

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

THE number of accessions during the year past has measured up to the average of recent years, although this has been due to numerous gifts, rather than to purchase. Expressed in figures, the total is as follows:

Bound volumes	2638
Pamphlets	5009
Maps, prints and mss.	757
Unbound Newspapers	2186

A continuous source of additions to the Library has been the steady gifts of literary material from certain members, who send us periodically the accumulations of books and pamphlets which they acquire. From Chief Justice Rugg, Charles H. Taylor, Jr., Charles G. Washburn and Henry W. Cunningham, we have received a great deal of ephemeral material, which when sorted and arranged adds much of value to our files. From the President, Mr. Lincoln, the library has obtained a number of much needed works of local history and genealogy. Through purchase and gift, nearly four hundred genealogies have been added to our collection. The most valuable genealogy acquired is the three volume set of "The Stokes Record," by Anson Phelps Stokes, and presented by a member of the Society, Mr. I. N. Phelps Stokes. Other valuable works obtained are V. L. Oliver's "History of the Island of Antigua," presented by Mrs. Waldo Lincoln, and the much needed set of Murray's "New English Dictionary," purchased from the Haven Fund.

From the estate of Dr. Samuel Abbott Green was received late in 1919, as the Society's share according to his will, a large consignment of historical books and

pamphlets, and a number of rare early New England imprints. Among the latter was a discourse by Samuel Phillips, entitled "A Word in Season," delivered at Byfield, September 8, 1726, and printed at Boston in 1727, and including in the foot-notes an account of the author's ancestry and various references to ecclesiastical affairs in New England. Other titles worthy of note are one of the earliest known American reprints of a work by John Bunyan, with the brimstone title of "Sighs from Hell: or, the Groans of a Damned Soul," Boston, 1708; and "Diverting Histories," Boston, 1733. The latter seems to be a hitherto unknown volume and has an interesting wood-cut frontispiece, an example of early Boston engraving. Altogether the Society received from Dr. Green 225 books and 209 pamphlets.

A rare book obtained during the year is entitled "The Young Secretary's Guide: or, a Speedy Help to Learning" by Thomas Hill, Gentleman, Boston, 1718. This was the fifth edition, reprinted by John Allen, for Nicholas Buttolph. It was intended as a guide for writing letters, for proper capitalization and punctuation, and for the preparation of deeds, wills and other legal documents, and containing tables of interest and a short dictionary of difficult words. It was a popular book in England, having frequently been printed in London toward the close of the seventeenth century. The earliest English edition in the British Museum is that of 1696, but this and the subsequent editions are ascribed to John Hill. Neither the John Hill of the English editions nor the Thomas Hill of the American editions are included in the Dictionary of National Biography. The Boston editions were especially prepared for the people of New England and included a list of the counties and towns of Massachusetts and many references to New England affairs.

This makes the fourth of these early editions obtained by the Society in the past half a dozen years.

The 1713 edition contains a preface written by the printer in which he states: "As for my own part, thus much I can say in its Praise, That a more useful Book on this Subject never came to my Hands; so that it is needless to trouble you with a long and tedious Epistle in its Favour, it having sufficiently Recommended itself to the World already, by the Sale of three large Impressions, all of which were Sold in a short Time, and were found too few to furnish this large and daily increasing Country; which has of late occasioned very sad Complaints for want of so useful and necessary a Companion. This, and a desire to serve the Publick, has encouraged the Booksellers to present the World with a fourth impression of it." This preface was signed by T. F., evidently the initials of Thomas Fleet. The other editions obtained by the Society are the fourth, printed by T. Fleet for Samuel Gerrish, 1713; the sixth, reprinted for Nicholas Boone, 1727, in which the preface, although the same wording as previously, is signed by J. A., undoubtedly John Allen; and the seventh edition, printed by T. Fleet, 1730. The rarity of these early editions is indicated by the fact that in Evans' "American Bibliography" no copies are located, and no mention is made of the name of Thomas Hill on the title-page of the issues previous to 1730. I have located the following copies: 1703, 3rd edition, preface signed by T. G. (Timothy Green), in the Mass. Historical Society and Boston Public Library; 1713, 4th edition, in the American Antiquarian Society and Library of Congress; 1717, 4th edition in the Mass. Historical Society; 1718, 5th edition, in the American Antiquarian Society and the Mass. Historical Society; 1727, 6th edition in the American Antiquarian Society and Harvard; and 1730, 7th edition in the American Antiquarian Society, Harvard and Boston Public Library. In the Boston Public Library, the book is catalogued under "John Hill (Thomas Hill, misprint for John Hill.)"

To the almanac collection, over two hundred new issues have been added. Of these by far the most rare is a file of "The Kentucky Almanac," printed by John Bradford, at Lexington, Kentucky, from 1794 to 1808. Most of these issues are the first so far discovered. In fact, the Durrett collection of Kentucky material, now at the University of Chicago, has none of the eighteenth century almanacs, nor does the Library of Congress Checklist of American Almanacs previous to 1800 list anything under Kentucky. As almanacs go, they are more entertaining than the average, because of the numerous contributions of doggerel poetry. Two other almanacs of value are Jacob Taylor's almanac for 1744, printed at Philadelphia, obtained from Mr. Samuel L. Munson; and "Weatherwise's Almanack" for 1787, printed at Portland by Thomas B. Wait. As the first almanac printed in Maine, this latter issue has long been desired for our collection. The printer states in his newspaper, the "Cumberland Gazette," that this is "The very first almanack ever calculated for the meridian of Portland," but unlike most other almanac publishers, he does not indulge in a long preface. His only comment is as follows: "A Preface, reader, you shall not have. If the merit of this almanack will not support it, let it fall. If shall not be Preface-propt. We hate a Preface as we do a Snake—and the Writers of them, as we do the Father of Lies." The only other copies known of this issue are in the Library of Congress and in Longfellow House, at Portland, in a file of almanacs containing the diaries of Stephen Longfellow, the father of the poet.

While on the subject of almanacs, the attention of members should be called to the "List of New York Almanacs, 1694-1850," published by Alexander J. Wall, assistant librarian of the New York Historical Society in the Bulletin of the New York Public Library. The making of this bibliography was suggested to Mr. Wall by us as a companion check-list

to the list of the almanacs of several of the New England States published in our Proceedings, and the trustees of the New York Public Library are to be commended for their generosity in printing it in their Bulletin. Our own interest in its publication is shown by the fact that we have nearly half of the two thousand almanacs listed—incidentally a larger collection than that of any other library. Mr. Wall's work can well serve as a model for the checklists of other States, so that we can finally have an adequate bibliography of all American almanacs previous to 1850.

A bibliography in which the Society is also interested is the "Census of Fifteenth Century Books owned in America," 1919, compiled by a committee of the Bibliographical Society of America, but edited primarily by Mr. George Parker Winship. This census covers 169 public and 246 private collections, and lists 13,200 copies of 6,640 titles. When it is considered that only slightly over 25,000 titles of books are known to have been printed in the fifteenth century, it can readily be seen that a fair share of the incunabula found in Europe within recent years has found its way across the seas to America. This Society has but twenty-five examples of fifteenth century books, but because of the importance to us of the history of printing, and because of the strength of our library in typography, due chiefly to the foundation gifts of Isaiah Thomas and to the C. H. Taylor collection, it is a subject in which we are greatly interested.

Fewer newspaper files have been acquired than has usually been the case in recent years, chiefly due to the fact that fewer opportunities of acquisition have been offered. The number of accessions total 321 bound volumes and 1100 miscellaneous issues. To Mr. Albert C. Bates, of Hartford, we are indebted for a large collection of New England papers published

about the middle of the last century. Among the longer files acquired may be noted the following:

BELLOWS FALLS GAZETTE, 1840-1851.

BENNINGTON, VERMONT GAZETTE, 1818-1820, 1827-1828.

BOSTON, AMERICAN UNION, 1850-1857.

LENOX, BERSHIRE HERALD, 1832.

HARTFORD, AMERICAN MERCURY, 1824-1833.

N. E. WEEKLY REVIEW, 1841-1843.

PATRIOT AND DEMOCRAT, 1837-1841.

NEW YORK, CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, 1827-1854.

SPECTATOR, 1818, 1826.

SUNDAY MERCURY, 1860.

TRIBUNE, 1896-1912.

WEEKLY SUN, 1847-1848.

PHILADELPHIA, NEAL'S SATURDAY GAZETTE, 1844-1848.

SATURDAY MUSEUM, 1844.

The most valuable file acquired, and one of the most important acquisitions made by the Society in recent years, is a set of the London Gazette, from the date of the first issue, Nov. 14, 1665, through the year 1796. This paper, the oldest in the English speaking world, was started at Oxford with the title of the Oxford Gazette. On February 5, 1666 it was removed to London where it was called the London Gazette and where it has been continued uninterruptedly to the present day. Up to the time of the Revolution, and especially previous to 1704, the year of the first Boston newspaper, it is an important and in many cases the sole source of information for material relating to the American colonies. During the Revolution, it is of course also of value in presenting the English side of the conflict. There has been quite frequent call for this newspaper for the Colonial period, and we are fortunate in having been able to secure so remarkable a file extending over 130 years.

A few small collections of manuscripts have been presented, among them the papers of Rev. Joseph Goffe, pastor of the First Congregational Church at Millbury from 1794 to 1830, the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Goffe Peirce of Millbury. These include ancestral papers of the Goffe family and the Clough family of

Boston of about 1750, but the most interesting documents are a series of letters from Joseph and Eliza Goffe written from Georgia and Alabama, and describing to some extent the appearance of Savannah, Charleston and other Southern towns; and a Journal of a trip to Illinois and the Western country made in 1830 to find a suitable place for a colony of Easterners to settle. Starting from Buffalo, the diarist visited Cleveland, Detroit, Clinton, Niles, Chicago, Jacksonville and Springfield, and returned through Danville, Lafayette, Logansport, Fort Wayne, Sandusky, Elyria, Erie and Buffalo, and thence by boat to Albany. The description of towns and of social conditions in the early West might possibly make this Journal worth printing.

Other manuscripts received include some correspondence of Abijah Bigelow of Worcester, presented by Mr. D. Berkeley Updike of Boston, and "The Appraisal of the Armes & Accoutrement of Col. Learned's Reg't at the end of the Campaign, 1775," given by Mr. Artemas Ward of New York. The Society has also obtained an interesting manuscript of the country around New York City during the campaign of 1776. It was drawn by Alexander Scammell, for his friend Gen. John Sullivan, and is inscribed "To the Hon^{ble} John Sullivan, Esq.^r, Major Gen^l in the army of the United States of America, humbly presented by his Obed^t Serv^t Alexd^r Scammell." It is a general plan of the topography north of East River and the Sound, as far east as Byram River, and locates the towns, roads and some of the redoubts, forts and positions. On the back General Sullivan has written to Col. Hugh Hughes:

Sir:

Please Send me some Hay & Oats to Williams, as I am Intirely Destitute, also a Waggon for the use of myself & Division.

October 19th, 1776
Mr. Huse, Asst. Q. M. G.

Yr Humble Servt,
Jno Sullivan

The collection of portraits has received two excellent additions from Mr. Clarence W. Bowen, the portraits of Theophilus Chandler and his wife, painted by Winthrop Chandler. Mr. Bowen found these portraits in the old Chandler House on Chandler Hill in Thompson, Conn., and had them carefully restored before presenting them to the Society. Theophilus Chandler was a surveyor, residing in Petersham, Mass., and Thompson, Conn., was born 1732 and died 1816, and was the brother of Rev. Thomas Bradbury Chandler. His wife, Elizabeth Frink Chandler, was the daughter of Rev. Thomas Frink, and died in 1771. Winthrop Chandler, the artist, was the brother of Theophilus and was born in 1747. He is said to have studied the art of portrait painting in Boston, and painted several portraits about the time of the Revolution. His own portrait by himself is now owned by one of his descendants.

The most valued addition to the bookplate collection is an almost complete set of signed proofs of E. D. French's plates, gathered by the late John Page Woodbury, and presented to this Society by his son, Mr. John Woodbury. These proofs will be kept as one collection, and will add greatly to the strength of our collection of the designs of America's foremost bookplate engraver. A few Mexican plates have been obtained from one of our foreign members, Nicolás León, of Mexico City. In 1919 a book of interest to us was published, with the title of "A List of Canadian Bookplates," compiled by Winward Prescott, with the assistance of Stanley Harrod and Morely J. Ayearst. This volume lists about 1700 plates, of which we have about one third, together with 180 plates not included in the list. Our excellent showing is largely due to the generosity of one of the authors of the work, Mr. Stanley Harrod, of Toronto, who has presented to the Society, through Mr. Lombard, his own personal collection of Canadian plates. In this way, we obtained 568 additions to our Canadian

collection. The great Marshall collection of American bookplates is still undergoing a process of arranging and comparison with our own collection, and it will be several weeks yet before this time-consuming task is finished.

The greatest drawback to the successful growth of the library, and to the accessibility of its possessions, is the lack of shelf-room. The stack, planned to take care of the increase of fifteen years, was nearly filled with unlooked-for acquisitions in less than six years. Only by continual reshifting of the material on the shelves and by the temporary storage of bulky newspapers in the basement can we find room for our fast increasing accessions. We cannot stop collecting. We must continue to take advantage of our opportunities, and pray for the relief which will eventually come.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

Librarian.

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