

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

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**I**N THIS, my final report as Librarian of the Society, I would state that the accessions to the Library during the past year have slightly exceeded the average of former years. Expressed in tabular form the number of titles added is as follows:

Books	7441
Pamphlets	8689
Engravings, maps, mss., etc.	2093
Unbound issues of newspapers	1805

The number of bound volumes now in the Library is 186,700 and of pamphlets 296,913, a total of 483,613 titles.

The most important single gift of the year was the remarkable and comprehensive Vermont collection formed by Matt B. Jones of Boston and donated by him. The largest Vermont collection owned by any individual and even exceeding any public collection except the State Historical Library at Montpelier, this gathering of books was much needed in this Library. We already had a fair Vermont collection, but lacking in many important fields, such as early laws and journals. Mr. Jones's gifts brought to the Library 2024 new titles, consisting of 1305 books and 719 pamphlets. The most valuable feature of this collection to us was the fine series of Vermont laws and journals of the legislature before 1820, after which came the early examples of Vermont printing—122 titles not hitherto possessed by us—and then the fine series of Vermont biographical books and pamphlets. The collection of county and town histories is now complete. Also, there came Mr. Jones's checklist of

additions to Gilman's "Bibliography of Vermont." If the Society could obtain some other State collections equal to that of Vermont, it would indeed be fortunate.

Mr. Charles H. Taylor's gifts have been numerous and important. Examples of early American printing—notably specimens of the late eighteenth century small town printers—odd and unusual newspapers, maps, prints and views, scarce and much needed first editions and many interesting manuscripts are but a part of the material which, with the true collector's realization of values, he seeks to build up our collections. Mr. Taylor has also continued to send additions to his journalism and lithograph collections. The latter has now been catalogued except for some of the sheet music.

In October 1925, Mr. Frank B. Bemis presented to this Library a copy of the very rare Holy Bible in Verse, printed in 1717. In the Proceedings for April 1926, Dr. Charles L. Nichols wrote an exhaustive account of the various editions of this interesting little work which was published in many editions during the first part of the eighteenth century. Dr. Nichols referred to editions of 1699, 1710, 1711, and 1712, which were known to him only through contemporaneous mention but with no copies located, and also described in detail the known editions of 1717, 1718, 1724 and 1729. Mr. Bemis has now presented to the Society a perfect copy of the 1729 edition, listed by Dr. Nichols as type no. 1, and also another early edition, imperfect, printed in 1701. This 1701 edition lacks the title-page but has a second title:

The New/ Testament, / In Verse; / For the benefit of weak/  
Memories. / London Printed and Sold / by Benj. Harris over  
against / the Cross-Keys-Inn in Grace- / Church-Street, 1701. /  
Sig. A-D in eights (lacks A<sup>1-4</sup>, B<sup>8</sup>, D<sup>7-8</sup>).

The text in this 1701 edition is exactly the same as in the 1717 and 1729 editions, but the cuts are entirely different. They are larger cuts, more carefully drawn, with every evidence of English workmanship. The

1717 and 1729 editions have the crude little cuts which were indetical with those used in the New England Primer, and the type ornaments, printing and general appearance all show that they were issued in America and undoubtedly at Boston. In fact, one variety of the 1729 edition, which is identical with our 1729 edition, except for the imprint, states positively that it was printed at Boston by T. Fleet. It is also interesting to note that all the known copies of the editions of 1717 and 1729 were found in this country and bear marks of early American ownership, whereas none of these two editions has been found in England or can be located in any English libraries. The Society is much indebted to Mr. Bemis for these two rare little items.

A large source of acquisition during the past summer has come from the Mechanics Library of Worcester. This association, founded in 1842, has long maintained a library for the use of its members and their families. As tastes in reading have changed, many of the books in history, biography, literature and technical education ceased to be called for until a proportion of the library became relegated to the limbo of what President Eliot called "dead books." Seeking to weed out some of these earlier volumes, the present officers of the Association decided that it was wise to keep such books available in Worcester even if they were not called for by their own readers. As a result this Library has generously been granted the opportunity of selecting from these discarded volumes any books wanted for our collections. We have, therefore, received about 900 volumes, all of value in a comprehensive reference library such as we have tried to build. We are indebted to the Mechanics Association for this friendly action and wish to assure its members that all the volumes in this Library are available for use to them at all times.

Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed has presented to the Library some very scarce early bookplates and a large collection of over 300 nineteenth century juveniles, a

valuable addition to our collection of children's books. Mr. Goodspeed's constant and keen interest in the Library, however, has been best shown by his generosity and help in securing for us the vast collection of proofs, drawings and prints designed by the well-known American engraver, the late Sidney L. Smith. This collection is really notable and forms a fitting companion to our similar collection of the work of the late Edwin D. French. About a thousand proofs of bookplates, two hundred original drawings for bookplates, and nearly a thousand drawings and proofs of miscellaneous engravings comprise the Smith collection. The Society is also deeply indebted to Rev. Herbert E. Lombard, whose knowledge of the entire field of American bookplates is second to none, for his generosity in helping us to secure the Smith collection, as well as to Miss Amy G. Smith for her kind gifts of her father's manuscripts and correspondence.

The newspaper collection has increased largely during the year. Perhaps the most notable titles are fourteen issues of an hitherto unknown Philadelphia French newspaper "Le Courier de l'Amerique" from December 4, 1792 to February 22, 1793, printed by J. Parker; and a fine file of the interesting literary newspaper the "Philadelphia Saturday Courier" from 1838 to 1843. The following list includes the more important files:

- MONTPELIER PATRIOT, 1826-1828.
- BURLINGTON COURIER, 1850-1851
- LACONIA LABOR ADVOCATE, 1887-1888
- BOSTON CONSTITUTIONAL TELEGRAPHE, 1800-1801
- BOSTON STATESMAN, 1829-1830
- BOSTON INVESTIGATOR, 1838-1839
- BOSTON, QUARTO BOSTON NOTION, 1842
- BOSTON, YANKEE NOTION, 1842-1843
- HINGHAM GAZETTE, 1827-1836
- HINGHAM PATRIOT, 1838-1846
- HINGHAM JOURNAL, 1851-1852
- NEW BEDFORD, MERCURY, 1862-1863
- NORTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE FEDERALIST, 1806
- NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT GAZETTE, 1776-1778, 1793-1794, 1797-1800
- NEW YORK GAZETTE, 1758-1759
- NEW YORK, CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, 1828-1831
- CHERRY VALLEY, OTSEGO REPUBLICAN PRESS, 1812-1813
- WILMINGTON, DELAWARE GAZETTE, 1816-1817

WILMINGTON, AMERICAN WATCHMAN, 1822, 1824-1826  
 ALLENTOWN, JUGEND FREUND, 1847-1852  
 HARRISBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA STATESMAN, 1860-1861  
 LANCASTER, VOLKSFREUND, 1815-1817  
 PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA PACKET, 1775  
 PHILADELPHIA, COURIER DE L'AMERIQUE, 1792-1793  
 PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY EVENING POST, 1828-1832  
 PHILADELPHIA SATURDAY COURIER, 1838-1843  
 PHILADELPHIA, DOLLAR NEWSPAPER, 1856-1860  
 RALEIGH STAR, 1810, 1812, 1814  
 KNOXVILLE, ARMY MAIL BAG, 1864  
 JAMAICA DAILY ADVERTISER, 1791  
 JAMAICA, ROYAL GAZETTE, 1816  
 MEXICO, GAZETAS DE MEXICO, 1788-1789

There have been many miscellaneous gifts during the year of much value to the Library. Among the more notable are the following: four eighteenth century poetical broadsides from Mr. A. S. W. Rosenbach; the manuscript notes on New England pirates prepared by the late John H. Edmonds, from Mrs. Edmonds; a collection of curious early card games from Mr. Victor H. Paltsits; the oil portrait of Thomas Paine attributed to Rembrandt Peale, from Mr. Raymond Henniker-Heaton of London; and four volumes of photographs of New England gravestones from Mrs. William T. Forbes and mostly not included in her valuable and unusual book on "Gravestones of Early New England," published in 1927.

Several of the constant friends of the Library have continued to send for our files the currently issued reports of institutions and the ephemeral pamphlet literature of the day, among them being Chief Justice Rugg, Waldo Lincoln, Henry W. Cunningham, T. Hovey Gage, Herbert E. Lombard, Grenville H. Norcross and Livingston Davis.

Since this is my last report as Librarian, it seems advisable to include in it a summary of the progress of the Library for the past twenty-two years, since I assumed office in 1908. This would be of use in the future because it would chronicle in one place the growth of the various collections and might serve as a guide to future custodians to show why we have developed the Library along certain lines. If our pred-

ecessors had occasionally performed this service in the past, we should have to depend less on tradition for our knowledge of the source of many important acquisitions which came to the Library years ago. Therefore, the remainder of this report will take up the various collections in the Library and relate the circumstances of their growth and the reasons for their further development.

#### SIZE OF LIBRARY

No accurate counts of the number of volumes in the Library were made in the early years. In 1854 it was stated that the Library contained 23,000 volumes. In 1908, an approximate count showed 99,000 volumes and 150,000 pamphlets. In 1917 a fairly accurate count gave the number as 128,728 volumes and 192,058 pamphlets, or a total of 320,786 titles. In 1930, as shown elsewhere in this report, the total is 483,613 titles, with 186,700 volumes and 296,913 pamphlets. The number of manuscripts, engravings, maps, broadsides, etc., has never been accurately made, although it would undoubtedly amount to well over half a million pieces.

#### GENERAL HISTORY

In general history the Library is fairly complete for the early period, the Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Civil War, and has most of the important books of the modern period, although it has not attempted, like Congress, Harvard, Columbia and certain other large college libraries, to obtain all of the recent output in historical writing. This should be done, but our limited income has been spent in trying to secure the source material rather than the secondary books. In local history—that is, the state, county and town histories of the various states—it is the best in New England and one of the largest in the country. It has practically complete files of the publications of American historical societies, as well as of historical and

literary magazines. Although the Library acquires through purchase the leading currently issued volumes on American history, especially if they have reference value, most of the modern output of historical literature comes through gift. When sufficient funds allow, Larned's "Literature of American History," published in 1902, should be checked and all missing titles secured as far as possible. Most of these titles are out of print and could be obtained at much less than their original publication price.

The experience of the past twenty years has shown that the books most likely to be asked for in this Library are those which other large libraries do not possess, or perhaps do not even pretend to collect. In 1907 several library experts were asked by President Lincoln to give a formal expression of their opinion as to the proper scope of the Library and the lines of its future development. The most comprehensive and convincing reply was that written by Mr. George Parker Winship, and a paragraph from his communication bears out the thought just expressed:

The books which the Society's library does not need are primarily those which are to be had elsewhere. Any book, and certainly a book not related to at least a shelf full of other books, which can be gotten in half an hour or, thanks to the telephone, in half a day, is not, other things being equal, worth the space which it would fill on the library shelves. There are certain large classes, which no one, not intimately familiar with the library, would expect to find in an Antiquarian Society library. European literature, unless like Rabelais and Chateaubriand it shows how America influenced Europe; English county history, not of American genealogical interest; the biographies of Europeans who had no known influence upon American events, should properly be looked for in a public library, where will also be preserved most of the publications of recent years, including periodicals which have enjoyed any popular vogue. The Society might properly preserve any books, perhaps even novels, that no one ever heard of, but why it should fill its shelves with the things that are carefully kept in every library one-fiftieth its size, is not obvious. The Society's library ought not to be a library for readers, in my opinion. It should be a place for special investigators, however

broad or minute their field of study, who will be familiar with all the special treatises on their particular subjects, and who are seeking an opportunity to examine, through the Society's foresight, those things which the public that patronizes most other libraries, has no interest in. The Society's library should contain everything that it can possess itself of that other libraries do not preserve.

#### EARLY IMPRINTS

In 1908 the Library had a remarkable collection of examples of early American printing, inherited from the Mather family, Thomas Wallcut, Isaiah Thomas, William Bentley and a host of lesser collectors. With this pre-eminent start, it seemed wise not only to try to fill in the gaps in the very early field, but to adopt some year for the final date of the imprint collection. After consideration, the year 1820 was taken as the final date, since that year covered the establishment of printing-presses in most of the older towns, included the mass of printed material of the Jeffersonian era, the War of 1812 and the ensuing period of national re-organization, preceded the use of stereotype printing, and was adopted by Evans and other bibliographers as marking the close of the early period of American printing. In twenty years every effort has been made to obtain the printed publications of this chosen field. Every title offered at auction was bid upon and every title in a bookseller's catalogue was considered. Pamphlets were bought in large lots and in some cases entire collections—notably the Campbell collection of one thousand Pennsylvania imprints from 1785 to 1800—were acquired. Today the Library possesses over 50,000 imprints dating previous to 1821. Several tests made show that it has over half of all the titles in Evans and excluding broadsides and titles only known through advertisements, over two-thirds of such titles.

These imprints came in so fast that there was no opportunity to catalogue them, and they were arranged in chronological order, and then by author or



anonymous title under each year. During the past year a beginning has been made on an elaborate and thorough catalogue of the pamphlet imprints, and it has so far progressed through 1793. The use of these imprints, not only in bibliography, but for every subject imaginable, has been constant. Nowhere can so large a proportion of the printed literature of the first two centuries of American life be found, and in very many cases the titles are the only ones located. The collection should be added to whenever opportunity occurs, unless the price is prohibitive, for this is one of the most important features in the Library.

#### NEWSPAPERS

From the very beginning of its history, the Library has been collecting newspapers. Isaiah Thomas's own collection, undoubtedly the largest in the country, came to the Society intact, and Christopher C. Baldwin, in his short but brilliant career as Librarian in 1832-1835, added many files. By 1839 the Society's newspapers numbered 1,251 volumes. During Mr. Haven's and Mr. Barton's administrations, many important newspapers were continued and bound, and occasional files were obtained through purchase or gift. In 1908 the collection numbered 6,000 volumes. At that time a definite plan of acquisition was adopted. The plan comprehended the acquiring of *all* American newspapers printed previous to 1821, even in single issues. From 1821 to 1870 all long files of important papers were sought, and also short files if the papers were rare or especially desirable for historical study. Small town or county papers, of which there were far too many for any one library even to begin to shelve, were left for the State or local historical libraries to collect. After 1870 only the papers of a few leading cities, and also all local Worcester files, were preserved and bound. In this way about two dozen journals, representing various sections of the country, were kept for the use of future students and to maintain the national character of the collection.

During the last twenty years the newspaper collection has been trebled, until today there are about 18,000 volumes and portfolios. The many important files secured, several of them a half century or more in length, are far too numerous to particularize. Lists have been published in the Librarian's annual reports, detailing a record of nearly a thousand files obtained, occasionally through gift, but chiefly by purchase. With no newspaper fund whatever, most of the larger purchases have come only through the generous aid of members. The use of the collection has been constant and has repaid all the effort and expense. The Society's most pretentious venture in publishing, its *Bibliography of Newspapers* previous to 1821, was begun in the Proceedings in 1913 and completed in 1927. This not only exploited our collection, but also brought a prestige to the Society which considerably added to its files.

So far as concerns the future collecting of newspapers, the experience of the last twenty years would seem to show the advisability of continuing the plan of acquisition adopted in 1908. The demands on shelf space are not insurmountable and in spite of the lack of durability of wood pulp, care in binding and use would appear to guarantee the permanent preservation of the files.

#### SPANISH AMERICANA

Due to the interest of Stephen Salisbury, Jr., in Central American exploration, the Library during the last half of the nineteenth century developed an extensive collection of books relating to that portion of Spanish America and also to Mexico. Nearly all of the standard books on history, travel and ethnology were secured, until in 1908 the collection comprised about 1,000 volumes. The Isaac and Edward L. Davis Fund, established in 1868, amounted in 1908 to \$15,000, the income of which was devoted chiefly to the acquisition of books relating to countries south of the United States.

From 1908 to 1912 large purchases were made to strengthen the collection. Through the aid of Miss Alice W. Kurtz, a niece of Bishop Hurst of Washington and an ardent collector and dealer, the Library obtained many rare early books on Mexican dialects of the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Also from Miss Kurtz was acquired a large collection of early Mexican almanacs and several hundred examples to early Mexican printing. All of the bibliographical works of J. T. Medina were obtained, as well as those of other Mexican bibliographers. In 1911 the Library received from Harvard the duplicates of the Luis Montt library, over 500 volumes relating to Chile and other South American countries. Strenuous efforts were made to establish a collection of Spanish American newspapers, the notable accessions being a large number of Guatemalan files purchased from Miss Kurtz in 1912, a remarkable collection of nearly 32,000 Bolivian issues obtained as a result of the Lichtenstein expedition to South America in 1914 and a collection of Chilean newspapers and periodicals, exchanged with Harvard in 1916. Chiefly through the efforts of Mr. Waldo Lincoln, the West Indian section began to assume importance and Mr. Lincoln's frequent winter visits to the English islands were invariably followed by numerous gifts of newspapers, almanacs and examples of printing. Mr. Lincoln's *Bibliography of the Newspapers of the West Indies and Bermuda*, published in 1926, effectively shows the strength of the Society's collection.

The Spanish American collection, which includes Mexico, West Indies, Central America and South America, today comprises about 12,000 titles, omitting newspapers. It is especially strong in the early printed items, but comparatively weak in the European literature of the subject and in modern books. During the last ten years, as pressing needs have been considered in filling more used collections, less attempt has been made to secure Spanish Americana. Other

libraries in the vicinity, such as Harvard, Yale and the New York Public Library, have been gathering large Spanish American collections, and our efforts have been spent in acquiring the literature of other fields, for which we have had more call. If our collection were further developed, it would seem advisable to specialize in early Spanish American printing, since few, if any, libraries are intensively collecting along this line.

#### AMERICAN LITERATURE

The Library has always been strong in early American literature. Because of its policy of acquiring every printed item before 1820, it was obvious that a great proportion of the titles in fiction, poetry and plays should be included. Bibliographies which attempt to locate copies, such as Wegelin's recent "American Poetry, 1650-1820," shows the leading position of the Library in this field. But not until 1926 was any attempt made to collect the American literature of the last one hundred years. In the Librarian's Report for October 1926, attention was called to the need of such a collection and the work of supplying the deficiency was then begun. Using Foley's "Bibliography of American Authors" as a basis, a list of 315 authors, most of whom flourished before 1900, was made up, represented by 7,700 titles. In four years about 4,000 of these titles have been acquired. Two small, but valuable collections of presentation copies formed by Alice Morse Earle and Rev. Herbert E. Lombard, came to the Library through gift; from Mr. Charles H. Taylor came his Melville and Cooper collections, as well as numerous other important titles; and Mrs. Roswell Skeel, Jr., always a good friend to the Society, constantly gave financial support to increase the purchases. But the great proportion of the present collection was obtained by examining hundreds of lists from book dealers, the

perusal of all auction catalogues and the writing of numerous letters to the authors themselves or to their descendants. Only first editions were sought, or later editions if revised or enlarged by the authors, also occasional editions made notable by illustration or fine printing. After this collection of arbitrarily selected authors is completed as far as it can be, a new list of thirty or forty writers who have flourished since 1900 will be made, and the same method of collecting applied to them. Already the collection has been much used by historians of literature and will be increasingly valuable as it more nearly approaches completion.

#### GENEALOGIES

Frequent reference to genealogies has been made in the Librarian's Reports during the past twenty years<sup>1</sup> and much effort has been given to completing the collection. There has been no especial attempt to foster genealogical study and the Library answers no genealogical queries through correspondence, referring all querists to the special genealogical libraries. The collection has been built up primarily because of its immense biographical, not to mention, historical, value. The number of separately printed American genealogies now in the collection is 6054, with about as many more volumes of a genealogical nature, such as periodicals, registers and collective genealogies. It is one of the half dozen largest genealogical collections in the country, and could be even more strengthened by additional effort and correspondence, rather than by money.

#### CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Since 1900 the Society has possessed the John and Eliza Davis Fund for the purchase of literature relating to the Civil War, amounting now to \$4900. As a

<sup>1</sup>See especially the *Proceedings* for October 1910, page 389; October 1916, page 233; and October 1922, page 255.

result, the Library has a fairly good Civil War collection, including the standard books, most of the regimental histories and many of the rare and ephemeral contemporary pamphlets. It also has a notably good collection of the literature of slavery. Although this is an important collection, for some reason it is little used, perhaps because so many other libraries have equally as good, if not better, collections. Possibly the time has not yet arrived for an intensive study of the Civil War. The collection of Civil War and slavery now numbers 2,700 volumes and 2,200 pamphlets.

#### JOURNALISM AND PRINTING

The Society has always been interested in the subject of journalism, printing and book publication. It possessed most of the important volumes on these subjects, but it was due to the gift of the Charles H. Taylor collection in 1915 that the Library assumed real eminence in this field. Following the gift, Mr. Taylor has continued to send to the Library everything which he could collect or purchase, relating to the subject, until today the Library has nearly 3,000 titles concerning the history of printing, the mechanics of presses and type, the history of newspapers, biographies of printers and journalists, libel trials, advertising and other allied subjects. This collection is placed in a special alcove, and although not entirely catalogued, is arranged for quick reference under the names of authors. Although it relates solely to the American field, there is also a remarkable collection of early English type-specimen books<sup>1</sup> inherited from the printing-office of Isaiah Thomas.

#### CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Although Isaiah Thomas, the founder of the Society, was the most noted printer of children's books of his

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<sup>1</sup>Listed in *Proceedings* for October, 1921, pp. 283-286.

day, he apparently did not consider these little publications of sufficient importance to be preserved in his library. Of the sixty-two different juvenile titles published by him, only eight were in this library at the time of his death. Nor did his collection or that owned by the Library contain many of the publications of other printers, the few exceptions being the very early pre-Revolutionary issues or occasional examples which drifted into the Library through gift. About twenty years ago there began to be an increased interest in children's books, which were found to possess literary and educational value; but then the collector came to realize that such books, because of the circumstance of their use by children, had seldom been saved and were difficult to obtain. Of course the Library experienced this same difficulty, but by perusal of countless catalogues and purchase of almost everything offered, the collection rapidly increased. Aided by the gifts and constant interest of the late Dr. Nichols, by subsequent donations from Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed, and by the discovery of a century old collection in a Worcester County farmhouse hundreds of titles were acquired.<sup>1</sup>

The number of children's books now in the Library is about 2800, practically all dating before 1870. About 1500 of these, dating from 1820 to 1870, are in an uncatalogued section, arranged alphabetically, and the remainder mostly dating before 1820, are catalogued and in the general library.

#### BIBLES, HYMNOLOGY AND PSALMODY

The Library has always been strong in American Bibles, prayer books, hymnology and psalmody, therefore every attempt has been made in recent years to acquire titles in these subjects. No large collection, excepting possibly a portion of the Rev. John Wright

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<sup>1</sup>The Librarian's Report for October 1927 printed a list of some of the rare eighteenth century children's books, as well as a complete bibliography of the Isaiah Thomas issues.

Library, sold at auction in 1911, has been obtained and practically all of the additions have been made through buying from sales catalogues and soliciting gifts from private owners. The collection of Bibles now numbers 1280 volumes, including 320 foreign Bibles, 340 American Bibles before 1820 and 620 after 1820. The early American Bibles include the Eliot Indian Bible and all the rare issues published by Saur, Aitken, and other eighteenth century printers.

The collection devoted to the Book of Common Prayer and other liturgical books numbers 278 volumes, nearly all American.

The Hymnology and Psalmody, without music, numbers 1005 volumes, almost equally divided between those before 1820 and those after 1820.

The Psalmody with music and the song books with music number 2175 volumes, nearly all before 1880, and very strong in the period previous to 1820.

#### ALMANACS

The Almanac Collection numbers about 20,000 almanacs, an increase from 4,000 almanacs owned by the Society in 1908. From the very beginning, the interest of the late Dr. Nichols in the subject, brought about many acquisitions. The first large purchase was made at the Pennypacker Sale in November 1908, when over 500 almanacs were obtained. In 1910 another large collection was purchased intact from Henry Stevens, Son & Stiles in London. In 1914, a collection of over 200 Pennsylvania-German almanacs were purchased from a Philadelphia dealer. In 1917, one of the largest private collections in the country, that owned by Herbert L. Hapgood of Athol, Mass., was purchased outright, adding about 1000 almanacs to the collection and leaving about 3500 duplicates for disposal. In 1925 came one of the most important gifts ever received by the Society, the American almanac collection of Samuel Lyman



Munson of Albany. This added to the Society's collection about 5200 almanacs. Since that time, many smaller purchases have been made so that the collection numbers nearly 20,000 almanacs and registers, which include Canadian, Mexican, West Indian and South American files, and English almanacs printed as far as the year 1783. During the last few years the Society has published bibliographies of the almanacs of each of the New England States as far as 1850 and encouraged the publication of a Checklist of New York Almanacs. It also published George E. Littlefield's "Notes on the Calendar and the Almanac," V. H. Paltsits's "Almanacs of Roger Sherman" and also an "Account of American Almanacs," prepared by the Librarian. The entire collection of United States almanacs is satisfactorily catalogued and is shelved neatly in boxes in a special room devoted to the purpose. The collection has been much used, chiefly because of its comprehensiveness, by writers working on such subjects as American literature, humor, travel and early printing.

#### SCHOOL-BOOKS

The collection of school-books has been trebled in the last twenty years until it now amounts to about 14,000 volumes. Except for some of the rare eighteenth century titles, most of these have come in through gift or possibly an occasional purchase of a large collection, such as a lot of 2,500 volumes obtained from George E. Littlefield's stock in 1917. The scope of the collection is to obtain everything on the subject printed in this country before 1821, all school-books by American authors, even in varying editions, from 1820 to 1870, and after that only outstanding works. The vast numbers of recent and modern text-books have not been accepted. The collection has been extensively used, especially in the field of bibliography and the history of education. In the Proceedings

for October 1913, pages 207-213, an annotated list of important early school-books was published.

#### GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

By a special Act of Congress in 1814, the Society was made the recipient of all documents printed and distributed by the United States Government. With this early start it was but natural that the Library should possess one of the largest American collections. In 1906 the Society was inadvertently omitted from the distribution by the Superintendent of Documents then in charge. It was not until 1911 that, through the efforts of Senator Lodge, the error was remedied, the Library returned to the list and as many as possible of the missing volumes restored. Therefore, the Library has nearly everything issued by the Government in regular series, and many of the occasional publications issued by departments but not intended for distribution. Considerable effort has been made in the last twenty years to secure the documents, pamphlets and even broadsides issued by the first fourteen Congresses, so that the Library now has 2,000 pieces in this early period.

Numerically the entire Government collection contains about 18,000 volumes and 30,000 pamphlets. In 1913 the collection was arranged and numbered in conformity with the 1911 Checklist of Public Documents. The documents of the last ten years, however, have not been so arranged or classified and this is one of the large undertakings remaining to be done.

#### STATE DOCUMENTS

The Library has a strong and comprehensive collection of all State laws, compilations and journals previous to 1820. It is very nearly complete for the New England States, and except for the journals is passably fair for all of the other States. For the laws

and journals of the various States since 1820, it is remarkably complete for New England, New York and Pennsylvania, but has little for the remainder of the States. For the great mass of documents issued by State departments, it has only attempted to collect for Massachusetts. The collecting of State documents is a tremendous task and should properly be left to the State libraries and the law libraries. This Library should be content with developing and completing the early period before 1820, and perhaps preserve the regular series of laws issued by the New England States. This collection today numbers about 8,000 volumes and 6,000 pamphlets.

#### BOOKPLATES

The present collection of 25,000 American bookplates, the largest yet gathered, was begun in 1914 by the presentation by Rev. Herbert E. Lombard of his own collection of 2800 examples. In 1916 the James Terry collection of Hartford was purchased, adding over 5000 plates, and in the same year the Society bought what it needed from the Henry C. Eno Sale in New York. In 1919 the Frank E. Marshall collection of Philadelphia was purchased, adding 3700 plates, and in 1920 came the Nathaniel Paine collection of nearly 1000 plates. It should be added that all of the above purchases were not made from our limited general funds, but were secured through gifts by members.

For American countries beyond the United States, there are about 1,000 Canadian plates, chiefly the gift of Stanley Harrod of Toronto in 1920, a fair Mexican collection mostly purchased of Nicolas León at various times, and a fine West Indian collection obtained from an English book dealer in 1928. Modern American engravers are remarkably represented in practically complete collections of Edwin D. French, given by Mrs. French in 1919 and by John Woodbury in 1920;

and of the late Sidney L. Smith, described in another part of the present library report. Other artists, such as Spenceley, Macdonald, Hopson and scores of others, are well represented. The showing of early American plates is impressive. Of the ten seventeenth century dated plates known, there are seven included. Of the 995 plates listed by C. D. Allen in his standard work on the subject, there are 801 in the collection, also over a thousand more plates which might have been included by Allen. In addition, there is the invaluable series of biographical and historical notes on bookplates gathered by Terry, by Marshall and by Allen, all preserved to be of use in the preparation of a new checklist of early American plates which some day will be published. An excellent article on the Society's bookplate collection was written by Mr. Lombard for the "Bookplate Quarterly" of April 1918, and was reprinted in the Librarian's Report for October of that year.

#### MANUSCRIPTS

One of the chief aims of the Society in its early years was to obtain for preservation all manuscripts, whether in groups or single documents, that were historically important. The first Donation Book, begun in 1812, shows frequent entries of gifts of manuscripts, and the appeals of Isaiah Thomas, William Lincoln and Christopher C. Baldwin resulted in the acquisition of some very important collections. The first serious attempt to arrange and catalogue the manuscripts was in 1907 when Charles H. Lincoln of Worcester and formerly of the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, began upon a systematic rearrangement of the entire collection, grouping important series of papers under a subject or the name of an individual, and starting upon a card index of such groups. In 1909 Mr. Lincoln estimated that the manuscripts in the

Library numbered about 35,000 pieces.<sup>1</sup> During the three years in which he was attached to the Library, Mr. Lincoln indexed or calendared about 9000 cards, representing some 12,000 manuscripts, and covering the Craigie, Curwen, Isaiah Thomas, Bentley, Baldwin, French and Indian War, Enoch Lincoln, American Revolution, Worcester, William Paine, and Pliny Merrick Papers, and also about 2000 letters among the Miscellaneous Papers. This was excellent work and was abandoned only because of lack of funds.

In 1926, Mr. Charles S. Hale of Worcester was engaged by the Society to rearrange and make available the entire collection of manuscripts. Formerly most of the manuscripts, except those bound in volumes, were shelved in portfolios which were difficult to untie and were far from dustproof. An approved style of cardboard box was acquired, capable of holding half a dozen groups of papers encased in manila folders, and gradually the collections, some of which for many years had been quite inaccessible, were properly classified. The Salisbury papers, with about 30,000 pieces, the Society's century old correspondence with about 32,000 pieces, the Larned Papers, 4500 in number, and the Jennison Biographical Papers, 9000 in number, were but a few of the collections made available for use. The general miscellaneous collection, about 70,000 pieces, filled 163 boxes. In all, 371 boxes, with about 165,000 papers, have so far been filed. Possibly 80,000 more papers remain to be arranged, which would make the total collection number approximately a quarter of a million pieces. In addition, there are 1700 bound volumes and portfolios of manuscripts and some 500 early ledgers and account books.

All of Mr. Hale's work so far has been in the line of arranging and shelving the manuscripts properly, identifying and dating many papers and generally

<sup>1</sup>See detailed descriptions of manuscript collections in 1909 "Hand-book of Information," also "Bibliographical Society of America Papers," vol. 4, pp. 59-72.

making the larger collections available. No calendaring or indexing has been recently done, except in the case of the Mathew Carey Account Books, thirty-four volumes, 1785-1821, for which a name index, with 5300 names and over 25,000 references, was made in 1928.

#### MAPS

The Society's collection of American maps numbers about 5000 examples. It is rather weak in the maps of the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries, passably fair in eighteenth century maps and strongest in the maps, especially those of a local nature, of the early nineteenth century. Probably it has the best collection of New England town and county maps. No particular effort has been made to complete the collection, except to accept all the offers which have been made through gift or exchange. Due to the interest and ability of Mr. Waldo Lincoln, a card catalogue was completed in 1911, and all the maps were arranged in a long series of flat steel drawers, especially constructed for the purpose. All large maps were removed from the rollers and cut into sections of a maximum size of 36 by 24 inches. The collection is in excellent condition, well arranged and indexed, and only awaits one or two large accessions and some energy spent in developing and completing it to make it one of the more notable collections of the country.

#### ENGRAVINGS AND PRINTS

The collection of American engraving, compared with other large collections, is strong chiefly in the early period. The Society has by far the largest known collection of Revere's engraving, nearly all of the Pelham mezzotints, and most of the work done by Turner, Hurd, Callender, Doolittle, Maverick, Tanner and Tiebout. It lacks much of that done by Dawkins and Saint Memin. For the nineteenth century

engravers its collection is only passably fair, due partly to the fact that in the nearby Worcester Art Museum is the comprehensive Goodspeed collection which, by the way, if incorporated with our own, would form undoubtedly the best collection in the country. Mr. Taylor's lithograph collection, generously presented by him in 1928, is outstanding, and the book-plates, a very important feature of American engraving, are elsewhere referred to in this Report. Much could be done to build up the collection of engravings and prints, to make it of use to the historical student, but this could well be deferred pending the possible consolidation of the two Worcester collections.

#### BROADSIDES AND EPHEMERA

The Library has a collection of about 8000 broadsides, with 2,500 dating previous to the year 1800. The Revolutionary broadsides are rather notable, with 65 issues, for example, in the year 1775. This is one collection which can never even approach completeness, for the largest gathering of broadsides in the country would not constitute one per cent of the vast total issued. All that a library can do is to acquire all that is offered to it, especially in large lots, and try to obtain singly the important issues. The broadsides are arranged in manila folders, filed chronologically in flat drawers in a steel case. In the collection should be included numerically about 1500 poetical broadsides which are shelved in the main library.

Few libraries in the country have attempted so much as this Society, to collect and preserve the ephemera of printed matter. Such subjects as engraved portraits and views, stereoscope and post card views, engraved letter-heads, theatre programs, dinner menus, telegraph forms, railroad tickets, rewards of merit, calendars, valentines, election ballots, silhouettes and cartoons are represented in such large numbers that they are valuable for comprehensive

study to those who are interested in the by-ways of social history. It does not mean that we collect the vast modern output in such material, for it is primarily the early items that we collect, those that illustrate the various subjects in the beginnings of their use.

#### MUSEUM

In its early days the Society, as one of the few in the country devoted to antique objects, gathered a large and very miscellaneous collection of relics and curios. Gradually its officers realized that a national library which did not pretend to museum activity, was not the proper custodian of all these relics, especially in view of the fact that important organizations had been established for the express purpose of scientifically gathering objects of antiquarian interest. In 1877, several relics, including an Indian mummy, were deposited with the Smithsonian Institution. In 1886 and in 1892 a number of relics, chiefly the wearing apparel of native races and other curios of a perishable nature, were transferred to the Peabody Museum at Cambridge, and a large number of relics solely of Worcester interest, were placed in the recently established museum of the Worcester Historical Society, then called the Worcester Society of Antiquity. In 1910, just previous to the removal of the library to its present building, the Society exchanged with the Peabody Museum the remainder of its ethnological and archaeological relics and sent to other depositories various plaster casts and statues, mostly of non-American interest. It retained a few important historical relics for exhibition purposes and, of course, all its fine specimens of colonial furniture which are one of the present building's most attractive features.

What might be considered a museum exhibit is the Society's collection of portraits. This is an important feature and should be developed as opportunity occurs. The collection consists of the portraits of the Presidents



and Librarians of the Society, portraits of noted Americans and portraits painted by colonial artists. As wall space is limited, portraits which are merely local in character or do not come within any of the above categories, are not accepted. The portraits have all come to the Society by gift and it should be remarked that the portraits now most needed are those of two of the Society's Presidents, Senator Hoar and Edward Everett Hale, and also portraits painted by early American artists, especially by Stuart, Blackburn, Trumbull and Jarvis, of whom we have no examples. In 1908 all of the portraits were cleaned and restored, and at the same time the colonial furniture was properly labelled, except for a few pieces which even the oldest of traditions failed to assign to the original owners. An annotated checklist of the portraits, prepared by Mr. Lincoln, was printed in the Proceedings in October 1923.

Of miscellaneous collections of a museum nature, there is the comprehensive collection of Staffordshire Pottery donated by Mrs. Emma DeF. Morse in 1913, and acquired not for its ceramic interest, but because it formed an important study in early American views. The Society has no notable collection of American coinage, except for a fair showing in the "hard-time" tokens of 1837, in the tokens of the Civil War,<sup>1</sup> and in the ordinary series of United States coins since 1790. It has no collection of United States postage stamps, although this will be remedied by a gift which has been promised by one of our members.

In finally closing this Librarian's Report for 1930, I cannot help but think of the pleasant relations I have had with the staff, with all its changes of personnel, for twenty-two years. Only two members of the present staff, the Assistant Librarian, Mrs. Reynolds, and the superintendent of the building, Mr. Fenner, were here

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<sup>1</sup>Described in the Librarian's Report for October 1914, page 247.

when I came to the Library in 1908. Mrs. Reynolds, who had entered the service of the Library in 1881, carries on today the spirit and prestige of the Society of the days of Charles Deane, George Bancroft, Justin Winsor, Senator Hoar, Edward Everett Hale and the elder Stephen Salisbury. Not a single member on the roll of the Society in 1883 is now living, as the senior member of the Society, John Bach McMaster of Philadelphia, was not elected to membership until 1884. This connection which Mrs. Reynolds has with that past to which I look back with reverence, has always impressed me deeply and has many times been of the greatest service to me in building recent projects upon the experiences of my predecessors. Her value to the Society has increased with every year and we all hope that even after fifty years' connection with the Society, she will continue to serve the Library to which she has given so large a portion of her life. Although perhaps I am only changing in the Society from one position to another, yet I know that I shall miss the constant daily contact with the entire library staff. It is a source of satisfaction to look back over the twenty-two years and to realize that I have always had help and encouragement from every worker in the Library, that never in all this time can I remember a single instance of dissension or disagreement. Such a spirit of co-operation makes work a joy and is the greatest element in any progress that may have been made.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,  
*Librarian.*

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