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THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

Upon the invitation of the presidents and secretaries of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Historical Association, extended to thirteen representative American learned societies devoted to humanistic studies, a conference was held in Boston on September 19, 1919. The following societies were represented by delegates: the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Antiquarian Society, the Archaeological Institute of America, the Modern Language Association, the American Historical Association, the American Economic Association, the American Philosophical Association: and, unofficially, the American Philological Association and the American Oriental Society, the latter being represented by Professors J. R. Jewett and D. G. Lyon. Mr. William R. Thayer was chosen permanent chairman and Mr. Waldo G. Leland permanent secretary. The object of the conference was the establishment of a union of the humanistic societies in America, so as to enable this country to be properly represented in the Union Académique, a proposed international organization of learned societies devoted to humanistic studies, steps towards the formation of which were taken under the auspices of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres at a preliminary conference held in Paris on May 15 and 17, 1919.

It was formally resolved by the conference in Boston that, 'It is the sense of this Conference that American learned societies devoted to humanistic studies should participate as a group in the Union Académique.' Professor James T. Shotwell, of Columbia University, and Mr. William H. Buckler, of Baltimore, were appointed as American delegates to the session of the Union Académique to be held in Paris in October. Among the votes adopted by the conference was the statement that 'This Conference desires to express its deep interest in the subject of explorations and researches in Western Asia and hopes that a scheme of coöperation may be considered by the Union Académique.'

A draft of a Constitution of the affiliated American societies was then considered and adopted. It is as follows:

CONSTITUTION

ART. I. This body shall be known as the American Council of Learned Societies devoted to Humanistic Studies.

ART. II. SECT. A. The Council shall be composed of delegates of the national learned societies of the United States which are devoted to the advancement, by scientific methods, of the humanistic studies.

SECT. B. Each of the thirteen societies herein named shall, upon ratification of this convention and constitution, be admitted to representation in the Council:

- The American Philosophical Society.
- The American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- The American Antiquarian Society.
- The American Oriental Society.
- The American Philological Association.
- The Archaeological Institute of America.
- The Modern Language Association of America.
- The American Historical Association.
- The American Economic Association.
- The American Philosophical Association.
- The American Political Science Association.
- The American Sociological Society.
- The American Society of International Law.

SECT. C. Other societies may be admitted to representation in the Council by vote of three-fourths of all the delegates.

ART. III. SECT. A. Each society shall be represented in the Council by two delegates, chosen in such manner as the society may determine.

SECT. B. The term of office of delegates shall be four years, but at the first election of delegates from each society a short term of two years shall be assigned to one of the delegates, and thereafter one delegate shall be chosen every two years.

ART. IV. The officers of the Council shall consist of a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary-treasurer, who shall be chosen for such terms and in such manner as the Council may determine, but no two officers shall be from the same society.

ART. V. The Council shall determine its own rules of procedure and shall enact such by-laws, not inconsistent with this constitution, as it may deem desirable.

ART. VI. The Council shall hold at least one meeting each year, which meeting shall be not less than two months prior to the stated annual meeting of the Union Académique.

ART. VII. The Council shall choose such number of delegates to represent the United States in the Union Académique as may be prescribed by the statutes of the Union, and shall prepare their instructions, and in general shall be the medium of communication between the Union and the societies which are represented in the Council.

ART. VIII. The Council may upon its own initiative take measures to advance the general interests of the humanistic studies, and is especially charged with maintaining and strengthening relations among the societies which are represented in it.

ART. IX. SECT. A. In order to meet its own necessary administrative expenses and to pay the annual contribution of the United States to the administrative budget of the Union Académique the Council shall, until otherwise provided, assess upon each society represented in it an annual contribution of not less than twenty-five dollars, nor more, except as a minimum contribution, than a sum equal to five cents for each member of the society.

SECT. B. The Council may receive gifts and acquire property for the purpose indicated above.

ART. X. The Council shall make a report to the societies each year setting forth in detail all the acts of the Council and all receipts and expenditures of money.

ART. XI. Identical instructions from a majority of the societies which are represented in the Council shall be binding upon it.

ART. XII. The Council may be dissolved by a vote of two-thirds of the societies represented therein.

ART. XIII. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a vote of two-thirds of the Council and shall take effect when ratified by a majority of the societies represented in the Council.

ART. XIV. This convention and constitution shall be presented to the societies named in Article II, Section B, and shall be put into effect when they shall have been ratified by any seven of them.

The meeting of the Committee of the Union Académique was held in Paris on Oct. 15-18, 1919, the American representatives being Mr. Buckler and, in the absence of Prof. Shotwell, Dr. Louis H. Gray. A constitution of the Union was drafted, which is to be submitted to the American learned societies for ratification, but no copies of it are known to have reached this country as yet. It was also decided that the next meeting of the Union be held in May, 1920.

The foregoing information was communicated by the Corresponding Secretary of this Society to its Directors in a circular letter dated Dec. 13, 1919, so that they might make such recommendations as they might see fit to the Society at its Annual Meeting.

The Constitution of the American Council of Learned Societies Devoted to Humanistic Studies has already been ratified by eight of the thirteen societies participating in the Boston Conference, viz: the American Philosophical Society, the Amer-

ican Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Antiquarian Society, the American Philological Association, the Archaeological Institute of America, the American Historical Association, the American Economic Association, and the American Sociological Society. Six of these societies have appointed their delegates to the Council, the first meeting of which, it is now expected, will be held in New York City on February 14.

Although the American Oriental Society has not yet ratified the Constitution of the American Council, it has been asked to send two informal representatives to the coming meeting, and the President of the Society has appointed as such Prof. Morris Jastrow, Jr., and Prof. Maurice Bloomfield.

P. S.—At the first meeting of the American Council, held in New York on February 14, organization was effected. The following officers were elected: Prof. Charles H. Haskins, chairman; Prof. John C. Rolfe, vice-chairman; Prof. George M. Whicher, secretary-treasurer. Professor Jastrow attended the meeting as the informal representative of this Society.

PERSONALIA

M. SYLVAIN LÉVI, Honorary Member of this Society, has been commissioned by the French Minister of Public Instruction to organize the department of Oriental Languages in the reconstituted French University of Strasbourg.