

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

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During the past year, although the Library has slightly curtailed its purchases owing to diminution of income, the accessions have been notably large, totalling 3,094 bound volumes, 2,076 pamphlets, 451 maps, broadsides and manuscripts, and 17,793 unbound issues of early newspapers.

It will be noticed that the greatest increase has been in newspapers, and this has been the most notable feature of the Library's collecting during the year. The accessions along this line have been exceedingly large, larger apparently than in any previous decade. Such additions are not to be measured by volumes or by packages or by issues, but by tons. Over twelve tons of newspapers have come into the sorting-room in our basement, to be eventually distributed to their appropriate places in the newspaper stack. They represent every State in the Union, but still adhering to the standard of ton measurement, it may be said that there are three tons of New Hampshire papers, seven tons of Rhode Island papers, half a ton of New York papers, half a ton of Pennsylvania papers and a ton of the papers of other States. The Rhode Island papers have not been entirely arranged and distributed, so that they are not included in the numerical count of the year's accessions, but will go into the report of next year.

About one thousand issues in this great quantity date before 1800, but the great proportion date between 1800 and 1850, in which period our collection has been most weak. Therefore these accessions go a long way toward filling in the gaps in our files and

toward giving us new materials for elucidating the history of the first half of the nineteenth century.

It is needless to remark that the placing of so great a mass of material upon the shelves is no easy task, involving a preliminary sorting, strict chronological arrangement of every issue, comparison with our own files, and final collation. It has been done, practically alone and unaided, by Mr. Curtis H. Morrow, whose knowledge of the general subject, as well as of our own collection, has enabled him nearly to finish the task before the present meeting.

It would require far more space than could profitably be given to enumerate the various files and issues which have been recorded during the year, for they cover every State in which newspapers were printed previous to the Civil War. Among the more important files are the *Chronotype* of Boston, 1846-1848; the Newburyport *Herald*, 1840-1845; the Pawtucket, R. I., *Chronicle*, 1827-1832; the *Pawtucket Gazette*, 1839-1841, 1850-1909; the *Buffalo Express*, 1848-1866, and the *Commercial Advertiser*, 1863-1871; the *Albany Guardian*, 1807-1808; the *New York Evangelist*, 1831-1860; the *New York Statesman*, 1824-1827; the *Richmond Times*, 1865-1866; and the *Cincinnati Emporium*, 1824-1826. Of New Hampshire papers, there were more or less complete files of all the better known journals throughout the larger part of the 19th century, comprising over 5000 issues. There also should be mentioned a collection of 800 amateur newspapers, dating from 1873 to 1880, presented by Mr. Henry E. Juergens of Pittsburgh. This gift, added to our own collection, and to a lot of nearly 1000 purchased at auction a year ago, gives us a fair representation in this interesting feature of American journalism.

The most important single file of newspapers added during the past year was that of the *Reading Adler*. Founded in 1796 at Reading, Penn., this paper was long honored as the oldest German paper in America,

and at the time of its dissolution in 1913, was one of the few papers in the country which had been established in the 18th century. The present file, which is the office file, was procured by the Society after considerable correspondence with its late publisher, John Weiler, and strengthens considerably our collection of German-Americana. An excellent account of the history of the paper is given by Seidensticker in his *German Printing in America*. The file is complete from the initial number of November 29, 1796, to the final issue of March 22, 1913, with the exception of January 1 to October 22, 1799, August 17 to December 28, 1802, and September 19 to December 26, 1826. Files of newspapers of more than a century in length are seldom purchasable, and the Society is fortunate in having acquired two such files within the past two years—the *Alexandria Gazette* covering a period of 110 years, and the *Reading Adler* a period of 117 years.

In the various other departments in which the Library specializes, there has been the usual increase. Somewhat more than the average number of genealogies have been purchased and about sixty Western county histories have been acquired. Our collection in the local history of the Middle Atlantic and Western states is probably more complete than any in New England, and we frequently have call for Western histories from other libraries.

The collection of American imprints before 1820 has received 1081 new titles, the number that we are able to acquire each year gradually growing smaller as it becomes increasingly difficult to find titles not in the Library. A number of the early imprints of Mexico and Guatemala have been obtained, although the greater portion of the Davis Spanish-Americana Fund has been used in the purchase of the newspapers of those two countries. Some gaps in the Civil War collection have been filled from the income of the John and Eliza Davis Fund, and the Dewey, Haven, Chand-

ler and Thomas Funds all have been drawn upon to secure books in special lines.

A manuscript gift of interest came from Mrs. Charles K. Bolton, who presented to the Society the interleaved diaries of James Parker of Shirley, Mass., for 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1828 and 1829. Our own file of these Parker diaries ran, with but few breaks, from 1770 to 1820, so that as a result of Mrs. Bolton's gift, we have had the entire series properly bound and placed in the manuscript room.

Over 400 almanacs, mostly dating between 1800 and 1850, have been acquired. About 200 of these were Pennsylvania almanacs, both in English and German, obtained at auction in Philadelphia, and there was also a long file of the almanacs of upper New York State between 1790 and 1830. The Society's collection of the early Pennsylvania German almanacs has now risen from a few, though rare issues, chiefly obtained by Isaiah Thomas in 1814, to over 350 issues, printed at German presses in Philadelphia, Lancaster, Reading, Somerset and other Pennsylvania towns.

These early German almanacs, perhaps because of the disinclination or inability of the average student to decipher the unfamiliar German text, have not obtained from bibliographers the attention which the contemporaneous English issues have received. The almanacs of Bowen, Ames, Sherman and West in New England, and of Leeds, Bradford and Franklin in New York and Philadelphia, are sought by collectors and in some cases have been accorded the honor of special bibliographies. But the German issues, although a majority of the titles are chronicled in the comprehensive works of Seidensticker, Hildeburn and Evans, have not enjoyed special mention, and when they appear at sales, bring comparatively low prices or are lumped and sold as so many "German almanacs." Yet, as almanacs go, they showed a high standard of scholarship, and as specimens of

printing, they were much more pretentious examples than any of their English fellows. In their size, which approached the square quarto, in the woodcut illustrations, which marked an advance over the rude drawings in the New England almanacs, and in the rubricated title-pages, which were among the earliest examples of color-printing in America, these German almanacs compared favorably with any of the productions of the colonial printing-press.

The earliest series of the Pennsylvania German almanacs were the *Teutsche Pilgrim* printed by Bradford from 1731 to 1733, but with no copies known at the present time in any library; the *Hoch-Deutsch Americanische Calender* printed by Saur at Germantown from 1739 to 1778, and for many years afterwards by Billmeyer; and the *Neu-eingerichteter Americanischer Geschichts-Calender* printed by various printers in Philadelphia from 1747 to 1768. Of these series the most important was the Saur series, begun by Christopher Saur in 1739 and continued by him until the breaking up of his press in 1778. The early issues are exceedingly scarce, the first being known only by a single imperfect copy. The set in this Library runs from 1746 to 1778, lacking 1754 and 1773, although not all of the issues are perfect.

The Society possesses, however, one item of much bibliographical value for a study of these almanacs. In its archives is a manuscript volume of 296 pages containing a long series of additions and corrections to Thomas' *History of Printing*, written by William M'Culloch in 1814. Having been for many years a Philadelphia printer and decidedly antiquarian in his tastes, M'Culloch has here preserved a great amount of material regarding the early Pennsylvania press which otherwise would have passed into oblivion with the death of his contemporaries. Some day the manuscript should be printed as a companion volume to Thomas' *History*. Its particular concern with the present subject lies in its references to the early

German almanacs. "The execution of all the almanacs, pamphlets and books from the Germantown press," says M'Culloch (p. 128) "is neat and judicious. The ink is remarkably good. Some of the almanacs were printed with red and black ink, which troublesome method was imposed upon Sower from the rivalry attempted by Behm, who understood the process, and who was employed by Godhart Armbrüster, of Philadelphia, who published his almanac in that manner in order to excel the Germantown emission." Later he says (p. 224) that the year 1756 "was probably the last year that Anthony [Armbrüster] published his calendar in black and red. Sower and he both grew tired of it; and Sower's calendar for 1757 is without the red."

Saur had previously printed his almanac for 1741 in red and black, a copy of which is in the library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, but did not resume this process until 1749, when the publication of a rubricated issue by Armbrüster at Philadelphia, as noted by M'Culloch, caused him thus to change the appearance of his title-pages. He printed in this manner the almanacs for 1750 and 1751, and Cassel, in his account of the Saur almanacs<sup>1</sup> says that he so continued them until 1755. If so, he must also have printed the almanac in black only, since our issues from 1752 on have no rubrication.

The subject of color-printing by colonial presses, as shown in the rubrication of title-pages, is one of some interest. The process of printing in red and black was not unfamiliar to the earliest of European printers, being but an outgrowth of the rubricated manuscripts which antedated the invention of printing. Rubrication in the text was common from the very beginning of printing. The *Calendario* of Regiomontanus, printed at Venice in 1476, was both the earliest example of an ornamental title-page and of color printing in the title. In the New World, the

<sup>1</sup>Penn. Magazine of History, vol. 6, p. 58.

first Mexican printers used rubrication upon the title-pages, two notable examples being the *Doctrina Christiana* of 1550 and the *Recognitio Summularum* of 1554.

The earliest instance of a rubricated title-page which I have noted among American imprints occurs in the *Boston Almanack for 1692*, by H. B., Boston, Printed by Benjamin Harris and John Allen. This has not only the title, but several pages, printed in red and black. This is followed by Keith's *Letter to His Majesty's Justice of the Peace*, Philadelphia, 1718; Willard's *Compleat Body of Divinity*, Boston, 1726; and Van Driessen's *De Aanbiddelyke Wegen Gods in zyne Souveraine Bestieringe*, printed by Zenger at New York in 1726. The next three titles which I have noticed are Holdsworth's *Mouse-Trap*, Annapolis, 1728; Prince's *Chronological History of New England*, Boston, 1736; and Trott's *Laws of the Province of South-Carolina*, Charleston, 1736. In the decade beginning with 1740 there are several rubricated title-pages, including the *Hoch-Deutsch Americanische Calender* for 1741, Germantown, 1740; Richard Saunders' *Pocket Almanack for 1742*, Philadelphia, 1741; the *Saur Bible*, Germantown, 1743; and Cicero's *Cato Major*, Philadelphia, 1744. This last work, in addition to being printed in red and black, represented the high-water-mark of Colonial printing and was regarded by Benjamin Franklin as the finest production of his press. After 1744, there are many instances of rubricated titles, especially among the publications of the German press in Pennsylvania.

A volume lately acquired by the Society is of particular interest in that it contains two very early American book-plates, or printed book-labels, dated 1680 and 1688. The title of the volume is *Vindiciae Pietatis: or, a Vindication of Godliness*, by R. A. [Richard Alleine], London, 1664, a book of 384 pages.

The earlier of the labels in this book is that of Edward Tompson and reads "Edvardus Tompsonus

me inter suos numerat. 1680." The type-ornaments are those of Samuel Green of Cambridge and are identical with the ornaments on the title-pages of Danforth's Almanac for 1679 and the Indian New Testament of 1680. The second book-label is that of Samuel Tompson and reads: "Samuel Tompson His Book, Anno, Domini, 1688." The type-ornaments and font of capital letters are apparently those of Richard Pierce of Boston.

The genealogy of this old volume is well attested by several autographs. The first, on the title-page, is "Josha Scottow His Book 1665." The next owner, as shown by the book-label of 1680, was Edward Tompson, born in 1665, then a student at Harvard College. Edward Tompson next passed the volume on to his brother, Samuel Tompson, who placed his autograph therein, dated 1681, and later his 1688 book-label. Samuel Tompson was survived by six daughters, to the eldest of whom, Hannah, he evidently left the volume, for on the last page is the inscription "Hannah Belcher, Her Book left her by her father Edward." This inscription has the autograph of "Samuel Tompson" immediately underneath it and the name "Rawson" inserted above it. The line of descent was as follows: Hannah Tompson (born 1678) married Nathaniel Rawson. They had a son Edward Rawson (born 1724) who had a daughter Hannah Rawson (born 1751) who married John Belcher in 1777. Hannah Belcher was therefore the great-granddaughter of Samuel Tompson.

The Society has been enabled to display a notable and representative collection of American book-plates, through the generosity of one of its members, Rev. Herbert E. Lombard. This collection, which Mr. Lombard has for the present placed on deposit in the Library, numbers about 2500 examples, being especially strong in the plates of Spencely, French and Sidney L. Smith. Since he has been quite catholic in his tastes, Mr. Lombard has gathered

a large number of early American plates, many of which seem to come under the designation of that much abused word "unique," in that they are not known in other collections. A selection from the early plates, primarily those dating before the American Revolution, has been placed in one of the exhibition cases in the front gallery. The exhibit also includes a few plates from our own collection.

The earliest plate shown is a book-label with the words "William Brattle his Book. 77" being the plate owned by William Brattle of Cambridge who was graduated from Harvard in 1680. So far as I can find, this ranks as the earliest recorded American book-plate. Charles Dexter Allen, in his *American Book-Plates*, says that the earliest dated example is that of Johannes Williams, 1679. This was the book-label of Rev. John Williams, graduated from Harvard in 1683, and exemplifies a custom which seems to have been peculiar to several theological students at Harvard College in the period immediately after King Philip's War. The William Brattle plate, in the Lombard collection, is dated 1677 and he was graduated in 1680. The John Williams plate, which is owned by Richard Lichtenstein of Boston is dated 1679 and Williams was graduated in 1683. The Edward Tompson plate, referred to above, is dated 1680, and he was graduated in 1684. In each of these three plates the type-ornaments in the border are identical and are those of Samuel Green, the Cambridge printer. The next earliest plates that I can trace are those of Nathaniel Mather, dated 1683, owned by the Boston Public Library; that of Samuel Sewall, undated, but in a manuscript volume in the Massachusetts Historical Society, dated in 1698; that of Rev. John Emerson, undated, but before 1700, owned by Frederick J. Libbie, of Boston; and that of Thomas Prince, dated 1704, in the Prince Collection in the Boston Public Library. These are all book-labels, with type-ornament borders. A plate which

could well come within this early list is pasted in Willard's *Peril of the Times Displayed*, Boston, 1700, owned by this Society. This label is worded "Hannah Sutton, her Book," with a space left blank for the date, which is inserted by hand, "1700."

Although book-labels, except for the earliest period, have not the interest which collectors attach to the engraved plates, a few more are shown in this exhibit. They include those of Samuel Mather, dated 1752; Nehemiah Strong, dated 1755; Isaiah Thomas, dated at Charleston, S. C., July 8, 1769; and James Otis, Jr., undated, but about 1770.

Of American book-plate engravers before the Revolution, the most famous were Nathaniel Hurd and Paul Revere. Several of Hurd's signed plates are shown in this exhibit, including those of John Chandler, Jun., the Harvard "Detur" plate, the Harvard "Hancock" plate, Livingston, John Lowell, and Thomas Palmer. Two of these, the Livingston and the Thomas Palmer, are not given in Allen's list of Hurd's plates. There are two plates, unsigned, but evidently by Hurd: those of Edward Augustus Holyoke and of Edward Walker.

The Revere plates shown are those of Gardiner Chandler, David Greene and William Wetmore and the two plates of Isaiah Thomas, which though unsigned were undoubtedly engraved by Revere. The earlier Isaiah Thomas plate has been hitherto unmentioned by book-plate collectors. It follows Revere's Gardiner Chandler plate, so far as concerns the mantling, the ribbon and the number space, with literal exactness. The name of "Isaiah Thomas" underneath is engraved in lower-case lettering, so crude as almost to cheapen the plate. Thomas must have disliked either the lettering or the thought of having his book-plate so closely resemble the Chandler arms, for he soon had another plate engraved, which is also in Revere's characteristic style, although much better than the first attempt.

A few other early examples are shown, including the well known Joseph Dudley plate of 1754; a fine armorial plate of Edward Dawkins, signed "H. Dawkins, sc. New York"; the plate of the Mechanic Library of New Haven, signed by Doolittle; and three unsigned plates: those of Peter Sherman of Woodbury, Conn., of Rev. John Murray, more likely the Newburyport minister rather than the "Father of American Universalism"; and of the Phoenix Society, an elaborately engraved plate which has not been identified as yet with any locality.

One of the most interesting plates shown in the exhibit is not really a book-plate, but rather the engraved advertising label of an early Boston book-binder, Andrew Barclay. The upper part of the plate shows the interior of a bindery, with the figure of a man bending over a binding press apparently engaged in lettering a volume. The inscription reads: "Books Bound and Sold Gilt or Plain by Andrew Barclay, next Door but one, North of the three Kings, in Cornhill Boston." Since Barclay was at this location from 1765 to 1773, the plate must have been engraved within this period. It is pasted in a copy of Tillotson's Sermons, London, 1681, owned by this Library. In the Harvard College Library, in a volume of the Massachusetts Laws of 1759, is another Andrew Barclay label, larger and differing considerably in the design. This latter plate is reproduced by Professor Kittredge in the "Old Farmer and his Almanack."

Through the generosity of Mr. Charles G. Washburn, the Society has been able to purchase one of the largest collections in the country of the tradesmen's currency, or copper tokens, of the Civil War period. The collection numbers about 1900 varieties, comprising 1550 advertising tokens, and 350 general tokens, and was purchased from George L. Tilden.

The issue of this form of currency makes an interesting study in the economic history of the Civil War.

Early in 1862 the depreciation of paper currency so decreased the circulation of silver and consequently increased the demand for copper cents, that small change became exceedingly scarce. Hotel-keepers, restaurateurs and tradesmen were compelled to resort to the device of coining cents of their own, which coinage of course soon met with government opposition. In a letter of July 14, 1862, Secretary Chase informed Congress of the increasing difficulty of obtaining change and the practice on the part of tradesmen of issuing copper tokens of their own coinage. To remedy the evil he proposed that Congress should declare such private issues illegal, prevent the hoarding of silver by diminishing the bullion value of the smaller coins, and allow the use of stamps in small payments. On July 17, 1862, a law was enacted authorizing the use and redemption of postage stamps for small payments, and prohibiting all kinds of private issues or tokens.

Postage stamps immediately came into use as a substitute for small currency. To some small extent they were issued under a private patent encased in a small metal button with an isinglass front, of which type of currency the Society has 43 specimens out of about 140 known. But the demand was far greater than the supply and the fragile stamps were entirely unsuited to the purpose. The next substitute was the fractional paper currency which was issued in large quantities. This, with the increased coinage of copper cents, somewhat relieved the situation.

Although the Act of July 17, 1862, explicitly forbade the issuing or circulation of tokens and provided a penalty for infraction of the law, yet it was a year or more before the prohibition seems to have been regarded. In the early part of 1863, the tokens were issued throughout the country in large quantity, and many are dated even in 1864. The director of the mint, in his report for 1863, says "Not less than three hundred varieties of these false and illegal tokens or

cents have been made and issued, and, until suppressed, were freely used as coin by the public. They were in direct violation of the laws of the United States; and the prosecution of certain parties issuing them has deterred others, and will soon drive them altogether from circulation."

These tokens, as shown in the collection acquired by the Society, may be divided into two broad classes: the advertising war tokens which bore the name of the issuing firm, often with a promise of redemption; and the general or straight war tokens, which bore no evidence of origin or redemption, but which were apparently in as general circulation. The tokens were almost entirely of copper and of practically the same size and weight as the U. S. copper cent, but occasionally they were of brass or nickel or pewter or alloy, and in a few rare instances of silver. The advertising tokens generally bore the name and address of the firm on one side of the coin, and various kinds of inscriptions and devices on the reverse. The general tokens usually bore an emblem such as an Indian head, a flag, a shield, a figure of liberty, or a head of an American statesman on the obverse, and some descriptive wording or patriotic inscription on the reverse.

It is impossible to estimate how many of these coins were put in circulation. One firm is known to have coined an issue of about 1000, and most issues were doubtless much larger. The number of varieties has also never been carefully listed. The Scott Coin Catalogue lists nearly 5000 issues, but this includes sutler's checks and certain forms of advertising tokens not intended for circulation. The largest known collection of the Civil War tokens contains somewhat over 2100 varieties, and the present collection owned by the Society contains about 1900. The collection of Henry W. Holland, sold in 1878, contained 1000 varieties and was then known as the largest collection which had been offered for sale at auction. In May,

1884, the collection of coins and tokens gathered by J. N. T. Levick was sold at auction in New York. This contained between four and five thousand Civil War tokens, but a large number of the varieties were made especially for Mr. Levick, in some cases by the die sinkers themselves during the war period. Hence although probably the largest collection of Civil War tokens ever formed, it included many specimens not intended for circulation, but made solely for the coin collector's cabinet.

An adequate list of these tokens, arranged by States and including sufficient description to identify each variety, would be of much value to collectors.

This Society has been presented by Mrs. Francis Henry Lee of Salem with a bound volume of the *Massachusetts Spy* dating from June 7, 1800, to February 24, 1802. On the blank leaf next to the cover is a printed book-label with the inscription, "Presented to the Faustus Association by Isaiah Thomas, Esq."

About two years ago, a letter of inquiry came to the Society asking for information about the Faustus Association. A search through the usual books of reference revealed the fact that there was little in print regarding this Association. Dr. C. L. Nichols became interested in the query and after considerable research was able to trace all the salient points of the Society's history. As a result of the accession of the gift from Mrs. Lee, he gathered his notes on the subject and they were printed in the *Bulletin* last May. In order to give them a more lasting preservation, they are reprinted in this Report.

"In Buckingham's *Reminiscences* we find the statement that Benjamin Russell was President of the Faustus Association, which is known to have been in existence in the early years of the nineteenth century. In our own manuscript collection is a printed letter signed by Benjamin Russell as President, with date of June 13, 1806, and a written Constitution for an association of Printers and Booksellers. This letter is an

invitation to Thomas & Thomas of Walpole, N. H., from the 'Society of Printers in Boston and Vicinity' to examine the enclosed constitution, to suggest changes and improvements, and to join the organization. As Benjamin Russell was President of both societies and as they were known to exist at about the same time it seemed an interesting question to learn the relationship—if any—which existed between them.

"Mr. Henry Clay Whitcomb stated in 'Notes and Queries' of the *Boston Transcript* (April 5, 1913) that the record book of the Faustus Association was preserved in the library of the Franklin Typographical Society of Boston. A visit to that Society enabled me to examine the record book and settle the question. The title written on the first page states that it contains the 'Constitution and Records of the Society of Printers of Boston and Vicinity,' and the constitution is signed by a dozen or more well known printers, Isaiah Thomas being among the number. The records show that the Society was instituted August 2, 1805, and that Benjamin Russell was its President during its entire existence. At the meeting of April, 1806, it was voted that one hundred copies be made of the Constitution then drawn, that the President be authorized to prepare a circular letter, that one hundred of these be printed and that they be sent with the copies of the Constitution to printers in other towns for approval. This statement refers without question to the circular and the Constitution now preserved among the Thomas letters in our collection. At the semi-annual meeting of this Association held April 5, 1808, the following report was accepted: 'Your committee beg leave to suggest the propriety of altering the name and title of the Society and that hereafter it be known as The Faustus Association. Your committee have thought this alteration of some importance inasmuch as the old title appears to them irrelative to the general object of the institution and to the employment of many of its members and not to embrace the higher branches of our profession: which are not mechanical or bounded by rules but which soar to improvements as valuable to science and humanity as those which have immortalized the discovery of Faustus, whose name we propose to bear. Your committee are aware that this alteration has been objected to heretofore even by some of this committee but they now unanimously recommend the measure. John Russell, Chairman.'

"We thus find that the 'Society of Printers in Boston and Vicinity' was the original title of this organization and remained so for three years and that it was changed by vote of the Society to 'The Faustus Association.' The objects of the Society were the elevation of the printing art, the regula-

tion of trade and prices, the preservation of good fellowship in the profession, and the formation of a Conservative Fire Society—for the protection of the printing offices. This Fire Society was one of many in Boston at the time and continued in existence until the fire department of that city was reorganized by Mayor Josiah Quincy in 1825.

"This association existed from 1805 until 1815 and its annual dinners were important functions. At the dinner in 1807 an ode was written and read by Robert Treat Paine, Jr., a literary production of much merit, which was later printed in the *Portfolio*. In 1808 an oration was delivered by John Russell on 'The History and Importance of the Printing Art,' in which Benjamin Franklin and Isaiah Thomas were eulogized in flattering terms. This address was also printed and a copy of it is in our Library. In 1809 Isaiah Thomas was requested to deliver an address but was unable to accept as his time was then fully occupied in writing the *History of Printing*. In 1810, he presented a copy of this work to the Society and in the following year he received a letter of thanks and approval. From this time the activities of the Society ceased and in 1815 its records were closed.

"In the library of the Faustus Association were about fifty volumes of newspapers, many of which were given, when it ceased to exist, to the Mechanic Apprentices' Association. It is probably from this source that our volume came—as well as another now in the possession of Mr. R. Henry W. Dwight of Boston.

"In 1859 the book of Records was found by Henry W. Dutton in an unused garret and presented by him to Joseph T. Buckingham, at that time the only living member of the Faustus Association, and by him was given to the Franklin Typographical Society. This gift inspired a series of articles, written in September, 1859, for the *Boston Evening Transcript*, by Mr. Buckingham, which gave an account of the Association and its members and which contained also much of value relating to the printing art in general."

Two works have been published during the year which have printed manuscript material owned by this Society. One is Professor Burr's *Narratives of the Witchcraft Cases, 1648-1706*, forming one of the volumes in the *Original Narratives of Early American History*. This includes a long manuscript account of Mercy Short, written by Cotton Mather and entitled "A Brand pluck'd out of the Burning,"

which has long reposed among our Mather papers and is now printed for the first time. As a critic in the *American Historical Review* has pointed out, it is the most important narrative in the volume, not only because of its value as a historical document, but also because it provides for the student of witchcraft entirely new material. Although this manuscript might eventually have been published by the Society, it seemed advisable, in the interests of historical research, to have it printed in a work which, being especially devoted to the subject of witchcraft controversy, will always be one of the main sources of information on the subject.

The fourth and final volume of the *Diary of William Bentley* has been published by the Essex Institute under the able editorship of George Francis Dow. This was a manuscript which, because of its great length and appeal chiefly to local Salem interest, would presumably never have been published by this Society. It is a matter of congratulation, therefore, that this lengthy journal, which covers a period of thirty-six years, 1784-1819, has at last been printed by an institution whose publications are upon such a high plane. Rev. William Bentley was a remarkable scholar, with a knowledge of history, languages, science and literature that was approached by but few men of his time. His journal therefore records not only the most minute details of local happenings, but forms a commentary upon the political and economic history of his day that will render it of decided value to all students of the period. Nowhere is this fact so well brought out as in the subject index to the entire diary in the fourth volume, where, under such headings as amusements, buildings, clothing, crimes, furniture, machines, manufactures, music, trades and vessels, so many entries are recorded that one wonders at the breadth of vision of this preacher-diarist, at the same time praising the editor for providing so complete an index.

The Society has subscribed to two projects involving the photographic reproduction of colonial newspapers. For many years it has been desirous of filling in the gaps in its files with fac-simile copies where the originals were unobtainable. The high cost of the usual photographic processes forbade any such idea, at least upon a large scale. The recent development of the photostat machine, whereby an exact reproduction of a colonial newspaper can be obtained at a fraction of the former cost, has now made it possible to take up the subject in an extensive way.

The John Carter Brown Library, through its librarian, Mr. George Parker Winship, has within the past year undertaken the project of making photostat copies of all the known issues of the *Newport Mercury* from its establishment in 1758 to the end of the year 1776. During this period nearly one thousand numbers were published, of which three hundred cannot be located in any library, leaving seven hundred to be photographed. The Society has subscribed for the entire photostat set, since it has in its own files only a few original issues. Except for the *North Carolina Gazette*, no important colonial newspaper is represented today by so imperfect a file as the *Newport Mercury*. Because of the occupation of Newport by the British and the consequent removal of most of the influential families to the more congenial mother country, the files of this paper in private ownership were largely scattered or destroyed. What files remain are very imperfect and located in many depositories. Hence Mr. Winship is performing a most commendable task in reproducing all of the known issues dating before the Revolution. He has finished the years from 1772 to 1776, and will proceed soon with the remainder of the series. If the experiment proves a success, he will continue the reproductions of the *Mercury* to the year 1800 and probably take up other colonial newspapers.

The second project in which the Society is interested is that begun by Mr. Worthington C. Ford, at the Massachusetts Historical Society, who has started upon the scheme of obtaining reproductions by the photostat process of all Boston newspapers previous to 1774, with the purpose of completing the files in the Massachusetts Historical Society and also in other libraries engaged to assist in the undertaking. Libraries which furnish original issues for reproduction will receive in return, on a sheet for sheet exchange, photographic copies of their own files. Certain other libraries, which possess few if any copies of original issues, will also be enabled to procure at cost price complete files for historical use. The reproductions are the exact size of the originals and are preferably made from the best originals available. Mr. Ford has so far finished the reproduction of the first five years of the *Boston News-Letter* and will continue with the other papers in due turn. Since this Society is exceedingly desirous to obtain facsimile issues to complete its own files, it is needless to say that it looks upon the plan with great favor. Not only for this reason, but also because the project attempts in so broad a way to assist all historical scholars in the search for original sources, it stands ready to help wherever possible and whenever asked.

Respectfully submitted,

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*Librarian.*

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