

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

---

The number and value of the acquisitions of this Library each year depend chiefly upon the amount of income which the finance committee feels can be devoted to book purchase. There are certain funds the income of which can be used only for books and these funds in the past few years have yielded about \$1250 a year. In 1913-14, however, the general income for books, outside of the special funds, was \$1650, while in 1918-19, it had dwindled to \$420. The high cost of living, which to this library means cost of fuel, supplies, equipment, printing, and to a very slight degree, of salaries, has to be taken out of the book fund, the only one capable of standing the strain. We must continue to print the Proceedings, we must do the necessary binding, and we must keep our collections available for use, but we can curtail the purchase of books. We are continually "robbing Peter to pay Paul," and there are many Pauls, but unfortunately only one Peter.

As a result of this diminished book income, we have had recourse during the past three or four years to other methods in order to acquire the books needed to round out our collections and to fulfil our duty to researchers who come here from far and near in the quest of material which they do not find in other libraries. As books have been offered to us which we cannot afford to buy, we have turned to certain generous members who have made these purchases possible. During the past year our chief source of book income has been the money derived from the sale of the duplicate newspapers last fall, and this more than any other reason explains how the acces-

sions have measured in number and value with the totals of the past few years. Expressed in statistical form, the summary is as follows:

Bound volumes . . . . .	3815
Pamphlets . . . . .	5837
Maps, broadsides, prints, etc. . . . .	959
Unbound newspapers . . . . .	5275

The pamphlet and periodical literature of the day forms an important part of the accessions. Certain members, such as Charles H. Taylor, Jr., Andrew McF. Davis, and Charles G. Washburn, send to the library regularly practically all of the current pamphlet reports, speeches, and other ephemeral material which they accumulate, and many other members send us items of historical value which are worthy of preservation. The early printed titles, however, do not come to the average person. These can be picked up only at auction, or from the bookseller's catalogue, or from an occasional individual who has inherited them from some ancestor, and the recent enhancement in the values of rare books has made scarce titles increasingly difficult to procure.

Some valuable items of Americana have been acquired during the year, but none so important as the file of the "Royal American Magazine," presented to the Society by Charles H. Taylor, Jr. This magazine was published at Boston from January, 1774, to March 1775, in fifteen monthly numbers, each number containing one or more engraved plates and an installment of Governor Hutchinson's "History of Massachusetts Bay." Since most of the plates were engraved by Paul Revere, the issues have been prized by collectors, who have frequently extracted the plates, with the result that no complete set has ever appeared for sale. The Brinley copy, which went to Yale, lacked two plates and fourteen pages. The Deane copy, which sold in 1898 for \$160, lacked one number and six plates. The Manson copy, which was the Deane copy improved, sold in 1904 for \$355 lacking five plates. The

Taylor copy is complete both in text and plates, and in addition is untrimmed and has most of the original blue covers. Since no complete set has ever been described and since there has been doubt regarding the existence of some of the plates, a list of the engravings in each number is here appended:

- January, 1774. "A View of the Town of Boston" (Revere).  
 "The Thunder Storm" (Revere).  
 February, 1774. "Sir Wilbraham Wentworth" (Revere).  
 "The Night Scene" (Callender).  
 March, 1774. "The Hon<sup>ble</sup>. John Hancock, Esq<sup>r</sup>." (Revere).  
 "The Fortune Hunter" (Callender).  
 April, 1774. "M<sup>r</sup>. Samuel Adams" (Revere).  
 "The Hill Tops, a New Hunting Song" (Callender).  
 May, 1774. "An Indian Gazette" (unsigned).  
 June, 1774. "The Able Doctor, or America Swallowing the  
 Bitter Draught" (Revere).  
 "The Hooded Serpent" (unsigned).  
 July, 1774. "Spanish Treatment at Carthagena" (Revere).  
 August, 1774. "The Method of Refining Salt-Petre" (unsigned).  
 September, 1774. [Engraving of a water-spout] (unsigned).  
 October, 1774. "The Mitred Minuet" (Revere).  
 November, 1774. "The Gerbua or Yerboa" (Revere).  
 "Mademoiselle Clarion" (Revers).  
 December, 1774. "A Conference held between some Indian Chiefs and  
 Colonel Bouquet, in the Year 1764" (Revere).  
 [Engraving of bees and honey-combs] (unsigned).  
 January, 1775. "A Certain Cabinet Junto" (Revere).  
 February, 1775. "History of Laurette" (Revere).  
 March, 1775. "America in Distress" (Revere).

The charges for most of these plates are entered in Paul Revere's Manuscript Day-Books, showing the cost to be about £3 each. The entries also show that he engraved the lead cut which was used on the titlepages in 1774 and after that on the front covers of the 1775 issues, and that he made the unsigned engravings in the issues of June, August, and December, 1774. We are much indebted to Mr. Taylor for providing us with so complete a set of this valuable magazine, especially since it was established by Isaiah Thomas, the founder of the Society.

A rare pamphlet purchased by the Society is entitled: "The Art of Making Common Salt, particularly adapted to the Use of the American Colonies," Boston, 1776, containing an engraved plate showing the method of extracting salt from sea-water. The subject matter of the pamphlet was first printed in "The Pennsylvania Magazine" for March, 1776, pp. 128-133, with a plate engraved by S. Aitken. It was then printed as a pamphlet of seven pages at Philadelphia, with the imprint of R. Aitken, 1776, and with the same plate by S. Aitken. The Continental Congress caused copies of this pamphlet to be sent to the different colonies, and the Massachusetts General Assembly voted to reprint 150 copies, which should be sent to the several seaport towns of the colony.

The Boston reprint closely follows the Philadelphia edition, but contains a plate by another engraver. In the effort to establish the name of the engraver, I caused a search to be made in the Massachusetts manuscript archives, but found no record of payment to either the printer or engraver. Although the engraving somewhat resembles Revere's work, it is probable that he did not engrave it, as he had only recently entered military service, and there is no record of his engaging in business during the early part of the year 1776. The search in the archives, however, did reveal the name of the author of the pamphlet. In the Massachusetts Archives, vol. 209, p. 47, is the following communication from Robert Treat Paine:

To the honorable the Council and House of Representatives of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay

The Congress at their last session Considering the importance to American Liberty that all necessarys of life & defence should be produced by the inhabitants of the united Colonies, among other things directed an enquiry to be made of the most practicable method of making salt: as I have the honour to be of that Committee I applied some attention to it, and having mett with a learned treatise of Dr. Brownrigg on the subject, I extracted the practical part of it, & adding a few observations I caused it to be inserted in the Pennsylvania Magazine & a number of Copies to

be detached, & have sent them to all the Colonies as far as Georgia; and I now do myself the honour to inclose some of them to your Consideration to be disposed of as in your wisdom may seem best.

I can but think there are many parts of our Colony where these works may be profitably erected, in the southern parts more especially.

It must afford great happiness to every Lover of the American united Colonies to defeat the cruel designs of their Enemies in any respect, & it will gratify me to have attempted it, tho unfortunately it should not succeed.

Hoping success to this & every undertaking to promote the welfare of our Colony

I Subscribe my self

your Honours

most Obedient Servant

Philadi. April 15<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Rob Treat Paine

Robert Treat Paine, who a few weeks later was to sign the Declaration of Independence, was much interested in science and inventions, and was on several committees of the Continental Congress to establish home manufactures. Although a college graduate and a man of distinguished ability, he apparently made no other venture in authorship except to bring out this one pamphlet hitherto not recorded under his name. The Society previously owned the first two editions of the treatise, and now fortunately possesses the third.

The section devoted to Spanish-Americana has been enriched by ninety-five volumes relating to Cuba, received through exchange with the Harvard College Library. From a London dealer was purchased Marban's "*Arta de la Lengua Moxa*," printed at Lima in 1701, and presenting the language of the Moxos of Bolivia, an excellent addition to our large collection of the source-books of South American linguistics. Mr. Richard Ward Greene, of Worcester, has presented several volumes of Spanish American interest including a file of the "*Mercurio Peruano*," 1790—1795. From Mrs. F. Spencer Wigley, of St. Christopher's, British West Indies, has come as a gift the "*Laws of the Island of St. Christopher*," printed on the island itself in 1791. No copy of this

rare example of West Indian printing is located, according to Sabin's Dictionary, and it does not seem to be in any of the catalogues of the leading collections of American laws. At the same time was obtained by purchase the "Acts of Assembly, passed in the Island of St. Christopher," printed in London in 1739, with the two appendices printed in 1740. This volume, although not so rare, is interesting, partly because it contains a beautiful emblematic copper-plate engraving of George II made by G. Van der Gucht. It was Gerard Van der Gucht who engraved the large portrait of Rev. Samuel Willard, which is generally found pasted in copies of Willard's "Compleat Body of Divinity," printed at Boston in 1726 and famous as the first folio book, outside of laws, printed in the colonies. The original copper plate of the Willard portrait still exists in the custody of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the reverse having been used in the Revolution for the purpose of printing the State paper currency. There has always been a question as to whether the engraving was originally published in the book and many bibliographers have deemed the volume incomplete without the portrait. The point seems to be settled, however, by the recent discovery by Mr. John H. Edmonds, State Archivist, of an advertisement in the Boston News-Letter of January 12, 1727, as follows:

Just Arrived from London, the Effigies of the Rev. & Learned, Mr. Samuel Willard, late Pastor of the South Church in Boston, and Vice-President of Harvard College in Cambridge, in New-England, curiously Engraven: To be Sold by Benja. Eliot, at his shop in King street, and Daniel Henchman at his Shop in Cornhill, Boston.

It is evident, therefore, that the portraits arrived from England shortly after the publication of the book, which accounts for the fact that they are generally pasted or laid in the copies, whenever found.

About three hundred genealogies of American families have been acquired during the year, partly

from book-dealers' catalogues and partly as gifts from the authors. The want of an adequate genealogical checklist, however, prevents a library from knowing what titles it lacks and from having a proper description of the books it desires to buy. Genealogies, outside of their value for family research, are useful in the study of American biography and history, and the effort should be made by this library to make its collection more nearly complete. Although we have a large and valuable collection, we are exceeded by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the New York Historical Society, the Long Island Historical Society, the Library of Congress, the Newberry Library, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and possibly one or two others. For a library which has gathered one of the largest existing collections of historical literature relating to America, we should be somewhat better represented in this field. The lack of a Genealogical Fund has often been alluded to in former Reports.

In the acquisition of newspaper files we have made great strides in the past year. The availability of a fairly sizable fund derived from the sale of duplicate newspapers last year has made it possible for us to purchase many files of considerable importance. Money expended in this way is well spent, for the library is much used for early newspapers. Strange to say, it is the only place in New England, or in fact anywhere in the East, excepting Washington, where a fair representation of the newspapers of the country may be found. They are studied for all conceivable varieties of questions. Not only specific facts and dates are sought for, but long, intricate researches into the social or economic or political or literary history of the country are frequently made. One writer has spent most of the summer here tracing the influence of the "Spectator" upon American thought. Another has gleaned the facts regarding General Washington's

southern tour in 1791 in a manner which could be as fully covered in no other way. Another has reconstructed much of the history of the American theatre by a careful examination of early files. Even the modern newspaper, often abused by historians, has been used in many fields of thought. The attitude of certain important journals toward prohibition, editorial opinion relating to the late President Roosevelt, the development of resentment toward Germany during the recent World War are but a few of the queries which brought into service newspapers from every section of the United States.

The preservation of newspapers is one of our most important tasks, for in this way we can be of the greatest use to students all over the country. We could well serve as the central depository in New England for all newspapers which each library does not feel are required by their own patrons. Few libraries are able or willing to undertake the task of collecting, binding, and housing such bulky volumes. Historical students ought to have one place in New England where they would be able to find a fair proportion of New England newspapers, as well as the representative journals of other sections of the country. A querist from Hartford or Providence or Boston or Portland studying newspaper literature can much better be served by having such material under one roof, than by visiting a dozen or more different towns. As long as we are willing to undertake this task, libraries can co-operate by sending us their duplicates and the papers which are not of local use. If such newspapers command a ready money value, we at least should be given the opportunity of purchase. Several libraries in New England have already recognized the value of this central collection and have given us the first opportunity to complete our files. Yale University, the Connecticut Historical Society, the Rhode Island Historical Society, Brown University, the Providence Public Library,

the Newport Historical Society, Harvard University, the Boston Athenæum, the Essex Institute, the New Hampshire Historical Society, the Vermont Historical Society and many smaller local libraries have all co-operated in making our newspaper files more complete, and to them much of the value of this collection is due.

A list of the longer newspaper files acquired will show the scope of the year's accessions. Perhaps the most important files are the "New London Summary" 1762-1763, the "Norwich Packet" 1775-1783, the Chillicothe "Supporter" 1809-1817, the Lexington "Western Monitor," 1814-1817, the Albany "Argus," 1821-1841, and a number of Mexican newspapers published during the Mexican War, including the rare "American Star" of 1847-1848, issued by the American army of occupation. In this list is not included the Society's collection of camp and service newspapers of the recent war, numbering several thousand issues and containing almost complete files of the various editions of "Trench and Camp," published in over forty training camps in this country.

- AMHERST, VILLAGE MESSENGER, 1800-1801.
- AMHERST, FARMER'S CABINET, 1809.
- CONCORD OBSERVER, 1819-1821.
- PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, 1795-1820.
- PORTSMOUTH, ORACLE, 1799-1801, 1808-1810.
- BOSTON, AMERICAN TRAVELLER, 1829-1830.
- BOSTON, COMMONWEALTH, 1851.
- BOSTON, DEMOCRAT, 1804-1805.
- BOSTON GAZETTE, 1746.
- TAUNTON SUN, 1830-1832.
- NEW LONDON SUMMARY, 1762-1763.
- NORWICH PACKET, 1775-1783, 1794-1796.
- WINDHAM PHOENIX, 1795-1796.
- ALBANY ARGUS, 1821-1824, 1828-1829, 1839-1841.
- NEW YORK, CITIZEN, 1854.
- NEW YORK, DAILY ADVERTISER, 1823-1825.
- NEW YORK, EMANCIPATOR, 1842-1843.
- NEW YORK, EVENING POST, 1821-1824.
- NEW YORK, GAZETTE TIMES, 1846-1847.
- NEW YORK, GLOBE, 1825.

NEW YORK, LEDGER, 1865-1869.  
 NEW YORK, UNION, 1846-1851.  
 NEW YORK, WEEKLY MUSEUM, 1794-1797.  
 ROCHESTER AMERICAN, 1842-1857.  
 UTICA, Y'DRECH, 1893-1917.  
 WESTCHESTER HERALD, 1852-1856.  
 MORRISTOWN, NATIONAL DEFENDER, 1864-1869.  
 PHILADELPHIA, CLAYPOOLE'S ADVERTISER, 1792-1793.  
 PHILADELPHIA, DUNLAP'S ADVERTISER, 1791-1795.  
 PHILADELPHIA, GENERAL ADVERTISER, 1795-1804.  
 PHILADELPHIA, JACKSON'S POLITICAL REGISTER, 1815-1817.  
 PHILADELPHIA, NORTH AMERICAN, 1861-1869.  
 PHILADELPHIA, POULSON'S ADVERTISER, 1803-1809, 1816.  
 PHILADELPHIA, PUBLIC LEDGER, 1838.  
 PHILADELPHIA, RELF'S GAZETTE, 1815-1817.  
 PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY COURIER, 1833-1838.  
 PHILADELPHIA, UNIVERSAL GAZETTE, 1798-1800.  
 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND JOURNAL, 1789.  
 RICHMOND ENQUIRER, 1804-1806.  
 RICHMOND COMPILER, 1817-1818.  
 NORFOLK, COMMERCIAL REGISTER, 1802-1803.  
 CHILLICOTHE, SUPPORTER, 1809-1818.  
 LEXINGTON, WESTERN MONITOR, 1814-1817.  
 NASHVILLE GAZETTE, 1819-1821.  
 NATCHEZ, NEW SOUTH, 1872-1873.  
 MEXICO, AMERICAN STAR, 1847-1848.  
 MEXICO, ECO DEL COMERCIO, 1848.  
 MEXICO, MONITOR REPUBLICANO, 1847-1848.

The Society's collection of the reports and catalogues of American colleges has long been made an important feature, and within the past few years effort has been made to obtain nearly complete files for certain New England colleges. The burden of this effort so far as the collecting of the Yale Class Records is concerned has been lifted through the notable gift, from Professor Franklin B. Dexter, of his own collection. There is probably no college which has issued so large a body of biographical material relating to its graduates as Yale, and the Dexter collection numbers 219 volumes, many of them finely printed works of several hundred pages. There are twelve classes with biographical records previous to 1829, and with but four exceptions every

class from 1830 to 1919 is represented by one or more class books. It was through the kindness of Mr. Andrew Keogh, librarian of Yale, that the records of recent years were added to the Dexter collection and our indebtedness to him, as well as to the former member of our Council, is herewith recorded.

The desire, a few years ago, to strengthen our American engraving led to the formation of a bookplate collection. Gradually it increased until it became one of the three best collections in the country, and now, within the past year, one of these three collections, that formed by Frank Evans Marshall of Philadelphia, has been purchased *en bloc* and added to our own. Few collectors in the country were so successful as Mr. Marshall in obtaining early American plates, and the bookplates of the Presidents, signers of the Declaration of Independence, colonial Governors, and eighteenth century bibliophiles are here represented in great number. Most of the known plates engraved by Revere, Hurd, Dawkins, Doolittle and other early engravers are here and bear mute testimony of the artistic ability—or the lack of it—in the colonies. The great mass of labels and type plates, valuable chiefly in showing who were the book collectors of a century ago, swell the total into the thousands. Mr. Marshall was a keen student who gave a large part of his life to the formation of this great collection, and his notes and catalogues make a valuable addition, not only to our knowledge of bookplates, but also to the study of American biography.

The Marshall collection is now undergoing a process of arrangement and comparison with our own plates. It will be many weeks before we shall be able to know how many plates we shall obtain or to estimate the final size of our collection. It is certain, however, that the duplicate collection, made up from the sifting of at least four great collections, will rank in itself among the best in the country.

Through the kindness of Mr. Grenville H. Norcross the Society has obtained a fine bookplate engraved by Sidney L. Smith. The design of this plate attempts to show that the Society's scope covers the two Americas. The leading feature is a reproduction of the map of the Western Continent from the silver Nancy Globe discovered in the library at Nancy and drawn about 1525. It follows the engraving in the "Compte-Rendu" of the Congrès des Américanistes for 1877, vol. 1, p. 359. Below are the early flags of the three colonizing nations, England, France and Spain. In lower left corner is the DeBry portrait of Columbus, taken from our own copy of DeBry's *Great Voyages*, 1595, and in the right corner a portrait of Cortés from the woodcut in Paulus Jovius "Elogia" of 1575. The plate has a handsome border and is engraved in Sidney Smith's best style. The Society is much indebted to Mr. Norcross for the gift of so fine a plate.

With the exception of the rearrangement of the schoolbooks, due to the acquisition of about 2000 new titles, there has been no new project undertaken in the library during the year. There are many departments which need reclassification and cataloguing because of recent large accessions, but with our present income all we can do is to mark time, keep accessible the material which we have, and take care of what comes in as best we can. At present there is no special custodian of the newspapers and the work of inserting the numerous files acquired has fallen chiefly upon the librarian.

The President, in the Council Report, has spoken of the great need of a larger income for the Society. Everything in the library—books, binding, cataloguing, salaries, newspapers—all are not properly supported for want of funds. The need of a larger bookstack is imperative, and yet there seems to be no immediate prospect of meeting the situation. There are few organizations in the country which are as worthy of financial assistance as this Society. We

are performing a national historical task, and preserving material that is acquired by no other library. Every cent of income goes into the purchase of works relating to the history of America, to the publication of history and to making our collections of service. A legacy or a gift to this Society means the establishment of a fund of lasting and durable value for the study of the nation's history.

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.