

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

As a result of the attention given at the recent Nashville meeting to the history of Alexander Wilson it has been thought by some that the organization which bears his name might properly be more active in bringing to the attention of the rank and file of present-day ornithologists the work of this great pioneer in the field.

Aside from the thought of giving more attention to the subject at the various annual meetings, the possibility of preparing a commemorative issue of the WILSON BULLETIN was suggested. It is, of course, very uncertain, and perhaps doubtful, whether any unpublished Wilsoniana would still be available for such a purpose. There is, however, an opportunity for the compilation of a source-book.

Let it be granted that our purpose would be to make the life and work of Alexander Wilson known more widely than at present. Perhaps, then, the best way to do this is to make known the available sources of information. As a tentative plan we offer the following suggested sections or departments:

- (a) Any original and unpublished material that may be found to be available; and any sketches that may be prepared especially.
- (b) Reproductions of all portraits of Wilson; perhaps also of the various printings of these, insofar as may be thought desirable.
- (c) A list of all portraits with information as to the artist, the portrait, and the place of publication.
- (d) A bibliography of Wilson's writings, including the various editions.
- (e) A bibliography of biographies.
- (f) Index of literary work other than ornithological.
- (g) A key showing the whereabouts and possession of original Wilsoniana, insofar as the information is obtainable. Possibly this might also include original editions.
- (h) An index showing possession and repository of much of the major and minor biographical material.

A very considerable amount of research and compilatory work is implied in such a program. It is, however, not impossible if worth while. It would have to be a co-operative enterprise, doubtless. Whether it would be worth while and serve a useful purpose can be best decided by general consultation.