

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN

DURING the past calendar year the Accessions Book shows the following record of additions:

Bound volumes	5392
Pamphlets	16,593
Engravings, broadsides, maps, etc.	212
Unbound newspapers	3795

The number of bound volumes now in the Library is 161,612 and of pamphlets 257,228, a total of 418,840 titles.

A large source of accession has been the gifts of currently issued pamphlets, reports and periodicals needed to complete our statistical and institutional files. These have come from Chief Justice Rugg, Charles G. Washburn, Henry W. Cunningham, Grenville H. Norcross, Waldo Lincoln, Herbert E. Lombard and Charles H. Taylor, to whom the indebtedness of the Society is hereby recorded. Many other members, perhaps one-third of the total membership, have sent occasional gifts, either their own writings or some publication needed by the Library.

Lack of funds has prevented us from buying out of our income important volumes which have been offered for sale, and only the generosity of members has allowed us to take advantage of such opportunities. Two remarkable early files of newspapers, the Portsmouth "New Hampshire Gazette" and the Windsor "Vermont Journal," were submitted to us during the year, but our scanty income for books had already been spent for necessary additions to the Library. Five members—Henry W. Cunningham, William V.

Kellen, Charles L. Nichols, Grenville H. Norcross and James B. Wilbur generously contributed to a fund to purchase these newspaper files and to pay certain other bills which had accumulated. The spirit of co-operation among the members in building up the Library has been the most helpful and encouraging feature during the past few years and more than any other agency accounts for the completeness and strength of our varied collections.

The two newspapers files above referred to were but a small part of the newspapers acquired during the year. By purchase, gift and exchange 348 bound volumes and 3795 unbound issues were secured, covering a wider chronological and geographical range than in almost any previous year. The gifts from Mr. Charles H. Taylor alone would make a sizeable collection. The use of the newspapers continues to increase, entailing much correspondence and bringing many scholars to the Library. Their value, as a source of historical fact, as well as of political opinion, cannot be over-estimated. A list of the more important files follows:

- PORTLAND GAZETTE, 1815.
- PORTLAND, CHRISTIAN MIRROR, 1822-1828.
- PORTLAND, TIMES, 1836.
- PORTLAND, PORTLANDER, 1837.
- PORTLAND, EASTERN ARGUS, 1840-1841, 1844-1846, 1860-1870, 1910-1920.
- PORTLAND ADVERTISER, 1850-1909.
- PORTLAND, MAINE STATE PRESS, 1893-1910.
- BELFAST, REPUBLICAN JOURNAL, 1860-1863.
- PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, 1795-1807.
- PORTSMOUTH ORACLE, 1808-1810.
- PORTSMOUTH, HERALD OF GOSPEL LIBERTY, 1814-1816.
- DOVER, MORNING STAR, 1841-1843.
- EXETER, CHRISTIAN HERALD, 1835-1847.
- BRATTLEBORO, AMERICAN YEOMAN, 1817.
- DANVILLE, NORTH STAR, 1817-1818.
- MONTPELIER, UNIVERSALIST WATCHMAN, 1840-1843.
- RUTLAND, VERMONT COURIER, 1809-1810.
- WINDSOR, VERMONT JOURNAL, 1788-1801.
- WINDSOR, VERMONT CHRONICLE, 1826-1867.

- BOSTON POST, 1841, 1848-1849.
BOSTON WEEKLY STATESMAN, 1849-1855, 1858-1865.
FALL RIVER PATRIOT, 1838-1840.
GROTON, RAILROAD MERCURY, 1859-1860.
HAVERHILL, GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM, 1793-1795.
HAVERHILL, FEDERAL GAZETTE, 1799.
HAVERHILL GAZETTE, 1821-1822.
NEWBURYPORT, CHRISTIAN HERALD, 1847-1849.
NORTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, 1810, 1823.
NORTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE HERALD, 1847.
PRINCETON, WORD, 1872-1892.
SPRINGFIELD REPUBLICAN, 1899-1910.
STOCKBRIDGE, BERKSHIRE STAR, 1816.
TAUNTON, BRISTOL COUNTY DEMOCRAT, 1839.
PROVIDENCE, MICROCOSM, 1833.
PROVIDENCE, BANGS' TRUMPET, 1856-1857.
PROVIDENCE, EVENING TELEGRAPH, 1858.
PROVIDENCE, MORNING HERALD, 1867.
WOONSOCKET PATRIOT, 1845-1858.
NEW LONDON CONNECTICUT GAZETTE, 1779-1781.
ALBANY ARGUS, 1814.
ALBANY GAZETTE, 1795-1796.
CATSKILL RECORDER, 1818-1819.
MIDDLETOWN, COURIER, 1841-1843.
NEW YORK, MINERVA, 1823-1824.
NEW YORK, CONSTELLATION, 1830-1831.
NEW YORK, OLD COUNTRYMAN, 1831.
NEW YORK, FEMALE ADVOCATE, 1833.
NEW YORK TRANSCRIPT, 1835.
NEW YORK, EMPIRE STATE, 1840.
NEW YORK, AMERICAN MECHANIC, 1842.
NEW YORK, HOME JOURNAL, 1853-1855.
PLATTSBURGH REPUBLICAN, 1817-1819.
POUGHKEEPSIE DAILY EAGLE, 1864.
LANCASTER HIVE, 1803-1805.
PHILADELPHIA, HERALD OF GOSPEL LIBERTY, 1811-1812.
PHILADELPHIA, UNION, 1818.
PHILADELPHIA, CATHOLIC HERALD, 1833-1834.
PHILADELPHIA, BROWN'S LITERARY OMNIBUS, 1838.
WASHINGTON, COLUMBIAN STAR, 1824.
CHARLESTON, STATE GAZETTE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1793.
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE GAZETTE, 1801.
COLUMBUS, CRISIS, 1866.
LOUISVILLE, FOCUS, 1827.
HONOLULU, COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER, 1856-1857.

Mr. Taylor's gifts have been most varied and important. He has sent hundreds of titles for the collection relating to printing and journalism, numerous volumes of literary and historical value, scarce periodicals, many ephemeral items relating to railroads, early music, lithography and engraving and several lots of New England manuscripts. An enumeration of his gifts would fill a Report in itself. How he finds all this material, so much of it scarce and unknown, is a mystery.

Mr. Munson has continued his interest in the almanac collection and has acquired for the library during the year over two hundred additional titles, considerable of a feat realizing the strength of the combined Munson and Antiquarian collections. Many of these additions are early issues and exceedingly scarce, notably "The Rhode Island Almanack" for 1740, by Poor Robin; "The Mathematician's Almanack" for 1774, by Elisha Stimson, calculated for the meridian of Boston and hitherto unrecorded; the "Virginia Almanack" for 1773, 1774, 1775, 1778, 1786, 1788, 1789, and 1795; and "The Virginia & North Carolina Almanac" for 1800, by Mason L. Weems, including his well known "Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant," or as he describes it on the title page "A New and Beautiful Dissertation on the Married Life, worth a Jew's Eye to all pretty Maids and Bachelors who would live Healthy, Wealthy, and Happy."

Many rare titles has been obtained through purchase. One is a genealogical item hitherto unrecorded in printed checklists of American genealogies. It is entitled "Record of the Family of Anthony Haswell, by Lydia his deceased Consort. Together with several Elegiac Poems, the Tribute of Connubial Love, to Unaffected Virtue Printed by her Sons, in June 1799. Reprinted by her bereaved Widower, in June 1815." This little pamphlet of fifteen pages includes but two pages of genealogy, although there are several pages of manuscript additions, but is chiefly

devoted to poetry written by Anthony Haswell about various members of his family. Haswell's career as a ballad writer has been well illustrated in the splendid biography of him recently published by John Spargo, in which volume several of the poems in this rare pamphlet are reprinted.

Of the numerous volumes added to the collection of American periodicals the most interesting is a file of the "Theatrical Censor," published at Philadelphia from December 9, 1805 to March 3, 1806. This was the second earliest theatrical magazine in America, preceding by two weeks John Howard Payne's "Thespian Mirror," and being antedated only by the single issue in January 1798 of "The Thespian Oracle."

An addition to our large collections of Indian Captivities is "God's Mercy surmounting Man's Cruelty. Exemplified in the Captivity and Redemption of Elizabeth Hanson," printed by E. Russell at Danvers in 1780. The subject of Indian captivities is one in which we receive many inquiries and an exhaustive bibliography would be of great value to all students of this phase of aboriginal history.

Another rare pamphlet which has come to the Library is Ezra Stiles's "Oratio Funebris" upon Jonathan Law, New London, Timothy Green, 1751. Attached to this pamphlet, or rather bound with it in a contemporaneous cover of black paper, is the anonymous "Poem occasioned by the Death of Jonathan Law . . . Printed in the Year, MDCCLI." It is the Poem which is of especial bibliographical interest. Sabin (no. 12984) ascribed its authorship to Benjamin Church, followed by Evans, Wegelin and other authorities. J. Hammond Trumbull, in his "List of Books printed in Connecticut" leaves the Poem anonymous.

Benjamin Church in 1751 was a youth at Newport, only seventeen years old and in no way connected with Connecticut or Ezra Stiles. He was graduated from

Harvard in 1754 and his first published poem appeared in 1757. His poetry was meritorious and vivacious and resembled in no way the labored verse of the Poem on Governor Law. His father, Benjamin Church, Sen., who was graduated at Harvard in 1727, may have been the author meant, but his only claim to literary endeavor is his "Ode Heroica" in Latin, appended to the 1772 edition of Church's "Entertaining History of King Philips' War."

It seems to be quite definitely settled, however, that the Poem was written by Dr. John Hubbard of New Haven. Rev. Samuel Johnson, in writing to Ezra Stiles, Mar. 11, 1751, refers to Dr. Hubbard and to a manuscript poem sent for criticism, and says "His poem is an ingenious Performance, but I am in some doubt whether it's Exordium may not be liable to some Misconstruction, as tho' the late Gov^r. may perhaps, by a kind of Transmigration, be only removed to the Care of some other Governm^t. whereas I believe people generally may think he is gone to Heaven. Perhaps also some moderate people may think him too severe in his Apprehensions of the Design of Whitf^ds Errand, & the New Light fondness, & some things are of rather too lofty a Strain for common understandings. However, the same good Sense which composed it is well qualified to make a few Omissions & Emendations with such an advantage as would render it very well deserving the Light, & I doubt not it would be well received."

The Poem as printed refers specifically to Whitfield, coupling his attempt to win New Englanders over to his teachings with the discords wrought by French attacks:

"Gallia and hell with all their strength combine,
The subtil priest, and pious devil joyn,
New-England to subject to popish pow'r:
They bless the scheme, and hail the happy hour;
When Gallic ensigns spread, to all proclaim
Lewis his might, and zealous W—f—d's fame."

Dr. John Hubbard was a friend and correspondent of Governor Law and the father-in-law of Ezra Stiles. Dr. F. B. Dexter credits Hubbard with two other poems, "A Monumental Gratitude attempted, in a poetical relation of the danger and deliverance of several of the members of Yale College in passing the Sound, from South-hold to New Haven, August 20th, 1726," printed at New London in 1727; and "The Benefactors of Yale College. A poetical attempt," printed at Boston in 1733. These poems, which are excessively scarce, contain the same grandiloquent and indifferent verse as the Poem on Governor Law. On the fly-leaf of the Antiquarian Society copy of the Law pamphlets is written in contemporaneous handwriting "John Hubbard's." This is not Hubbard's autograph, but is additional evidence as to the authorship.

Three years ago Dr. Nichols listed the early "association" books in this Library and compiled on cards a catalogue of nearly one thousand volumes which contained autographs of ownership during the colonial period. This catalogue has been frequently of use not only in showing the scope of early American libraries, but in settling some question as to handwriting or even providing the only known autograph of some colonial ancestor. No more convenient way has yet been devised to locate and identify the signatures of a really large proportion of early New England writers, divines and men prominent in colonial affairs. Several members of the Society have become much interested in this project and one, Mr. Goodspeed, has manifested his interest by presenting the library with two valued additions to its "association" collection. One of the volumes is Bastingius "Exposition upon Christian Religion," printed at Cambridge, England in 1589, with the autograph of Rev. John Cotton. The other is a fine copy of the 1679 edition of "The Works of John Milton," with the autograph of Jeremiah Dummer and on the title-page this verse written in Dummer's own hand.

“Hail Noble Sr.

Thy Godlike acts which here enbalm'd lye
 In deathless pages to Posterity
 Shall make thy glorious, Sacred, Sonourous name
 Sound in the trumpets of immortal Fame.”

The Society has been fortunate in obtaining one of the few Pelham mezzotints which it lacked. Peter Pelham of Boston engraved in mezzotint fifteen American portraits, as follows: Cotton Mather, 1727; Benjamin Colman, 1735; William Cooper, 1743; Sir William Pepperrell, 1747; William Shirley, 1747; Edward Holyoke, 1749; Charles Brockwell, Henry Caner, Timothy Cutler, William Hooper and Thomas Prince, all in 1750; Thomas Hollis and John Moorhead, in 1751; Mather Byles and Joseph Sewall, each undated. The earliest print of all, that of Cotton Mather engraved by Pelham in 1727, has just come to the Library, where it takes a worthy place with the original oil portrait painted by Pelham himself. The Society now has twelve of the Pelham mezzotints and lacks three, those of William Cooper, William Hooper, and William Shirley.

Two additions to the portrait gallery are paintings by Ethan Allen Greenwood of Hon. Elijah Brigham and his wife. Elijah Brigham, of Westboro, Mass., was a member of Congress from 1811 to 1816 and was also one of the early members of this Society. His wife, Sarah Ward, was a direct descendant of Increase Mather. These portraits came from the late Henry A. Phillips of Millbury, great-grandson of Elijah Brigham.

From George F. Booth, the Society has received an original letter written by Isaiah Thomas to Rev. William Jenks, dated Dec. 27, 1819, as follows:

Worcester, Dec. 27, 1819.

DEAR SIR,

If the Committee have completed for the Am. Antiqⁿ. Society the form of a Diploma, or Certificate of Membership, with an appropriate Devise, &c. I will thank you to send it to

me as soon as convenient. I have written to Engraver to execute the work, but he cannot go on with it until he has the form, nor determine the price he must have for his labour.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Rev. W^m Jenks

Your obedient servant

ISAIAH THOMAS

The copper plate of this diploma was engraved by Abner Reed of Hartford and was used by the Society beginning with 1820. The original plate is supposed by tradition to have been destroyed in a fire at Stationer's Hall, Boston, although other records make it appear that it was lost and a search for it was made in 1839 in New York and Philadelphia, without result. In late years the Society has used only a printed form of notice of membership, and an engraved diploma, although expensive if done by one of the country's leading engravers, would be in keeping with our early traditions. The document presented by Mr. Booth is an excellent addition to our collection of Isaiah Thomas letters.

Since 1926 is the sesquicentennial year of the birth of American independence, an exhibition has been installed in the cases in the upper gallery of books, pamphlets, broadsides, documents and maps all produced in the United States in the year 1776. Although only a small proportion of the material available in the Library can be displayed, the exhibit provides an impressive showing of contemporaneous opinion at the very beginning of the Revolution. The pamphlet literature includes Peter Thacher's *Massacre Oration*, Jonas Clark's rare *Sermon and Narrative commemorating the Battle of Lexington*, editions of "*Common Sense*" and "*The American Crisis*," rare almanacs with wood-cut plans and views, *Extracts from the Journals of Congress relative to fitting out Privateers*, a poem on "*The Continental Key of the Liberties of America*," John Leacock's "*Fall of British Tyranny*," Mercy Warren's "*The Blockhead*," and Timothy Pickering's "*Easy Plan of Discipline for a Militia*."

The Library contains about three hundred titles of books and pamphlets printed in this country in 1776, most of them referring in some way to the beginning of the war.

The broadsides include important acts of Congress and the Provincial legislatures, an advertisement for volunteers to sail on the Privateer Washington "to make their Fortune in a few Months," Intelligence just received giving the commanders and numbers of the British Troops, and one of the broadside editions of the Declaration of Independence.

The manuscripts include important letters from Washington, Greene, Hancock, Benedict Arnold, Charles Lee and other leaders of the period, some referring specifically to the Declaration of Independence, a selection of Orderly Books and the original Journal of the Privateer "Tyrannicide."

The maps, all printed in 1776, show the theatres of war at Boston, New York, Newport and Charleston, and there is a manuscript plan of the operations around New York. The exhibit also displays specimens of colonial and continental paper currency of 1776. A complete list of the titles shown is herewith appended:

MANUSCRIPTS

- Orderly book of Col. Ebenezer Learned, Roxbury and Cambridge, July 29, 1775-January 12, 1776.
- Orderly book of Col. William Henshaw, Bunker Hill and Boston, October 1, 1775-March 27, 1776.
- Orderly book of Gen. Nathanael Greene, Long Island, April 22-July 8, 1776.
- Journal of Privateer "Tyrannicide," June 18, 1776-January 21, 1777; and the "Massachusetts," March 24-July 24, 1777, both vessels commanded by John Fisk.
- Letter of Gen. Nathanael Greene, Prospect Hill, January 13, 1776, in which he declares that the attitude of the English government closes every hope of reconciliation with the colonies; and that he chooses the fortunes of war to the evils of slavery.
- Letter of Gen. Artemas Ward, Camp at Roxbury, January 19, 1776, in which he expresses appreciation of the arduous labours of Col. Henshaw; will commend his services to the General Court for adequate remuneration.

- Letter of Gen. Nathanael Greene, Prospect Hill, January 29, 1776, describing the conditions in Boston during the siege.
- Letter of Gen. Charles Lee, New York, February 28, 1776, referring to his appointment by Congress to the command of the troops in Canada; and suggesting establishment of a post at the falls of the Richelieu.
- Communication from Benedict Arnold, "Aux Habitans du District de Quebec," March 4, 1776, in which he urges recognition of Continental currency at face value. [In French.]
- Letter of Gen. George Washington, Cambridge, March 17, 1776, announcing the evacuation of Boston.*
- Letter of Edmund Quincy, Lancaster, April 24, 1776, expressing sympathy for the late distress in Boston.
- Letter of Gen. Nathanael Greene, Camp on Long Island, June 7, 1776, expressing concern that Congress does not levy more troops.
- Letter of William Ellery, Philadelphia, June 21, 1776, on the deliberation of Congress upon the proposed Resolution of Independence.*
- Document signed by John Hancock, transmitting Resolutions of Congress, July 5, 1776, to build vessels for the defence of the Lakes; also requesting that copies of the Declaration be sent to the various Assemblies.*
- Letter of Gen. Nathanael Greene, Camp on Long Island, July 22, 1776, referring to Lord Howe's debarking on Long Island.*
- Letter of Samuel Salisbury, Providence, July 25, 1776, noting the defeat of Gen. Henry Clinton by Gen. Charles Lee, at Fort Sullivan, S. C.
- Letter of James Bowdoin, Boston, July 29, 1776, referring to Lord Howe's commission to reestablish peace between the United States and Great Britain.*
- Letter of John Hancock, Philadelphia, September 3, 1776, to the General Court of Massachusetts, in which he expresses fears of a powerful attack on New York.
- Commission of the Council of Massachusetts Bay, September 20, 1776, to Judges of the Superior and Inferior Courts, to administer the oath to Civil Officers.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

- Clark, Jonas. *The Fate of Blood-Thirsty Oppressors*, Sermon at Lexington, April 19, 1776. Boston, 1776.
- The Continental Key of the Liberties of America*. New York, 1776. [A contemporaneous poem, the author unknown.]
- Fitch, Elijah. Discourse, March 24, 1776, at Hopkinton, following the flight of the British from Boston. Boston, 1776.
- Freebetter's *New England Almanack*, for 1776. New London. [Allegorical cut of England pouring tea down America's throat.]
- [Lambart, Richard.] *A New System of Military Discipline*. By a General Officer. Philadelphia, 1776. [One of several treatises issued during the year on military tactics].

*This letter exhibited through the courtesy of Matt B. Jones, of Boston.

- Leacock, John. *The Fall of British Tyranny. A Tragi-comedy of Five Acts.* Philadelphia, 1776.
- Low's *Astronomical Diary, for 1776.* Boston. [Contains, An Address to the soldiers of the American army, signed, Nathaniel Low; and An Account of the commencement of hostilities between Great Britain and America, by Rev. William Gordon, of Roxbury.]
- Paine, Thomas. *American Crisis.* Philadelphia, 1776.
- Paine, Thomas. *Common Sense, addressed to the Inhabitants of America.* Philadelphia, 1776.
- Pickering, Timothy. *Easy Plan of Discipline for a Militia.* Boston, 1776.
- Price, Richard. *Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty.* Boston, 1776.
- Stearns' *North American's Almanack, for 1776.* [Containing an interleaved Diary kept by James Parker with numerous references to alarms of war.]
- Thacher, Peter. *Oration delivered at Watertown, March 5, 1776, to commemorate the Boston Massacre.* Watertown, 1776.
- Trumbull, John. *McFingal, a modern epic poem.* London, 1776.
- United States. *Extracts from the Journals of Congress, relative to fitting out Privateers, Together with the Rules and Regulations of the Navy.* Philadelphia, 1776.
- Warren, Mercy. *The Blockheads; or, The Affrighted Officers. A Farce.* Boston, 1776.
- Witherspoon, John. *Sermon preached at Princeton, May 17, 1776, being the General Fast appointed by Congress.* Philadelphia, 1776.

BROADSIDES

- Act of Massachusetts General Court for Providing a Reinforcement to the American Army. Boston, [1776].
- Proclamation by the general Court of the Colony of Massachusetts regarding the formation of a new colony government, January 23, 1776.
- Proclamation of Continental Congress, March 16, 1776, John Hancock, President, appointing the seventeenth day of May as a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer.
- Declaration of New Hampshire Committee of Safety, April 12, 1776, requesting subscribers to oppose with arms the hostile proceedings of the British against the United American Colonies.
- Resolve of Massachusetts House of Representatives, April 19, 1776, authorizing the seizure of estates of Loyalists.
- Intelligence from London, Boston, May 13, 1776, giving the place, commanders and numbers of British troops serving in America.
- United States. In Congress, July 4, 1776. A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America, In General Congress Assembled. [This broadside copy of the Declaration of Independence was posted up in Newburyport.]
- Announcement of the fitting of the Privateer "Washington." Beverly, September 17, 1776.

Massachusetts Bay. Act by the General Court for establishing Justices of the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas, October 17, 1776.

MAPS

Plan of Boston and its environs, with military works constructed in 1775 and 1776, including those at Dorchester Heights.

Manuscript plan of operations around New York, 1776. Drawn by Alexander Scammell for Gen. John Sullivan.

Plan of Charlestown, S. C., with attack on Fort Sullivan by the British Fleet, June 27, 1776.

Map of Province of New York, 1776. By Claude Joseph Sauthier. London, 1776.

Chart of Harbour of Rhode Island and Narragansett Bay. Published at request of Lord Howe. By J. F. W. Des Barres, July 20, 1776. London, 1776.

Colonial and Continental Currency, 1776.

Medals of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson; and medal commemorative of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.

A year ago the Librarian's Report called the attention of the members to the fact that the library was notably weak in the important field of American literature. Strong in political, economic, religious and social history, we lacked the original materials for the study of literary history. Of course in the earlier period our comprehensive method of gathering all titles previous to 1820 had brought together perhaps the best collection of American prose and poetry, but from then until the close of the nineteenth century we possessed very little. Perhaps the reason why our predecessors did not collect essays and poetry and fiction was because they thought that imaginative literature did not have an important place in a library primarily formed to furnish fact, yet how could the historian of the intellectual life of the people compile his narrative without having at hand the original writings of those who produced literature. At any rate the want of such a collection has been often felt and we have had to turn to Boston and New York libraries for books which students well could have expected us to possess.

During the last few months considerable effort has been expended in remedying this defect. The admirable

Bibliography of American Authors by Mr. P. K. Foley, of Boston, has been taken as the preliminary basis for collecting. This work, published in 1897, lists the first and notable editions of 311 American authors from 1795 to 1895, of whom 122, over one-third, were living in 1895. It contains 4995 titles within this period, and the library staff has prepared a check-list of 2700 titles representing additions to the Foley list and the productions of these same writers from 1895 to the present time. Therefore we have to start with a list of 7700 titles to form the basis of a collection of American literature.

Previous to Mr. Foley's Bibliography, there had been at least two attempts to provide a check-list of American first editions. In 1885 Leon & Brother, a New York book firm, issued a sale catalogue which was unusually comprehensive and interesting. It contained a list of 1642 titles of 317 authors. Some of the prices, such as \$25.00 for Whittier's "Moll Pitcher," 1832, and \$3.00 for Bryant's "Embargo," 1808, seem rather attractive in view of present day values. In 1893 appeared Herbert S. Stone's "First Editions of American Authors," containing about 3500 titles by 239 authors. Both of these lists included eighteenth century writers. Mr. Foley's Bibliography excludes the early authors, as well as those whose works were primarily historical, religious or technical, rather than literary. Of course the question of choice of authors is largely personal and doubtless some writers are included whose contributions to literature were unimportant. Also such writers as Sarah Wentworth Morton, George Cary Eggleston, Albion W. Tourgee and Edward Everett Hale might well have been admitted. But on the whole the Foley Bibliography is remarkably comprehensive, accurate and satisfactory and is a monument to the patience and ability of one who has done much to dignify his profession and who has placed hundreds of collectors greatly in his debt.

Today the bibliography of first editions is far more extensive than it was thirty years ago. There are special bibliographies of Bret Harte, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry James, and many other of the better known writers, and checklists of dozens of the minor authors contributed to such publications as the "Publishers' Weekly." The auction catalogues of such famous collections as those formed by William H. Arnold, Thomas J. McKee, J. C. Chamberlain, Frank Maier, Walter T. Wallace, William F. Gable and Stephen H. Wakeman are filled with descriptions of copies of the highest bibliographical importance. The inclusion of recent writers such as James Branch Cabell, Edward A. Robinson and O. Henry forms a large problem in itself. It would be safe to say, however, that a comprehensive collection of American literature would include at least 10,000 titles.

Towards the formation of such a collection the Society has secured during the past year slightly over 2000 titles, a fair beginning considering that we have practically no funds for acquisition. Several members have become much interested in the collection. Charles H. Taylor has sent us many volumes, including his fine collection of the works of Herman Melville and an annotated copy of Foley's Bibliography. Of especial usefulness, however, is Mr. Foley's own copy of his Bibliography interspersed with numerous notes and additions and extra illustrated with letters and documents of literary and historical value. This copy he gave to Mr. Taylor with the express purpose of having it presented to this Society. Rev. Herbert E. Lombard has presented us with numerous volumes, in addition to his own Whittier collection received last year, and has given freely of his time in aiding us to list and shelve the collection. Dr. Charles L. Nichols allowed us to examine his library, with the result that we secured forty-seven additional titles. Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed has shown us much generosity and

consideration, as well as a deep personal interest in the collection. Mrs. Emily E. F. Skeel, a friend of the Society for many years past, has not only given us her remarkable collection of the writings of Henry James, but has established a fund in memory of her husband, Roswell F. Skeel, which has yielded us so far about the only money we have been able to spend on purchase of books. There are undoubtedly many members who have scores of books, especially those written by the minor authors, who might notably aid the collection if they would allow us to examine their libraries with this end in view. Apparently no library in the country has made a serious effort to obtain the writings of all authors who have secured a place in the field of American literature and the value of such a collection to the student of the literary history of the country is self evident.

I cannot close this account of the year's growth and progress without referring to the great and ever-present handicap under which the entire staff continually labors. Although the cost of overhead, such as heating, lighting, printing and supplies, has almost doubled in the last decade, salaries have remained practically at the pre-war level. Members and friends have made it possible for us to construct an addition to the building and thus take care of our growing collections, although this cost had to be partly met by drawing on our principal, and the increase in the size of the building meant an increase in the expense of maintenance. The result is today that we have practically no income for the purchase of any but the most necessary books, relying for the acquisition of valuable material upon the special solicitation of gifts, which takes time and energy; that our binding is so much in arrears that we have literally thousands of volumes on the shelves waiting to be put in proper condition; that our printing is restricted to the two issues of Proceedings each year, without consideration of the great amount of valuable historical and biblio-

graphical material that we might furnish to the scholar; and that the inability to pay properly our present staff, and engage additional assistance, makes the problem of service always acute and pressing. There never was a time in the history of the Society that we have so needed an adequate endowment.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

Librarian.

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