

The Report of the Librarian

1967-1968

IT IS A PLEASURE to report that we have had an unusually good year in the acquisition of books. We have continued to take advantage of the unusual opportunities presented by the sale of the books of the late Thomas W. Streeter. Last fall when the Deering Collection duplicates came on the market, AAS was very early on the scene and we were able to select a number of outstanding pieces of Americana. The acquisition of the multitudinous editions and printings of the works of James Fenimore Cooper goes on, as does the purchase of children's books, murder trials, Wright fiction, booksellers' catalogues, and so on. During the past year we added 3,011 pieces, just about evenly divided between books published before and after our watershed year of 1876. Generous donors gave 585 of the total. I am especially grateful to a number of members who gave the substantial sum of \$10,830 for the purchase of especially costly books that otherwise could not have been purchased. The problem dealing with the continually increasing number of currently published books is getting acute. The Library Committee stated recently in a general acquisition policy that AAS collections should keep up with current scholarship within our scope. This decision was indicated in part by the fact that no other major collection exists in the Worcester area, by the fact that supporting materials must be available as adjuncts to our primary collections, and the belief of the committee that a collection on the historiography of America to 1877 is not out of place at AAS. Nevertheless the strain these purchases place upon our book funds

is very considerable. I estimate that one-fourth of our funds were spent on these books.

This has been an exceptionally busy year. The number of visitors during the month of July was never so large and we were hard put to it to seat them all on some days. The pressure on the staff was intense and I am grateful to them for their unfailing good humor and helpful attitude toward our guests who, as in past years, came from all points of the compass. They came, well over a thousand strong, from thirty-one states, five Canadian provinces, and six other foreign countries. It was a source of satisfaction to be able to serve as home base for a young scholar from the Free University of Berlin who spent the year with us as an ACLS fellow.

In the acquisition report which follows, a subject classification has been used as a means of indicating to the reader the breadth of our collections:

ALMANACS

Only twenty-three almanacs were added this year but there were some rare ones among them. For example, the earliest almanac added to the collection was *Rivington's New Almanack, and Ephemeris, . . . For the Year of Our Lord, 1775* (New York). Well fly-specked, it lacks the last two leaves. Nevertheless, the Library of Congress copy is also imperfect and only the New York Public Library has another. Charles van Ravenswaay presented us with *Morton & Smith's Western Farmers Almanac, for 1832*. It originated in Louisville, Kentucky, and is the only perfect copy located in Drake's bibliography of American almanacs. *The Prairie Farmers' Almanac* of Chicago for 1849 was added. Number one, 1846, through number three, 1848, were already in our collections. In addition, we bought at the Streeter sale another Chicago example, *Sloan's Almanac for 1850*. All of these are known by only two or three copies. *The Farmers' and Miners' California Almanac*

for the Year 1856 published in San Francisco is now at AAS and is known by only one other copy. A curiosity in this line is the *Fonetik Olmanak* for 1856, published in Cincinnati, and bearing a title page printed in specially cast phonetic type. Fortunately the text is in straight English. Ben Pitman and others were in Cincinnati at the time and were hard at work improving the state of English orthography. Some years back we acquired a phonetic dictionary printed there at about the same time.

BIOGRAPHY AND PERSONAL NARRATIVE

The interest of our forebears in the Western wilderness was as intense as that of our own children as they watch television programs of today. There is no doubt that some printed narratives of the eighteenth century were as fictitious as are present day renderings of the wild, wild West. The piece at hand is, happily, of a higher caliber. I refer to Filson's versions of Daniel Boone's *Adventures* which were published at various places and times beginning in 1784. At the Streeter sale we acquired the only known copy of the Windsor, Vermont, 1798, edition to accompany our Norwich, Connecticut, edition which itself exists in only three copies.

Another personal narrative which, although published several times, is still exceedingly scarce is that of Matthew Bunn of Rehoboth, Massachusetts. He took part in the campaign of 1791 against the Ohio Indians and proceeded to get himself captured during a brief hunting trip outside friendly lines. He made his escape only to be caught by the son of the infamous George Girty. He escaped again but on arriving in Detroit, expecting sanctuary from the British garrison there, he was tried and convicted for high treason. After more vicissitudes he finally reached home on October 1, 1795. The first edition of this narrative was published in Providence in 1796 and is located at the Newberry Library. Our new copy is the 1806,

Peacham, Vermont, edition known by only two examples; this and another at the Newberry. AAS also has an edition published at an undetermined place in 1797 as well as the Batavia, New York, 1828, edition.

A broadside printing of the last letter of Thomas Jefferson came our way. It is dated at Monticello, June 24, 1826, and was sent to the chairman of the Washington, D.C., committee in charge of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We can find no information about it and an inquiry to Julian Boyd was fruitless. Its title is *The Last Letter of the Illustrious Statesman, Thomas Jefferson, Esq.*

The famous Siamese twins of the nineteenth century were Chang and Eng Bunker. They were brought to the United States in 1829 and toured this country and Europe to the great astonishment of the beholders. They were examined by the great men of medicine, and, finally, they settled down on a farm in North Carolina. A few years ago we acquired a fine lithograph of the brothers. This year we have *An Account of Chang and Eng*, published in New York, in 1853.

A rare, but well-known book on early life in Illinois is that of *The Reminances of Early Life in Illinois* by Mrs. Christina Holmes Tillson. Mrs. Tillson left Kingston, Massachusetts, in 1822 to settle on a farm near Vandalia, Illinois. Her narrative is intimate and warm and is a delightful tale of early days. The book was privately printed in Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1873. When in Omaha two years ago, I came across another copy of this book. It was in very bad condition but had the distinction of being a family copy and was well marked up with notes and was filled with memorabilia.

BOOKS AND BOOK TRADE

Of the thirty-one pieces, acquired in this category, we made several very fine additions to our collections. The earliest was

a fourteen-page *Catalogue of Books Sold by Garrat Noel*, a bookseller of New York City. It is undated, although investigation shows that it was printed about 1754. That it was issued separately is shown by the stab holes and the lack of paste along the folds.

Another unrecorded bookseller's catalogue is one of Henry Knox's, a three-page leaflet issued by him at his London Book-Store in Boston during the early 1770s. Among the new library catalogues were those of The Franklin Society at Amherst, New Hampshire, which was printed by the local printer, Joseph Cushing, in 1808. The six-page list contains the usual fare plus a copy of *Broad Grins* (indicating that humor was not entirely absent) as well as *Salmagundi*.

A year ago, the librarian of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, announced quite properly with pride that he had acquired an unrecorded copy of *The Constitution of the Proprietors of the Architectural Society of Boston* issued by the proprietors almost immediately after their institution on March 15, 1809. The final five pages, no doubt added to the constitution sometime later, list the holdings of the library. I was quite envious of their good fortune and through the kindness of Abbott Lowell Cummings obtained a Xerox copy of it. However, less than a year later, another copy came on the market and you may have three tries at determining where that second copy is now.

Brannon and Morford were a firm of Philadelphia booksellers who issued catalogues from time to time. We have a new one; an auction of their entire stock dated June 3, 1811. It contains seventy-nine pages.

To our slowly growing collection of printers' manuscripts, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Lane of Hallandale, Florida (formerly of the Lane Press in Burlington, Vermont), gave the subscription list, daybook, ledger, and miscellaneous manuscripts of Ephraim Hathaway Washburn. Washburn was printer and publisher of the *Middlebury Argus* from February 8, 1832,

until February 1834, when he moved to Montpelier. He died there, aged forty-five, in 1844.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Four hundred ninety-seven children's books were obtained this year, only twenty-nine of them being dated prior to 1821. It was through the generosity of Mrs. Fred Harold Daniels that we were able to purchase two lots, totaling just under four hundred. These books were published for the most part in the 1820s-1840s and made a notable addition to our holdings.

The earliest children's book added this year past was Samuel Sewall's *Early Piety, Exemplified in Elizabeth Butcher of Boston* (third edition, Boston, 1725). It is the earliest known edition of this title which is entered in Evans under Cotton Mather. We have a 1741 edition and the Massachusetts Historical Society has a 1742 edition.

An unrecorded title is *A Present for a Little Boy* (Portsmouth, N.H., 1805). Its text does not agree with that by William Darton recorded by d'Alte A. Welch.

Also of interest is a set of geographical teaching cards, printed in Burlington, New Jersey, by David Allinson about the year 1805. Its title is *Geography an Amusement, or A Complete Set of Geographical Cards* and is the gift of M. Halsey Thomas.

Another teaching game was given by Mrs. Kathryn Buhler. Its title is *The Picture Alphabet for a Good Child*. It dates, I would judge, from about 1830. The circular letter cards, with illustrations, are housed in a round wooden container.

Another unrecorded children's book is *The Youth's Director* published in St. Albans, Vermont, in 1811. Not only is it interesting as a children's book with a hitherto unknown text, but it also has merit as an unusual Vermont imprint.

Although the following is a school book, it is nevertheless designed for the use of children, the first such printed on the

West coast. I refer to Jose Mariano Romero's *Catechismo de Ortologia*, printed in Monterrey, California, by C. A. V. Zamorano in 1836. This was obtained at the fourth Streeter sale and is known by one other copy at the Los Angeles County Museum.

Grimm's fairy tales have held a grip upon youthful imaginations since their first appearance. A great rarity among children's books is the first American edition of *German Popular Stories* by Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm which was published in Boston in 1826, by Cummings, Hilliard & Co. We were most fortunate in acquiring one of the very few in existence. The Houghton Library has the first edition published in Germany in 1812 under the title *Kinder und Haus Märchen*.

COMMERCE

The problem of fire protection in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was a major concern of both householders and businessmen. We continue to locate *The Rules and Regulations* of various fire societies. They must have been innumerable, for there are in our collections nearly forty such publications dated before 1821 and they are, for the most part, from Massachusetts. The most recent addition is that of the Franklin Fire Society of Boston which was established in 1792.

The Illinois and Wabash Land Companies were a union of land speculators who based their claims to land in Illinois and Indiana on Indian deeds executed in 1773 and 1775. These companies attempted to secure a clear title from Congress beginning in 1781 but in 1816 they were still unsuccessful. *A Memorial of the United Illinois and Wabash Land Companies, to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States* is a further step in this fruitless endeavor. The forty-eight-page pamphlet was printed in Baltimore in 1816. Some early owner has written on the title page, 'Dream up (as I suspect) by Mr. [Robert Goodloe] Harper.'

Several cities published annual surveys of their commerce and trade. This year we acquired several. Three were from Milwaukee for 1855, 1856, and 1858. The last was the gift of Charles van Ravenswaay. We completed our file of early Chicago statements by acquiring the fifth report for 1862. Charleston, South Carolina, is represented in this group by a seven-year report, covering the period September 1, 1865, to September 1, 1872.

One of the famous events in Canadian history is the classic and unbridled struggle for power which took place between the Earl of Selkirk and his Red River Colony and the North-West Company of fur traders. At stake were the trapping trade rights of the fur company and the rights to settle and farm the land of the Red River Company. The situation grew so heated that employees of the North-West Company attacked and killed several settlers. The trials which grew out of this action aroused great excitement but resulted in acquittals. AAS has acquired the *Report of the Proceedings* of the trials which were held in October, 1818, in York (Toronto). The book was printed in Montreal in 1819.

The time tables of old-time stage-lines command a great deal of interest. Frequently they are decorated with a woodcut of the hitch and coach. Such is the case of a recent acquisition, a schedule for the *Hanover & Hartford Mail Stages* for the summer of 1809. The proprietors were Jacob W. Brewster & Co. of Northampton. The stage left Hanover, New Hampshire, at three o'clock on Monday morning and arrived in Hartford at eleven on Wednesday morning. The first night was spent in Brattleboro after a sixteen-hour trip. That is a trip that now takes something less than three hours on the new interstate highway. Ah—for the joys of the good old days!

CRIME

An outstanding piece of Americana is an illustrated broadside which was sold by Jonathan Plummer, sometime poet lauriat

to Lord Timothy Dexter. This edition is not recorded in the bibliographies. Its title is *Last Words and Dying Confession of Samuel Frost*. Frost was executed at Worcester, on Thursday the 31st of October 1793. He was a native of Princeton, Massachusetts, who murdered his father in 1783, was tried and acquitted, contrary to his expectations, to use his own words. Because he was of an unsettled mind he was put in the care of Captain Elisha Allen whom Frost murdered in July 1793. For this crime he was convicted and hanged. I would judge that the broadside was printed by Ezekiel Russell of Boston, who had North Shore connections. The cut of Frost in the broadside appears in many of Russell's publications.

A report of a trial which McDade, in his bibliography on American murders, missed entirely is an unusual catch. The present one is such. John Graham, a shoemaker, of Ithaca, New York, murdered a chap named John Jones in July 1841. He was tried for the murder of Jones on circumstantial evidence, which process the judge defended in his charge, and was found guilty. The pamphlet concludes with a brief sketch of the life of Graham.

McDade records the case of Ann Walters who was said to have dispatched a dozen victims. Added to her fictional tale is a brief narrative of the life and execution of Samuel Green who had been executed in Boston in 1822. All this is to be found in *Confession of Ann Walters, the Murderess. Also, the Life and Execution of Sam'l. Green, a Notorious Robber* (Boston: Dr. H. B. Skinner, 1856).

DIRECTORIES

Twenty-three directories were added to our superb collection. Several were of the utmost rarity. For the city of Baltimore, we obtained issues of the years 1814-15, 1822-23, 1831, and 1837-38.

At the Streeter sale we made a strong effort to purchase the first St. Louis directory of 1821 but lost it to the Henry

E. Huntington Library. We had the second and fourth issues and were pleased to add the third and fifth, 1838-39 and 1842, to our file.

Published in St. Louis in 1860, the 1859 Denver and Auraria directory is the first for the Rocky Mountain area. We got it over stormy competition at the Streeter sale. So, also, the *First Directory of Nevada Territory*, compiled by L. Wells Kelly and published in San Francisco in 1862. In addition to the names of hundreds of miners, there is an extensive description of Nevada communities, as is the case with the Denver directory which relates the history of the Denver area.

ENGRAVINGS

A rare print which is entered in Stauffer's list of American engravings is 'Battle of New Orleans and Defeat of the British under the Command of Sir Edward Packenham, By Gen^l Andrew Jackson 8th Jan^y 1815.' Drawn by Samuel Seymour and engraved by James W. Steel, it was published by William H. Morgan of Philadelphia in 1815. Our copy has been mounted and is in very fine, colored condition. Both the artist and the engraver were excellent practitioners of their crafts.

Of special interest was the purchase of *The Tour of Doctor Syntax in Search of the Picturesque*. It was published as the first American, from the second London, edition by the Philadelphia engraver William Charles. AAS had the second Tour of the doctor (William Combe) which was published by Charles in 1822. However, we could find no record of an American edition of the first volume. Investigation into the publisher's address indicates that the book was issued between the years 1817 and 1819 and an inquiry to the Library Company of Philadelphia disclosed that a shattered copy was in fact in that collection but we know of no other. The plates are vividly colored and, despite its somewhat tattered condition, the book is a very nice acquisition for this field of American publishing.

Glass companies in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were sometimes granted, by solicitous state legislatures, the right to issue paper currency as a means of improving their financial stability. We acquired a mint sheet of four bills, in the amounts of twenty-five, fifty, and seventy-five cents, which was issued by the Redford Glass Company of Redford, New York, during the years 1831-1836. This company was the first glass works in northern New York state and is given some space in the McKearins' great book on *American Glass*.

FARM AND HOME

Steps were taken to fill in *lacunae* in the cook book collection but only one pre-1821 cook book was added this year. It is a new, corrected edition of *The New Family Receipt Book* which was published in Philadelphia in 1818. The contents are essentially of English origin.

Mrs. Arthur M. Wilson, who has been long interested in our holdings, presented twelve volumes from her collection which she had determined were not present in ours. One that I find appealing is *Fresh Fruits and Vegetables all the Year at Summer Prices* (Philadelphia, 1857). It is a relatively early book on canning as well as an advertisement of a patented self-sealing can made by the publisher.

On April 22, 1837, at the request of the Chester, Pennsylvania, Cabinet of Natural Science, Professor Peter A. Browne delivered a learned lecture on Indian Corn, tracing its history, as found in Indian legends and early narratives. Professor Browne also describes its cultivation and all in all provides a valuable survey on a humble subject which is still fresh in the minds of New England school children.

A very scarce title recorded in Waldo Lincoln's bibliography of cookery books is number 184, *Family Receipts* (Syracuse, 1840?). This pamphlet is now part of our collection. In addition to cooking recipes, there are instructions for varnishing,

blueing, etc., etc., ending with the admonition to be temperate in all things.

To this reporter's mind a most unusual acquisition was the auction catalogue for the sale of John Hare Powel's herd of Durham Short Horned Cattle which was sold on April 23, 1836, at his estate across the Schuylkill from Philadelphia. Colonel Powel is mentioned in Sander's history of the Short Horn breed in America as one of the early importers of the breed. Thus, we have an important early document relating to the American cattle industry, made especially so by the presence in the pamphlet of the blood lines of the stock.

'Horse doctor' books were included in Henderson's bibliography on early American sporting books. To our own collection we added a Pennsylvania-German example which he lists; Isaac Leib, *Wohlerfahrner Pferde-Arzt*, published in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, in 1842. It is a mint copy.

The work of Henry Wells Holly as a compiler of handbooks for carpenters is well known, but we had not before run across his little book on the almost lost *Art of Saw-Filing* which was published in New York by John Wiley in 1864. The curious may now be satisfied.

LITERATURE

The additions to our literary collections were most impressive this year. As I indicated six months ago, THE book of the year is *Pamela*, by Samuel Richardson, published in Philadelphia by Benjamin Franklin. It is the only known example of this, the first modern, English novel issued in America and is the gift of the Stoddard Charitable Trust. *Pamela* has been restored by Harold Tribolet of the Lakeside Press and is now in safe, preservable condition.

Among the American literary sheep which were brought into the AAS fold was the Deering copy of Major Wood's *The Returned Captive*, published in Hudson, New York, by Ashbel

Stoddard in 1787. It is a very long poem relating the captivity of a person named John, during a period of nine years. We have not yet ascertained the identity of the author or of the victim. AAS has another edition, published in Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1800. A Norwich, Connecticut, edition of 1790 is not in our collections.

Forty-nine carriers' addresses were acquired, one of the best being *Symptoms of the Millennium*, by John Ellsworth. This was issued by the Hartford *Connecticut Courant* on January 1, 1802. This lengthy Federalistic diatribe is complete with explanatory notes and is unusual in that the authorship is acknowledged.

A rousing broadside verse, celebrating American independence on July 4, 1806, not recorded previously, is among our collections. Addressed to the young Federal Republicans, ends with:

Swear that the world shall see,
Columbians will be free,
And this our motto be
'FREEDOM OR DEATH'

Still another first book, published West of the Alleghany Mountains, was added to our collections from the Streeter sale. William Littell's *Festoons of Fancy* was printed in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1814 and represents the first book of a literary nature published in those parts. It is notable as a record of Western humor, for its rarity, and for its handsome format.

Among the 155 publications of James Fenimore Cooper which were added to our already outstanding collection of that author were eight editions of *The Spy*. Included were the first edition of 1821 and the 1859, Darley edition. From Pierce W. Gaines we received a copy of the second edition (1826) of *The Last of the Mohicans* which has never been bound. Francis G. Wallett presented a very fine copy of the first appearance of *The Red Rover* published in Paris in three

volumes in 1827. We purchased a copy of the first edition of *The Redskins* (New York, 1846) in wrappers.

There were a number of additions made to our collection of American fiction. Among the racier was *Mary Ann Temple* published by Henry S. G. Smith & Co. of New York about the year 1845. The novel is not copyrighted and from the titles listed on the rear cover it is to be judged that Smith and Company dealt with the seamier side of literature. Mary Ann was a Boston girl with *very* lively sensibilities. It does not seem to have crept into the regular bibliographies.

In January, after Willard Thorp had delivered his paper on Roman Catholic novelists at last year's annual meeting, AAS obtained an unrecorded title which fits Thorp's field—*Father Jonathan, or, The Scottish Convents*, written by the Reverend Father John McDermott of Salem, New Jersey. The book was published in Philadelphia in 1853 and is a not-too-well disguised attack upon Presbyterianism. Happily this title came in time to be fitted in Mr. Thorp's list of novels which appears in the *Proceedings* of April 1968.

A curious piece added to the collections was a Welsh translation of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The book was published in Remsen, New York, by J. R. Everett in 1854. Not long afterwards, in one of those episodes of life where the old cliché, 'It's a small world,' applies dramatically, I learned during a visit to Chicago that my hostess's great grand-father was the printer of the book and that there had been stored in the attic a number of other imprints of Mr. Everett. I am still hopeful of obtaining examples of them. Concerning this particular acquisition, the best that I can say about it is that it graphically illustrates the popularity of the novel. As to the literary qualities of the translation, I will leave that to one of our numerous Welsh-reading Members.

The first novel written and published in Wisconsin was added to the Society's library. It is *Garaugula, the Ongua-Howwa Chief*. Written by a citizen of Milwaukee, it was published there

in 1857. Although removed from a bound volume, the front wrapper is present and the binder was not too severe with his knife. The author has not been identified by Lyle Wright nor by the other three libraries who possess copies.

LOCAL HISTORY

The selections for this portion of the report were most difficult to make, for we added a number of outstanding titles. The earliest for our purposes here was a copy of the 1804 Newbern, North Carolina, edition of LePage du Pratz, *Account of Louisiana* which was obtained at the third Streeter sale.

Three famous books on Iowa were reprinted some years ago by the State Historical Society of that state. They were Albert Lea's *Notes on Wisconsin Territory* (Philadelphia, 1836), John Plumbe's *Sketches of Iowa and Wisconsin* (St. Louis, 1839), and Isaac Galland's *Iowa Emigrant* (Chillicothe, 1840). All three titles were added to our collections this past year. The Plumbe and Galland books were bought at the third Streeter sale. The earliest, the book which gave Iowa its name, came from another source, lacking the map but priced at less than ten per cent of the Streeter copy. A pamphlet dealing with Wisconsin was reported upon in the first issue of the *News-Letter*. That is the unique copy of a promotional piece by Charles C. Scholes entitled *Wisconsin Territory*. It was printed at the office of the *Madison Enquirer* in 1839, following the publication in the *Enquirer* of the three articles which make up the pamphlet. Scholes was editor of the newspaper at the time.

A well known book on the early history of Ohio is A. W. Patterson's *History of the Backwoods*, published in Pittsburgh in 1843. A fine copy of this volume was acquired, after having missed it on other occasions.

Mrs. Kinzie's *Narrative of the Massacre at Chicago*, August 15, 1812, was published in that city in 1844. It is a foundation book on Chicago history. The copy now at AAS is a Chicago

Historical Society duplicate, containing pencilled notes of an editor for a later edition.

One of the rarities of Colorado history is *The March of the First, being A History of the Organization, Members, Battles and Service of the First Regiment, of Colorado Volunteers* (Denver, 1863). It is an account of that regiment's campaign against Confederate forces in New Mexico during most of 1862. The account is florid and emphatically pro-Union.

Another trilogy is centered on the earliest histories of Dakota Territory, all printed at Yankton at the end of the 1860s. We already had the Batchelder and Foster accounts but lacked the earliest, Moses Armstrong's *History and Resources, of Dakota*, printed in Yankton in 1866. It was acquired at the fourth Streeter sale.

The Bark Covered House by William Nowlin is a delightful narrative of pioneer life in Michigan. It is one of Howard Peckham's favorite books and we know he will be happy to learn that AAS has at last a fine copy of it, purchased considerably below the cost of the Streeter copy. It was published for the author in Detroit in 1876.

MEDICINE

One of the more curious cures of the early days of American medicine was Elisha Perkins' use of electrically charged metal clamps. These devices were placed upon the aching, wounded, or diseased portions of the body whereupon a jolt of electricity was sent through the device, with amazing results. Edmund Blunt of Newburyport printed a pamphlet for Dr. Perkins in 1796 which contained twenty-three pages of testimonials. Students of American literature will recall that Thomas Green Fessenden, in England chasing his own 'scientific' will-of-the-wisp, wrote a long and famous poem on Dr. Perkins' cure. James Gilray, the English caricaturist, engraved a scathing cartoon which ridiculed this medical discovery. But then, such has been the fate of all men who have attempted to advance hu-

man knowledge. The pamphlet is recorded in Austin's bibliography of American medical imprints as number 1492. Is it possible that there is any symbolism between that figure and the year?

Of special interest is another first book published west of the Alleghany Mountains—Peter Smith's *The Indian Doctor's Dispensatory* which was published for the author in Cincinnati in 1813 and is the first medical book published in the old Northwest. The copy at the Cincinnati Public Library, in addition to one other located copy, has 108 pages, plus another four containing contents. The AAS copy ends halfway down page 100 and would appear to be the first issue of this work. The copy at the Rutherford B. Hayes Memorial Library collates xxii, [23]–100, [4] pages as does ours. A later edition of 114 pages was sold by Ernest Wessen fifteen years ago. This title, in addition to rarity and claim to Western priority, is a delightful mixture of confused grammar, chatty advice and, no doubt, hazy medicine. One chapter, having nothing whatever to do with the following, concludes with, '*an old man ought never to marry a young woman. A word to the wise is enough.*'

The history of plagues in America is well enough known to obviate the need to comment on it here. However, two important works recently added to the collections of the Society merit notice. The earlier is James Hardie's *Account of the Yellow Fever, which occurred in the City of New York in the Year 1822*. The pamphlet was published in that year in New York and contains a list of the dead as well as a sketch of the plague years of 1798, 1799, 1803, and 1805. Ten years later, Cincinnati was afflicted with a cholera epidemic which was described by Daniel Drake in his *Account of the Epidemic Cholera, as it appeared in Cincinnati*. His pamphlet was published in 1832 in his home city. The AAS copy was presented by the author to Professor Jacob Bigelow of Harvard.

A warning is found in a pamphlet by Dr. James C. Jackson of Dansville, New York, who inveighed mightily against a

cardinal sin in *The Gluttony Plague: or, How Persons Kill Themselves by Eating*. Like old Peter Smith of Cincinnati, your reporter can only say, 'a word to the wise. . . .'

MISCELLANEOUS

The earliest dated acquisition of the year was printed in Boston by Bartholomew Green for Nicholas Buttolph in 1707. It is a miscellany of useful information containing models of letters, points of law, legal forms, etc. The book was compiled by John Hill and is entitled *The Young Secretary's Guide*. It is the second of eight editions published before 1750, all of which are held by AAS.

Two Masonic orations are worthy of notice because of their date and place of printing. From the Streeter sale, we obtained Frederick Bates' *Oration delivered before Saint Louis Lodge* on November 9, 1808. It was printed by Joseph Charles at St. Louis early the next year and is the third title printed west of the Mississippi River. The other is an unrecorded Louisiana imprint of 1820, *An Oration Delivered to the Members of Columbia Lodge*. It was the product of the mind of William Wilson and the press of George F. Tennery, both of Alexandria.

As Lyman Butterfield pointed out in a most interesting article in the AAS *Proceedings* of October 1952, John Leland of Cheshire, Massachusetts, deserves a better fate than being remembered as the instigator of the mammoth cheese given to Thomas Jefferson on January first, 1802. He was, says Butterfield, a courageous and resourceful champion of the rights of conscience. Recently, we acquired two unrecorded publications of Leland's. The earlier is *A Budget of Scraps* published by his friend, Phineas Allen, in Pittsfield, May 1810. A reprint of a portion of these brief, miscellaneous pieces was published in Rutland, Vermont, in 1814. The entire text is given in Leland's *Writings* (New York, 1845). Similarly, *A Short Narrative of a Five-Hour Conflict, on the Night following the 17th of October,*

1811 is printed in his *Writings*. In it, Leland describes vividly a traumatic religious experience. Leland wrote with clarity and vigor and it is clear why he was able, over a pastoral career of sixty-seven years, to move men and assume a place of leadership wherever he was.

Last year we reported the acquisition of one of the earliest American books on communistic economics, Skidmore's *Rights of Man to Property*. This year we bought Langton Byllesby's *Observations on the Sources and Effects of Unequal Wealth* (New York, 1826). It is earlier and not as well known. Another copy is located in the Kress collection at Harvard.

One of the earlier American works on boxing is now at AAS, *The Complete Art of Boxing*, with biographical sketches of leading European fighters. It was published in Philadelphia in 1829, but the text has English antecedents.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

A very important addition was made to the newspaper collection by the Essex Institute of Salem through a deposit of a considerable number of titles and many hundreds of issues. Most of these represented publications of New England origin, but not all. They included the Alfred, Maine, *Columbian Star*, one issue in 1824, the Portland *State of Maine*, 1855-58, 876 issues; ninety-five issues of the Concord, Massachusetts, *Middlesex Gazette*, 1817-20; an excellent run of the Hopedale *Practical Christian*, 1840-49; the Amherst, New Hampshire, *Farmer's Cabinet*, twenty-one issues, 1802-08; one issue in 1867 of the New York *Catch Flies with Molasses*; the Salem, Ohio, *Anti-Slavery Bugle*, one issue in 1854; and the *Citizen Soldier* of Norwich, Vermont, 1840, five issues. We were highly gratified by this gift which serves to centralize scattered issues and makes the life of the scholar somewhat easier.

Other files were added through other gifts and purchases: *The Maryland Journal*, Baltimore, August 20, 1773, was one

of several newspapers given by S. F. Medina of New York. An almost complete file of the daily Charleston, S.C., *City Gazette*, June–December, 1802, was purchased. An inquiry made by Clarence S. Brigham many years ago resulted in our acquisition of the only known file of the Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, *Republican Advocate*, 1820–23. A scarce literary periodical, *The New-York Spy* of May 1827–August 1828 was obtained. A purchase at the Streeter sale resulted in our acquisition of volume two of *The Chicago American*, that city's second newspaper. AAS now has volumes one and two, complete. The Harrison-Van Buren presidential campaign prompted a number of short-lived campaign newspapers. One of them was the Frankfort, Kentucky, *Campaign* for April–October, 1840, which is now on our shelves.

The *American Primitive Methodist Magazine* was published in Mineral Point, Wisconsin. We recently obtained volume two, January–December, 1863. I might add that I once knew Methodists from southwestern Wisconsin and things had not changed very much.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Several historically significant documents were brought into the Society this past year. Without doubt the most important is the Franklin printing of the Treaty agreed upon at Lancaster in June 1744, by the Indians of the Six Nations and the delegates of the Provinces of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland. By this agreement the English laid claim to the lands in the Ohio River basin. Ultimately the contest over these lands led to the Seven Years War. The treaty is a fine copy formerly in the Frank C. Deering collection.

The call for the New York Convention to ratify the new constitution of the United States appears to exist in two copies. One is at the New York State Library, the other here. The broadside is dated February 1st, 1788, and sets the date for the convention as the seventeenth of June 1788.

Mr. Streeter considered his copy of the *Laws of the Territory of the United States North-West of the Ohio* as 'very rare'; and so it is. It was printed by William Maxwell in Cincinnati in 1796 and is the first printing executed in the entire old Northwest. It is also, more than incidentally, the foundation of an orderly society in Ohio and the rest of the region. The Code joins the Northwest Ordinance (in this library as the gift of the Massachusetts Historical Society) as the second great document relating to the first territory of our country.

Two constitutions from widely separated parts of the country were obtained. The earlier is that of Alabama printed in Huntsville in 1819 and the other is that of California printed in San Francisco only thirty years later.

Charles Van Ravenswaay presented to the Society a number of Middle-Western documents. Among the most scarce were several of the early documents of Nebraska Territory. The earliest was the *Journal of the Council at the First Regular Session of the General Assembly* which was published in Omaha City in 1855. Like the two documents just cited, it dealt with slavery in its own time and place.

POLITICS

Among the pamphlets issued during the debates of 1774 which were to shape the destiny of a nation yet unresolved was that of John Drinker of Philadelphia. His strong argument that the piling up of riches for the state was not its chief end was balanced by a condemnation of the means by which the Sons of Liberty were pursuing their goals. His debate is remarkably relevant to the present uneasiness abroad in the land. Drinker's pamphlet was entitled *Observations on the Late Popular Measures* and followed the publication of his remarks in the *Pennsylvania Journal*. Adams lists it under number 112.

Of the six editions of Noah Webster's *Letter to General Hamilton, Occasioned by his Letter to President Adams*, AAS has three. The most recently acquired is the edition printed by E.

Belden & Company of New York in 1800. It is number 732 in the Webster bibliography. Webster's attack is directed at Hamilton's attempts to direct the principal measures of our national councils, and cites the example of the standing army of 1798 which was of Hamilton's making and was, says Webster, unwise in concept and oppressive in nature.

In his letter to Hamilton, Noah Webster castigated William Cobbett for his activities in the 1790s which actions Webster construed as evidence of the work of a British agent. In a pamphlet recently obtained, Cobbett (back in the United States to escape prosecution in England) urges that the United States become more involved in the affairs of Spanish America and that it is in the best interests of the country that the Spanish colonies be freed. Cobbett always had large matters of state on his mind. His pamphlet entitled, *Our Anti-Neutral Conduct Review* was published late in 1817 or early 1818, is in the form of a letter to Major Cartwright, and is dated December 8, 1817.

Two outstanding and previously unrecorded broadsides have been added to our collections. Both are by Thomas Cooper of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, and are dated in 1799. The earlier, dated June 29, 1799, is Cooper's leave-taking as editor of the *Sunbury and Northumberland Gazette*. In it he lays down his views on the right ordering of our national policies, *vis-à-vis* the French troubles. He proves to be strongly critical of Adams and the Alien and Sedition Acts. In the second, dated November 2, 1799, Cooper is accused by the editor of the *Reading Weekly Advertiser* of altering his political views because he had not been appointed in 1797 to a government position to which he aspired. In that episode Cooper's cause was furthered by Joseph Priestly, and a letter of the eminent scientist on the merits of Cooper is printed in the broadside. Cooper, of course, denied duplicity and insisted that he had always been true to his principles.

The intensity of feeling which the 1828 presidential campaign aroused was notable even in that era. It resulted in a

plethora of campaign documents and we continue to pick them up as we can. Two interesting men of New Hampshire combined to produce one broadside, recently acquired. The author was Dr. Noah J. T. George of Meredith and the printer was Isaac Hill of Concord, later U. S. Senator and Governor of his native state. Dr. George was the author of several scarce works. The best known and most rare being his *Memorandum of the Creek Indian War* (Meredith, N.H., 1815). The piece at hand, *A Biographical Chart, Exhibiting at One View, the Principal Events in the Life of General Andrew Jackson*. Jackson's career is succinctly spelled out by the good doctor. But, rather than a chart, it is merely a broadside and the only illustrations are two poems.

In the 1850s the 'Know-Nothings,' or more correctly the American Party, virulently traded on prejudices against the Irish Roman Catholics. Its activities were symptomatic of practices still pursued in political and social strife. In 1855 John Hancock Lee wrote his *Origin and Progress of the American Party in Politics*. Elliott and Gihon of Philadelphia were publishers. How it is that AAS did not already have a copy of this volume before, I cannot explain.

Harrison Berry was an educated slave living in Butts County, Georgia, in 1861 when he published *Slavery and Abolitionism, as Viewed by a Georgia Slave*. The forty-one-page pamphlet was published for Berry in Atlanta in 1861. Berry's argument is that the Negro was better off as a slave in the South than as a free man in Africa. He questions the motives of northern abolitionists and defends slavery as Biblically consistent. This work is not recorded in the bibliographies of Confederate imprints. Another point of interest is a pencilled note on the front wrapper that the pamphlet was, 'Taken from a "Secesh" house in Belleview near Washington N. Carolina—April 24th 1863.'

Among the thousands of pamphlets printed during the Civil War, another interesting one has come to hand. Written by

Bryan Tyson, formerly of North Carolina and a Union man, it was published in the midst of the 1864 presidential campaign *The Object of the Administration in Prosecuting the War* was, according to Tyson, not only to restore the Union but also to abolish slavery and that, he believed, was wrong. Lincoln's re-election he asserted would prolong the War for more years and make reunion impossible. In that he may have been right, judging from the events of the past 103 years.

RELIGION

The earliest existing piece of Kentucky printing is David Rice's *A Lecture of Divine Decrees* which was printed by John Bradford at Lexington in 1791. Another copy exists in the Presbyterian Historical Society at Philadelphia. In addition to his lecture, The Reverend Mr. Rice annexed to it his observation on the Methodist view of predestination and election for salvation. This pamphlet was in the Streeter collection.

Another trans-Alleghany item, also from the Streeter collection, is Robert *Patterson's Church Music* published in Cincinnati by Browne and Looker for the compiler, who lived in Pittsburgh. The assigned date is 1813, although this copy was dated by an early purchaser, on February 1, 1815. In any case, this is the first music book printed west of the mountains.

Despite the fact that a great many volumes were issued in parts before 1821, it is difficult to locate examples of them. Beginning in 1814 Dodge & Sayre of New York issued a five volume, quarto, edition of Scott's *Bible* in thirty-six parts. We were indeed fortunate to obtain all but part three of the total, in original printed wrappers. Incidentally, it took two years to complete the printing.

One of the major thrusts of nineteenth-century Protestantism was missionary activity in the Far East. To think that all adherents of religions already on the scene passively accepted Christian proselytizing is an error. Mora Bhatta Dandekara,

a Hindu of Bombay, is an example. He and the Reverend Mr. John Wilson debated the merits of their respective faiths, and their arguments were published by the American Mission Press in that city in 1832. A copy in the original boards is now part of our collections.

A scarce imprint has been added to our excellent collection of Hawaiiiana which is one of four or five best in the world, according to a recent visitor. It is Sheldon Dibble's *Voice from Abroad, or Thoughts on Missions* which was printed in Lahainaluna in 1844:

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

John Fitch is remembered as the 'forgotten' American inventor of the steamboat although his claim is disputed by supporters of Rumsey, Fulton, and Samuel Morey. Be that as it may, Fitch was certainly early on the scene and launched his first boat in August 1787. With it and two others, built in 1788 and 1790, he provided service between Philadelphia and Burlington, New Jersey, and elsewhere on the Delaware River. His closest rival was James Rumsey of Maryland who in December 1787 also launched a boat propelled by steam. Through the efforts of friends in the American Philosophical Society, Rumsey succeeded in obtaining from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives an exclusive right to make, use, and sell engines made or improved by him. To this, Fitch found strong objection and issued a vehement statement to that effect in a broadside dated September 11, 1789. The Society has acquired a fine copy of that document, noted by Bristol under number 45475.

One of the books in the Grolier list of one hundred American books is the first edition of Nathaniel Bowditch's *The New American Practical Navigator*, printed in Newburyport by Edmund M. Blunt, for several booksellers, in 1802. Inexplicably AAS did not have a copy. Through the kindness of Frank L.

Harrington we do now; a copy sold by Isaiah Thomas and his partner, Ebenezer Andrews of Boston.

Edmund Blunt also published in several editions David Steel's version of *Seamanship, both in Theory and Practice* by J. B. de Villehuet. To the best of our information, the earliest edition previously known was that of 1812. This year, however, we obtained a May 1811 edition which was published at Blunt's New York bookstore.

AAS is in a position to assist anyone interested in making the white wash which was used on the presidential mansion in Washington after it was burned by the British in 1814. A quarto-sized broadside, attributed by our bookseller to Hagerstown, Maryland, in 1819, gives complete instructions for mixing and application, stating that it was then in use on the east end of the president's house in Washington. Its title is *Incombustible Wash, and Stucco Wash*.

One of the truly remarkable American contributions to geologic theory was that of Captain John Cleves Symmes of Cincinnati, Ohio, who postulated that the earth was made of concentric spheres, was open at the two poles, and was habitable within. He was not without supporters, for the editor, James McBride of Cincinnati, came to his support with an explication published in 1826, entitled *Symmes' Theory of Concentric Spheres*. Edgar Allen Poe used the Symmes' theory of entering the interior of the earth in several stories notably 'Descent into the Maelstrom.'

Of the architectural volumes added to the collections, the best was *The Builder's Guide, or a Practical Treatise on the Several Orders of Grecian and Roman Architecture, together with the Gothic Style of Building*. The author, Chester Hills, was a practical architect, according to his own testimony, and he included in his two folio volumes all of the styles a builder in 1834 would need for some time to come. The work was published in Hartford, Connecticut, by D. W. Kellogg & Co.

MANUSCRIPTS

Although we are not in the field of manuscript collecting, AAS has a very significant collection and materials are added to it from time to time. From Brown University came two manuscripts of William Bentley.

Samuel Bixby of Sutton served as an enlisted man with the Massachusetts militia during the siege of Boston. His manuscript journal from May 1, 1775, to January 1, 1776, was bequeathed to the Society by Marie A. Bancroft of Philadelphia.

Finally, I would mention the gift of Miss Cornelia Forbes, the sister of the late Esther Forbes Hoskins. Their mother, Mrs. Harriet Merrifield Forbes, copied many Westborough records and manuscripts. One of them was the 1759 Journal of Constantine Hardy, a person who figures prominently in the Parkman diary which the Society is publishing under the editorship of Francis G. Walett.

For these gifts, the Society expresses its gratitude.

M. A. McC.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.