

Report of the Librarian

A LIBRARIAN'S report, during these times, is likely to be concerned largely with fuel shortages and similar inconveniences. I, however, have no such complaints to offer after finding this clause in our Library rules for the year 1823: "No fire is ever to be made in the Rooms occupied for the Library or Cabinet, and no fire must be made in the room appropriated for the Librarian." When, after certain precautions had been taken, this prohibition was relaxed, it was still forbidden to use either lights or fire in the Library after sunset. Our predecessors in the Library even in years of peace must have shivered and chattered through the short winter days with their professional processes slowed and numbed by semi-hibernation.

Perhaps Christopher Columbus Baldwin was too sturdy a man to envy us our heating system and artificial light, but to him our modern bibliographical tools would have been even more wonderful. Of those tools which we ourselves have made, the most important is the imprint catalogue. Having much the largest collection of books and pamphlets printed within the present United States before 1821, it seemed incumbent upon us to organize this material for use. The number of Library of Congress cards available for these early imprints is not large, and those which do exist are not satisfactory for our purpose. So, in 1928, under Mr. Brigham's direction, Miss Clarke began the great work of making an exhaustive analytical catalogue. At least six cards are made for every book and pamphlet:

- (1) The author card, which is the main entry, gives bibliographical data in great detail.

- (2) Subject cards, often two or three for a single book, are made wherever common sense dictates, but the matter is not carried to the impractical extreme of making a subject card for every tract dealing with such general subjects as religion.
- (3) Title and, when distinctive, half-title and running-title cards. These are invaluable in identifying mutilated tracts and laying ghosts. Author, subject, and title cards are run into a single alphabet in what will eventually be the main library catalogue. In addition to this there are three new supplementary catalogues:
 - (4) A geographical catalogue in which the cards are filed by the towns in which the printing took place.
 - (5) A chronological catalogue in which the cards are arranged by date of imprint.
 - (6) A catalogue of printers, booksellers, and publishers with cards for every title under every personal name which occurs in the imprint. It has been necessary to go into a considerable amount of research to identify these men and to establish the history of each printing and publishing house with all its shifting partnerships. Only in our newspaper files could these facts be established.

During the past year we completed the cataloguing of much the largest and most difficult block of material—the pamphlets printed between 1700 and 1821—and began work on the much smaller number of bound books. When our own holdings are finished we shall obtain photostats or microfilms of the items we lack and shall process them in the same way. Already this catalogue has become a fountain of bibliographical information for students and institutions. Indeed we have even now so much information here, literally at our finger tips, that many bibliographical problems are automatically solved simply by the process of cataloguing.

So, more than a century after the death of our founder, we are carrying on precisely the kind of work to which he devoted himself.

Since 1800 American college and research libraries have been doubling in size every twenty years. It was just twenty years ago that we completed what we now know as "the new stack." At that time the library contained 152,000 volumes and 234,000 pamphlets. Today we have 259,613 volumes and 398,879 pamphlets.¹ We have not grown as rapidly as other libraries for two reasons. First, our field of collecting contains a greater number of old and rare volumes and sees less current publication than most; and, second, it has been the policy of our librarians to improve the quality rather than increase the size of our collections.

It is as difficult to follow such a policy as it is to keep on a diet. In one of my earlier reports I told of the shelf room we had gained by giving to another institution our large collections of student and undergraduate publications, but this year the University of Illinois has most kindly given us some thousands of college catalogues, largely of small mid-western institutions. We are delighted to obtain this material, for as an historical source it is greatly undervalued. But again the college section of the stack is crowded.

This past year we received the final installment of the John W. Farwell library, which has come to us as the gift of Nathaniel Farwell Ayer, Mary A. Rousmaniere, Elizabeth A. Inches, and James B. Ayer. It was not until the transaction had been closed, and I turned back to make a final inventory, that I fully realized the magnitude of this gift. The only comparable accession of rare books was the Hunnewell collection. By these two gifts the library has in less than a decade obtained more rare books than in any like

¹ Accessions for the past year were 3527 bound volumes, 5662 pamphlets, 482 engravings, broadsides, etc., and 1180 unbound newspapers.

period since the original Isaiah Thomas bequest. I shall mention only a few of the more important rarities which had never before graced our shelves.

The great classics of the period of discovery have always been beyond the means of the Library, so it was with great satisfaction that we unpacked such sixteenth-century items as Nicolas Monardes, *Joyfull Newes out of the New-found Worlde* (London, 1596), an herbal containing long accounts of tobacco and other American plants. The work entitled *Sir Francis Drake Revived* is represented by both the 1626 and the 1653 editions, and with the latter are bound three other Drake tracts of 1652: *The World Encompassed*, *A Summarie and True Discourse*, and *A Full Relation*. The four last items were printed for the same bookseller and so presumably were sold bound together in this way. There is also a fine copy of Ferdinando Gorges, *A Briefe Narration of the Originall Undertakings of the Advancement of Plantations into the Parts of America* (London, 1658). On the literary side of the period of discovery is a copy of William Vaughan, *The Golden Fleece* (London, 1626).

Our Canadian collection has been strengthened by fine copies of Marc Lescarbot, *Historie de la Nouvelle-France* (Paris, 1618), Gabriel Sagard Theodat, *Le Grand Voyage de Pays des Hurons* (Paris, 1632), and Chrestien Le Clerq, *Nouvelle Relation de la Gaspesie* (Paris, 1691).

The Farwell collection was particularly strong in another field in which we have never deliberately collected—the field of English imprints relating to America. Among the controversial tracts is a copy of John Wheelwright's rarely quoted *Mercurius Americanus . . . Massachusetts great Apologie Examined* (London, 1645). The early Indian tracts include an important addition to our already fine collection, a superb copy of Thomas Shepard, *The Day-Breaking if not the Sun-Rising of the Gospell with the Indians in New Eng-*

land (London, 1647). From the Farwell collection we added many examples of English prints of the sermons of Shepard and the other founding fathers. Two of these were bibliographical curiosities. The copy of John Cotton, *Christ the Fountaine of Life* (London, 1651), has a list of "Bookes Printed for George Calvert" on the fourth unnumbered leaf, which is usually blank or missing. The copy of John Cotton's *Certain Queries* lacks the words "and Communion" which appear in the title of the John Carter Brown copy which reads, "Tending to Accomodation and Communion of Presbyterian and Congregational Churches." The change, however, may have no theological significance, but may be only the accident resulting from the resetting of the title page to add or remove the words, "and Francis Englesfield," which appear in the imprint of our copy but not in that of the JCB. Another John Cotton item, the *Abstract of the Laws*, bears the signature of Increase Mather.

To add to our collection a work of one of the Mathers printed by the Cambridge press is the rarest of pleasures, but this we enjoyed when we accessioned *A Testimony from the Scripture* by Samuel Mather of Dublin. This volume was only tentatively assigned to the Cambridge Press in Mr. Holmes' bibliography, but this copy settles the question, for it bears this inscription in the hand of Thomas Prince: "Printed at Cambridge, by Samuel Green about 1672." Other bibliographical notes show that Prince put some care into the identification of this volume. Another new Mather is a copy of the first edition of the joint work of Increase and Cotton, *The Duty of Parents and The Duty of Children* (Boston, 1703). Almost as choice a prize as the Cambridge press Mather is the copy of Cotton Mather's *Duodecennium Luctuosum. The History of a Long War with Indian Savages* (Boston, 1714).²

² We also obtained by purchase Cotton Mather, *Speedy Repentence Urged* (Boston, 1690).

Among other important Farwell items relating to the Indian wars is a copy of the London edition of William Hubbard, *The Present State of New-England. Being a Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New England, from . . . 1607 to the Present Year 1677*. This contains the "Wine Hills" map and takes its place on our shelf alongside of our old copy of the Boston edition with the "White Hills" map. The French and Indian wars of the following century are represented by a number of items new to our collection. One is a copy of Humphrey Bland, *Abstract of Military Discipline* (Boston, 1747), the official manual of exercises for our ancestors. Others are John Morton, *The Redeemed Captive* (Boston, 1748), and Benjamin Doolittle, *Short Narrative of the Mischief done by the French and Indian Enemy* (Boston, 1750). The latter contains contemporary annotations. Other Indian war classics are the *Memorial Containing a Summary View of the Facts* (Philadelphia, 1750) and a fine copy of the first edition of the *Journals of Major Robert Rogers* (London, 1765). The latest rarity in this field is Archibald Loudon, *A Selection of some of the most Interesting Narratives of Outrages, Committed by the Indians* (Carlisle, 1808).

Scarlet fever and diphtheria killed far more settlers than did the Indians, but the bibliographical remains of the epidemics are much the rarer. Among the Farwell books was the third known copy of Jabez Fitch's *Account of the Numbers that Have Died of the Distemper in the Throat, within the Province of New-Hampshire* (Boston, 1736).

Although the great strength of the Farwell collection lay in the New England field, we obtained from it a number of rarities relating to the history of the other colonies. We had never before possessed, for example, the *Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Library Company* (Philadelphia, 1741), *Declaration of the State of the Colony . . . of Virginia* (London,

1620), or William Talbot's *Discoveries of John Lederer, in . . . Virginia* (London, 1672). The last has the rare map. Our copy of Robert Beverly's *History of Virginia* (London, 1722) had the Tooke imprint while the Farwell copy had the Fayram. Our Georgia collection obtained another cornerstone in the form of a copy of the *Extract of the Journals of Mr. Commissary Von Reck, who Conducted the First Transport of Saltzburgers to Georgia* (London, 1734).

The minor items in the Farwell collection present a number of curious bibliographical problems which a busy librarian can only present to the specialist for solution. For example, bound into the copy of volume I of *Christian History*, which was printed by Kneeland and T. Green for Prince, there is a copy of *A Hymn of St. Bernard's to the Holy Jesus* (Boston, 1744), which was printed by B. Green for Gookin. This could be passed off as a binding accident if the same juxtaposition did not occur in a volume at the Boston Athenaeum.

We have never been in a position to develop our collection of maps, so the strength of the Farwell holdings in this direction was most welcome. Among those we received were several valuable seventeenth-century maps of continental origin, but the most important are those relating to the northern colonies in the eighteenth century. The most interesting is a great eight-sheet Cyprian Southack chart of which only two other copies are known to us. The inscription, which differs from that on the Library of Congress copy, is "An Actual Survey of the Sea Coast from New York to . . . Cape Briton . . . by Capt. Cyprian Southack . . . Printed and Sold by Wm Herbert . . . on London Bridge . . ." A further study of this map must await the return of the Library of Congress copy from its place of refuge. That Library very kindly pressed and mounted our copy for us.

Boston is particularly well represented in the Farwell

collection which includes a manuscript plan of Boston Harbor made in 1700 by Edmund Halley, a colored Page and Montrésor of 1775, a DesBarres with a manuscript note by Thomas Hutchinson, a Henry Pelham of 1777, and other, less famous, but valuable, cartographical records of this region during the Revolution.

It is sincerely to be hoped that spectacular gifts like this great collection will not discourage our friends who have no such bibliographical treasures. The Library cannot buy most of the current works of American history and related fields, just the sort of volumes which are discarded from private libraries when they cease to be current. Similarly the old periodical files which crowd private libraries are useful sources for us. Fortunately some of our friends make a regular practice of sending us such recent material, out-of-date to them, but an historical source tomorrow. The largest such lot received this year came from the Misses Anne and Margaret Lovell of Worcester. In addition to about 100 volumes of American history and literature it contained a thirty-three year file of the publications of the Worcester County Musical Association.

But to return to the subject of maps: one of the best known of the Library's possessions is a copy of the Timothy Clement map of Lake George "Engrav'd & Printed by Thomas Johnston Boston New-England April 1756." When Winsor wrote his *Narrative and Critical History* he could find only this copy which he used as an illustration even though it was stained and discolored from having been nearly two centuries glued to a board. Since then four other copies have appeared, but they, too, show the effects of having been mounted. It was, therefore, with much pleasure that we acquired by purchase a fresh and clean copy with contemporary coloring, in fact the only colored copy known. The explanation of the condition of this copy lies in its story.

With it came a slip of paper signed "G. Adlam" saying that this map had been given to her by Mrs. Bawden, the only daughter of General Robert Monckton, and that the General had been given the map, a proof, by Sir William Johnson. Georgia Adlam died, about fifty years ago, in the family from which we obtained the map. The *D.N.B.* says that General Monckton never married; the *D.A.B.* more charitably states that no record of his marriage has been found. At any rate, he had three sons and one daughter, Elizabeth Susanna, who was married to William Bawden, of Chard, County Somerset, and outlived her brothers, who died without issue. She herself died in 1810, so that her life could have overlapped that of Georgia Adlam.

The map itself owes its unique condition to the fact that it was an officer's field copy, mounted on cotton twill and rolled around a rod. As Monckton was Johnson's superior in command of the western country in 1760, nothing would have been more natural than for Johnson to have made such a gift.

The Society's collection of David Claypoole Johnston cartoons has received one interesting addition, a colored copper-plate print entitled "A Militia Muster." It is "Drawn by Busybody, Engd by Nobody, Published by Somebody for Anybody & Everybody." Although unsigned, there is no question but that it is D. C. Johnston's work, being quite similar to his later militia prints, of which the Society has two varieties. Although undated, this engraving must have been made in September, 1819, as it portrays the assembling of the troops to quell the Vauxhall riots in Philadelphia. On September 8, 1819, a balloon ascension by M. Michel was scheduled to take place at the Vauxhall Gardens, in the late afternoon. But because of a strong wind the ascension did not take place, the crowd of spectators outside of the Gardens became impatient and a mob finally

tore down the fence, broke into the grounds, burned the Vauxhall theatre, and ripped the balloon to pieces. There is an excellent account of the affair in the Philadelphia *Union* of September 9, 1819. Some of the speeches of the characters shown in the print refer to the "Wax-Awl Pat-Riots" and to the "man what hemp us to clar away de fence when de bloom was goang up." Because of its ridicule of the Philadelphia militia, the print was advisedly anonymous. Johnston, from 1815 to 1819, was associated with Francis Kearny, the engraver, and during that period, as he says in his reminiscences, "occasionally put forth a caricature of dandies, militia training, &c. In these efforts I succeeded so far, that sundry well-known caricatures in each department were readily recognized and the print met with ready sale."

Through the kindness of Mrs. Mary E. Donovan, Johnston's granddaughter, we have also acquired fifteen small pencil sketches of Johnston's drawings from his Don Quixote series.

By singular good fortune we this year acquired three apparently unique New England Primers, printed by J. Bailey at Lancaster in 1790, by W. and R. Dickson at the same town in 1796, and by Zadok Cramer at Pittsburgh in 1809. We also obtained an hitherto unreported schoolbook, *Arithmetical Tables for the Use of Schools*. Portland: Published and Sold by A. Lyman & Co. . . . J. M'Kown, Printer, 1812.

We are rarely able to add to our collection of some 140 pre-1821 book catalogues (as distinguished from auction catalogues), but this year we found three new items: *Catalogue of Books in the Library of the Hon. Robert R. Livingston, of Clermont* (Poughkeepsie, 1800); *Catalogue of Books for Sale by Simeon & Elihu Butler . . . in Northampton* (Northampton, 1804); and Thomas S. Arden's *Sale Catalogue of Books* (New York, 1801). From Dr. Rosenbach

came two very handsome additions to the collection of later catalogues, two splendid volumes describing the Widener tapestries and paintings. The former is one of the classics of color printing and the latter volume is famous for its binding.

The most important of our accessions in the modern newspaper field this year has been an apparently complete file of the first sixteen volumes, covering the years 1871-1887, of the *Iapi Oaye*, a Dakota Indian mission paper which was published at Greenwood, Dakota Territory, from 1871 to 1876, at the Santee Agency, Nebraska, until 1883, and at Greenwood again until 1887. The printing was done at Chicago.

In the field of early American newspapers our annual lists of accessions get steadily smaller as our holdings grow. We acquired some short runs of papers, such as the Brooklyn *Intelligencer* and the Brooklyn *Museum* for 1807. Through the kindness of Dr. Swem we effected the exchange of our Virginia duplicates for those of the William and Mary College Library. By this exchange we added to our holdings 82 numbers of Virginia newspapers of the Revolutionary period, including an almost complete file of Dixon & Hunter's Williamsburg *Virginia Gazette* for 1775.

During the past generation the social and literary history of New England has been sadly distorted by authors who read the files of the *Boston News-Letter* and judged contemporary literary culture by that periodical. A future generation might as well judge our culture of today by the Washington news releases. In the eighteenth century the more literary papers show a lighter, brighter, side of life than the popular historians believe. The most important of these primarily literary newspapers was the *New England Weekly Journal*, which became the organ for the literary lights after the demise of Franklin's *Courant*. Because of the character of the paper the librarians of this Society have long sought to better our scattering file of early issues. Mr. Brigham, in the

course of the preparation of his bibliography, located a perfect run of the first 54 numbers in the Legislative Library at Halifax, Nova Scotia. He offered to buy them, but the Legislative Library generously suggested exchanging at our convenience. The file arrived and we were gloating over it as a complete run of the first year of the first American literary paper when we noticed that many of the essays and poems were corrected in manuscript. The hand is that of the elder Mather Byles, a man with whom the Library has always been concerned. His portrait hangs on our walls, we have the rhyming dictionary with which he chopped out his poetry, and we have his annotated account of his famous and involuntary visit to Maine when Governor Belcher shanghied him.

The later editions of Byles' poems and essays show the corrections which he made in the versions in the *Journal*. The fact that such editing was indulged in has escaped the attention of the biographers of Byles. Below are listed the verses and essays which show corrections in his hand. It will be noted that this evidence substantiates the tradition that his prose articles, when signed, had as a signature one of these letters: CELOIZA.

Essay signed E, April 10, 1727

Essay signed L, April 24, 1727

Poem "Eternity," May 15, 1727

Essay signed A, June 19, 1727

Essay signed O, July 10, 1727

Essay signed C, July 31, 1727

"Verses Written in Milton's Paradise Lost," August 31,
1727

"Poem on the Death of King George," September 4, 1727

Essay, "Meditation of Cassius," September 18, 1727

Poem, "To a Gentleman on the Sight of Some of his
Poems," October 9, 1727

Essay signed "Jack Sneer," October 16, 1727

Essay signed C, October 30, 1727

Essay signed I, November 27, 1727

Essay signed O, December 18, 1727

Essay signed E, January 15, 1728

In the later period of American literary history we acquired a collection of even wider interest than the Byles volume. When P. K. Foley was preparing his classic checklist of American literary first editions he sent to the authors then living his list of their works, asking for additions and corrections. The replies, which afford much information not available elsewhere, Foley had carefully mounted in heavy paper sheets. This collection we purchased and have bound into a volume of unique authority for the historian of literature.

In all, this has been a prosperous year for the Library. Our accessions have been average in number and much above average in quality. It is our growth in strength, rather than size, which is impressive. A California scholar this year complained that our newspaper collection grew so rapidly that he was obliged to return repeatedly to Worcester. It was not unexpected to find that our holdings of early Rhode Island imprints (broadsides excepted) are exceeded only by those of the Rhode Island Historical Society, but we were pleased to find that we had a number of unique Dakota imprints. If it were possible to advertise our strength more widely the world of bookmen would benefit thereby. Many students who have come here late in their researches have lamented that they would have been saved many miles and months of travel had they known that so much of their source material was here gathered into one convenient repository.

During the past year we have received so many kindnesses from other institutions and from individuals that an itemized declaration of gratitude would exceed the space available for this report. In spite of the distractions, the inconveniences, and the competition of the War, the library staff has never, since I have known it, been more industrious and more harmonious. Regardless of what the future may bring, we have another good year safely stowed away.

Respectfully submitted,
CLIFFORD K. SHIPTON,
Librarian

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