

Historical conference: Helena, Montana:

Danger of the unblended record: The undigested mass. The tired author tempted to throw in a chunk of tired history.

Has to be more than ghosts. Has to be people. Has to be personalities, set in the time and the place.

It is not the event that is important. It is the human response to it.

Ireland: Elks Club

Story of finding material. Two old maids: Girls, sex, female, age unknown.

Collectors, conscious and unconscious. Documents. Conscientious collector has a purpose. Thinks in terms of spec. and area.

Two groups: They are hobbyists, one the philatelist. Stamps and cover, not content with them but now wants also the full letter. A great deal goes into the hands of the philatelist and we lose material that way.

Autograph collectors. They care only for the autographs, but take the whole letter, and we also lose that.

Material by migration.

Technology has given greater mobility for these treasures. What is the point of collecting if not used and what is the point of using if we do not interpret it.

It is a cooperative venture. No one can go it alone.

McNeil, director Wisconsin Historical Society.

Collecting--tons of data with scarcely an ounce of understanding. The professionals are a vital link in the chain of understanding which ties together the present and the past.

A willingness to teach amateurs does not carry with it the right to be snobbish with those on the other side of the tracks.



The amateurs have done little to ~~learn~~ the admiration of the professionals. They are what we might call the bone worshippers. But the amateur has an enviable enthusiasm.

Each group aspires toward one goal, historical knowledge and living--education for the living.

The meeting ground is the local historical society, the bridge that spans the gap between the professional and amateur.

The area of study is small enough to enable one to analyze it at close range, cause and effect of events.

A well rounded program of a local society will give keener insight.

It will reach a point, we have in Wisconsin, called the writing stage.

Benefits: Research stimulates interest and awareness; tell the future, history how, who and why it happened.

The professional historian can restore for destiny many valuable documents and artifacts.

Here is a challenge for both past and contemporary records  
"we can become the trustees of the people's heritage."

All collecting is of little importance if pickled. Buried in museums So a real function is the dissemination of the material gathered. The knowledge gained must be given to all people. Here is the widest gap.

Every citizen is a prospective amateur historian.

Wisconsin survey-- the real eye opener. The number of types. collecting, preserving, studying, writing and presenting local history(essentials of a successful program)

So, if we believe in our way of life , it and the past are the best defenses against attacks; and if education is learning and not the formula of teaching, there is work ahead for all of us.



It is necessary to destroy the old type of historical society and supplant it with this modern medium

Rebuttal: Athearn: Irish story: "Twas a poor fight, but it was better than none at all."