

Report of the Librarian

THE prospect that we shall in the near future have an enlargement of our book stack banishes for this generation the necessity of a drastic curtailment of our accessions which has long been hanging over us. As I have reported to you in the past, we have been strangling, amputating our collections, and curtailing our service for lack of room. It will be months, at least, before the new stack is done, and years before our small staff can complete the long-overdue shifting and reorganizing, but we can now set our policies with the assurance that we can carry them out.

This opportunity to improve our facilities for service comes at a time when the number of calls upon us, both by mail and by visitors in person, is again reaching the pre-war level. Our constantly widening contacts have reached even Nigeria where we have a correspondent whose form of salutation for us is "Dear Pals." So diverse are our visitors' subjects of research that we have long supposed that we could not be surprised, but that was recently accomplished by one gentleman who was engaged in searching for records of his own illegitimate offspring. As he was inclined to be secretive about such details as their names, we could not help him. Some of our visitors and correspondents are amazed at the time and material which we as a matter of course put at their disposal, and others arbitrarily demand that we compile bibliographies and perform similar services of importance only for them. This problem of bringing service to those who are doing important work and of denying

it to those who are not, is a serious one for all research libraries, and was the subject of a two-day seminar which I gave at the New York Historical Association sessions at Cooperstown this summer.

Through the facilities of the Micro-Copy Service of Worcester we can now make photographic copies of our library material for people in other parts of the country, a very useful service which is greatly increasing the number of calls made upon us. The time may come when, by the perfection of photographic techniques, everything in print or manuscript will be readily available everywhere, and there will be no need for centralized collections of original material like ours. However, it is apparent that before that time comes, we shall be busier than ever for a generation or two preparing those photographic reproductions.

Perhaps we are sometimes too impatient with trivial calls because they interfere with our own more important work, such as Mrs. Spear's bibliography of city directories and my own continuation of Evans. In the latter task we have completed the general survey of the years 1799 and 1800, and have prepared cards for most of the titles. Now we have the problem of checking with other bibliographies and catalogues, laying ghosts, verifying data, searching out the unique items, and adding locations.

Other general developments which are increasing the number of calls upon us at the present time are the deposit library and the tendency toward library specialization. More and more people come to work in our collections because here the material is more readily accessible than is that in the New England Deposit Library in Boston, and if the present plans for an Eastern central deposit library in the New Haven region go through, more and more business will be diverted to us. In the same way the present trend in library practice to specialize and to abandon weak fields of

collection causes our collections to become the nearest available to an ever-increasing number of people. During the years in which we were hard driven to find space for the growth of our more important collections, we were obliged to give serious consideration to disposing of some material, like the college catalogues, which takes up a great deal of space for its value and usefulness. When Harvard also considered abandoning its education collection and turning over the material to a specializing library in New York, we were naturally reluctant to do the same and leave New England without a comprehensive collection of this sort. Similarly were we loath to dispose of the bulky European theological folios, although they are never consulted for their subject matter, because many of them are interesting examples of early printing. With our new stack we shall be able to expand our printing collection and place the best of these early European imprints in it. It will be another generation before we again face the problem of throwing some of our children to the wolves. The new space will not tempt us into new fields of collection, or lead us to relax our rule against adding trivial material. Our determined reducing diet, and the growing completeness of our collections, this year cut our accessions to the lowest point, numerically, in a long time. We added only 1764 bound volumes, 1607 pamphlets, and 45 maps, broadsides, and the like. This brings the total library count to 276,912 bound volumes and 417,800 pamphlets.

There are some problems of accession and storage which the new stack will not solve. When the addition of 1924 was made, its newspaper floors were immediately filled with the accumulations then in storage, and the same will be true of the new stack. We have, therefore, cut our accessions of current newspapers to the bone, and we have done it cheerfully because national advertising and syndicated news have

made most papers so alike that there is no longer any point in obtaining geographical diversity.

One of the happy results of Mr. Brigham's Newspaper Bibliography is the fact that booksellers are now aware of the gaps in our collection. Among the more important of the surprising number of early newspapers which we have obtained this year have been the Amherst, New Hampshire, *Village Messenger* for 1796-97, and the Stockbridge *Farmer's Herald* for 1808 and *Political Atlas* for 1807-08. The first of these was rare, the second was unique, and the third was both unique and hitherto unknown. Another unique file which we obtained was the New York *Diary and Universal Advertiser* for the first half of the year 1796. We also acquired the Trenton *True American* for 1801-08, the *Norwich Courier* for 1808-09 and 1813-14, and the *Philadelphia Gazette* for 1796. A run of the *Philadelphia Minerva* from vol. 1, no. 4 (Feb. 28, 1795) to vol. 2, no. 80 (Aug. 13, 1796) fits onto our old file. Isaiah Thomas left us a file, now unique, of the Zanesville *Muskingum Messenger*, and this year we were able to continue it by obtaining a run, largely unique, of the issues from Feb. 10, 1819, to Feb. 6, 1821. From Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed we received an interesting lot of eighty-seven small-town newspapers printed in 1798 and 1799. Recently we obtained a run of the *Sacramento Union*, and this year we were able to extend it by acquiring the issues from January, 1856, to December, 1857, and from July, 1858 to June, 1859. Our Mormon collection, which is only fair, was strengthened by the *Deseret News* for 1853 and by a complete file of the exceedingly rare periodical, the *Times and Seasons*, published at Nauvoo from 1839 to 1846.

We were able also to close a gap in our file of *The Shamrock* by obtaining the issues from June 18 to Dec. 31, 1814. This very interesting paper, published in New York and devoted to the cause of Irish independence, is an invaluable

source, even of vital statistics, for the history of the Irish in America before the great immigration of the Forties. It is generally known that our collections are the best for research in the field of American religious movements before the Civil War, but it is not so generally known that it is one of the best in materials relating to the early history of the Catholic Church in the United States and of the largely-Catholic, non-English, later-immigrant groups. Among our recent purchases in this field was a complete file of the *Irish Miscellany*, a weekly literary magazine published at Boston in 1858 and 1859. In the years to come we shall have many visitors working in this material.

In the larger field of general American literature we have continued to expand our collections by gifts and by fortunate purchases. In a surprising number of instances we have found hitherto unreported titles to add to the standard bibliographies. One of these is *The Story of the Innocent Amelia; or the Treacherous Brother*, Putney, Vermont, 1799, which is the first record of this juvenile American romance as well as an unique imprint. To our almost complete collections of American editions of Robinson Crusoe we have added the Windham edition of 1796. To our collection of Abraham Panther captivity narratives we have added editions printed at Fryeburgh in 1799, Windsor in 1794, and Troy in 1806. The first of these is unique and the others known only by two copies each. Another example of this class of literature is the second reported copy of *An Affecting Narrative of the Captivity and Sufferings of Mrs. Mary Smith*, printed at Providence for L. Scott in 1815. We were very much interested to find that the folded frontispiece woodcut bears a striking resemblance to the Indian massacre broadsides which we exhibited at recent meetings of the Society. But the frontispiece also includes three of the woodcut soldiers, now worn and battered, who march across the head

of our Yankee Doodle broadside which has hitherto been assigned to the period of the Revolutionary War.

While doubts were thus being cast upon our earliest Yankee Doodle, we had the fortune to discover the long sought-for first American edition of Peter Piper. Dr. Rosenbach, shrewdly noticing a cut of a milestone lettered "Bolton 4m" in what has been hitherto the earliest known edition, predicted that the first edition would be found to have been printed at Lancaster, Massachusetts, and so it is. The date is about 1830.

The insistence of scholars working in the field of American juveniles that our collection is much the strongest for the period before 1820 has caused us to take preliminary steps in a cooperative project which may eventually lead to the completion of an exhaustive bibliography of early American children's books. This year we have made extensive additions to our collection by purchase, one piece being the unrecorded, pre-1797, German item, *Herzliche Bitte und die Kinder und Jugend, Reading, Gedruckt bey Gottlob Jungman*. One lot of twenty-eight early children's books came as a gift from the late Edward F. Coffin, one of the notable friends of this Library. Mr. Coffin, who died on January 23, 1949, at the age of 75, during the past thirty years gave the Library many pamphlets and ephemera of Worcester interest, and rare books and manuscripts in other fields of American history and literature. He was an exceptionally well versed scholar, a graduate of Wesleyan in 1895, and a fount of knowledge for local events of the last sixty years. Like the late Benjamin T. Hill, he could call upon his unusual memory and powers of observation to provide answers to the many local historical queries which came to this Library. He was well versed in the field of early American art, and wrote occasional valuable monographs on historical subjects, such as the early maps of Worcester, the beginnings of photog-

raphy in Worcester, and the contributions of Mary Baker Eddy to newspapers and magazines. His constant help will be greatly missed by the Library's staff.

We always like visitors who ask us if we have a copy of the New England Primer, for the question gives us the opportunity to reply that we have four hundred of them, representing two-thirds of the known editions. This year we added one hitherto unreported edition, printed at Boston by Thomas Fleet, Jr., for David West, in 1796. Among the early schoolbooks which we acquired was the only reported complete copy of *The Requisite Definitions and Tables, in Acquiring a Knowledge of Arithmetic*, New York, 1812. Our faith in New England education was somewhat shaken, however, by the purchase of a hitherto unrecorded book by William Scales, *Priestcraft Exposed*, Danvers, 1781. Scales, a Harvard graduate of 1771, has this to say about his Alma Mater: "As soon as I entered college, it seemed to me, that I was in the midst of young devils. Nor could I perceive the least spark of sobriety among the Collegians; Profaneness and obscenity were their chief conversation. . . . Nor is it to be wondered at; for they to whom the care of them was intrusted, were proud and lifted up, in whose minds the grace of God could not enter." Jonathan Maxcy of Brown, whose *Poem of the Prospect of America*, Providence [1787], we acquired by exchange, thought, on the contrary, that education had a future, and looking into our times he saw "there sage historians form a num'rous band." But perhaps people haven't changed very much. In *The Prodigal Daughter: or the Disobedient Lady Reclaimed*, Boston, 1797, which we bought for its remarkably crude but original woodcuts, we found this verse:

All night she from her Father's house did stray,
Next morning she came home by break of day.
Her Father he did ask her where she'd been?
She straightway answer'd what was that to him?

It is a relief to turn from this too-familiar lass to Isaiah Thomas' Little Tommy Thoughtful, the alleged author of *The Holiday Spy*. Thomas does not list his first Worcester edition of this juvenile in his inventory, and the only known copy, which we recently purchased, has the date torn from the imprint. Dr. Nichols believed that it was printed in 1802.

We acquired another Worcester imprint, *The Sky lark: or Gentlemens & Ladies' Complete Songster*, Isaiah Thomas, Jr., 1797, which has been known hitherto only by the publisher's advertisement. The first record we had ever found of printing in the town of Shirley, Massachusetts, was a copy of *The Golden Plaything*, printed there by L. Parker in 1802.

Evans under the number 12359 lists *Common Sense; in Some Free Remarks on the Efficiency of the Moral Change*, New York: Printed by Samuel Inslee and Anthony Car, 1772. The imprints of these publishers are among the rarest in New York bibliography, most of them being known only by newspaper advertisements. Evans apparently saw a copy of this tract, for he lists it as a quarto of fifty-two pages, but the only copy which we have been able to locate is one which we recently purchased having forty-three pages followed by what appears to be the usual terminal ornament. Perhaps this notice will cause the copy seen by Evans to be called to our attention.

Another unknown New York imprint which we acquired was a 1774 James Rivington edition of James Hervey, *Contemplations on the Night*. Our collection of early Philadelphia printing is by no means as good as it ought to be, so we were happy to obtain a copy of the sermon, *The Christian Soldier's Duty*, preached by William Smith of the College of Philadelphia on April 5, 1757, to the Royal American Regiment. The charges of despotism and cruelty which he levelled against the foreign foe have a modern ring. By exchange we acquired the *Proceedings of a General Court Martial, Held at*

White Plains . . . for the Trial of Major General St. Clair, August 25, 1778, Philadelphia, 1778, and a copy of the official proclamation of the ratification of the United States Constitution by Rhode Island. We became the first institution to acquire a copy of the separate printing of the *Maritime Observations in a Letter from Doctor Franklin to Mr. Alphonse Roy made in Philadelphia in 1786*. One of the most interesting of the medical theses of the University of Pennsylvania is *A Physical and Topographical Sketch of the Mississippi Territory, Lower Louisiana, and a Part of West Florida*, Philadelphia, 1803, by Garrett Elliott Pendergrast of Natchez. The author's interest was in the West rather than in medicine, to which he gives only a passing nod, so his thesis is a happy sequel to the tracts on the opening of the Old Southwest which we obtained last year. Another excessively rare item is William Bligh, *A Narrative of the Mutiny, on Board his Britannic Majesty's Ship Bounty*, Philadelphia, 1790. Farther afield we bought one of the two known copies of the Aikman of Annapolis issue of the first American edition (1774) of Captain Cook's *New Voyage*. We now have all three issues of the first American edition of this classic of exploration. One of the great advantages which the new stack space will give us will be the opportunity to gather into one place our excellent collection of books relating to early Pacific voyages, so many of which are bulky folios. Scattered as the collection now is, work in it is difficult.

The most important gift of early Hawaiian imprints that we have ever received came from Mr. James M. Hunnewell, a member of the Society. This consisted of twenty-six books and pamphlets printed at Honolulu, Oahu, and Lahainaluna between 1830 and 1847. They are of much historical and bibliographical interest, and include hymnals, translations of parts of the Bible, schoolbooks and laws.

This notable addition to the Society's collection of Hawaiian imprints brings it to the number of one hundred and twenty-five items. If newspapers were included it would number over two hundred. This seems a small showing considering that about 1,100 imprints are known to have been published. It is, however, presumably larger than any other collection on the Continent, since few American libraries, except ours, have made special effort to collect the printing of the Islands. The Society has a particular interest in the subject, for it is sponsoring the publication of a comprehensive bibliography of Hawaiian imprints, now being prepared for printing by Miss Bernice Judd, Librarian of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society in Honolulu. Miss Judd has covered the listing of all titles owned by libraries in the Islands, and, when the bibliography is set in proof, we shall make the effort to canvass the collections in American libraries. Our library, incidentally, has a very large general collection of Hawaiiana, containing almost every book relating to the discovery, history, and literature of the Islands. Much of this material came from the Hiram Bingham family collection which was purchased five years ago with the aid of funds given by Mr. Hunnewell and Foster Stearns.

Mr. Hunnewell comes naturally by his interest in the Islands. It was his grandfather, James Hunnewell, sea captain and merchant, who made several voyages to the Islands and carried on his ship, the *Thaddeus*, the first band of missionaries who in 1820 brought to Hawaii education, religion, government, and a knowledge of printing. His *Journal of a voyage of 1826* was published in 1880 by his son and our late member, James F. Hunnewell, with a memoir of his father.

In 1766 John Mein published in the Boston papers a notice of an auction of what he described as some thousands

of volumes in most branches of literature, arts, and science. This year we found the only known copy of the sale catalogue which he handed out at his store and sent to gentlemen in the country. It contains no less than fifty-two pages listing 1741 numbered titles. There is one page of comedies and operas, and eighteen pages of "books of entertainment." It is no wonder that the auction ran for days, and it is surprising that a town of the size of Boston could absorb so many books at once. The Philadelphia book fare of about 1791 is illustrated by another hitherto unreported catalogue which we acquired this year, that of the refugee Claudius P. Raguet, who specialized in French books.

Our natural interest in the bookselling and publishing business has led us several times to make exceptions to the rule that we do not accept modern manuscripts. One of these exceptions is the papers of the Boston house of Lee and Shepard, said to have been the largest publishers of juvenile literature in the latter half of the Nineteenth Century. This collection came to us from Mr. Charles H. Taylor, who probably purchased it from P. K. Foley; but it was not until the cataloging of its 12,000 pieces had been completed by Mr. Albert G. Waite that we really knew what it contained. Apparently Mr. Foley removed and sold separately the valuable autograph material, but the great bulk that remains is rich with the letters of authors of secondary rank, such as William Taylor Adams (Oliver Optic), and with the details of the publication of such works as General O. O. Howard's *Nex Percé Joseph*.

In my last annual report I noticed the deposit in the Library of the large collection of books and prints from Mr. Taylor's estate. With the death of Mrs. Taylor on June 5, 1949, the title to this material passed to the Society.

In our *Proceedings* for April, 1946, we printed a list of portraits painted by Ethan Allen Greenwood, and bewailed

the destruction of the diaries from which the list was compiled some years ago. This year we had the incredible fortune to recover twenty volumes of this diary. These cover the periods from Mar. 5 to April 19, 1801; Sept. 27, 1802, to Aug. 10, 1803; Jan. 7, 1805, to Oct. 19, 1806; and Feb. 25, 1807, to Feb. 11, 1810. Here is a new source for the history of American painting.

Colonial diaries constitute a regular exception to our rule against collecting manuscripts, and this collection received a notable addition as a gift from Mr. Ernest J. Wessen. The manuscript is the diary of a soldier in the regiment raised by Rhode Island for Continental service in September, 1776, and runs from the time of his enlistment to January, 1778. The author was probably Sergeant John Smith of Bristol, a member of Captain Loring Peck's company. He gives a remarkable account of the foraging of the soldiers and of their clashes with the New York civilians who called them "Damd Rebels." Another interesting Revolutionary manuscript is a long letter from Colonel Josiah Parker to Lieutenant Governor John Page of Virginia relating to Burgoyne's Surrender and the Battle of Germantown. This was the gift of Mrs. Earle Brown of Worcester.

We have also acquired an interesting dance manuscript, consisting of fifty-five cotillions and contra dances, compiled by Nancy Shepley, of Pepperell, Massachusetts. Presumably they were copied by her from the numerous printed pamphlets giving directions for the performance of dances, although few of these are included in the pamphlets consulted. Nor can Nancy Shepley be identified from any available printed Pepperell records. The paper and handwriting seem to be in the decade of 1780-1790. The fifty-five dances bear such titles as York Fusiliers, New London Assembly, College Hornpipe, Miss Parker's Fancy, the New Theatre, Boston Assembly, Ashley's Ride, and the Widow

Dixon. Judging from the names of dances found in the literature of the subject, the number of them ran into the hundreds.

The acquisition of this manuscript reminded us that the Society possesses many early pamphlets, generally of twenty pages or less, giving instructions how country dances and cotillions should be danced. A tentative bibliography to the year 1820 is appended, comprising the titles of pamphlets, collective sheet music, and the larger works which included dance instructions. No attempt has been made to canvass other libraries, and the list contains only such titles as were readily available or could be found in such bibliographies as Evans and Sonneck-Upton. The sheet music is mostly undated, but is included only if it presumably dates before 1820, and sheet music of single dances is omitted.

AMERICAN DANCE BIBLIOGRAPHY TO 1820

- Mr. Cantelo. *Twenty Four American Country Dances as danced by the British during their winter quarters at Philadelphia, New York & Charles Town.* London, [1785]. pp. 31. [Sonneck & Upton, p. 97.]
- John Griffiths. *A Collection of the Newest and Most Fashionable Country Dances and Cotillions.* Providence, 1788. pp. 11. RIHS.
- John Griffiths. *A Collection of the Newest Cotillions and Country Dances.* Northampton, [1794]. pp. 12. MHS, Forbes, NYHS.
- John Griffiths. *A Collection of the Newest Cotillions and Country Dances.* Greenfield, 1794. [Evans.]
- Mons St. Vellum. *A Collection of Country Dances.* Walpole, 1795. [Evans.]
- The American Ladies Pocket Book for 1797. Philadelphia, [1796]. pp. 155. ("Country Dances, for the year 1797," pp. 145-6.) AAS.
- A Collection of Contra Dances, containing a Hundred and forty Fashionable Figures.* Hanover, 1796. [Evans.]
- J. C. Fraasier. *The Scholar's Companion, containing a Choice Collection of Cotillions & Country Dances.* Boston, 1796. pp. 16. LC.

- Evening Amusement. Containing Fifty Airs, Song's, Duett's, Dances, Hornpipe's, Reel's, Marches, Minuett's, &c., &c. Philadelphia and New York, Baltimore, [1796]. pp. 32. LC.
- John Griffiths. A Collection of the Newest Cotillions, and Country Dances. Hartford, 1797. [Evans.]
- A Collection of Country Dances and Cotillions. Baltimore, 1797. [Sonneck-Upton, p. 66.]
- A Large Collection of Cotillions and Country Dances. Rutland, 1797. [Evans.]
- The Sky Lark: or Gentlemen and Ladies' Complete Songster. Second edition. [Contains "A Collection of the newest cotillions and country dances, pp. 301-10."] Worcester, 1797. pp. 310. AAS, BPL.
- The American Ladies Pocket Book for 1799. Philadelphia, [1798]. pp. 143 ("Country Dances," p. 4). AAS.
- W. D. An Elegant Collection of New Figures. Composed for the Use of Dancing Schools. Amherst, 1798. [Evans.]
- The Echo: or, Federal Songster. [Contains "A Collection of the most celebrated Cotillions and country dances, pp. 231-6."] Brookfield, [1798]. pp. 248. AAS.
- [John Griffiths]. The Gentleman & Lady's Companion. Containing the Newest Cotillions and Country Dances. Norwich, 1798. pp. 24. LC, Watkinson Lib.
- Same, 2ed, Stonington-port, 1798. pp. 23. AAS, JCB.
- A Collection of Contra Dances and Fashionable Figures. Walpole, 1799. pp. 12. AAS.
- John H. Ives. Twenty-Four Figures of the Most fashionable Country Dances: together with eight Cotillions. New Haven, 1799. pp. 14. Huntington Lib.
- Same, Hartford, 1799. Trumbull, *Memorial History of Hartford County*, vol. 1, p. 586.
- John Burbank. A New Collection of Country Dances. Brookfield, 1799. pp. 12. AAS.
- A New Collection of Country Dances, for the Use of Dancing Assemblies. Leominster, 1799. pp. 12. AAS.
- [John Griffiths]. The Gentleman & Lady's Companion; containing the Newest Cotillions and Country Dances. Newport, 1799. pp. 23. Newport H.S.

- Twenty-Four Fashionable Country Dances for the year 1799. Boston, [1799]. pp. [14]. AAS, NYPL.
- A Collection of the Newest Cotillions and Country Dances. Worcester, 1800. pp. 36. AAS, NYPL.
- Pierre L. Duport. United States Country Dances. [New York, 1800.] pp. 20. LC.
- P. Rice. A Choice Collection of Contra Dances. Harvard, Printed by L. Parker, [c. 1800]. pp. 14. AAS.
- Alexander Dupouy. Cotillions and Country Dances. Philadelphia. [c. 1800]. pp. 18. LC.
- Pierre L. Duport. No. 1 of a New Sett of Cotillions. New York, [c. 1800]. pp. 20. LC.
- Pierre L. Duport. Favorite Cotillions. For the Piano, etc. New York, [c. 1800]. pp. [10]. NYPL.
- A New and Complete Preceptor for the Violin, with a collection of Cotillions, Marches, etc. Philadelphia, [after 1800]. pp. 30. Yale.
- William Francis. Mr. Francis's Ballroom Assistant. Being a Collection of the most Admired Cotillions and Country Dances. Philadelphia, [1801]. pp. 17. LC.
- Innocent Recreation, Printed for the Purchasers, New England, 1803. *Mem. Hist. Hartford County*, vol. 1, p. 586.
- A Selection of Cotillions & Country-Dances, Arranged for the Violin and Piano Forte, Accompanied with Appropriate Figures, and Rules for Dancing Cotillions. Boston, 1808. pp. 16. MHS.
- Francis D. Nichols. A Guide to Politeness . . . with a Variety of Approved Sets of Cotillions and Contra-Dances. Boston, 1810. pp. 59. AAS., Brown.
- George Schaffer. A Collection of Cotillions and Contra Dances. Boston, 1817. pp. 12. AAS.
- The American Ladies Pocket Book, 1819. Philadelphia, 1819. pp. 189. [Pp. 162-5 contain 40 "New Country Dances and Waltzes, for 1818."] Brown.
- The American Ladies Pocket Book, 1820. Philadelphia, 1820. pp. 180. [Pp. 173-4 contain 28 "New Country Dances and Waltzes for 1820."] AAS.
- A Choice Collection of Fashionable Cotillions. Arranged for the Piano Forte. Book containing Three Sets. New York. pp. 20. J. F. Driscoll

- A Collection of New Country Dances, Waltzes & Cotillions. For the Piano Forte. Composed by H. F. Mueller. New York. pp.15.
J. F. Driscoll.
- Cotillions & Waltzes, Selected for the Cotillion Balls. Adapted for the Piano Forte. Philadelphia. pp. 9. AAS.
- Collection of Cotillions, Selected from the best Composers, by F. D. Mallet. Arranged for the Piano Forte. By F. C. Shaffer. Boston. pp. 18. J. F. Driscoll.
- Ms. Collection of Dances belonging to Clement Weeks, 1783. AAS.
- Ms. [Collection of 55 Cotillions and contra dances.] Autographed by Nancy Shepley. Pepperell, c. 1790. AAS.
- Ms. [Collection of 13 country dances, late 18th century.] RIHS.

It is hoped that this bibliography will cause additional titles to be called to our attention, or to that of Professor S. Foster Damon, of Brown University, who is working on the subject of early American dances. The present revival of square dancing will certainly lead to research in this aspect of early American culture.

Adding to its collection of early American engraving, the Society has acquired from various sources seventy-six watch papers, with one exception dating from about 1800 to 1850. The one exception is by far the rarest and most important. For years we have owned the largest collection of Paul Revere's engraving, over fifty pieces in all, but we have always lacked the watch label which he made for Aaron Willard. In his Day Book, under July 3, 1781, he made this entry: "To 100 Prints for your Br Aron for Watches, 0-6-0." Evidently these were charged to Simon Willard. Now this gap in our collection has been filled by the generous gift of Mr. Mark Bortman, of Boston, who has recently taken such a prominent part in the restoration to Boston of the Paul Revere Liberty Bowl, and who presented the watch label to this Society in recognition of its outstanding collection of Revere's engraving. The print is typically in Revere's style,

with a mantling which includes Father Time, a rooster, the herald angel, a tree and a watch. The inscription is "A Willard Watch & Clock Maker Boston."

Hitherto our most famous watch engraving was by Nathaniel Hurd, consisting of medallion portraits, about two inches in diameter, of George III, Pitt, and Wolfe, and is signed "Nathaniel Hurd, Sculp, 1762." The *Boston Evening Post* of December 27, 1762, has this advertisement: "Engraved and Sold by Nath. Hurd, a striking likeness of his Majesty King George the Third, Mr. Pitt and General Wolfe, fit for a Picture, or for Gentlemen and Ladies to put in their watches."

The seventy-six watch papers recently acquired, when combined with a dozen labels which we previously owned, include fifty-nine of New England watch makers, eleven of New York, seven of New Jersey, seven of Pennsylvania, and one of North Carolina, Georgia and Maryland. Many of them are excellent bits of engraving, with the designs showing clocks, watches, eagles, beehives, female figures, a jewelry store window, public buildings, and Father Time. At least seven are signed with the engraver's name—Trott, Rollinson, Simmons, W. G. Mason, Stiles, Whitney, and Hamlin. Many of the labels have entered on the back the names of owners and the date of repair or cleaning, from 1794 to 1847. Here is another fresh field for collecting and research.

Two rare early engravings have been acquired, so rare, indeed, that they are the only copies located. For many years Paul Revere's engraving of the North Battery was known only through the existence of the original copper plate in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society. From this plate restrikes were made over seventy years ago and were reproduced in the Historical Society's *Proceedings* for October, 1877, and since then in several other

volumes such as Stark's *Antique Views of Boston*, Goss's *Life of Paul Revere*, and S. A. Green's *Ten Fac-simile Reproductions Relating to Various Subjects*, 1903, in which latter book is to be found the best account of both the North and the South Batteries. But no original contemporaneous copy was known except that owned by Mrs. William H. Eddy of Providence. Now, through Mrs. Eddy's kindness, her copy has been obtained for the American Antiquarian Society. This view was engraved as a certificate of membership as an "Inlisted Montross at his Majesty's North Battery in Boston." It shows Christ Church, part of the North End of Boston and part of Charlestown beyond the river. Justin Winsor in his *Memorial History of Boston* (vol. 2, p. 130) suggested that it was engraved about 1760. This certificate was made out for Ralph Morgan in the tenth year of his Majesty's reign, hence 1770, and it is signed by John Ruddock—Captain. Ruddock, who was the direct ancestor of Mrs. Eddy, was prominent in Boston official life, was a selectman, and commander of the North Battery for thirteen years. He died on September 2, 1772, aged 59.

The second engraving acquired is a companion piece to the North Battery print, in that it is the certificate of the South Battery Artillery Company. It is a view of the South Battery in Boston, engraved on a certificate for an "Inlisted Matross," or artillery private, in the Battery, and is signed "T. Johnston Sculpt." The only previously known copy, that owned by the Essex Institute, was unsigned and carried the alternative spelling of "Montross." In the copy of the plate signed by Johnston, the spelling is corrected and the cloud of gun smoke is omitted. The certificate is made out to William Bass and is signed by Jeremiah Green, Captain, and dated May 30, 1769. The Essex Institute copy was reproduced in facsimile in the Massachusetts Historical Society *Proceedings* for 1877, p. 364, Stark's *Antique Views*

of Boston, p. 191, and Green's *Ten Fac-simile Reproductions*, 1903. William H. Whitmore, who wrote the notes when the Sewall Diary was printed in the Massachusetts Historical Society *Collections*, 5th series, vol. 5, p. 195, mentions this South Battery view and says that it was engraved about 1740, although more likely the date was soon after 1744.

Thomas Johnston, who was born in 1708 and died in 1767, was one of the earliest of Boston engravers, preceding Hurd and Revere. In his early work he spelled his name Johnson, as in the frontispiece of William Melmoth's *Great Importance of a Religious Life*, Boston, 1729, in his plan of Boston engraved about 1729, and in his 1732 trade-card (reproduced in the Metropolitan Museum *Bulletin*, March, 1933, p. 44). His later engravings, such as the South Battery, the bookplates of William P. Smith, Joseph Tyler, and Samuel Willis, and his several maps and views as listed in Stauffer, he signed with the name of T. Johnston. Mr. Brigham has been in pursuit of these two Boston engravings for thirty years, and finally bagged both within the space of a few weeks.

If I were now to list, in contrast to these treasures, the number of current books on American history which we did not buy for the library this year, you would be astonished. We have a system of priority for book purchases which runs as follows. First come the rare, old, and out-of-print books which offer themselves infrequently or perhaps only once in the span of a librarian's life. We must grasp these when we can. The second group comprises the essential tools of the trade, the bibliographies, the periodicals, the local histories, the genealogies, and the vital records. We need these for our daily work and we know that they soon become out-of-print; so we buy quickly. Finally there are the regular trade books, the monographs and biographies. These we know will remain long in print and will be still longer avail-

able on the second-hand market, so we buy them only when we have immediate need for them. But perhaps this unhappy situation which denies us the new books is a special dispensation in disguise which permits the large majority of our members, who have no great rarities to contribute to this our joint collection, to gain merit for themselves. All of us review books which we do not need in our personal libraries, and we all occasionally weed from our shelves the books which we shall not read again. These are precisely the modern books which I, as Librarian here, cannot in clear conscience buy from our book funds so long as there are fugitive rarities which we must pass up. Here, gentlemen, is a way in which you can gain merit, room, and income tax deductions.

Respectfully submitted,

CLIFFORD K. SHIPTON,
Librarian

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