

## 50th ANNIVERSARY MEETING (from Scrapbooks in computer)

"As the Club first met in November 1902, it was decided that we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary in November, 1952, in a suitable manner.

(Minutes of Council meeting, 10 April 1951. Min1 p165 item195)

"It was decided that in order to properly celebrate our fiftieth anniversary dinner on November 18th that champagne be served and that it be a sit-down dinner affair."

(Minutes of Council meeting, 14 October 1952. Min1 p179 item214)

"82 members and guests were present at the sit-down dinner...and about 90 attended the meeting. A special 50th Anniversary sit-down dinner was served. Champagne and a large birthday cake were presented by the Council. The meeting was called to order by President Harrison E. Kennard, who made a short and interesting speech covering briefly the 50 years of the Club's livelyhood mentioned several of the famous members, and past celebrations."

(Minutes of 344th meeting, 16 November 1952. Min1, p182, item 219)

COPY

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Science Park  
Boston 14, Massachusetts

September 10, 1952

Mr. Henry S. Howe, Secretary-Treasurer  
Harvard Travellers Club  
89 Broad Street, 3rd floor  
Boston 10, Massachusetts

Dear Harry:

I am highly in favor of your suggestion about holding the 50th anniversary dinner of the Travellers Club here at the Museum on November 18. We have held quite a number of events of this sort in our main second floor hall and they have worked out very successfully. There is a remote chance that we might be able to have the new Morse Hall done by mid-November, in which case it could be held there.

We normally charge \$35 to permit an organization to hold a dinner at the Museum, providing that the whole plant is not opened and in operation. Our charge for opening the whole plant, as well as the dinner, has been \$100. There are so many members of the Travellers Club closely associated with the Museum that we would be happy to make a confidential exception in this case and permit the Club to hold its dinner here, as well as enjoy the entire Museum in operation before and after the formal events of the evening, for \$35.

We are tentatively assigning the date of November 18 to the Travellers Club, and I hope you will let us know as soon as possible after you have had an opportunity to reach a definite decision.

Very sincerely yours,

Bradford Washburn  
Director

How - what do you think?  
H.S.H.

89 BROAD STREET  
BOSTON 10, MASS.  
Third Floor

October 6, 1952

Dr. Harrison E. Kennard  
1180 Beacon Street  
Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Hap:

Re: Harvard Travellers Club

At our November meeting, we are observing our fiftieth anniversary. I would suggest that somebody, may be Henry Hall, speak for ten or fifteen minutes telling a little about the history of the Club. I also suggest that we might endeavor on that evening to have with us, as our guests, any of the original members who might be still alive. What do you think?

Henry Hall has just heard from Dr. Kimble. Dr. Kimble will talk on the changing aspects of Africa today, with no pictures. Henry suggested that if we have some member who might want to show us pictures for fifteen minutes or so, it might be a good idea. What do you think?

Very sincerely yours,

*Harry*

Henry S. Howe

HSH/c

HARVARD TRAVELLERS CLUB  
50th Anniversary Dinner  
Aesculapian Room, Harvard Club of Boston

6:45 P.M., Tuesday, November 18, 1952

History of Harvard Travellers Club

Gentlemen, as you all know, this is the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Harvard Travellers Club.

The Council has requested that I give you a brief summary of the history of the Club.

Undoubtedly, many of the older members know much more about it than I. Judge Walcott, who is with us tonight, was one of the original group 50 years ago. <sup>However</sup> I shall try to give you a brief account of some of the high points in our history.

Concerning the actual founding of the Club, I will quote from the "History of The Harvard Travellers Club," published in 1933....."Harvard's eminent geographer, Professor William Morris Davis, in association with Copley Amory, Roland B. Dixon, James H. Kidder, and the late Archibald Carey Coolidge, invited Harvard men and others in this vicinity, who might be interested in "promoting intelligent travel and exploration" to meet together on November 15, 1902, in the assembly room of the Harvard Union in Cambridge, to consider the formation of a Harvard Travellers Club. Thirty men responded to the call."

Here we are now 50 years later, in November 1952 celebrating our 50th birthday. During that 50 year period, this Club has had a highly interesting career.

In 1904, our brief and practical Constitution was drawn up by Dr. Townsend W. Thorndike, and was promptly adopted at the next meeting of the Club.

The earliest meetings were held at the Harvard Union or at the Fogg Art Museum in Cambridge, but soon many of the gatherings were held at the homes of our members. Also various clubs were used for meetings. Since 1913, when the Harvard Club of Boston opened its new building, where we are sitting this evening, most of the meetings have been held right here in this room.

When the Institute of Geographical Exploration at Harvard was opened in 1931, through the kindness of its director, Dr. A. Hamilton Rice, we were given space there for storage of our records and small library. We were also permitted to use its beautiful lecture hall for special meetings. With the closing of that building, last year, our records were moved to Henry Hall's house in Cambridge. Henry, who is well-known to all of us as a former secretary, vice-president, and president, has probably done as much for us as any other one member.

The Club has had various other endeavors besides monthly meetings during the winter.

In 1906, a committee, consisting of Judge Robert Walcott and E. J. Holmes, was appointed to submit designs for a suitable Club Medal. With the advice of Professor George Lyman Kittredge of Harvard, the present design was adopted. It can be seen on all our Club notices and publications, as well as on the Club Medal.

Quoting again from the Club History, a description of that Medal is as follows: --"A pilgrim in old-time costume, with his staff in his hand and his wallet slung over his shoulder, surmounted by the word "Peregrinantur"-- "They wander in foreign lands." Our pilgrim is walking along the shore of the sea, which appears in the background, bounded on the right by steeply, conventional peaks, the mountains of his desire, toward which his face is set.

A lonely flower blossoming at his feet on the edge of the strand, and a wheeling dolphin, the fish that is the friend of man, thrusting its head above water, symbolize the flora and fauna, while a distant caraval is significant of travel by sea."

This Medal has been awarded to 14 famous travellers since 1906. The first was awarded to William Brooks Cabot, for many years a member of this Club, for his wonderful canoe trips and explorations in the interior of Labrador. The last Medal was awarded in 1936 to Albert W. Stevens, who had made a world's record ascent by balloon into the stratosphere.

We also have seven honorary members. These, according to our constitution, are those on whom the Club confers a mark of respect. One of these is our present vice-president Dr. Alexander Forbes. Dr. Forbes, besides being a topflight physiologist, is an expert navigator and aviator. He has sailed his own yacht across the Atlantic and has cruised on it in the Baltic and Mediterranean as well as on the coast of Labrador.

He also made an aerial survey of Northern Labrador from which the first map of that region was made.

Election to fellowship in this Club is a lesser honor, for those who have been on journeys which have led them off the ordinary routes of travel. We now have 25 fellows among our total membership of 290.

In 1908, a public exhibition was held in Horticultural Hall "of trophies and other interesting mementoes of travel gathered by members in the course of their wanderings." (quotation from History of Harvard Travellers Club)

This was repeated in 1911 and 1914.

Frequent year books have been published, listing our members and their travels. The last one was published in 1949, and a new one is in preparation at the present time, under the guidance of our able secretary, <sup>Henry</sup> Harry Howe.

In 1917, a "Handbook of Travel" edited by Dr. Glover M. Allen, was published by the University Press. A second edition was published in 1935. These Handbooks were both over 500 pages in length and must have involved a tremendous amount of work. Dr. George Cheever Shattuck was chairman of the Editorial Committee of the second edition and Thomas D. Cabot, Alexander Forbes, George A. Lyon, and John C. Phillips made up the rest of the committee.

In 1933, a very useful little book was published by the Club entitled "History of the Harvard Travellers Club." Most of the information that I am giving you tonight was derived from it.

The Club has, over the years, assembled a small library which Henry Hall kindly stores for us in his home.

Our first president, Professor William Morris Davis, held office for nine years and set a very high standard for the type of lectures and meetings that were held. Many famous persons have addressed this Club. I have time to mention only a few of them.

At the third meeting of the Club in 1903, our speaker was (then) Commander Robert E. Peary. That night in 1903, Peary announced his firm belief that the North Pole could be reached by way of North Greenland. In later years, as we all know, he lived to prove it.

In 1905, Stefansson, the Arctic Explorer, gave us a lecture. He has spoken before this Club twice since then.

In 1910, Captain Bob Bartlett, who commanded Peary's ship "Roosevelt," told of the expedition on which he supported Peary's final successful attempt to reach the North Pole by dogsled.

On December 12, 1911, at the Exchange Club, Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Ex-President of the United States, spoke on his hunting experiences in East

Africa. Two hundred people attended that dinner.

In 1912, Carl E. Akely spoke on elephant-hunting in Africa. As many of you know, he was a famous big-game hunter on the staff of the American Museum of National History in New York.

President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard gave us a talk on China, in 1913.

In 1923, as a guest, at a meeting, at the Harvard Union, I heard the famous mountaineer, George Leigh Mallory, tell of the 1922 Mt. Everest Expedition. As many of you know, he died near the top of Mt. Everest on a subsequent expedition. Only yesterday, it was announced by radio, that a Swiss party had been turned back <sup>only</sup> 150 feet from the top of that same mountain.

I well remember a dinner at the Union Club in 1930, with Sir Francis Younghusband as guest of honor. He gave us a fascinating account of his journey overland from China to India, about 50 years ago, and told us about the magnificent Himalayan peaks he had seen at that time.

One of our best dinners was in 1932 when the famous Swedish traveller, Dr. Sven Hedin spoke on "some geographical problems of the Lob Nor Region." This was a particularly interesting account of the untravelled areas of Central Asia.

As you all know membership in this Club is not confined to Harvard graduates. The object of the Club is merely the promotion of intelligent travel and exploration.

All that is necessary for membership is a sustained interest in travel of which the candidate must have done some himself, preferably off the beaten track. Then the candidate must be nominated by two members for election by the Council.

We ordinarily hold 8 meetings per year, mostly in this room and try to have as interesting speakers as we can possibly obtain. The members are all invited to make suggestions as to possible speakers.

As may be seen from our treasurer's last Annual Report, the financial

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condition of the Club *has remained* ~~remains~~ excellent.

GODFREY L. CABOT, INC.

TELEPHONE LIBERTY 1871

CABLE ADDRESS  
CHANDERYAR, BOSTON

77 FRANKLIN STREET  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

May 13, 1942

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

Dear Henry:

If we hold no more meetings of Harvard Travellers Club, what I am about to say is of no importance, but we will have meetings sometime.

The present method of collecting dinner fees is not very satisfactory and I think there is distinct evidence that the waiter who has helped us this year has sticky fingers and that it is our duty, both to the Harvard Travellers Club and as citizens, to remove the temptation to further speculation. I didn't say this last night because I think said waiter was eavesdropping.

It would spoil much of the enjoyment of the Secretary-Treasurer in our meetings to have him collect the money himself and I certainly am not going to suggest it to you or to George Lyon. We could have the waiter take the names of those present and send bills, but this would increase the work of Miss Myers and probably increase the work of the Secretary-Treasurer writing collection letters. However, I am inclined to adopt this method unless we can get someone to collect cash whom we can trust. Leo, who used to act as head waiter for us, was honest, although sometimes stupid. Perhaps we could get him back. I think he is still with the Harvard ~~Travellers~~ Club. I suggest you discuss this with Tierney. If we can't get Leo or somebody whom we can trust as waiter, I suggest we hire somebody to come in and do the collecting. For \$2.00 or \$3.00, I am sure I could get one of the clerks in our office to come and collect for us, provided he was allowed to remain and listen. This would be cheaper than making up the deficit, as we did last night.

My feeling that the present waiter is dishonest rises not only from the fact that he was short last night. I believe he has been short several times before when he did this for Gardie Fiske. Furthermore, last night the amount he turned in was an uneven amount. It is easy to understand how he could have missed someone, but not easy to understand how he could have collected less than \$2.50 from anyone.

I will be interested to know what Tierney has to say.

Thank you for taking care of things last night. I think it was a bully meeting.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature, possibly "J. Lyon", written in dark ink. The signature is stylized and appears to be a first name followed by a surname.

TDC:DD  
Copy to Mr. George A. Lyon

89 BROAD STREET  
BOSTON 10, MASS.  
Third Floor

May 22, 1953

Dr. Harrison E. Kennard  
1180 Beacon Street  
Brookline 46, Mass.

Dear Hap:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 21st.

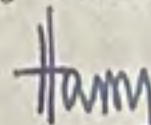
This past year the Harvard Club has been charging a total of \$3.50, including taxes, per person, for its semi-buffet supper. The semi-buffet means that we get up and help ourselves to the middle course. As you know, we have been collecting \$3.00 from each member so that the Travellers Club has been subsidizing fifty cents per person. Next year, Manager Wallace tells us that this semi-buffet dinner will be increased from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per person.

He also stated that a sit-down plated dinner would cost \$3.75 per person, and we have decided to experiment on the October meeting by having a sit-down plated dinner for which we will be charged \$3.75, but for which we will charge each member \$3.50.

At our annual dinner last Tuesday, we had our usual semi-buffet dinner, but in order to speed it up some of the food was already placed on the plate. The annual dinner was an exception to our usual way of serving a semi-buffet dinner.

I have already written Stefansson asking him if he could talk to us either on November 17th or December 8th, 1953. I will let you know what I hear. I am delighted that you have already arranged for Dr. Albright to give our first talk on October 20th.

Very sincerely yours,



Henry S. Howe

HSH/c

*Meeting  
- 50th Anniversary*

From computer file: HTC History 1952

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

### HARVARD TRAVELLERS CLUB Æsculapian Room, Harvard Club of Boston

*Address given by President Harrison E. Kennard  
November 18, 1952*

#### HISTORY OF HARVARD TRAVELLERS CLUB

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The Council has requested that I give you a brief summary of the history of the Club.

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Concerning the actual founding of the Club, I will quote from the "History of The Harvard Travellers Club," published in 1933. . . . "Harvard's eminent geographer, Professor William Morris Davis, in association with Copley Amory, Roland B. Dixon, James H. Kidder, and the late Archibald Cary Coolidge, invited Harvard men and others in this vicinity who might be interested in 'promoting intelligent travel and exploration' to meet together on November 15, 1902, in the assembly room of the Harvard Union in Cambridge, to consider the formation of a Harvard Travellers Club. Thirty men responded to the call."

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We ordinarily hold eight meetings per year, mostly in this room, and try to have as interesting speakers as we can possibly obtain. The members are all invited to make suggestions as to possible speakers.

As may be seen from our treasurer's last Annual Report, the financial condition of the Club has remained good, although due to increasing costs we have recently had to spend some of the small surplus accumulated in past years.

From the 1953 Year Book

## Contents of Harvard Travellers Club

Contents Minutes of 344th meeting, 16 November 1952 [Out of Sequence]

Book No: **Min1**

Page No: **182**

Item No: **219**

Sequenc **1232**

Location: Harvard Club.

Keywords: Events

Second

Year:	Refers to Meeting No:	Type:	Format:	On or Attached to	Useful for Club
1952	<b>344</b>	Minutes	Typewritten	On	Maybe

Notes:

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