

## *Report of the Librarian*

THE most shocking indictment of the library profession which I have ever seen is Mr. Wilmarth S. Lewis' good-natured statement in the September *Atlantic* that he received only eight replies to eight hundred circular letters asking libraries whether or not they had any Horace Walpole manuscripts. The institutional library is not, as some book dealers seem to think, simply an immortal collector. It is an organization established and maintained for the purpose of performing a particular service to society. It is almost incredible that ninety-nine out of a hundred libraries should ignore a simple and reasonable request made by a well-known scholar. When such requests come to this library, and the number of them runs into the thousands each year, every one is answered or acknowledged within forty-eight hours. Even the requests which are unreasonable or impossible of fulfillment deserve a civil and prompt refusal.

Our mail service is beginning to resume its normal peacetime volume as servicemen from Germany to the Pacific islands find time heavy on their hands, and the number of persons visiting the Library to do research is beginning once more to increase. Other institutions in all parts of the country refer difficult questions to us, and those which are in our field we do our best to answer. Occasionally we can aid research in subjects seemingly foreign to our collections, as when our early Boston art catalogues gave one of our visitors, a European student of Dutch art, useful critical descriptions of now-lost paintings.

Bibliographical work has accounted for more hours of research by the staff and by visitors than all other types combined, and the problem of apportioning our time among deserving projects is a serious one. In checking the preliminary lists of the American edition of the *Short-Title Catalogue of English Books, 1475-1640*, we found that we had 103 titles not reported by any other American library, and no less than 77 titles which were not reported in England, or which differed from the copies reported there. We were particularly anxious to check the galley of the *Short-Title* continuation covering the years 1641-1700 because it includes American printing, but it proved impossible to make arrangements to do so for the first volume. As a result this volume omits three items which are represented by apparently unique copies in our library:

B(radstreet), S(amuel). An Almanack for . . . 1657. . . . Cambridge.

Printed by Samuel Green 1657. Evans 44.

Berault, Peter. The Church of Rome Evidently Proved Heretick Boston, printed By S. Green for James Cowse, 1685. Evans 384.

Doolittle, Thomas. A Treatise Concerning the Lord's Supper. . . . Boston. Printed by B. Green and J. Allen for Samuel Phillips. 1700. Cf. Evans 909.

The new catalogue does not recognize as a Cambridge Press item the *Divine Consolations for Mourners* (n. p., 1664), but it locates a single copy in Dublin, which ends the claim of our copy to being unique. A comparison of our American holdings with the new catalogue shows that it is unfortunate, from the point of view of utility, that the MWA holding is not indicated on a score of rare pieces. A sampling of the English imprints indicates that we have some of which no copies are recorded in this part of the country.

The completion of volume seven of *Sibley's Harvard Graduates* gave us an opportunity to compare the strength

of our holdings of this particular sample of eighteenth-century printing. Of 210 titles in the bibliographies in this volume we have 165, the Massachusetts Historical Society reports 136, the John Carter Brown, 128, the Harvard libraries, 124, the Boston Athenæum, 107, Yale and the Boston Public Library, each 85, the New York Historical Society, 81, the New York Public Library, 74, and the Library of Congress, 67.

One type of service which we offer has over a period of years brought us material which could not have been acquired by purchase. Many libraries have two or more partly duplicate files of rare newspapers. Usually the volumes are broken, but the task of collating and preparing the papers for rebinding, and the difficulty of finding a binder with a knowledge of this type of material, has kept the librarians from efforts in this direction. Our library binder, Mr. Phillimore, is thoroughly skilled in the repairing and binding of old newspapers, and there is certainly no one better qualified to collate them than Mr. Brigham. So we have afforded to many libraries a service by which we take the overlapping files of their newspapers, collate and rebind them, keeping the duplicates as our compensation. In this way we have acquired the second-best files of many early papers. By the more orthodox procedures of exchange and purchase we this year acquired files of the *Trenton Federalist* for 1802-10, the *Albany Gazette* for March, 1817, to March, 1818, the Philadelphia *Democratic Press* for 1813 and 1816, and the only reported complete file of the Woodstock, Vermont, *Working-Man's Gazette*, which ran from September 23, 1830, to August 23, 1831. From a distinguished collector of Western material we received the gift of the New York *California Herald* for January 31, 1849. Of this newspaper there are only seven known issues, three of which are in this library. By purchase we acquired seventy-four numbers of two

similar Boston papers, the *Journal for California* and the *Traveller for California*. These numbers were issued in the period 1850 to 1857, and were hitherto unknown and unreported.

Our collection of Civil War newspapers printed on wall-paper has been increased by the acquisition of the Alexandria, Louisiana, *Pictorial Democrat* for April 8, 1863; the Opelousas, Louisiana, *Opelousas Courier* for December 6 and 13, 1862, and April 4 and 22, 1863; and the Monticello, Mississippi, *Southern Journal*, for September 5, 1863. These and similar accessions by other libraries make it desirable that Mr. Brigham's article on "Wall-Paper Newspapers of the Civil War," which was published in the Eames memorial volume in 1924, should be revised and brought up to date.

The Society has long owned a notable collection of amateur newspapers, those interesting little publications issued by hundreds of young printers, beginning some seventy years ago and continued by young and old printers to the present. Mr. C. Leonard Shaw this year added 836 of these papers to our collection, and through the friendly offices of Edward H. Cole and Frank Roe Batchelder we have obtained the Truman J. Spencer and the Will Bates Grant collections which added 6780 issues, bringing the total for our holdings to some 17,000. In the July issue of *The Fossil*, the organ of the amateur journalists, Mr. Cole printed an excellent article on the Society and its amateur newspapers.

The rarest periodical which we acquired this year was the second reported file of the *Friend*, a religious and literary magazine published at Albany, New York, from July, 1815, to June, 1816.

One of the national press services recently circulated a story to the effect that the American Antiquarian Society had discovered in its file of the newspaper, *Brother Jonathan*, a comic strip, Ferdinand Flipper, antedating the Yellow

Kid by forty years. What we, fearing precisely this misinterpretation, had tried to impress upon the reporters was that we had found, not a comic strip, but a comic book, and that it was published not in, but by, *Brother Jonathan*. Moreover this is chronologically the fourth comic book of this type in our possession. These are:

- The Adventures of Mr. Obadiah Oldbuck. . . . New York, (1843-45). 80 pages of engravings.
- The college Experience of Ichabod Academicus, (1849). This is the colorful story of Yale undergraduate done in lithography. We have two editions, in one of which the scenes of Junior year are redrawn. (Nathan Hayward). College Scenes, (1850). 31 pages; a Harvard imitation of the above.
- The Fortunes of Ferdinand Flipper. New York, (c. 1852-56). The curious thing about this comic book is that it is made up of stock cuts about which the tale meanders as the available pictures dictate.

We would appreciate the kindness of anyone having similar comic books of the pre-Civil War period if they would describe them to us.

Our collection of pre-1821 children's books has been improved by the purchase of more new items than we usually see in several years. Among the most interesting of these were six unrecorded Metamorphoses, those picture books in which the illustrations can be transformed by folding over them matching flaps which change half of the picture. Three of these precede the oldest previously reported:

- Metamorphosis, or a Transformation of Pictures, with Poetical Explanations, for the Amusement of Young Persons. Philadelphia. Published by Solomon Wiatt, 1810.
- The same. Philadelphia. Published by Jonathan Pounder, 1811.
- The same. Philadelphia. Printed and sold by Joseph Rakestraw, 1813.
- The same. New York. Sold by Samuel Wood & Sons. Printed by J. Rakestraw, 1817.
- The same. New York, 1824.

Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Designed and Published by J. W. Barber, Hartford, 1821. Printed by P. B. Goodsell.

In the field of literature, perhaps our most interesting accessions were a copy of Philip Freneau, *A Laughable Poem; or Robert Slender's Journey* (Philadelphia, 1809), and [Thomas Day], *The Suicide. A Dialogue Exhibited on the Stage at the Public Commencement of Yale College* (Litchfield, [1797]). The most valuable single accession was a copy of the 1555 edition of Cabeza de Vaca, a gift which came from a member of the Council. The Mather collection was enriched by the purchase of a fine copy of Cotton Mather, *A Good Man Making a Good End* (Boston, 1698), which replaces our defective one. A curious accession is the only known specimen of a Damascus, Pennsylvania, imprint. This is *The British Taxation in North-America. A Song Composed by an American, at the Commencement of the late Revolution. . . . Damascus: Printed by Daniel Willson, 1811.*

Frank J. Metcalf of Washington, authority on American hymnology and a member of this Society for many years, died on February 25, 1945. By his will he bequeathed to this Library all of the hymn books which we lacked in his collection, with the provision that we should send the remainder to Boston University Library. As a result, we obtained about 2400 titles—800 in the period before 1880, and 1600 in the books of the last 65 years. This was an especially notable and generous gift, and increased our collection of American hymnody to about 11,000 titles. For several years we have had in view the publication of Mr. Metcalf's Checklist of American Psalmody to 1880, and have spent a great amount of time in revising the entire list and in adding the four thousand titles which we received from the Bishop Peach collection three years ago. There is much to be done in completing this checklist for the printer,

and, so far, final cataloguing has progressed only through the letter B. Perhaps another year will suffice to finish the work.

So far as we know, no one has hitherto been able to complete a set of the three volume *Impartial History of the War in America*, which was printed at Boston in 1782-84. This year we were so fortunate as to be able to purchase the last of the plates missing from our set.<sup>1</sup>

One of the most important documents of eighteenth-century New England is the voluminous diary of Ebenezer Parkman of Westborough, most of which is in our possession. It is used continually for research in the history of medicine, literature, and nearly every other branch of New England culture. It contains unexpected sidelights on such different subjects as house painting and the disciplining of servants. There are, however, two or three gaps in the diary which I have been trying to fill for a dozen years, and Mr. Brigham for many more. We had long given up the hope of finding the missing portions when, at the suggestion of Goodspeed's, Mrs. George Parkman Denny gave us Ebenezer's diary for the years 1769-71 and that of his son, Breck, for the years 1775, and 1778-1802. The accession is important enough to draw one historian from another state to consult it. The entire diary should be printed.

Another very valuable New England source is the manuscript autobiography of Dr. Samuel West, a chaplain at Fort Pownall before the Revolution, and later minister of Needham and Boston. There are three known copies which, being in private hands, have been only with difficulty accessible to the historian. One of these copies, a large calf-bound manu-

<sup>1</sup> The accessions for the year were:

Bound volumes,	4,998
Pamphlets,	10,441
Unbound newspapers,	97

This brings the totals for October 1, 1945, to

Bound volumes	265,611
Pamphlets	409,320

script of over three hundred pages, made by Dr. West's son Benjamin, was recently presented to us by Mr. Nathan Rice of Worcester. This is another document which should some day be printed.

Miss Emma Waite has solved most of the problems which have this year arisen in connection with our print and map collection, but as in all departments a few questions have defied solution. For example, we acquired one of the two known copies of *Mr. Weatherwise's Pocket-Almanac for 1760*, published by Dunlap of Philadelphia, with the portrait of Pitt engraved for this volume by one Basire. All of our efforts to identify this engraver have failed, but presumably he is the man of that name who engraved a picture of Hugh Latimer.

The Society has acquired from the estate of Harriet E. Clarke a remarkable family portrait collection consisting of the miniatures, silhouettes, daguerreotypes, engravings, and ferrotypes of three generations of the Dwight Fosters. This supplements a similar collection received in 1937 by bequest from Dwight Foster Dunn. The head of this branch of the family was the Dwight Foster who was graduated at Brown in 1774, established himself at Brookfield, and as judge and United States senator served his generation well. He is represented in the collection by fine likenesses which show the transition from the rough, pig-tailed, young orator to the polished senator. Of these, three are silhouettes (one painted on glass) and two are small circular engravings, one by St. Memin and one by Boudier. Stauffer knew Boudier by only a single example of his work, so we thumbed our big collections of Foster manuscripts hoping to throw some light on this almost unknown engraver, but we turned up nothing. It is, however, most likely that some such information is buried in the hundreds of papers in the collection, or in the voluminous diary of Dwight Foster.



Dwight Foster married Rebecca Faulkner who is represented in the collection by two silhouettes and a miniature by Eliza Goodridge. This artist was the almost unknown sister of the famous Sarah Goodridge, and the presence of several examples of her work is one of the things which makes this collection so interesting.

Of the children of Dwight and Rebecca Foster, Pamela, the eldest, is represented by a silhouette. The second daughter, Sophia, appears in a silhouette and in a miniature which shows her as the elderly Mrs. Samuel M. Burnside. Alfred Dwight Foster, the youngest son of Dwight and Rebecca, married Lydia Stiles, and her influence on the family is largely responsible for the collection. Lydia Stiles is represented by three remarkable miniatures. The earliest shows her as a young girl and has been identified by Mr. Dunn as the work of Richard Morrell Staigg, although the accepted dates for artist and sitter hardly agree with the youth of the latter. The artist of the other two miniatures is not known, but they are superb and unflattering portraits of a strong Yankee face.

Lydia Stiles Foster was a daughter of John W. and Mary Maccarty Stiles who are both pictured in miniatures by Eliza Goodridge. Her mother, a daughter of the Reverend Thaddeus Maccarty of Worcester, is also shown as a child in a miniature attributed to Eliza Goodridge. Mary was only eight years younger than Eliza, so this must have been one of the earliest of the artist's productions. Lydia's sister Mary and her husband, Henry K. Newcomb, are both represented by Eliza Goodridge miniatures, and Mary Stiles Newcomb by an example of the work of a second unknown artist.

The children of Alfred Dwight and Lydia Stiles Foster lived into the era of the daguerreotype and are perhaps more accurately but certainly less charmingly perpetuated in this

collection. There are, however, two miniatures of this generation. One represents Rebecca Faulkner Foster (Mrs. Henry Clarke) and was painted by Staigg for her sister Mary Stiles Foster, who paid the artist \$100 for the work. The other is a group picture of the three children, Dwight, Mary Stiles, and Rebecca Faulkner. It was sent to their mother Lydia as a present on February 14, 1838, with a letter from the artist, Eliza Goodridge, speaking of her indebtedness to the family. We have this letter and three pictures of the artist who ten years later married Ephraim Stone of Templeton. They show one of the most strikingly strong and homely faces we have ever seen. One of the casual references to her in the family papers calls her "not as genteel as some of Alfred's cousins; but quite as agreeable." So far as we have been able to find, not one of the miniatures in this collection appears in the printed lists.

Ten remarkable daguerreotypes were recently acquired from the Frank Luther Hale estate. Four are youthful portraits of his mother, Charlotte Williams Seabury, of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, three of his father, Luther Holman Hale, of Millbury and Boston, one a double portrait of both, another of his grandfather, Charles Hale, and the last, of an unidentified child. Only the double portrait bears an imprint: "Hale, artist, 109 Washington Street, Boston," an obvious reference to Luther Holman Hale who is listed at that address as a daguerreotype artist from 1845 to 1860 (in 1846, as L. H. Hale & Co.), and as a photographic artist for the next two years. After an unexplained interval he appears in the Millbury directories as a photographer from 1871 to 1879. A manuscript note on the back of one of his portraits states that he studied the daguerreotype art with one Henri Dagarish, of Paris.

All of these pictures were taken about the time of Luther Hale's marriage, in 1852, or perhaps a little later. Fine

execution, studied pose, elegant dress, and repetition of subject suggest that they may have served as examples of his work. Four are of unusual size, about seven and one-half inches, two of these in contemporary gilt frames, with mother-of-pearl fronts and colored pictorial centers. When the historians of American popular art turn their attention to daguerreotypes, they will find this collection useful.

Of more general interest than these portraits is the original sketch book made by General Sir Henry J. Warre (1819-98) on his journey from Canada to Oregon just a hundred years ago. Most of the eighty-four pictures in the volume are water-colors of charm and quality, incomparably better than one would expect from the reproductions in the printed volume. Some of them have not been reproduced. Nor is this a mere book of views; General Warre was interested in costume, means of transportation, and architecture. The pictures have documentary value as well as human interest, for they include Fort Victoria on Vancouver Island, Oregon City on the Willamette, Fort Mackinaw, the American Institute in Oregon, and Fort Vancouver on the Columbia. There are drawings of Indians and one of Father De Smet, as well as two which are marked as being original drawings by the good father himself. This collection comes to the library as the gift of Mr. Donald McKay Frost.

Lately I have drawn up an historical account of the Society and the Library for publication in the *William and Mary Quarterly*. In doing this I have been greatly impressed by the contrast between the bibliographical achievements of this Society and the size of its budget. Here we and our predecessors have created an internationally-known institution, with the richest collections for research in a large portion of the American field. We have built and maintained this by occasional gifts and an income of never more than \$40,000 a year. We all know men who spend that much with

nothing more to show for it than another year lived through. As a service organization this Library certainly gives society an excellent return made on the investment made in it by its donors.

Respectfully submitted,  
CLIFFORD K. SHIPTON

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