

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, January 2, 1992**

After dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the January meeting of the Athenaeum Society was opened by President Pro-Tem in the event of dire emergency William Turner.

Excuses for absences in December were requested by Kenneth Cayce and George Draper, and by William Rowlett for Duard Thurman. Each excuse was granted. The roll call revealed 28 members present. Minutes for the December meeting were read and approved.

Two new members, D.D. Cayce III and Logan Askew, were welcomed into the society.

William Turner then called for the stated program:

In a nontitled, previously presented paper, Robert M. Fairleigh III told of his experiences during his many years as a duck hunter. The author also related some of the history of the sport including advances in decoys, cold weather clothing and weapons.

Edwin White's presentation, "Some Did Call It Treason," related the history of Kentucky Bourbon and explained how this area became famous for the product. The explanation began with the inception of an excise tax levied on whiskey in 1791 and followed the exploits and movements of whiskey producers from that time in Pennsylvania and Virginia to the present in Kentucky.

Following a break, comments were made by eight members, and rebuttals were presented by the authors.

The secretary then announced the program for February:

Wendell H. Rorie
Robert C. Baker

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, February 6, 1992**

After the invocation by Brooks Major dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting of the Athenaeum Society was called to order by President Nash. Excused absences were requested by Frank Nash, Peter Macdonald, Jim Adams, Edward Higgins, Thomas Riley, Duard Thurman, and Marvin Denison. The requests were approved. Thirty-three members were present.

Minutes for the January 2nd meeting were read and approved.

Hal King presented to the membership a new Constitution and By-Laws. Material for the publication was researched and compiled by William Turner and the book was produced and published by Hal King. In addition to the Constitution and By-Laws, the publication contains an up-to-date roster of Athenaeum members past and present, lists of honorary members, Athenaeum presidents and secretaries and meeting places. Mr. King presented the first copy to Frank Yost, who will be a member of the society for 50 years in May.

President Nash then called for the stated program:

In his presentation "The Joy of Sex Revisited," Wendell H. Rorie pondered the very need for the book The New Joy of Sex: A Gourmet Guide to Lovemaking for the Nineties. His bewilderment was due to the fact that he was thoroughly satisfied by this book's predecessor, written in 1973. Examination of the new book, however, revealed vast differences in the two publications. These differences, particularly the illustrations, soon found favor and the book was overwhelmingly endorsed by Mr. Rorie.

Robert C. Baker presented "England, Where Nothing is What it Appears to Be." The author pointed out that many popular perceptions of England and the English are not accurate. For instance, many endorse the stereotype that the English are smug and cold. Mr. Baker's view was just the opposite. He perceived the people as reserved but quite friendly. The author also pointed out misconceptions about the crown, government, education and love of sport and animals. One thing that was not hard to perceive was Mr. Baker's obvious love and appreciation for the country.

Following a five minute break, comments were made by members and by Mrs. Wendell Rorie via Federal Express and Charles Tilley. Rebuttals were then presented by the authors.

The secretary then announced the program for the March meeting:

Thomas L. Riley
Paul K. Turner

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, March 5th, 1992**

After dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting was called to order by Brooks Major at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Major was standing in for President Frank Nash and Vice-President Bob Baker who were absent. Excused absences were granted to Tom Westerfield, Kenneth Cayce, and Danny Guffey by a vote of the 25 members who were present.

Minutes for the February 6th meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Major reminded the members of the Open Meeting scheduled for May 7th. Wendell Rorie volunteered to book the Hopkinsville Golf and Country Club for the event.

Mr. Major then called for the stated program:

Thomas L. Riley's paper, "Charles L. Morehead and the Know-Nothing Party in Kentucky," presented a glimpse of national political history with Hopkinsville ties. Charles Morehead practiced law and served in the State Legislature while living in Hopkinsville in the 1820's. He then moved to Frankfort and continued a political career that crested with his election as governor of Kentucky in 1855. Morehead represented the American or Know-Nothing Party. The central issue for the party was Americanism and exclusion of "foreigners" and Catholics. The year of 1855 marked a high point for Morehead as well as for the "know-nothings" as their national as well as statewide prominence declined after that.

In an untitled paper, Paul K. Turner chronicled much of his personal involvement in government and the political system. He told of a career that started in Dawson Springs, handing out campaign cards door-to-door and included contacts with the very highest Kentucky political figures. Mr. Turner campaigned for and worked closely with such luminaries as Wilson Wyatt, Bert Combs, and Ned Breathitt. Mr. Turner afforded his listeners a real glimpse into the political back rooms where deals are struck and our nation's future is set.

After a break, comments were made by members and the authors were given an opportunity for rebuttal.

The secretary then announced the program for the April program:

**Kenneth O. Cayce, Jr.
James T. Killebrew**

The meeting was then adjourned. .

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, April 2, 1992**

After dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Nash. Twenty-seven members were present with eight of them (Frank Nash, Peter Macdonald, William Bell, Bob Sivley, George Boone, Robert Fairleigh, Logan Askew, and George Byars) offering excuses for previous absences. No excuse was able to stand on its own merits, but each was accepted. Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

It was decided that the Open Meeting would once again be held at the Hopkinsville Golf and Country Club.

George Boone announced that a seminar on Robert Penn Warren would be held on April 26 at the Warren Center at Western Kentucky University.

The nominating committee announced the following slate of officers for the 1992-93 year: Bob Baker (president), Jim Adams (vice-president), and Dave Cavanah (secretary-treasurer). The entire slate was accepted by the membership.

William Turner reminded the members that this month we are celebrating the ninetieth anniversary of our society and noted that each of us should have pride in that fact.

President Nash then called for the stated program:

In his paper "Kentucky's Governors 1772-1859," Kenneth O. Cayce, Jr., reviewed the lives and administrations of the nineteen men who served in Kentucky's chief executive office between 1792 and 1859. The author revealed facts ranging from time and place of birth to education, character, war record, and land holdings. He concluded the paper with a promise that this paper would be followed by the second and third presentations in a three part series on Kentucky governors.

James Killebrew's initial paper, "Revolutionary War Soldiers of Christian County," listed soldiers who had lived in our county and gave detailed information on each. The author gathered information from County Court Order Books, Circuit Court Order Books, printed histories of Christian County, family histories, and cemetery records. From these sources, he was able to determine information concerning war service, land holdings, families, and pensions.

Following a break, comments were made by eight members. Each author presented his rebuttal.

The secretary then announced the program for the May meeting:

Charles L. Tilley, Jr.
Marvin D. Denison

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, May 7, 1992**

Thirty-six members, one honorary member, and fifty-two guests crowded into the main dining room of the Hopkinsville Golf and Country Club for the ninety-first, open meeting. After dinner President Nash explained to the guests some of the basic facts about the society and then suspended the business portion of the meeting.

President Nash and William Turner then presented a clock to Frank Yost commemorating his fifty years as a member of the Athenaeum Society. Mr. Yost thanked the members and told everyone present that he had always been proud of his association with the society.

President Nash then called for the stated program:

In "Late Eulogy to a Late Friend," Charles L. Tilley, Jr., reminisced about a family member and friend whose death in 1989 had gone unnoticed by the rest of the community. Only after several minutes of the presentation did the author reveal that the departed relative was actually M.P. Tilley, Jr., his dog. In fact it was Marbles P. Tilley, Jr., a tan and white, and brown and black beagle whose exploits gained her fame and honor not only with the Tilley household, but also among friends and acquaintances. Her 17 years in the Tilley home were filled with such rare exploits and adventures and misadventures that she stole the heart of each member of the family.

Marvin D. Denison leaned on his years as an educator to write "A 'New' History of the World." This history was short on fact but high on humor. Mr. Denison's view of world history seemed to have some factual basis but appeared short on detail as he led his audience from ancient Egypt (were we learned the the pyramids were actually pramids and were a range of mountains between France and Spain) all the way to the first World War, which was caused by the assignation of the Arch-Duck by a surf.

Following a break, comments were made by members and guests. Each author presented his rebuttal.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, September 3rd, 1992**

Thirty-one members and one honorary member were present for the initial meeting of the 1992-93 season, which was the first meeting to be held at the Fairgrounds Convention Center.

Vice-president Jim Adams called the meeting to order. The minutes of the two previous meeting were read and approved.

Vice-president Adams then called for the stated program:

In "The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union" or "What is Peristroaska Anyway?", Robert B. Sivley summarized Soviet history from 1894 to now. He started with the Tsarist Russia of Nicholas and Alexandra and continued through revolts, wars, cold wars, poverty, hunger, and decline. Although he did not intend to tell why the Soviet Union rose and fell, the facts that he provided gave us a clear picture.

Paul D. Guffey did not present a paper in September, but he did present a notecard or rather a series of notecards. While standing in David Letterman's tennis shoes and wearing his sport coat, Mr. Guffey pondered the top ten things that occupy men's minds. Having concluded, however, that men's minds reach capacity when occupied by eight things, the author limited his attention to those eight. He then read statements from famous and/or learned individuals concerning those matters. All of this was done in a Letterman style that was later described as mediocre at best.

Following a break, comments were made by the members and each author presented his rebuttal.

The secretary then announced the program for the October meeting:

**W. Gladstone Major
William A. Bell**

The meeting was then adjourned by vice-president Adams.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, October 1st, 1992

After dinner at the Convention Center, the meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Twenty-four members were present. Four members (Bob Baker, Frank Nash, Duard Thurman, and William Rowlett) offered excuses for previous absences. Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

A discussion was held concerning the facility currently being used for meetings. Everyone who commented indicated the food was exceptional but that the room was too large for our group. No long range plans were made. It was decided that different table arrangements might help.

President Baker then called for the stated program:

W. Gladstone Major's paper "The Heritage of Giotto's Geometry" concerns the power of art to produce a new awakening, or renaissance such as that which took place in Florence, Italy, in the thirteenth century and which changed the direction of society, knowledge and values throughout all of the then-known world as well as the later discovered New world and even today's world. A superior artist, Giotto was the first artist to combine practicality with the "pleasing only" art of world culture and presented reality through perspective as geometrically sound and spirit expressed in faces instead of decoration only. The structure of the forces of nature were interpreted mathematically. The two-dimensional world became triangular in concept, going out in all directions to include the Cosmos where the natural forces were materialistically described and modern science came into being. Based on this work, the author concluded that the triangular conception of life and truth advanced in the thirteenth century may become the geometric inclusive circle in an imminent new awakening.

William A. Bell's timely paper "Dirty Politics -- So What Else is New?" pointed out that mudslinging, lying, and underhanded tactics are not new political tactics. In fact, George Washington felt the sting of namecalling, but had long known how to keep the electorate happy. He made sure that the voters were well supplied with alcohol on election day. Thomas Jefferson certainly did not lack detractors. Jefferson was referred to as mean-spirited and an advocate of murder, robbery, rape and adultery. In 1800, John Adams and his running mate, Charles Pickney, were accused of having two mistresses each. Twenty-eight years later Adams' son, John Q., was involved in a race with Andrew Jackson. Jackson's sins were listed by the Adams' camp as including: adultery, gambling, cockfighting, slave trading, drunkenness, theft, lying, and murder. These accusations failed to ruffle Jackson, but he was disturbed by disparaging remarks about his family. No, namecalling and mudslinging are certainly not new campaign tactics.

Following a short break, comments were made by twelve members. Each author then presented his rebuttal.

The secretary then announced the program for the November meeting:

William T. Turner
James G. Adams, Jr.

The meeting was then adjourned by President Baker.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Cavanah

Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, November 5th, 1992**

After dinner at the Convention Center, the meeting was called to order by President Baker. Twenty-eight members were present. Jim Adams and Edward Higgins requested excuses for previous absences. Minutes of the October meeting were read and approved.

Once again a discussion was held concerning meeting place and dinner arrangements. It was decided to pay an extra 25 centers per plate to move up from paper plates. This will begin with the December meeting. Meals will now cost \$7.75 per place.

President Baker then called for the stated program:

In "South Christian's Day in the Sun, the Vice-President from Christian County," William Turner reviewed the visit of Vice-Presidential candidate (soon to be Vice President) Adlai Ewing Stevenson. Mr. Turner also recounted some of Stevenson's family history that led to his birth near Herndon in 1835. The joy and pride of Christian Countians was obvious as this "favorite son" returned to the place of his birth on September 2, 1892. A crowd of between seven and ten thousand people gathered at Herndon to honor him and cheered throughout his one and a half hour speech.

James G. Adams, Jr., presented the Athenaeum "A Look Back." In this paper the author reviewed the history of society as gathered from a study of the minutes. Initial organizational steps were made by William H. Harrison, who invited others to a meeting at Hotel Latham on April 18, 1902. The first regular monthly meeting was held the first day of May of the same year. Differences in the society then and now were striking. Initially meetings were held from September through June; religious papers were given, and as many as six papers were given at a single meeting. Mr. Adams even presented the menu of a meal that was never served. The occasion was the open meeting of 1918 and the proceeds were donated to the Red Cross for the war effort.

Following a break, comments were made by nine members, and each author presented his rebuttal.

The secretary then announced the program for the December meeting:

George M. Draper
Hal King

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, December 3rd, 1992**

After dinner at the Convention Center, the meeting was called to order by Brooks Major who led the meeting in the absence of President Robert Baker and Vice-President Jim Adams. Excused absences were requested by Peter Macdonald, Paul Turner, Frank Nash, Bob Sivley, Frank Yost, Curtis Brasher, Wynn Radford, and D.D. Cayce. Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. Brooks Major then called for the stated program:

In "Magic From a Sacred Chinese Turtle, Together with Potent Magic From India, and From the Hand of Benjamin Franklin," George M. Draper used earth, water, fire, metal, wood, and an old turtle to weave magic. The magic is really magic squares, and they have been a source of fascination for centuries. Each square is subdivided into squares with each small square being assigned a numerical value. When added, every row, column, and in some cases diagonals add up to the same total. In India the fascination is so great that magic squares have been found inscribed on Buddhist monuments and Indian soldiers have carried magic squares into battle, convinced that their magic would save them. Closer to home Benjamin Franklin became quite well known for his magic squares and also provided a defense statement for the study when he said, "Perhaps the considering and answering such questions may not be altogether useless, if it produces by practice an habitual readiness and exactness in mathematical disquisitions, which readiness may on many occasions be of real use."

Hal King presented "The Shooting Star and The Prophet." The subject of this historical presentation was Tecumseh, the Shawnee chief who spent the latter part of the 1700's and the early part of the 1800's bringing together Indian tribes in the Indiana Territory, Ohio, and the Michigan Territory to oppose the advancement of American settlers into the Indian lands. Tecumseh possessed not only the delicate skills needed to negotiate with tribes that were not friendly to him but also the leadership ability and military skills that made him a dreaded enemy. Tecumseh was killed on October 5, 1813, at the Battle of the Thames.

Following a break, comments were made by several members and each author presented his rebuttal.

The secretary then announced the program for January:

J. Brooks Major
D.D. Cayce, III

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Cavanah, Secretary/Treasurer