

# *The Report of the Librarian*

1970-1971

THE ACQUISITIONS to the library's collections continue on a high level of quality and interest. This past year we added a total of 3,391 items, of which 860 were gifts. The highlight of the entire lot is an almanac obtained through the cooperation of the Henry E. Huntington Library. It has been announced in the public press that Milton Drake, the compiler of *Almanacs of the United States* (and composer of 'Mairzy Doats' of World War II fame), had sold his collections to the Huntington Library. Surely, one of the highlights of the collection is *An Almanac, for the Year of our Lord 1783*, compiled by John Tobler, which was 'Printed for and sold by David Zubly, junior, at his House' in St. Augustine, Florida, early in 1783. In the race to be the first Florida book or pamphlet, it clearly antedates the runners-up, *The Case of the Inhabitants of East-Florida* and Samuel Gale's *Essay II. On the Nature and Principles of Publick Credit*, both of which were printed in St. Augustine in 1784.

Late in 1782 St. Augustine received a number of Loyalist refugees from the southern regions of English America. Among them was John Tobler from Savannah, Georgia, the compiler of the almanac. He came originally in 1737 from the Ausser Rhoden district of the Swiss canton of Appenzell where he had been governor. Tobler was a leader of his community as well as a calculator of almanacs. Probably, the printer was Charles Wright, a pressman in the shop of William Charles Wells, a physician who was a member of the Charleston, South Carolina, printing family. Wells went to St. Augustine in Decem-

ber of 1782 with press and type, There, he first issued his Tory newspaper, the *East-Florida Gazette* on February 1, 1783. David Zubly the publisher was also a Swiss emigré from Savannah who had been a publisher and bookseller in that Georgia town before fleeing to St. Augustine.

The almanac is an uncommonly interesting one, not merely because of the circumstances of its printing, but because it contains useful information. Following the calendar and astronomical calculations is a listing of the civil officers of East-Florida as well as a roster of the loyal military forces of East-Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and the Indian Department, Southern District. The address of the Editor, John Tobler, is worthy of reprinting:

READER,

The Editor is sorry that through several very uncommon and unexpected Events, Toblers Almanack for this present Year has been so long detained from making its Appearance.

At the usual Time of preparing the Copy for the Press: by the Evacuation of Savannah, the Editor was obliged with other loyal Sufferers to leave his Home and fly to this Place for an Asylum.

The report of his Majesty's Troops being about to evacuate Charlestown prevented the Copy from being sent thither.

The late Period at which a Press was at length opened here, will apologize for the omission of some things usually inserted; none of which however are deemed essential. . . .

COURTEOUS READER,

The Editor heartily wishes that we may this Year see an End, a happy End of War on both sides of the Atlantick, and that this and every succeeding Year may afford thee more real Happiness than those which are already passed.

In excellent condition, the almanac consists of twelve leaves gathered as [A]<sup>4</sup>, B<sup>8</sup>. This copy appears to be unique. Mr. Drake referred to a copy located by the National Union Catalogue at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. An inquiry revealed that a copy (perhaps this one) had been in the collections, but is no longer. John Tobler's *Almanack, for . . . 1783* is surely a



significant relic of the settlement of English Florida, a helpful historical source, and a pathetic reminder of the distressing times of our Revolutionary War.

Of lesser interest than the Tobler almanac, but still a highly desirable one is Nathaniel Ames' *Astronomical Diary; or, An Almanack for the Year of our Lord Christ, 1757* printed at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, by David Fowle [Evans 7832; Drake 4612]. Like the Florida almanac, it represents the first book or pamphlet published in the state. As many collectors know, the Ames almanac comes in two issues. The second issue carries on page [15] the following statement: '*The first Printing Press set up in Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, was on August 1756; the Gazette publish'd the 7th of October; and this Almanack November following.*' AAS had a fine copy of the first issue. The late Thomas W. Streeter, a native of the Granite State, owned copies of both issues. The Dartmouth College Library which owned a copy of the second issue bought the Streeter copies at his auction. Therefore, it occurred to Edward Connerly Lathem, the librarian of the College, and to your reporter that sharing the cost of the lot would produce a first issue for Dartmouth and a second issue for AAS. The arrangements were made and a division of the spoils was thus accomplished.

Among several unrecorded almanacs acquired were: *Weatherwise's New Astronomical Diary: or, An, Almanack for the Christian Aera 1800* published at Portland, Maine, by Elezer A. Jenks; also, a comic rarity, *Fisher's Crockett Almanac* for 1843, published by Eli Hollidge in Buffalo.

#### LITERATURE AND MUSIC

The additions to the Fenimore Cooper collection overshadow all else in this area of the Society's interests. More than fifty titles in editions dated before 1870 were accessioned in the past year, with a half dozen first editions among them.

Without exception these latter were of foreign origin; for example, *The Last of the Mohicans* (London: Colburn and Bentley, 1831) entered as BAL 3849. Also acquired were some titles translated from Cooper's English into French, German, Danish, Italian, Swedish, and Spanish. We purchased first editions of the anti-rent war novels, *Satanstoe* and *The Chainbearer*, both in beautiful condition and in original, yellow wrappers in order to improve sets in modern re-bindings. Gifts were an important factor in making large additions to the Cooper hoard. For example, James F. Beard gave to AAS a copy of the *Naval History of the United States*, in the abridged version, which was published in Richmond, Virginia, by Harrold & Murray about the year 1846, the date of the copyright.

To pass on to a direct successor of Cooper, two very scarce books by Emerson Bennett came our way. They were his well-known *Leni-Leoti* and *The Prairie Flower* both published by Stratton & Barnard in Cincinnati and St. Louis in 1849. Lyle Wright records them in his first volume under numbers 300 and 304. Bennett was an early, popular novelist of the American West and these two books bear the sub-titles of 'Adventures in the Far West.'

Other scarce and interesting literary works were added to the collections including *Morton: A Tale of the Revolution* (Cincinnati: Hatch, Nichols & Buxton, 1828) recorded in Wright, volume I, number 1924; *The Original*, a literary periodical edited by Frances Harriet Whipple [Green], the first (and only?) number of which was published in Providence in May 1829; *The Bridal Eve* by William Russell Smith (Mobile: Pollard & Dade, 1833), a rare book by a person of many talents which contains prose and poetry and a very early book of Alabama *belles lettres*; a murder 'mystery' by George Wilkes rounds out this lot—Wright, I-2714, lists an 1849 edition of *The Lives of Helen Jewett, and Richard P. Robinson*. We acquired an earlier first edition, published in New York in 1847.

In the area of children's literature we call attention to the

acquisition of *The Little Scholar Learning to Talk, A Picture Book for Rollo* (Boston: John Allen and Co., 1835), the first of the multitudinous Rollo books which were written by Jacob Abbott. Jacob Blanck did not locate a copy in his bibliography, *Peter Parley to Penrod*, although that omission was immediately corrected by the announcement of a copy at the Library of Congress. Since 1938, another, but imperfect, copy has been located at the University of Virginia. Our little book was purchased on the Emma Forbes Waite Fund.

The Society entered the field of Victorian boys' books late in the day. Yet, the beginnings of this phenomenon, which fully came to flower in the late nineteenth century, go back to Oliver Optic's *Boat Club* of 1855 if not all the way to Rollo or to Peter Parley. The shelves of our children's book collection were well loaded with T. S. Arthur, the Abbotts, S. G. Goodrich, and Oliver Optic, but few of the more scarce books were present, and a few are at this writing. Horatio Alger's rare, first editions seem to be beyond our powers of the purse. Even so, we have been accumulating a number of volumes; an effort which took on life and some point several years ago with the purchase of seventy-five bound volumes, each containing about six dime novels published in the 1860's.

Recently, we acquired a set of six octavo volumes of 'The Gun Boat Series' written by Harry Castlemon [Charles Austin Fosdick] and published in Cincinnati by R. W. Carroll. The books are still in their original cardboard box. Blanck does not mention such a packaging device in his bibliography of Castlemon. Also, we have made an effort to secure the earlier American publications of Jules Verne and have been remarkably successful in purchasing at very little cost a dozen in the past twelve-month. The following list of our present Verne holdings may prove of interest and may encourage gifts of his books, dated prior to 1877, which are not on it:

*Adventures in the Land of the Behemoth.* Boston: Shepard, 1874.

*The American Gun Club.* New York: Scribner, Armstrong & Co., 1874.

- Around the World in Eighty Days.* Boston: Osgood, 1873.  
*Doctor Ox, and Other Stories.* Boston: Osgood, 1874.  
*Dr. Ox's Experiments, and Other Stories.* Boston: Osgood, 1875.  
*Five Weeks in a Balloon.* New York: Appleton, 1869.  
*A Floating City.* New York: Scribner, Armstrong & Co., 1875.  
*From the Clouds to the Mountains.* Boston: Gill, 1874.  
*From the Earth to the Moon.* New York: Scribner, Armstrong, 1874.  
*The Fur Country.* Boston: Osgood, 1874.  
*A Journey to the Centre of the Earth.* Boston: Shepard, [1874].  
 ———. New York: Scribner, Armstrong, 1874.  
*Meridiana.* New York: Scribner, Armstrong, 1874.  
*The Mysterious Island. I. Dropped from the Clouds.* New York: Scribner, Armstrong, 1875.  
*The Mysterious Island. II. Abandoned.* New York: Scribner, Armstrong, 1875.  
*The Mysterious Island. III. The Secret of the Island.* New York: Scribner, Armstrong, 1876.  
*The Mysterious Island.* Philadelphia: Evening Telegraph, 1876.  
*Stories of Adventure.* New York: Scribner, Armstrong, 1874.  
*The Tour of the World in Eighty Days.* Boston: Osgood, 1873.  
*Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas.* Boston: Smith, 1873.  
 ———. Boston: Osgood, 1875.  
*The Voyages and Adventures of Captain Hatteras.* Boston: Osgood, 1875.  
*The Wreck of the Chancellor.* Boston: Osgood, 1875.

Another juvenile obtained last year is from the press of Isaiah Thomas. Entitled *The Lilliputian Masquerade. Occasioned by the Conclusion of Peace between those Potent Nations, the Lilliputians and the Tommy-thumbians*, this book (only ten centimeters high) was published in 1787. AAS has had an imperfect copy with the imprint, 'Printed at Worcester, Massachusetts. By Isaiah Thomas, and Sold Wholesale and Retail at his Book-Store. MDCCLXXVII. Sold also by E. Battelle in Boston.' The new acquisition is in much better condition and carries a varying imprint, Battelle's name being absent. A copy of this variant is also located by Welch at UCLA.

Shifting our attention to a different muse brings us to two musically inclined broadsides of the 1770s. *Four Excellent Songs*

was printed in Norwich, Connecticut, by Judah Padock Spooner. The first song relates to the Boston Tea Party but the remaining three are merely sentimental. The unrecorded broadside was purchased on the John Thomas Lee Fund. Another broadside not seen by Evans or his successors is *Four New Songs* which was published by Thomas and John Fleet at the Heart and Crown in Cornhill, Boston. These four songs are 'The Blush,' 'The Morning Air,' 'Fair Sylvia,' and 'Chloe's Power.' Unfortunately the poet's power does not match that of Chloe. Funds for its purchase were derived from the Henry F. DePuy bequest.

*A Dedication Service: Containing Two Odes, Three Hymns, and a Doxology* is a work which appeared in a Salem folio of 1804. Tapley fails to list it in her volume on Salem printing. It was composed by Samuel Holyoke (1762-1820), singing master of Salem whose best known tune is 'Arnheim,' composed in 1778. The printed music is present in this work which was composed for the dedication of the New South Meeting House.

*Sacred Melodies for Second Advent, Conference and Camp Meetings* was published by that ardent follower and apologist of William Miller, Joshua V. Hines of Boston. This uncommon hymnbook is dated 1843, the year of Christ's Second Coming.

One-hundred-sixteen sheets of American music were acquired recently which were dated within the scope of Richard Wolfe's three-volume bibliography of American printed sheet music. We also acquired eight volumes of bound-up sheet music dating from 1840-1860. Perhaps the most interesting piece of the lot was an unrecorded quarto book of printed music, issued by Herman Mann of Dedham, Massachusetts. Consisting of [16] and 12 pages, two works are included: 'No. 1. The Grand Finale. An Anthem' and 'No. 2. Champlain.' The latter is included in Samuel Holyoke's *Harmonia Americana* (Boston, 1791.)

## WOMEN AND OTHER TROUBLEMAKERS

In view of the current rage for materials on libertarianism, in all its manifestations, it is well that the Society found itself relatively well stocked in such literature before the prices went up. Still, it is hardly surprising to learn that AAS lacks useful material in this subject area. Also, it is unfortunate that our traditional methods of cataloguing ignore many of the topics now most frequently asked for—the sex or race of the author, for example.

American women are at last liberated. That admirable group of humanity has recently received its own 'DAB' and there are other signs, such as cigarette advertisements, which are unmistakable telltales that women have come a long, long way since the good old days, when— But, surely this is pure male chauvinism and your reporter must subside.

In 1970-1971 we acquired a few items worthy of note in the realm of WOMEN. The earliest of these is entitled, *Female Policy Detected: or, the Arts of a Designing Woman Laid Open*. This popular (our earliest edition is dated Boston, 1786) excellent work was written by a practiced hand, one Edward Ward (1667-1731), the author of *The London Spy* as well as *A Trip to Jamaica*. I do not know whether the latter was a direct result of the former, or not, but the book before us (which was printed in New York, 'For the Booksellers' in 1800) is well worth a few minutes of one's time. It begins:

Of all vices, unlawful freedom with the female sex is the most predominant, and of all sins has the most powerful temptations; and many allurements to betray and draw men into this folly. The inducements of the fair sex are so prevalent, a propensity in nature so forcible, it is hard to stand unmoved, when tempted forward by the charms of a subtle woman, and drove by the foul desires of an unbounded lust.

I am already off the subject and must venture into safer paths!

Robert Dale Owen in Number One of a short series of 'Popular Tracts' pointed out the danger to human happiness to be found in an excess of religiosity. *A Tale of Old England* relates how the lives of Darby and Susan, a simple, happy, hard-working couple, are ruined by the preaching of a stranger in 'a long black Spanish-looking cloak.' The stranger forcefully warned them of the sinfulness of too close attention to the work of the world, as represented in their snug little cottage and verdant vegetable garden. Darby and Susan were converted, they gave up gardening and cleaning and became soured, God-ridden wretches. There was another side to Owen's own preaching which is represented in *Moral Physiology; or, a Brief and Plain Treatise on the Population Question*, 2nd edn. (New-York: Wright & Owen, 1831). Owen rigorously urges women's right to adopt birth-control measures, a number of which he describes. This early and quite uncommon book was published by Fanny Wright and the author.

A generation later Victoria Claflin Woodhull and her sister, Tennessee Claflin, took up a variety of cudgels in support of spiritualism and complete individual freedom in all aspects of life, in the pursuit of the same they caused a sensation by precipitating the Beecher-Tilton scandal. We have long held one of the few complete files of their famous periodical, *Woodhull & Claflins Weekly*. In April we acquired a scarce pamphlet of Victoria's, *The Scare-Crows of Sexual Slavery* (New York, 1874), which contains the text of her oration delivered before 15,000 people at Silver Lake, Massachusetts, on an August Sunday afternoon in 1873.

Robert Green Ingersoll—the great agnostic—early in life departed from the trinitarian Congregational theology of his clerical father. After a brief and disastrous career in the Union army he began lecturing on the irrationality of conventional religious belief when compared to scientific phenomena. One of his earliest published orations was one delivered in Peoria, Illinois, on September 14, 1869. The occasion was the unveil-

ing of a statue of Alexander von Humboldt (AAS), the great German scientist. A copy of the address which was printed in the same year by the Transcript Printing and Blank Book Company of Peoria is now at the Society, purchased on the Ellis Fund. Another of his early lectures was 'The Gods,' delivered in Fairbury, Illinois, three years later. In 1874 it, with his equally well-known 'Oration on Thomas Paine,' was collected under the title *The Gods and Other Lectures* and published in his home city of Peoria. By 1874 his fame was spreading and his *An Arraignment of the Church, and a Plea for Individuality* was published by J. P. Mendum, a radical publisher and another admirer of Paine, of Boston in that same year. Thus, while AAS is not terribly fashionable, we try to stay relevant, in our own sometimes obscure ways.

#### AMERICANA, GENERALLY

A fact, especially noticeable this past year, lies in the appearance among our acquisitions of a good many highly priced eighteenth-century broadsides. It would seem that the more substantial publications of that era either are less plentiful or we are missing them when we go through dealers' stocks.

One of the most interesting lots of this material, bought on the John Thomas Lee Fund, was a group of twelve broadsides dated from 1755 to 1775. They are *An Account of the Births and Burials in the United Churches of Christ-Church and St. Peter's*, in Philadelphia [Evans 7539, 8004, 8236, 8980, 9483, 11036, 11414, 11819, 12522, 12524, 12950, 14388]. There are few extant copies of these important and useful historical documents.

An early, unusual, and substantial book was acquired in the spring. The book contains two works which were published by James Parker in Woodbridge, New Jersey. The earlier,

1758, is a reprint of *The Traveller* by Thomas Gage (d. 1656) which relates his difficulties as a 'Missionary Friar in New-Spain, twelve years,' during which he travelled 3,300 miles in South-America. The other, 1760, is even more interesting. It is Judge Samuel Nevill's (1697?-1764) *History of North America* which Sylvanus Americanus (the Judge) wrote for the *New American Magazine* of which he was editor. This native work is intended to be an explanation of the war for the continent between England and France. Nevill progressed through the seventeenth century, intending to treat with the eighteenth century in the next volume, but failed to complete the work. Copies of the book are located at the Library Company and at the John Carter Brown Library. Ours was purchased on the John Thomas Lee Fund.

We acquired a fine lot of revolutionary broadsides. The earliest, dated March 19, 1770, prints the toasts on the repeal of the Stamp Act offered at Hampton-Hall in New York City by the Sons of Liberty. It is unrecorded and was bought on the Henry F. DePuy Fund. Three others are concerned with news from the American invaders of Canada in 1775-1776. They are from Albany, October 30, 1775, with news of the surrender of Fort Chambly; from Norwich, Connecticut, November 28, 1775, on matters at Montreal; and the last dated Newport, Rhode Island, June 11, 1776, containing news of Col. Timothy Beadle's [Bedel] ill-fated attack at the Cedars, near Montreal. Only the Albany broadside is entered in Evans. All were purchased on the John Thomas Lee Fund. A final note on this group relates to a small broadside printed in Philadelphia containing a reprint of an item from the *London Courant*, dated April 29, 1782. It pertains to the negotiations of the Ethan and Ira Allen party of Vermont with Frederick Haldimand, Governor-General of Canada, on the proposition that Vermont join Canada in exchange for its continued, independent existence. Unrecorded, it was also purchased from funds from the John Thomas Lee bequest.

Of interest to the historiography of our Revolution, as well as for AAS participation in the Loyalist project, is an imprint of Cleveland, Ohio, dated 1841. The book is by Donald M'Leod and its subject is fully explained by its title: *A Brief Review of the Settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists and Scotch Highlanders, in 1783*. The book was bought on the DePuy Fund. Our next, declared war was that of 1812. AAS readers are well aware of the general dissatisfaction in New England because of it and then, as now, laws were ignored as a means of expressing personal displeasure with events. William King of Bath, Maine, later Governor of the State, was responsible for a number of dealings which were prohibited by the Embargo Acts. Not all of his townsmen agreed with such dissent and one of them compiled a record of King's wrongdoings. It was published in 1824 for political purposes under the title, *The Disclosure—No. 1. Documents relating to Violations and Evasions of the Laws—During the Commercial Restrictions and Late War*. Unfortunately, we do not yet have a copy of the Governor's rejoinder. Twenty years later in East Tennessee, Parson Brownlow was already leading his people in political as well as religious matters. He published in 1844 a tract aimed at helping Henry Clay reach the White House. The 350-page book is entitled *Political Register, setting forth the Principles of the Whig and Locofoco Parties in the United States*. The book was printed at the office of the *Jonesboro Whig*.

The pursuits of AAS interests in educational publications brought us three broadside catalogues of Williams College students which we purchased on the Harriette Merrifield Forbes Fund. They are dated in the Fall of 1802, 1803, and 1804. The earlier two were printed by Heman Willard of Stockbridge. Another collegiate acquisition is a copy of the 1815 *Catalogue of Books, Manuscripts, Maps and Charts* in the Union College Library. The 46-page pamphlet was printed in Schemectady by Riggs and Stevens.

Among publications pertaining to transportation were *Remarks on the Importance of the Contemplated Grand Canal between Lake Erie and the Hudson River* (New York, 1812) in which Edward Paine and his confreres vigorously and enthusiastically urged the speedy approval of legislation authorizing the construction of the Erie Canal.

Purchased on the George Watson Cole Fund was *J. M. Elford's Marine Telegraph or, Universal Signal Book*, a seagoing book which was published in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1823, Archibald E. Miller printer. This copy contains a *Supplement* which was issued in 1824. Elford proposed that his system be adopted as a uniform code of Marine communication.

If we may stretch the definition of 'transportation' a bit we can include this scarce book: *The Rower's Manual and Boat Club Register* (New York, 1858) compiled by J. D. R. Putnam. Putnam gives a brief history of the sport of rowing and of the equipment involved. He then goes on to list the locations of regattas, rules, boat clubs, and concludes with a 'Lexicon of Terms.' *The Rower's Manual* was purchased on the Henry F. DePuy Fund.

Among the periodical acquisitions was a copy of *The Gazette of the State of Georgia*, the twelfth issue for April 17, 1783. The very scarce newspaper was printed in Savannah by Georgia's first printer, James Johnston.

The Harrison-Van Buren campaign of 1840 was an exciting one which provoked a number of short-lived campaign newspapers. *The Log Cabin* of New York City was one of the more famous examples. The Young Men's Whig Association of Brattleboro, Vermont, proposed in July of 1840 to publish *The Flail*, a weekly political newspaper dedicated to Vermont Whiggery. Purchased on the Forbes Fund, the lot included the prospectus and a broadside *Extra* dated November 4th urging Vermonters to get out and vote for Samuel C. Crafts and the other Whig candidates.

The Lee Fund provided the means to buy the first five volumes of *Seren Orllewinol*, a periodical in Welsh published in Utica, New York, and Pottsville, Pennsylvania, in the years 1844-1869. Although our file is not complete, only four others are located by the Union List of Serials, none of them complete.

Finally, let us thank the many givers of books and other valuable and useful material. Our collections each year are immeasurably enriched by such generosity and we are truly grateful for the interest and help of each donor.

M. A. McC.

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