

Report of the Librarian

1962-1963

AS IN past years the activity of the librarian which is closest to his heart has been the selection of materials for the library. We have attempted to maintain a balance of sorts between publications issued prior to 1821 and later materials, in an effort to bring into the library the materials which will illuminate the latter portions of the nineteenth century as well as the colonial and federal periods. Accessions totaled 4221 titles, 3441 being the gifts of 184 generous donors.

Among the less common additions to the collections this year were three editions of the *New-Jersey Pocket Almanack* (Trenton, Isaac Collins) for the years 1781, 1782, 1783. We also purchased a copy of *Croswell's Diary, or Catskill Almanack* for the year 1817 (Catskill, N.Y., M. Croswell & Son).

To the collection of news-carriers' addresses we added eight examples. Probably the most interesting was the *Carrier's Address to the Patrons and Friends of the Sentinel, 1852* (Ogdensburg, N.Y.). This eight-page pamphlet not only contains the poetical address but it also carries a business directory of the town. The remaining examples were delivered by newsboys in Norfolk, Virginia, and Dayton, Ohio, as follows: *The Southern Argus*, Norfolk, Christmas, 1850; New Year, 1856; Christmas, 1856; *The American Beacon*, Norfolk, Christmas, 1854; *Dayton Journal and Advertiser*, New Year, 1841 and 1845; *The Daily Empire*, Dayton, New Year, 1860.

Mrs. Nathaniel Kendall, Richard H. Gregory, Jr., and Frances W. Gregory presented an apparently unique folio broadside in memory of Mary Howe Gregory. *An Elegaic Poem. Composed by F-----n H-----y, A Citizen of Boston, . . . Bloody Indian Battle at Miami, near Fort-Washington, in the Ohio-Country, Nov. 4, 1791; . . .* The broadside is decorated with four woodcuts. One is a crude copy of the Doolittle engraving of the battle of Lexington which masquerades as the battle near Miami. Another is of a military figure which appeared over different denominations in *Russell's American Almanack* for 1782 and in *Bickerstaffe's Boston Almanack* for 1791. As both were printed by Ezekiel Russell of Boston, it is possible to assign this broadside to his shop. The elegist has not been identified, a search of a number of indices failing to turn up a name matching F-----n H-----y.

An excellent copy of David E. Rowland's *An Epitome of Ecclesiastical History*, engraved by Amos Doolittle in 1806, came to hand. The broadside was published by the sons of the late compiler, William E. and Henry A. Rowland.

Another engraving of a very different kind was obtained through exchange with Mr. Alfred Hoch. It is a watch paper of Aaron Willard and when it first arrived, caused considerable excitement because of the possibility that it was from the burin of Paul Revere. On p. 123 of *Paul Revere's Engravings*, Brigham cites a day-book entry of July 1781 to Simon Willard, 6s. for one hundred prints for "Your Br. Aron for Watches." The present example, one of three which we have, is more expertly engraved than the other two and the inscription on the obverse, "Oliver Jackson repair & clean \$1:50, May 28 1819," probably indicates that it is of later origin than the one by Revere.

Among the several children's books gathered in this past year are a few which are unrecorded in Shaw and Shoemaker. *The First Spelling-Book for Children* by Daniel George was

printed by Thomas B. Wait at Portland in 1802. Of several imprints of Samuel Wood of New York which we purchased, a copy of *The History of Beasts* (1810) and *Spring* (1818) escaped their bibliographical net. So did *The Little Beggar Girl. And William and Henry* (N.Y., L.B. and G. Jansen, 1808). Among the recorded but rare children's titles were Perrault's *A New History of Blue Beard* (Windsor, Vt., Jesse Cochran, 1815); *Infancy* (N.Y., Saml. Wood, 1813); and Berquin's *The Family Book* (Detroit, Theophilus Mettez, 1812), 2 vols.

This was a banner year for the purchase of early American dramatic publications chiefly because of one large lot of material located here in Worcester. This collection belonged to an elderly Italian lady who had conducted a bridal shop in New York before retiring to the home of her late brother, the fencing master of one of Worcester's colleges. When she left New York, she emptied out her shop and among the things transported north were several cartons of old plays. These had been the property of William B. Wood (1779-1861), a well-known Philadelphia actor and producer. Many of the plays bear his signature but what is more important, several contain annotations for his productions of the plays. We were able to add 63 titles of American plays for the period after 1821. Before that date, we substituted a good number of better copies for poor ones already on the shelves, as well as adding a few titles of this period which we lacked. An important pamphlet was also in this lot and is recorded only from an advertisement in Bristol's *Maryland Imprints, 1801-1810*. It is: *A Letter to the Reverend George Dashiell, on the Subject of Theatrical Amusements* (Baltimore, 1804). The anonymous writer makes a strong case for the beneficent effects of the theater.

Among other accessions which escaped various bibliographers was a printing of the rules and regulations of the

Proprietors of the Charles River Bridge published in Boston in 1785. Our copy of *The Complete Fortune Teller; or The Interpreter of Dreams* (N.Y., 1812), has resolved many a question of love or business as is shown by the fortune table now well scarred by pin pricks. We were pleased to be able to add several annual *Extracts from the Minutes* of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, specifically, for the years, 1803, 1806, 1808, 1813, and 1817. Although a great many editions of *The Gamut, or Scale of Music* were published by printers all over the United States, very few of them have survived because they were used up and discarded. We obtained a good copy of an Otsego, N.Y., edition printed by H. & E. Phinney, Jun., in 1810. This copy is complete with the pages of instruction and the practice pages intact. An unrecorded New Jersey imprint was added: Jacob Larzelere's *Funeral Sermon, Occasioned by the Death of Richard Corson* (Trenton, James J. Wilson, 1813). Evans failed to record the first New York edition of this common title: *The Life of Joseph* by John Macgowan. We have such a copy printed by John Buel for E. Duyckinck & Co. in 1796. R. Patterson & Lambdin of Pittsburgh in April, 1819, printed for the tract societies in the western country 3,000 copies of the first edition of *Now or Never*, a specimen of which is now in this library.

Seidensticker lists in his checklist of German-American printing *Der Vollständige Pferde-Arzt* (Reading, Pa., 1817). Mr. Samuel Ward gave to us a copy of the volume which proved to be *Vollständiges Gäuls-Doctor Buch* by Johann Nicholaus Rohlwes. The copy lacks a title page, although a blank leaf for that page is present. The title in Seidensticker was taken from the cover title, present on our new copy, and the texts of both examples are the same. That old Masonic standby *Jachin and Boaz* by R.S. appeared on our doorstep in a somewhat different guise. This copy was

“Re-printed in the United States. 1801,” and to help the bibliographer a former owner, Thomas R. Hoyt of Amesbury, inscribed on the fly leaf his name, town and the date, March 4, 1801. *Truth in Simplicity* was printed in New York in 1811 for the author and is an Universalist tract. Another unrecorded pamphlet is a herbal and book of dye recipes entitled *Ein vortrefliches Krauter-Buch fur Haus-Vater und Mutter, nebst etlichen auserlesen Recepten. Wie auch Eine Anweisung zur Farbe-Kunst, Blau, Roth, Gelb, u. u. zu farben* (Hannover, in Pennsylvanien; Gedruckt bey Starck und Lange. 1809.) A West Springfield, Mass., edition, ca.1796, of Isaac Watts' *The First Catechism of the Principles of Religion* is not recorded in Evans while William White's *A Charge Delivered at the Ordination of the Reverend George Patterson* (Philadelphia: William Fry, 1816) is not in Shaw and Shoemaker.

In the newspaper realm we obtained the unique first two volumes of the Bedford, Pennsylvania, *True American*, 1813-1815. A sizable purchase from the John Carter Brown Library added nearly 150 issues of various newspapers including the *Baltimore Telegraph*, 1814-1816, and the *New York Gazette & General Advertiser*, 1807-1834. Ernest J. Wessen gave to the library a good run of volume one of the *Marietta Minerva*, 1823-1824, in addition to an interesting letter about the sale of the printing equipment of the firm. Another gift from the Connecticut Historical Society made it possible to push forward the last located issue of the Wilmington *Federal Ark* from June 30, 1804, to October 26, 1804.

Desirable books, though not as scarce as those listed heretofore, also indicative of the range of interests of this institution. *The Reign of Terror in Kansas* (Boston, 1856) is a propaganda piece written during the height of the troubles in that territory, and itemizes the outrages per-

formed by the gangs from Missouri and the south. We bought an important pamphlet by James Forten, a well-known Negro of Philadelphia, entitled *Letters from a Man of Colour, on a Late Bill Before the Senate of Pennsylvania*, dated April, 1813. It contains an extremely lucid and humane appeal to the legislature to defeat a bill then under discussion which would prevent the emigration of Negroes into the Commonwealth. Forten's influence upon Negroes and white alike in their thinking on the race problem was profound, as the testimony of William Lloyd Garrison and John Greenleaf Whittier amply shows.

One of the important works on the history of Mississippi River shipping is Emerson W. Gould's *Fifty Years on the Mississippi* (St. Louis, 1889). We were able to obtain a fine copy of the book which covers the author's experiences on the river from roughly 1835 to 1885. Another book which is a landmark in its field is Dard Hunter's *Paper Making by Hand in America* (Chillicothe, 1950). This was published in a severely limited edition and for a variety of reasons we were not among the subscribers. After a diligent search by a friendly dealer, we were at last offered a copy which we snapped up with haste.

After more than a century, it is hard for us to realize how violent were the anti-masonic tremors which shook the country. Some of those reverberations can be witnessed by a reader of *A Narrative of the Facts and Circumstances Relating to the Kidnapping and Presumed Murder of William Morgan* by David C. Miller, published by the author in Batavia, New York, in 1827. We also added three anti-masonic almanacs, Rochester, N.Y., 1828; New York, 1831; and Columbus, Ohio, 1832.

Although we infrequently collect manuscripts, we are still very much interested in obtaining manuscript material on printers and printing. We were fortunate in locating a

portion of the diary of David Clapp, Jr., a prominent Boston printer of the nineteenth century. The fragment which we have recounts his experiences as an apprenticed printer in the office of John Cotton. His career began on May 13, 1822, and its passage was marked by such events as the insolvency of his master, alcoholism of a colleague, and an attack by a skunk.

I have referred only occasionally to the helpful persons and institutions who have enriched our holdings by the gift of useful materials. I must thank collectively the members of the Society who have presented copies of their learned lucubrations or of review copies of books. Goodspeed's Book Shop and the R. R. Bowker Company continued their practice of sending us large amounts of ore from which we are always able to extract considerable quantities of gold. Harvard University sent to us a very large collection of early nineteenth century college publications—some 3000 catalogues and the like—which added to similar material already on our shelves makes a very significant corpus of information on American higher education. Dr. Bertram W. Korn faithfully sends us material on Jewish-American history, much of which would remain unknown to us except for his good offices. George L. Harding maintains our membership in the Book Club of California, thus ensuring a complete run of their publications. The Lynn Historical Society sent us several early and valuable Lynn local directories. Mrs. Arthur E. Nye gave us a collection of miscellaneous books in memory of her sister, Mrs. Chandler Bullock. Mr. and Mrs. Albert W. Rice sent to our shelves more useful manuscripts from their family papers. Edward G. Holley presented a copy of his dissertation, "Charles Evans, American Bibliographer." The Society is grateful to these donors and the many others unnamed who so generously enhance our holdings.

I have saved for my final remarks the mention of the gift of fifty-nine additional items of railroad material by Thomas W. Streeter. Over the past several years, he has been channelling to us and to certain other libraries a great accumulation of railroad reports and descriptive publications which form the basis of data for railroad historiography. On our shelves are 1,541 of 2,671 items listed in Thompson's *Check List of Publications on American Railroads before 1841*. We have also an additional sixty-eight items not listed by him. However, the Thompson checklist covers only a portion of our collection of railroad documents which is stored in forty-two boxes and consists of not less than 6,000 items dated primarily before 1876. In addition to company reports, legislative acts and miscellanea, we have a large amount of tourist and passenger promotional material as well as railroad guides, which is useful in assessing the railroads' public images. In short, there is a considerable body of useful, frequently scarce, and interesting railroading in this institution which will ease the burdens of some scholar if he will but avail himself of it.

The number of newly recorded visitors engaged in significant research was up again from previous years, marking a slow but steady increase in the quantity of readers. As usual, they came from western Europe to California, and were involved in projects ranging from Georgia local history to the state of American dentistry in 1864, or the social structure of the era of the American Revolution.

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