

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

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AS in previous years, the Report of the Librarian begins with a tabulated record of the year's accessions:

Bound volumes	5054
Pamphlets	9065
Engravings, maps, mss., etc.	4662

The number of bound volumes now in the Library is 170,903 and of pamphlets 279,020, a total of 449,923 titles.

The accessions are almost equally divided between the modern, or current, output of historical literature and that which belongs to past generations. In a library national in scope, we faithfully attempt to live up to our name of "American." Every county, town or local history of every State in the Union, every genealogy, every publication of historical organizations, and a proper selection of modern histories and biographies must be secured either through gift or purchase. These are only some of the collections that must be kept as complete as possible. It entails a large amount of correspondence, but it is worth the trouble taken, as many a book easily obtainable today is almost unprocurable a few years hence.

The early American publications, those printed before the Revolution, or even before 1800, are more easily featured in a report than modern books, which even if more used, are known by copies in scores of libraries. Such titles as the Caslon Type Specimen broadside of 1734; the 1709 edition of the New England Psalms; Bunyan's "Grace Abounding," Boston 1717; Melmoth's "Great Importance of a Religious

Life Considered," Boston 1729, with an engraving by Thomas Johnston; Clarke's Translation of Corderius, Boston 1724; "The Invitation," a Massachusetts excise tract printed at Boston in 1755; a curious undated edition of "The North Briton Extraordinary," with engraved caricatures relating to America; and a series of rare volumes of music, Tans'ur's "Royal Melody," 1767, Jocelin's "Chorister's Companion," 1788, and Holyoke's "Instrumental Assistant," 1800, are all exceedingly scarce, if not unrecorded, and would grace any catalogue of Americana. These titles, with interesting accessions of the past year, are shown in the exhibition cases in the upper hall.

Among the rare acquisitions is a copy of Shakspeare's "Romeo and Juliet," Philadelphia 1801. It bears the following title-page, "Romeo & Juliet, by William Shakspeare, corrected from the latest and best London editions, with notes, by Samuel Johnson, L.L.D. Embellished with a striking likeness from the collection of his Grace the Duke of Chandos. First American Edition. Philadelphia: Printed and Sold by John Bioren, No. 88 Chestnut Street. 1801," and is a 12mo., with the title-page followed by pages [5]-92. Apparently this was the first play in volume 8 of the collected edition of Shakspeare's Plays issued by Bioren & Madan in Philadelphia in 1796. Since "Romeo and Juliet" was the first play in the volume and bore the pagination [5]-92, the publisher in 1801 printed a new title-page and issued the play separately.

The details of the printing of Shakspeare's Plays at Philadelphia in 1795-1796 are not exactly clear. Mr. Stan V. Henkels, the veteran book auctioneer, lately deceased, according to Mr. Henry N. Paul of Philadelphia, stated that the edition was issued by subscription in parts and that he had once sold such a set. But no copy of the Plays in such condition can now be located, and the above instance of "Romeo and Juliet" is the first case of finding any of the Plays separately issued, even although five years after its

original publication. Mr. Paul himself, who has made a study of American editions of Shakspeare, has a copy of the Poems, also part of volume 8, with its own pagination, issued separately with a 1795 title-page. There are no copies of separately issued Plays to be found in either the Historical Society of Pennsylvania or the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Library Company, nor has Mr. Charles Evans ever located such a copy in his comprehensive combing of American libraries.

In our collection of Mathew Carey Accounts, these are the only references to Shakespeare's Works between 1795 and 1801:

Purchase by Carey from Bioren & Madan in 1795 of twelve copies of the first volume of Shakespeare's Works. Same for twelve copies of the second volume.

Purchase from Bioren & Madan, Sept. 10, 1796, of twelve sets of Shakespeare at \$9 each.

Long running account between Carey and John Bioren from Jan. 1, 1797 to 1815, including the purchase on Apr. 27, 1797 of the first three volumes of Shakespeare for £1-2-6; and on Oct. 24, 1801, of one set of Shakespeare for \$8.34.

The 1801 issue of "Romeo and Juliet" is the earliest known American edition of any one of Shakspeare's Plays except for the undated "Hamlet" and "Twelfth Night" printed at Boston in 1794. Of these, "Hamlet" was the earlier of the two, having been advertised in the *Columbian Centinel* of April 5, 1794 as just published and "will be ready for delivery on Wednesday afternoon, at the Book-stores of D. West and John West."

Mr. Charles H. Taylor's gifts, as usual, represent a large proportion of our accessions. Newspaper files, scarce magazines, first editions, current literature and history, journalism, early engravings and broadsides constitute a body of material of high historical value. One especially fine item is Thomas Johnston's map of the Kennebec River about 1754, showing the Maine coast from Cape Elizabeth to Pemaquid. This map

differs slightly from the Massachusetts Historical Society copy which was reproduced in 1918 and which at that time was the only copy located. Mr. Taylor's greatest gift, however, is his collection of early American lithography, containing 383 volumes and 155 pamphlets illustrated with lithographs, 1010 separate lithographs and 940 pieces of lithographed Sheet Music. In addition, there is a fine oil portrait of Bass Otis, who was the first American lithographer and who later became a portrait painter of note. This portrait was painted by the artist himself in 1860 when he was seventy-six years old. Mr. Taylor's generosity in assuming the expense of cataloguing this remarkable collection is only another evidence of his continued interest in the Library.

Charles E. Goodspeed has added to our collection of Association Books by the gift of Elton's "Triumph of a True Christian," London 1623, with the autographs of several owners. The book was first owned by Thomas Welde, pastor of the First Church at Roxbury from 1632 to 1641, who died in England in 1660. The second owner was John Eliot, 1603-1690, apostle to the Indians and teacher at the First Church of Roxbury from 1632. Thwing, in his "First Church of Roxbury," 1908, p. 16, states that Eliot's letters to England disclose the fact that he was trying to purchase Welde's library. The third owner was John Cotton, 1712-1789, minister at Halifax, Massachusetts in 1744. From him the book descended to his son, Rev. Ward Cotton, 1770-1843, minister at Boylston, Massachusetts, and brother of Rosseter Cotton who presented to this Society in 1819 one of the most valuable collections of early New England manuscripts that we own.

From the estate of Miss Frances M. Lincoln the Society has acquired the splendid seven volume set of Audubon's "Birds of America," printed in 1840-1844, as well as several first editions of American authors and other books of value.

From the estate of our late member, Benjamin Thomas Hill, we have received a large collection of portraits, views, manuscripts and newspapers relating to Worcester County, all of the highest importance in filling out our collections. Since this material has only recently been obtained, it will be properly recorded and described in a future Report. Mr. Hill's remarkable ability in inlaying views and manuscripts for the volumes which he extra illustrated has long been widely recognized. In this connection it is interesting to record that his valuable series on Transportation is now permanently preserved in the Harvard Business Library, and the series relating to Lafayette's Tour in the Library of Congress. Always interested in this Library and ever ready to help those who were struggling with problems of local Worcester history, he was the one person to whom we always turned for information and were seldom disappointed. We at this Library shall miss him greatly.

The newspaper collection has received the usual number of additions. Among them are many eighteenth century files, although these are becoming increasingly difficult to find, and unfortunately for a library which collects comprehensively and has to bid against the local collector, are fetching higher prices. The most important file secured is a series of California newspapers published at Napa, about forty-five miles from San Francisco and one of the earliest towns in the State settled by American emigrants. The file runs from 1857 to 1905 and is especially valuable for the early period, when it contains all the Pony Express news, later the telegraph news and extensive extracts from mining town newspapers. It was through our fellow member and constant friend, Mr. Henry R. Wagner, that we first learned of this rare file.

Another valuable gift consisted of files of the *New London Democrat* for 1845-1848, and the *Hartford Post* for 1858-1859. These were both edited by James

M. Scofield, who started his successful career as a New London publisher at the age of twenty-one. In 1849 he removed to Stockton, California, where he ordered a newspaper press sent out to him, but unfortunately it was lost in transit. Returning East, he established the *Hartford Daily Post* in 1858 which he conducted for several years. These files have been presented to this Society by his children, Mrs. Edward D. Thayer and William B. Scofield.

The following are the more important newspaper files acquired during the year:

- MAINE STATE PRESS, 1863-1865.
- NORWAY ADVERTISER, 1844-1852.
- MACHIAS UNION, 1853-1855.
- PORTSMOUTH, ORACLE OF THE DAY, 1797-1798.
- BOSTON, SPIRIT OF THE AGE, 1833-1834.
- BOSTON MERCANTILE JOURNAL, 1834-1837.
- BOSTON TRANSCRIPT, 1846-1848.
- NORTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, 1793-1803.
- HARTFORD DAILY POST, 1858-1859.
- HARTFORD WEEKLY POST, 1858-1859.
- HARTFORD, CATHOLIC PRESS, 1829-1830.
- HARTFORD, U. S. CATHOLIC PRESS, 1832.
- NEW LONDON DEMOCRAT, 1845-1848.
- NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT JOURNAL, 1815-1816.
- NEW YORK, CATHOLIC REGISTER, 1839-1840.
- NEW YORK, COLUMBIAN GAZETTEER, 1794.
- NEW YORK, COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER, 1841.
- NEW YORK, DIARY, 1794.
- NEW YORK JOURNAL, 1809-1811.
- NEW YORK, MECHANIC, 1841.
- NEW YORK, REPUBLICAN WATCH-TOWER, 1806-1809.
- NEW YORK SPECTATOR, 1807, 1810-1820.
- NEW YORK, TRUTH TELLER, 1829-1830.
- NEW YORK, WEEKLY INSPECTOR, 1806-1807.
- NEW YORK, WEEKLY MUSEUM, 1798-1800.
- HUDSON, BEE, 1806-1810.
- TROY GAZETTE, 1807-1809.
- BROOKLYN, LONG ISLAND STAR, 1809-1810.
- PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY WHIG, 1836-1857.
- DOVER, DELAWARE STATE REPORTER, 1853-1857.
- NEWTOWN, PENN., STAR OF FREEDOM, 1817-1818.
- BALTIMORE, MARYLAND JOURNAL, 1785.
- FREDERICKTOWN, REPUBLICAN ADVOCATE, 1802-1806.

HAGERSTOWN HERALD, 1864-1866.  
WASHINGTON, MONITOR, 1809.  
NAPA COUNTY REPORTER, 1857-62, 1867-68, 1872-83.  
NAPA, PACIFIC ECHO, 1861-1862.  
NAPA DAILY REPORTER, 1882-1883.  
NAPA JOURNAL, 1884-1905.  
TRINIDAD, PORT OF SPAIN GAZETTE, 1856.

From various sales at auction and from dealers some rare almanacs have been added to our collection. John Jerman's "American Almanack" for 1739, Jacob Taylor's "Almanack" for 1737 and 1738, William Ball's "New Jersey Almanack" for 1744, and William Birkett's "Poor Will's Almanack" for 1747 are all rare early Philadelphia issues. Our file of Franklin's "Poor Richard" almanacs has been improved by the acquisition of the issues for 1764, 1766 and 1786. From 1733 to 1795 the file now lacks only the issues of 1733, 1735, 1738, 1739, 1741 to 1745, 1777, 1778, 1781, 1784 and 1788. The collection of early Pocket Almanacs published in Philadelphia, a particularly rare series, has been increased by the "Pennsylvania Pocket Almanack" for 1769, 1771 and 1783; R. Saunders' "Pocket Almanack" for 1771; William Evitt's "Gentleman and Citizen's Pocket Almanack" for 1772; and "Father Abraham's Pocket Almanack" for 1773 and 1776. In a collection of Virginia almanacs obtained were the following early issues: "The Farmers' Almanack" for 1807 and "The Alexandria Almanack" for 1809, both published at Alexandria; and "The Virginia Almanack" for 1810, "Johnson & Warner's Virginia Almanac" for 1811, "Cottom's Virginia Almanac" for 1814, "Warner's Virginia Almanac" for 1817, "Warrock's Virginia Pocket Almanack" for 1818, "Cottom's New Virginia Almanack" for 1820, and "The Franklin Almanac" for 1822, all published at Richmond.

As the President has noted in his Report, the Munson collection has now become incorporated in our collection, and the entire card catalogue has been

revised and completed. The almanacs have been considerably used during the year for the study of American humor, native poetry and sentiment toward the Revolution. Dr. Nichols has completed and sent to the printer his checklist of the almanacs of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Now that New England and New York have been indexed, the most important desideratum is a checklist of the Pennsylvania issues, a work of some magnitude but one that is much needed. As has been before remarked in these Reports, almanacs are worthy of study from many historical angles, and in addition they form a valuable conspectus of the history of printing in any given locality.

Quite the most important manuscript accession of the year is the long series of Account Books of Mathew Carey, the early Philadelphia publisher, from 1785 to 1821. These first appeared at a Henkels Auction Sale on Oct. 11, 1927, having been discovered, according to the best information obtainable, in a store where for many years they had been regarded as waste paper. The lot was bought by Mr. A. D. Barter who later sold them to this Society. As found in the auction rooms, the lot contained volumes 1 to 34, so numbered, but lacking twelve volumes. After some correspondence with Lea & Febiger, the lineal descendants of the Carey firm, that establishment generously presented to us six volumes lacking in the set, which were found among their recent Account Books. In the collection of Mathew Carey Correspondence presented by Lea & Febiger in 1927 to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania were found two more volumes of the series, and through the co-operation of the Society and its Librarian, Mr. Thomas L. Montgomery, the two missing volumes were added to the set—a most friendly gesture on the part of the Historical Society and one that more than atones for a somewhat similar favor which we showed to them two years ago.

As the series of Carey Account Books stands at the present time, it includes numbered volumes 1 to 34



from 1785 to 1821, lacking only volumes 9 to 12. It also includes three volumes of printed form receipted bills, 1802-1804, 1809-1813 and 1813-1823, and four miscellaneous volumes of accounts from 1833 to 1859. This series constitutes a veritable record of American publishing during the formative years of the country's history. So important was it to this Society in answering queries regarding American printing which are constantly coming to the Library, that we began and have finished a name index, with 5300 names and over 25,000 references, to the series from 1785 to 1821. This index, which has already been used by many investigators, will be of the greatest service in the field of one of our leading specialties—American bibliography.

Manuscripts relating to the early settlement of Worcester in the seventeenth century are very rare. But one has now been presented consisting of the Testimony of Thomas Prentis and Adam Winthrop regarding a land dispute between George Danson and John Wing, December 1685, the same document as that quoted in Francis Blake's "Early Settlements of Worcester," 1884, p. 21. It was presented by Mr. Maurice F. Reidy and forms a fine companion piece to a similar document presented by the late Lincoln N. Kinnicutt in 1916.

Many additions have been made to the bookplate collection, although mostly in the modern period, since few early American plates we lack appear for sale. The most valuable acquisition was a copy of Vere L. Oliver's fine volume, "West Indian Bookplates," extra illustrated by 256 original plates including a few not in Oliver's list. It was obtained from Thomas Thorp, the English bookseller, and was probably the collection formed by Alfred A. Bethune Baker of Manchester, England. It adds immeasurably to our West Indies collection.

Although little intensive effort is made to acquire bookplates, yet the correspondence regarding the

subject is fairly large, as the collection is considerably used by writers on heraldry and library history, as well as upon *ex-libris*. Fortunately our large duplicate collection has been disposed of to a fellow member, Mr. I. N. Phelps Stokes of New York, whose cordial and generous willingness to meet our views is herewith acknowledged.

Considerable progress has been made during the year in the indexing of American death notices. The rather elaborate task announced last year of listing all obituary notices in leading American newspapers from 1875 to the present time has progressed to the year 1890, the index so far comprising nearly 30,000 slips. A second project contemplates the indexing of the marriages and deaths in the *Columbian Centinel* of Boston from 1790 to 1830, which newspaper reprinted the notices from all other American journals, forming a body of about 85,000 biographical references. From duplicate files of the *Centinel* these vital records have been mounted in scrap-book form, with the years from 1806 to 1820 so far completed. We have received much help in this work from Mr. John Elliot Bowman of Boston, who has already indexed the marriages and deaths from 1811 to 1817. In this connection should be mentioned the valuable work of Mr. Joseph Gavit of Albany who has indexed over 30,000 marriages and deaths from various New York newspapers from 1790 to 1828, often with the assistance and always with the commendation of this Society.

The indices mentioned above, as well as the numerous other biographical collections in the Library, have been of the greatest help in answering the queries which have come to us from contributors to the Dictionary of American Biography, now in process of compilation. During the year we have replied to letters regarding over four hundred names of those included in this monumental work, as well as having furnished source material to writers who have visited

the Library in person to prepare biographies. Few reference works ever published in this country have elicited from this Library so much interest, and every member of the staff seems to have taken a personal concern in solving these problems, most of which come to us after other sources of information have failed.

Some research early in the year for material relating to early American editions of the works of Dr. Samuel Johnson led us to list the copies in this Library and finally the search broadened so that we addressed queries to five other large libraries to find what editions they owned. The results disclosed that fifty-three different editions of Johnson's various works were located in the Boston Public Library, Harvard, Yale, New York Public Library, the Library of Congress and this Library. It is interesting to note that "Rasselas" was most widely read in America before 1820, having been reprinted in no less than fifteen editions, and that Johnson's was the most celebrated Dictionary in the first two decades of the nineteenth century, although William Perry whom Isaiah Thomas popularized and John Walker were also largely used. It was many years later before Webster became the American standard. It is also a commentary upon the Society's method of acquiring all American early printed books to realize that we have forty-two out of the fifty-three titles in this list.

WORKS OF SAMUEL JOHNSON IN AMERICA, 1768-1820

History of Rasselas. Phila., 1768. 2v. in 1	AAS. BPL. NYPL.
Rasselas. Greenfield, 1795. 3v. in 1	AAS. BPL. NYPL.
Rasselas. Hartford, 1803	AAS. BPL.
Rasselas. Cambridge, 1804	AAS. HC.
History of Rasselas. Bridgeport, 1809	AAS. NYPL.
Rasselas. Baltimore, 1810	AAS. NYPL.
Rasselas. Boston, 1810	LC.
Rasselas. Frederick-town, 1810	AAS.
Rasselas. Boston, 1811	BPL.
Rasselas. Phila., 1811	AAS.
Rasselas. Brattleboro, 1813	AAS.
Rasselas. Phila., 1818	AAS.

- Rasselas. Baltimore, 1819 BPL.  
 History of Rasselas. Phila., 1820 AAS.  
 Rasselas, N. Y., n. d. AAS.  
 Thoughts on the Falkland's Islands. N. Y., 1771 AAS.  
 Abridgement of the Lives of the British Poets.  
 Pts. 1-3. Phila., 1784 NYPL.  
 Lives of the English Poets. Phila., 1803. 2v. YC.  
 Lives of the English Poets. Charlestown, 1810.  
 2v. AAS. BPL. HC. NYPL. YC.  
 Lives of the English Poets. Phila., 1811. v. 1 AAS.  
 Lives of the English Poets. Phila., 1819. 3v. AAS. HC. NYPL.  
 Beauties of Johnson. Phila., 1787 AAS.  
 Prince of Abissinia. Phila., 1791. 2v. AAS.  
 Prince of Abissinia. Greenfield, 1795. 3v. in 1 AAS.  
 Idler. Newburyport, 1803. 2v. in 1 AAS. BPL. HC.  
 Idler. Phila., 1803. 2v. AAS. HC.  
 Idler. N. Y., 1811. 2v. in 1 AAS. HC.  
 Idler. N. Y., 1816 BPL.  
 Rambler. Phila., 1803. 3v. AAS. HC. YC.  
 Rambler. N. Y., 1812. 4v. AAS.  
 Rambler. Phila. & N. Y., 1812. 4v. AAS. HC. YC.  
 Poetical Works. Phila., 1805 AAS. BPL. NYPL. YC.  
 Poetical Works. Charlestown, 1810 BPL. HC.  
 Supplement to Johnson's Dictionary. N. Y., 1803 AAS.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. Boston, 1804 BPL. NYPL.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. Phila., 1805 AAS.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. Boston, 1806 AAS. NYPL.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. Boston, 1810 AAS. NYPL.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. Phila., 1813 AAS. YC.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. Baltimore, 1814 YC.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. N. Y., 1817 AAS.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. Phila., 1817 BPL.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. N. Y., 1818 AAS.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. Phila., 1818. 2v. BPL. LC. NYPL. YC.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. Phila., 1818-19. 4v. AAS. YC.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. N. Y., 1819 AAS.  
 Johnson's Dictionary. Phila., 1819. 2v. AAS. BPL. HC. NYPL.  
 Table Talk. Boston, 1809 AAS. NYPL.  
 Works. Boston and N. Y., 1809-1812. 12v. (v.  
 3-12, N. Y.) AAS. NYPL. YC.  
 Works. N. Y., 1809-1812. 12v. (v. 1 says 15  
 vols.) AAS. BPL. HC.  
 Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland.  
 Phila., 1810 AAS.  
 Hamlet Travestie, by Dr. Johnson and Geo.  
 Stevens. N. Y., 1811. (John Poole) AAS. NYPL.  
 Diary of a Tour in North Wales. Phila., 1817 AAS. LC.

In closing this Report, the Librarian especially wishes to record the co-operation which has been received from the members of the Society. Certain members, such as Messrs. Rugg, W. Lincoln, T. H. Gage, Cunningham, Norcross, Lombard and the late Charles G. Washburn, followed the usual custom of sending to us currently issued reports of institutions and business organizations and the ephemeral pamphlet literature of the day, thus enabling us to keep up many of our files. Some members—John Thomas Lee, Matt B. Jones, Victor H. Paltsits, Albert C. Bates, George Simpson Eddy and many others—occasionally send us rare items which they know will be of value to the Library. Others present their own publications. The List of Donors which accompanies this Report shows nearly one-third of the total membership as having given something to the Library. Especially does the Librarian acknowledge his indebtedness to those members who have given funds to take care of the increased annual expenditures. During the year we have had the income from the Worcester fund of \$100,000, but until our sought for endowment fund is raised, the Society can never make its income equal its required expenditures, unless it is willing to curtail its usefulness. Therefore, we are particularly grateful to those fifteen members, all living outside of Worcester, who have generously aided the Society by contributing to the Special Gifts Fund. Most of this income has been spent in the acquisition of books. If we had not received it, nearly all of the opportunities offered during the year to complete and fill out our collections would have been lost. When we finally obtain the desired endowment, which we hope will be during the coming year, this appeal for temporary relief will not have to be made again.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,

*Librarian.*

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