

# BULLETIN *of The* BUSINESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

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IN this number of the Bulletin, among other interesting items, readers will find an account of how the old Middlesex Canal records, the earliest of their sort on the continent, after lying hidden for nearly a century, have been recently brought to light. We also call attention to the article on the Samuel M. Felton Collection, one of the most considerable of recent accessions to the Library of the Society.

Members of the Society will be interested to know that the new library building is rapidly approaching completion. It should be ready for occupancy early in the new year.

The good will of some of its friends has recently endowed the Library of the Society with a copy of that rare old fifteenth-century book on Accounting — Lucas Pacioli's *Suma de Arithmetica*. A more extended notice of this interesting and valuable accession will be given in our next number.

## “Edw<sup>d</sup> Brattle Testyfyeth”

THE generosity of one of our members has furnished us with the original of the interesting cut on the following page. As will be noted, it is a court declaration as to the price of fish, made at Boston in 1704. The signature is that of Edward Brattle, a member of a well-known Boston family.

The same member has also donated to the Society a number of other original pieces.

Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1704  
Edw Brattle  
Att. Ad. Davenport Cler.

Edw Brattle of full age Testifyeth  
That on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 170<sup>3</sup>  
he sold to m<sup>r</sup>: David Jeffries & Partn<sup>er</sup>  
seven hogshheads of Refuse fish  
which was very good fish and  
dry, and farther saith that Hake  
and Haddock is now sold for 10<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>  
& Quintll. & Cod at 11<sup>s</sup>

Boston Octo: 3. 1704

Edw: Brattle

[TRANSCRIPTION]

Edw- Brattle of full age Testifyeth that on the 1st day of March 170<sup>3</sup> he sold to Mr David Jeffries & Partn[er] seven hogshheads of Refuse fish & which was very good fish and dry and farther saith that Hake and Haddock is now sold for 10s 4d p. Quintll. & Cod at 11s.

EDWD BRATTLE

Boston, Octo. 3<sup>o</sup>. 1704

Octo<sup>o</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>: 1704  
Sworne in Court  
Att. Ad. Davenport Cler.

## How to Join or Contribute to The Business Historical Society

THE suggestion has been made that we have not heretofore clearly brought out the exact process by which new members can be welcomed into our fold, or how contributions of books and documents or funds for the purchase thereof, can be made to the Society.

Please send the names of new or prospective members — all of the friends you think might be interested in our undertaking — to (1) Mr. Frank C. Ayres, Secretary, 1277 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass., for regular members; (2) Professor Arthur H.