

The Report of the Librarian

1969-1970

YOUR REPORTER now puts on another hat and assumes the more congenial role of Librarian of the Society. The collections of the Society were enriched by gifts of 1,990 titles* from members and friends. All gifts are welcome but in the nature of things some are more so than others. The exceptional gifts came from the children of the late Thomas W. Streeter and from the estate of the late d'Alté A. Welch.

THOMAS WINTHROP STREETER COLLECTION OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Streeter was a member of the American Antiquarian Society for more than thirty years and during that time he gave to the Society any number of important books and collections. No doubt, my readers know that Mr. Streeter made very generous provision for AAS in his will, but this was only the last of his kindnesses to the Society. For example, in 1955 he gave to AAS his early material on American railroads and canals—a collection that contained about 150 unique pieces dated before 1841, more than half of them not recorded in Thompson's *Check List of Publications on American Railroads before 1841*. He frequently sent up lists of books from which we could make selections of useful desiderata. Six weeks before his death he asked me to select from his shelves books of

*We purchased 2,300 items for a grand total of 4,290.

use to AAS. It is gratifying, indeed, to report here that his family have carried on his tradition of loyal aid by making possible the purchase from their father's estate of a large collection of nineteenth-century material on middle- and far western railroads. We added 518 pieces to our already notable collection. Further, the books selected five years ago were purchased through the same generous arrangement. There were 330 items in that lot.

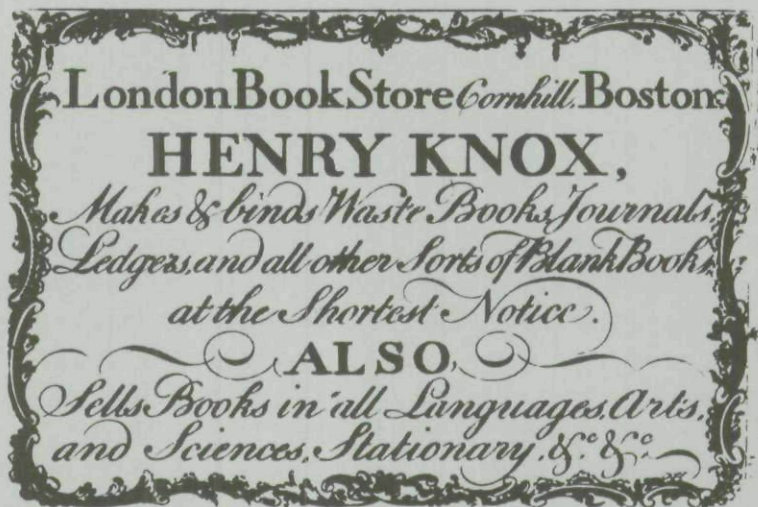
Among the railroad collection were such rarities as Rogers's *Location of the Union Pacific Railroad Across the Rocky Mountains* (Central City, Colorado, 1867), and the 1858 engineer's report of the San Francisco and Marysville Rail Road, printed in Marysville, California. Another is the report of George A. Mix on the Dubuque and Pacific Rail Road which was printed in Dubuque, Iowa, in 1855. Even earlier is the 1844 Chicago printed pamphlet on the Dakota Great Southern Railway and the 1840 communication of J. B. Thomas to the Illinois legislature on the Northern Cross Rail Road. In grateful recognition of Mr. Streeter's generosity, the Council has named these collections in honor of the Society's sometime president.

Among the 'general' collection were Arthur Lee's *Appeal to Justice and Interest, of the People of Great Britain* (New York, 1775) and the 1866 Journals of the second Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Arizona. John Strachan's *Letter to the Earl of Selkirk* (Montreal, 1816) was welcomed to our collections as well as a pamphlet on salt-making on the island of Key West published in 1829. J. H. Ingraham's *The Corsair at Casco Bay* (Gardiner, Maine, 1844) was one of a few literary pieces in the collection. Mr. Streeter's benefactions also included the gift to the Society of the original catalogue of his library of Americana. This very useful bibliographical tool, compiled by Howell J. Heaney, is now on our shelves in eighty-seven volumes in a condition which will insure their preservation.

THE D'ALTÉ A. WELCH COLLECTION
OF AMERICAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The children's books of the late d'Alté A. Welch are now in Worcester. Following his visit to the Society last Fall, to inspect the Tighe Collection, Mr. Welch determined that his books which were not at AAS should come to the Society. His untimely death brought those books to our shelves long before we would have hoped. Further, during the next few years his family will give to AAS the remainder of Mr. Welch's books which will permit us to substitute his better copies for our own imperfect examples.

Among the 284 books in the Welch bequest several must be mentioned. *The Bookseller's Shop, or, the Youth's Library* (Philadelphia, 1813) has an intriguing title, but the most interesting item in the lot is *The Mother's Remarks on a Set of Cuts for Children* (Philadelphia, 1803). Mr. Welch's copy of this came in the original wooden box. Inside, were *The Mother's Remarks* presented in two volumes, as well as a set of the engraved cards used to drill the children in reading. The 1748 Boston edition of *The History of the Holy Jesus* is a unique example of the fifth edition of that influential book. Of Charles Perrault's famous fairy tales there were nine editions including a 1794, Haverhill, Massachusetts, edition. Mr. Welch possessed eight editions of *Metamorphosis* not in our collections. We now have twenty-five versions of this fragile amusement. Among the miniature books was the Philadelphia, 1769? edition of John Taylor's 'Thumb Bible,' *Verbum Sempiternum*, one of three dated prior to 1800 in the Welch collection. The final title on the list detailing the Welch bequest was *The Youthful Enquirer*. With these outstanding books here, we hope that inquirers, youthful or otherwise, will come to enjoy them.



Engraved trade card of Henry Knox.

OTHER GIFTS

Henry J. Harlow of Shrewsbury presented a selection of books to the Society in June. They were given in memory of his brother, the late Hiram Harlow, a longtime, faithful reader and friend of the Society. In the gift were many excellent pieces, including local history, broadside ballads, and best of all an account book of a Worcester merchant bearing inside its sheep-bound front cover the engraved trade card of Henry Knox at the London Book Store. The revolutionary general kept the store in Cornhill from 1771-1775. The handsome engraving here illustrated was executed by Nathaniel Hurd. We do not know of another copy.

Many of the older members will recall Emma Forbes Waite who died in January 1970. Several of her friends generously purchased an outstanding book for the Society in her memory. It is entitled *The American Primer Enlarged* and was pub-

lished in Philadelphia by Andrew Bradford between the years 1738 and 1742. Thus, it is only the fifth primer of American origin in existence, preceded by copies of *The New-England Primer* of 1727, 1735, 1737, and 1738. In addition to its rarity, *The American Primer* is important for its text which varies from *The New-England Primer* in that it contains verse in place of the Westminster Catechism (no doubt, reflecting its Quaker-oriented audience). The frontispiece is a naive woodcut of a dove bearing an olive branch. The donors of this outstanding volume were Mrs. F. Harold Daniels, Mrs. Linwood M. Erskine, Sr., Miss Cornelia Forbes, Mr. Allan Forbes, Mr. Daniel W. Lincoln, and Mrs. George I. Rockwood.

We acquired another primer by purchase. It is the third known copy of *The New-England Primer Improved* which was published by J. Winter of Boston in 1761. The Kneelands printed it for him. This rarity is listed as number seventeen by Charles Heartman in which he records a copy in the Plimpton Collection at Columbia University and there was another copy in the Hollingsworth family library. We have had an eye on our copy since 1928 when it was first offered by its New Hampshire owner. Forty-two years (and more dollars than that) later, we acquired it. It is in excellent condition, having been treasured by one family for over two hundred years.

AMERICAN LITERATURE

It was an unusually good year for 'Wright fiction'—that is, novels written by American authors and listed by Lyle Wright. They were in volume I—119, 120, 215, 241, 245, 311, 369, 414, 557, 1240, 1335a, 1535, 1701, 1731, 1905½, 2063, 2093b, 2158, 2503, 2557a, 2608, 2710b, 2754; and in volume II—170, 202, 404, 487, 565, 586, 1221, 1306b, 1610, 1898, 1927. Among the forty examples several are apparently

unique. *Hildebrand: or, the Buccaneer and the Cardinal* by Austin C. Burdick [Sylvanus Cobb] (Boston: Gleason, 1853) is not listed in Mr. Wright's bibliography. However, *The Heiress of Toulon: or, a Sailor's Fortune* by Fred Hunter (Boston; Gleason, 1852) is located in the appendix to the second volume. It would be amusing to learn who really was Fred Hunter. *Benosa, the Avenger; or, the Secrets of the Vendetta* (Boston: Yankee Privateer Office, 1856) seems to be an American novel but the title page of our unique copy is defective, lacking the lower half, and we cannot be sure of our facts. Temperance tales are another facet of American fiction. Mr. Wright records numbers three and five of 'Picnic Tales', a series of books by Caroline (Warren) Thayer which were published in Boston during the early 1840's. We have the unrecorded second number in the series, as well as an unnumbered later volume of short stories which conclude the set. In April, I reported on the year's best acquisition of this sort—*Amelia: or, the Influence of Virtue* (Portsmouth, N.H., 1802) by Sally Wood, given by Nathaniel Wheeler.

As reported above, we kept on with James Fenimore Cooper. One hundred and one new editions were obtained—twenty of them gifts. I was particularly pleased to track down a copy of the *Proceedings of the Naval Court Martial . . . of Alexander Slidell Mackenzie* (New York, 1844) which contains a long partisan view of the case by J. F. Cooper, having historical interests as well as literary ones.

A particularly scarce American poem is Samuel Niles's *Brief and Plain Essay on God's Wonder-working Providence for New-England* (Wegelin 284) printed in New London in 1747. Niles celebrates in verse God's goodness to his New English children, demonstrated by the defeat of the hated French at Louisbourg in 1745.

Patriotic enthusiasm was boundless when Macdonough beat the British fleet off Plattsburgh, New York, on September 11, 1814, and it reached fever pitch with Andrew Jack-

son's victory at New Orleans, January 8, 1815. For several years we have had a pair of large broadsides celebrating these two American triumphs. Varying somewhat, each was printed in Windsor, Vermont, and is entitled, *Grand Battle of New Orleans*. In the middle of these folio sheets is a poem 'Battle of Plattsburgh and Victory on Lake Champlain.' This year we obtained a separate printing of the latter poem. It is made from the same setting of type as that in the larger and later broadside. The canny printer, Jesse Cochran, used his first broadside and surrounded it with more poetry, cuts, and news items, to build a new version to celebrate the final battle of the War of 1812.

Also, of more than passing interest was an 1818, Newtown, Pennsylvania, book of 252 pages, *The Evening Companion, being a Collection of Moral and Interesting Essays*. It was compiled by an 'Elmirian' and contains a number of essays on various topics by the still unidentified author.

When I moved into Clarence Brigham's office ten years ago, I found a slip of paper in a drawer in which he had listed a number of titles issued in 1823 and 1824 by the New York publisher, W. Borradaile. Since then, I have faithfully looked for others. We added two in 1969-1970. Borradaile's publications are popular in nature, usually reprinted from English originals, and illustrated by an engraved frontispiece. They were issued in printed wrappers and are forerunners of modern, cheap paperbacks. His shop was located at 130 Fulton Street. Solomon King seems to have issued many of Borradaile's publications shortly afterwards. Brigham's augmented list follows:

- The Adventures of Don Quixote, De La Mancha.* 1823. 22 pp.
The Affecting History of the Duchess of C . 1823. 40 pp.
Arden, The Unfortunate Stranger, who was tried for the murder of Miss Harriet Finch. 1824. 28 pp.
The Art of Conjuring Made Easy. 1823. 24 pp.
Edward's Cross; or the Wife and the Friend, by W. E. Ennersley. 1824. 26 pp.

- The Florida Pirate, or, An Account of a Cruise in the Schooner Esparanza.* 1823. 24 pp.
- Glenwar, The Scottish Bandit,* by an Etonian. 1824. 28 pp.
- Henry and Eliza; A Pathetic Tale,* by Lucy Watkins. 1823. 32 pp.
- The Interesting Life, Travels, Voyages, and Daring Engagements of the Celebrated Paul Jones.* 1823. 28 pp.
- Ivy Castle; or, the Eve of St. Agnes,* by Sarah Wilkinson. 1824. 26 pp.
- The Life of Bamfylde Moore Carew, some time King of the Beggars.* 1823. 31 pp.
- The Life of Miss Davis, the Farmer's Daughter of Essex* by James Penn. 1823. 37 pp.
- Mary, the Maid of the Inn,* from the poem by Robert Southey. 1823. 28 pp.
- Midnight Horrors; or, The Bandit's Daughter.* 1823. 45 pp.
- The Mysterious Stranger; or, Sorrows of a Natural Daughter.* 1823. 31 pp.
- New Norwood Gipsy; or, Complete Art of Fortune Telling.* 1823. 34 pp.
- The Orphan of the Castle; A Gothic Tale.* 1823. 24 pp.
- The Spectre Mother; or the Haunted Tower,* by the author of *Midnight Horrors, Female Pilgrim, &c.* 1823. 23 pp.
- The True and Affecting History of Henrietta de Bellgrave; a Woman born only for Calamities.* 1823. 40 pp.
- The True History of Zoa, the Beautiful Indian.* 1823. 36 pp.
- The Twin Sisters; or, Two Girls of Nineteen.* 1823. 36 pp.
- The Unfortunate Concubine; or, History of Jane Shore.* 1823. 34 pp.
- The Unfortunate Lovers; or, the Affecting History of Selim and Almena,* by J. W. H. Payne. 1823. 26? pp.

RELIGION

To replace a book missing from the shelves for more than ten years, we acquired a copy of William Miller's *Evidence from Scripture [sic] and History of the Second Coming of Christ* (Troy, N.Y., 1836), the first edition of that work which caused a

very large wave in the nineteenth-century religious pond. Joining Miller's work is the scarce book of Josiah Litch, *The Probability of the Second Coming of Christ About A.D. 1843* (Boston, 1838). The Reverend Mr. Litch was one of Miller's supporters while A. S. Barton attacks the proposition in *Millerism Refuted by History*, the first of a brief series of tracts published in Windsor, Vermont, 1842.

The followers of Swedenborg have been active in America for a long time. For example, John Chapman, 'Johnny Appleseed,' was more a distributor of Swedenborgian tracts than a planter of apple trees. Another indication of their activity is found in a book acquired this year. It is a 250-page book entitled, *The Liturgy of the New Jerusalem Church* printed in Philadelphia in 1816. We have had for some time a companion volume, *New Jerusalem Hymns*, published the year following, also in Philadelphia. The two books are quite early manifestations of the New Church in the new world.

Still another religious community is represented by a fine copy of the first edition of Mary Baker Glover Eddy's *Science and Health* (Boston, 1875), an American book which has had a rather considerable effect upon a large number of followers of the Bow, New Hampshire, native. The AAS copy does not have the errata leaf, something we take as a good sign since the errors are not corrected in this copy of the book.

MUSIC

The seeming irrationality of selecting books for a collection such as that of AAS is always a mystery to me. For example, I cannot recall when we have acquired more good pieces of American music than this past year. Earlier this year I reported on the unrecorded 1799 *Baltimore Songster*, but just as impressive were Benjamin Carr's *Masses, Vespers* (Baltimore, 1805) a stunning copy of a scarce and early Roman Catholic

musical piece; *A Collection of Sacred Vocal Music* (Northampton, 1804) and *A Musical Grammar* by Jesse Dickerson (Philadelphia, 1802) both unrecorded. There were two music books by Stephen Jenks; the scarce Cheshire, Connecticut, 1791 edition of Andrew Law's *Rudiments of Music*; while *The American Singing Book* by Daniel Read (New Haven, 1768) was the earliest. In all, there were more than two dozen pre-1821 music books added to the collections. Several of them came to us through the cooperation of Miss Elizabeth Winslow. Of later editions, *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music* (Harrisburg, 1834) was especially pleasing because it came as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Hamer and filled the last chink in our run of Wyeth's famous book.

ALMANACS

Seventy-eight almanacs were acquired this year, twenty-three by gift. The most interesting were *Dickson's Balloon Almanac*, for 1800 (Lancaster, Pa.), Drake 10517, previously unlocated; *The Pennsylvania Town and Country-man's Almanack*, for 1777, by John Tobler (Wilmington, Delaware), Drake 1361; and a run of five Milwaukee publications, *Strickland's North-Western Almanac* for 1857, 1859, 1860, 1861, and 1864.

PERIODICALS

The number of newspapers acquired this past year was very thin, but we had better luck with nineteenth-century periodicals. Of a quite sizable number, some are rare, or interesting, or both. *The Monthly Magazine*, volume two, 1809, published in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, completes our set. Bound with it were several 1804 issues of *The Hive*, also published in Lancaster, which we lacked and which are more scarce than *The*

Monthly Magazine. In addition to the first volume of *The Literary Companion* (New York) edited by Howard, Junior, in 1821, we acquired four issues of another rare periodical of a literary nature, *The Orion* of Penfield, Georgia, issued in 1842. These issues filled in gaps, completing volumes one and two. Horatio Alger, Jr., was a prolific author, as you all know, but the bibliographers have not noticed a large number of his early stories which appeared in *The Home Circle*, issued in Boston. We obtained volumes one through three, 1869-1871. AAS also has many issues of volumes four through twenty.

Among a good many titles devoted to female interests which came to our shelves were four volumes of *The Lady's Weekly Miscellany*, 1802-1803 and 1810-1811, published in New York, and *The Ladies' Garland* of Harpers Ferry, Virginia, issued in the years 1824 through 1826.

For the farmer we acquired volume two of *The Western Farmer & Gardener* published in Indianapolis in 1846.

CANADIANA

This year there is little to report on in this field of collecting but two early imprints were added. Both are by Loyalist clergymen. The earlier is by Joshua Wingate Weeks, a graduate of Harvard in the Class of 1758. He left Marblehead in 1778 and after vicissitudes settled in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1779. Dr. Shipton records a Masonic sermon delivered and published in Halifax in 1785. We now have an unrecorded sermon of three years earlier preached on the festival of St. John the Baptist, June 24, 1782. The place of printing or printer is not indicated in the sixteen-page pamphlet but we believe it to have been done in Halifax by Anthony Henry. The other example is a sermon by Weeks's rival, Mather

Byles, Jr., whose portrait adorns our reading room. Its title is *The Victory Ascribed to God*. It was delivered on December 2, 1798, in St. John, New Brunswick, where it was printed by John Ryan. Compared to the Weeks pamphlet this one is common, for Tremaine records it under number 1115 and locates a copy in the Public Archives in Ottawa.

WRITING BOOKS

Because we have published Professor Nash's list, *American Penmanship, 1800-1850*, we must not pass by Ambrose Edson's *Penmanship Reduced to the Simplest Principles*, the second edition published in Monson, Massachusetts, on October 10, 1820. We also have a copy of the first edition dated July 1, 1820, which is recorded in the Nash volume at number 122.

Another book, not in Nash, is a Philadelphia publication, *A New & Elegant Set of Alphabetical Copy Lines*. It was issued by Johnson & Warner between 1808 and 1816. The plates probably were engraved by J[ohn?] W[arr?] and were copied from Amos Doolittle's *Three New & Elegant Sets of Alphabetical Copy Lines* (New Haven, 1807). Both books contain round text, round hand, and running hand copies.

LOCAL HISTORY

A few local history items were of more than passing interest. In these days with Negro history so much in the spotlight we report a scarce pamphlet, *Report of the Trustees of the African Church in the Village of Rochester. With an Address to the Publick* (Rochester, N.Y.; Marshall & Dean, 1828). *The Kane*

County Gazetteer was published in Chicago in 1867 and is an uncommon and early work on that Illinois County.

David Ramsay, the historian of South Carolina (and an AAS member) wrote *The History of the Independent or Congregational Church in Charleston, South Carolina* which was printed for the author in Philadelphia in 1815, near the time of his death. We did not have a copy of this scarce work of local history until this year.

A pamphlet of some interest on early Oregon history was obtained. *Wonderful Work of God among the Indians of the Oregon Territory . . . being the Journal of H. K. W. Perkins* was published in New York by the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1840 or 1841. The twenty-four-page pamphlet described Perkins's travels and work among the Indians. Perkins, from Mercer, Maine, migrated to Oregon in September 1837. He worked with Jason Lee and was stationed at the Dalles. He, like other Methodist missionaries, was one of the men and women who, in the 1830's, prepared the way for settlement of the Oregon Country and secured it to the United States.

Another sort of rush to the West is represented in the *By-Laws of the Federal Union Mining Company* of Clear Creek County, Colorado. The pamphlet was printed in 1866 in Greenfield, Massachusetts, and is but one of hundreds of eastern gold mining companies which were organized to 'strike it rich' in behalf of its investors.

BROADSIDES

Reporting on new acquisitions by format is an artificial way of doing things. I hope my readers will pardon it this once, for we did accumulate an unusually good lot of broadsides last year. Among them were two revolutionary broadsides, the gift

of Frank S. Streeter. The earlier (Evans 15178), dated December 30, 1776, is an attempt by Congress to accumulate food for its desperate Army. After vesting Washington with virtually dictatorial powers, Congress had fled Philadelphia on December twelfth to Baltimore where the broadside was printed by John Dunlap. The second broadside reflects Washington's mood after the Battles of Trenton and Princeton by which he cleared the region of British troops and it also indicates the powers he possessed. Washington issued on January 25, 1777, a menacing proclamation against the inhabitants of the United States of America who were influenced by inimicable motives toward the revolutionary government and its military forces. The document, which hardly fits the school book picture of a benevolent Father of his Country, was printed in Philadelphia by William and Thomas Bradford. Evans lists it under number 15632. Of a political nature is an undated (*Circular.*) *To The Free and Independent Citizens of*, [blank] which was signed by Jonathan Mason, Jeremy Belknap, George R. Minot, and other Bostonians in strenuous disagreement over Jay's Treaty. Since the provisions of the agreement were made public in March of 1795 we may date the *Circular* in the Spring of that year. The leaflet is recorded in Evans as number 31302 and in Ford 2777.

As the men of West Point keep emphasizing, 'Old soldiers never die.' This is borne out by a broadside issued on July 4, 1818, entitled, *Lines . . . by an old revolutionary soldier, who well knows how to appreciate the liberties of our dear bought freedom.* The verse rings true and recalls an earlier age:

Now from the wide atlantic wave
Our searching eye restrain
For freedom there has found a grave
And slavery clanks her chain.

Where tyrants shake their iron rod
Where subjects are oppress'd
No finite arm; none but a God
Can see their wrongs redeem'd.

Columbia's sons no tyrants dread
No hostile banners fear
But crown'd with peace, we lift our heads
And hail each welcome year.

And now we meet the joyful day
Our independence rear'd
And join the concert with the lay
Our ancestors rever'd.

My friends remember them who bled
In freedoms glorious cause
As well the living as the dead
And honour freedoms laws.

Several broadsides have literary connections such as one advertising William Pelham's Circulating Library located at No. 59, Cornhill, Boston. The broadside dates from 1795 or 1796 and is unrecorded. Benjamin Tighe gave us a playbill announcing a performance of 'The Children in the Wood' by Mr. Mestayer and Company fresh from triumphs in Philadelphia and Baltimore. We have not accurately dated the broadside which probably was issued in 1820. Another broadside from Philadelphia, 1857, advertised the publication of John Townsend Trowbridge's antislavery novel *Neighbor Jackwood*.

That leads me to two other broadsides, both dealing with slavery. One is dated Baltimore, May 25, 1819, and offers a \$200 reward for two runaway slaves. Thomas Johnson, the owner, wants Richard and Ned back! Forty years later, with the Civil War about to break upon the nation, W.S. Wynn of New Bern, North Carolina, advertises that he will accept bids on December 26, 1860, to hire out fifteen or twenty likely Negroes. This broadside was the gift of Grosvenor M. Crooks.

AMERICANA IN GENERAL

The Society acquired several revolutionary pamphlets. A particularly interesting one were two addresses of the *New York*

Committee of Safety to the Inhabitants of the Colony of New-York and another *To the Electors of Great Britain*. The pamphlets were issued, perhaps together, by John Holt in January of 1776. The first pamphlet deplores the fact that Parliament has not answered the July 8th communication of the 1775 Continental Congress and calls to the attention of New Yorkers the arrogance of their trans-Atlantic orders.

A war later the United States army under William Hull gave up the city of Detroit to the British (August 16, 1812). One of the fire fights which led to that ignominious event was the Battle of Brownstown on August 9th. A rare and desirable memoir of the battle is James Dalliba's *Narrative* published by David Longworth in New York in 1816. We missed the Streeter copy but have another, purchased on the Lee Fund.

Of fourth of July orations obtained during the year we will list those of Richard Hillier, David L. Morrill, and James H. Eells. Such annual orations make up an annual report on the state of the nation at the local level and can be a source of significance to political historians. Hillier delivered his oration, entitled *Liberty and Equality* in 1800 at Mount Pleasant, New York, where it was printed by Russel Canfield. He deals with the elements found in the bill of rights, warning against the dangers to a free people of standing armies, a chaotic populace, the essential nature of trial by jury, etc. It is a celebration of the principles of 1776. Surprisingly, Morrill, in 1815, at Goffstown, New Hampshire, ignores the recent War of 1812 and urges his auditors to follow the examples of classic Greece and Rome as they exercise their duties and rights as American citizens. On the other hand, the Reverend Mr. James H. Eells of Elyria, Ohio, in 1836 compares the revolution of 1776 to the crusade to end human slavery in his oration which was published in Elyria by the Loraine County Anti-Slavery Society. We added to the cookbook collection an unrecorded title, *Ladies' Cooking Assistant and Family Almanac*; for 1849 published in New York in 1848.

Two books of nineteenth-century meteorological records were acquired. The earlier was Thomas Lawson's *Meteorological Register for the Years 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, and 1830* (Philadelphia, 1840). The other is more unusual because it appears as a set of four miniature volumes, published by the compiler, F. Ellison of Waltham, Massachusetts. Ellison records the weather in Waltham for the years 1858 through 1861 in his *Meteorological Tables and Notes*. These titles join a number of other publications of this nature which we have picked up over the past several years.

A scarce theatrical biography is *The History of the Life, Travels and Incidents of Col. Hugh Lindsay, the Celebrated Comedian* published in Philadelphia in 1859 when the Colonel was fifty-four years of age. He was a native Philadelphian who played the Pennsylvania fairs apparently with some success, inasmuch as he wrote his memoirs at his country estate in Chillinguaque Township, Northumberland County. Although he tells of many things, he did not report if he had ever drunk *John B. Peacock's Chestnut Grove Whiskey*, 'the Purest Stimulant Known.' AAS has a copy (Philadelphia, ca. 1860) of Peacock's sixteen-page pamphlet which extolls the undoubted virtues of that liquor.

AAS was overdue in obtaining on the Ellis Fund, a copy of Edmond Charles Genet's *Memorial on the Upward Forces of Fluids* a book which has an honored place in the field of aeronautics and which, although no longer rare, is still a scarce book. Our copy is one of the last from the cache, uncut in boards, from the stock of the late Commodore John E. Scopes of Albany. Mention of Albany leads me to another book, *Charter of the City of Albany*, handsomely printed by Hugh Gainé in New York in 1771 with interesting wooden type on the title page. It was purchased on the Cole Fund. The Freemasons have had an active influence in American life. We bought *The Free-Mason's Vocal Assistant and Register of the Lodges of Masons in South Carolina* (Charleston, 1807) to add to our large collection of Masonic publications.

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Bragg of Atlanta, Georgia, gave us an unrecorded Worcester, Massachusetts, imprint, William Perry's *Only Sure Guide to the English Tongue*, the seventh edition, printed by Isaiah Thomas, Jr., in June of 1808.

So—it has been a year of diverse and interesting books. The librarian does not get out to book stores as frequently as he would like, but even so we manage to spend all the book funds. We like to think that the Society's library is growing in useful ways and I cannot close without thanking all of the generous friends who have contributed to that growth.

M. A. McC.

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