
91	11
92	8
93	10
94	3
95	2
96	2
98	2
99	2
100	1
103	1
104	1

1968-1977

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>
30		2
31		1
32		2
33		6
34		8
35		16
36		17
37		23
38		27
39		31
40		36
41		31
42		23
43		49
44		52
45		44
46		61
47		41
48		62
49	2	60
50	2	57
51	1	69
52	2	68
53	1	61
54	5	52

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths at age</i>	<i>No. of elections at age</i>	69	18	11	86	15
			70	20	15	87	36
			71	20	9	88	19
55	6	71	72	20	7	89	13
56	9	77	73	24	6	90	17
57	7	59	74	22	5	91	15
58	7	63	75	24	5	92	7
59	11	50	76	26	3	93	11
60	9	48	77	27	8	94	4
61	2	34	78	20	3	95	4
62	16	31	79	17	2	96	8
63	8	29	80	32		97	2
64	11	24	81	23	1	98	2
65	12	26	82	33	1	99	1
66	16	18	83	32		100	2
67	23	20	84	20		101	2
68	21	18	85	21			

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APPENDIX IX · DEATHS AND
RESIGNATIONS OF MEMBERS,
1878-1978

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of deaths</i>	<i>No. of resignations</i>	<i>% of deaths</i>	<i>% of resignations</i>
1878	0	0	0	0
1879	1		100	
1880	0	0	0	0
1881	0	1	0	100
1882	2	0	100	0
1883	1	3	25	75
1884	2	5	29	71
1885	3	10	23	77
1886	1	9	10	90
1887	3	6	33	67
1888	5	2	71	29
1889	5	10	33	67
1890	4	7	36	64
1891	7	1	88	12
1892	4	6	40	60

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<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of deaths</i>	<i>No. of resignations</i>	<i>% of deaths</i>	<i>% of resignations</i>
1893	4	5	44	56
1894	5	4	56	44
1895	5	6	45	55
1896	7	4	64	36
1897	9	4	69	31
1898	5	4	56	44
1899	9	2	82	18
1900	10	5	67	33
1901	12	5	71	29
1902	17	3	85	15
1903	12	2	86	14
1904	9	2	82	18
1905	7	4	64	36
1906	13	1	93	07
1907	19	1	95	05
1908	18	1	95	05
1909	17	7	71	29
1910	13	2	87	13
1911	13	5	72	28
1912	17	3	85	15
1913	23	8	74	26
1914	20	2	91	09
1915	27	9	75	25
1916	20	5	80	20
1917	25	14	64	36
1918	28	13	68	32
1919	20	9	69	31
1920	29	9	76	24
1921	32	6	84	16
1922	23	14	62	38
1923	37	9	80	20
1924	44	12	79	21
1925	46	10	82	18
1926	38	14	73	27
1927	48	15	76	24
1928	42	18	70	30
1929	41	9	82	18
1930	47	12	80	20
1931	51	29	64	36
1932	67	65	51	49
1933	48	43	53	47
1934	44	19	70	30
1935	57	26	69	31
1936	54	25	68	32
1937	55	23	71	29

THE COSMOS CLUB

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of deaths</i>	<i>No. of resignations</i>	<i>% of deaths</i>	<i>% of resignations</i>
1938	56	25	69	31
1939	50	39	56	44
1940	67	19	78	22
1941	46	23	67	33
1942	60	27	69	31
1943	52	8	87	13
1944	66	4	94	06
1945	59	20	75	25
1946	66	32	67	33
1947	46	16	74	26
1948	61	7	90	10
1949	77	27	74	26
1950	55	12	82	18
1951	60	14	81	19
1952	79	15	84	16
1953	73	13	85	15
1954	57	10	85	15
1955	69	14	83	17
1956	76	15	84	16
1957	67	31	68	32
1958	73	13	85	15
1959	73	23	76	24
1960	69	14	83	17
1961	58	22	73	27
1962	69	12	85	15
1963	59	39	60	40
1964	61	20	75	25
1965	75	21	78	22
1966	100	26	79	21
1967	74	48	61	39
1968	80	37	68	32
1969	77	74	51	49
1970	80	57	58	42
1971	67	93	42	58
1972	86	51	63	37
1973	80	49	62	38
1974	76	98	44	56
1975	59	46	56	44
1976	61	21	74	26
1977	67	26	72	28

APPENDIX X : DISTRIBUTION OF
PROFESSIONAL FIELDS OF MEMBERS,
1878-1978

<i>Professional fields</i>	<i>No. of members</i>	<i>Percent</i>
1 - Agriculture, forestry	351	4
2 - Earth sciences	660	7.55
3 - Health sciences	898	10.25
4 - Military and naval sciences	97	1
5 - Chemistry	679	7.75
6 - Law	867	10
7 - Engineering	717	8.25
8 - Physics	537	6.25
9 - Art	108	1.25
10 - Architecture, city planning	224	2.5
11 - Education	198	2.25
12 - Biological sciences	462	5.25
13 - Aeronautics and space	45	0.5
14 - History, economics, political science	1012	11.5
15 - Journalism, communications, information	480	5.5
16 - Religion and philosophy	135	1.5
17 - Literature, linguistics	115	1.3
18 - Astronomy	48	.55
19 - Mathematics, statistics	164	1.85
20 - Finance and trade	93	1
21 - Industry, labor, transportation	56	0.75
22 - Diplomacy and international relations	151	1.75
23 - Library science	63	0.75
24 - Behavioral sciences	248	2.75
25 - Environmental sciences	122	1.5
26 - Administration and management	108	1.25
27 - Government officials (not otherwise identified)	65	0.75
28 - Miscellaneous (not otherwise classified)	54	0.5

APPENDIX XI · ACADEMIC DEGREES
OF MEMBERS, 1878-1978

<i>Degrees</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
None	579	7.6
B.A., B.S., or equivalent	1349	17.6
M.A., M.S., or equivalent	1085	14.1
LL.B.	457	6.0
LL.M.	72	.9
J.D.	88	1.1
D.D.S.	10	.1
D.V.M.	15	.2
M.D.	684	8.9
Sc.D.	128	1.7
Ph.D.	3177	41.4
LL.D.	12	.2
D.Ed.	16	.2

APPENDIX XII · UNIVERSITIES
AND COLLEGES ATTENDED BY
MEMBERS, 1878-1978, AND AT
10-YEAR INTERVALS

“TOP FIFTY” UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
ATTENDED BY MEMBERS, 1878-1978

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of members</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of members</i>
1. Harvard U.	1178	25. Brown U.	101
2. Columbia U.	647	26. Virginia, U. of	97
3. Yale U.	534	27. Dartmouth C.	95
4. George Washington U.	401	28. Amherst C.	94
5. Chicago, U. of	390	29. California Inst. of Tech.	91
6. Johns Hopkins U.	359	30. Iowa State U.	88
7. Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.	358	31. Washington, U. of	80
8. Cornell U.	337	32. Nebraska, U. of	78
9. Princeton U.	316	33. Iowa, U. of	78
10. Michigan, U. of	314	34. Indiana U.	76
11. California, U. of, Berkeley	272	35. Berlin, U of	75
12. Wisconsin, U. of	270	36. Kansas, U of.	71
13. Pennsylvania, U. of	269	37. Texas, U. of	69
14. None	237	38. Cambridge U.	67
15. Minnesota, U. of	199	39. Pennsylvania State U.	65
16. Illinois, U. of	184	40. Rochester, U. of	62
17. Ohio State U.	151	41. Oberlin C.	62
18. Stanford U.	151	42. Missouri, U. of	60
19. Georgetown U.	135	43. U.S. Naval Academy	59
20. New York U.	134	44. North Carolina, U. of	59
21. Oxford U.	134	45. American U.	56
22. Maryland, U. of	120	46. U.S. Military Academy	56
23. New York, City C. (CUNY)	118	47. Michigan State U.	55
24. Northwestern U.	109	48. Duke U.	55
		49. Cincinnati, U. of	53
		50. Washington U.	51

Albany Law School	2	U.S. Naval Academy	4
Pennsylvania Military C.	2	Virginia, U. of	4
Rochester, U. of	2	Boston U.	4
Ohio State U.	2	Iowa State U.	4
Haverford C.	2	National U., D.C.	4
Lafayette C.	2	Indiana U.	4
U.S. Naval Academy	2	Berlin, U. of	4
Union C., N.Y.	2	Wisconsin, U. of	4
Bowdoin C.	2	Ecole des Beaux-Arts,	
Nebraska, U. of	2	Paris	3
Heidelberg, U. of	2	Paris, U. of	3
Tufts U.	2	Munich, U. of	3
Oxford U.	2	Notre Dame U.	3
Chicago, U. of	2	Hamilton C.	3
Illinois, U. of	2	Tennessee, U. of	3
California, U. of	2	Michigan State U.	3
		Williams C.	3
		Nebraska, U. of	3
		Purdue U.	3
		U.S. Military Academy	3
		Iowa, U. of	3

1898-1907

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of members</i>
Harvard U.	46
None	38
George Washington U.	31
Columbia U.	22
Johns Hopkins U.	21
Yale U.	19
Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.	16
Cornell U.	14
Michigan, U. of	13
Georgetown U.	12
Amherst C.	11
Pennsylvania, U. of	10
Princeton U.	8
Halle-Wittenberg U.	6
Leipzig, U. of	6
Union C., N.Y.	6
New York U.	5
Heidelberg, U. of	5
Maryland, U. of	5
Rochester, U. of	4
Howard U.	4

1908-1917

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of members</i>
Harvard U.	79
None	46
Columbia U.	46
Yale U.	44
George Washington U.	33
Johns Hopkins U.	31
Cornell U.	29
Chicago, U. of	24
Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.	24
Pennsylvania, U. of	22
Michigan, U. of	22
Princeton U.	17
Berlin, U. of	16
Wisconsin, U. of	16
Leipzig, U. of	14
Virginia, U. of	14
Amherst C.	13

Stanford U.	12	California, U. of, Berkeley	19
Georgetown U.	10	Minnesota, U. of	19
California, U. of, Berkeley	10	Amherst C.	18
Brown U.	9	Stanford U.	17
Dartmouth C.	8	Nebraska, U. of	17
U.S. Military Academy	8	Iowa State U.	15
Washington and Lee U.	8	Kansas, U. of	14
Nebraska, U. of	7	Ohio State U.	14
New York, City C.	7	Berlin, U. of	14
Minnesota, U. of	7	Leipzig, U. of	13
Lehigh U.	6	Virginia, U. of	12
Heidelberg, U. of	6	Michigan State U.	12
Northwestern U.	6	Indiana U.	12
Missouri, U. of	6	Brown U.	12
Illinois, U. of	6	New York, City C.	10
Worcester Polytechnic Inst.	5	Dartmouth C.	9
Virginia Military Inst.	5	Lehigh U.	8
Syracuse, U. of	5	Wesleyan U.	8
Kansas State U.	5	New York U.	8
Ohio State U.	5	Tufts U.	8
New York U.	5	Oxford U.	8
Iowa, U. of	5	Polytechnic Inst. of Brooklyn	8
North Carolina, U. of	5	Maryland, U. of	8
Munich, U. of	4	Toronto, U. of	7
		Worcester Polytechnic Inst.	7
		Williams C.	7
	1918-1927		

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of members</i>		<i>No. of members</i>
Harvard U.	152		
Columbia U.	80	<i>Name</i>	
Yale U.	55		<i>No. of members</i>
Chicago, U. of	53	Harvard U.	96
Cornell U.	51	Columbia U.	59
Michigan, U. of	48	George Washington U.	51
George Washington U.	47	Yale U.	43
Johns Hopkins U.	41	Cornell U.	42
Pennsylvania, U. of	39	Chicago, U. of	39
Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.	38	Johns Hopkins U.	36
None	33	Wisconsin, U. of	34
Princeton U.	27	None	28
Illinois, U. of	23	Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.	28
Wisconsin, U. of	22	Pennsylvania, U. of	22
Georgetown U.	20	Michigan, U. of	22

Minnesota, U. of	19	Michigan, U. of	39
Princeton U.	18	Pennsylvania, U. of	37
California, U. of, Berkeley	18	Wisconsin, U. of	37
Iowa State U.	13	Cornell U.	36
Georgetown U.	13	Minnesota, U. of	30
Ohio State U.	12	Illinois, U. of	28
Stanford U.	12	Oxford U.	21
Illinois, U. of	12	None	19
Amherst C.	9	Stanford U.	19
Kansas, U. of	8	Dartmouth C.	18
New York U.	8	Cambridge U.	18
Missouri, U. of	8	Nebraska U.	14
Maryland, U. of	8	Iowa, U. of	14
Virginia, U. of	7	Ohio State U.	13
Williams C.	7	Northwestern U.	13
Oxford U.	7	Georgetown U.	12
Indiana U.	7	Maryland, U. of	12
Brookings Graduate School	6	Cincinnati, U. of	11
Syracuse, U. of	6	Washington U.	10
Massachusetts, U. of	6	Texas, U. of	10
Colorado, U. of	6	Brown U.	10
Wesleyan U.	6	Virginia, U. of	9
Dartmouth C.	6	Iowa State U.	9
Michigan State U.	6	Amherst C.	9
Nebraska, U. of	6	Oberlin C.	9
Oberlin C.	6	American U.	9
Purdue U.	6	Washington, U. of	9
Texas, U. of	6	Hamilton C.	8
Brown U.	6	Colorado, U. of	8
		Pennsylvania State U.	8
		Clark U.	8
		Utah State U.	7

1938-1947

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of members</i>		<i>1948-1957</i>
Harvard U.	161	<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of members</i>
Columbia U.	100	Harvard U.	161
Yale U.	76	Columbia U.	86
Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.	60	Yale U.	68
Chicago, U. of	56	Chicago, U. of	56
Princeton U.	53	Johns Hopkins U.	54
California, U. of, Berkeley	44	Michigan, U. of	48
Johns Hopkins U.	43	Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.	48
George Washington U.	39		

Princeton U.	42	Wisconsin, U. of	64
Cornell U.	42	Johns Hopkins U.	62
Wisconsin, U. of	41	Cornell U.	57
Minnesota, U. of	40	Michigan, U. of	56
George Washington U.	37	George Washington U.	55
California, U. of, Berkeley	35	Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.	55
Ohio State U.	30	Pennsylvania, U. of	44
Illinois, U. of	30	Minnesota, U. of	42
Pennsylvania, U. of	29	Illinois, U. of	39
California Institute of Tech.	25	California Inst. of Tech.	38
Stanford U.	24	Ohio State U.	36
Northwestern U.	19	New York U.	36
Oxford U.	19	Oxford U.	36
New York U.	17	New York, City C. (CUNY)	33
Washington, U. of	17	Northwestern U.	30
Pennsylvania State U.	16	Maryland, U. of	28
Georgetown U.	16	Stanford U.	27
Missouri, U. of	14	Duke U.	22
Brown U.	14	Washington, U. of	21
Iowa, U. of	13	Georgetown U.	20
None	12	Pittsburgh, U. of	19
Iowa State U.	12	Virginia, U. of	18
Maryland, U. of	12	Brown U.	18
Kansas, U. of	11	Iowa State U.	17
London, U. of	11	Dartmouth C.	16
Cincinnati, U. of	10	Pennsylvania State U.	16
Amherst C.	10	Iowa, U. of	16
Indiana U.	10	Berlin, U. of	16
Duke U.	10	Rochester, U. of	15
Rochester, U. of	9	California, U. of, Los Angeles	15
Pittsburgh, U. of	9	Oberlin C.	14
Virginia, U. of	9	Cambridge U.	14
Washington U.	9	North Carolina, U. of	14
Catholic U.	8	Kansas, U. of	13
		Nebraska, U. of	12

1958-1967

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of members</i>
Harvard U.	217
Columbia U.	101
Yale U.	97
Chicago, U. of	80
Princeton U.	73
California, U. of, Berkeley	69

1968-1977

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of members</i>
Harvard U.	219
Columbia U.	129
Yale U.	111

Massachusetts Inst. of Tech.	86	American U.	28
Chicago, U. of	76	Brown U.	27
California, U. of, Berkeley	73	California, U. of, Los Angeles	23
Princeton U.	66	California Inst. of Tech.	23
George Washington U.	61	Georgetown U.	23
Michigan, U. of	56	Rochester, U. of	22
Cornell U.	53	Catholic U.	21
Johns Hopkins U.	52	Dartmouth C.	21
Pennsylvania, U. of	51	Washington, U. of	21
Wisconsin, U. of	47	Cambridge U.	21
New York U.	46	Iowa, U. of	20
New York, City C. (CUNY)	46	North Carolina, U. of	19
Maryland, U. of	43	Duke U.	19
Illinois, U. of	42	Oberlin C.	17
Minnesota, U. of	40	Indiana U.	17
Ohio State U.	39	Syracuse, U. of	16
Stanford U.	37	Rutgers U.	16
Oxford U.	37	Pennsylvania State U.	15
Northwestern U.	30		
Texas, U. of	30		

APPENDIX XIII · BIRTH PLACES OF MEMBERS, 1878-1978

UNITED STATES

	<i>Numbers</i>		
Alabama	45	Georgia	71
Alaska	3	Hawaii	6
Arizona	6	Idaho	21
Arkansas	24	Illinois	466
California	191	Indiana	203
Colorado	79	Iowa	214
Connecticut	134	Kansas	122
Delaware	17	Kentucky	86
District of Columbia	235	Louisiana	41
Florida	27	Maine	79

Maryland	189	Oregon	46
Massachusetts	560	Pennsylvania	554
Michigan	246	Puerto Rico	3
Minnesota	155	Rhode Island	51
Mississippi	54	South Carolina	63
Missouri	181	South Dakota	38
Montana	28	Tennessee	75
Nebraska	82	Texas	133
Nevada	9	Utah	40
New Hampshire	67	Vermont	57
New Jersey	194	Virginia	175
New Mexico	30	Washington	75
New York	1131	West Virginia	46
North Carolina	79	Wisconsin	167
North Dakota	32	Wyoming	13
Ohio	447	Pacific Islands-	
Oklahoma	33	Virgin Islands	0

FOREIGN

	<i>Numbers</i>		
Canada	129	Israel	1
Germany	99	France	21
Czechoslovakia	14	Australia	13
Venezuela	1	Latvia	2
Chile	3	Ecuador	0
Sweden	16	Netherlands	10
Japan	11	India	13
Hungary	25	Argentina	0
Hong Kong	1	Scotland	25
England	112	Philippines	3
Egypt	5	Finland	4
Mexico	7	Turkey	8
Italy	23	Nicaragua	1
Austria	29	Spain	4
Ghana	1	Switzerland	18
Ireland	22	Colombia	1
China	24	Brazil	3
Belgium	7	South Africa	7
Russia	53	Greece	7
Poland	15	Portugal	1
Peru	1	Palestine	2
Lithuania	6	Trinidad	2
Denmark	7	Syria	3

Norway	9	Guatemala	2
Indonesia	0	Thailand	0
Korea	1	At sea	1
New Zealand	5	Haiti	0
Mauritania	0	Jamaica	1
Estonia	1	Gibraltar	1
Yugoslavia	4	Lebanon	2
Wales	3	Dominican Republic	1
Panama	1	Arabia	1
Liberia	0	Mauritius	1
Iraq	2	Ceylon	1
Cuba	3	Honduras	1
Romania	7	Canal Zone	0
Dutch Guiana	1	Cambodia	0
Iceland	1	Saudi Arabia	0
St. Thomas	1	Armenia	1
Iran	1	West Indies	0

APPENDIX XIV - PLACES OF
RESIDENCE OF MEMBERS AT TIME
OF ELECTION, 1878-1978

UNITED STATES

	<i>Numbers</i>		
Alabama	6	Hawaii	8
Alaska	3	Idaho	1
Arizona	12	Illinois	198
Arkansas	3	Indiana	37
California	232	Iowa	19
Colorado	29	Kansas	10
Connecticut	100	Kentucky	18
Delaware	12	Louisiana	20
District of Columbia	2999	Maine	5
Florida	29	Maryland	1128
Georgia	16	Massachusetts	316

Michigan	78	Pennsylvania	257
Minnesota	49	Puerto Rico	5
Mississippi	3	Rhode Island	6
Missouri	47	South Carolina	11
Montana	1	South Dakota	0
Nebraska	8	Tennessee	37
Nevada	5	Texas	70
New Hampshire	16	Utah	4
New Jersey	133	Vermont	3
New Mexico	24	Virginia	642
New York	644	Washington	22
North Carolina	60	West Virginia	10
North Dakota	6	Wisconsin	39
Ohio	90	Wyoming	4
Oklahoma	9	Pacific Islands-	
Oregon	14	Virgin Islands	0

FOREIGN

	<i>Numbers</i>		
Canada	12	Israel	0
Germany	2	France	7
Czechoslovakia	0	Australia	0
Venezuela	3	Latvia	0
Chile	0	Ecuador	1
Sweden	0	Netherlands	1
Japan	1	India	0
Hungary	0	Argentina	2
Hong Kong	0	Scotland	0
England	13	Philippines	3
Egypt	0	Finland	1
Mexico	4	Turkey	0
Italy	0	Nicaragua	2
Austria	0	Spain	0
Ghana	0	Switzerland	1
Ireland	0	Colombia	1
China	2	Brazil	5
Belgium	0	South Africa	0
Russia	0	Greece	1
Poland	0	Portugal	0
Peru	0	Palestine	0
Lithuania	0	Trinidad	1
Denmark	0	Syria	0

Norway	0	Guatemala	0
Indonesia	1	Thailand	2
Korea	0	At sea	0
New Zealand	0	Haiti	1
Mauritania	1	Jamaica	0
Estonia	0	Gibraltar	0
Yugoslavia	0	Lebanon	1
Wales	0	Dominican Republic	0
Panama	4	Arabia	0
Liberia	1	Mauritius	0
Iraq	0	Ceylon	0
Cuba	0	Honduras	0
Romania	0	Canal Zone	1
Dutch Guiana	0	Cambodia	1
Iceland	0	Saudi Arabia	1
St. Thomas	0	Armenia	0
Iran	0	West Indies	1

APPENDIX XV · SUMMARY OF
WASHINGTON-AREA ZIP-CODED
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES OF
RESIDENT MEMBERS, 1978

20001	1	20021	1	20729	2
20002	3	20022	2	20731	2
20003	7	20023	1	20740	5
20006	1	20024	7	20753	2
20007	120	20031	2	20759	1
20008	150	20034	89	20760	9
20009	18	20036	8	20766	2
20010	4	20037	34	20767	2
20011	10	20607	2	20770	1
20012	9	20628	1	20776	1
20013	1	20630	1	20781	1
20014	70	20657	1	20782	12
20015	176	20659	1	20783	2
20016	223	20676	2	20784	2
20017	1	20705	3	20795	22
20020	1	20715	1	20801	2

THE COSMOS CLUB

20810	2	22020	1	22180	11
20850	8	22030	5	22201	6
20852	17	22031	2	22202	16
20853	2	22041	10	22203	3
20854	38	22042	4	22204	4
20860	1	22043	3	22205	6
20869	1	22044	4	22206	1
20881	1	22046	6	22207	57
20901	13	22066	6	22209	7
20902	7	22070	2	22210	1
20903	14	22075	2	22213	3
20904	9	22080	3	22301	3
20906	28	22090	6	22302	7
20907	2	22091	7	22304	6
20910	16	22092	1	22305	4
20975	1	22101	47	22306	1
21001	1	22110	1	22307	13
21012	1	22115	1	22308	6
21028	1	22117	2	22309	3
21029	1	22124	2	22310	2
21401	6	22150	1	22311	6
21403	5	22151	4	22313	1
22003	11	22152	2	22314	17
22012	1	22176	1		

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Beginning the Second Century 1979-1994



THE COSMOS CLUB OF WASHINGTON: BEGINNING THE SECOND CENTURY, 1978-1994

OVERVIEW

INSTITUTIONS change over time, even institutions as solidly built and firmly embedded in tradition as the Cosmos Club. When the Cosmos Club celebrated its centennial in 1978, those foundations and traditions, while buffeted by occasional squalls, remained substantially unchanged. In the ten following years the Club went through what can be legitimately called “the turbulent years,” culminating in a radical change of Club policy in 1988. The six years since that time, in contrast, have been marked by a recovery and resurgence remarkable in character. This addendum to the Club History attempts to describe the most significant aspects of these changes.

In a fateful meeting on June 18, 1988, “the women issue” was settled, and women became eligible for membership in the Club. The change was immediately evident, not only in the timbre of the voices heard around the Club, but in the cheerier, more peaceful atmosphere. Women have moved easily and naturally into various aspects of Club life, such as participation in committee work. Judith Martin ('88), known for her “Miss Manners” column in the *Washington Post*, in a talk at the Club’s 113th birthday party, congratulated the Club on the way it took in women “wholeheartedly, in numbers rather than tokens, and with a special accelerated program that allowed us to participate right away in committee work.” Mrs. Martin also noted that some of the new friends she had made at the Club had been “vehemently opposed to admitting women to the Club,” but “were gracious enough to add that now they can’t remember or imagine why.”



Janet Norwood ('88) at the New Members' Reception, October 1988.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, 1972-1983

We may now review as history the issue that threatened the very existence of the Cosmos Club. A petition to admit women members was first circulated among Club members on March 10, 1971, by Professor Carl Bode of the University of Maryland. A "Steering Committee for the Admission of Women" was soon set up with Louis Joughin as secretary and with members such as David T. Stanley. After meeting with Club officials in 1972, the group decided to submit a proposed amendment at the annual meeting in January 1973 to substitute the words "men and women" for the word "men" in the bylaw governing membership. Votes in annual meetings in 1973 and again in 1975 turned down the proposal, though the requirement that women enter the Club by a separate entrance was removed.

The dilemma facing the Club was the product of several circumstances. In 1878, the scientific community from which the Cosmos Club drew its membership was almost exclusively male. The literary and artistic community from which the Club secondarily drew its membership was also virtually all male. In the hundred years after 1878, however, women gradually assumed roles of leadership and achievement first in those areas of knowledge where the Club drew its secondary membership, and ultimately in the sciences from which its principal membership derived. As other categories of potential membership – particularly from the ranks of government and professions such as medicine and the law – became more representative of the female as well as male population, the appropriateness of Club rules regarding membership came increasingly into question.

If one had the requisite scholarly or artistic background, should gender be cause for disqualification from membership in a club of scholars and artists? The answer, according to members opposed to any change, was that the original intent of the organizers was to limit membership to men, and that restriction should not be altered. Secondly, the Cosmos Club was a club, which meant that social compatibility was as important as scholarly achievement. That compatibility would, it was asserted, be challenged by the admission of women. The long tradition of gentlemen's clubs, in which men could enjoy each others' company without the intrusion of women or outsiders, was seen as justification enough for the continuation of the tradition. Traditionalists also felt justified by the belief that a majority of Club members were comfortable with the Club's character as a gentlemen's club, and saw no reason to change, indeed every reason not to change, at the instance of an aggressive minority.

Proponents of the admission of women asserted that not all the founding documents specified male gender as a necessary qualification for membership, and that had the Founders lived in an era when women were scientists as well as homemakers, they might well have been included. Further, they urged, the Cosmos Club, while a club, was "not just a social club" but a group organized in the form of a club to facilitate informal interaction of individuals with similar scholarly interests.

Despite the failure to admit women in 1973 and 1975 (by decisive margins of 57% to 42% and 66% to 33%) the issue did not die. An "Ad Hoc Committee of Concerned Members of the Cosmos Club" was formed in 1980 (the ad hoc designation was dropped on January 10, 1981, when Samuel P. Hayes succeeded Alan Campbell as chairman), to promote the cause of the admission of qualified women. In November 1980, the committee, after unsuccessfully pressing the Club to do a survey, conducted its own survey of the 3186 members then on the Club's mailing list. With an initial 62% response it reported that 40% favored admission and 58% were opposed. The younger and more recently elected members (post-1965) appeared to favor the admission of women, while those elected before 1965 tended to be opposed. On November 3, 1980, sixteen past presidents of the Club, organized as a group called "Past Presidents United to Preserve the Cosmos Club," released a statement actively opposing those challenging Club policy, and saw a "disturbing element of threat" in the "present assault" on Club policy. They cited, in arguing against change, the "costly and extensive alterations of the clubhouse, massive resignations . . . [and] the prospect of epic confusion of male-member and spouse, female-member and spouse, and their guests."

Events outside the Club, although only indirectly related to the Club, began to throw their shadow on Club policy. In March 1980, the Judicial Conference of the United States endorsed "the principle that it is inappropriate for a judge to hold membership in an organization that practices invidious discrimination," a ruling that caused the Senate Judiciary Committee, before acting on presidential nominations for judgeships, to ascertain whether nominees belonged to clubs that excluded women from membership.

The battle over membership in the Club, thus rejoined in 1980, raged for several years with increasing irritation on both sides. In the 1982 election to the Board of Management, two petition candidates were proposed by the Committee of Concerned Members of the Cosmos Club to contend with six regularly nominated candidates for three Board vacancies. The Committee supporters concentrated their

votes on the two petition candidates, who received 40% of the votes cast and were duly elected. The sixteen Past Presidents described the action as "surreptitiously promoted by a minority of members," and as part of a "secret plan" to alter the character of the Club. In the 1983 elections, the Committee on Nominations proposed only three candidates for the three open positions as at-large members of the Board. This time the three opposing candidates nominated by the Committee of Concerned Members received 38% of the votes cast and were defeated.

An attempt at a rapprochement, early in 1983, between the Board of Management and the Concerned Members, to avoid an unseemly contest at the 1984 election, failed. Indeed, the lines seemed to become more clearly drawn after a group - "Members for the Cosmos Club (To uphold its precepts and traditions)" formed in 1982 under the leadership of A. F. Spilhaus, Jr. - on November 22, 1983, wrote all the candidates, asking for their views on membership policy with a view to disseminating their answers widely to the electorate prior to the election.

By this time women as well as men, members and non-members, were debating the Club's membership policy, and the debate could not be contained within the walls of the Club despite the Club's policy that all Club matters were private and off limits to the press. Barbara W. Tuchman, winner of the Cosmos Club Award for 1983 (the Club's premier award, which was never limited to members of the Club or of the male sex), inadvertently allowed her acceptance remarks, which spoke of the Club's "ridiculous bias against half the human race," to be published in the *Washington Post*, further fanning the flames.

During this period, men's clubs were coming under attack in other cities as well, most notably in New York and London, initially as a result of internal divisions within clubs such as the Century Club of New York and the Garrick Club of London. The internal debates in American clubs soon acquired an external dimension as activists - both within and outside of the clubs - urged action by local governments effectively to redefine most private clubs as places of public accommodation, and thereby subject them to a wide range of

civil rights requirements. In the Washington area and nationally, the Cosmos Club was seen as a particularly inviting target because of the unique element of merit and achievement in the Club's nomination and election process. For this reason, and because of a vocal group of dissidents pressing the issue from within, journalists began to treat the Club as "Ground Zero" in the war. Other clubs, such as the Metropolitan Club (all male) and the Sulgrave Club (all female), could remain aloof and uninvolved while the public debate focused on the Cosmos Club's membership policy.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN: CRISIS, 1984-1987

The crisis at the Cosmos Club intensified in late 1984 and early 1985. A memorandum to the membership of November 30, 1984 reported on the efforts of the Board of Management to resolve the differences between opposing factions. It first of all noted that an Ad Hoc Committee, appointed on April 4, 1984, "to consider a course of action to defuse the issue," and which had received over 250 letters from members, had submitted separate majority and minority reports. The letters from members were forceful alternatively in their expressions of approval or dismay at the traditional policy of the Club. One Club member warned that "The object of a democratic society is not to 'defuse' opinion but to ensure its free expression." Others felt that a club could not be a club without some degree of unity of purpose and self-restraint.

The Board, disconcerted by references in a mailing of the Concerned Members in which its supporters were urged "not to resign yet" but to wait until after a vote on the women question had been taken, stated, in the November 30 memorandum, that "men who cannot in good conscience accept membership in a men's social club, or who would be (or are) embarrassed by such membership, should not become (or remain) members of the Cosmos Club," a conclusion that, in its turn, disconcerted some who considered it

condescending and felt it ignored the right of members of an organization to change its character. The Board's view that "discussion of this issue in Club publications would serve only to heighten debate and increase divisiveness" further irritated those who opposed existing Club policy.

The Board of Management decided to take a step beyond merely expressing its views on the controversy. In a May 10, 1985, Memorandum on Cosmos Club Membership Policy, it announced a new policy on admissions by which any nominee for membership in the Cosmos Club would be asked to sign a statement "affirming that he is aware that the Cosmos Club is a men's club, that such fact will not embarrass him, and that he has no present intention to work actively to change it." (The latter clause was withdrawn by the Board on August 6, 1985.)

The May 10 Memorandum enabled the dissidents to transform the membership debate into something more: indeed, despite the Board's denial of any such intention or meaning, they now raised the issue of free speech within the Club and the imposition of what some characterized as a "loyalty oath" for members or potential members.

Against a background of increasingly sharp exchanges between the Concerned Members and the Board of Management, the Board on August 6, 1985 addressed a disciplinary letter to Samuel Hayes. Hayes defended, resorting at this point to the use of legal counsel. The Board subsequently passed a resolution officially cautioning him.

These events stimulated a new "Coalition to Uphold the Bylaws and Free Speech in the Cosmos Club," which, on October 29, 1985, called for a meeting on November 26 to discuss a possible counter move. The Past Presidents United to Preserve the Cosmos Club (this time thirteen in number), came forward in support of the Board's action with a communication of November 20, 1985 attacking a "small band of militant members" as "in effect an outside activist group operating within the Club, performing like a club within a club for hostile purposes."

The antagonisms evident in the debate at this time were reflected in the contested elections of January 21, 1985 and January

21, 1986, in which candidates reflecting the sentiments of those favoring the admission of women and opposing the actions taken by the Board challenged the official slate. Some members now complained that the Board was attempting to change the Club's admissions process without amending the applicable Bylaws, and, at the same time, suppressing freedom of opinion and expression. Although the official candidates triumphed by roughly a 54% to 46% margin in both elections, the margin was noticeably smaller than the roughly 62% to 38% margin in the elections of 1983 and 1984. The election of January 21, 1986, in which 1070 ballots were cast (almost double the number cast in 1985), strikingly revealed the divisions within the Club. The members entrusted control of the Board to the official slate at the 1986 annual meeting, but voted to reverse the cautionary resolution against Hayes and to overturn the May 10, 1985 "loyalty oath" Memorandum.

A new voice in support of the Club's membership policy emerged in the fall of 1986 in a series of six newsletters entitled "The Cosmos Club Papers," written by a member under the pen name "Gandalf," a reference to the Wizard Gandalf in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. The first issue of the "Gandalf Papers," as they came to be known informally, quoted extensively from James Madison's argument in *The Federalist Papers* on the problem of factions. "Are we the 'faction' or are they the faction?" Gandalf mused. "Are we dividing the Club or are they dividing the Club?" Throughout the six issues of the Gandalf Papers the central issue was presented not as membership but rather "the preservation or destruction of the Club's character." Gandalf insisted on the "necessity of one and only one definition" and that was of a social club for men. When some urged allowance of absentee balloting on the membership question, Gandalf declined to take a position on the subject, but proposed that the subject be debated at a one-day meeting of members, which was, in fact, held in April 1987. Gandalf's own view was evident in his assertion that the Cosmos Club was a "Washington Club" and its "governance should be in the hands of those who bear the burden of its maintenance and character."

The tone of the Gandalf Papers was generally one of graceful and often humorous literary allusions to Sophocles, Pirandello, Mark Twain, and others, but occasionally it was spiked with allusions to "subversion," "the blood of innocents," and other references to the "underground war" being carried on by those agitating for the admission of women. Gandalf's examples were sometimes colorful, as when, in arguing that in a Bridge Club one does not constantly lobby for poker, he went on to add that "you shouldn't join a club for horses if you are a jackass," and vice versa. Gandalf defended his decision to remain anonymous as governed by the desire to "divorce our arguments from personalities."

Local attacks on the Club intensified in the summer of 1986, apparently abetted in some instances by members: renewal of the Club's liquor license was blocked on challenges by several groups, and a complaint was filed in the D.C. Office of Human Rights by two local professors citing a "source who wishes to remain anonymous" for detailed non-public information about the Club. In August the Office of Human Rights initiated a proceeding directed at the Club under provisions of the Human Rights Act proscribing discriminatory practices on the basis of sex. In September a zoning variance was denied that would have allowed the Club to lease the former French Military Mission building pending Club utilization, as had been planned when the property was acquired the previous year.

Then, in March 1987 the "Nathanson Bill" (introduced by D. C. Council member James E. Nathanson), modelled on a recent New York ordinance, was introduced as an amendment to the D.C. Human Rights Act which narrowly limited the exemption from the Act for private clubs. It was adopted by the District in December 1987 after public hearings in which a member's statement was submitted opposing the Club's official position.

In November 1987 the D. C. Office of Human Rights ruled that the Club was in probable violation of the Human Rights Act because of its single-sex membership policy. While acknowledging that the Cosmos Club was a private club, it concluded that the Club was not distinctly private, and therefore not exempted from the regulations

governing public accommodations. The ruling asserted that even if there was an infringement upon Cosmos Club members' right to intimate and expressive association it was justified because it served a "compelling interest" of the District of Columbia to eliminate discrimination against women.

In the conciliation process that followed, in accordance with the procedures of the Human Rights Act, the complainants aggressively sought to extract quick and harsh penalties from the Club. The Club's representatives were ultimately successful in enabling the Club to take, at its own time and in its own way, actions that would satisfy the Office of Human Rights.

The continuing legal challenges to Club policy during this period clearly threatened the Club's future. The legal fees of outside counsel to defend against the multiple challenges were high, as much as \$10,000 a month in the initial stages. In the later stages legal advice was given *gratis* when Lee Loevinger, who spent untold hours dealing with an unending flurry of motions and counter motions, became the Club's principal representative in this arduous work. In addition to the legal burden, the Club was being denied the rental income it might have obtained from the former French Military Mission had the exception to the zoning restrictions not been thwarted.

Another attempt to resolve Club differences on the membership question, "in the interest of harmony," at a Special Meeting of the Club on April 25, 1987, was unsuccessful. Although several resolutions relating to the issues dividing the Club were debated and voted upon, few minds were changed and the gap between the two sides remained.

A chance remained that the Club, if it so desired, could retain its single-sex membership policy despite the efforts of forces inside and outside the Club demanding change. Some officers of the Club held onto that possibility. Their thought was that the Supreme Court, in the case of *New York State Club Association v. City of New York*, might uphold a right of free association or a right of privacy for single-sex private clubs, as asserted by the New York State Club Association. Oral arguments in the case were scheduled for February

23, 1988, and a decision was expected in the summer of 1988.

In the months prior to the accession of Tedson J. Meyers to the presidency of the Club in May 1988 it was clear that the Club was hopelessly deadlocked. Efforts to keep the "women issue" a "family matter," to be solved without rancor, had clearly failed. The press feasted on the debate. Repeated publication of private Club information in the *Washington Post* seemed to be *prima facie* evidence of the validity of the charge that at least some who opposed the Club's membership policy were responsible for the "leaks." Although clearly due in part to the physical disruption of the Club's ongoing renovation project, Club income was falling with a decline in new members and an increase in resignations. Tedson Meyers concluded that the Club was not warring against some outside force; it was warring against itself, and in the process was unwittingly tearing itself apart. Though the Board had adopted a resolution on May 27, 1986, to permit the editor of the *Cosmos Club Bulletin* to publish a Supplement in which discussion of matters of interest to Club members could be aired, some still felt that the discussion was bottled up. Four communications were published at that time, one being the Club's official statement on the Nathanson bill amending the D. C. Human Rights law, passage of which would have heightened the Club's vulnerability to being classified as a public accommodation.

But the Board of Management was not as adamant as it might have seemed. By the fall of 1987 more than one Board member had concluded that a change in the membership rules was needed. This may have "broken the ice," as one member put it, and the conditions for a reconsideration of the issue were thus laid. The Board, under President John B. Farmakides, appointed a Committee on Options chaired by Meyers, which, after considering various alternatives, such as moving the Club to Virginia, recommended the admission of women as the most appropriate alternative. The prospect of continued warfare, both internal and external, and the difficulty of overcoming a likely adverse determination of the District's Office of Human Rights were clearly influencing the Board members, as they

pondered alternatives. They were also influenced by oral arguments on February 23, 1988, before the Supreme Court, when the case of *New York State Club Association v. City of New York* was heard. After listening to the questions asked by the justices of those arguing the case, one of the Board members attending noted that the "feeling hit both of us at the same time, and with a real sense of certainty," that the Cosmos Club needed to settle the membership question as soon as possible and before the Supreme Court decided the New York case.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN;
RESOLUTION, 1988

About a month before he became president in May of 1988, Meyers called 40 influential members of the Club, one after the other, saying that he proposed, when he became president, to bring the women membership issue to a resolution in a way that he hoped would heal rather than allow the wounds to continue to fester. He had reached the judgment in his own mind, as had most of the Club's leadership, that the Club should admit women. Emphasizing that he was not insisting on a particular result, Meyers asked each of these members whether he could count on his support if Meyers pursued an approach to lay out the issue for decision and begin a healing process, and virtually all agreed.

Helping Meyers was the fact that, like many members known as conservatives on the issue, he was not hostile to the aspirations of women to join the Club, although he accepted the validity of a men's club. But he had seen that the way in which various partisans had dealt with the issue had created ill will, and believed that explication of the realities facing the Club would enable the Club, for its own reasons, to come to a resolution one way or another. In his remarks on assuming the presidency at the end of the May 7, 1988, annual meeting, he stated that the issue was not whether the Cosmos Club might remain a club for men, but whether it should remain a club for men. Meyers asserted that the decision should be made in the

clubhouse, after full and open debate, in the light of all the circumstances, and not in a courthouse. Whatever the outcome, he promised to support it.

As part of the plan for the Club to keep the decision in its own hands, Club officials sought to neutralize the increasingly intrusive outside interference with the decision process. They met with officials of the Human Rights office of the District of Columbia and persuaded that office to withhold any action while the Club thrashed out the matter. Otherwise, they pointed out, the Club would seem to be yielding to pressure, which would negate the possibility of the Club considering and deciding the issue on its merits. An agreement was spelled out in a "Memo of Conciliation" of May 8, 1988, which noted that a series of meetings between May 10 and June 14 to discuss the issue had been scheduled, along with a culminating special meeting of the Club, on June 18, 1988, to vote on the women membership question.

Meyers also met with the dissidents, working behind the scenes, as well as openly, to convince both sides of his sincerity. Most members understood that it was necessary to staunch the Club's self-inflicted wounds, and that establishing a different framework for discussion of the issue was essential.

A critical aspect of Meyers' tactical plan was to set up a series of six preliminary forums, at which the arguments for and against the women issue could be discussed in advance of a more formal vote at a later general meeting. A seventh forum was added for wives and widows of members. Earlier efforts to deal with the women question had attempted to combine at a single meeting both the desire of many members to speak and the process of voting itself, with the result that tempers were exacerbated, bodies exhausted, and time for reflection limited.

To implement this idea the Board created an "Ad Hoc Committee on Article I Forums" in April 1988 and appointed Scott R. Schoenfeld to head the committee. The committee prepared and issued a confidential "Resource Paper for Forum Topics" on May 4, 1988. It envisioned four categories of issues to be addressed at each

forum: history, legalistics, options, and the future. Points and data were provided to those addressing the forums and a format for presentation was carefully laid out. Co-chairmen – some of whom previously had represented opposing points of view – and, in some cases, respondents and rapporteurs, were appointed. Each forum was limited to two hours, the bulk of the time to be devoted to discussion and commentary from the floor. The perception of the purpose of the forums varied with the members and their views as to whether the Club would (in the case of those convinced that the change would come) or should (in the case of those still in doubt) admit women: those closest to the leadership saw the purpose to provide convincing arguments to those already persuaded and to persuade those still reluctant to accept change.

On May 26, 1988, while the forums were underway, the Board of Management issued a dramatic memorandum to Club members declaring its unanimous support for the proposed change in Article I, Section 1, of the Club Bylaws so that it would read “This Club shall be composed of individuals of distinction, character and sociability (a) who . . .” The proposed change had been announced at the May 7, 1988 Annual Meeting as the subject of the June 18 special meeting. The Members for the Cosmos Club, which had come to see the change to admit women as necessary to the Club’s survival, weighed in with its powerful support in a mailing to all members on June 10.

The 1988 vote on the women issue was held on June 18, because John Wesley Powell, the Club’s founder, recorded in his diary that on June 18, 1869 he found himself trapped perilously on a ledge high in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River unable to go up or down. In order to save himself, Powell, who had lost an arm in the Civil War, had to shift his only hand to catch the trousers of a companion dangled from the ledge above him. Meyers saw Powell’s predicament as analogous to that of the Cosmos Club in that, trapped in a situation where it was almost impossible to go forward or backward, it had to take decisive action to resolve the dilemma.

When, at the June 18th meeting, the vote (a standing vote) to amend the membership clause was called for from the floor by Walter E.

Washington, former mayor of Washington, the results were overwhelming: 774 for the admission of women, 14 opposed, and 12 abstentions, a better than 98% affirmative vote in favor of an action that had been consistently turned down in the past. Although the result was expected, its near unanimity stunned the members.

The historic vote on Saturday, June 18, 1988 was followed by a second innovation: a press conference outside the Garden Dining Room to announce the results of the meeting to the press. Meyers recognized that in Washington there are no secrets and no privacy, even in the White House. Rather than standing on the private character of Club business, he attempted to put the Club in the best possible light with the media by explaining its decision frankly, authoritatively, and in a timely manner. In this press conference he reiterated his belief that the Club's membership policy should be decided in the clubhouse and not in the courthouse.

The Cosmos Club's decision preceded the announcement of another vote: that of the Supreme Court on Monday, June 20, in the New York Club case. The Supreme Court's unanimous vote rejecting the New York State Club Association's facial challenge to the constitutionality of the New York club law would, in all likelihood, have made the Cosmos Club's debate on the issue superfluous had it preceded, rather than followed, the Cosmos Club vote. By issuing its decision when it did, the Supreme Court seemed to give greater significance to the Cosmos Club decision as the product of the Club's own internal debate rather than of outside coercion.

Some members expressed regret that the era of gentlemen's clubs, as they had known them, seemed now at an end. But whether they saw the change as caused by the changing character of the membership (too many lawyers and administrators and not enough scientists, in the opinion of more than one) or of coercive forces in the world around them, virtually all accepted the change with grace and credited the presidents, John Farmakides and Tedson Meyers, who had guided the Club through the difficult period of change.

RESURGENCE AND REVITALIZATION, 1988-1994

Since the resolution of "the women issue" and the end of the contentiousness associated with that debate, there has been a surge in activities at the Club. The annual report for 1989 did not exaggerate when it described the 111th year of the Club as one of "unprecedented vitality." Both sides in the debate had seen the need to "revitalize" the Club, although they differed on the means by which it should be brought about. The Club has seen sharp increases in the use of its dining facilities, in part because of the resolution of the women question, and in part because of the upgrading of physical facilities that was completed in early 1991.

Architect George E. Hartman, Jr., when Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee in 1986, outlined the ambitious plans that culminated, five years later, in the physical re-creation of the Club. First order of business was the need to relocate the kitchen from the northeast corner of the building, where the ancient floor supports had been rotted by decades of seepage, to a more serviceable position adjacent to the dining rooms and auditorium. The Heroy Room and fountain area were projected to be relocated and combined to create an enhanced new Heroy Room. Improved acoustics and a new skylight were planned for the Garden Dining Room, and the Smith Room was built to anchor the east end of the dining area. A proper First Floor Bar was envisioned, adjacent to the East Garden, patterned on that in the Old Members' Dining Room on the second floor. Undergirding these immediately noticeable changes were provisions for enlarging the kitchen areas, improving access for members and service from the rear parking areas, and incorporating new lavatories for women.

The renovations to the kitchen were completed early in March 1988. An "Open House" to celebrate completion of the entire project was held on March 2, 1991. As the Cosmos Club *Bulletin* put it, the sculpted fountain that formerly graced the downstairs dining room "now . . . stands reincarnated in all its bubbling glory as the main feature of the new Heroy Room." The most striking features of the

new installation were the sense of light and openness, extending from the West to the East Gardens, the elegance of the columned corridors leading to the several entrances to the dining room, and the general air of refinement, highlighted by the re-encased Spode china originally loaned by the late Rudolf E. Schoenfeld ('52).

Enthusiasm for continuing the work carried through to the renovation of the Powell Auditorium, now more easily served from the revamped kitchen, although the auditorium had not been included in the original plans. Complementing the enhanced elegance of the downstairs dining room, the upstairs dining room, benefiting from a remodeled second-floor kitchen, and following a trend among clubs with two dining rooms, was set aside as a grill room, devoted to informal dining for those in a greater hurry.

The cases that previously had contained the Spode china were removed in December 1992 from the two large doorways between the Warne Lounge and the newspaper room. The opened doorways recreated the dramatic vistas and perspectives of the original design, and the doorways now may be closed during concerts or private functions. The refurnishing of the Warne Lounge was completed in April 1992.

Major credit for the building renovation must go to two previous presidents, architect George Hartman, who chaired the original Planning Committee, and saw much of the renovation through during his period as president, and John Farmakides, who, on assuming the role of president of the Club in 1987, listed the rebuilding and renovation project as his principal objective. The "Clerk of the Works," Thomas B. Owen, bore the heavy burden of seeing the actual construction through to its successful completion, working with project architect David H. Condon and the Club General Manager. Overall cost of the renovation excluding the Powell Auditorium was approximately \$7.2 million, of which \$5.4 million was funded by long term bank financing and the remainder by Club and related sources including the Capital Campaign.

With the reconstitution and improvement of the Club's physical character, there has been an increased focus upon the quality of the

food, and a greater willingness to express opinions about it. The Club's gustatory offerings have seen an extraordinary renewal.

The educational offerings of the Club, through its meetings of associated groups, publications, and lectures, provide an intellectual feast for all who wish to take advantage of it. Indeed, President John Farmakides was justified in claiming in his President's Report in April 1987 that "our Club has more programs and activities than any other such club in the world." Especially since the reconstruction of the Club and resolution of the membership debate, there has been a sharp increase in attendance at Club programs, such as the Tuesday Noon Forums and Thursday Evening Lectures, with speakers drawn from the Club's array of talented members. Other activities, such as the Book Discussion Group, Book-and-Author Suppers, Great Issues Roundtable, and concerts, reflect this expanded interest. New activities have developed, including the Cosmos Club Travel Group, which began its successful excursions by retracing part of John Wesley Powell's trip down the Colorado River; the Computer Group, which has caused the room in which the Club's venerable television set is located to be ringed on all sides by computers; a Chess Group, and a revitalized Bridge Group. This increased activity has been reflected in the growing bulk of the Cosmos Club *Bulletin*, which is bursting with the multifaceted activities of the Club. Anyone familiar with the previous slim character of the *Bulletin* will note the great difference.

One of the most daring projects of the Club, introduced as a Club project during the 1989 Board of Management offsite retreat, took shape in 1991 with the publication of a Club journal entitled *Cosmos, A Journal of Emerging Issues*. Lester Tanzer devoted his extraordinary editorial skills to bringing the project to fruition. The journal is able to tap the rich harvest of lectures by Club members and others as a source for its articles. One article, suggesting a more cautious approach toward greenhouse warming, created a storm when a proponent of the opposing view asserted that the late Roger Revelle, one of the authors of the article, had been pressured by his co-author to join in a more cautious and moderate position than he really felt on

the subject of global warming. Vice President Albert Gore had invoked Revelle – his former teacher at Harvard – in support of his more apocalyptic views on the subject. While the issue was in litigation in a Massachusetts court, the co-author won retraction and an apology from the critic.

The second number of *Cosmos* was issued in May 1992, the third in 1993, and the fourth in 1994. The publication has met with a continuing favorable reaction.

The articles of incorporation of the Cosmos Club in 1878 provided for “the acquisition and maintenance of a library,” and 47 volumes and a few periodicals were assembled by the end of the first year. Today, the library contains more than 7,000 volumes and 150 periodicals, and is maintained in good order by an efficient staff librarian, Mrs. Lura Young. The Club has boasted among its members, since its founding in 1878, every Librarian of Congress except one, an individual who died in 1897 after serving for only a year and a half. The quality of the Cosmos Club library is not to be wondered at, considering the oversight provided by some of the Club’s distinguished members, past and present, several of whom are at present classified as “librarians.”

Not the least significant sign of the expanding vitality of the Club is the recently installed exercise facility in the Clubhouse annex. Long a will-o’-the-wisp of Club planning, it has now become a reality.

A measure of the love of members for the Club and its clubhouse is the extraordinary extent to which they have contributed to several funds associated with the Club. The Cosmos Club Historic Preservation Foundation was granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service on February 10, 1987. As of November 30, 1994 the Foundation had collected more than \$516,000, which has been used to repair the building structure and facade, to repair the Fontana del Tacca fountain in the East Garden, to prepare a historic structures report of the Townsend Mansion, to collect copies of original architectural plans and drawings of the house, and for other worthy purposes. John Farmakides and Seymour Alpert played key roles in ensuring the success of the Foundation.

The Capital Campaign Fund, designed to assure the continued health of the Club and its home, was initiated in 1989 under the leadership of J. Patrick Hayes. Through November 30, 1994, it had raised the extraordinary total of \$1,248,000, with 6 gifts in the \$20,000 and over range. These funds, together with a \$332,000 contribution from the Cosmos Club Historic Preservation Foundation, have been applied to construction or reduction of the Club's renovation debt.

Support for the Cosmos Club Foundation, established in 1967 and dedicated to the advancement of the arts, literature, humanities and sciences, has also been strong. A tax-exempt organization, it encourages college seniors to continue scholarly work through its annual Young Scholars Award in cooperation with the 12 universities and colleges in the Washington area. Its annual McGovern Award Lecture program recognizes leaders in art, science, the humanities and literature.

A benefit of Club membership that is sometimes overlooked by members is the extensive network of reciprocal relationships with clubs around the world. The earliest relationship, begun in 1933 and still going strong, was with the St. Botolph Club, located in Boston's Back Bay. Suitable clubs are spotted by the energetic Committee on Reciprocity, and now exceed 90 in number. A Cosmos Club member can now travel around the world and rarely be far from his or her "club."

THE CHANGING MEMBERSHIP

Among the most notable changes in Club life has been the changing proportion of certain professional groups represented in the Club membership. As the Ad Hoc Committee on Goals noted in 1986, the percentage of new members admitted in engineering and the physical, life, and medical sciences dropped from 73% in 1964 to 33% in 1984, but rose again to 52% in 1985. At the same time the categories of public service, law, the humanities and literature reflected a converse change. Most notable among the individual

professions has been the increase in the number of lawyers. Occurring in an era in which the proportion of lawyers, particularly in Washington, has been multiplying at an extraordinary rate, this might seem unexceptional for that reason, but it is certainly suggestive of a changing *zeitgeist* in a club founded by scientists and scholars. While the Club does not keep periodic records of the proportions of members of the different professions, a computer check of the number of lawyers in January 1993 revealed the presence of more than 300, of whom 121 were elected in the decade of the 1980s, 105 in the 1970s, and 41 in the first two years of the 1990s. Surviving lawyers from earlier decades (probably reflecting their smaller numbers as well as higher mortality) numbered 20 from the decade of the 1960s, 15 from the 1950s and one each from the 1940s and 1930s.

As for the changing geographical dispersal of members throughout the Washington Metropolitan area, the number of members from the Capitol Hill area (virtually non-existent in the 1978 Centennial History's listing of members' ZIP codes) has shown an increase in numbers, to 10 in 20003 and 10 in 20002. There has also been a movement to the Maryland and Virginia suburbs. Because addresses provided to the Club by members sometimes report office locations rather than residential locations it is not always possible to say with certainty how many members live in a particular area, but it is clear that the Club is no longer oriented entirely to Washington's northwest quadrant, though it is still predominantly so, as the figures for members from 20007 (144), 20008 (166) and 20016 (188) suggest.

As for age, the paucity of youthful members, and the increasing age of older members have remained problems in the years since the centennial history was written. In that book we noted the youthful character of the Club in its early formative years; when, as one Club president put it, you rarely saw any white hairs. Increasingly, as the lifespan of all members (and of scholars in particular) has lengthened, the number of white-haired members has increased. Combined with the traditional requirement that candidates for membership demonstrate scholarly achievement, the number of youthful

members as a proportion of Club membership has been small in recent years despite the efforts of many Club presidents to encourage their nomination. As President Albert H. Bowker pointed out in a talk at the Club in 1992, the average age of new members stood at 39 at the beginning of the twentieth century. From 1908 to 1947 it moved into the 40s. From 1978 to 1987, it was 54. Despite the election of members such as Michael Beschloss and Dinesh D'Souza while in their 20s, the number of young members is still a small fraction of that of older members.

As a way of attracting more younger members to the Club, the annual membership meeting in May 1992 voted overwhelmingly to raise from 40 to 45 the age below which members are defined as "junior members" and thus eligible to pay lower dues and initiation fees – 50 percent of regular charges.

As for the educational institutions attended by Club members, for the period 1979-1988, Harvard, Columbia, and Yale were the top three followed by Princeton, George Washington, University of California at Berkeley, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, Pennsylvania, Stanford, and Michigan. Those interested in the figures for earlier years are referred to the appendix in the original edition of the centennial history.

The Cosmos Club has always had numerous judges, a number of whom have served on the Supreme Court of the United States. An article in the *Cosmos Club Bulletin* in March of 1992 listed a number, with additional names being supplied in the April issue. During the 1970s and 80s, when membership in private clubs was closely scrutinized in judicial and other appointments, the number of Cosmos Club judges was affected, either by a refusal on the part of some to seek membership or by resignation of others; with that issue behind us, judges are enjoying membership in the Club. In comments from two judges printed in the March 1992 *Bulletin*, the ability to find, even on casual visits to the Club, stimulating individuals from entirely different fields with whom to talk, is one of the most enjoyable aspects of Club membership.

As of November 1994 the oldest member was Earle S. Draper, who was elected to membership in 1933 and in 1994 was 101 years of age. On October 28, 1994, another milestone was passed – Amy Glasmeier became the first active Cosmos Club member reported to give birth to a child: Graham Foster Bell weighed in at 8 pounds, 15 ounces (3.77 kg), 21 1/2 inches (54.6 cm).

Joan Williams Hoover, then Chairman of the Cosmos Club Singles Group and widow of a member, addressed the question “What does the Cosmos Club mean to me?” at a March 1990 reception for Club widows. Answering her own question as to why she “hangs around” and why she continued to be devoted to the Club after her husband Linn Hoover died, Mrs. Hoover noted that “The Club is not only a place to bring friends, it’s a place where friends are already gathered, and where new friends are waiting to be met. That’s very important when you’re learning the difficult task of living alone. Linn would have been grateful to know how much the Club has helped me during these stressful times.” “Where else,” she also noted, “do they invite an entomologist to choose the upholstery, so that the lovely Scalandre silk is embroidered with little black bugs?”

OMISSIONS AND ERRATA

One of the omissions from the centennial history, for which the author was gently chided, was the lack of reference to geologists in the Club’s formation. With the help of a paper by Priestley Toulmin, III, prepared in 1992, and now in print as “Geological Society of Washington and the Cosmos Club,” pp. 24-27 in Robertson, E. C., ed., *Centennial History of the Geological Society of Washington, 1893-1993* (Washington, D. C.: Geological Society of Washington, 1993), the oversight can be remedied. Toulmin notes that the Geological Society of Washington and the Cosmos Club have been “closely, almost symbiotically, intertwined throughout the history of the two organizations.” Both sprang, Toulmin notes, “from the loins of the Philosophical Society; the Cosmos in search of a broader perspective

than the parent's, the Geological Society of Washington seeking a more focused milieu than the parent could provide." Most of the Charter Members of the Geological Society (79 out of 109) were or later became members of the Cosmos Club. Ten founders of the Geological Society had also been Founders of the Cosmos Club seventeen years before. The first meeting of the Society took place at the Club, as have most subsequent meetings. Strains occasionally occurred in the relationship, leading to a discussion in 1924 of whether the Society should continue to meet at the Cosmos Club or switch to the Interior Department Auditorium, where several meetings had been held the previous year. Although the Auditorium was free while the Cosmos Club charged \$13.50 per meeting, "a rising vote [at a meeting held in the Department of the Interior] showed 24 in favor of meeting at the Cosmos Club; no one voted to continue to use the Auditorium of the Department of the Interior." The vote was confirmed in a mail ballot. While some Society members, following the move to the Massachusetts Avenue clubhouse, occasionally "chafed under the restrictions of the Club's dress code" and, before the Club voted to accept women as full members, "objected to its membership policies," relations have generally been smooth. Of the 94 Presidents of the Geological Society in its first century, 72 have been Cosmos members and one the spouse of a member. Six presidents of the Geological Society have also been presidents of the Cosmos Club. The moves to the suburbs of the Geological Survey, the (former) Bureau of Standards, and other scientific agencies "have weakened somewhat the active involvement of earth scientists in the affairs of the Cosmos Club, but the associations, traditions, and commonality of interests and values remain strong."

While making amends for omissions and errors in the *Centennial History*, the author acknowledges his falling into the error of reporting that Franklin D. Roosevelt lived at the present clubhouse as the guest of Sumner Welles prior to moving into the White House. Daniel B. Kinsley pointed out that Welles invited Roosevelt to stay with him, but Roosevelt did not. As a professional historian, the author is aware of how easy it is to perpetuate error by

accepting “common knowledge.” He should have been more skeptical. Similarly, the author apologizes for omitting the name of Dumas Malone, an historian he admires inordinately, from the list of Pulitzer Prize winners in the original volume. Malone received the Pulitzer Prize in 1975 for his 5-volume *Jefferson and His Time*.

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