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As it was in Egypt

DEMETRIUS PHALEREUS, who was library keeper to the king, was now endeavoring, if it were possible, to gather together all the books that were in the habitable earth, and buying whatsoever was anywhere valuable. . . . And when once Ptolemy asked him, How many ten thousands of books he had collected? He replied, that he had already about twenty times ten thousand, but that, in a little time, he should have fifty times ten thousand. But he said, he had been informed, that there were many books of laws among the Jews, worthy of inquiring after, and worthy of the king's library. . . . Wherefore he said, that nothing hindered why they might not get those books to be translated also, for while nothing is wanting that is necessary for that purpose, we may have their books also in this library. So the king thought that Demetrius was very zealous to procure him abundance of books.

FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS, *Antiquities of the Jews*.

Our Primary Purpose

THE primary purpose of The Business Historical Society, Inc., is to encourage and aid the study of the evolution of business in all periods and in all countries. Further, to formulate the results of such investigations and studies and publish them in such form as may make them of service to the business community, necessitates adequate tools for such investigation. This means the collection of all possible original records, data, etc., having to do with the

beginning and progress of business, and the depositing of this material at some centre accessible to all. For this reason, the getting together of an adequate and comprehensive library of such data is essential to the purpose of the Society. Inasmuch as a great deal of this original material is going to destruction, first attention has been given to this phase of the work, in which the Society has thus far been particularly fortunate. First, it has associated with it a number of important business men who not only are in a position to be helpful in getting such material, but have been actively interested in doing so. Second, it has perfected arrangements with the Harvard Business Library, whereby that library becomes the Society's depository, and whereby the Society and its members have the facilities of that organization.

GEORGE A. RICH,

Secretary and Manager of the Boston Stock Exchange.

The Foundation of The Business Historical Society

THE existence of The Business Historical Society, Inc., must in the first place be credited to two Yale men — Mr. Charles A. Moore, Jr. and Mr. Robert L. Smitley — Mr. Moore, and his brother and sister, by the gift of approximately 50,000 volumes in memory of their father, Mr. Charles A. Moore, Founder and first President of Manning, Maxwell & Moore, Inc.; and Mr. Smitley by his appreciation, understanding and helpfulness in selecting the books comprising the gift. The bookplate used to commemorate the gift is reproduced on the following page.

This collection, because of its extent, inclusiveness and value, can not be described or summarized in a few words, but deserves and will be given a full description in an approaching issue of this *Bulletin*. Without these two munificent gifts of books and personal service, our Business Historical Society could not have begun to function. It is therefore a pleasure thus to acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. Charles A. Moore, Jr. and Mr. Robert L. Smitley.