

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN

BY far the most important feature of the year has been the completion of the addition to the library stack. This work was finished early in June and during the summer the process of moving the books into the new building, with much consequent rearrangement of all the collections, has been begun. Three large sections of the library—the newspapers, the government documents and the periodicals—have already been shelved in the new stack, and other collections will be moved during the coming fall and winter.

The lack of shelf room for newspapers has been the most disturbing factor in the library for several years, and this collection was therefore the first to be rearranged. About 1200 bulky volumes, including fifty year files of such important papers as the New York Tribune, Albany Journal and Philadelphia Public Ledger, had been stored in the basement for the past four years, piled up like cordwood and quite inaccessible for study. Another 800 volumes, comprising the binding of the last half dozen years, had been similarly stored for want of shelving space. These two lots were cleared from the basement floor, and placed with the regular collection, which was then arranged, in alphabetical order by States, on the two upper floors of both stacks. At present the newspapers from Alabama to Maryland occupy the fourth floor of the new stack, those of Massachusetts the fourth floor of the old stack, those from Michigan to New York the fifth floor of the new stack, and those from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin, with the papers of Canada, West Indies, Mexico and South America, the

fifth floor of the old stack. The total number of newspaper shelves in both stacks is 8,232, and the total linear length of these shelves amount to three and six-tenths miles. The present number of volumes in the newspaper collection, which includes bound volumes, unbound volumes and portfolios, is 12,350.

The collection of American periodicals has been moved into the third floor of the new stack, where it fills nearly the entire capacity of that floor. This is one of the most important collections in the library, numbering 16,350 volumes, bound and unbound. Most of the periodicals antedate 1880, but there are good files of the historical and literary magazines since that date. The primary strength of the collection, however, is in the early period, that prior to 1820. For the period previous to 1800, its strength is shown in the comparative table given in William Beer's recent "Checklist of American Periodicals, 1741-1800," where this Library is credited with seventy out of the ninety-eight known periodicals of the eighteenth century. The collection has been much used by scholars during the past year, and especially by Professor William Graham, of Cleveland, whose work on English and American Literary Periodicals is now in course of publication. More attention will be paid during the coming two or three years to filling in the gaps in the nineteenth century files.

Another collection which has been moved during the summer is the file of U. S. Government documents, which now occupies the entire lower floor of the new stack, thus giving an opportunity for expansion which was much needed.

During the next few weeks, the collections of psalmody, hymnology, institutional reports, and directories will be rearranged on the third floor of the old stack; the Spanish-Americana and Civil War collections will be moved to the second floor of the new stack; and the local history will then take all of the six alcoves around the rotunda reading-room. The

moving of books takes time and strength, but the satisfaction of having at last a place to shelve our increasing collection, more than atones for all the labor. The present linear shelf length of the entire library is nearly eleven miles.

The accessions to the Library during the past year expressed in tabular form, total as follows:

Bound volumes	3741
Pamphlets	11,156
Engravings, broadsides and miscellaneous	8,723
Unbound newspapers	13,363

The total number of bound volumes now in the Library is 152,226, and of pamphlets 234,832.

There has been a gratifying continuance of gifts from members who always seem to have the Library in mind. Chief-Justice Rugg, President Lincoln, Mr. Charles G. Washburn, Mr. Charles H. Taylor, Mr. Henry W. Cunningham, Mr. Grenville H. Norcross, Rev. Herbert E. Lombard and Mr. Nathaniel T. Kidder are always sending us material of value intended to fill in and complete our files. Mr. James B. Wilbur, in addition to presenting us with occasional rare pamphlets, has kindly allowed us to select any titles which we needed from his Vermont duplicates. In this way we obtained eleven new titles, including the 1798 Vermont Acts and Laws, and the 1804 Journal of the Vermont House.

A large and valuable series of pamphlets has come to the Society by the will of Roger Foster of New York, who died February 22, 1924. These pamphlets were collected by his grandfather, Alfred Dwight Foster, and his great grandfather Dwight Foster, both of whom lived in Worcester County and were long members of the American Antiquarian Society. There were many rare pamphlets which we needed and probably could not otherwise have secured, among them the following:

Narrative of the Captivity of Mary Rowlandson, Boston, 1771.

John Trumbull, *Progress of Dullness*, New Haven, 1773.

Observations on the American Revolution, Providence, 1780.

Joel Barlow, *Prospect of Peace*, a Poetical Composition, New Haven, 1788.

John Jay, *Address to the People of New York*, New York, 1788.

Fauchet, *Éloge Civique de Benjamin Franklin*, Paris, 1790.

Thomas Evans, *Address to People of Virginia*, Richmond, 1798.

There were many other titles of extreme rarity acquired during the year. From an English book-dealer's catalogue we obtained the 1734 broadside "Specimen by William Caslon, Letter-Founder, in Chiswell-Street, London," the second issue of the earliest English specimen sheet. Since we already possessed the earliest English specimen in book form, that issued by William Caslon in 1763, this was an item that we had always desired. From a New York auction room was secured the first American work on architecture, Abraham Swan's "Collection of Designs in Architecture," Philadelphia, 1775. This book contained copper-plates engraved by John Norman and was dedicated to John Hancock and the members of the Continental Congress. It is so rare that although copies have recently been located in New York libraries, Hildeburn in his "Issues of the Press in Pennsylvania" was able to cite only a fragment of the first ten pages.

Quite the rarest pamphlet given during the year, and the only perfect copy so far located, is "The History of the Fight of Captain John Lovell, which took place on the Eighth day of May, 1725, in Fryeburgh, Maine," printed at Fryeburg by Elijah Russel, 1799, and donated to the Library by Mr. Charles H. Taylor. Both of the Boston 1725 editions of Lovewell's Fight are in the Society's library, but this Maine edition contains additional material and Russel's preface gives an interesting account of Fryeburg and of the establishment of a printing-press in that town.

A tract long sought for by the Society and one which in spite of its Worcester interest strangely never came our way, is "General Gage's Instructions, of 22d

February 1775, to Captain Brown and Ensign D'Berniere, to take a sketch of the roads, passes, heights, &c. from Boston to Worcester," printed at Boston by J. Gill, 1779. This interesting contemporaneous account of British operations previous to the blockade of Boston came to the Society through exchange with the Massachusetts Historical Society, to whose kindness we are much indebted.

Through exchange with the University of Chicago, the Library has obtained a large collection of material relating to Mexico, and the various countries of South America and Central America. It contains about 1400 volumes and 4400 pamphlets, mostly dating in the last forty years, and consisting of legislative documents, statistical annuals, and official governmental publications. Included also are about 12,000 newspapers, chiefly the *Diario Oficial* or *Gaceta Oficial* of the different South American countries. These are nearly all of recent date, although there is a notable exception in a file of one thousand numbers of the *Diario de Mexico* from 1837 to 1844. Taken as a whole, the collection is one of great value and usefulness.

A large number of desirable volumes of newspapers have been obtained, especially in the period of the early nineteenth century, where our collection by comparison is rather weak. Among the longer files noted are the following:

- HALLOWELL, AMERICAN ADVOCATE, 1810.
- PORTLAND, EASTERN ARGUS, 1809.
- PORTLAND, RIVERSIDE ECHO, 1870.
- PORTLAND TRANSCRIPT, 1840.
- WINDSOR, VERMONT JOURNAL, 1798-1809.
- BOSTON INVESTIGATOR, 1841-1899.
- BOSTON, AMERICAN CABINET, 1851.
- BOSTON, COMMONWEALTH, 1852.
- BOSTON, LADIES' ENTERPRISE, 1855-1856.
- CONCORD FREEMAN, 1843-1846.
- LOWELL, STAR OF BETHLEHEM, 1841, 1844-46.
- NEW LONDON, BEE, 1798-1799.
- NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, JOURNAL, 1814-1816.
- NEW YORK, STATESMAN, 1812.

NEW YORK, PATRON OF INDUSTRY, 1820-1821.
 NEW YORK, CONSTELLATION, 1831-1833.
 NEW YORK, SPIRIT OF THE TIMES, 1837-1838.
 NEW YORK, TRAVELER, 1859.
 BROOKLYN, LONG ISLAND STAR, 1818-1820.
 ITHACA, DEMOCRAT, 1874-1889.
 KINGSTON, CAMPAIGN REPUBLICAN, 1852.
 PHILADELPHIA, ATKINSON'S POST, 1839.
 PHILADELPHIA, DOLLAR NEWSPAPER, 1847-1856.
 BETHANIA, PALLADIUM, 1832-1833.
 LANCASTER, FREE PRESS, 1821-1823.
 COLUMBIA SPY, 1833-1834.
 FREDERICKTOWN HERALD, 1802-1810.
 NEW ORLEANS, WEEKLY PICAYUNE, 1841-1842.
 DENVER REPUBLICAN, 1896-1913.
 BERMUDA GAZETTE, 1784-1789, 1797, 1819-1822.
 BERMUDA, BERMUDIAN, 1819-1822.
 BERMUDA, ROYAL GAZETTE, 1836-59, 1862-69.
 MEXICO, DIARIO DE MEXICO, 1837-1844.

Of these files, the most notable are the early Bermuda papers, received through the gift of Mr. Waldo Lincoln, and described in the Report of the Council. The Ithaca Democrat was presented by Professor Charles H. Hull of Cornell, several important files were given by Mr. Charles H. Taylor, and the remarkable file of the Boston Investigator was secured through the kindness of Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed, whose constant thoughtfulness of this Library is deeply appreciated.

The Charles H. Taylor Collection of American Printing and Journalism has grown largely during the year, through the donations of its founder and the watchfulness of one of the most able of the country's booksellers, Mr. P. K. Foley of Boston. Almost weekly large packages of material arrive, containing books and pamphlets on printing, journalism, advertising and paper-making, unusual issues of newspapers and periodicals, rare imprints and biographical material relating to editors and printers. All of this material is filed where it is ready for immediate use. That the collection is becoming known and valued is

shown by the frequent letters of inquiry we receive concerning it and by the number of persons who come here expressly to consult it. Several times during the year it has proved of help to writers upon journalism, among others to Mr. Carl L. Cannon, of the New York Public Library, whose *Bibliography of Journalism*, issued in 1924, is a monumental work, representing a vast amount of labor, and a book which will be of great value to this Library.

Mr. Taylor's donations have not been confined to journalistic material. He has presented two large collections of manuscripts—one the correspondence of Lee & Shepard of Boston, from 1862 to 1888, containing thousands of letters from authors, bookbuyers and booksellers who had dealings with that well known firm of publishers; and the other a collection of papers relating to the Norwich & Worcester Railroad, 1832-1860, formed by John A. Rockwell, one of the early Presidents of the road. Also from Mr. Taylor came a remarkable set of the magazine, "The Lowell Offering," with its continuation "The New England Offering," uncut and with original covers.

The collection of almanacs has received but few additions, except for a few New Jersey and Pennsylvania issues. We watch the sales carefully, but the collection is so nearly complete that it is seldom we find an almanac that we lack, and then more likely a scarce and early issue for which we are generally outbid. The price of almanacs, due to their value in showing statistical information, serving as examples of printing and possessing occasional literary merit, has much increased in recent years, and there are many buyers among libraries and collectors.

In the collection of engravings and views a notable addition was a series of negatives and prints of Worcester County views, nearly one thousand in number, and taken about twenty-five years ago. We were enabled to obtain this collection through the generosity of a member of the Council, Mr. Washburn.

To the bookplate collection the only accession worthy of note was the gift of 485 plates from Miss Clara E. Billings of Worcester. Our bookplates are somewhat like our almanacs, in that we lack few of those offered to us. In the Coutant Sale held recently in New York, we needed scarcely a dozen of all the early American plates there sold, and fortunately a few of these were secured.

The Library has been considerably used during the year for the study of American biography. At least two students of family history have each spent a fortnight in examining the collection of directories, resulting in the finding of many names not included in their records. Many queries have come to us from writers who were preparing Memorials, or gathering the materials for Biographies. A few years ago we picked at up auction a series of nineteen volumes of scrapbooks prepared by Alfred S. Roe, and in which were pasted several thousand obituary clippings dating from 1879 to 1908. This collection Mr. Roe had entitled "A Dictionary of Contemporary Biography." Its value was so apparent that we have made a complete alphabetical index, containing ten thousand names, thus making this biographical material of immediate use. Since the New York Times Index, begun in 1913, lists all records of deaths of more than local importance, we now have a good index to American biographies for nearly the last half century.

In connection with the present meeting, an exhibit of material relating to Benjamin Franklin has been arranged in the cases on the balcony floor. All of the printed and manuscript items in the exhibit come from the collections owned by this Library. The bibliography of Benjamin Franklin is so large, as is shown in Paul Leicester Ford's work on the subject and in William J. Campbell's "Franklin Imprints," that only a selection of the more important and the scarcer titles can be made. Of Franklin's own works, those separate

items of which he is accredited as the author, the following titles are exhibited:

Poor Richard Almanacs, issues of 1734, 1748, 1758.
 Letter to a Friend in the Country, Phila., 1735
 Some Observations on the Proceedings against Mr. Hemphill, 2ed. Phila.
 1735
 Account of the New Invented Pennsylvania Fire-places, Phila., 1744
 Proposals relating to the Education of Youth in Pennsylvania, Phila., 1749
 Pocket Almanac for 1753, Phila.
 Some Account of the Pennsylvania Hospital, Phila., 1754
 New Experiments on Electricity, London, 1754-1760
 Observations concerning the Increase of Mankind, Boston, 1755
 Some Account of the Success of Inoculation, London, 1759
 Historical Review of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, 1759
 Interest of Great Britian considered, Boston, 1760
 Of the Stilling of Waves by means of Oil, London, 1774
 Experiments on Electricity, London, 1774
 Remarks upon Navigation from Newfoundland, Boston, 1790
 Way to Wealth, Worcester, 1790

The following Franklin imprints, all printed at Philadelphia, are shown:

Three Letters from G. Whitefield, 1740
 Continuation of Mr. Whitefield's Journal, 1740
 Extract of a Letter from Carthagera, 1741
 General Magazine, nos. 1-6, 1741
 Protestation presented to the Synod, 1741
 The Querists, part III, 1741
 Remarks upon a Protestation, by G. Tennent, 1741
 Sermon upon Justification, by G. Tennent, 1741
 Kurzer Catechismus, 1742
 Soul Saving Gospel Truths, by Increase Mather, 1743
 The Examiner, by Philalethes, 1743
 Cicero's Cato Major, 1744
 The Shorter Catechism, 1745
 Treatise on defensive War, by W. Currie, 1748
 Letter from Mr. Whitefield to a Reverend Divine, 1748
 Collection of works of T. Chalkley, 1749
 Paper Money of Delaware and Pennsylvania

Of works relating to the life of Franklin, there are:

Eloge Civique de Benjamin Franklin, by Fauchet, Paris, 1790
 Elogium on Franklin, by W. Smith, Phila., 1792
 Works of Franklin, 2 vols., London, 1793

Works of Franklin, New York, 1794
 Life of Franklin, written by himself, Salem, 1796
 Life of Franklin, by M. L. Weems, Baltimore, 1815

The following titles are of a miscellaneous nature:

History of the Quakers, by W. Sewel, Phila., 1728
 Answer to Mr. Franklin's Remarks, by W. Smith, Phila., 1764
 Examination of Franklin on Repeal of Stamp Act, Boston, 1766
 Dignity of Man. Discourse by N. Emmons (Franklin Library) Providence, 1787
 Catalogue of Books in Franklin Library
 Early Bookplates of Franklin Library.

Examples of Franklin's newspapers, the "New England Courant" and the "Pennsylvania Gazette," are shown. The Library has excellent files of the "American Weekly Mercury" and the "Pennsylvania Gazette," and in the latter file are several broadsides and poetical addresses of great rarity. There are the "New Year Verses" of January 1, 1739, 1741, 1743, 1748, 1749, and 1752, and such broadsides as "Letter to B. G. from one of the Members of Assembly of Province of New Jersey," by W. J. 1739; "Philadelphia, May 7, 1741. Extract of a Letter from one of the Officers, who went from the Place, Dated, before Carthage April 3, 1741"; and a "Message to the Governor from the Assembly" 1742. The first two of these titles seem to be hitherto unrecorded.

There are several presentation or association books connected with Franklin in the Library. The "Cato Major," considered the finest production of Franklin's press, is a presentation copy to Thomas Clap, President of Yale, with the inscription "Thomas Clap. Dono D. Benj. Franklin, 1746," in Clap's handwriting. An anonymous tract "Some Thoughts on Education, with a Poem to the House of Representatives" New York 1752, has the inscription "The Gift of Benj. Franklin, Esq. to J. Winthrop"; also Franklin's own "Account of the new invented Pennsylvania Fire-places," Philadelphia, 1744, with the inscription "The gift of Mr. B. Franklin to J. W." In the latter instance the

name is cut off by binding, but the recipient of the book was John Winthrop, Librarian of Harvard College and a friend of Franklin.

Our copy of the "Antigua Gazette," of April 12, 1755, printed in the West Indies by Benjamin Mecom, Franklin's nephew, bears the name "Benjamin Franklin, Esq.," being evidently the copy sent by the publisher to his uncle.

Here are also two of Franklin's tracts, "Of the Stilling of Waves by means of Oil," and "Experiments and Observations on Electricity," both London 1774, which were presented to the Library by Josiah Flag, who was Franklin's grand-nephew and was employed by him as clerk in 1786.

Among the autograph letters exhibited are the following: letter from Franklin to his friend Alexander G. Frobisher, June 6, 1753, describing in detail his views upon religion and earthly awards; letter from Franklin to Sir William Johnson, August 11, 1755, referring to financial support for Johnson's campaign and to the need of a Union of the Colonies; letter from Franklin to Hon. Thomas Cushing, dated at London, April 2, 1774, relating to his representing Massachusetts at the English Parliament, and the attitude of England toward the colonies; and a long letter of thirteen folio pages, February 26, 1778, from John Holt, editor of the New York Journal, to William Goddard, editor of the Maryland Journal, discussing the character of Benjamin Franklin, and the possibility of preventing him having too great influence in American affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

Librarian.

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