

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

FOR 148 YEARS the name of Frelinghuysen was represented on the Rutgers Board of Trustees. This relationship ended in 1948 with the death of the Hon. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, whose own service had spanned a period of thirty-one years.

Mr. Frelinghuysen's career in business and politics had been a long and distinguished one. A native of Raritan, N.J., he entered at an early age what was to be his lifelong field of activity, that of insurance. By 1885 (his sixteenth year) he was an underwriter for a New York concern; he was later to be president of the Stuyvesant Insurance Company and associated as well with other business organizations.

After a cavalry "hitch" in Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War, he developed an enthusiasm for politics. His first successful campaign made him a member of the New Jersey state senate in 1905, to which he was reelected in 1908. There he was, at various times, floor leader, president, committee chairman. In that period, and indeed at all stages of his political life, he concerned himself greatly with agricultural interests, being appointed in 1912 to the state Board of Agriculture. He was involved in the reorganization of New Jersey's school system, and became a member (later president) of the state Board of Education in 1911.

In 1916, Mr. Frelinghuysen contested with former Governor Franklin Murphy for the Republican nomination as United States senatorial candidate. He won the primary and the election, and served one term in Washington, 1917-23. This was during the war years, and Mr. Frelinghuysen was a member of the Committee on Military Affairs. He also became a close friend of President Harding.

As a gift of his family, the Library has received from his widow the papers of Joseph S. Frelinghuysen. This valuable record, totaling sixteen file drawers in bulk, will be of great usefulness to future historians, especially because of the varied activities in which Mr. Frelinghuysen had a significant part. Its preservation will be a memorial and monument to a public-spirited family. Mrs. Frelinghuysen has also generously established a fund in memory of her late husband. The proceeds are to be used for the purchase of New Jerseyana.

The Bernardus Lagrange papers, newly acquired, have a different sort of historical value. Lagrange was a one-time landed squire in the Raritan valley who chose the King's side in the Revolution. He and his family were roughly treated by their neighbors and were obliged to leave their New Brunswick home for the more sympathetic atmosphere of British-occupied New York. By subsequent confiscation proceedings they were stripped of all their property in New Jersey and in New York State. Finally settling permanently in England, Bernardus Lagrange was reduced to somewhat modest circumstances. The present body of Lagrange papers, several hundred in number, includes the petitions, accounts, lists, and evidence which he submitted in connection with claims entered with the Commissions for Enquiring into the Losses and Services of the American Loyalists, essentially 1783-90. Included are deeds and surveys of New Jersey lands, dating from 1686, one of the latter being a partial map of New Brunswick in 1769. There are two original anonymous letters from fellow townsmen, early in the war, berating the family for its Loyalist stand.

There is a singular bit of irony about one of the Lagrange documents. This is a series of affidavits obtained by Lagrange after the war from various local functionaries, certifying to the fact that his New Jersey property had been confiscated. These, in turn, were all accompanied by certifications of Governor Livingston—largely in the handwriting, however, of William Paterson, then attorney-general of New Jersey. Paterson, a young, rising lawyer during the war, had been appointed one of the confiscation commissioners for Somerset County. Among the properties seized and sold were those of Bernardus Lagrange—which Paterson contrived to buy in for himself, presumably at a fraction of their value. One wonders if Lagrange, perusing the confiscation affidavits on receiving them at his English home, recognized upon them the writing of a man who had benefited from those very confiscations.

Some additional manuscripts were presented by the following:

Clarence R. Covert estate, Harlingen, N.J., through Judge Arthur B. Smith; Mrs. Dion K. Dean, Rahway, N.J.; Miss Julia Bogert, Metuchen, N.J.; Professor Hans Hammond; New Jersey Association of English Teachers; St. Alban Kite, Trenton, N.J.; Lionel

Shapiro, through Mr. I. Robert Kriendler, '36; Mrs. Bertha B. Hardy, Clifton, N.J.; Howard L. Hughes, Trenton, N.J.; Rev. Brown McDonald, Newark, N.J.

Besides acquiring actual manuscripts, the Library has added others to its research collection in the form of microfilm copies. This is the only choice, in fact, where the originals are in some official custody and not physically obtainable for Rutgers. Among other material, the Library has filmed the records of several old New Jersey churches, and will likely continue with others. Translating the assorted volumes and papers of a congregation into a usable research tool involves a combination of editorial and archival work. The finished job must have a clear, logical arrangement, with accompanying descriptions, lists, flash cards, etc. The practice in each case has been to film all records of the church known to exist, down to about 1900.

Following are listed the church records copied, with earliest dates:

Kingston Presbyterian, 1791; Montville Reformed, 1774; Cranbury First and Second Presbyterian, 1745 and 1838 respectively; Scotch Plains Baptist, 1747; Parsippany Presbyterian, 1745 (practical date 1828); Spotswood, St. Peter's Episcopal, 1761 (practical date 1806); Delaware, St. James Episcopal, 1769 (in progress); Washington First Presbyterian, 1787; Morristown First Presbyterian, 1742 (in progress). Other kinds of records: Piscataway Township minutes, etc., 1682-1933; New Market Library, borrower's record, 1812-43; General Charles Grey's (British Army) orderly book, Philadelphia, February-May, 1778. Positives of all such microfilms are available to other libraries.

The Library continues to receive collections and lots of books. One of the most valuable and useful of these is a group of over five hundred volumes, Western Americana, a gift of the B. Burton Gottesberger estate. They were presented through Mr. Lansing P. Shield '17, and Mrs. Shield, niece of Mr. Gottesberger. This lot has been an especially useful one, not only in the main collection, but also in the University's Newark and Camden libraries.

For a number of years each class of the annual Bankers' School, held every summer at Rutgers, has contributed generously to a book fund for the Library. The fund is being used for special acquisitions in the field of economics, some of them rarities. One lot of fifty-four books and pamphlets relating to the Physiocrats has just been ob-

tained from this source. They are original writings of the various *économistes*—dating from 1768; also many pertinent committee reports and other documents of the National Assembly, largely 1789-92; and finally, works *about* the physiocrats. A number of these are by or concerning Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours (1739-1817), a member of the school—indeed originator of the name “physiocrat”—French government economist, founder of the American Du Ponts.

A second grant has been received from the New Jersey Society of Mayflower Descendants. This, like the fund given by the Society previously, is for the purchase of material relating to the Massachusetts Bay Colony or Plymouth Colony prior to the Revolution.

Thanks to Mr. Robert C. Crane, publisher of the *Elizabeth* (N.J.) *Daily Journal*, the Library has thirteen more reels of microfilm covering the *Journal's* earliest years, 1779-1864, in nearly complete form. Mr. Crane has devoted considerable effort and expense to the filming of his paper, not only from the office file (since given to the Rutgers University Library) but also from holdings in other hands whenever these can be used to fill hiatuses. Mr. Crane's gift to the Library, of *Journal* files in microfilm, totals over five hundred reels. A special word of appreciation is due the New Jersey Historical Society, which permitted the present thirteen reels of film to be made from its own invaluable file of the early *Journals*.

Mr. George S. Oettle, of Metuchen, N.J., has presented in several lots well over a thousand pieces of South African material—books, periodicals, etc. Through Mr. I. Robert Kriendler, '36, forty-four books, pamphlets, and broadsides of the Overbrook Press have been received from the publisher, Mr. Frank Altschul. These are all private printings, limited editions, and specimens of fine craftsmanship and design. Mr. Ned L. Pines, of New York, has presented fifty volumes, also through Mr. Kriendler. From the Clarence R. Covert estate, Harlingen, N.J., have come sixty-nine books and pamphlets, and a group of Somerville newspapers of the early 1900's. Miss Julia Bogert, of Metuchen, has sent to the Library several groups of books and pamphlets.

D.A.S.