



Economic History Association

Recent Membership Trends of the Economic History Association

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Recent Membership Trends of the Economic History Association

Hugh G. J. Aitken, as former chairman of the membership committee of the Economic History Association, made a very revealing analysis of the trends, geographical distribution, and prospects of the Association's membership as of 1962. See his communication on "The Association's Membership: Growth and Distribution" in this Journal for September 1963, pages 335-341. This updating of Aitken's analysis is based on the reports made by the membership committee and by Herman Krooss, the Association's treasurer, at the annual meeting in September 1964.

Membership levels achieved in the years 1962, 1963, and 1964 were as follows:

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Individual (domestic)	633	657	703
Library (domestic)	653	699	773
Foreign	495	556	624
Exchange	36	36	36
Total	1,817	1,948	2,136

The increases in these membership categories during 1963 and 1964 ran as follows:

	<u>1963</u>		<u>1964</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Individual (domestic)	24	3.5	46	7.0
Library (domestic)	46	7.0	74	10.6
Foreign	61	7.2	68	9.7
Total	131	7.3	188	9.7

The membership data for 1964 reveal that the Association's strength continues to be concentrated primarily in the Northeast. The states of largest membership are New York with 127 members, California 63, Massachusetts 54, Illinois 40, Pennsylvania 40, New Jersey 32, Wisconsin 32, and Texas 31. The first three of these states contain 35 per cent of the Association's domestic individual membership; the first five, 46 per cent; the first eight (those named above), 60 per cent; and the first eleven, 70 per cent. Sixteen states account for some 83 per cent of the domestic individual membership. The states now having no members are Arkansas, Nevada, and North Dakota. Those with only one member each are Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Mississippi, New Mexico, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Aside from states having negligible membership, Aitken estimates (in the analysis cited above) on the basis of relevant criteria that such states as California, Washington, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Tennessee, Alabama, Colorado, and Utah are

greatly underrepresented. The Association thus needs to give much attention to its hinterland in future membership efforts.

The gains in foreign memberships are given in the tables above. During 1963 and 1964, foreign memberships increased by 129, reaching a total of 624 in 1964. The leading countries, with their recent gains and 1964 memberships, are as follows:

	<u>1962-1964 Gain</u>	<u>1964 Membership</u>
Japan	23	108
Britain	18	86
Canada	6	64
Italy	7	39
Germany	10	37
India	11	31
Australia	5	28

The membership committee has been enlarged to fifteen members to facilitate its recruitment work. Each committee member has prime responsibility for membership efforts in certain designated states of his area. In addition to the chairman, these committee members and their institutional affiliations are as follows:

Leonard J. Arrington, Utah State University, Logan
 Thomas S. Berry, University of Richmond, Richmond, Va.
 H. Jerome Cranmer, Drew University, Madison, N. J.
 Clarence H. Danhof, Brookings Institution, Washington, D. C.
 Warren S. Gramm, Washington State University, Pullman
 Lewis E. Hill, Clemson University, Clemson, S. C.
 Arthur M. Johnson, Harvard University Graduate School of Business
 Administration, Boston
 John J. Madden, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario
 John B. Rae, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California
 Morton Rothstein, University of Wisconsin, Madison
 Richard B. Sheridan, University of Kansas, Lawrence
 Matthew Simon, Queens College, New York City
 W. Paul Strassmann, Michigan State University, East Lansing
 Elmus R. Wicker, Indiana University, Bloomington

To be more effective in its work, this committee needs the assistance of each individual member of the Association. Indeed, many individuals have aided in this work. The present committee particularly appreciates the assistance rendered by Hugh Aitken as the committee's former chairman, Herman Krooss as the Association's treasurer, George Rogers Taylor and Harold F. Williamson as presidents of the Association, Ross Robertson, and the co-editors of this Journal.

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