

## 1933 Club History

### MEETINGS

WHILE the earlier meetings of the Club were held at the Harvard Union, or on special occasions, at the Fogg Museum's lecture hall, new regulations of the former shortly made it impossible for our meetings to continue there, perhaps a blessing in disguise, for at once the alternative of holding meetings at the homes of those members whose parlors were ample enough, was adopted with a resulting increase of good fellowship and informality. Thus it came about that from 1904 to 1908 the Club met at the house of some member either in Cambridge, Boston, or Brookline, less often at the Boston Athletic Club through kind intervention of certain members, or elsewhere as occasion demanded. After 1908, however, until 1913, the old University Club, then at 270 Beacon St., Boston, was a usual place of meeting, but since November, 1913, with the opening of the Harvard Club of Boston, the meetings have been regularly held there, and a suitable room assigned to the occasional use of the Travellers Club and the Æsculapian Club, has proved convenient and comfortable. Various big-game trophies have been contributed by members of the former for the decoration of the walls of this meeting place.

In the autumn of 1931 the new building of the Institute of Geographical Exploration at Harvard was opened, and through the kindness of its Director, Professor A. Hamilton Rice, the Club has already been granted the use of its splendid auditorium on several occasions, and space has most generously been assigned to it for the storage of its records and the Club Library. The interests of the Club should be closely bound with those of the new Institute, and a happy and helpful association with it is looked for.

The custom of holding an annual dinner or at least an occasional dinner has been an added means of fostering acquaintance among the members and allowing an opportunity for interchange of ideas. The first of these dinners was held at the Harvard Union on the occasion of the ninth meeting, January 29, 1904, at which Professor Albert E. Burton was the guest, and he later addressed the Club on Sumatra. Again on February 14, 1908, a dinner of the Club was held, this time at the Hotel Brunswick, Boston. The minutes of the meeting do not tell how many were present, but among the invited guests was President Charles W. Eliot, while the speaker was Major Charles Lynch of the U. S. Army, who told us of Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese war. The notice of the dinner mentioned it as the first Annual Dinner of the Club, indicating that the occasion was to be repeated regularly in succeeding years, a policy that has been adhered to so far as possible, though in some years it has been impracticable to get the members together in this way.

A memorable dinner was that at the Exchange Club, Boston, on February 11, 1910, when Captain Robert A. Bartlett was the guest, and told of his experiences in the Far North, when as commander of the "Roosevelt," he had supported Peary on his final and successful attempt to reach the pole.

The annual dinner of 1911 was held on January 27, when the brothers George and Samuel Mixter told of their journey afoot across the British Columbian Rockies. In the same year, on December 12, a special dinner was held at the Exchange Club, at which 200 were present, to hear the guest of honor, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, speak on his hunting experiences in East Africa.

At other times the Club has held special dinners as occasion offered to welcome distinguished travellers passing through Boston. Such was the dinner held at the meeting of November 20, 1923, in honor of Major-General Sir Percy Sykes, who afterward spoke of his travels in Persia; and again, on January 13, 1930, when Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband was the guest of honor at a dinner at the Union Club, Boston. It was an unusual privilege to meet the lecturer and listen to his intimate account of many years' experiences in dealing with delicate political situations arising along the northern borders of India.

To recount all the meetings of the Club would be impossible if not tedious, but for reference and as an indication of the scope of the subjects covered and the parts of the earth that have engaged the interest of our gatherings, a list of meetings and speakers is appended to this account. There were years following the Great War when, for one reason or another, meetings were held, at long intervals, when the Club barely kept alive through the occupation of attention elsewhere, but nevertheless with a new wave of enthusiasm, it has each time revived. That it still continues to flourish is a tribute to the far-sightedness of its founder as well as to the faith and zeal of its presidents and secretaries, upon whom most heavily the burden of carrying on our activities falls. Since 1904 the Club has annually published its Year Book, recording the list of members and (in later issues) their travels, the officers and list of meetings for the year current. A word of appreciation is due Mr. Harold E. Orendorff of Concord, not only for his care in preparing and bringing out these yearly reports but also for the faithful and efficient manner in which for many years he has attended to the sending out of notices and acted as assistant to the secretaries in numberless matters of routine.

Meetings

Kepler (2)



Oct 26, 1945

Dear Tom:

I will approve the three new candidates for membership, though I don't happen to know Brown.

About the resignations:

H. L. Clark is an old man, and Ralph Taylor a fairly recent member - probably less of interest.

Larry Corbridge - well, my guess is that he is so darned glad to be back to family and home that he never cares to hear anything about traveling again. He got back about three weeks ago and is still in uniform. I will write him. Living in Hamilton, it takes considerable to get him away from his family in the evening.

Do you think there would be any point in trying an occasional late afternoon meeting - say 4 to 5.30 or 4.30 to 6? So many of our members live in the country now. That that might appeal to some who no longer attend.

We might poll the members with the next (December) meeting notice. If the available Councilors & officers think it worth while. A disadvantage is that if you try different hours people make mistakes. Attending meetings is quite a matter of habit, rather than special effort. What do you think.

Yr  
Henry

October 29, 1945

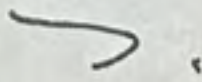
Mr. Henry S. Hall  
154 Coolidge Hill  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Henry:

I have your two letters. Gardie Fiske will be getting out the notice for the December meeting. I will pass on to him your suggestion of a poll that we have one of the meetings in the afternoon. However, I am not sure how we could run such a poll satisfactorily. I think that we wouldn't get more than twenty replies and it is quite possible ~~you~~ might have a majority showing a preference for the afternoon, which wouldn't be at all the opinion of the majority of the Club. I am inclined to put the matter to a vote of those present at the meeting, but, of course, this has the disadvantage that there will not be present those who cannot come to evening meetings, but could come to afternoon meetings. As you say, coming to meetings is largely a matter of habit ~~and~~. So many of our members now have the habit of coming in the evening ~~and~~ coming because they enjoy the congeniality, rather than the lecture itself.

Your other suggestion is a good one and will be adopted.

Yours very sincerely,



TDC:DD

meetings  
- memorable  
- 500th mtg

box 30 (42)

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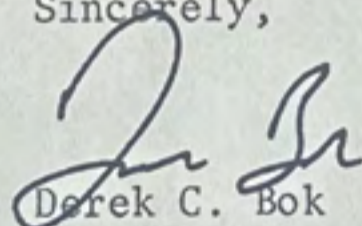
December 8, 1971

Dear Dr. Kennard:

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the 500th meeting of the Harvard Travellers Club on the evening of March 21. Unfortunately, I am faced with a previous commitment for that evening, and I regret that I shall not be able to participate in this celebration.

Best wishes for a successful meeting.

Sincerely,

  
Derek C. Bok

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