

Report of the Librarian

SINCE the beginning of the presidency of Waldo Lincoln in 1907 and the librarianship of Clarence Brigham in 1908, the growth of this Library has been spectacular. In my first report six years ago I told you that the problem then facing the Library was not one of growth, but one of making available the mass of material which we had acquired; that we ought to turn our attention from collecting to sorting, arranging, cataloguing, and preparing bibliographies of the material in our possession, so that we and the scholarly world could use it. During my regime we have somewhat accelerated this process of digestion, but my efforts to check the growth of the Library have been an almost complete failure.¹ And not only is the volume of our accessions holding up in a most discouraging manner, but the quality of it is steadily improving. A few weeks ago Mr. Brigham and I were looking over a pile of this year's acquisitions, and he said, seriously, "Never, since the original Thomas gift, has the Library acquired so many rare books in one year." You may remember that you have heard us say this before. I do not believe that we have exaggerated then or now.

The best demonstration of the quality of our accessions this year is a little volume of five small tracts which in the year 1702 Eliphalet Adams of New London paid a binder 12*d* to gather into covers, and which has been a tradition among bibliographers for the past generation. The volume

¹ During our year 1946-1947 we accessioned 2819 bound volumes and 2364 pamphlets, raising the totals in the library to 270,973 bound volumes and 413,708 pamphlets, or 684,681 titles.

has been owned for some years by a member of this Society who last summer gave us the opportunity to purchase it at a very moderate price. Of course we jumped at the opportunity and, when we brought the volume home, we examined it with great interest and found that it contained these pamphlets: William Perkins, *The Foundation of Christian Religion*, Boston, 1682; Thomas Shepard, *A Short Catechism . . . for the Private Instruction of the Younger Sort in Cambridge in New-England*, Cambridge, 1654; [John Horne, *Brief Instructions for Children*]; James Noyes, *A Short Catechism Composed . . . in Newbury for the Use of the Children There*, Cambridge, 1661; and *The Shorter Catechism*, Boston, 1698. Of these the Shepard, the Horne, and the Noyes are the only known copies. But the most interesting thing about the volume is the fact that the Horne item, which has never been noticed before, is probably, like its neighbors, a product of the Cambridge Press. It has no title page, but by its introduction shows that it is a hitherto unknown work by the Reverend John Horne of Lynn, England, probably with the title "Brief Instructions for Children," which is the caption on the fourth page. The text contains some Hebrew letters of the face first used at Cambridge, so far as we know, in 1665. The one drawback to claiming this as a Cambridge Press imprint is the fact that its acorn ornaments are slightly larger and more elegantly bowlegged than those familiar on Cambridge printing. It is a temptation to accept circumstantial evidence as proof, for here we have a religious book for children bound with four Massachusetts imprints of the same subject and format.

Undoubtedly the proper person to solve this problem in bibliographical detecting would have been the Boston bookseller Nicholas Boone, who after three fumbling years as an unwilling constable prepared for other conscripted police

officers *The Constables Pocket-Book: or, a Dialogue between an Old Constable & a New*. This work, which he published in 1710, covers in question and answer form all of the activities of a constable in town of B. in the county of S., and unlike the other legal guides of the period is pure New England. We were fortunate in being able to buy a handsome copy, the first we had ever seen. Another interesting regional piece was a hitherto unrecorded printing of Samuel Moody's *Judas the Traitor*, the book in which he explains to children how dreadful it would be to go from New England to hell. The hitherto recorded first edition of this work was an 84 page, 24 mo. tract printed at Boston by T. Green in 1714. Our new copy bears the same date but is a 32 mo. with 81 pages of text and three of advertisements; it was probably an issue printed for Nicholas Buttolph.

By purchase we acquired a copy of Sorge's *Authentic Account of the Barbarity of the Russians*, S. Kneeland, Boston, 1759. Upon examination we found that this volume solved a bibliographical problem caused by the fact that Evans had confused this under his number 8494 with the Fowle and Draper edition of the same year, giving the title of the latter and the pagination of the Kneeland edition. The Fowle and Draper title is *Extracts of Two Letters . . . from the Reverend Mr. Sorge*. The story unfolded in this book has a strangely familiar ring, for it deals with the plundering and the atrocities of Russian soldiers in Germany.

It is a pleasure to turn from such scenes to the utopian days of the first settlement of English America. This year we acquired by exchange a copy of the 1634 edition of William Wood, *New Englands Prospect*, with the map. Hitherto we had only the 1635 edition. By the same exchange we were able to acquire a copy of that classic of the early days of Virginia, [Edward Williams], *Virginia: More Especially the South Part Thereof*, London, 1650. By pur-

chase we acquired another of the foundation books of Virginia history, John Tennent's *Every Man His own Doctor: or, the Poor Planter's Physician*, B. Franklin, Philadelphia, 1734.

Our collection of Pennsylvania German imprints has been considerably increased, three of the new items being worthy of particular notice, two of them being Indian captivities. One of these is *Eine Erzählung von den Trubsalen . . . an William Flemming*, Saur, Lancaster, 1756. This is the edition with 29 (1) pages, of which only two other examples are known. Another is Jonathan Dickinson, *Die Gottliche Veschutzung*, Saur, Germantown, 1756, with the note on the title page reading, "Die 4te Edition. Zu Philadelphia gedruckt, und nun Zum zweyten mal in Teutsch Heraus gegeben." This is evidently a second impression of the fourth edition, for there are copies which announce that the fourth edition is the first translation into German. Ours is only the second known copy. The third item in this group is one of three reported complete copies of the Lebanon, 1811, edition of *Die Reisen der Capitaine Lewis and Clarke*.

A very different account of western travel is *A Narrative of the Life & Travels of John Robert Shaw, the Well-Digger*, Lexington, Kentucky, 1807, which we acquired by purchase. Several other accessions relating to this period are bibliographically interesting. Among them are John Dickinson, *An Address to the Committee of Correspondence in Barbadoes*, Philadelphia, 1766, *Heads of Inquiry Relative to the Present State and Condition of His Majesty's Colony of Connecticut*, New London, 1775, [Jonathan Sewall], *The Americans Roused*, New York, [1775], and *The Letters of the Two Commanders in Chief; Generals Gage and Washington*, New York, 1775. These rarities, which we could not have bought on the book market, all came to us by exchanges with other institutions. From Mr. Charles Adams Peters of Amherst we

received the gift of the manuscript orderly books of Andrew Peters of the Fifteenth Massachusetts Regiment for 1779-80.

Our most important and interesting accessions have been in the field of juveniles, a category which includes the Cambridge catechisms mentioned above. By another fortunate purchase we acquired three hitherto unknown items, *The New-England Primer Improved . . . To Which is Added, the Assembly of Divines, and Mr. Cotton's Catechism*, Boston, 1756, *An Alphabet in Prose. . . . Second Worcester Edition*, Isaiah Thomas, Jr., 1800, and *The New A B C; being a Complete Alphabet in Verse. . . . To Which is Added, a Number of Tom Thumb's Songs*, Isaiah Thomas, Jr., Worcester, 1805. Now, the last two are hardly credible, for so thoroughly did Dr. Nichols scour this town for its imprints in the preparation of its bibliography that unrecorded items have been turning up only one at a time, and then at long intervals. But hear us further: we this year acquired a third unknown Worcester imprint, *The Partymakers Assistant, by Titus Develope*, Worcester, 1795. This was not, unfortunately, a children's book, but a hitherto-unrecorded Leominster item of 1797, *The Comical Sayings of Paddy from Cork*, might be considered on the border line. There is no question however, of the right of *The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes* to its place in the canon of children's books; Doctor Rosenbach this year gave us a copy of the edition printed at New York in 1775. By purchase we acquired a specimen of a hitherto unknown Boston, 1764, edition of John Wright, *Spiritual Songs for Children*, and the only known copy of the Boston, 1766, edition of *The History of the Holy Jesus*. At the same time we bought the second known copy of the Boston, 1772, edition of *The School of Good Manners*. We also obtained the first reported copy of *A New Primer, or Little Boy and Girls Spelling Book*, a Springfield imprint and apparently a new work by a Springfield author. It was

probably printed in 1786, one of the first products of the press in that town.

A most remarkable purchase was a group of seven unrecorded Western catechisms: *The A, B, C; with the Shorter Catechism*, Carlisle, 1795; John Muckarsie, *The Children's Catechism*, Harrisburgh, 1795; John Willison, *The Mother's Catechism*, Harrisburgh, 1795; John King, *A Catechism on the Evidences of the Christian Religion*, Gettysburg, 1803; John Brown, *Two Short Catechisms*, Carlisle, 1795; Thomas Wilcocks, *Choice Drops of Honey*, Carlisle, 1790; and *The Shorter Catechism*, Carlisle, 1819. The volume of the religious output of the Carlisle press was surprising.

Back nearer home, we acquired a copy of *The Instructive Story of Industry and Sloth. Ornamented with Cuts*, Hartford, 1796. This is the first record of this edition of this popular juvenile. Another unrecorded item is [William Charles], *The Comic Adventures of Old Mother Hubbard and her Dog; Illustrated with Fifteen Copper-Plate Engravings*, New York, 1810. A curious thing about this item is that we cannot identify "The Porcupine Office" at which it was printed. We also obtained by purchase a hitherto unknown variant of the first edition (1840) of John Green Chandler's, *The Remarkable Story of Chicken Little*.

In the field of adult literature we have not had so many accessions which are worthy of separate notice. One, however, is a hitherto unreported *Pilgrim's Progress*, "The twenty-fifth edition, with addition of new cuts, Boston, printed by G. Rogers and D. Fowle, for T. Fleet, J. Edwards and H. Foster in Cornhill, 1740." We also acquired by purchase William Livingston's well-known poem, *Philosophic Solitude*, New York, 1747, and a hitherto unknown item, *Pieces in Prose and Verse, Selected for the Purchasers*, Philadelphia, 1807.

An odd and interesting bypath of literary history is represented by the accession of a collection of sheet music with poetry written by authors well known in the field of American literature. In many cases these are the first examples in separate printed form of these poems. The lot contains 146 pieces, with thirteen written by Thomas Bailey Aldrich, five by William Cullen Bryant, fourteen by Eugene Field, five by Bret Harte, thirty-nine by Henry W. Longfellow, nine by James Whitcomb Riley, eight by Bayard Taylor, three by Walt Whitman, and three by John Greenleaf Whittier. In our large collection of sheet music there are many more such literary items, but the collection is arranged by composer and not by author, so that they cannot be found until such a time as we have the means to catalogue them.

The Society has also received an interesting collection of carte-de-visite photographs, gathered by Corridon A. Alvord of New York, comprising portraits of book publishers, booksellers, or those allied with book trade, in the period of the Civil War. Since some of these portraits must be rare, a list of them arranged by cities follows:

NEW YORK	Horace Greeley
Corridon A. Alvord	Fletcher Harper
Daniels S. Appleton	James Harper
John A. Appleton	John Harper
William H. Appleton	Joseph W. Harper
Alfred S. Barnes	Henry Heath
George Bruce	Melancthon M. Hurd
William Cullen Bryant	George R. Lockwood
George W. Carleton	Roe Lockwood
Peter Carter	Daniel G. Mason
Lucius E. Clark	Lowell Mason, Jr.
Charles Collins	James Miller
Henry B. Dawson	Charles C. Savage
William B. Dick	Charles Scribner
Eli French	David Van Nostrand

PHILADELPHIA

Elijah H. Butler
 Henry C. Carey
 Joshua B. Lippincott
 Thomas MacKellar
 John F. Smith
 Richard Smith

BOSTON

James T. Field
 Augustus Flagg
 Henry T. Miles

HARTFORD

Thomas Belknap
 Newton Case
 William H. Gross
 James Lockwood
 Simeon S. Scranton

SPRINGFIELD

Gurdon Bill

NORWICH

John W. Stedman

SAN FRANCISCO

Albert L. Bancroft

If anyone had told us that we would in a single year add eight items to our already matchless collection of the works of the Mathers, we would have been highly skeptical. This we have done, however, largely by means of exchange with a sister institution. With the exception of the first two items on the list below the works are unimportant, and the condition of several of them is poor, but any bibliographer will understand our pleasure in them:

- Increase Mather, *Day of Trouble Near*, Cambridge, 1674
 Increase Mather, *Relations of the Troubles*, Boston, 1667, second state of the title page
 Cotton Mather, *A Scriptural Catechism*, Boston, 1691
 Cotton Mather, *Menachem*, Boston, 1716
 [Cotton Mather], *The Words of Understanding*, Boston, 1724
 [Cotton Mather], *The Pure Nazarite*, Boston, [1725]
 Cotton Mather, *Family Religion*, Newport, [1740?]

The last is one of several items from the presses of the Franklin family which we have obtained this year, such as Thomas Pollen, *Sermon Preached in Trinity Church*, James Franklin, Newport, 1755. We have also acquired *A Bill in*

the Chancery of New Jersey, printed at New York for James Parker and Benjamin Franklin, 1747. Rather more important than its imprint interest is the fact that it is practically the cornerstone of New Jersey history. Two similar rarities of New York bibliography are the New York City charters of 1735 and 1765, which we acquired by an exchange which also brought us Samuel Finley's *Power of the Gospel Ministers*, New York, 1755.

From our fellow member, Isaac Rand Thomas, we have received two relics of the Thomas family. One is an original miniature of Isaiah Thomas, unquestionably painted by William M. S. Doyle, which Mr. Thomas bought in 1914 from the Misses Randall, great-granddaughters of Isaiah. This miniature, in its original gold frame, is one of the most interesting of the portraits of our founder.

The other gift is the family Bible of Elias Thomas, uncle of Isaiah and son of Peter Thomas. Elias Thomas was born at Boston in 1710, and in the Bible is the original record of the births of his several children. The line of descent of this volume is as follows: Elias Thomas, Alexander Thomas, Thomas Kemble Thomas, Dr. Alexander Thomas, Arthur Malcolm Thomas, and Isaac Rand Thomas. Elias Thomas, owner of the Bible, was the son of Peter Thomas, the son of George Thomas, the son of Evan Thomas, who came to Boston from Wales in 1640. Mr. Thomas a few years ago had the Rose Bindery of Boston make a folio morocco case for the Bible, with the Thomas coat of arms impressed in gold. The Bible has always remained in the family and is now presented by Isaac Rand Thomas to this Society for permanent preservation.

Of this year's accessions the one which would have greatly interested Isaiah Thomas most is a contemporary American newspaper of which he never heard a rumor. As far as that is concerned, there seems to have been no record from his

day to this of either this newspaper or of printing in the town of its origin. The island of St. Bartholomew in the West Indies, now a French possession, belonged to Sweden for a century after the American Revolution. During the Napoleonic Wars it was taken under British custody, and in this period it enjoyed an English-language weekly newspaper with the name of *The Report of St. Bartholomew*. Our file, which is almost complete, runs from volume 1, number 3 (April 16, 1804) through volume 6, number 239 (June 1, 1816). The paper was suspended, chiefly because of printing difficulties, from July 11, 1807, to January 10, 1810, and from February 15, 1812, to July 23, 1814. From 1804 to 1807 it was printed at "Gustavia at the College Press." After the first suspension, printing was resumed by Andrew Bergstedt, who on November 30, 1811, gave way to John Allen, who later was editor as well. Even before Allen's name was connected with the paper it was edited by Englishmen or Americans who were well saturated in the English literary tradition of the eighteenth century and were deeply interested in the affairs of the United States.

Our other newspaper accessions of the year are not of any particular importance but are here listed as an aid to students:

- New York, *Columbian*, 1813-21
- New Yorker, 1837-41
- New York, *Christian Intelligencer*, 1831-35
- New York, *Transcript*, 1836
- Philadelphia, *Mirror*, 1836-37
- Lancaster, Pa., *Journal*, 1816-17
- Lancaster, Pa., *Intelligencer*, 1823-24
- Lancaster, Pa., *Democrat*, 1833-34
- Washington, *Madisonian*, 1839-45
- New Orleans, *Times-Picayune*, 1914-15

The more noteworthy periodicals which have come our way have been religious. Among them is a file of *The Irish*

Pictorial, Boston, 1859-61, lacking only one issue. If it were not so excessively rare, this periodical would be famous among scholars, for it affords a remarkable commentary on the United States of its generation and contains a wealth of curious dialect stories and Irish jokes. We likewise acquired a complete file of the *Calvinistic Family Library*, a semi-monthly published at Cadiz, Ohio, in 1835-37. Ours are the only reported numbers of this paper held outside of Ohio.

Our collection of Second Advent periodicals, already the strongest in existence, was further improved by the third reported complete file of *The Midnight Cry*, volumes one through seven, 1842-44; and numbers one through twelve of a hitherto unreported periodical, *The Anti-Millerite and Scriptural Expositor*, Concord, 1843.

Of both religious and imprint interest are twenty-two pre-1821 Baptist association reports which we acquired by a fortunate exchange with the Colgate Baptist Historical Library.

The burning Calvinism of these religious publications suggests our cookery-book collection to which has been added, among less interesting items, two unrecorded pieces. One of these is a Boston, 1819, edition of Harriet Whiting, *Domestic Cookery*, and the other is a Windsor, Vermont, edition of [Amelia Simmons], *American Cookery*, created by printing new wrappers for the Walpole, 1812, edition.

We have made way for these accessions by various expedients of shifting, discarding, and consolidating. Among the bulky and now useless things disposed of were the plates of the abridged edition of John Gorham Palfrey's *Compendious History of New England*. These the Society received in 1906 with the copyright of the book by the will of John C. Palfrey. When the set went out of print in 1929, the publishers, Houghton, Mifflin, and Company, informed

us that this was the end of the life of the work so far as they were concerned. With all our various shifts, however, we have not been able to move the newspaper files now stored in the old coalbin to the dryer upper floors. As you may have noticed, the past summer has been one of the worst in memory for mildew on books, but our building has been freer from the damp than most dwellings.

We were reminded of much more serious recent meteorological problems by the accession of a collection of 177 handsome buckram-bound portfolios and volumes of pamphlets, newspapers, and pictures relating to the New England hurricane of 1938, the floods of 1927 and 1936, and the Texas and Florida hurricanes of 1945. The material came to us from the estate of P. Hildreth Parker of Belmont, who made the subject his hobby. He was not a member of the Society, but was one of the scores of visiting students who find our collections useful and become interested in the work which we are doing.

The Library has acquired from Warren S. Kilburn a series of five sketchbooks of drawings made by his father, Samuel S. Kilburn of Boston in 1855-1857. They consist of pencil and pen-and-ink sketches of street views and buildings, mostly of Southern and Western towns, such as Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Montgomery, Mobile, New Orleans, Chicago, Louisville, St. Louis, and Detroit. There are also a few New England views. Some are unfinished pencil sketches, but many are finished in ink and with much detail. Samuel Smith Kilburn was born in Boston in 1831 and was a successful artist and engraver in Boston for many years. From 1855 to 1857 he made several visits to the South and West to make sketches of American views for *Ballou's Pictorial*, and many of his drawings were published in that magazine. He died in 1903, and there is an excellent account of his life in the *New England Historical and Genealogical*

Register for 1904. Since many of his sketches were never published, and since they preserve American views before the days of photography, a list arranged by towns is here printed. The numbers after the dates give the location of the pictures in the sketchbooks.

ALEXANDRIA, VA.		Harbor, 1857	2:73
Alexandria Lyceum, 1857	2:9	Jail and Marine Hospital,	
Catholic Church, 1857	2:11	1857	2:77
Christ Church, 1857	2:5	Market on Meeting Street,	
		1857	2:88
ALLEGHENY CITY, PA.		Orphan Asylum, 1857	2:85
German Catholic Church,		Roper Hospital, 1857	2:71
1856	3:79	St. Phillips Church, 1857	2:91
Western Penitentiary, 1856	3:81	Theatre, 1857	2:87
		Work House, 1857	2:79
BOSTON, MASS.			
Clinton Street, 1856	1:1	CHICAGO, ILL.	
Long Island, Boston		Block House, 1856	3:31, 35
Harbor, 1857	4:4	Chicago and Galena Grain	
		House, 1856	3:32
CAIRO, ILL.		Marine Hospital, 1856	3:34
Junction of Ohio and		Police Station, 1856	3:25
Mississippi Rivers, 1856	3:61	Randolph Street, 1856	3:27
		Reservoir, 1856	3:29
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.			
Charles River, 1857	1:23, 54	CLEVELAND, OHIO	
CHARLESTON, S. C.		Court House, [1857]	1:28
Artesian Wells, 1857	2:90	Light House, 1855	1:69
Citadel, 1857	2:81	Medical College, 1856	1:10
Citadel Square Church,			
1857	2:82	CONCORD, MASS.	
City Hall, 1857	2:65	Town Hall, 1860	5:3
City Hall Square, 1857	2:83		
Court House, 1857	2:67	COVINGTON, KY.	
Custom House and Post		City Hall and Court House,	
Office, 1857	2:62	1856	3:73
Guard House, 1857	2:75	Market Square, 1856	3:74

DETROIT, MICH.		City Treasurer's and Mayor's	
Capitol, 1856	3:13	Offices, [1857]	2:109
Odd Fellows Hall, 1856	3:171	Court House and Jail,	
Post Office, 1856	3:15	1857	2:110
St. Ann's Church, [1856]	3:21	Female College, 1857	2:112
Water Works, 1856	3:23	Railroad Station, 1857	2:116
FITCHBURG, MASS.		MOBILE, ALA.	
Town Hall and Post Office,		City Hall, 1857	2:23
1858	1:48	City Lockup, 1857	1:16
View of the town, 1858	1:50	Court House, [1857]	2:104
HARRISBURG, PA.		Light House, 1857	1:40
Court House, 1856	3:88	Methodist Church, 1857	1:25
Reservoir, 1856	3:86	Odd Fellows Home, [1857]	2:3
State House, 1856	3:87	Temperance Hall, 1855	1:19
United States Arsenal,		MONTGOMERY, ALA.	
[1856]	3:89	Capitol, [1857]	2:120
LANCASTER, MASS.		Colored man driving a	
Main Street, 1856	3:53	team, 1857	1:13, 15
Reform School, [1856]	3:49	Council Chamber, 1857	2:69
LAWRENCE, MASS.		Court House, 1857	2:15
Ruins of Pemberton Mill,		NEW ORLEANS, LA.	
[1856]	4:35	Charity Hospital, 1857	2:27
LOUISVILLE, KY.		City Hall, 1855	1:8
Gas Works, 1856	3:63	Cotton Press, 1855	1:3
Marine Hospital, 1856	3:65	Lafayette Square, 1857	2:7
St. Joseph's Infirmary,		United States Marine	
1856	3:71	Hospital, 1857	2:63
Sixth and Green Streets,		United States Mint, 1855	1:47
1856	3:67	View of the harbor, 1857	2:45
Speed Market, [1856]	3:69	Water Works, 1855	1:5
University, 1856	3:70	NEWPORT, KY.	
MACON, GA.		Newport Barracks, 1856	3:77
Baptist Church, 1857	2:114	School, 1856	3:76
Botanic Medical College,		Suspension Bridge, 1856	3:75
1857	2:118	PITTSBURGH, PA.	
		Bridge over Monongahela	
		River, 1856	3:84

PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

View of the town, 1856 1:75, 78

RICHMOND, VA.

Athenæum, 1857 . . . 2:21

Capitol, 1857 . . . 2:13

Church . . . 2:37

City Hall, 1857 . . . 2:19

Court House, 1857 . . . 2:33

Episcopal Church, 1857 . 2:29

Head Quarters of Lafayette,

1857 . . . 2:31

Medical College, 1857 . . 2:25

Metropolitan Hall, 1857 . 2:39

New Market, 1857 . . . 2:41

Odd Fellows Hall, 1857 . 2:35

State Penitentiary, 1857 . 2:17

St. LOUIS, Mo.

Biddle Market, 1856 . . 3:55

Coal Pit, 1856 . . . 3:50

Hospital, 1856 . . . 3:54

Jewish Synagogue, 1856 . 3:56

Locust Street, 1856. . . 3:47

McDowell's College, 1856 . 3:57

St. Louis Shot Tower, 1856 3:45

Street scene, [1856] . . 3:58

SALEM, MASS.

Baker's Island, 1856 . . 3:37

Lowell's Island, 1856 . . 3:38

Salem Harbor, Lowell's

Island, 1856 . . . 3:28

SAVANNAH, GA.

Custom House, 1857 . . 2:98

Marine Hospital, 1857 2:100

Market Square, 1857 . 2:106

Pulaski Monument, 1857 . 2:93

Railroad Buildings, 1857 2:103

Reservoir, 1857 . . . 2:95

St. John's Church, 1857 2:102

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

Railroad Station, [1856] . 3:43

Sixth Street, 1856 . . 3:39

State House, 1856 . . . 3:37

Washington Street, 1856 . 3:41

STERLING, MASS.

View of the town, [1855] . 1:20

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Market, 1856 . . . 3:5

Orphan Asylum, 1856 . . 3:11

Syracuse House and Salina

Street, 1856 . . . 3:3

Unitarian Church, 1856 . 3:9

TRURO, MASS.

Fish House, 1856 . . . 1:58

Highland Light 1:62, 70, 71, 73

Pond Village, 1856 . . . 1:56

Residence of William

Holden, 1856 . . . 1:64

WALTHAM, MASS.

Prospect Hill, 1860 . . 5:1

WELDON, N. C.

Bridge over the Roanoke

River, 1857 . . . 2:47

Old Mill, Roanoke River,

1857 . . . 2:49

Railroad Station, 1857 . 2:43

WILMINGTON, N. C.

Cape Fear Bank, 1857 . 2:59

Court House, 1857 . . . 2:61

Episcopal Church, 1857 . 2:53

New Jail, 1857 . . . 2:55

Presbyterian Church, 1857 2:56

Turpentine Still, 1857 . 2:51

Among the commonest questions which our visitors ask are those having to do with the strange names of imported textiles which one finds in early accounts. It was with an eye to these that we bought two large broadsides, dated August 17 and September 25, 1811, advertising auctions of East Indies goods in Boston. They contain the longest list of outlandish names that we have ever seen.

The constant presence of visiting scholars from other parts of the country is a compliment to the work of the Society which we of the administrative staff take in our stride, but once this year we were amazed by our own fame. A New York gentleman, who had reason to do research on the subject of a lady named Tootsie Vallentine (alias something which I have forgotten, and alleged winner of the national beauty title in 1926), with supreme faith in our resources boarded a train and brought his problem straight to Worcester. In keeping with our tradition of scholarly service, Mr. Brigham welcomed him, identified Tootsie for him, and sent him back to New York rejoicing. By such services, among others, we win our fame.

On September 28, 1946, we enjoyed a visit by the Walpole Society. For the occasion we laid out the following exhibition of sixty rare books from our collections. They are all examples of American printing and are selected as first books on their respective subjects or of especial interest and importance. Of course there are many "first books" which are not owned by the Antiquarian Society, such as the earliest books printed in some of the southern states. Yet, on the other hand, there are many with titles of equal interest in the Library which might have been selected had there been sufficient space for exhibition. Some of the statements as to first examples relating to specific places or subjects may be disputed, therefore Mr. Brigham, who arranged the exhibition, would welcome corrections.

Pedro de Córdova, *Doctrina Cristiana*, Mexico, 1544.

For many years this was considered to be the first book printed in the New World. It has since been found that it was preceded by seven titles as far back as 1539.

The Whole Booke of Psalmes [The Bay Psalm Book], Cambridge, Stephen Daye, 1640.

The first book printed in this country known to be extant.

Platform of Church Discipline, Cambridge, Samuel Green, 1649.

The first edition of the famous "Cambridge Platform," and the earliest known book from the press of Samuel Green.

Eliot's Indian Bible, Cambridge, S. Green and M. Johnson, 1663.

The first Bible, in any language, printed in America. The New Testament is dated 1661.

Nathaniel Morton, *New England's Memoriall*, Cambridge, S. Green and M. Johnson, 1669.

The first work of general New England history issued by the colonial press.

Increase Mather, *Life of Richard Mather*, Cambridge, S. Green and M. Johnson, 1670.

The first American biography.

James Fitch, *Peace the End of the Perfect and Upright, in a Sermon on the Death of Mrs. Anne Mason*, Cambridge, Samuel Green, 1672.

The first American funeral sermon.

Increase Mather, *Wo to Drunkards*, Cambridge, Marmaduke Johnson, 1673.

Contains both Hebrew and Greek type letters.

Bookplate of John Cotton, 1674.

The earliest authenticated American bookplate known at the time of the exhibition.

Increase Mather, *Wicked Man's Portion*, Boston, John Foster, 1675.

The first book printed in Boston.

Increase Mather, *Brief History of the War with the Indians in New England*, Boston, John Foster, 1676.

The earliest general history of the War. Contains an early use of woodcuts of the Massachusetts seal and an ornamental headpiece, both cut by John Foster.

William Hubbard, *Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New England*, Boston, John Foster, 1677.

Contains a woodcut map of New England, the first map of any kind to be engraved in the colonies, presumably by John Foster.

Anne Bradstreet, *Several Poems*, Boston, John Foster, 1678.

The first book by a woman author printed in the country.

The Protestant Tutor for Children, Boston, Samuel Green, 1685.

The authorship is credited to Benjamin Harris. It is the earliest American issue of a book which is closely associated with the "New England Primer." This mutilated copy is the only one known.

An Abridgment of Military Discipline, Boston, Samuel Green, 1690.

The first American military manual.

Ezekiel Carrè, *Echantillon*, Boston, Samuel Green, 1690.

The first book printed in this country in the French language.

George Keith, *Refutation of Three Opposers of Truth*, Philadelphia, William Bradford, 1690.

One of the early productions of the Pennsylvania press.

George Keith, *Truth Advanced*, New York, William Bradford, 1694.

The first sizable book printed in New York, being preceded only by some pamphlets and broadsides. Gershom Bulkeley's copy.

Christian Lodowick, *New England Almanack* for 1695, Boston, B. Green, 1695.

Of early medical interest, as it contains medical prescriptions for common ailments.

Increase Mather's Discourses, translated into Indian by Samuel Danforth, Boston, B. Green & J. Allen, 1698.

The first book in the Indian language printed in Boston.

La Fe del Christiano, translated by Cotton Mather, Boston, 1699.

The first book printed in this country in the Spanish language.

Bartholomew Green, *The Printer's Advertisement*, Boston, [1701].

The first American work on printing.

William Secker, *A Wedding Ring*, Boston, T. Green, 1705.

The second American miniature book. The earliest was the same title, printed at Boston in 1690.

Saybrook *Confession of Faith*, New London, Thomas Short, 1710.

The first book printed in Connecticut. It was started in 1710 and finished in 1711. Although preceded in point of publication by Eliphalet Adams's Election Sermon, New London, 1710, it is probable that the Saybrook Platform was printed before the Adams sermon, but that for some reason its publication was postponed.

Cotton Mather, *A Letter about the Distemper of the Measles*, [Boston, 1713].

An early treatise on a medical subject. The earliest title, other than broadsides, is Thomas Thacher's *Brief Rule to Guide the Common People in the Small Pocks or Measles*, Boston, 1702, and the second is Nicholas Culpeper's *English Physician*, Boston, 1708.

Hugh Peter, *A Dying Fathers Last Legacy*, Boston, B. Green, 1717.

Earliest use of a woodcut illustration in a book, by "J.F.," who is perhaps James Franklin.

The Husbandman's Magazene, by J. Smith, Boston, John Allen, 1718.

The first American book on the horse.

James Hodder, *Hodder's Arithmetick*, Boston, J. Franklin, 1719.

The first separate textbook on arithmetic. Frontispiece portrait of Hodder is one of the earliest American woodcuts.

Nicholas Culpeper, *Pharmacopœia Londinensis*, Boston, John Allen, 1720.

The first pharmacopœia, or dispensatory, published in the colonies.

Catalogue of Harvard Library, Boston, B. Green, 1723.

The first institutional library catalogue printed in the colonies.

Cadwallader Colden, *The Interest of the Country in Laying Duties . . . to make the Province of New-York Richer*, New York, J. P. Zenger, [1726].

Colden's earliest publication, and the first year of Zenger's press.

Cadwallader Colden, *Het Voordeel van het Land*, New York, J. P. Zenger, 1726.

One of the earliest American books in Dutch.

Samuel Willard, *Compleat Body of Divinity*, Boston, Green and Kneeland, 1726.

The first folio book, other than Laws, printed in the colonies. An early rubricated title page.

Compleat Collection of Laws of Maryland, Annapolis, William Parks, 1727.

One of the earliest productions of the Annapolis press of William Parks, established in 1726.

Brief Essay on the Number Seven, Newport, [Ann Franklin], 1735.

The earliest book published by a woman printer in the colonies.

Charter of the City of New-York, New York, John Peter Zenger, 1735.

The handsomest specimen of Zenger's press, and the first of the eighteenth-century editions of the New York Charter.

Benjamin Franklin, *Letter to a Friend in the Country*, Philadelphia, B. Franklin, 1735.

The second book of which Franklin was the author.

Judah Monis, *Grammar of the Hebrew Tongue*, Boston, Jonas Green, 1735.

First book for instruction in Hebrew.

E. Smith, *The Compleat Housewife*, Williamsburg, William Parks, 1742.

The first American cookbook.

John Lovell, *Funeral Oration on Peter Faneuil*, Boston, 1743.

An early example of the use of type ornaments.

Joseph Seccombe, *Business and Diversion . . . A Discourse in the Fishing Season*, Boston, S. Kneeland and T. Green, 1743.

The earliest American title relating to sport. It might be claimed that Blackwell's *Compleat System of Fencing*, Williamsburg, 1743, was an earlier title, but this work was published primarily to teach the art of self-defence, even although the author asserted in his preface that fencing was a healthful and wholesome exercise.

The first Saur Bible, Germantown, Christopher Saur, 1743.

The first Bible printed in this country in a European language.

Cicero's Cato Major, Philadelphia, B. Franklin, 1744.

Presentation copy from Franklin to Thomas Clap, President of Yale. This is considered the finest production of Franklin's Press.

Nathaniel Ames, *Astronomical Diary, or an Almanack for 1757*, Portsmouth, N. H., D. Fowle, [1756].

The first book printed in New Hampshire. Jonathan Parsons, *Good News from a Far Country*, had the imprint of 1756, but was printed after the Almanac.

Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard Improved: being an Almanack for 1758*, Philadelphia, B. Franklin and D. Hall, [1757].

The most famous of Franklin's Almanacs, since in this issue were collected the famous sayings and proverbs of "Poor Richard."

Laws, Statutes, Ordinances and Constitutions of the City of New York, New York, John Holt, 1763.

A beautiful specimen of colonial printing. A preliminary page contains a list of the members of the City government, and is printed in red.

Francis Hopkinson, editor, *The Psalms of David*, New York, James Parker, 1767.

The first book of music printed from type in America.

Stephen Sayre, *The Englishman Deceived*, Salem, Samuel Hall, 1768.

The first production of the Salem press. Salem was the third town in Massachusetts to establish a printing press.

Narrative of the King's Troops under the Command of General Gage, Worcester, Isaiah Thomas, 1775.

The first book printed in Worcester, and the first historical account of a conflict in the Revolution.

Ethan Allen, *Vindication of the Opposition of Vermont to New York*, Dresden, Alden Spooner, 1779.

An early example of Vermont printing, which was established in 1778.

The Holy Bible, Philadelphia, R. Aitken, 1782.

The Aitken Bible was the third Bible printed in America, and the first in the English language.

Noah Webster, *Grammatical Institute, Part I*, Hartford, Hudson & Goodwin, [1783].

The earliest of Noah Webster's schoolbooks.

David Ramsay, *History of the Revolution of South Carolina*, Trenton, Isaac Collins, 1785.

The first book for which application was made for national copyright. Ramsay applied for copyright April 15, 1789, for his *History of the Revolution of South Carolina* of 1785, and his *History of the American Revolution* of 1789. Congress favored his application on April 20, and finally on May 31, 1790, a national copyright law was passed.

Bereanus Theosebes, *Discourse*, Falmouth, T. B. Wait, 1786.

The first pamphlet, if not the first work, printed in Maine.

William Perry, *Royal Standard English Dictionary*, Worcester, Isaiah Thomas, 1788.

The first separate English dictionary printed in America. This book was very popular and went through nearly a dozen editions before 1820.

William Richardson, *A Philosophical Analysis of Shakespeare's Remarkable Characters*, Philadelphia, William Spotswood, 1788.

The first American work on Shakespeare's writings.

Power of Sympathy, Anonymous, but now generally credited to William H. Brown, Boston, Isaiah Thomas, 1789.

The first American novel.

Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, Boston, Apollo Press, [1794].

The earliest American edition of Shakespeare.

Greek New Testament, Worcester, Isaiah Thomas, Jun., 1800.

Edited by Caleb Alexander. The first Greek Testament in America.

Larger Catechism of the Westminster Assembly, New York, J. Watts & Co., 1813.

Claimed on the title page to be "the first book ever stereotyped in America."

Much of next year I shall spend in processing and preparing the inventory of the great collection of Western Americana which Mr. Frost is giving to the Library. We have not been buying in this field, for it is our policy not to compete on the market in fields in which there is active collecting interest. Consequently Mr. Frost's gift will mean the addition of thousands of volumes to the Library. Of the works listed in the Wagner-Camp bibliography he had sixty-five per cent. Our holdings strongly supplement his list, for we had the government documents and the literary items which did not particularly interest him, or which he had not been able to obtain. The most remarkable thing about his collection is the pristine quality of most of his volumes and the number of fine association items among them.

Aside from the rarities, Mr. Frost's collection will be of great practical utility. In spite of our efforts to obtain all local and regional histories, he has many of which we had never heard. He has scores of biographies of common men, which is one field in which we are very strong in all but the

western section. With this start we shall be able to begin the filling of holes, and we can do so in a relatively painless manner because of Mr. Frost's injunction to sell the duplicates and utilize the proceeds. When his collection is finally processed and our old holdings of Western Americana are included in it, it will be one of the great showings in that field.

With this work at hand the prosecution of the Evans bibliography has naturally slowed, but this year has seen the foundation work completed and next will bring us to the searching stage. As usual we are cooperating with all major American bibliographical undertakings now in progress, and in general we are functioning exactly as the founders of the Society intended that we should.

Respectfully submitted,
CLIFFORD K. SHIPTON



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BY ALBERTO GÜIRALDES

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