

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

During the year ending October 1, 1917, there have been added to the Library 5,691 books, 5,389 pamphlets, and 206 maps, broadsides, and miscellaneous items. The newspapers acquired comprise 166 volumes, included in the above total of books, and 5,766 unbound issues.

All of these titles relate in some way to America. Fortunately the Library has a limited field of collecting and any book which does not come under the heading of Americana, broadly interpreted, is rejected. Since the income for book purchase is small, it is spent chiefly in the development of certain specialties, leaving the great number of titles currently issued upon American history to be presented by members or obtained through exchange. Inasmuch as the membership contains most of the leading historians of the country, and many of them respond to this call, the Library lacks few of the important historical works recently published. Autographed presentation copies have long been a feature of the Society's collection and it is doubtful if there is another library in the country which is equally favored in this respect.

During the past year all of the books relating to New England local history which have appeared have been obtained, and nearly one hundred of the large Western county histories have been purchased. Fifty-three genealogies have been added, although very few of these have been bought from our small Genealogical Fund. As has been pointed out in previous reports, the smallness of this fund has much retarded the growth of the genealogical collection.

A total of 557 titles bearing date before 1820 has been added to the collection of American imprints. Although many of these are unimportant pamphlets having little but bibliographical interest, the larger proportion are of the scarcer type of Americana—narratives, poetry, plays, fiction, reports of early organizations, and examples of frontier presses. Our collection of early publications has become so large that it is seldom that we lack more than one in ten of any large lot quoted to us. Of course the very scarce titles—those which bring high prices in the auction rooms—we seldom bid upon, but fortunately the Society, because of its commanding start, has more than its share of this class of desiderata.

Among the rarer imprints acquired during the year is a copy of the "Zionitischer Weyrauchs-Hügel," printed at Germantown by Christopher Saur in 1739. This volume, which contains the largest and most important collection of the hymns of the Ephrata Cloister, was the first book printed in German type in America, and the first *book* from the press of Christopher Saur. Webb's "Office and Authority of a Justice of Peace," printed by William Parks at Williamsburg in 1736 is a scarce volume, and, according to Evans, the first work of its kind produced in the United States. An early American edition of Pope's "Essay on Man," printed at Philadelphia by William Dunlap in 1760, is interesting because of an elaborate, though crude, wood-cut frontispiece, drawn after a design by Pope himself and evidently copied from an English edition. Although unsigned, the engraving was more than likely the work of Henry Dawkins, who was employed at Philadelphia during this year. Among other rare titles acquired are "A View of the Controversy between Great Britain and her Colonies," New York, 1774; Lambart's "New System of Military Discipline," Philadelphia, 1776; and "Some Observations on Indian Natives of this Continent," Philadelphia, 1784.

An acquisition which deserves special mention is entitled "Essai sur la Ville de Washington. Par un Citoyen des Etats Unis." A New-York: De l'Imprimerie de J. Delafond, Broad-street, No. 97, 1795. This pamphlet of 19 pages contains an elaborate description of the infant city of Washington, written throughout in French, and apparently is the earliest separately issued sketch of the city. It must be exceedingly scarce, as it is not recorded in Sabin's "Dictionary" or Bryan's "Bibliography of the District of Columbia" and is not possessed by the Library of Congress. Written at the time of the construction of the Capitol building and five years before the transfer of government to Washington, it is historically most interesting and well worthy of being reprinted.

Mr. Charles H. Taylor, Jr., of Boston, has enriched the collection of American journalism by several hundred books, pamphlets, specimens of rare newspapers, initial issues of periodicals, and clippings relating to the history of the American press. His advice and assistance, constantly given, enabling us to acquire uncommon newspaper issues and otherwise to upbuild this interesting collection upon the development of American printing is hereby gratefully acknowledged. We have found that the use of his name has been a most efficient means of converting a reluctant correspondent into a willing donor.

The increase in the newspaper collection has held up to the standard of the last few years, the additions being chiefly in the period between 1800 and 1850. Among the more important files acquired are the following:

AMHERST, CABINET, 1819-1859.

DOVER, MORNING STAR, 1858-1867.

PORTSMOUTH JOURNAL, 1835-1903.

BOSTON INVESTIGATOR, 1847-1860.

NORTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, 1787-1790.

NEWPORT MERCURY, 1773-1774, 1801-1850.

ALBANY REGISTER, 1800-1803, 1813.
NEWBURGH, POLITICAL INDEX, 1806-1807.
NEWBURGH GAZETTE, 1823-1824.
SALEM, N. Y., NORTHERN POST, 1814-1816.
PHILADELPHIA, EPISCOPAL RECORDER, 1825-1838.
PHILADELPHIA MORNING POST, 1867-1871.
PHILADELPHIA; DAILY CHRONICLE, 1840-1845.
BALTIMORE, FEDERAL REPUBLICAN, 1808-1819.
CINCINNATI, PHILANTHROPIST, 1836.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI GAZETTE, 1809-1818.

Some of the above files are of especial importance. The "Portsmouth Journal," from 1835 to 1903, nearly completes our file from its beginning in 1821 to the date of its discontinuance. The pre-Revolutionary numbers of the "Newport Mercury" are exceedingly scarce, while the long run of this paper from 1801 to 1850 makes our file practically complete for the period covered. The "Federal Republican" of Baltimore and Georgetown, 1808-1819, is one of the most interesting of recent accessions. This paper was a leading organ of the federalist party and because of its decided stand in opposition to the Madison administration, was the object of attack from the lawless element among the anti-federalists. In June, 1812, its office was demolished by a mob and the paper was removed to Georgetown, D. C., where it was published for nearly four years. Its editor was Alexander C. Hanson, a member of Congress from 1812 to 1819, and it was from his grand-daughter that the file was purchased. Only one file in the country of the "Federal Republican" is as complete as this for the period of Hanson's editorship.

The most important accession to the newspaper collection, and one of the most interesting files of early Western newspapers that has been found in late years, is the "Missouri Gazette" from 1809 to 1818, which paper was founded at St. Louis by Joseph Charless in 1808, and was the first newspaper west of the Mississippi River. It was entitled the "Louisiana Gazette" from 1809 to 1812, during which period the

Missouri district was legally termed Louisiana. This file was discovered in western Massachusetts, where it had been preserved by a descendant of the original subscriber, William Russell, an early resident of St. Louis. There is only one other file of this paper known for the period covered, that owned by the St. Louis Republic office, all the rest of the libraries and collections in the country possessing scarcely a dozen issues. The file is especially important as a source for history, as it covers the War of 1812 and as much as any other newspaper of the period graphically illustrates early life in the great central West.

Since newspaper files of this type are quite expensive to purchase, and our income is very limited, we have been able to obtain these rarities only through the generosity of a few members to whom we have appealed. The acquisition of these volumes is due to the gift of Henry W. Cunningham, John W. Farwell, Homer Gage, Charles L. Nichols, and Samuel B. Woodward.

Over 2500 school-books, chiefly from the stock of the late George E. Littlefield, have been added to the Library. The Society's collection now numbers slightly over 10,000 volumes, being especially strong in the early publications.

To the collection of early American Bibles have been added six new titles, these being all that we lacked out of a lot of over fifty submitted on approval. It is seldom that we are quoted an edition that we need. O'Callaghan, in his "Catalogue of American Bibles" lists 310 different Bibles and Testaments printed in the United States before 1820, whereas this Library possesses 276 titles.

The almanac collection has received a notably important addition. In June last one of the largest private collections of almanacs in the country, that owned by Herbert L. Hapgood of Athol, Mass., was acquired for the Society. It comprised about 4500 issues, out of which number 967 have been added to

our collection, leaving a large number of duplicates for future disposal. A recent count of the Society's collection, as it now stands, shows 7,246 almanacs and 1,949 registers printed in the United States, 95 almanacs printed in Canada, 72 in the West Indies, and 387 in Mexico, a total of 9,709 issues. These are all American productions, the foreign almanacs not being counted or included. Of the United States, Pennsylvania leads with 1,749 issues, New York has 1,455 issues, Massachusetts 1,384, Connecticut 791, New Hampshire 410, and Rhode Island 354.

The Terry collection of book-plates described in the Council Report of October, 1916, has been arranged and shows a total of 5,220 plates added to the Society's collection. The additions comprise 2,203 personal plates, 908 college plates, and 2,109 plates of societies and libraries, and includes 313 engraved early American plates. In New York last fall there was sold the Henry C. Eno collection of early American book-plates, which was one of the first half dozen collections in the country illustrating this form of American engraving. Dr. Eno had about 500 of the 1,000 plates listed in Allen's work on early American book-plates, including over 100 examples not owned by this Society. With the aid of a contribution furnished by a member of the Society living in Worcester and interested in the study of engraving, we purchased at this sale 86 plates given in Allen's check-list. Together with early plates received from the Terry collection and then secured by Mr. Lombard during the year, the Society now possesses 510 of the plates recorded by Allen.

Not within recent years has a count of the books and pamphlets in the Library been made which has been more than approximate. For the purposes of Mr. Lincoln's ten-year summary in his Council Report, and as a matter of library statistics, a reasonably accurate count has now been made and is here included for its usefulness as a record.

COUNT OF LIBRARY, OCTOBER, 1917

	VOLUMES	PAMPHLETS
General collection	36,205	2,000
Spanish Americana	2,170	810
Civil War and slavery	1,909	1,630
Imprints	3,925	11,500
Local history	7,497	820
Genealogical	2,518	
Reference books	1,011	242
Mather library	729	
Mather tracts	463	
Bibles	672	
Prayer books	260	
Hymn books	675	
Music books	808	
U. S. Government documents	13,500	21,860
State documents	6,553	3,200
Town documents	1,040	15,050
American documents	426	711
Periodicals	13,632	900
Directories	3,812	
Almanacs and registers	800	8,909
Legal books	510	
School books	10,120	130
Miscellaneous volumes	5,048	
Atlases	355	
Literary catalogues	323	3,526
Sale catalogues	140	14,450
Bound volumes of Pamphlets	1,161	
College material	970	22,730
Speeches and addresses		37,740
American and local societies	410	34,000
Railroad reports		3,500
Guides and time tables		1,900
Miscellaneous pamphlets		6,650
Newspapers	10,086	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	128,728	192,058

The above summary has been counted and arranged by classes, as the books are grouped on the shelves. In some of the groups, however, the number of volumes given does not show the full strength of the collection, as many titles may be included in another group. There are many reference books, for instance,

scattered in the general library; probably one hundred more titles could be found in the general collection to be added to the Mather library; there is considerable Spanish-Americana both among the reference books and in the general collection; the "legal books" represent only a few hundred early American books on the study of law grouped together for convenience of arrangement; and the "imprints," by which is meant titles printed in the United States previous to 1820, are scattered throughout the whole Library.

Appended to this Report is a list of Donors, comprising 60 names of members, 184 names of non-members, and 290 names of institutions and societies.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

Librarian.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.