

Report of the Librarian

1965-1966

ENJOYING the largest budgeted sum for the purchase of books in many years, as well as being the recipient of several generous gifts, the Society spent nearly \$25,000 for the purchase of books relating to American printing and history before the year 1877. Even so, we obtained 150 less titles than in 1964-1965. The total this year was 2,746, of which 801 were gifts—just a hundred under last year's figure. However, in the area of our greatest concern, we obtained 373 titles compared with last year's 281 imprints dated prior to 1821. Seventy-eight, or twenty-five *per cent* of these were previously unrecorded or unlocated.

NEWSPAPERS

The most important addition to our collections was a very large selection of newspapers from the Boston Athenaeum, obtained through the good offices of Mr. Whitehill and the hard work of his staff. 618 titles were turned over to us in June. The files consisted of single issues as well as runs of several years and the total in issues must run into the thousands. (We stopped counting newspaper additions several years ago.) Four truck loads were brought to Worcester and by the diligence of our own staff nearly all of the material has been amalgamated with our collection. This added strength is an immeasurable help to us and to scholars generally.

We were given a number of other newspapers by Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Bertram W. Korn,

Mrs. Thomas W. Streeter, and Benjamin Tighe. Among those given by Mr. Tighe was the issue of the *Nashville Tennessee Gazette* of May 30, 1807, which extends the known life of the newspaper almost a year—from July 5, 1806, the date of the last issue discovered by Clarence Brigham.

Howell J. Heaney gave the Society a copy of Joel Munsell's first publication, *The Albany Minerva*. Munsell at the age of nineteen edited, published, and printed this rare, quarto-sized newspaper which ran from January 1 until April 8, 1828. Our copy formerly belonged to Mrs. Munsell and it goes very well with our fine collection of Munselliana.

Thirty years ago the late R. W. G. Vail devoted some time to James Johns, the pen-printer of Huntington, Vermont, who published *The Vermont Autograph and Remarker*. His little newspaper was copied with pen and ink and sent around to a few, but various places. What issues still exist have managed to do so in only one copy. We received as a gift the March 3, 1857, issue in its original mailing wrapper addressed to *The Bellows Fall Times*.

PRINTING

Always of primary interest to the Society are the records of the book trade in America. Warren G. Davis gave to us a manuscript account book of the Providence printer, John Carter, in which the wages of his journeymen are noted for the period of May 18, 1771, through November, 1779. It is a valuable record and will be published in an early issue of *Printing and Graphic Arts*. Another manuscript was purchased this past year. It is an account book of Clark and Gray of Windsor, Connecticut, operators of a paper-mill. Their account covers the years 1808 to 1820 and records numerous sales to John Byrne, the local printer. They also conducted a not inconsiderable business in books.

James Alexander—engineer, lawyer, Attorney General of New Jersey, and unsuccessful defender of the New York printer, John Peter Zenger—secured a writ of habeas corpus for his client, who was being held in prison on a charge of criminal libel upon officers of the crown. However, in granting it, the judges set bail at £800 and foiled the lawyers. In another legal stratagem to set Zenger free, Alexander and his colleague, William Smith, took exception to the commissions of Judge James Delancey and Frederick Philipse, on the basis that the judges were appointed to serve at the pleasure of the King, rather than for a term during good behavior. Counsel were then declared to be in contempt of court and were removed from the bar. Alexander's and Smith's complaint at this injustice was submitted to a legislative committee on grievances on December 27, 1735, but they were not returned to the bar until two years later. The rare, folio sized, pamphlet dealing with this issue was one of our better acquisitions this year past. It is entitled: *The Complaint of James Alexander and William Smith to the Committee of the General Assembly of the Colony of New-York, &c.* Both Evans and Rutherford considered it to have been printed by Zenger in 1735.

A Catalogue of Books, Stationery, and Fancy Articles, for sale, on moderate terms, by Samuel F. Bradford was issued in Philadelphia in 1803 and has hitherto escaped notice, although Edwin Wolf may have a copy squirrelled away some place. The 59 page pamphlet lists several hundred titles with which the curious Philadelphian reader could satisfy his needs.

The Society has received a number of engravers' proof books through the goodness of Vice-President Alden P. Johnson. Among those to arrive recently was a scrap book of Benjamin F. Allen, wood engraver of Boston during the years from 1845 through 1860, and later. The proofs

RULES & REGULATIONS,

ADOPTED BY THE

TRUE ASSISTANT SOCIETY *of* HATTERS

IN NEW-YORK:

AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED

FOR THEIR GOVERNMENT.

I. THIS Society shall be called and known by the name of "The True Assistant Society of Hatters, of the city of New-York, instituted in the aforesaid City, on the fifteenth day of June one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five."

II. For the government of this Society, and to carry its intent fully into effect, it is agreed—that there shall be elected every three months, a President, Vice President, two Stewards, and a Secretary: any persons refusing to serve in the above offices when duly elected, shall be fined half a-dollar, to be paid into the fund. It shall be in the power of the Society to re-elect any of the above officers, unless after having once served, either ~~or~~ the whole intimates a wish to decline.

III. It shall be in the power of the President, to call together extraordinary meetings, which he shall do by a note to the Secretary: he shall not call an extraordinary meeting, except on the death of a member, or the funds of the Society being in danger; but for any other account, he must have his note to the Secretary, signed by the approbation of eight members of the Society. And in case of a member being distressed and wanting assistance (one that has not made a year's payment into the fund) money shall be raised for that member by subscription; he (the President) shall see if that member really stands

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are of labels and book illustrations, such as one has come to expect in accumulations of this sort. It serves as a useful record of Allen's work.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

One of the outstanding acquisitions of the year was an unrecorded pamphlet of 14 pages, entitled, *Rules & Regulations, adopted by the True Assistant Society of Hatters in New-York*. This early trade union was organized on June 15, 1795, for the purpose of aiding its members or families of members who were distressed by want of work, illness, or death. The members had definite ideas about closed shops and hoped to enforce their will upon the master hat makers in the city. They did not seem to be hesitant about the use of the boycott against master or journeyman if it would serve their purposes. Similarly, the Society intended that the master supply tools for his men and the members were to be fined if they used their own. How successful they were or for how long a time the Society endured are questions which I leave to a historian of the American labor movement. The pamphlet probably was printed in 1795 as the regulations provided that they be printed and distributed to all members.

In addition, we obtained Kennedy's *Art of Tanning Leather, 1859*; *The Art of Graining: How Acquired and How Produced*, by Pickert and Metcalf, 1872, a large quarto book with lithographs illustrating the proper designs for various woods; and *A Complete Guide to Coach Painters*, by Arlot, 1873.

Dye books for use in homes were relatively common in the early half of the nineteenth century but over the years they have become much less so, and are now eagerly sought after by collectors. An example came to hand recently which was printed at Winchester, Virginia, in 1844. Its author

was James T. O'Rork of Green Spring, a weaver and dyer. In his *Family Dyer and Weaver* he gives the inquiring housewife recipes and instructions for dyeing all sorts of cloth in all sorts of colors.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Twenty-two children's books published before 1821 were acquired this year. They represent a number of new editions but no new texts. Curiously, there were five Heidelberg catechisms among them of which editions from Philadelphia, 1786, and 1799, and Germantown, 1808, and 1812, were either unrecorded or exceptionally scarce. We obtained three editions of the well-known tale of the "Children in the Wood." Two were of the version by Clara English and were printed in Baltimore in 1806 and in New York in 1819. The other, *Two Babes in the Wood, or The Norfolk Gentleman's Last Will and Testament* was published by G. & R. Waite in New York between 1805 and 1815. It, like the 1819 edition, above, was unrecorded. Of the five editions of *The New England Primer* gathered in this year, three were not listed by Heartman nor by Shaw & Shoemaker. They were printed by Thomas Kirk in Brooklyn in 1801, 1807, and 1808. Ernest J. Wessen gave us a unique copy of a Wheeling, West Virginia, edition which was dated several years ago by Clarence Brigham as *ca.* 1834. The primer arrived with his letter to the former owner. Finally, to push the matter of coincidence to the extreme, we obtained two unrecorded schoolbooks by Lindley Murray, entitled *Abridgment of Murray's English Grammar*. Both were printed in Utica by Seward and Williams in 1810 and in 1815. A third schoolbook added was William Perry's *Only Sure Guide to the English Tongue*. It was the unlocated third edition, published in Worcester by Isaiah Thomas, Jr., in 1805.

The Windsor, Vermont, 1814, edition of *The History of Margaret, and The Fable of Bees* was previously unknown until we obtained a copy. So also was an edition of *The Wonderful Life and Surprising Adventures of that Renowned Hero, Robinson Crusoe* which was published in New Haven at Sidney's Press about the year 1815.

CRIME

During the past year we obtained thirteen titles dealing with crime—either reports of trials or personal narratives. The most important of these was an unrecorded, second edition of Nathan Fiske's sermon at the interment of Joshua Spooner, delivered at Brookfield, Massachusetts, on March 6, 1778. The first edition, printed by Thomas and John Fleet of Boston, consists of 20 pages, including the half title. In our copy of the "second" edition, the sermon has been re-imposed so as to conclude on page 19. "Account of the Trial and Condemnation of the Ruffians" is appended and begins on the verso of C². It probably filled leaves C³ and C⁴, which were numbered 2-4. Unfortunately, the final leaf is wanting. The pamphlet deals with the famous Bathsheba Spooner case in which it was brought out that Mrs. Spooner hired four men to do away with Joshua of whom she had grown tired. The entire crew was hanged at Worcester. The pamphlet is the gift of Benjamin Tighe.

Major Robert Bailey, a sort of Southern Stephen Burroughs, wrote a volume of memoirs which was published in 1822 at Richmond, Virginia. *The Life and Adventures of Robert Bailey* is a fascinating account of a prideful rascal who, it seems, was never at fault. His introduction to debauchery was brought about by sharps who lured him into a game of loo in which Bailey lost his profitable Virginia tavern. He tells of his adventures with great gusto and the

DELLE POESIE
DEL SIG.^R. FIL. TRAJETTA
MAESTRO DI CAPPELLA .

LIBRO PRIMO .

CHARLESTON
(CAPITALE DELLA CAROLINA AL MEZZODÌ .)

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PRESSO DI CLAUDIO BÉLEURGEY,  
NELLA STAMPERIA DI LINGUE STRANIERE .

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reader is convinced that, despite the moralizing, he enjoyed his life to the fullest.

#### LITERATURE

Among the twelve examples of plays and verse published in this country before 1821 which were received this year, the two from Charleston, South Carolina, most interested this reporter. Philip Trajetta was a native of Venice who immigrated to Boston in 1799 and then settled in Charleston in 1802. He published in 1803 a volume of poetry written in his native tongue and entitled, *Della Poesie*. The book was handsomely printed by the Frenchman Claude Béleurgey. The first portion of the volume is a dramatic poem entitled, "La Fisica in Cimento, Sere-nata." The remaining pages are given to cantati and sonnets. This is the second known copy of the volume which is called on the title page, *Libro Primo*, but to the best of my knowledge, *Book Two* has not been located. Perhaps it was never published.

*The Ocean Spectre*, an entirely new grand melo-drame by Flareau, is listed in Evans and in Hill under the year 1795. According to a note of J. F. Shearer, in our archives, the play was entered for copyright in Charleston in 1804. There is no clue to the date or place of printing on the title page. The play is set in Venice and there are half a dozen copies known, so it is not unusually scarce. Never the less, we did not have a copy of it until this February.

A play of violent political connotations is J. Horatio Nichol's satiric, *Jefferson and Liberty*, published in Boston in 1801 to celebrate Jefferson's first inauguration. John Adams is displayed as a corrupt British peer, the Duke of Braintree, in this very scarce book.

We obtained no American novels dated prior to 1821, although a check of our holdings in Wright's bibliography

of American fiction indicates that we lack only seventeen of the 111 listed therein. Hopefully, we will obtain some of these as the years pass. In the later period, we did rather well, picking up twenty-eight new titles, a few of which were not recorded by Wright. Of special interest was the purchase of *Sophia: or, The Girl of the Pine Woods* published in Geneva, N.Y., in 1823. This story was reprinted anonymously at Danville, N.Y., in 1838 but an earlier edition of the novel which is set in upper New York State had not previously been discovered. The fact that the 1823 edition has an appendix of "A Few Select Poems" by William Ray has led the bibliographers at The Seven Gables Book Shop to conclude that Ray is also the author of *Sophia*. Parenthetically, I will add that the Society has books of poetry by Ray published in 1821 and in 1826 as well as an 1808, Troy, N.Y., publication concerning American sailors held captive by the Tripolitans.

Of interest also is the gift by Benjamin Tighe of the rare, first edition of *The Memoirs of Lafitte, or The Barritarian Pirate* printed in Providence in 1826. This tale was issued with the Danville edition of *Sophia*, mentioned above. To return to the 1826 *Lafitte*, Yale University has it also, but apparently no other copies are known to exist.

*Ellen Stuart, or The Rescued Heiress* is a 40 page novel set in Boston. Unhappily, the wrappers which carried the imprint and date are lacking so it is impossible to arrive at a place of printing and date for the piece. I would date it at about 1850. The title is unknown to Wright. *Emma Woodley, or A Sister's Wrongs Avenged* (Philadelphia, 1860) is a tale of another fallen woman, so many of which grace American fiction. This one also escaped Lyle Wright's watchful eye.

Newscarriers' addresses are a form of American literature which we collect. This year we obtained only ten, but three

of them were issued during our early period. They were for *The Boston Gazette*, 1803; *The Boston Columbian Sentinel*, 1805; and *The Albany Christian Visitant*, 1816.

#### MEDICINE

Charles M. deLa Condamine wrote his *History of Inoculation* in the year 1754, pointing out that this technique of combating smallpox had been used from time immemorial in an area bordering on the Caspian Sea. His work was reprinted in New Haven in 1773, with letters by two Connecticut physicians who approved the practice and were urging the passage of a law to permit it within the state. Our copy of this uncommon pamphlet was given us by F. Harold Daniels and is one of ten early medical books acquired this year.

#### MILITARY BOOKS

In point of fact, Mr. Daniels generously provided us with the wherewithal to purchase forty imprints on a variety of subjects. Of particular interest was a 1798 Philadelphia printing by William Cobbett of *A Treatise on the New Exercise for Cavalry* prepared by Sholto Sorlie of the Queen's own Regiment of Light Dragoons. This copy, which is all but pristine, is adorned with two wood cuts.

Once again we are indebted to our friends at the New England Historic Genealogical Society for the addition of useful material. Two were pamphlets relating to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. The earlier is *Rules and Regulations*, published on June 7, 1819. It contains a list of all members of the Company to that date and exists, apparently, in three or four copies. The second pamphlet is a report made in 1820 by a select committee which made inquiry into the pressing problem of filling up vacancies in the ranks of the Company. The chief causes were determined to have been the high annual

JOURNAL  
OF THE  
HARTFORD UNION MINING AND  
TRADING COMPANY.

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*Containing the name, residence and occupation of each member,  
with Incidences of the Voyage, &c. &c*



PRINTED BY J. L. HALL,

*On board the*

**Henry Lee**

1849

A CALIFORNIA RARITY

assessment, the cost of uniforms which were admitted to being singular, and the lack of military ardor which was blamed upon the muscular rigidity of the older officers.

### THE WEST

Among the rare, fictitious narratives of Western travel, the Van Leason or Vandeleur tale is one of the best known. R. W. G. Vail listed twenty-six editions beginning in 1788, a few of which are suppositions at best. We own nine of them as well as two others not included in Sabin. Our most recent addition to this collection is the Windsor, Vermont, 1801, edition formerly known only by an imperfect copy in the Coe Collection at Yale. Its title, greatly abbreviated, is: *A Narrative of a Voyage, taken by Capt. James Vanleason, from Amsterdam to China; and from there to the Western Continent of North America. . . . Also, an Account of Mr. Vandeleur's being left behind on the continent, . . .*

In the supplement to the *Hartford Connecticut Courant* of June 2, 1849, there appears an extract from a journal kept by George G. Webster, a member of the Hartford Union Mining and Trading Company which left New York on February 17, 1849, and arrived in San Francisco on September 13th. Webster's journal was printed by J. L. Hall on board the ship, the *Henry Lee*, as she made her way around two continents and is one of the great rarities of California gold rush literature. We were fortunate to acquire a copy; the third known. It is considered the most important of the Eastern company publications.

In 1854, John F. Morse and his publisher, Samuel Colville of Sacramento intended to issue a series of publications entitled, *Illustrated Historical Sketches of California*. The first number came out in March and contained notes on the several missions of the state as well as a biography of John Sutter. No other numbers were issued. A quite

respectable copy of the lone exemplar is now in our collections.

As the various territories of the United States developed and prepared for statehood, the inhabitants engaged in strenuous activities to attract new settlers. A common practice of promoters was to publish periodicals or pamphlets sent abroad in the land, boosting the territory, rebutting detractors, and generally glorifying the wonders of the region. *The Dakota Outlook* was published in Yankton to do just that. Volume one, number one, was issued on February 1, 1884; perhaps it was the only one. Allen, the bibliographer of Dakota imprints, knew of the periodical through an imprint on a Yankton pamphlet but he did not list it separately as he was unable to locate a copy. As a former resident of that community, I will add that despite the claims of editor Johnson regarding the balmy winter weather of Yankton, it is an "excessively" rare day when one can get by without an overcoat in December or January.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The earliest printed acquisition of the year was by George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, *Gospel Family-Order, being a Short Discourse concerning the ordering of Families, both of whites, blacks and Indians*. He delivered the discourse in Barbados in 1671 and was first printed in London in 1676. Our copy is a Philadelphia reprint executed by Reinier Jansen.

From a private source we obtained two early communications from the yearly meeting of Friends in Philadelphia and New Jersey, dated 1722 and 1723. Although both are listed in Roger Bristol's additions to Evans, they are, none the less, very scarce. These annual epistles served as the reports and instructions of the Quaker churches in the area. For example, in 1722 first cousins were warned not to

marry and householders were admonished to keep from their homes vain and idle pamphlets such as romances and playbooks.

In 1762, Anthony Benezet, an influential Philadelphia Quaker, published one of his several tracts opposed to slavery. It was entitled *A Short Account of that Part of Africa Inhabited by Negroes*. It went through two editions in that year before it was translated into German and reprinted at Ephrata in 1763. I am pleased to report that we have all three editions, the most recently acquired being the Ephrata imprint which is untrimmed and in its original wrappers.

The works of Tench Coxe, the able political economist of our Federal period, are well represented among our holdings, although the original edition of his important *Examination of the Constitution for the United States* (1788) is not among them. Last year we acquired another desiderata, *A Plan for Encouraging Agriculture, and Increasing the Value of Farms in the Midland and more Western Counties of Pennsylvania* (1793). This 11 page pamphlet represents the original printing of chapter ten in his *View of the United States of America* (Philadelphia, 1794). The *Plan* is listed in Evans' *American Bibliography* under entry 25355 but Mr. Shipton was unable to locate a copy for filming in his micro-print edition. Coxe, dealing with difficulties and expense of transportation into the interior of Pennsylvania, proposed a commercial center be built on the western bank of the Susquehanna River which would obviate the necessity of long hauls to market.

Molleston Correy was a farm lad who in 1783, following a life of sin and extravagance, became convinced of the approaching cataclysm and began to preach the message. He went so far in that year as to send a letter to Congress warning the legislators of the approaching day of doom. In 1796 he published a pamphlet setting forth his thoughts in

a final, desperate measure to arouse his countrymen. It would appear that after twelve years of travel in Pennsylvania, New England, and Nova Scotia, he was getting tired of the bootless task. His pamphlet was entitled, *The Traveling Millennarian to the People of America* and contains a long autobiographical poem at the end. It seems to exist in one copy.

A high spot of the year, surely, was a nearly pristine copy of *National Songster; or, A Collection of the Most Admired Patriotic Songs*, First Hagerstown edition. Hagers-Town: Printed by John Gruber and David May, 1814. On pages 30 and 31, one will find "Defence of Fort M'Henry. Tune—Anacreon in Heaven." As Jacob Blanck has noted in a recent article in *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, this is one of the first printings in book form and an early appearance generally of our national anthem. He was able to locate three other copies.

Before closing this report, I must record the appreciation of the Society to members and friends who have supported our work with gifts of cash and books. Without such spiritual and physical aid the efforts of the staff would be crippled. We are grateful.

Respectfully submitted,  
MARCUS A. MCCORISON  
*Librarian*

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