

## *Report of the Librarian*

1961-1962

THE wise expenditure of the Society's book funds is essential in order to improve our collections and make them more useful for scholars who hopefully come here. To accomplish our primary mission of enrichment of the book stock, we are quite willing to buy any pre-1821 imprint which we lack, if the price of the same is commensurate with its importance, or to accept books in this category as gifts. We are eager to enlarge our holdings of nineteenth century primary printed matter; to increase the resources in our biographical and local history collections, and to make our bibliographical and secondary historical collections as useful as possible.

Thinking that a survey of the manner in which we spent our 1961-1962 book funds might be illuminating, I submit for your information the following figures:

			an average of
Pre-1821 imprints	120 titles	\$2869	\$23.90 per title
Later nineteenth century source materials	163	1186	7.20
Local history	263	3328	12.65
Biography	164	1362	8.30
Secondary works in general American history	182	1427	7.85
Bibliography	81	636	7.85
Genealogy	117	926	7.90

Pre-1877 newspapers, periodicals, including film	18	406	22.60
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1108*	\$12140	\$10.95

The statistics indicate how we spent the money—not how well, and we can only hope that the years to come will prove our judgment as sound as that of our predecessors.

As in the past, we obtained by gift and purchase a number of imprints not listed in Charles Evans' *American Bibliography*. Some of them are listed herewith.

*Leeds, 1713. The American Almanack for the Year of Christian Account 1713. . . . By Daniel Leeds, Philomat. . . .* Sold by Elkana Pembroke in Newport 1713. 12 lvs.

*Leeds, 1715. The American Almanack for the Year of Christian Account 1715. . . . By Titian Leeds, Philomat. . . .* Printed, & Sold by the Booksellers in Boston, 1715. 14 lvs.

Both almanacs were printed by William Bradford of New York and represent issues which are exceedingly hard to find.

One of the most interesting additions was the gift of James Tannis, Librarian of the Andover-Harvard Theological Library, and consists only of the first leaf, which measures 89 x 64mm.

*A Primmer for Children. Or, An Introduction to the true Reading of English.* [Woodcut of female teacher, seated out of doors, instructing five pupils] N. London, Printed & Sold by T. Green, 1744. <13th, Edit.>

The title appears on the verso of the leaf while on the recto the cover title, *The Connecticut Primmer*, is printed in black letter with another crude woodcut. Trumbull cites an advertisement for the first edition of 1715 but there is no mention of this title in Evans or in Heartman. With the exception

\*With gifts, we added 2143 titles in 1961-1962. These figures do not include subscriptions to current historical periodicals or the subscription to the British Museum catalogue.

of the Indian primers, this is an early survivor of this type of children's literature.

Although Evans 909I describes a 1762 Boston edition of George Cockings' poem, *War*, the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, printing of it escaped his vigilance. We added such a printing to our collections this year.

*War: An Heroic Poem. From the Taking of Minorca by the French, to the Raising of the Siege of Quebec, by General Murray. By George Cockings.* London Printed: Portsmouth; in New-Hampshire; Re-printed and Sold by Daniel Fowle. M,DCC,LXII. 28p.

This folio edition is very handsomely printed and it is obvious from the ornamentation that Fowle took considerable pains with it. Cockings' biography in the *Dictionary of National Biography* placed him in Newfoundland in 1758 and later in Boston as a government official. He returned to England where he died in 1802.

From the New England Historic Genealogical Society we received a number of desirable broadsides, including the following.

*Mr. Occum's Address to [Cut] his Indian Brethren. On the Day that Moses Paul, an Indian, was executed at New-Haven, on the 2d of September, 1772, for the Murder of Moses Cook. . . .* [n.p., n.d.] Folio broadside. Contains sixteen verses of poetry. It is not listed in Evans, Trumbull or Ford; nor is the following purchase:

[Cut] *King William in Disguise, Dressed like a Gentleman, walking in a Farmer's Ground, discoursed with a Ploughman, who pleased the King so well, that he made him a Captain; with many other things worthy of Note. Tune of Liggan Water. . . .* Sold at the Bible & Heart in Cornhill, Boston; where may be had a variety of other Verses, Histories, &c. [n.d., ca. 1780?] Folio broadside.

I suspect that the discovery of another edition of a John Flavel title should not cause too much excitement but such an event pleases us (especially when we buy the pamphlet cheap). Shem Chapin of Springfield, Massachusetts, a store-keeper, published a very few books from time to time to sell at his emporium. This is one of them.

*A Discourse, Shewing that Christ's tender care of His Mother is an Excellent Pattern for all Gracious Children to the end of the World. By the Rev. Mr. John Flavel, . . .* Printed for, and sold by Shem Chapen, in the year M,DCC,LXXXIII. 16p. Evans accounts for only the 1738 edition of this title.

In the *Bibliography of Worcester*, Nichols listed a second edition of Thomas's printing of:

*Manual Exercises and Evolutions of the Cavalry. As Practiced in the Late American Army. The Second Worcester Edition.* Printed at Worcester, Massachusetts, By Isaiah Thomas, and Sold at his Bookstore M,DCC,LXXXVIII. 62p. frontis.

Evans listed this from an advertisement but no copy has come to our attention until the arrival of the present one.

Two New York, 1795, novels accounted for additional "not in Evans" titles. One is by the English writer, John Langhorne.

*The Fables of Flora. By Dr. Langhorne.* New-York: Printed by Brewer & Lang. M,DCC,XCV. 99p. 2p. floral frontispiece, engraved by John Scoles. The other is an anonymous piece which is located at Harvard also. At this writing it is not known if it is of American or English origin.

*Fatal Effects of Jealousy: a Spanish Novel. Founded on Facts.* New-York: Printed by J. Harrisson, at Yorick's Head, No. 3, Peck-Slip, -1795- 47p. Both books are rare.

It is surprising in 1962 to locate variants of late New England primers but we obtained one which is not recorded in Heartman or in Evans.

*The New-England Primer, Enlarged and Improved: . . .*  
 Boston: Printed for and Sold by the Booksellers. 1795. 28 lvs.  
 This variant of a large edition of the same year is differentiated from its fellows by the absence of the name of a particular bookseller.

*Boston, 20th April, 1795. To the Public. A Literary Society relying on that love of letters, which has marked and graced our Country's character, submit to the Public the following Prospectus of a Belles Lettres Paper. . . .* William Spotswood, No. 55, Marlborough-Street. Octavo broadside.

This prospectus was for *The Tablet*, which ran from Tuesday, May 19, 1795, to August 11, 1795. This is another gift from the New England Historic Genealogical Society, as is the next:

*Complaints have been made to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, that the Harmonic Lodge had made several persons Masons, contrary to the directions of the Grand Lodge, of the 13th June, 5796. . . . Daniel Oliver, Grand Secretary. . . .* [n.p., n.d.] Folio broadside.

As a result of the action taken and published in the broadside just cited, Harmonic Lodge was black-listed by the Masonic fraternity.

*The New Game of Cards, or, A Pack of Cards Changed into a compleat and perpetual Almanack, in a Dialogue. . . .* Printed and Sold at Northampton, (Massachusetts.) 1797. 8p.

Although there are several printings of this title recorded in Evans, he did not include this edition nor did Miss Gilmore in her Northampton imprints checklist.

*(Circular.) Stockbridge, September 14, 1798. . . . Silas Pepoon, Thomas Gold, Benj. Rosseter, Committee. Ninth Division, June 5, 1799. [3]p.*

The circular is an appeal from officers of the 9th Division of the Massachusetts militia for a revision of the militia laws. Again, a gift of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Other scarce imprints which we obtained this year included Evans 3098:

*Remarks on the late Proceedings of some Members of Assembly at Philadelphia: April, 1728.* [n.p., n.d.] 4p.

This pamphlet concerns itself with the crisis caused by Sir William Keith's departure for Great Britain; thus vacating his seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

We obtained also a copy of Evans 15477:

*An Ordinance of the Convention of the State of New-York, . . . Fish-Kill; Printed by Samuel Loudon. M,DCC,LXXVII.* 12p.

The State of New York was established by the passage of this act.

Similarly, a good copy of 4964, a Moravian tract by Johann Adam Gruber which was printed by B. Franklin in 1742, came our way. 28773, *An Address from the Council of Proprietors of the Western Division of New-Jersey*, was another; as well as 32660, *Plan of Association of the Pennsylvania Land Company*. We purchased a run of the *Journals* of the conventions of the Maryland Episcopalian diocese of 1789, 1790, 1795, 1796, 1798, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1806, 1807, 1808, and 1820.

Coming at length to the nineteenth century, we were able to add to our collections a good number of imprints.

Henry S. Keatinge wrote and printed the *Musical Preceptor; or A Key to Harmony*. Baltimore, 1808.

Allison Wrifford's *A New System of Penmanship, . . . Last edition with improvements and additions*. Boston, 1812. [8]p., 6 plates.

*An Account of the astonishing beauties and operations of nature, in the Minute Creation displayed by the Solar Microscope.* By Christopher Colles. N.Y., 1813. 44p. woodcut illus.

A broadside of John K. Furman announced to the public on April 2, 1810, that he had just opened the Fredonian Printing Office and, with the assistance of the shades of Benjamin Franklin and the goddess Liberty, would do his utmost to accommodate the public.

*Reflections on the Subject of a Division of the Mississippi Territory.* [n.p., n.d.] was written about 1816, shortly before the territory was in fact divided, against the will of the unknown author of this seven page pamphlet.

*The New and Fashionable Chinese Puzzle*, published in 1817, by A. T. Goodrich & Co. of New York, is an unusual item. It has a cover title and 32 pages of woodcuts of the diagrams into which the pieces of the puzzle may be arranged. Tipped in is a poem entitled "Stanza Addressed to Messrs. Goodrich & Co. on the ingenious Chinese Puzzle." However, Messrs. Goodrich & Co. cheated, for they also printed a [Key] to the *Chinese Philosophical Amusements* in the same year. This is an 80 page booklet of wood cuts demonstrating to the puzzler what pieces of the game go where to complete the diagrams shown in the first pamphlet.

We added a few more publications relating to trials. The most touching being, *The Early Love Letters and Later Literary Remains of Maria Bickford. Murdered in Boston, October 25th, 1845.* Boston, 1846. We purchased two additions for our collection of books advocating phonetic orthography; see for example, L. A. Hin's *Priz Esa on Muni-Geting and Muni-Spending.* Sinsinati, 1854. In the medical field, we added a few later nineteenth century pamphlets to our already large collection. In an effort to learn how well we covered this field, I counted the items in the letters A through C of Austin's *Early American Medical Imprints, 1668-1820* and learned that of 612 entries, we held 367, of which 30 were unique. I see no reason to doubt that these percentages would not hold throughout the alphabet. A prize catch in the

biographical field was a rare set of the privately printed *Letters of John Hay and Extracts from Diary*. Washington, 1908, in three volumes.

We expended \$3,300 for local history last year, a sizable portion of our budget. Most of that was used to purchase trans-Mississippi local and county histories, the price of which is rapidly mounting as the quantity shrinks.

I have already alluded to several gifts, but there are many more which should not go unnoticed. A list of benefactors is appended to this report.

Of special note is a large and important collection of pamphlets relating to canals of the mid-west, New York state, and elsewhere, which came as the gift of Thomas W. Streeter. This supplements earlier gifts of canal and railroad material which he has given us. He also presented us with a very fine set of Pownall's *Views in North America*.

In the gift from the New England Historic Genealogical Society were some forty more broadsides, eighty-five newspaper titles with several issues per title, and a large number of pamphlets. In addition, they gave to us a number of Bentley manuscripts which we happily placed with our other papers of that Salem scholar.

A number of members sent us the fruits of their scholarship or copies of books which they had reviewed. Mr. and Mrs. Albert W. Rice gave family manuscripts. Mr. Hermann P. Riccius gave us a collection of books on Clara Barton. The American Baptist Historical Society gave a fine copy of *The Western Almanack for 1805*, printed in Sherbourne, New York. We received lots of nineteenth century miscellanea from Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Tilton, the Misses Lottie and Bertha Craft, and Gilbert Doane. Daniel Hull presented a copy of his typescript history of Worcester newspapers. d'Alté Welch gave us two rare children's books. Goodspeeds, R. R. Bowker Co., and Benjamin Tighe gave useful and



valuable materials. The list is extensive and it seems ungrateful to mention some gifts and ignore others; but to all the Society is profoundly thankful.

It cannot have escaped you that in the recitation of titles I have intermixed the relatively inconsequential with more important acquisitions. I have done it deliberately to try to make the point that we look upon our particular task as bibliographical and that we attempt to gather in all that we possibly can to form a bibliographical record of the period, 1639-1820. It differentiates our collections quite markedly from that of the John Carter Brown Library, for example, which acquires materials selectively, with a view toward illuminating the beginnings of American history. Nevertheless, our long standing policy places us in direct competition with almost every historical library in the country. As the years pass, the competition will grow more intense, though we trust with no lessening of friendship between us and our colleagues. Therefore, this is a call to those of you who find their first commitment to be to this institution to support us with your concern, your wisdom, and your help.

Respectfully submitted,

MARCUS A. MCCORISON

## List of Donors

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| The Advertising Club of<br>Worcester, Mass. | James Wilbur Clayton                    |
| University of Alabama<br>Libraries          | J. Winston Coleman, Jr.                 |
| Mrs. Charles R. Allen                       | The Columbiad Club                      |
| American Baptist Historical<br>Society      | Charles C. Congdon                      |
| American Heritage                           | Congregational Library                  |
| American Historical Association             | Connecticut College                     |
| The American Philosophical<br>Society       | Mrs. Ruth S. Converse                   |
| Helen R. Anderson                           | Cornell University Press                |
| Susan Andrews                               | David L. Cowen                          |
| Karl J. R. Arndt                            | Bertha Craft                            |
| Joseph Earl Arrington                       | Lottie M. Craft                         |
| Robert B. Austin                            | Mrs. Margaret Crouch                    |
| C. B. Axford                                | Thomas Y. Crowell Company               |
| Al Banx                                     | Mrs. F. Harold Daniels                  |
| Paul E. Basye                               | Albert Daub                             |
| Otho Thompson Beall, Jr.                    | William D. Davis                        |
| Frederick W. Beinecke                       | The Historical Society<br>of Delaware   |
| Mrs. Gordon Bell                            | Gerritt Doams                           |
| The Bibliographical Society                 | Gilbert Doane                           |
| George A. Billias                           | Gaylord Donnelley                       |
| The Book Club of California                 | Richard G. Durnin                       |
| R. R. Bowker                                | Eleutherian Mills Historical<br>Library |
| Elinor Briggs                               | Lloyd Espenschied                       |
| Bristol Public Library                      | Margaret Pace Farmer                    |
| Brown University                            | William F. Ferguson                     |
| Walter LeRoy Brown                          | Mrs. Chauncy Finn                       |
| Kenneth W. Cameron                          | Malcolm Freiberg                        |
| Joseph C. Carter                            | Louise E. Gallagher                     |
| James R. Case                               | Burton N. Gates                         |
| Charleston Library Society                  | Paul W. Gates                           |
| The Charleston Museum                       | Bradley B. Gilman                       |
| Chestnut Street Congregational<br>Church    | Lawrence Henry Gipson                   |
| David Sanders Clark                         | Goodspeed's Book Shop                   |
|   | Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hamilton<br>Gordon  |
|   | The Grand Lodge, F.A.A.M.               |

Frances Greene  
E. Grieve  
Gerald N. Grob  
Richard M. Gummere  
George L. Harding  
Harvard University  
William F. Haywood  
Henry Hazen  
Historical Services Division,  
Office of the Chief of Military  
History, Department of the  
Navy  
Sen. George F. Hoar Estate  
Al Hock  
M. Nancy Hollister  
Daniel Hull  
Evert O. Hutchins  
Illinois State Historical Society  
The State Historical Society  
of Iowa  
Harold Jantz  
Mrs. J. Herbert Johnson  
Mabel Johnson  
Donald B. Johnstone  
Mrs. H. Donaldson Jordan  
Winthrop D. Jordan  
Elizabeth Littlefield Judkins  
Alfred Decker Keator  
E. Kay Kirkham  
Karl Krueger  
Warren C. Lane  
Pearl D. Larmoyeux  
Agnes Vaughan Lathem  
Louis S. Leatham  
Edward T. Le Blanc  
Lost Cause Press  
Robert W. Lovett  
Irving Lowens  
Joseph Lyle McCorison

Marcus A. McCorison  
William Wallace McCullough  
Mrs. Harry B. McIntosh  
George L. McKay  
S. J. Marino  
Carla C. Marzoli  
The Colonial Society of  
Massachusetts  
Harold Moise  
The Moravian Music  
Foundation, Inc.  
Mrs. Harry Morgan  
Samuel Eliot Morison  
Lilian T. Mowrer  
Milo M. Naeve  
Floyd E. Neikirk  
New England Historic  
Genealogical Society  
The New-York Historical Society  
State of North Carolina,  
Department of Archives and  
History  
Norton Company  
Otto J. Nupp  
Old Sturbridge Village  
Col. A. H. Onthank  
Maxwell C. Orvin  
B. C. Payette  
W. L. L. Peltz  
Philadelphia Electric Company  
Nellie L. Pierce  
Rex M. Potterf  
Paul W. Prindle  
Olive Higgins Prouty  
Wassell Randolph  
Redwood Library  
John K. Reeves  
Henry H. Reichhold  
Herbert Reichner

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Hermann P. Riccius                      | Stanley Sultan   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rice                | Walter S. Taft   |
| Charlotte Richardson                    | James Tannis   |
| Carleton R. Richmond                    | Wayne C. Temple  |
| Ludwig Ries                             | The Philosophical Society<br>of Texas                        |
| Robert C. Robertson                     | M. Halsey Thomas   |
| Dr. E. R. Rochette                      | Benjamin Tighe   |
| Ishbel Ross                             | Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Tilton                                 |
| Ward J. Roylance                        | Edward Larocque Tinker                                       |
| Saint Albans School                     | Robert M. Torrence   |
| St. Michael's Church                    | The University Club  |
| San Antonio Public Library              | Vassar College   |
| Ivan Sandrof                            | Vermont Historical Society                                   |
| The Sarah Carpenter Memorial<br>Library | The Bibliographical Society of<br>the University of Virginia |
| Martha A. Sargent                       | Emma Forbes Waite  |
| Richard B. Sealock                      | Arthur Wald  |
| Roy B. Sewell                           | Wilcomb E. Washburn  |
| Mrs. Armin Seyb                         | Katharine H. Wead  |
| Ralph R. Shaw                           | Mrs. Frederick S. Webber                                     |
| E. Hortense Sheldon                     | Frederick Lewis Weis   |
| Mrs. John Shewbrooks                    | d'Alté A. Welch  |
| Clifford K. Shipton                     | J. S. Wesby & Sons   |
| Theodore Sizer                          | W. Reginald Wheeler  |
| Mrs. Bulkeley Smith                     | Barbara J. Wickens   |
| The H. B. Smith Company                 | Albert Wiley   |
| Ruth Vaughan Smith                      | Maud Wilson  |
| Clarence J. Speicher                    | J. M. Wiswall  |
| Raymond Phineas Stearns                 | Edwin Wolf, 2nd  |
| Robert M. Stecher                       | Anne Farrell Wood  |
| Simon Gerberich Stein III               | Worcester Free Public Library                                |
| Roger E. Stoddard                       | Dr. Sarah Emery Youngman                                     |
| Thomas W. Streeter                      |  |

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.