torical forerunner of this association goes back to the late 1920's, when a small number of liberal professors, theological students, and ministers met together in Chicago and concurred in the Humanist view as their common ground. In 1933, the *Humanist Manifesto* was written and signed by over thirty distinguished Americans. Some semblance of organization—varying at different periods—was carried along during the following fifteen years largely through the volunteer efforts of Edwin H. Wilson.

At the present time the A.H.A. has a full-time staff composed of individuals of outstanding ability, who do a prodigious amount of important educational work. There are also a number of part-time workers. Numbered among the officers, directors, field representatives, and editorial staff are well-known scientists, educators, business executives, lawyers, psychiatrists, authors, religious leaders, and social workers.

The A.H.A. serves as a means of communication and as a uniting force between Humanists who are scattered in ones and twos and small groups over this country and the world. It also attempts to implement their faith, Humanism, through educational methods. In the long run, a way to influence a man's actions is to provide him with the data which go to help make up his philosophy. Here in one movement is given constructive support to those ideals and activities most useful for twentieth-century men and women. This organization is not out to capture men's minds, but to unchain them.

The past year was an exciting one for the A.H.A. There was a healthy growth and expansion of projects. Numbered among the educational work of the association were innumerable activities. These included: activities designed to lessen tensions among those of different racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds; the furtherance of the rights of individuals, even including the right of an individual to plan his own family; the vigorous checking of those who would do away with some of the sound gains made in the methods of educating our children; the continued collection and distribution of material which provides a sturdy psychological understanding of ourself and each other; and as ever there was the focus on disseminating a philosophy which is at once both in accord with accurate knowledge and yet is satisfying. As one director of the A.H.A. told me recently, "Of course Humanism will continue rapidly to take hold, for it is basically right and will straighten the confusion and fill the vacuum felt by many intellectuals."

Following this introduction, you will find brief mention of various phases of the association and its work. For the preparation of this material we are indebted to the staff.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Morain

President, A.H.A.

The Association

The American Humanist Association is a membership organization. Approximately two-thirds of its income comes from the direct contributions of its members. There is no creedal test for membership. Anyone who believes in the philosophy of Humanism and the program of the association enough to want to help support them is welcome to join.

And there are more and more of these people. Total membership in the American Humanist Association has increased by 400 per cent in the past three years. It is this increasing support which has enabled the A.H.A. to maintain the expanding program discussed in this report, as well as many activities which could not be discussed here because of space limitations.

Humanism: A World Movement

Long-time readers of *The Humanist* know that the American Humanist Association is active on the international as well as the national level. Through the pages of the magazine they have watched Humanism become a world movement.

In 1951 the association conducted the World Humanism Essay Contest which drew entries from twenty-eight countries. This was followed by a period of close co-operation with the many foreign Humanist and Ethical groups and individuals discovered through the contest.

In August of 1952 these efforts were climaxed by the meeting of the First International Congress on Humanism and Ethical Culture which brought together in Amsterdam, Holland, Humanists from Western Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Out of this congress grew the International Humanist and Ethical Union with the American Humanist Association as one of its founding members. The union, which plans to apply for official recognition by UNESCO as a nongovernmental international organization with consultative status, will serve as an international agency for correlating Humanist thought and effort, thus linking the American Humanist community composed of the members and friends of the A.H.A. directly with the international Humanist community.

Regional Conferences

On the national scene one of the really major achievements of the American Humanist Association during 1952 was the development of the "Humanist regional conference." These conferences bring together avowed Humanists and others interested in the general viewpoint from a rather large area for two or three days of discussions and workshops—for a sharing of views and a cross-fertilization of ideas. In these times when the mass media of communication are most often controlled by the nonhumanistic and the antihumanistic, regional conferences offer one answer to the problem of how to preserve healthy humanistic thought on a national basis. The A.H.A. strives to keep the world safe for intelligence and to guide intelligence into the service of a free world.