

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

THE progress of the Library during the year has been eventful in many particulars, and the total of accessions has been slightly above normal. Expressed in figures which, although dry and statistical, most accurately measure the library's development this total is as follows:

Bound volumes	3497
Pamphlets	4063
Engravings, broadsides and maps	1431
Unbound newspapers	1662

Carrying out the figures obtained from the count of the Library in 1917, the books now number 141,767; and the pamphlets 211,676.

The especial sources of growth during the year have been the accession of the Nathaniel Paine library, and the fortunate acquisition of several early newspaper files. It has been due to many members, however, such as Messrs. Charles H. Taylor, Charles G. Washburn, Arthur P. Rugg, and Henry W. Cunningham, that we have been able to keep up with much of the current historical output. To Mr. Taylor, the Society is much indebted for adding most generously to our collections, and particularly for the gifts of volumes relating to American printing and journalism.

One of the richest private libraries which has ever been given to the Society came from the bequest of Nathaniel Paine. Mr. Paine died in January, 1917, and according to his will his library was to go to the Society after the death of Mrs. Paine, who however could make such use of it as she chose, even to the

disposal of books. Mrs. Paine, interested equally in the Antiquarian Society and desirous of keeping the library intact as a memorial to her husband, took very few books from it, and then only after making sure that they were duplicate volumes. Upon her death, in September, 1920, the books were sent over to the Society, and the process of arranging and comparing them with our own copies began. The extra-illustrated volumes, certain special collections in which Mr. Paine was much interested, such as books on the drama and on sports and games, and most of the standard books of Worcester history, kept as second copies, were placed in his own book-cases in what has been termed the Nathaniel Paine Room. The general historical literature was fayed in with our own collection, each book being properly marked as from his bequest.

As a result, the Society received from the Paine library 1218 books, 220 pamphlets, 670 bookplates, and 517 photographs and views. The most valuable feature of the collection—the long series of volumes extra-illustrated with thousands of prints, documents and views—has been referred to in the Council Report. Of the books which were added to our general collection, the most important were the volumes of biography, the children's books, the bookplate literature, bibliography, books on folk-lore, and the Washington eulogies. Mr. Paine was not a collector of books of great rarity—that is, books which brought high prices in the sales-room—yet he did acquire many titles of extreme scarcity. Perhaps the rarest of his books was "The Charter of the City of Saint John," printed at New Brunswick by Lewis & Ryan. Although without date, this volume was printed in 1785, and seems to be in none of the leading collections. The rarest of his prints was a fine copy of Paul Revere's "Boston Massacre," especially welcome to us as it was one of the very few Revere engravings which we lacked.

The receipt from H. W. Caslon & Co., of London, of their splendidly printed and illustrated volume, "Two Centuries of Type founding" serves to remind the Society that it possesses an unusual collection of early English type-specimen books. Books of this character seem to have been especially subject to destruction, probably because the old editions were discarded by their owners as soon as the new editions were received. Furthermore they were considered as trade-catalogues, and when the antiquarian and collector sought them a century later, they had nearly all disappeared. When William Blades wrote his work on "Some Early Type Specimen Books," in 1875, the earliest English type specimen in book form which he was able to trace was that issued in 1764 by the firm of William Caslon and Son. But in the library of Isaiah Thomas of Worcester was an earlier Caslon specimen, dated 1763, and it is this volume which today forms the corner-stone of the Society's collection. Thomas not only preserved all of the specimen-books which came to him from the printers, but also issued one of his own in 1785, with the title "A Specimen of Isaiah Thomas's Printing Types." Being as large and complete an assortment as is to be met with in any one Printing-Office in America. Chiefly manufactured by that great artist, William Caslon, Esq. of London."

Although the collection of English and American specimen books has been known to a few students of early printing, and aroused considerable interest when the Boston Society of Printers visited the Library in 1910, a list of the titles has never been printed in the Proceedings. Therefore the list is herewith given, arranged chronologically, including titles as far as 1860:

- A Specimen by John Baskerville of Birmingham. Broadside (c. 1762).
- A Specimen of Printing Types, by William Caslon, and Son, Letter Founders, in London. London: Printed by Dryden Leach, 1763.
- A Specimen of Printing Types, by William Caslon, Letter Founder, London. Printed by John Towers, 1766.
- Epreuve des Caractères, qui se fondent chez les frères Ploos van Amstel, Amsterdam (c. 1766).

- Proef van Letteren, welke gegooten worden in de Nieuwe Haerlemsche Letter gietery van J. Enschedé. 1768. (Containing a portrait of the punch cutter and a folding-plate view of the typefoundry.)
- A Specimen of Printing Types, by Tho. Cottrell, Letter Founder, In Nevil's-Court, Fetter-Lane, London. (1774).
- A Specimen of Printing Types, by William Caslon, Letter-Founder to his Majesty. London: Printed by Galabin and Baker, 1785.
- A Specimen of Large Letters, by William Caslon, London, 1785. Two broadsides.
- A Specimen of Isaiah Thomas's Printing Types. Being as large and complete an assortment as is to be met with in any one Printing-Office in America. Chiefly manufactured by that great artist, William Caslon, Esq; of London. Printed at Worcester, Massachusetts, by Isaiah Thomas, 1785.
- A Specimen of Printing Types, made by Joseph Fry and Sons. Letter-Founders, and Marking-Instrument Makers, by the King's Royal Letters Patent. London: Printed in the year 1785.
- A Specimen of Printing Types, by Joseph Fry and Sons, Letter-Founders to the Prince of Wales. London: Printed in the year 1786.
- A Specimen of Printing Types, by Tho. Cottrell, Letter Founder, In Nevil's-Court, Fetter-Lane, London. ("1786" in I. Thomas's hand).
- A Specimen of Printing Types by John Baine & Grandson in Co. Letter-Founders, Edinburgh 1787.
- A Specimen of Printing Types cast in the Letter Foundry of Alexander Wilson and Sons. Glasgow, 1789.
- Specimen of Brass Card Borders, and other ornaments, on an entire new principle, by C. & A. Paas, Engravers to Their Majesties. London. Printed by T. Bensley, 1793.
- Specimen of Metal Cast Ornaments, curiously adjusted to paper, by Edmund Fry and Co. Letter-Founders to the Prince of Wales, Type-Street, London: Printed by T. Rickaby, 1793.
- Fry's Metal Ornaments, Continued. Broadside. (A few of the same ornaments as in the 1793 edition.)
- A Specimen of Printing Types, by Fry and Steele, Letter-Founders to the Prince of Wales, Type-Street. London: Printed by T. Rickaby, 1794.
- Specimen of Metal Cast Ornaments, curiously adjusted to paper, by Edmund Fry and Isaac Steele, Letter-Founders to the Prince of Wales, Type-Street. London: Printed by T. Rickaby, 1794.
- A Specimen of Printing Types, by Wm. Caslon, Letter-Founder to the King. London: Printed by C. Whittingham, 1796.
- Pantographia; containing accurate copies of all the known alphabets in the world, together with an English explanation of the peculiar force or power of each letter: To which are added, specimens of all

- well-authenticated Oral Languages; forming a comprehensive digest of Phonology. By Edmund Fry, Letter-Founder, Type-Street. Printed by Cooper and Wilson, 1799.
- A Specimen of Printing Types, by Fry, Steele and Co. Letter-Founders to the Prince of Wales, Type-Street, London: Printed in the year 1800.
- A Specimen of the Improved Types of G. F. Harris, Printer. (Successor to Mr. John M'Creery.) Houghton-Street, Liverpool. (1807).
- Proben der Schrift-Sorten, welche in der Buchdruckerey von Friedrich Hermann Nestler wohnhaft in Hamburg auf den grossen Bleichen No. 323 befindlich sind. Hamburg, 1807.
- Specimen of Printing Type, from the Letter Foundry of James Ronaldson, successor to Binny & Ronaldson. Cedar between Ninth and Tenth Streets, Philadelphia, 1816.
- A Specimen of Printing Types, from the foundry of E. White, New-York. J. Seymour, Printer, No. 49, John Street, New-York, 1817.
- A Specimen of Printing Types, cast at the Letter-Foundry of D. & G. Bruce, in Chamber, near Chatham Street, New-York, 1818.
- List of prices at the Boston Type and Stereotype Foundry. (1829)
- Specimen of Printing Types, and Ornaments, from the Letter-Foundry of J. Howe, & Co. Corner of Crown & Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, 1830.
- Specimen of Printing Types and Ornaments, by Robb & Ecklin, Letter Founders, Corner of Crown & Callowhill Streets, Philadelphia, 1836.
- Specimen of Modern Printing Types, cast at the Letter Foundry of the Boston Type and Stereotype Company, No. 39 Congress Street. John G. Rogers, Agent, Boston. Dutton and Wentworth, Printers. 1837.
- Specimens of Printing Types and Ornaments, from the New England Type & Stereotype Foundry. Hobart & Robbins, Successors to Geo. A. Curtis, 66 Congress Street, Boston, 1851.
- The General Specimen Book of the Dickinson Type Foundry, comprising Types for Letter-Press Printing of every variety: Foundry commenced in the year 1840, by the late S. N. Dickinson, a distinguished printer and type founder. Address the Proprietors, Phelps and Dalton, No. 52 Washington Street, Boston, Mass. 1856.
- Specimens of Types, Borders, Ornaments, etc. in Prentiss & Sawyer's Printing Office, 19 Water Street, Boston, 1857.
- Specimens of Printing Types, Ornaments, Borders, &c. from the Type Foundry & Printers' Emporium of Wm. Hagar, Jr. & Co. New York: 38 Gold Street, between Fulton and John Streets. 1858.
- Condensed Specimen Book from the Boston Type Foundry. John K. Rogers & Co. Proprietors. Boston: Spring Lane, Corner of Devonshire Street. 1860.

Specimens of Vignettes, Ornamental End Pieces, Borders, Medallions, Titles &c. for Bonds, Certificates of Stock & Deposits, Drafts, Bills of Exchange, Notes, Checks, Bills of Lading, Bill Heads, Labels, &c. Engraved on stone by Hatch & Co., 29 William St., New York.

The Library has acquired a large number of eighteenth century American imprints, a few of which are worthy of special mention. The earliest is Increase Mather's "Soul-Saving Gospel Truths," printed in Boston, but bearing only the imprint "Sold by Eleazer Phillips, 1703." This is the first edition of one of Mather's most famous tracts, and is apparently the only known copy. Another volume, also unrecorded, is Richard Sherlock's "Principles of the Holy Christian Pilgrim Explained," reprinted and sold by William Bradford, New York, 1704. A third, hitherto located only through advertisements, is Benjamin Wadsworth's "Well-Ordered Family," Boston, printed by B. Green for Nicholas Buttolph, 1712.

Coming down later in the century, there is the Baptist "Confession of Faith," printed at Philadelphia by Anthony Armbruster in 1765, and a pamphlet of twelve pages entitled "Reasons Why Mr. Byles left New-London, and returned into the Bosom of the Church of England," printed May 24th, 1768. Mather Byles, Jr., was pastor of the Congregational Church at New London from 1757 to 1768, and during this decade he experienced about as stormy a ministry as was ever granted to a New England divine. A group of religious obstructionists known as Rogerenes, who believed that Mr. Byles's method of conducting his services savored of idolatry, attempted to promulgate their views during the service itself. After they were forcibly ousted from the Church, they returned the next Sunday and renewed the struggle. They were imprisoned, sometimes twenty or thirty in a day. But punishment only seemed to goad them to further excesses. The whipping-post, the ducking-stool and burning with tar were freely employed, until finally

both sides seemed to relax as if from violence of their exertions.

After a period of a year or more of comparative calm, in 1768 Mather Byles without warning announced to his congregation that he had become a convert to the Church of England, and that he intended to remove to Boston to officiate as pastor of the North Church. A sharp and recriminative debate followed the announcement and fortunately a sketch of this debate was taken down by someone present, and afterwards published in a pamphlet entitled "A Debate between the Rev. Mr. Byles, late Pastor of the first Church in New London, and the Brethren of that Church" by A. Z. Esq., New London, 1768. The Library has no copy of this pamphlet, although it is to be found in the Boston Athenaeum, and several Connecticut libraries. Then came the pamphlet mentioned above, which was really a burlesque on the "Debate" pamphlet. Dr. Benjamin Gale, in the "New London Gazette" of December 2, 1768, stated that the "Reasons" were written by Rev. Samuel Peters, of Hebron. The pamphlet is a queer mixture of theology, humor and scurrility, and may well be credited to the pen of that prelate from whom we know the most regarding the early habit of "bundling," and much concerning the history of Connecticut which is not true.

Another rare pamphlet obtained by the Library is the second edition of the "History of the Life and Death, Virtues and Exploits of General George Washington," by Rev. M. L. Weems, printed at Philadelphia by John Bioren, probably in 1800, with the rare frontispiece engraving. This is an edition which we have long sought and serves to remind us that our list of Weems desiderata is now a small one. Of the various books of which Rev. Mr. Weems was either author or publisher, we have 112 editions, which is a large proportion of his known output. The Life and Bibliography of Rev. Mason L. Weems, which Mrs.

Roswell Skeel is now preparing, will when published give added interest to this early theologian, book-peddler and historian, whose chief claim to fame apparently lies in the fact that he first told, and perhaps invented, the famous story of Washington and the cherry-tree.

The year has been more than ordinarily notable for the acquisition of files of early newspapers. Newspapers of the last half century can frequently be obtained by dint of research and correspondence, but the early files can only be gathered by accepting the opportunity when offered. The most important purchase was a volume containing four issues of the "New-England Courant," with the name of Benjamin Franklin in the imprint, and dated at Boston on May 7, 28, June 18 and 25, 1726. The last issue hitherto known of Franklin's paper was that of June 4, 1726, hence here is interesting proof that the journal was continued at Boston for at least three issues more. A list of the files acquired which antedate the Civil War is herein appended, arranged chronologically:

- NEW ENGLAND COURANT, BOSTON, 1726.
- PENNSYLVANISCHE GESCHICHT-SCHREIBER, 1743-1745.
- BOSTON WEEKLY POST-BOY, 1745-1746.
- PENNSYLVANISCHE BERICHTE, GERMANTOWN, 1755-1757.
- PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE, PHILADELPHIA, 1777.
- VIRGINIA JOURNAL, Alexandria, 1784-1785.
- MARYLAND GAZETTE, BALTIMORE, 1788-1792.
- MARYLAND JOURNAL, BALTIMORE, 1790.
- STATE GAZETTE, PROVIDENCE, 1796.
- FEDERAL GAZETTE, BALTIMORE, 1799.
- AURORA, PHILADELPHIA, 1800-1803.
- COMMERCIAL REGISTER, NORFOLK, 1802.
- WAHRE AMERIKANER, LANCASTER, 1804-1805.
- ENQUIRER, RICHMOND, 1804-1806.
- HAMPSHIRE FEDERALIST, SPRINGFIELD, 1811.
- NORTHUMBERLAND REPUBLICANER, 1812-1817.
- COLUMBIAN REGISTER, NEW HAVEN, 1817-1818.
- VILLAGE RECORD, WESTCHESTER, 1818-1832.
- NORDWESTLICHE POST, SUNBURY, 1818-1822.
- EASTERN ARGUS, PORTLAND, 1819-1820.
- SETTLER, MEANSVILLE, 1821-1822.

FARMER'S CABINET, AMHERST, 1821-1891.
ESSEX PATRIOT, HAVERHILL, 1821-1823.
ATKINSON'S POST, PHILADELPHIA, 1827-1831.
CONSTELLATION, NEW YORK, 1831-1832.
SALEM OBSERVER, 1836-1837.
FALMOUTH POST, JAMAICA, 1836-1837.
BRADFORD ARGUS, 1840-1843.
WHALEMEN'S SHIPPING LIST, NEW BEDFORD, 1849-1872.
CORNWALL CHRONICLE, JAMAICA, 1850.
SUNDAY MERCURY, NEW YORK, 1860.

The Bookplate collection has made great strides during the year. Of course the largest accession was the Marshall collection, obtained late in 1919, but not finally arranged and consolidated with our own collection until last winter. This was one of the two greatest collections of American bookplates, and added very much to our strength in the early plates. It gave us about 250 more Allen numbers, or plates listed in C. D. Allen's volume entitled "American Book Plates," and about 500 more plates that should have been included by Allen. The total number of plates, including labels, added to our collection was 3670. One of the most valuable features of the Marshall collection was its exhaustive card catalogues and the numerous notes, biographical and bibliographical, which accompanied the plates.

Through the kindness and co-operation of Mr. Frederick J. Libbie, the Society has acquired the unpublished notes and data gathered by Charles Dexter Allen for the second edition of his work; also the zinc blocks of reproductions of early plates which Allen intended to use in this edition. This valuable body of material, when combined with the Marshall notes and the James Terry notes, will furnish a mass of information for that comprehensive check-list of early American bookplates which all collectors and students of early engravings have long desired.

Many other donations have been made to our collection. From Mr. Charles Veatch of Kansas City we have received many early Western plates which we

needed. Several of the bookplate designers, notably Stanley Harrod, Elisha Brown Bird and Dorothy Sturgis Harding, have aided us in completing the examples of their work. Mr. Lombard, as usual, has aided in every possible way, with his counsel, inspiration and gifts. Chiefly through his efforts the Society was the major exhibitor at an Exhibition of Colonial Bookplates held by the American Bookplate Society in New York in November, 1920. Plates engraved by Revere, Hurd, Maverick and nearly all of the colonial engravers, an original George Washington, and plates of many early Americans of prominence made up the exhibit.

One of the plates that aroused much interest was a type book-label with the words "Steven Day, January 11, 1642," considered by many students to be the plate and imprint of Steven Day who established his press at Cambridge in 1639 and was the first printer in what is now the United States of America. This bookplate furnished a most interesting problem, and I can do no better in closing this already rather long account of a single feature of the Society's collecting than by quoting from an article on the subject contributed by the Rev. Herbert E. Lombard to "The Bookplate Annual" for 1921.

A BOOKPLATE PROBLEM

The American Antiquarian Society has a number of seventeenth century dated American bookplates the authenticity of which is unquestioned and which are as interesting as they are rare. But a far greater bibliographical interest is produced by the earliest plate in the collection possible to be American, that of Steven Day, January 11, 1642 which is here reproduced in the exact size of the original.

The late Frank Evans Marshall, the well-known collector of Philadelphia, wrote of this bookplate: "This I take to be the plate of the Cambridge printer." Wm. C. Hazlitt in his *Roll of Honour*, 1908, page 58, describes it as "A printed label, bearing the name with the date, January 11, 1642, within a curious type border. This is supposed to have been executed for his own use by the prototypographer of New England, and is the earliest

example, if so, of an American ex-libris." Governor John Winthrop in his *History of New England* has the following concerning the early printer: "A printing house was begun at Cambridge by one Daye, at the charge of Mr. Glover, who died on sea hitherward. The first thing which he printed was the freemen's oath; the next was an almanac made for New England by Mr. William Pierce, mariner; the next was the Psalms newly turned into metre." I, 348.

When we consider that there is no known copy of the "freemen's oath," and no known copy of *The Almanac for New England*, then this modest bookplate presents a fascinating problem in bibliography and becomes a most interesting little bit of paper, as perhaps the second piece of American printing now extant, being only preceded by the *Bay Psalm Book*.

In considering this problem the first question to arise is the spelling of the name Steven Day, as long-time usage has accustomed us to the use of Stephen Daye when reference is made to the Cambridge printer. Samuel Abbott Green in "*Ten Fac-Simile Reproductions Relating to New England*," 1902, notes several facts of value. There are but two known autograph signatures and in each of these instances both the given name and the surname are written differently. In the obligation entered into with Glover in 1638 it is written Stephen Daye; but in February 26, 1655, he wrote his signature Steven Day.

Matthew, his son and successor who printed the *Almanack for 1647*, gives it Day. In the text of the bond with Glover the name is each time spelled Day, and in the obligation dated February 20, 1617-18, the name is twice given Stephen Daye.

Furthermore, the name of the printer is not given in any publication now extant which came from his press. These things all being considered, it would seem quite probable that the Cambridge printer would have spelled the name Steven Day upon his bookplate if he had one.

The second thing to be considered is the type ornaments which border the plate, and here the darkness deepens as they are not found on the title page of any publication known to have been issued by the Day press. The argument from what is not found is unsatisfactory at the best but it is all that is known at present.

The problem is not solved; the case is not proved. The bookplate appears to be American and there is no positive evidence that it is not. The general consensus of opinion is that it is indeed the bookplate of the Cambridge printer. If that is the case, this little piece of paper is the earliest known American bookplate and it is also the second printing in the English Colonies now known to be in existence. Is it not a most interesting bookplate problem?

During the past spring, the Worcester Historical Society re-arranged its library, discarding much foreign and worthless material, and planning to confine its collecting to New England history, with particular emphasis on the literature of Worcester County. Many special collections of importance were retained, and no material was disposed of unless it was considered entirely foreign to the proper purposes of the Society. A large amount of the discarded material was turned over to this Library for examination, with a view toward keeping somewhere in the city at least one copy of books which in the realm of probability might be sought for, and which entered our especial fields of collecting. We have not as yet had the time to compare all these volumes, therefore how large a proportion will prove duplicate and how many will be added to the collection will not be known until next year's report. The Worcester Historical Society is to be congratulated upon this wise step, which is in keeping with the modern idea of local historical libraries limiting their energies to collecting chiefly along local lines. The rearrangement of the contents of their library building, with a view to bringing into more prominence the very important museum feature, is worthy of the highest commendation, while the progressive and co-operative spirit of their officers can only inspire a similar spirit in return.

CLARENCE S. BRIGHAM,
Librarian.

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New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.
New York Historical Society.
New York Public Library.
New York State Library.
New York State Waterways.
New York Times.
New York, University of the State of.
North Carolina Historical Commission.
Oberlin College.
Ohio, Historical and Philosophical Society.
Oklahoma Historical Society.
Old Dartmouth Historical Society.
Oregon Historical Society.
Park Trust Company.
Peabody Museum of Cambridge.
Peabody Museum, Salem.
Pennsylvania, Commonwealth of.
Pennsylvania, Historical Society of.
Perkins' Institute.
Philadelphia, Library Company of.
Philadelphia Public Ledger.
Philadelphia Rapid Transit.
Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association.
Political Science Quarterly.
Pratt Institute Free Library.
Presbyterian Historical Society.
Providence Athenaeum.
Providence Daily Journal.
Providence Public Library.
Queen's University.
Quill, The.
Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints.
Reynolds Family Association.
Rhode Island Historical Society.
Rhode Island School of Design.
Rhode Island State Library.

Rockefeller Foundation.
Rosenberg Library.
Royal Historical Society.
Royal Society of Canada.
Royal Worcester Corset Company.
St. Louis Mercantile Library Association.
St. Louis Public Library.
Smith College.
Smithsonian Institution.
Société des Americanistes of Paris.
Société d'Archaeologie, Bruxelles.
Society of Antiquaries of London.
Sons of the American Revolution.
South Bend Public Library.
South Carolina Historical Society.
Southwestern Historical Quarterly.
Starry Cross.
Topsfield Historical Society.
Toronto, University of.
United States Brewers Association.
United States Envelope Company.
United States Government.
Universidad Nacional de la Plata.
Vermont Historical Society.
Villager, The.
Vineland Historical Society.
Vineland Historical Magazine.
Washington University.
Wesleyan University.
Western Reserve Historical Society.
William and Mary College.
Williams College.
Wisconsin State Historical Society.
Woman's Relief Corps, Boston.
Worcester Academy.
Worcester Art Museum.
Worcester Bank and Trust Company.
Worcester, City of.
Worcester County Mechanics Association.
Worcester County Musical Association.
Worcester Gazette.
Worcester Historical Society.
Worcester Public Library.
Worcester Telegram.
Worcester Woman's Club.
Wyoming State Historical Society.
Yale University.
Yale University Press.

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