



The Book

Number 5, March 1985

Newsletter of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture
Published by the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts

Note from the Editors

In the November 1984 issue of *The Book* we promised a full report on the "needs and opportunities" conference that took place in Worcester November 1-3. We don't like to break a promise, but we are postponing any commentary or summaries for the time being. In lieu of summary, we can offer the real thing. The American Antiquarian Society's *Proceedings* to be published in April includes David Grimsted's witty and masterful critique of popular culture studies, and Roger Chartier's thoughtful elaboration on what is right and wrong in approaches to understanding popular culture. Future issues of the *Proceedings* will include several other conference papers and a systematic report on what was learned, both from the papers and from discussion by commentators and the audience.

In the context of the continuing dialogue between bibliographers and cultural and social historians, we note with pleasure the presidential address delivered by D. F. McKenzie before the Bibliographical Society (London). The lead essay in the most recent issue of *The Library*, (December 1984), "The Sociology of a Text: Orality, Literacy and Print in Early New Zealand," should give encouragement to all those who seek to move in new directions.

Pilot Phases Set for Two Research Projects

Two research projects of considerable potential for all American scholars with an interest in the history of the book have entered or will shortly enter pilot phases. At the Library of Congress (LC), Carter Wills has been hired as a consultant for a six-month pilot project in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division to explore the feasibility of publishing the nation's early copyright records. The work, funded by LC, began in September.

Meanwhile, the Bibliographical Society of America has received an \$11,000 grant from the H. W. Wilson Foundation to fund a three-month pilot project toward creating a guide to archives and manuscript material in American repositories relevant to the history of printing and publishing. It should be noted that this project, if fully funded and successfully completed, will result in a guide not only to materials

useful for research into the history of the book in America but also to the history of the book in other lands. Directing this grant will be William L. Joyce, assistant director for rare books and manuscripts at the New York Public Library. The BSA is seeking to employ an individual to carry out the pilot project. Persons wishing further information on this position may write to Irene Tichenor, Executive Secretary, Bibliographical Society of America, P.O. Box 397, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163.

Still a third project has just been completed. Alice D. Schreyer, a consultant at the Library of Congress' Center for the Book, has wound up her work on a guide to resources at LC for the study of the history of books, and has departed Washington for a new position at the library of Rutgers University.

1985 Wiggins Lecturer Announced

Larzer Ziff, a literary historian at The Johns Hopkins University, has been chosen to deliver the third annual James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture. Professor Ziff's talk, scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 1985, will focus on the relationship between the book and literary culture in the first decades of the early national period. More details will follow in the next issue of this newsletter.

Cooper Celebration Planned

For more than fifteen years, the American Antiquarian Society and Clark University have been the institutional sponsors of the standard edition of the works of James Fenimore Cooper. The editor in chief is James Franklin Beard of Clark, the leading Cooper scholar, who is also the editor of the six-volume edition of Cooper's letters published by Harvard University Press some years ago. Ten volumes of the edition of Cooper's works, which is published by the press of the State University of New York, have appeared thus far.

The final volume of *The Leatherstocking Tales* is due from the publishers by late spring of 1985. The texts, newly established by the Cooper Edition, have been adopted by the Library of America, which will publish the five *Leatherstocking Tales* in two volumes in late May or early June 1985.

THE MATHER FAMILY LIBRARY AT AAS

More than 1,500 printed books that once belonged to Richard, Increase, Cotton, and Samuel Mather, their families, colleagues, and correspondents, constitute the American Antiquarian Society's Mather Family Library. This collection, the largest extant portion of colonial New England's most important library, has not been studied at first hand by any of the scholars who have written major or minor works on the various Mathers in this century. The library is, therefore, nearly an untapped source for scholars interested in the history of the book as well.

Isaiah Thomas acquired the bulk of the collection for the Society from Hannah Mather Crocker (Samuel's daughter) in 1814. During the winter of 1814-15 he sifted, conserved, and catalogued the library, and appraised its every volume. He wrote out the catalogue in his own hand on twenty-eight sheets folded so as to form three folio quires, each measuring roughly 14 x 8 inches. On the pages of the first quire (of eight sheets) Thomas listed the smallest of the books, the octavos, duodecimos, and 32mos; on the second (sixteen sheets) he listed the larger books, folios and quartos, and the family's manuscripts; and on the third, the contents of twenty-five volumes of bound tracts. At the top of the first page of each quire he inscribed a heading that summarized its contents, thus:

1. "Catalogue of Dr. Cotton Mather's Library, purchased by Isaiah Thomas and by him given to the American Antiquarian Society."

2. "Remains of Mather's Library Folio & 4to. Purchased by I. Thomas and by him presented to the American Antiqu. Society."

3. "17th Century English Tracts printed from 1590 to 1730, and bound in 25 Vols. and numbered, 1 to 25. Principally on the Religious and political Disputes of the Time."

Within each of these sections Thomas arranged the Mather books in rough alphabetical order, mostly according to author or title, but often according to genre (e.g. "Sermons", sometimes giving a common topic, or range of imprint dates, or number of titles bound up in such volumes), or a capriciously constructed short-title. Within the "Folio & 4to" section there are separate alphabetical series for each format. Thus, Thomas's manuscript catalogue comprises three sections, four alphabetical series, as well as a list of manuscripts.

Readers will perhaps excuse such detail if they compare this account with the list of books published under the heading, incorrectly transcribing Thomas's words, "Catalogue of Dr. Cotton Mather's Library purchased by Isaiah Thomas and given by him to the American Antiquarian Society" at the end of J. H. Tuttle's "The Libraries of the Mathers" in the AAS *Proceedings* 20 (1910); 269-356. An assistant to

Tuttle here silently neatened Thomas's catalogue into a single alphabetical list, deleting, in the process, more than 500 titles. Gone, for instance, are Thomas's entries for *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, Lancelot Andrewes's *The Morall Law Expounded*, Ainsworth's *Annotations upon the Five Bookes of Moses*, the book of *Psalms*, and the *Song of Songs* (1639). Tuttle's article may still be "the best study" of the Mather libraries, but as a guide to the Antiquarian Society's holdings it is unaccountably incomplete.

Forty years after Tuttle glanced over these books, the Readex Microprint - AAS Early American Imprints project got under way. To facilitate microfilming, Mather Library tract and sermon volumes that contained American imprints were disbound, their American imprints segregated, and all titles separately rebound. Regrettable from the standpoint of association value, this work was done thoroughly. Only two items were passed over: John Higginson's four-leaf *Direction for a Public Profession in the Church Assembly* (Cambridge, 1665), and the broadside *Catalogus, eorum qui in Collegio Harvardino* (Boston, 1700). When Thomas's catalogue does not specify the original contents of collections broken up for this project, they can be reconstructed with the help of a nineteenth-century shelflist.

Manuscript additions to the Mather books will be of interest to historians of the book. No volume in the Mather Library is unmarked: at the very least, each bears Thomas's 1814 appraisal. Signatures, dates, jotted purchase information, or gift inscriptions adorn a high percentage of the books. Claudius Gilbert's *Vindication of the Magistrates Power in Religious Matters* (London, 1657) is inscribed "John Wilsons booke, ex dono authoris," and "Richard Mathers booke, ex dono Reverendi John Wilson." *Anti Baal-Berith* is inscribed "Tho: Shepard's: ye gift of Col: Tho: Temple. July. 1661." Less dramatic inscriptions than these are of course equally pertinent to the study of book circulation in colonial New England. Are the upside-down figures on the flyleaf of Increase's copy of Rivet's *Theologicae & Scholasticae exercitationes cxc in Genesin* (Leyden, 1633) stigmata earned at Samuel Gerrish's auction of September 2, 1718? Scholars studying the writings of the various Mathers will, sooner or later, find the textual marginalia, underscoring, doodles, and inserted indexes of interest. Read in conjunction with the Mathers' own published writings, with the Mather manuscripts held at AAS, and with the several manuscript book lists compiled at different times by Increase and Cotton, even the shortest dash pencilled in a margin points its maker as well as the passage. The marginalia in *A Letter of Advice to the Churches of the Non-Conformists* (London, 1700), for instance, are the author's—Cotton Mather's—own. It is perhaps worth noting that this slender work, in a quite fancy

sojourn in Virginia in 1682, there had been no printing at all south of Massachusetts. By 1750, two centers dominated southern print culture: the Chesapeake Bay, principally Annapolis and Williamsburg, and Charleston. Both centers had important connections with London and other ports in the British Isles such as Glasgow, as well as with northern American cities like Philadelphia. Benjamin Franklin's influence here as elsewhere in American printing was very important, but the region produced major figures of its own, men like William Parks of Maryland and Virginia, and the Timothy dynasty in South Carolina.

By 1763, each southern colony had at least one newspaper; indeed, South Carolina led the way with three. The colonies also had private, and in some places public libraries, supplied by an active book trade. Thirdly, each colony had printing establishments ready to produce business and legal forms, stationery, pamphlets, and broadsides. A hundred years earlier none of these existed (except private libraries) in what William Byrd of Westover called "this silent land." The printing press had in the interim broken, forever, that silence.

Calhoun Winton
University of Maryland

TEXTBOOK USE IN NEW YORK STATE, 1820s-30s

Interesting and potentially significant data on the use of textbooks in New York State during the 1820s and 1830s is included in the published *Annual Reports of New York State's superintendent of common schools*. These reports were printed as part of the *New York State Assembly Documents* from 1814 onward. Although the superintendent maintained a laissez faire attitude toward the adoption of textbooks by the local school districts, his office did collect detailed statistics on textbook usage.

From the late 1820s through the 1830s, the superintendent's report included an "Abstract of the Reports of the Commissioners of the Common Schools, of the School Books Most in Use in the Several Towns Which have Made Returns." This abstract contained a table showing the use of the most popular textbooks in each county—exclusive of New York—in the state. The table grouped the texts under six general headings: arithmetics, grammars, geographies, dictionaries, and "readers and other books." The table published in *New York State Assembly Documents* 56th Session (1833), vol. 1 #17, pp.68-73, included the thirty-five most common textbooks in the table, followed by a listing of an additional eighty-seven additional texts. The following information, derived from this chart, suggests the potential usefulness of this record.

The most popular textbooks were Lindley Murray's *English Reader* (used in 549 towns), Daboll's *Arithmetic* (472 towns). At the other end of the scale were forty-seven titles used in only a single town in the

state. The figures also illustrate the regional popularity of school books. Although Daboll's *Arithmetic* was the most popular arithmetic textbook in the state, a rival by Adams predominated in six contiguous counties in the northern Adirondacks and was equal in popularity with Daboll in a seventh. While Webster accounted for about fifty percent of the spelling book market, Lyman Cobb's speller predominated over Webster in eleven western New York counties. In many cases, the popularity of a particular book was limited to one or two counties.

A table published in 1838 (*New York State Assembly Documents*, 61st Session (1838), vol. 1, #13, p. 95) charted the popularity of the twenty-seven most common school books from 1827 to 1838. Among the changes was Lyman Cobb's spelling book replacing Noah Webster's as the most popular speller.

Given the early nineteenth-century concern for common school education and the contemporary fascination with statistics, it is quite possible that similar data on the use of school books existed in the government reports of the other states. Such data would permit a better understanding of the diffusion of books and educational ideas in the early republic.

Christopher Densmore
State University of
New York at Buffalo

Notes on Research Collections

BOOK TRADE MANUSCRIPTS AT NYPL

If, like chameleons, manuscript repositories are fated to resemble the nature of their surroundings, then it may not be surprising that the Manuscripts and Archives Section of the Rare Books and Manuscript Division of the New York Public Library is especially rich in the sources pertaining to the history of publishing, printing, and the book trades. A recent survey of such sources revealed some 110 collections varying in size from a few folders to large aggregations of several hundred containers. Only the briefest mention of a few of the major sources will suggest the breadth of the holdings of interest to students of the history of the book in American culture.

By far the section's greatest strength lies in the field of publishing, particularly periodical publishing, and it is this material that this note will stress. For the nineteenth century several large collections dominate the research landscape. The Duyckinck Family Papers (106 boxes, 45 vols.) bring together the papers of Evert Augustus and George Long Duyckinck whose fraternal collaboration produced in midcentury *The Literary World*, the best literary weekly of its time, as well as Evert's multivolume *Cyclopedia of American Literature*. Their correspondence contains letters from virtually every important American writer, including Cooper, Emerson, Hawthorne, Irving, Longfellow, Melville, Simms, Thoreau, and a host of lesser literati, scholars, and historians. This rich source includes also

numerous daybooks and business papers of Evert Duyckinck (Sr.), a New York publisher for some forty years.

Of major significance for the latter half of the nineteenth century (and early twentieth) are the records (207 boxes) of the Century Company, publishers of *The Century Magazine*, which succeeded *Scribner's Monthly*, and remained a journal preeminent in the field of general literature. These records reflect the extraordinary expansion of publishing in America in the period following the Civil War. These records also preserve the voluminous correspondence of the editors, Richard Watson Gilder, Josiah G. Holland and Robert Underwood Johnson, with literally thousands of authors. Complementing these records are separate collections of papers of Gilder (32 boxes, 40 vols.) which offer additional documentation of his long stewardship of *The Century Magazine*; of Holland (1 box, 2 vols.); and of Johnson (11 boxes) which especially concern editorial policy and copyright legislation. Other noteworthy collections of nineteenth-century publishing include the papers (18 boxes) of Robert Bonner, proprietor of the *New York Ledger*; the papers (8 boxes) of William Conant Church, who edited *The Galaxy*, an illustrated magazine of popular entertainment which merged in 1878 with the *Atlantic Monthly*; and papers of newspaper editors James Gordon Bennett of the *New York Herald* (1 box) and of George Jones (3,000 items) and Henry J. Raymond (1 box) of the *New York Times*.

Periodical and book publishing in the twentieth century is no less richly documented. The major collection by size (if not importance) pertains to the Crowell-Collier Publishing Company, whose records extend to some 720 linear feet (over 800 cartons and boxes). The massive correspondence and typescript files of the editors of *Collier's Weekly*, the *Women's Home Companion*, the *American Magazine*, and *Country Home*, offer a truly panoramic view of popular magazine publishing in the decades from the 1930s to the 1950s. The Great Depression may explain in part the attraction to these publications of such literary lights as Sherwood Anderson, Edna Ferber, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Aldous Huxley, Andre Malraux, John Steinbeck, and P.G. Wodehouse, to name only a few. The records of Life Magazine, Inc. (29 boxes, 67 vols.) offer insight into the more technical side of magazine production. Founded in 1892 by John Ames Mitchell, the original *Life* survived until 1936 when it was taken over and continued under revised format by Time, Inc. These records include correspondence with printers, publishers, artists, and illustrators, as well as contracts, minutes, and records of the art, literary, and sales departments. Additional documentation of the technical side of magazine publishing is contained in the recently acquired records (80 boxes and cartons)

of Popular Publications, Inc. This firm, which inherited the literary properties of the Frank A. Munsey Co., became the leading publisher of pulp magazines in America, providing the public with such popular favorites as *Dime Detectives*, *True Adventure*, and *Argosy*. These records relate mainly to the business side of publishing (contracts, copyright assignments, permissions, syndications, and foreign sales). Complementing these records are the papers (26 boxes) of Robert Hobart Davis containing his correspondence with English and American authors while he was Munsey's fiction editor.

Other papers of periodical publishers include: Benjamin R. Tucker, the philosophical anarchist who published *Liberty* and *The Radical Review*; Albert Shaw, editor and publisher of *The Review of Reviews*, a magazine founded in England by William Thomas Stead; *Uncensored*, which opposed America's entry into World War II, and *World Government News*, principal protagonist in its time of federal world government.

Twentieth-century book publishing is strongly represented by the Macmillan Company of New York, which achieved independence from its British progenitor in 1896. The records, consisting in large measure of President George Platt Brett's correspondence with published authors, attest to the broad range and high quality of the Macmillan list, which included Gertrude Atherton, Winston Churchill (the American author), Jack London, John Masefield, Margaret Mitchell, Sean O'Casey, Theodore Roosevelt, Sara Teasdale, and William Butler Yeats. Included also is Brett's correspondence with the London office and the extensive correspondence of the textbook division.

The records (39 cartons) of A.A. Knopf, Inc. include manuscript rejection correspondence and readers' reports, supplemented by an additional file of correspondence of Alfred and Blanche Knopf relating to publishing matters. Mention should also be made of the papers (119 boxes) of H.L. Mencken, which include in addition to Mencken's correspondence with authors and contributors to the *Smart Set* and *The American Mercury*, a large file of his correspondence with the Knopfs whom he served as literary and business advisor. In a narrower field, the John Robert Gregg Collection (92 linear feet) includes the records of the Gregg Publishing Company, which published shorthand texts and manuals, as well as Gregg's personal papers. Papers relating to the history and development of copyright law, a field closely allied to publishing, are included in the records (6 boxes, 6 vols.) of the American Publishers' Copyright League, and in the papers (124 boxes) of Richard Rogers Bowker, editor and publisher of *Publisher's Weekly* and *Library Journal*.

John D. Stinson
New York Public Library

THE MATHER FAMILY LIBRARY AT AAS

More than 1,500 printed books that once belonged to Richard, Increase, Cotton, and Samuel Mather, their families, colleagues, and correspondents, constitute the American Antiquarian Society's Mather Family Library. This collection, the largest extant portion of colonial New England's most important library, has not been studied at first hand by any of the scholars who have written major or minor works on the various Mathers in this century. The library is, therefore, nearly an untapped source for scholars interested in the history of the book as well.

Isaiah Thomas acquired the bulk of the collection for the Society from Hannah Mather Crocker (Samuel's daughter) in 1814. During the winter of 1814-15 he sifted, conserved, and catalogued the library, and appraised its every volume. He wrote out the catalogue in his own hand on twenty-eight sheets folded so as to form three folio quires, each measuring roughly 14 x 8 inches. On the pages of the first quire (of eight sheets) Thomas listed the smallest of the books, the octavos, duodecimos, and 32mos; on the second (sixteen sheets) he listed the larger books, folios and quartos, and the family's manuscripts; and on the third, the contents of twenty-five volumes of bound tracts. At the top of the first page of each quire he inscribed a heading that summarized its contents, thus:

1. "Catalogue of Dr. Cotton Mather's Library, purchased by Isaiah Thomas and by him given to the American Antiquarian Society."

2. "Remains of Mather's Library Folio & 4to. Purchased by I. Thomas and by him presented to the American Antiqn. Society."

3. "17th Century English Tracts printed from 1590 to 1730, and bound in 25 Vols. and numbered, 1 to 25. Principally on the Religious and political Disputes of the Time."

Within each of these sections Thomas arranged the Mather books in rough alphabetical order, mostly according to author or title, but often according to genre (e.g. "Sermons", sometimes giving a common topic, or range of imprint dates, or number of titles bound up in such volumes), or a capriciously constructed short-title. Within the "Folio & 4to" section there are separate alphabetical series for each format. Thus, Thomas's manuscript catalogue comprises three sections, four alphabetical series, as well as a list of manuscripts.

Readers will perhaps excuse such detail if they compare this account with the list of books published under the heading, incorrectly transcribing Thomas's words, "Catalogue of Dr. Cotton Mather's Library purchased by Isaiah Thomas and given by him to the American Antiquarian Society" at the end of J. H. Tuttle's "The Libraries of the Mathers" in the AAS *Proceedings* 20 (1910); 269-356. An assistant to

Tuttle here silently neatened Thomas's catalogue into a single alphabetical list, deleting, in the process, more than 500 titles. Gone, for instance, are Thomas's entries for *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, Lancelot Andrewes's *The Morall Law Expounded*, Ainsworth's *Annotations upon the Five Bookes of Moses*, the book of *Psalms*, and the *Song of Songs* (1639). Tuttle's article may still be "the best study" of the Mather libraries, but as a guide to the Antiquarian Society's holdings it is unaccountably incomplete.

Forty years after Tuttle glanced over these books, the Readex Microprint - AAS Early American Imprints project got under way. To facilitate microfilming, Mather Library tract and sermon volumes that contained American imprints were disbound, their American imprints segregated, and all titles separately rebound. Regrettable from the standpoint of association value, this work was done thoroughly. Only two items were passed over: John Higginson's four-leaf *Direction for a Public Profession in the Church Assembly* (Cambridge, 1665), and the broadside *Catalogus, eorum qui in Collegio Harvardino* (Boston, 1700). When Thomas's catalogue does not specify the original contents of collections broken up for this project, they can be reconstructed with the help of a nineteenth-century shelflist.

Manuscript additions to the Mather books will be of interest to historians of the book. No volume in the Mather Library is unmarked: at the very least, each bears Thomas's 1814 appraisal. Signatures, dates, jotted purchase information, or gift inscriptions adorn a high percentage of the books. Claudius Gilbert's *Vindication of the Magistrates Power in Religious Matters* (London, 1657) is inscribed "John Wilsons booke, ex dono authoris," and "Richard Mathers booke, ex dono Reverendi John Wilson." *Anti Baal-Berith* is inscribed "Tho: Shepard's: ye gift of Col: Tho: Temple. July. 1661." Less dramatic inscriptions than these are of course equally pertinent to the study of book circulation in colonial New England. Are the upside-down figures on the flyleaf of Increase's copy of Rivet's *Theologicae & Scholasticae exercitationes cxc in Genesin* (Leyden, 1633) stigmata earned at Samuel Gerrish's auction of September 2, 1718? Scholars studying the writings of the various Mathers will, sooner or later, find the textual marginalia, underscoring, doodles, and inserted indexes of interest. Read in conjunction with the Mathers' own published writings, with the Mather manuscripts held at AAS, and with the several manuscript book lists compiled at different times by Increase and Cotton, even the shortest dash pencilled in a margin points its maker as well as the passage. The marginalia in *A Letter of Advice to the Churches of the Non-Conformists* (London, 1700), for instance, are the author's—Cotton Mather's—own. It is perhaps worth noting that this slender work, in a quite fancy

contemporary American binding, escaped the eye of T. J. Holmes, who worked at AAS while compiling his exemplary bibliography of Cotton's writings.

Although the Mather Family Library is a largely uncatalogued collection, it is accessible through a primitive main-entry card file marked with shelf-numbers. A typescript of Thomas's manuscript catalogue is filed alongside it in the Manuscript Department. These aids will be of use until a corrective to Tuttle's misleading 1910 list finds its way into print.

Keith Arbour
American Antiquarian
Society

Zenger Lecture Postponed

The lecture by Stephen Botein to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the seditious libel trial of John Peter Zenger, announced in the last issue of *The Book* as taking place on May 16, has been postponed, probably to early September. The new date will be published in the July issue of this newsletter.

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
185 SALISBURY STREET
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01609-1634

Printing Shop at South Street Seaport

Among the attractions available to the visitor to the South Street Seaport Museum on the Manhattan waterfront is Bowne & Co., Stationers, a reconstructed nineteenth-century printing office. Visitors to the shop may view artisans at work setting type or pulling impressions on one of several old but still-working presses, as well as purchase a variety of stationery items.

Bowne & Co. provides educational resources in addition to tourist services. Persons interested in gaining some hands-on experience with the ancient craft of letterpress printing have several opportunities available to them. The shop offers internships to college students. It also offers a variety of workshops and classes in letterpress printing and bookbinding. Further information on these and other programs may be had by writing the Director, Bowne & Co., Stationers, South Street Seaport Museum, 207 Front St., New York, N.Y. 10038.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
PERMIT NO. 416
WORCESTER, MASS. 01609
