

The Report of the Librarian

1968-1969

RANGING from a volume in Marco Paul's travel series for children to an 1853 German book printed at Somerset, Pennsylvania, on the Amish sect of Stark County, Ohio, the year's acquisitions covered the full scope of the Society's collections. Very important groups of books were added to several collections, already strong, and we continue to place increasing emphasis on nineteenth-century materials without giving up our commitment to imprints dated before 1821. The number of titles added came to 4,177. We are indebted to generous friends for 1,225 pieces of that total.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

There is no doubt at all that our most important acquisition of the year was the AAS desiderata from the Helen and Benjamin Tighe Collection of American Children's Books. This was made possible through the enthusiastic generosity of an anonymous donor.

The Tighe Collection was built by our long-time friends in Athol over a relatively short time—about five years—but their activity was intense. In that period they accumulated at considerable expense nearly six hundred volumes all printed before 1821. This remarkable collection which was gathered one volume at a time represents a major accomplishment and at the time of the sale was the fourth largest collection in existence. The Tighes' loyalty to the Society prompted them to offer to us only those volumes which the Society lacked or which materially improved copies in our collections. Thus we were able

to add 167 new titles or editions to our already pre-eminent collection. Furthermore we exchanged another sixty-five copies with AAS holdings which were defective. This is a truly remarkable event, for our holdings numbered about 2,000 pieces, more than a thousand above our nearest institutional colleague, the Library of Congress. The Tighe Collection contained fifty-nine unique pieces, several of them of very considerable importance. Among them is *The Child's Cabinet*. This nonce book contains twelve individual chapbooks bound together with a general title page. The little books were all published by Samuel Wood and Sons in New York in the years 1815 and 1816.

How is it possible for a common, multi-volume work to disappear? Maria Edgeworth wrote many books for youngsters of her time and she was a very popular author. *Parent's Assistant* is an interesting case. Welch records three editions of this book published in 1809, 1814, and 1820 in a total of eight thick volumes. Of the hundreds of copies of this work which were issued there are now in existence a grand total of twenty-two volumes. Thus it is of more than passing interest that an unrecorded edition has come to light in the Tighe Collection. Wells & Lilly published *Parent's Assistant* in 1814 in three volumes. Because AAS does not have even an odd volume of that set, the acquisition of two volumes of the Wells & Lilly 1818 edition, previously unrecorded, is welcome indeed.

It is a great moment when AAS can add an Isaiah Thomas imprint. In the Tighe Collection is a copy, defective to be sure, of *The Renowned History of Giles Gingerbread*. Mr. Welch has assigned it the date of 1786, a time when Isaiah Thomas was actively re-publishing John Newbery's English children's books. Ours is the only known copy of Thomas' edition of this famous children's story.

As a young man, Samuel G. Goodrich, later renowned as Peter Parley, got his start in children's literature in Hartford, Connecticut. There, from the year 1815, he published a few juveniles prior to leaving Hartford in 1826. Two of his publi-

cations are in the Tighe Collection and both are unique. *A History of a Little Silver Fish* and *A Story of Little Thomas and Betsey* were issued from his book shop in 1819.

The History of the Holy Jesus is one of the major American children's books. It was illustrated by a number of woodcut engravings and showed its longevity by going through forty-six editions between 1745 and 1814. The Tighes located a forty-seventh. The newly acquired AAS copy was published by John Perkins in Boston in 1771.

Charles Perrault, the famous French compiler and author of fairy tales of the seventeenth century wrote down several of the Western World's most enduring children's stories, among them 'Little Red Riding Hood,' 'Puss in Boots,' 'Cinderella,' and 'Blue Beard.' The second American edition of *Tales of Passed Time by Mother Goose* was published in English and French by James Rivington in New York in 1795. The book contains nine engravings by Alexander Anderson. AAS had a copy without the plates. The Tighe copy of this rare book has all nine engravings, one of only three copies. The juxtaposition of a group of beloved stories, with illustrations by the first American illustrator of note, and issued by a famous printer, makes a very desirable book.

The 'Metamorphosis' is a delightfully illustrated piece for children. This engraved device consists of a series of folded flaps, carrying portions of pictures, each of which may be lifted individually. As a flap is turned, the picture of which it is a part is altered. Thus, Adam becomes Eve, and Eve is transformed into a mermaid. These fugitive pieces are highly prized, and the Tighe Collection adds a total of seven to our present collection which already numbered twelve examples.

This rapid survey of the Tighe Collection does not do it justice by any means, but, hopefully, enough has been indicated to whet the connoisseur's appetite.

Among the children's books not in the Tighe Collection which were purchased by the Society was volume two of the

first American edition of the collected fairy tales by the brothers Grimm. Volume one, published in Boston in 1826, was acquired two years ago. This year we obtained the second volume, entitled *German Popular Stories*, issued in New York and Boston in 1828. To the best of our knowledge, only two copies of each volume are known and AAS is the only library holding both volumes. Also of great interest was the acquisition of a copy of the so-called ninth edition of Isaac Watts' *Divine Songs*. This little book of religious poetry for children was printed in Boston in 1744 by John Draper for Joshua Blanchard. It is the second known edition issued in this country and varies in imprint from the copy noted in Welch's bibliography of American children's books.

LITERATURE

Several gifts of a literary nature were received during the year past, including a number of most interesting early broadsides. One, from the estate of the late Mrs. Joseph L. Keith, was a copy of *The Dying Criminal*, a poem written by Robert Young upon his own execution. This was printed by Isaiah Thomas in November of 1779. Young was hanged on the eleventh of that month in Worcester for a rape. The broadside is decorated with an appropriately grim woodcut of the hanging and is listed in Ford's *Massachusetts Broad-sides* under number 2211.

The adoption of the new federal constitution by the voters of New Hampshire on June 21, 1788, prompted an anonymous balladeer to compose a *Federal Song* for the occasion. This was issued in an unrecorded broadside given the Society by Professor and Mrs. Donald A. Gallagher.

The proprietors of the Seven Gables Bookshop gave AAS an unrecorded collection of brief stories entitled, *The Museum of Agreeable Entertainment*. This book was printed in New York by John Harrisson in 1796.

Similarly, our collection of the works of James Fenimore Cooper grew through a number of gifts. Already noted in a recent issue of our *News-Letter* was Frank L. Harrington's present of the rare, first edition published at Dresden, Germany, in 1830, of *The Water Witch*. Other donors were James F. Beard, Robert E. Spiller, Willard Thorp, and the New York Historical Association. In all, 143 editions of Cooper's volumes were added during the last twelve months.

Other important literary acquisitions included eighty bound volumes of dime novels. As each volume contained an average of five pieces each, the collection is a sizable one. Publishers most generously represented are Beadle, DeWitt, Munro, and Thomas & Talbot. Of the Beadle Dime Novel series we have numbers 1 through 163, lacking less than a half dozen. Of the American Tales series we have numbers 13 through 80 with a few exceptions. In addition to these two major runs, there were a good number of such miscellaneous pieces as guides to the 1862 income tax and pamphlets filled with declamations.

The Society's stock of fiction was increased by a good deal and several notable pieces were added; of which we point to *The Adventures of Count d'Orveau* (Philadelphia, 1812); *Genevra, or the History of a Portrait* (Philadelphia, 1851); *Karahman, an Owhyheean Tale* (Boston, 1822); Gotthieff Nicolas Lutyens' *The Life and Adventures of Moses Nathan Israel* (Easton, Penna., 1815), and the *Invisible Monitor* by Mrs. Shephard (Philadelphia, 1816). All of these are not entered in Lyle Wright's *American Fiction*, although the Lutyens novel exists at two or three other libraries.

The Wonder of Wonders! contains the narration of the experiences of a gentleman of Boston who, on the nights of October 14, 15, and 16, 1774, saw in succession an angel, the devil, and a ghost. (It sounds like Scrooge fifty years later.) Our copy is the second edition, printed by that old humbug Ezekiel Russell of Boston in 1775. It is not in the bibliographies, and it was purchased on the Forbes Fund:

A small quantity of poetry of high quality was acquired. In addition to the examples of broadside verse already mentioned, we purchased the 1802 carrier's address for the Hartford *American Mercury* entitled, 'Genius of Liberty.' It is one of a bare handful of carriers' addresses obtained this year. A volume by an interesting poet is *The Soldier's Wreath* published in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1828. Its author, a latter-day Oliver Cromwell, celebrates the Battle of New Orleans in this book dedicated to Andrew Jackson. Cromwell was a diligent literary sort who compiled the 1829 Charleston City Directory, also at AAS.

BOOK TRADES

A very extensive addition was made to our collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century booksellers' catalogues. These came to us from the Essex Institute, through Goodspeed's Book Shop. I estimate the accumulation amounted to about 200 pieces. Among the early ones was a catalogue of Samuel Larkin of Portsmouth, N.H., 1796; David West's of Boston, 1799; and one of Kirk and Mercein, New York, 1819. The auction catalogues were quite numerous, a large number not having fallen under George MacKay's eye when he was compiling his list of American Book Auction Catalogues.

Despite the unhappy fact that we added no type specimen books, we did obtain a few library catalogues. The best was *The Charter and Bye-Laws of the New-York Society Library; with a Catalogue of the Books*. This thirty-five-page pamphlet was printed by Hugh Gainé for the Society in 1773. It is very uncommon. Other catalogues added this year were those of the Library of Congress, 1804; the Philomathean Society of Union College, 1823; and the Steilacoom, Washington, Library Association, 1860. The last came to us from the bequest of Thomas W. Streeter. Also worthy of note was a very nice binding attached to a Hudson, New York, book of 1819. It

came as part of a gift of books from M. Halsey Thomas. The book is *Proscription Delineated* by Daniel Parker, formerly the minister of the Congregational Church of Sharon, Connecticut. Mr. Parker ran into financial difficulty which resulted in the revocation of his license to preach by the Northern Association of Litchfield County. Parker, a 1758 graduate of Yale, produced a defense, the Society's copy of which was given by the author to his son. It was bound by S. S. Hatheway of Hudson in a handsome calf binding decorated with rolls in blind and gilt. The front cover carries a red morocco panel with the name A [masa] J[unius] Parker stamped thereon.

A few items were acquired this year because of their interest as engravings. Mrs. Yves Henry Buhler presented us with a fine folio atlas compiled by Henry C. Carey and entitled, *A Complete Historical, and Geographical American Atlas*, published in Philadelphia in 1823. We purchased a rare copy of John Norman's stipple engraving of Caleb Strong who served with distinction as Governor of the Commonwealth during the years from 1800 to 1807 and 1812 to 1816.

A most interesting group of wood engravings of Alexander Anderson were called to our attention by a helpful bookseller. They comprise bound up proofs of Anderson's illustrations for *The Holy Bible* published by Mathew Carey in 1818 at Philadelphia. We could find no mention of another copy in our search for information about it.

Also of some scarcity is a little volume on *The Art of Drawing Landscapes* published by Fielding Lucas, Jr., of Baltimore in 1820. It is illustrated with very nice aquatints.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Selecting one example each from the fields of technology, medicine, and science was not difficult because three interesting items were immediately at hand. The earliest is a broad-

side statement by Oliver Evans, one of America's first technologists and author of the famous *Young Millwright and Miller's Guide*. The broadside, dated December 31, 1809, is addressed 'To the Millers of the United States' and informs them that he has acquired patent rights to new, improved methods of milling flour—essentially an automatic flour mill. It is recorded in his biography, and it signals a three-year campaign by the inventor to protect his ideas from infringement, as well as making note of his steam engine, stove, and screw-milling machine.

The first national pharmacopoeia in this country was published in Boston in 1820 and it continues to this day in new and ever enlarged versions. The individual behind it was Dr. Lyman Spalding of the Harvard Medical School. Among his papers was a duplicate Prospectus for the work, a copy of which has been presented to us by the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine.

Robert Chambers, the compiler of *Chambers Cyclopaedia of English Literature*, annalist of Scotland, and man of wide range, published in 1844 *Vestiges of the National History of Creation*. It caused much comment and went very quickly into four editions and prompted, the next year, *Explanations*, a sequel to the original book and a rebuttal of his critics. During the past year we acquired the American editions of the first, the sequel, and then the earlier volume. It is quite generally accepted that Darwin drew inspiration from Chambers' work and surely Chambers was early in the field with the reasonable exposition of creation which was at some variance with the Biblical tale. As such, they are important books in the history of English and American thought.

SERIALS

As was the case last year, the supply of American newspapers available on the market is small indeed. We did manage to acquire a run of *Porcupine's Gazette*, March through August

1799. With this acquisition our file of William Cobbett's daily newspaper is all but complete.

A year ago we obtained a good run of the Charleston, S.C., *City Gazette* for the second half of the year 1802. This twelve-month we acquired forty-seven issues of the same daily newspaper in the period of October 1801 to January 1802.

John Denio and Ansel Phelps published the Greenfield, Massachusetts, *Franklin Herald*. Through the courtesy of Harold Nestler we acquired thirty-four issues of their paper dated February through December 1812. The file originally belonged to one of the printers, John Denio.

Bernhard Knollenberg presented us with the hitherto unlocated first issue of the New London, Connecticut, *Republican Advocate* of February 18, 1818, and Mrs. Edwin R. Coddington generously presented to the Society four scarce issues of the Tucson *Arizona Citizen* of 1871 and 1872.

From the Newberry Library we purchased a lot of about 600 miscellaneous issues dating from the mid-eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth. The majority of the newspapers came from small middle western towns and the collection is a welcome addition to our holdings.

A number of periodicals were added. They ranged in importance from *The Rural Casket* published at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in 1798 in fifteen numbers to *The Turkish Bath Advocate* which was issued in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1870.

WESTERN AMERICANA

The fifth and sixth installments of the Streeter sale were held during the past year with a few interesting books coming to AAS. *The Rural Almanac* for the year 1807 at Baltimore was purchased both as a rare almanac (only an imperfect copy is located at the Maryland Historical Society by Drake) and as a publication relating to the Lewis and Clark expedition. In it is printed William Clark's letter of September 23, 1806, which describes the journey of the company of explorers.

A half century later the regions which Lewis and Clark explored were being settled. Three of Mr. Streeter's books illustrate that fact nicely. The earliest of these was published at Victoria, British Columbia, with the title, *The Fraser Mines Vindicated*. It was written by Alfred Waddington and was the first non-governmental book printed on Vancouver Island. It deals with an interesting event, the working of the gold mines on the Fraser River.

The overland account of the family of Christopher C. Hewitt, Chief Justice of Washington Territory, was published in Olympia in 1862, with the title *Notes by the Way*. The book's author was Randall H. Hewitt, a nephew of the Chief Justice. It records their journey through Western Montana to Washington, a very early account describing that route.

William H. Burke compiled a twenty-two-page directory of Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1866 and attached a twenty-four-page account of the town's role as a departure point for westward wending settlers. In addition, it carries maps of various routes to the west.

Purchased on the Donald MacKay Frost Fund was a very interesting and unique broadside which takes us back to British Columbia at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The descriptive title reads: *Horrid Massacre. The Authentic Account of the Horrid Massacre on Board the Ship Atahualpa, at Milbank Sound. . . .* The unknown author briefly relates the hideous tale. The *Atahualpa* left Boston in 1803 for the Northwest to trade with the Indians. On the thirteenth day of June 1805, after a day or two of brisk trading, the Indians under their chief, Kiete, came aboard and killed ten and wounded nine of the twenty-three crewmen. Among the dead was the captain, Oliver Porter, as well as Lyman Plummer, a nephew of Theodore Lyman. The unhappy event was referred to in Alexander Beggs' *History of British Columbia* (Toronto, 1894) at page 88. The broadside, which concludes with a poem of eleven verses of poetry, appears to have been printed by Nathaniel Coverly,

Jr., of Boston, probably in 1806 or 1807. The cut at the head of this broadside was used several times by Coverly at about the same time.

CURIOUS AND MISCELLANEOUS

The Native American Party of the late 1840's developed into a major political force in the 1850's and was popularly called the Know-Nothings. This year's net hauled in the printed *Proceedings* of two state conventions for the year 1847. The Pennsylvania group met at Harrisburg on Washington's Birthday, while the Vermonters met at Newbury immediately after the Fourth of July. Both groups expressed full confidence in the first principles of the founding fathers, while despairing of the present tendencies of the Republic.

In a little clutch of books printed in the Berkshires of Massachusetts and Vermont, we acquired several unrecorded items. Among them was another pamphlet by John Leland of the Mammoth Cheese, about whom I reported a year ago when we acquired three of his very scarce publications. The new addition is Leland's *Miscellaneous Essays in Prose and Verse*. It is without an imprint but we judge it to be from the Pittsfield area of the period of 1810.

Gideon Granger, United States Postmaster-General from 1801 until 1814 was a pronounced Jeffersonian Republican from Connecticut. After his translation to Washington he continued to take an active interest in local politics and his *Address to the People of New England*, published under the pseudonym of Algernon Sydney, is a vigorous defense of the Jeffersonian embargo and a denunciation of the New England Federalists who opposed it. This copy, one of six editions at AAS, was printed by Phineas Allen of Pittsfield in 1800.

Despite the careful work by Mrs. Skeel and Edwin Carpenter, it is still possible to discover unknown spellers by Noah Webster. In fact, the one at hand also eluded John Spargo, the

bibliographer of Anthony Haswell, as well as your reporter. Thus, quadruply happy, we record here the existence in the collections of the Society the sixth Vermont edition of Webster's *American Spelling Book* published by Anthony Haswell in Bennington in about the year 1792.

A few Boston imprints came to hand. The earliest was a seventeenth-century imprint, *The Second Spira*, by Richard Sault, which was printed by Benjamin Harris for John Usher in 1693. There is a sixth edition, also Boston, 1693, containing a brief preface by Increase Mather which was not printed in this copy. We should add that although our copy of this edition appears unique, it is sadly defective, lacking all after page twelve. Happily the text is present in other editions at AAS.

When the Newberry Library acquired the Matt B. Jones-F. C. Deering copy of John Gyles' *Memoirs of Odd Adventures, Strange Deliverances, &c.*, the Ayer copy, already at Newberry, was declared a duplicate, and we obtained it for AAS. Gyles was captured by Canadian Indians at Thomaston, Maine, in 1689 and obtained his freedom in 1698. His pamphlet was not published until 1736 when it was printed in Boston by Kneeland and Green. The copy at the Boston Public Library was inscribed by Jeremy Belknap, who believed it to have been written by the Rev. Mr. Joseph Seccombe.

The final Boston imprint to be mentioned here is a *Narrative of the Life and Dying Confession of Henry Mills*. Mills allegedly lived in Galesboro, Pennsylvania, and presumably murdered his family. The tale is believed to be fictitious, although McDade includes the case in his bibliography. The two pamphlets recorded therein relating to Mills were both published in Boston in 1817. We have a third, not recorded, which was also published in the *Hub of the Universe* in the same year. It seems odd, had the murders and execution actually occurred, that nothing came of it in Pennsylvania.

M. A. McC.

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