

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

THE accessions of the year, shown in tabular form, are as follows:

Bound volumes	8356
Pamphlets	9204
Engravings, maps, mss., etc.	1855
Unbound newspapers	2620

The number of bound volumes now in the Library is 179,259 and of pamphlets 288,224, a total of 467,483 titles.

The yearly accessions have been rather larger than usual, due to retaining the average of many purchases and gifts, to a large purchase of 344 Western County histories, to the gift from the Essex Institute of 1962 directories and to a considerable increase in the purchase of first editions. Certain members of the Society, such as Chief Justice Rugg, Henry W. Cunningham, Grenville H. Norcross, Waldo Lincoln, Herbert E. Lombard and T. Hovey Gage have continued to send to the Library the currently issued reports of institutions, periodicals and the ephemeral pamphlet literature of the day, and many members, whose names will be found in the list of Donors, have sent either their own publications or other contributions of value. From J. S. Wesby and Sons of Worcester, the Library has continued to receive a large mass of books and pamphlets representing a fair share of the local publications issued during the year.

Through the kindness of Mr. Lemuel A. Welles, a recently elected member, the Society has received the records of the anti-trust case of the Government against the American Can Company, in twenty vol-

umes, and against the United States Steel Company, in twenty-eight volumes. Since these records are of the highest historical and economic value, and were printed in only a few copies for those connected with the cases, the Society is exceedingly glad to have them for permanent preservation and use. Mr. Welles's interest in the Society has also been evidenced by his generous gifts to our funds.

Another gift of high historical importance is the collection of New Hampshire laws and senate and house journals, extending in almost complete form from 1716 to 1800, received through the bequest of the late James Benjamin Wilbur. This fine gift, from one who always had the concerns of the Society near to his heart, puts our collection of New Hampshire laws on a par with those of the other New England States, and strengthens our New Hampshire material in the one field in which it was previously poorly represented.

Considerable work has been given to the arranging of the material which was so generously presented to the Society by the family of our late member, Benjamin Thomas Hill. A total of 576 Worcester portraits, 355 American portraits and 1053 Worcester views have been specially mounted and added to our photographic collection. Each print has been properly marked and the Society's assemblage of Worcester views and portraits has now been termed the "Benjamin Thomas Hill Collection." There is still much work to do in arranging the remainder of Mr. Hill's literary possessions, which are of high value to this Society. He was an industrious and indefatigable collector and it is a pleasure to realize that his work will be permanently preserved in this Library, in which he always took the keenest interest.

Newspapers as usual have formed a large part of the yearly accessions. Several files of exceeding importance have been secured, notably a file of the *New Orelans Picayune* from 1843 to 1857 and of the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* from 1841 to 1875. Always

strong in the early newspapers and reasonably well represented in the files of the last sixty years, our greatest need seems to be for the files of the middle nineteenth century, a period when the Society apparently was not aware of the advisability of procuring important newspapers at the time of their publication. We have had use for these particular New Orleans and Philadelphia files many times, and their acquisition fills a real need.

The most interesting newspaper obtained, however, and one of the longest and scarcest early files found by us in recent years, is the *Carlisle Gazette* extending from 1787 to 1817. This remarkable series of volumes was published at Carlisle, Penn., through the entire period of thirty years by George Kline, who was one of the most capable editors in the country. His paper was one of the earliest to be published west of Philadelphia and was one of the important journals of the period, largely because the editor saw the value of western news and inserted in his paper many stories of Indian attacks and uprisings, and many incidents regarding the growth of small western towns, such as St. Louis, Cincinnati and Detroit. The ratification of the United States Constitution by Pennsylvania, the Presidential election of 1788 and of the next thirty years, the disputes between the Federalists and the Republicans, the duel between Hamilton and Burr, the battles of the War of 1812, all can be traced in this newspaper file in the most graphic way. Such files as these come up for sale once in a lifetime and never could be secured out of the small book income possessed by this Society. Had it not been for the kindly generosity of a fellow member, Mr. William E. Benjamin, of New York, we should not have been able to secure it, and to Mr. Benjamin the Library expresses its indebtedness. As has been stated in previous Reports of the Librarian, the income for book purchase falls considerably short of allowing us to complete our collections when the opportunity offers,

and only through gifts from such members as Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Welles, Mr. George A. Plimpton, Mr. Henry W. Cunningham and Mr. George S. Eddy, all of whom have contributed to this purpose during the past year, could we have succeeded in taking advantage of such opportunities.

Although many newspapers, both in bound volumes and unbound issues, have been acquired, the following is a list of the more important files:

PORTLAND, NORTHERN PIONEER, 1848
EXETER, NEWS LETTER, 1835-1845
MANCHESTER, REPRESENTATIVE, 1841-1842
BOSTON, AMERICAN TRAVELLER, 1829
BOSTON, MORNING CHRONICLE, 1844
CHARLESTOWN, FRANKLIN MONITOR, 1819
CHARLESTOWN, SPIRIT OF INQUIRY, 1833-1834
DEDHAM, COLUMBIAN MINERVA, 1799
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT MIRROR, 1814-1816
WINDSOR, VERMONT JOURNAL, 1784-1785
HUDSON, NORTHERN WHIG, 1815-1816
NEW YORK CLIPPER, 1870-1871
NEW YORK, SHAMROCK, 1811-1812
NEW YORK, MILITARY MONITOR, 1812-1813
NEWARK, CENTINEL OF FREEDOM, 1800-1827
TRENTON, STATE GAZETTE, 1850, 1852
CARLISLE AMERICAN VOLUNTEER, 1833-1836
CARLISLE GAZETTE, 1787-1817
GETTYSBURG, REPUBLICAN COMPILER, 1819
HARRISBURG, KEYSTONE, 1848-1851
PHILADELPHIA, DEMOCRATIC PRESS, 1814
PHILADELPHIA, PUBLIC LEDGER, 1841-1875
WESTCHESTER, CHESTER FEDERALIST, 1813-1816
BALTIMORE, AMERICAN, 1801
BALTIMORE DAILY REPOSITORY, 1792-1793
NEW ORELANS PICAYUNE, 1843-1857

Many additions have been made to the collection of first editions, or American literature of the last one hundred years. Over one thousand volumes have been acquired during the year, nearly all through purchase and obtained by examination of catalogues and quotations from scores of book-dealers. This has been made largely possible through the financial aid given to the Library by Mrs. Emily E. F. Skeel, whose con-

tinued interest in the collection has encouraged us to continue to build it up. The Society now has 3350 titles of American first editions, about one-third of the total number in the field which we attempt to cover.

Among miscellaneous additions which should be mentioned in this report are Verger's rare emblematic engraving of 1796, the "Triumph of Liberty," the gift of Mr. Charles A. Place; Revere's masonic engraving of St. Peter's Lodge of Newburyport, obtained through purchase; and a newly discovered Nathaniel Hurd bookplate of William Hubbard, presented by Charles E. Goodspeed, who has also contributed many other rare items to help fill in our collections. From Mrs. Livingston Cushing of Colorado Springs, the Society has received twenty-six Isaiah Thomas documents, nearly all various revisions of his will and schedules of his legacies. Another gift from a descendant of Isaiah Thomas, and one especially valued because unsolicited and unthought of, was a contribution of \$5000 to our invested funds from Mrs. Frances Crocker Sloane of New York.

In October 1920 Dr. Nichols wrote for the Proceedings an article on the Descendants of Isaiah Thomas, basing his information for the early period upon an elaborate account of the family drawn up by Isaiah Thomas himself and included in his manuscripts in the possession of this Society.

Mr. George Parker Winship now brings to my attention that in the Harvard College Library is a copy of a family Bible owned by Isaiah Thomas and now descended to William G. Taussig of Belmont, Mass., who has deposited the volume there for safe-keeping. This Bible is the standard quarto Bible printed at Oxford in 1770 and bears on the title-page the autograph signature, "Isaiah Thomas, 1773." On the last page of the Book of Revelations is the manuscript entry: "This Bible was bought on Saturday, August 31, 1771, by Isaiah Thomas, of John Langdon, Bookseller, of Boston." On the blank leaf

opposite the title is written, "Not to be Sold. See overleaf." This refers to the back of the title, on which is written, in Thomas's hand: "I request that this Bible may be kept and preserved by my descendants of the male line.—Isaiah Thomas." In later ink he has written: "As I have given my grandson Isaiah the old family Bible, I intend this for his brother William."

Mr. Winship has kindly given to the Society photostats of all the pages in the Bible which contain manuscript genealogical entries. These are in Isaiah Thomas's hand up to the time of his death and have been carried on by later descendants in one or two lines. Except in a few minor instances, none of the dates and facts differ from those given in Isaiah Thomas's manuscript family genealogy or in Dr. Nichols' account. The knowledge of this interesting Bible adds one more bit to our information regarding the founder of this Society.

From the family of our late revered President, Dr. Charles L. Nichols, the Society has received the Nichols collection of Worcester books, pamphlets and manuscripts. This has aided notably in completing our already fine collection of Worcester County material, especially adding to our early Worcester imprints and Isaiah Thomas juvenile publications. Not the least valuable part of this gift were the notebooks and memoranda which Dr. Nichols had compiled in the preparation of his various Worcester bibliographies. Much of this has never been printed and here it will always remain, to be of service to those who pursue investigations in these subjects. Also from his children, Mrs. Caroline D. Gaskill, Mrs. Harriet B. Lincoln and Charles L. Nichols, Jr., as mentioned in the Council Report, we have received Dr. Nichols's fine portrait, an expressive likeness painted in 1924 by Hildebrandt. In referring to these gifts, I cannot refrain from stating that Dr. Nichols's untimely death has deprived the Society of a useful member

and a most loyal supporter. His constant assistance, given to every one of the Society's undertakings, is sorely missed. More than all, and in this every member of the library staff joins, we miss his daily words of encouragement and cheer, his sympathetic understanding and his high ideals.

Miss Harriet E. Clarke, of Worcester, has presented to the Society a number of eighteenth century pamphlets and manuscripts written by Alfred Dwight Foster, her grandfather, by Hon. Dwight Foster, her great-grandfather and by other members of the Foster family. It was very fitting that this material should be in this Library which about ten years ago received on deposit from Alfred D. Foster the diary and letter-books of Dwight Foster, written during his term in Congress from 1793 to 1801, one of the most valuable series of documents in the Library. Miss Clarke also placed with the Society on loan a valuable collection of miniatures and silhouettes of various members of the Foster family, which collection is now on exhibition in one of the cases in the upper hall.

The Society's collection of American cookery books has received a notable addition in the gift from Mr. Waldo Lincoln of his own collection, unquestionably the largest in the country, and numbering 860 volumes, nearly all of the nineteenth century. This collection, added to our own, gives the Society a total of 1047 volumes. Mr. Lincoln's bibliography of the subject, contributed by title at the meeting of the Society last April, has been issued in printed form in the Proceedings.

From Mrs. Edwin A. Grosvenor of Amherst, daughter of Colonel Asa H. Waters, the Society has received what we needed from the literary contents of the Asa Waters house at Millbury, Mass. Among the valued material which we obtained to aid in completing our collections, were over two hundred volumes of biography and general Americana, seventy early school-books, twenty-two volumes of sheet music,

many railroad reports, college documents and town reports, and forty maps and town plans. The most valued accession were the Asa Waters' manuscripts consisting of about 750 letters and documents chiefly relating to the Waters manufacture of guns for the United States Government in the early part of the nineteenth century. Added also were the papers collected by the late Henry A. Phillips, who married Florence E. Waters, daughter of Colonel Asa H. Waters, concerning the John Hancock house and family, of which he had made an exhaustive study. The Society is grateful to Mrs. Grosvenor for this gift, which was made with the generous consent of her sons, Gilbert Grosvenor of Washington and Edwin P. Grosvenor of New York.

Mr. Charles H. Taylor, as in previous years, has been the largest donor and the value of his gifts measures as large as their bulk. Hundreds of volumes covering the range of subjects in which this Library is interested, have come from him—printing, journalism, first editions, New England history, early imprints, maps, manuscripts and engravings. He has continued to add to his lithograph collection, most of which was sent last year. About three hundred more prints have arrived this year and Mr. Taylor has also continued to assume the cost of cataloguing the collection. So far 3490 cards have been made for lithographs in books and pamphlets and for separate prints. The lithographs remaining to be done, consist of 1387 pieces of sheet music and the cartoons and maps. It is a long and rather difficult task, involving the identification of lithographers through research in directories and the dating of prints by comparison of the street addresses of the houses of publication. But all the time given to this collection is well spent, as lithographs, with their spontaneity and nearness to the artist's design, will always be the most studied of American graphic processes, valuable alike for their artistic quality as for their historical interest.

Among the many example of early American printing which Mr. Taylor has given to the Society, it is difficult to single out the titles of especial value to this Library. At least two, however, seem particularly to fit into a collection which was established by Isaiah Thomas, the greatest publisher of children's books of his time. One is entitled "Tom Thumb's Folio, or a new Play-Thing for little Boys and Girls, To which is prefixed, An abstract of the Life of Mr. Thumb, and an Historical account of the Wonderful Deeds to be performed. Together with some Anecdotes respecting Grumbo the Great Giant," Boston: Printed and Sold by Nathaniel Coverly, 1783. This hitherto unknown edition seems to be the first American printing of this popular child's book, following the Newbery & Carnan London edition of 1768, and preceding the Philadelphia 1786 and Worcester 1787 editions.

The other title is "The Gentleman's Pocket-Farrier; Shewing How to Use your Horse On a Journey and What Remedies are proper for Common Accidents, that may befall him on the Road," Boston: Printed and Sold by N. Coverly, 1778. This popular work was first printed in this country at Philadelphia by Benjamin Franklin in 1735, and again at Williamsburgh in 1738. The 1778 issue, not previously known, seems to be the third time that it was published in America. Judging by Evans's Bibliography it was the fourth title printed relating to the Horse, being preceded only by William Gibson's "Farriers' Dispensatory," Philadelphia, 1724; "The Gentleman's Pocket Farrier," Philadelphia 1735; and "The Gentleman Farrier's Repository," Philadelphia 1775. After 1778 it was reprinted in this country many times, and has been variously ascribed to William Burdon, J. Bartlett and Henry Bracken. In alluding to Evans's Bibliography, it is worth noting that another volume of this invaluable and monumental work, covering the years 1795 and part of 1796, has been produced during the year.

From Mr. P. K. Foley of Boston, the Society received a large collection of imperfect, but excessively rare, eighteenth century imprints, over one hundred in number and containing many items not previously recorded in bibliographies. From this lot the Library secured thirty-seven titles which it lacked and in twenty-four cases obtained title-pages and end leaves to complete our hitherto imperfect copies. Bibliographically, this material, which Mr. Foley genially termed "the wreckage and lunacies of forty years of collecting," was one of the most interesting accessions of recent years and the Librarian would herewith record his indebtedness to the donor whom he considers one of the most learned of American booksellers.

From Mr. Matt B. Jones, who has become much interested in rare New England imprints, the Library has received some valuable items, including thirteen Vermont election sermons from 1789 to 1832, several Anthony Haswell Vermont pamphlets, imperfect but excessively rare editions of Wigglesworth's "Day of Doom," Cambridge 1666, and "Meat Out of the Eater," Boston 1689 and 1717, and the third issue of Cotton Mather's "Manuductio ad Ministerium," Boston 1726. In response to our request, Mr. Jones prepared a valuable bibliographical monograph on the early editions of Wigglesworth and this was published in our April Proceedings. Again he has compiled for us a bibliographical note on Cotton Mather's "Manuductio" of 1726, which is herewith appended:

Apparently Cotton Mather's "Manuductio ad Ministerium. Directions for a Candidate of the Ministry," Boston 1726, passed through three editions in that year, which may be listed as follows:

No. 1. Half title, verso blank; title page, verso blank; Studiosae Juventuti (i-xviii); Contents (1); 1 page blank; Manuductio ad Ministerium, 1-147; Catalogue of Books and Erratula, 148-149; Advertisement (1).

This is the edition listed in the Church catalogue under No. 902. The Advertisement gives notice of the immediate

publication ("There is now in the press") of Cotton Mather's *Ratio Disciplinae Fratrum Novanglorum*, Boston 1726. For reasons given under the edition listed next below this is believed to be the first edition of the *Manuductio*.

No. 2. The second edition of the *Manuductio*, Boston 1726, collates as follows: Half title, verso blank; title, verso blank; *Studiosae Juventuti* (i-xviii); Contents (1), verso blank; *Manuductio ad Ministerium*, 1-147; "Fili, quum legisset, Gratulatio," signed S. M., pages 148-149; Catalogue of Books and Erratula, 150-151.

This is the edition listed by Church under No. 901, but it is sound reasoning to assume that the first edition is that which contains the advertisement of the *Ratio Disciplinae* which was published a little later in the same year, and that when that book was issued the advertisement was withdrawn and the Latin poem by the author's son, Samuel Mather, inserted. As suggested by Mr. Thomas J. Holmes the author would hardly have withdrawn this poem and inserted the advertisement. Everything points to the order of these two editions being reversed from that given in the Church catalogue.

No. 3. A third edition of the *Manuductio ad Ministerium* bearing the same imprint as the earlier editions, namely, Boston 1726, collates as follows: Half title, verso blank; title, verso blank; *Studiosae Juventuti* (i-xix); 1 page blank; *Manuductio ad Ministerium*, 1-147; *Fili, quum legisset, Gratulatio*, signed S. M., pages 148-149; Catalogue of Books and Erratula, 150-151.

In this edition new matter has been added to the Latin Introduction and the Table of Contents has been dropped out. The change in text begins on page xvii, the catchword being "quum" instead of "His" as in the first two editions. In the copies examined an error was made in the printing of the first word of the third line of page xvii. This word has been stricken out and the word "sitis" (which is the first word of the third line of page xvi in the other two editions) has been inserted, perhaps in the hand of the author. Beginning at the top of page xviii and extending on to page xix four paragraphs of new matter have been inserted and the final paragraph of the Introduction which appears on page xix is printed in smaller

type in order to get all on that page. Quite clearly this new matter marks this edition as the last of the three.

Among Mr. Taylor's contributions to his lithograph collection were a score of the political cartoons of the pre-Civil War period. These served to call attention to the fact that the Society's collection of American political caricature is notably large and interesting and could well be exploited as a contribution to an important phase of American history. There are few better methods of understanding the temper and views of the American people regarding political and social conditions in the middle nineteenth century than by studying these crude drawings. Produced almost immediately after some act or event of national importance, they show the reaction of the public mind more graphically than columns of editorial comment.

The collection begins with the advent of commercial lithography, about the year 1828. Previous to this time engraving had to be done on copper plate, always an expensive process, especially for drawings of large size. Although there are occasional engravings such as Nathaniel Hurd's "Hudson's Speech from the Pillory," 1762 and Henry Dawkins's "Paxton Expedition," 1764, Revere was the first American caricaturist. His copper-plates of "The Stamp Act Obelisk," "Allegory of the Year 1765," "The Rescindings," and his plates drawn for the *Royal American Magazine*, all produced just previous to the Revolution, are as rare as they are interesting. Crudely drawn, generally following English originals, they established no school of caricature and were only locally noticed. For the next fifty years caricatures were only spasmodically produced, with "The Congregational Pugilist," satirizing Mathew Lyon, "The Hartford Convention," 1815, and William Charles's cartoons of the War of 1812 serving as noticeable examples.

In 1819, lithography was introduced into this country and within ten years had become com-

mercially productive. The first cartoon in our collection was issued by Anthony Imbert in New York in 1828, entitled "A New Map of the United States with the Additional Territories on an Improved Plan, Exhibiting a View of the Rocky Mountains Surveyed by a Company of Winebago Indians in 1828." It was evidently produced prior to the election of October 1828 and shows an alligator representing Andrew Jackson pulling against a turtle representing John Quincy Adams. Each animal is mounted by groups of its supporters, from whose mouths issue the words of various political sentiments encased in balloon-like lines, giving the impression of blowing enormous soap bubbles. The drawing is crude, but well done, although the figures are small and undistinguishable as to feature, quite unlike the methods of subsequent cartoons.

The next two cartoons in the collection are "A Political Game of Brag," issued by Pendleton in New York, and "The Rats leaving a Falling House," issued at Washington, presumably by Henry Stone, both dated 1831. In the former cartoon the faces of the characters—Jackson, Clay, Wirt and Calhoun—are faithfully, almost photographically, portrayed and there is no attempt at caricature. The political effect is brought about by the mottoes and the titles and by the suggestion of other elements in the picture. This was, in general, the subsequent method of drawing American cartoons for the next thirty years, quite different from the European cartoons which sought to caricature by exaggeration and deformity, both of face and figure. Furthermore, the American cartoons were comparatively simple, almost crude, without the crowding and overloaded detail of many English and French caricatures.

From 1828 until 1865 the Society's collection of political caricatures numbers nearly two hundred and fifty specimens, about equally divided between the period of 1828-1859 and the Civil War period of 1860-

1865. They were nearly all published in New York City and until 1850 mostly by the firm of H. R. Robinson. Other lithographers before the War were Anthony Imbert, John Bisbee, John Lawrence, John Childs, Alfred E. Baker, A. Donnelly, James Baillie and J. Curtis, all of New York; and the firms of Abel & Durang and Turner & Fisher of Philadelphia. Nathaniel Currier's first cartoon was dated in 1844 and from 1850 to 1865 Currier, later Currier & Ives, practically dominated the cartoon field. T. W. Strong appears in 1861 and the famous Louis Prang of Boston in 1864.

William Dunlap, in his "History of the Arts of Design" complained as early as 1834 that it was the publisher of the lithograph, rather than the artist, who received the credit for the finished work. Occasionally the initials of the artist are inserted in the corner of some of these cartoons, but most of them are unsigned. Among the few signatures are the following: "A. H." in 1832, possibly A. Halbert, the New York engraver; "Perruquier" in 1837; "Shanks" in 1838; "N. S." and "N. Sarony" in 1838-1840, who can be identified as Napoleon Sarony; "E. W. C." in 1839-1843, who was Edward W. Clay, one of the most famous of engravers of caricatures; "W. J. C." in 1848; "H. B." in 1848; "J. L. Magee" in 1854; and "Ben Day" in 1862. All of the above were of New York, to which should be added "J. Peters" of Philadelphia, in 1843.

An examination of this collection of cartoons from 1828 to 1865 means a fascinating study of United States history for the period. All the leading events in the nation's political life are illustrated, and the figures of Presidents, cabinet members and statesmen pass in review like marionettes, their virtues extolled and their failings pilloried. Politics were partisan in those days and invective and verbal castigation were the rule in the public prints. The Presidential campaigns every four years were the motive reasons for an increased output of cartoons, and most of those

mentioned in this brief survey of the subject come within this field.

The campaign of 1832 was between Andrew Jackson, representing the Democratic party and up for a second term, and Henry Clay, nominated by the National Republicans. Jackson's administration had been filled with turmoil and trouble. The altercations over nullification, states rights and the tariff, Jackson's removals from office of more than twice as many office holders as were removed by the six Presidents who had preceded him, his formation of a group of personal advisors called the "Kitchen Cabinet," after his refusal to consult with his official cabinet, and his hostility to the powerful Bank of the United States, all combined to make the 1832 election filled with discord. But it was the struggle over rechartering the United States Bank that was the chief issue of the campaign. In one striking cartoon Jackson is shown attacking a viper with one body and twenty-four heads representing the Bank, which he terms a "venomous monster"; and in another he is seen in the guise of a doctor prescribing the kind of medicine to "clean out the foul stomach" of the Bank, while Clay, Webster and Calhoun stand by in consultation. It was Jackson's characterization of the Bank as a "monster monopoly" and the impression received by the masses of the people that his defeat would mean a triumph for the "money oligarchy" that resulted in Jackson's victory.

In the 1836 election, Van Buren led the field under the Democratic banner, largely due to the fact that the opposition, now reformed as the Whig party, was divided in its allegiances. The two cartoons taken as examples are entitled "Whig Candidates for the Presidency," showing Webster, Clay and William Henry Harrison each voicing their reasons for election; and "Old Jack in the Last Agony and the Fox caught in the Rat Trap," portraying Jackson in the form of a wolf expiring, with Van Buren as a fox trapped by the Whigs.

The problems that beset Van Buren in his administration are all portrayed in caricature. One is entitled "All on Hobbies, Gee Up, Gee Ho!" published in 1838, showing the statesmen of the day riding hobby-horses. Van Buren is mounted on "Sub-Treasury," Benton on "Specie Currency," Clay and Webster on "United States Bank," Calhoun on "States Rights & Nullification," Harrison on "Anti-Masonic," and John Quincy Adams on "Abolition." Another cartoon, somewhat earlier, dated May 10, 1837, shows Jackson on a pig and Benton on a donkey riding to the edge of a precipice in pursuit of an elusive butterfly labelled "Gold Humbug." Jackson and Benton, in their effort to stem the tide of the ever-increasing paper money issued by the numerous state and local banks, had tried to initiate a gold standard and had promulgated the famous "specie circular" ordering that all payments for public land should be paid in gold or silver, later requiring that payments to the post-office should be in specie. Local bank paper soon flooded the country. Gold, through hoarding, exportation and forcing through specific channels, rapidly dwindled so that early in 1837 even the Government itself was forced to pay public creditors in paper currency. Banks, business corporations and even individuals issued paper currency of small denominations, which were termed "shin-plasters." On May 10, 1837, the New York banks suspended all specie payment, and this explains the motto on a colored cartoon, which appears to be an immense fifty cent shin-plaster and which states "I promise to pay Thomas H. Benton, or bearer, Fifty Cents, in Counterfeit Caricatures, at my Store, No. 52 Courtlandt Street," signed by the lithograph publisher, H. R. Robinson.

Every public question was presented in cartoons: the Canadian Rebellion in 1838, the Aroostook War in 1839, American sympathy for the repeal of Ireland, the Mexican War, the admission of the territories, the

annexation of Texas and the power of the New York newspapers. Every Presidential campaign brought forth an increasing number of caricatures, exploiting the qualifications of the candidates and generally representing the cause of "the people" rather than "the administration."

Slavery gradually worked its way into cartoons in the decade beginning with 1850. Earlier cartoons were as likely pro-slavery as abolition. In 1839 an especially well-drawn caricature was issued in New York by J. Childs, entitled "An Amalgamation Waltz," showing attractive and fashionably gowned white women dancing with repulsive blacks. This cartoon followed shortly after the destruction of Pennsylvania Hall at Philadelphia, the abolition headquarters, by a pro-slavery mob. The blame for this attack the *New York Gazette* laid to "the white-skinned damsels who promenaded the streets of Philadelphia, arm in arm with their lamp-black paramours." Although this was an unfounded charge, the newspapers dubbed the Hall the "Temple of Amalgamation." In the years 1855 and 1860, however, numerous cartoons were published showing the change of sentiment toward slavery which was portrayed as a curse to humanity and a source of political discord.

More cartoons were apparently inspired by the 1860 Presidential campaign than by any previous contest. There were four candidates: Lincoln for the Republican party, Douglas for the larger wing of the Democratic party and Breckinridge for the smaller wing, and Bell for the Constitutional Union party. About half of the cartoons were in favor of Lincoln, stressing his gaunt figure, his homely qualities, his unquestioned integrity and his popular appeal, and ridiculing Douglas for his strenuous "stumping" of the country to land the nomination, Breckinridge for his general inability and Bell for his dependence upon his colleague, Edward Everett, to carry him through. Of the other half, most of the caricatures were anti-Lincoln rather

than devoted to the interests of the other candidates. One of these showed Lincoln and Greeley praising the qualifications of the colored race as exemplified by a misshapen negro, the recently exhibited Barnum's "What is it." Another represents the American people discovering the "Nigger in the Woodpile," which is constructed of a collection of the well-known Lincoln rails. Another shows Lincoln receiving the unanimous consent of the people, his followers consisting of over-dressed negroes, free lovers, Mormons, rum drinkers, law transgressors and radicals.

As the War opened, the secession of South Carolina is represented by several cartoons, mostly featuring Jefferson Davis, a favorite subject with Northern caricaturists. Other drawings show the Southern efforts to obtain volunteers, England's friendliness to the cotton States, the vacillations of New York newspapers, the valor of General Scott, and the discord in Southern States. Of course, all these cartoons were Northern in sympathy and highly partisan, therefore it is interesting to find at least one Southern cartoon satirizing the Union efforts at the Battle of Bull Run. The campaign of 1864 brought out few caricatures and these chiefly derided the aspirations of McClellan as a candidate. The publication of cartoons gradually dwindled as the great issue of the War, with its grimness and sadness overshadowed all thoughts of levity and humor. Finally, came the end of the conflict and as if to signify their delivery from despondency and tribulation, the Northern cartoonists centered on what seemed to them the crowning subject for caricature, the attempt of Jefferson Davis to escape capture dressed in woman's clothes. Fully a dozen different cartoons commemorated this event, featuring the appearance of Davis's heavy boots under his voluminous skirts and Mrs. Davis's words "Don't provoke the President, or he may hurt some of you!"

For the six years of 1860-1865 as many cartoons were issued as for the entire period of thirty years

previous. The Civil War part of our collection is of particular interest since it came to the Society largely from the engraving collection of the late Nathaniel Paine, who gathered them during the War and labelled in his own handwriting the names of the characters in the pictures, with occasional notes on the subjects illustrated.

The graphic interest of this collection of caricatures would certainly repay extended study. Eventually, a checklist of all American political cartoons from the beginning of lithography in 1828 through 1865 should be issued. There are at least four large public collections, those in the American Antiquarian Society, the New York Public Library, the New York Historical Society and the Library of Congress, and undoubtedly two private collections are equally important.

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.