

2020 REPORT TO DONORS

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY





Lauren Howe-Kerr collecting coral samples for microbial analysis in Mo'orea, French Polynesia.
Photo by Alex Veglia.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

“2020 was a year like no other in memory.”

t underscored how crucial our need is for rigorous scientific research, historical study, and examination and analysis of contemporary society and events regionally, nationally, and globally. Critical thinking and intellectual honesty are more than admirable personal characteristics; they are essential to our collective well-being as citizens of the United States and the world.

In 2020, as always, the American Philosophical Society provided “a forum for the free exchange of ideas” and conveyed a shared “conviction that intellectual inquiry and critical thought are inherently in the best interest of the public.” Together, we did our utmost to respond to the year’s difficulties and imperatives with agility, flexibility, ingenuity, and resolve. **On May 6 in response to COVID-19, Council passed a rare public resolution on behalf of the entire elected APS Membership calling on Congress to enact a National Defense Education Act for the 21st Century** “to support at all levels the education of America’s youth in science, history, analytical thinking, and the primacy of facts as the foundation of the nation’s future health, general well-being, and security.”

As the nation reckoned with racial justice in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and far too many similar incidents, **APS Members and staff paused to reflect on the Society’s past—a history “inextricably entwined with race, slavery, and, later, pseudoscientific ideas that supported and perpetuated racist beliefs and practices”—and to think about a future in which the APS will directly confront issues of inequality. Our shared commitment is to increase inclusion,**

diversity, equity, and access. Together, we will “use the Society’s resources to promote equality—and, in turn, enliven and strengthen the Society’s founding mission of promoting useful knowledge.”

The Society’s dedication to fulfilling its mission amidst crisis was recognized and supported by you—our wide-ranging community of Members, Friends, awardees, foundations, collaborating organizations, and others. You shared with the Society an excellent, even unprecedented, level of philanthropic generosity that, in turn, made possible the fullness of the APS’s response to the times, bolstered its current well-being, and reinforced its foundation for future growth.

Thanks to your vigorous support, the Society is in excellent financial health. Stewarded by the Investment Committee, **our endowment grew to approximately \$250 million as of December 31, 2020.** This past year marked the 15th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Endowment Fund, which supports exploration and field research. A fitting commemoration of this milestone was a bequest of nearly \$935,000 from the Estate of Sibyl R. Golden, which was directed to The William T. Golden Endowment for Lewis and Clark Grants in Scientific Disciplines.

Despite, or perhaps due to, the year’s challenges, **2020 was the most successful year ever in annual giving to the Fund for the APS**, which is comprised of the Members’ Annual Fund and Friends of the APS. A total of \$1,016,372 was raised in essential unrestricted funding and general support for the Society’s core programs—our superb Library, Museum, Meetings, public programs, research grants and fellowships, and publications—an increase of

10.4% over 2019. Giving to the Fund for the APS included \$702,379 from 311 Members and their families, and \$313,993 from 406 Friends of the APS. Our humble appreciation and great credit for this achievement go to Kathleen Hall Jamieson (APS 1997), chair of the Fund for the APS; Rolin Bissell, Friends of the APS chair; and the devoted and unsparing work of all who serve on our respective fundraising committees.

Annual giving was further strengthened by the COVID-19 Response Challenge, a matching-funds effort that raised \$169,000 to assist those whose access to the APS and its resources was adversely affected by the pandemic, including current APS grantees and fellows as well as in-person and remote visitors. I extend profound thanks and commendations to Drs. Jonathan Fox and Suzanne Markel-Fox, with whom I am honored to have partnered in supporting the COVID-19 Response Challenge by contributing its matching funds. Financial resources raised by the Challenge, along with critical assistance from the National Endowment for the Humanities through an NEH CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) grant, allowed the APS to assist its current grantees and fellows in adapting to new circumstances with proxy researchers, remote assistance, etc.; extend the period of residency for long-term library fellows; and accelerate digitization of the Society's collection, making it nationally and internationally accessible.

Thanks to thoughtfully directed giving from philanthropic foundations and government agencies, **2020 was, as well, an extraordinarily successful year for grant funding.** The APS received a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Dynamic Language Program, supporting the Society's work in documenting endangered languages. A \$96,400 National

Photo by Brett Wahl.



Leadership grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services will fund the planning phase of *Revolutionary City*, a portal shared by the APS with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Library Company of Philadelphia that will provide access to digitized archival material related to the American Revolution. The NEH CARES grant also provided particular assistance for the exhibitions *Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist*—which was installed immediately before the pandemic required the APS to close its facilities until it will be safe—and *Benjamin Franklin's American Enlightenment, Documenting Early American Science at the American Philosophical Society*.

NEH CARES funding enabled the Society to create a virtual tour and online catalog for *Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist*, thereby sharing the exhibition's treasures and insights digitally while we wait to open it physically. A silver lining revealed in the transition of APS programming from in-person to online is notable growth in the size and geographic diversity of its audience. 2020 saw a 40% increase in the Society's audience, which included individuals from across the U.S., South America, Europe, Middle East, and South Asia participating in our offerings. Among the timely and topical APS

Meeting presentations that drew avid national and international interest was the November 12 conversation about COVID-19 and progress in developing vaccines between Dr. Anthony S. Fauci (APS 2001), Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Mark J. Thompson (APS 2017), former director-general of The British Broadcasting Corporation and former president and chief executive officer of The New York Times Company.

Notable among the many new contributions received is an endowment established by Lotte Bailyn in memory of her husband, Bernard Bailyn (APS 1971), the preeminent historian of early America, who in 2020 donated his personal library to the APS Library & Museum. The Bernard Bailyn Fund will support related activities in acquiring early American materials. During this year, the Society's commitment to scholarly research and public outreach about the era of the American Revolution was strengthened by the consummation of the Society's partnership with the David Library of the American Revolution, thus creating the endowed David Center for the American Revolution in the APS Library.

We extend thanks and commendations to John (APS 2005) and Christine Van Horne for prepaying their planned gift to the APS and establishing the John C. and Christine K. Van Horne Fund, a Librarian Discretionary Endowment Fund. As of December 31, 2020, there are 99 members of the Richard A. F. Penrose, Jr., Association—which recognizes planned giving to the APS—who created lasting legacies at the Society by naming it a beneficiary in their wills, retirement accounts or insurance policies, or establishing a charitable trust or annuity.

The Society extended the success of its enthusiastically embraced Adopt-A-Book program with the launch of Adopt-A-Conservation Treatment. Among

the first transformative treatments adopted was the mending of the text and reattachment of the parchment binding of a rare third edition of Nicolaus Copernicus's work *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* (Amsterdam, 1617), made possible by James H. Hill, Jr.

Soon after March 16, when the APS closed to the public and staff began working from home, the Society guaranteed ongoing full pay to all employees, including Museum Guides and those on the Facilities team whose work depends fully on an open building. A successful application for salary support through the Paycheck Protection Program of the CARES Act did much to mitigate the budgetary impact of that promise.

As I write this letter, **neither I, my colleagues at the APS, nor members of the scientific community or government leaders can say with certainty when the Society and the country will return to “normal”** and what that normal will look like. But I am heartened and truly humbled, in reviewing 2020 and remembering what was accomplished against significant odds. I extend my deep gratitude to the Members, Friends, and APS staff, and all individuals and entities who make our work possible and excellent. You have shown unfailing commitment to the Society over many, many years. Your rallying together in 2020—a time of paralyzing pandemic, social unrest, and political upheaval—not only to maintain but to enhance the impact of the APS—will forever be a source of inspiration and pride.

With gratitude and appreciation,



Robert M. Hauser



Engraved from an Original Miniature by J. Chapman.

DAVID CENTER

FOR THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AT THE APS

Sol Feinstone, a Lithuanian-Jewish immigrant who arrived in the U.S. alone and penniless in 1902 at age 14, grew into a successful businessman, philanthropist, and collector. He believed that close study of the American Founders' values—as stated in their own words in original documents—and the events of the Revolutionary Period is essential to creating an informed citizenry equipped to comprehend those foundational principles and apply them to the ever-evolving circumstances of American society. So inspired, **Feinstone (1888–1980) founded the David Library of the American Revolution in 1960** in Washington Crossing, Bucks County. Last year, Feinstone's mission, legacy, and gift to the American people grew with the establishment of the David Center for the American Revolution at the American Philosophical Society. In 2020, the APS and DLAR worked together to identify and make the essential first steps toward realizing the David Center's potential as an unparalleled resource for achieving civic and social good through scholarly research and publicly accessible learning and teaching.

On February 26, 2020, approximately 7,500 books and 9,000 reels of microfilm—showing over a million pages of materials representing more than 60 archives across the country—were moved with painstaking care and precision from DLAR's former home in Washington Crossing to the APS. They joined over 25 linear feet of manuscripts placed by DLAR in the APS's care over 50 years of close collegiality.

This wealth of rare and remarkable material presents early American history focused on both well-known luminaries—one highlight is an extensive cache of George Washington's correspondence—and relatively unsung heroes such as Tadeusz Kościuszko (APS 1785; pictured here). A Polish-Lithuanian military engineer, Kościuszko served the American revolutionary cause from 1776 to 1884, strengthening and building fortifications and commanding troops.

Opposite Thaddeus Kosciuszko, 1797. Hand-colored engraving from an original miniature by J. Chapman, 89 x 140 mm. Collection of the David Center for the American Revolution at the American Philosophical Society.

The richness, breadth, and diversity of the David Center's collection will further galvanize the Society's energetic exhibition and educational programs. In January 2020, a debut call for applicants for David Center Fellowships was made, continuing and enhancing DLAR's 30-year tradition of awarding residencies and support to scholars who have gone on to write hundreds of dissertations, academic articles, academic papers, and books, and to teach at major institutions of higher learning worldwide about the American Revolution and Founding Era.



J. B. Forrest [*Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben*], n.d. Hand-colored engraving mounted on cardboard from an original portrait by Ralph Earl, 127 x 165 mm. Collection of the David Center for the American Revolution at the American Philosophical Society.

Another key advance launched in 2020 is digitization of the David Center's collection, with approximately 500 documents digitized to date. Once fully digitized, the David Center's collection will be accessible to scholars around the world. Patrick Spero (APS 2019), Librarian and Director of the APS Library, notes “The David Center will be a national and international powerhouse for the study of all things related to the Revolutionary era.”

Key funding for the David Center comes from the DLAR's sale in October 2020 of its former home—118-acre Buckstone Farm—to the Heritage Conservancy, a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve and protect the natural and historic heritage of Pennsylvania, and Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Proceeds from this sale and the David Library's endowment, now managed by the APS, provide funding to continue its fellowship program and scholarly programs.

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ACQUISITIONS



The permanent collections of the APS are tangible and instructive testimony to the central role of the Society and Philadelphia in the nation's founding and the development of science and technology from the 18th through early 20th centuries. Many works came as gifts from generous and public-minded Members and Friends. This tradition of giving remains strong.

Illustrated here is an example from a group of 15 important watercolor-on-vellum botanical images by preeminent natural-history artist Pancrace Bessa (French, 1772–1835), which were presented as a gift by George Hecksher.



ADOPT-A-BOOK

Among many outstanding additions to the collections made possible through generous participation by Members and Friends in the APS Adopt-A-Book program are an 1889 catechism in the Native American Cree language by the Roman Catholic priest Jean Pierre Guéguen (pictured above), adopted by Rowena (APS 2009) and Larry Matthews, and an 1833 letter from John Vaughan to his fellow APS Member Julius Timoleon, a professor of chemistry and geology at the University of Maryland, asking for help securing materials to inform John Burk and Louis Hue Girardin in writing of their magisterial *History of Virginia*, adopted by Adam Najarian.

For information about how you could help support the acquisition and care for collection-transforming books and manuscripts, please see www.amphilsoc.org/adopt-a-book.



Left to right Dr. Anthony S. Fauci (APS 2001), Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Mark J. Thompson (APS 2017), former director-general of The British Broadcasting Corporation and former president and chief executive officer of The New York Times Company.

MEETINGS

Every year since its founding in 1743, the APS has hosted General Meetings providing unique opportunities to reflect and engage the full breadth of intellectual curiosity possessed by the Society's Members and distinguished guests. The APS responded to the challenges of 2020 with characteristic agility by presenting its November General Meeting online—as it has all public programs during the coronavirus pandemic—reaching an audience expanded in size and reach through technology: 578 unique viewers representing 24 states and nine countries.

On November 11 to 13 the Society presented 10 talks, conversations, and experiences. Scholarly discovery was joined by artistic inspiration in a performance by pianist Jeremy Denk and dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp (APS 2015) sharing the life lessons she has learned about achieving fulfillment and health. The presentations were, as always, both substantive and timely. Among them: Lawrence D. Bobo (APS 2008) explored “A Failure to Heal: Race and Politics in the United States” in the Meeting’s

keynote address. Dr. Anthony S. Fauci (APS 2001) joined Mark J. Thompson (APS 2017) to discuss the state of the pandemic and the promise of vaccines. Alondra Nelson (APS 2020), president of the Social Science Research Council, and Institute of Advanced Study professor Harold F. Linder spoke of “Society after Pandemic.”



Merlin Sheldrake, Independent Scholar, on *Entangled Lives: Fungi, Ecology, and Us.*



Lawrence D. Bobo (APS 2008), Dean and W. E. B. Du Bois Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University.



In Conversation: David M. Rubenstein (APS 2019), Co-Founder and Co-Executive Chair, The Carlyle Group; Chair, The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts; and Chair, The Smithsonian Institution; and Danielle Allen (APS 2015), James Bryant Conant University Professor and Director Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University.

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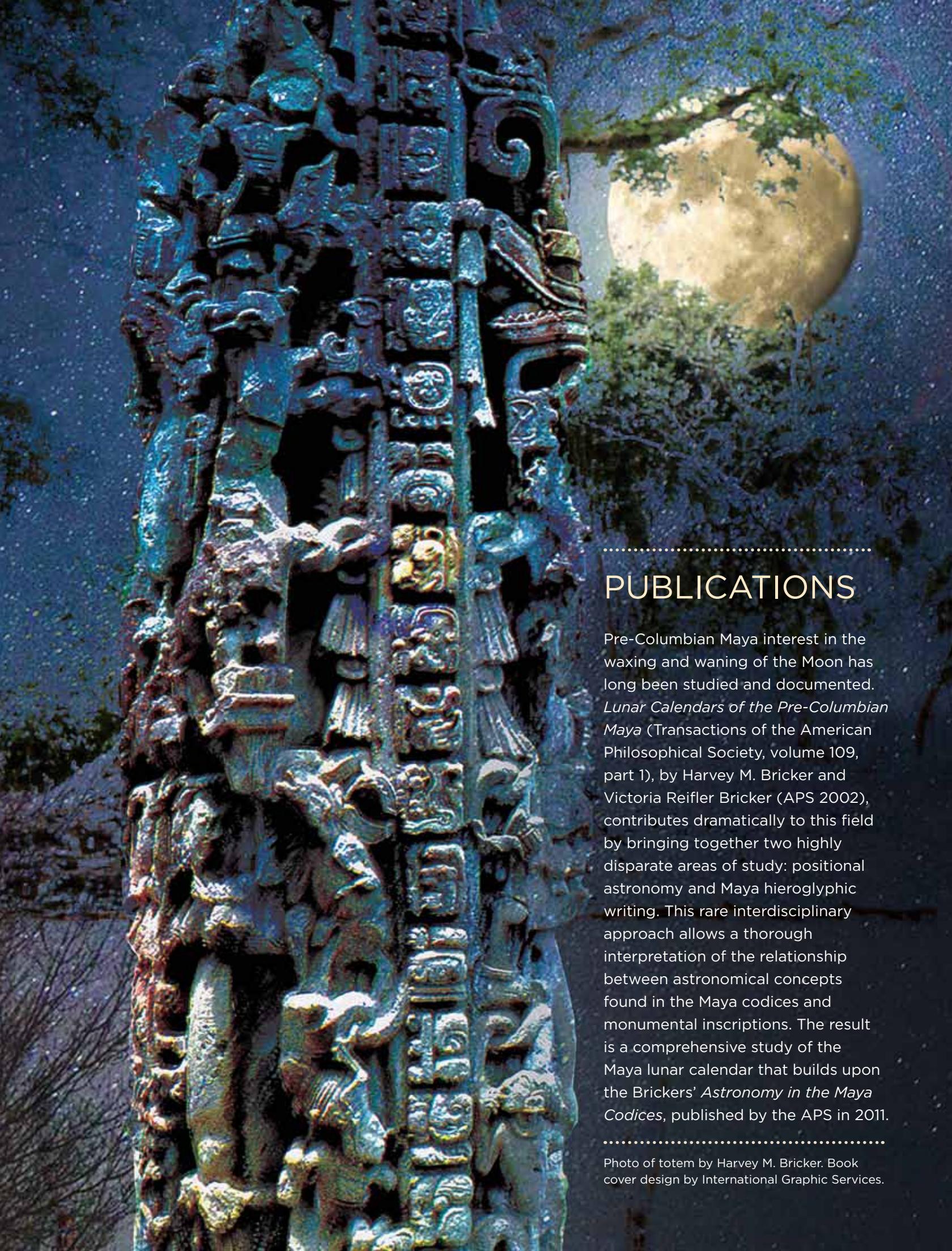
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PUBLICATIONS

Pre-Columbian Maya interest in the waxing and waning of the Moon has long been studied and documented. *Lunar Calendars of the Pre-Columbian Maya* (Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, volume 109, part 1), by Harvey M. Bricker and Victoria Reifler Bricker (APS 2002), contributes dramatically to this field by bringing together two highly disparate areas of study: positional astronomy and Maya hieroglyphic writing. This rare interdisciplinary approach allows a thorough interpretation of the relationship between astronomical concepts found in the Maya codices and monumental inscriptions. The result is a comprehensive study of the Maya lunar calendar that builds upon the Brickers' *Astronomy in the Maya Codices*, published by the APS in 2011.

Photo of totem by Harvey M. Bricker. Book cover design by International Graphic Services.



Conference opening and keynote speakers (clockwise from top left): Curtis Zunigha (Delaware Tribe of Indians), Jennifer O'Neill (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, University of Oregon), Lisa Brooks (Abenaki, Amherst College), Brian Carpenter (CNAIR), and Alyssa Mt. Pleasant (Tuscarora descendant, SUNY-Buffalo).

APS PROGRAMMING GOES ALL-VIRTUAL WITH THE NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARS INITIATIVE CONFERENCE AND MORE

As people around the world began to live the “remote” existence required to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic—often working, attending school, and securing household needs online from home—the APS anticipated and quickly answered the corresponding human need to nourish mind and spirit by engaging with art, culture, entertainment, and pursuit of intellectual interests. By April, the Society was sharing online the full range of thought-provoking programming—activities for students, exhibition tours, writing workshops, informal “Brown Bag” presentations, public seminars, research conferences, and more—it had previously offered in person, and doing so in keeping with its long-established and vibrantly evolving standards of excellence.

One highlight in the APS’s newly virtual offerings was *Relationships, Reciprocity, and Responsibilities: Indigenous Studies in Archives and Beyond*, the first international conference

showcasing scholarship made possible by the Society’s Native American Scholars Initiative (NASI). Presented on Zoom from September 21 to 25 were topics that looked to the past, present, and future, including “All Stories Have More Than One Voice: Telling Native History Today in the 21st Century,” “Consult, Collaborate, and Listen: Decolonizing Archival Research,” “Maya Testimonies in the Visual History Archive: Violence, Linguistics, and Self-Determination,” and “Utilizing Online Technology to Improve Access to Indigenous Language and Use.”

For almost 100 years, the Society has supported research on Native American culture and history through its Phillips Fund program. Launched in 2016 with support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, NASI builds on the collaborative, community-engaged work of the American Philosophical Society’s Center for Native American and Indigenous Research (CNAIR) by fostering the development of the next generation of Indigenous and allied students and scholars.



The conference honored the memory of four individuals instrumental in the success of the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research: Timothy Powell, Watie Akins (Penobscot), T. J. Holland (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), and Larry Aitken (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; pictured on this page at the 2010 Building Bridges between Archives and Native Communities conference at the APS).

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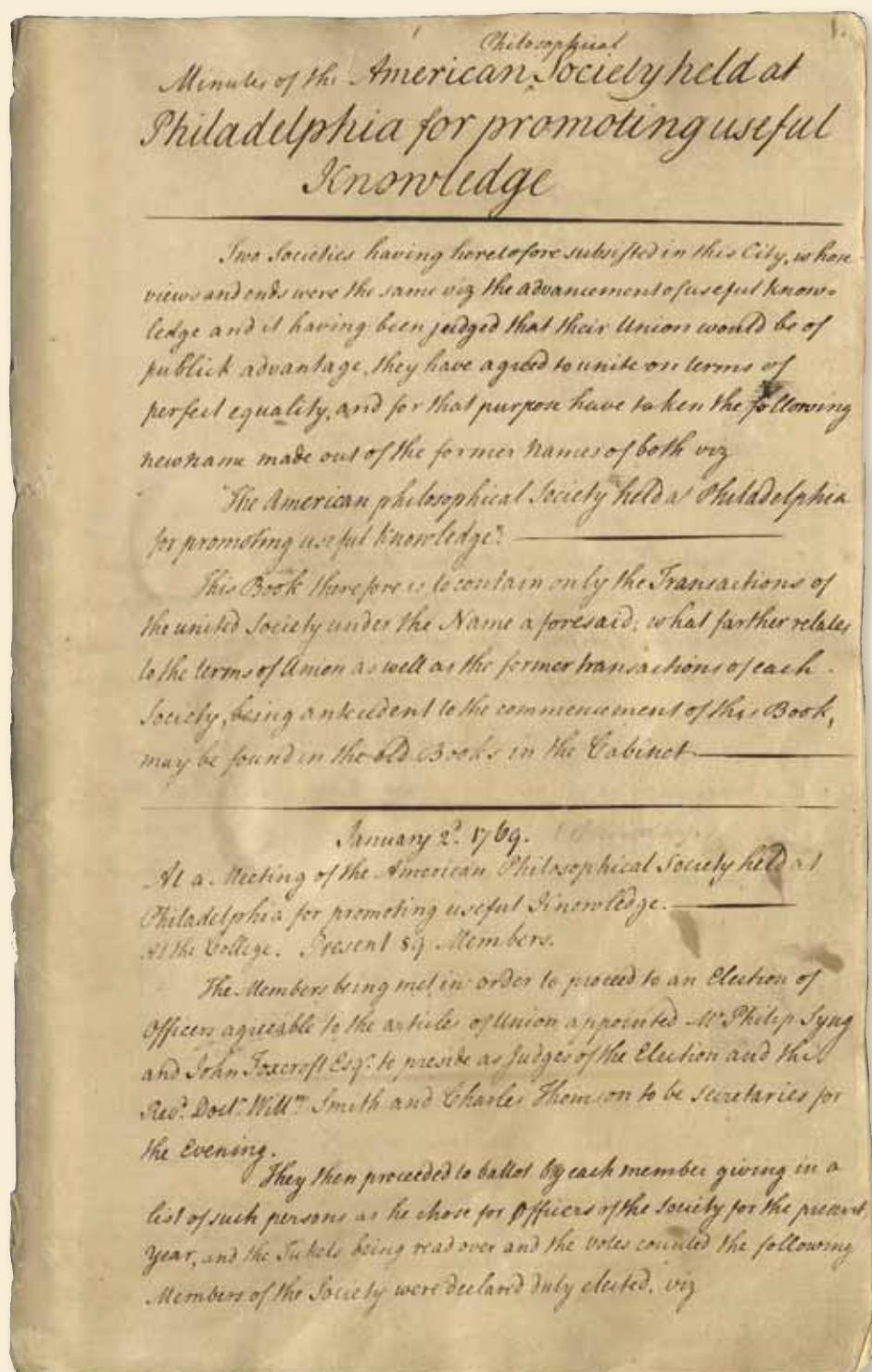
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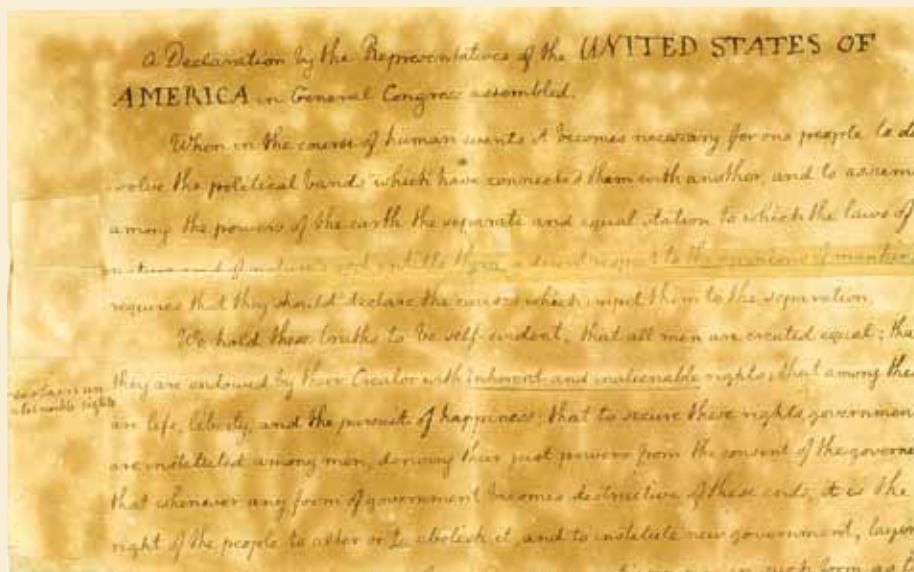
In response to the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Society's Education Programs Department developed updated and modernized offerings that seized digital opportunities to meet the needs of our audiences. Among them:

Editing the Declaration is a digital resource that provides classroom activities and connections to APS materials focused on the Declaration of Independence as well as documents created to advocate for the rights of Blacks, Native Americans, women, and other marginalized groups.

Career Chats align with Pennsylvania and Philadelphia educational standards focused on career education and career readiness. The program features recorded conversations—uploaded to the Society's YouTube channel—with APS staff about their careers, education, and real-world experiences. A key objective of Career Chats is to increase diversity among museum, library, and archive professionals.

A Malignant Tale focuses on the 1793 yellow fever epidemic, including the perspective of the Free African Society and the Black nurses who often cared for the sick during the epidemic. This program took new relevance in light of the current pandemic and its disproportionate impact on people of color.

APS at Home presents hands-on activities for intergenerational audiences inspired by themes or objects in APS exhibitions and elsewhere in the Society's collections. Clustered into categories like "art," "history," and "science," the activities are designed to fit whatever needs a parent or caregiver might have in the home.



(Detail) Thomas Jefferson's Final Draft of the Declaration of Independence, June 28 (?), 1776. American Philosophical Society.

NEH CARES GRANT

In July 2020, the APS received welcome and heartening news—it was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities CARES (NEH CARES) initiative, providing funding for increased online access to its collections related to 18th-century scientific discovery. The NEH CARES relief grants program was created to assist cultural non-profits confronting the economic strains of the COVID-19 pandemic to retain staff engaged in humanities activities. At the APS, the grant supported several projects related to *Benjamin Franklin's American Enlightenment: Documenting Early American Science at the American Philosophical Society*. The grant allowed us to extend the contracts of our postdoctoral fellows and hire consultants to work on relevant projects.

Installation of *Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist*—which explores the relationship between science and public life in the 18th-century Atlantic World—was completed just shortly before the pandemic forced the APS to close in March, delaying the exhibition's opening until circumstances allow. Fortunately, the NEH CARES grant allowed the Society to create a virtual tour of the exhibition—the first produced by the APS—and a printed catalog (which can also be downloaded as a PDF) that expand upon and further illustrate the exhibition's themes and narratives. Parallel tracks developed for adults and children invite users to watch videos and engage with curator-selected object highlights. The catalog features an essay by lead curator Janine Yorimoto Boldt and includes a complete illustrated checklist with accompanying labels.

Battery of Leyden Jars, Unknown Maker, After 1746. Glass, metal, and wood. American Philosophical Society. Gift of Joseph Hopkinson, 1836.



Above Benjamin Franklin, Drawing Electricity from the Sky, After Benjamin West, Unknown date. Lithograph. American Philosophical Society.

Right John Carwitham, An East Perspective View of the City of Philadelphia, 1778; date depicted: 1752. Hand-colored engraving. American Philosophical Society.

Projects funded by the NEH CARES grant for *Franklin's American Enlightenment* include:

- Transcription and analysis of Benjamin Franklin's business and personal financial account books and transactions.
- Digitization and transcription of early American meteorological records from the papers of James Madison and David Rittenhouse.
- A bibliographic database of the publications of APS Members elected between 1775 and 1785.
- Transcriptions of the APS's minutes from 1774 to 1787.

Making these collections available to researchers, educators, and students remotely is a boon to those who cannot travel to Philadelphia due to budgetary constraints or social-distancing measures. The final results of these projects can be found online at <https://diglib.amphilsoc.org/franklinsenlightenment/>.

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FUND FOR THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY 2020 RESULTS

Total Gifts:

757 Members and Friends contributed \$1,016,372, surpassing \$1 million for the first time in the history of the Fund for the American Philosophical Society

Members' Annual Fund:

- 351 Members and spouses contributed \$702,379
- Giving increased 12% from 2019
- 43% of Members made contributions
- 116 current contributors have given for 10+ years
- 75 current contributors have given for 20+ years
- 6 current contributors have given for 30+ years

Friends of the American Philosophical Society

406 Friends, former grant and fellowship recipients, and institutional supporters contributed \$313,993

- Giving increased 7% from 2019
- 47% of the Friends are past Grant and Fellowship recipients
- 88% of past contributors renewed their Fund for the APS support
- 38 donors were new contributors

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Since the 1930s, grants and fellowships awarded by the Society have promoted critical advances in knowledge. The APS provides nearly 200 grants a year to scholars and scientists for facilitating travel to libraries and museums or for field studies (often abroad). The APS also welcomes scholars, scientists, and professionals to its Library and Museum—where they are invited to engage with the active and accomplished APS community and seize opportunities presented by our holdings, facilities, and services.

To an ever-greater degree, advances in knowledge are achieved through international collaboration and have global impact. Since 2003, the Society has partnered with the British Academy to award reciprocal grants to American scholars needing to work in London and British scholars whose work requires a Philadelphia base. Since 2012, the APS has partnered with the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh. One American scholar is hosted at the IASH annually.

In 2020 we celebrated the 15th anniversary of the APS's Lewis and Clark Fund for Exploration and Field Research, established in 2005 through the Stanford Ascherman/Baruch Blumberg Fund for Basic Science and supported by an ever-growing endowment. The program was launched by the late APS Member Baruch S. Blumberg, President of the Society (2005–2011), and a Nobel Prize recipient who—through his own field research—discovered the hepatitis B virus, leading to the developing of a vaccine that has saved millions of lives. The Lewis and Clark grants support exploratory field studies for the collection of specimens and data and to provide the imaginative stimulus that accompanies direct observation.



On the Cover:
Lauren Howe-Kerr and
colleagues collecting coral
samples for microbial analysis
in Mo'orea, French Polynesia.
Photo by Carsten Grupsta

We are gratified to note that more than 625 Lewis and Clark grants have been awarded to date. The reach and importance of these grants are evident in the work of 2020 recipient Lauren Howe-Kerr, who is investigating the impact of stressful environment conditions on coral and other marine invertebrates in Mo'orea, French Polynesia.

"Coral reefs are among the most diverse and productive of all ecosystems and they have immense ecological, social and economic value. Increasingly, coral reefs are being affected by perturbations that range from short-term, localized disturbances to more chronic, widespread influences due to climate change. Return to a reef's prior state can sometimes occur relatively quickly following short-term disturbance, but chronic disturbances may fundamentally alter the ecosystem over longer time frames. The Mo'orea Coral Reef site is a National Science Foundation Long-Term Ecological Research site whose goal is to advance understanding of key mechanisms that modulate ecosystem processes and community structure of coral reefs through integrated research, education and outreach."

-Lauren Howe-Kerr, Rice University

In 2020, the APS awarded 228 research grants and Library fellowships totaling more than \$1.4 million in funding. By supporting research, your giving enables the Society to contribute directly to the world's store of useful knowledge.

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