

Report of the Librarian

IT IS the enjoyable duty of the Librarian of an institution such as ours to report annually upon the books, pamphlets, maps, and newspapers added to the collections.*

Of great importance was the receipt, through the kindness and generosity of Mrs. Reginald C. Foster, of Needham, Massachusetts, of the gift of the library of George Frisbie Hoar, President of the American Antiquarian Society from 1884-1887. Mr. Shipton and later your reporter had the pleasure of inspecting the Library for desiderata with truly exciting results. We selected nearly one thousand books and pamphlets, getting some splendid rarities and many useful pieces of a more common sort. Two seventeenth century imprints were present. The unique 1661 *Almanack* compiled by Samuel Cheever and printed by Samuel Green in Cambridge is without question the pièce de résistance. The Brinley copy of Leonard Hoar's sermon, *The Story of Death*, Boston, 1680, is also a most welcome addition. Ranging from Roger Sherman's *Caveat Against Injustice*, New York, 1752, to *A Sketch of the History and Resources of Dakota Territory*, Yankton, 1870, the collection encompasses a wealth of material dealing with American history which adds very significantly to our holdings.

Mrs. Samuel Bennett through President Richmond presented to the Society an important group of Isaiah Thomas manuscripts. Chief among them were the autobiographical fragments which Judge Benjamin Franklin Thomas used when writing the memoirs of his grandfather for publication

*2,473 books and pamphlets were added to the collections this year, raising the total to 754,000.

in the second edition of *The History of Printing*. These fragments are now being prepared for publication as a keepsake commemorating the sesqui-centennial of the Society a year hence. Also included among the manuscripts was the indenture signed by the Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Boston on June 4, 1756, apprenticing Isaiah to the printer, Zechariah Fowle. In addition, there are letters from Jefferson, Madison, and Franklin, in the collection.

Harvard University sent an extensive lot of nineteenth century newspapers to us which added greatly to our strength in this area. Similarly we received several files from the Library of Congress. Eighteenth century newspapers are presently so expensive that it is difficult for us to add much of this period although some individual issues were obtained.

d'Alté Welch added several nuggets to the collection of children's books and also gave a sum of money for the purchase of desirable exemplars as they come upon the market.

Mrs. Paul B. Halstead of New Canaan, Connecticut, presented a holograph letter from William Miller, her great-grand uncle and founder of the Millerites, to his sister Stella (Miller) Adams. It was written in April, 1844, not long after his prophecy of the world cataclysm was shown to be in error and is a revealing documentation of his personal reaction to the episode.

Members Edward C. Kirkland, Carl C. Cutler and John W. Higgins gave the Society copies of their recently published volumes, a practice which we commend to the faithful. Likewise, Darrell Hyder gave us a copy of the typescript of his thesis, *Fine Printing in Philadelphia, 1780-1820*, also a practice which we hope other students and their advisors will adopt to a larger extent.

Our sister to the eastward, the Massachusetts Historical Society, gave us a long wanted Cotton Mather title, *Zahmonah*, which was gratefully received.

To these friends and many others uncounted here, the Society is most appreciative of their generous interest.

Among the purchases of note, one stands head and shoulders above them all. It is:

A New/Journal/of a/Voyage round the World,/Performed in His Majesty's Ship Endeavour, in the Years/1768, 1769, 1770, and 1771, by Captain James Cook;/Undertaken in Pursuit of Natural Knowledge, at/the Desire of the Royal Society: Containing all the/various Occurrences of the Voyage. With De-/scriptions of several new discovered Countries in the/Southern Hemisphere; and Accounts of their Soil/and Productions; and of many Singularities in the Struc-/ture, Apparel, Customs, Manners, Policy, Manufactures,/ &c. of the Inhabitants./To which is added, A concise Vocabulary of the/Language of the Otahitee./[Rule]/Variety we still pursue;/In Pleasure seek for something new. Swift./[Double Rule]/London Printed;/Philadelphia Re-printed,/By James Humphreys, junr. for John/Douglas M'Dougall, Book-binder, at his/Shop in Second-street, near the Court-house./M,DCC,LXXIV. iv, 139, [7] p. frontis. A², B⁸, B-I⁸, [x]¹. 11.9 x 9.2 cm.

Contents: Frontis, "A New Zealand Warriour in his proper Dress & Compleatly Armed." (upper portion cut away); [i], t.p.; [ii], blank; [iii]-iv, "To the Rt. Hon. the Lords of the Admiralty, and to Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander." (Signed Thomas Becket, Strand, Sept. 8, 1771.); [1]-139, "A Journal of a Voyage round the World.;" [1-7], "A Concise Vocabulary of the Language of Otahitee."

This book was advertised in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, December 7, 1774, as, "Philadelphia, November 22, 1774. Just published (sewed in blue boards, price 2s. 6d. embellished with an elegant Frontispiece. . . .) and to be sold by John Douglas M'Dougall, . . ." Thus it is the second American publication relating to Cook's voyage, following the New

York edition of Hawkesworth by a month. Evans 13218 gives the correct title from the advertisement, but apparently believed it to be the two volume New York edition of Hawkesworth which was advertised on December 21, 1774, in the same newspaper. Hildeburn 3064 gives the correct title from the advertisement. It is the first American edition of item one, in Maurice Holmes's *An Introduction to the Bibliography of Captain James Cook, R. N.* London: Francis Edwards, 1936.

The English edition is scarce. There are two issues, one with the address to the Lords of the Admiralty and one without it. The address is misleading in that it implies that Banks and Solander approved of the journal. The Admiralty office denied this in an advertisement in a London paper (See *Gentleman's Magazine*, November, 1771, p. 509), and the address was thereupon cancelled by the publishers, Becket and De Hondt. The publication of this journal precedes by nearly two years that of Hawkesworth and is the first published account of Cook's first voyage.

The authorship of this account is in question. G. Arnold Wood in *The Discovery of Australia* (London, 1922), p. 385, attributes it to James Magra (later Matra), an American midshipman. Maggs' cataloguer suggests that it is the journal of one of the civilians who died at Batavia, while Cox suggests that it was edited by either Brancas Lauragais or Hawkesworth, based on the supposition of the compiler of an unidentified Quaritch catalogue. This source credits the Sydney Parkinson journal as the model for the first portion of our book, which was edited by the publisher, Thomas Becket.

The Frontispiece was copied from left portion of frontis to Volume II of John Hawkesworth's *A New Voyage Round the World, in the Years 1768, 1769, 1770 and 1771*. New York, Rivington, 1774.

No auction record has been discovered of the Philadelphia edition, and the American Antiquarian Society's copy apparently is unique.

Other important additions were a unique copy of Bickerstaffe's *Albany Almanac* for 1776, a copy of the second edition of John Jenkin's *Art of Writing*, 1813, Markoe's Reconciliation, 1790, and an unrecorded Peter Maverick map, *Plan of the North-East Part of the Town of Mexico*, (N.Y.), 1796, which he engraved for the proprietor, George Scriba, as part of a land-promotional scheme.

We purchased from a private party a 1782 Yale catalogue which Evans did not list and within a week we received as a gift of The Phillips Exeter Academy the 1782 Yale *Quaestiones*, making a happy juxtaposition of two broadsides separated for 180 years.

There are many other things that come quickly to mind—an unrecorded *New-Hampshire Almanack* for 1811, a rare Doylestown, Pennsylvania, imprint, a very interesting Boston printed pamphlet of 1817 stating the mess regulations at the First Light Infantry Regiment.

Visitors were somewhat more numerous this year past and their points of origin stretched from Dartmouth College to the University of Arizona, and from Toronto to Abilene, Texas. Subjects pursued at various rates of speed ranged from New London County, Connecticut, imprints, 1709–1820, to the Colorado-Midland Railroad and from the Mathers to Circuses.

Dr. Richard G. Wood, Director of the Vermont Historical Society, brought to our attention an excerpt from the autobiography of the Rev. Leonard Worcester, long-time minister of the Congregational Church at Peacham, Vermont. Worcester, who earlier had been an apprentice of Isaiah

Thomas, had this to say about the founder of the American Antiquarian Society.

“In my 18th year [1784] I went to Worcester and became a member of the family of Mr. Isaiah Thomas. Was there exposed to temptation. Mr. Thomas being an ungodly man, no member of the family pious—apprentices profane. Mrs. Thomas afterwards united with Dr. Bancroft’s church, who first formed a church whose members gave little evidence of piety. But I was enabled to resist temptation, and kept by the good providence of God from bad and vicious habits.”

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