

## THE ASSOCIATED FRIENDS

### *Recent Acquisitions in English*

*The following account of some recent additions to the Library's English literature shelves has been written for The Journal by the head of the Department of English.*

Since several thousand books have been added to the Rutgers Library during the last six months, it is patently impossible to mention more than a very few; and those few will be selected from a comparatively narrow field, namely, English literature. The acquisitions in this field may conveniently be divided into four groups: (1) first and early editions of seventeenth century writers, especially Milton; (2) publications of literary societies; (3) catalogues of great libraries; and (4) unexpected treasures.

Since last February we have acquired original editions of three of Milton's divorce tracts (*The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* of 1644, *Tetrachordon* of 1645, and *Colasterion* of 1645), three political works (the *Defensio* of 1651, a later edition of the same work of 1692, and *Eikonoklastes* of 1649), and several other books (*An Apology* of 1642, *The History of Britain* of 1670, and the *Letters of State* of 1694). Among various useful companion books in this field which have been added are the rare index to Masson's *Life*, Aldis Wright's fine facsimile of Milton's Cambridge Manuscript, and Helen Darbishire's recent facsimile of the manuscript of Book I of *Paradise Lost*. With the Columbia set of Milton and other editions and critical works which we already have, these give us an excellent core of a working Miltonic library. They will stimulate and make possible better graduate work. In this same group should also be mentioned a first edition of William Prynne's *Histriomastix* (1633), one of the most famous of all attacks on the drama, Martin Marprelate's *Epistle* (1588), and Nash's *Pierce Penniless*, from which the original title page is missing, but which may prove on collation to be the lost 1592 edition.

The second best resource after first editions, many of which are either not available or else entirely beyond the means of ordinary buyers, is good reprints. Particularly welcome to the

student of English are the various society publications which have made accessible many rare and unusual works. Such publications as those of the Percy Society, the Shakspeare Society, and the Spenser Society are examples of this type. The Library's friends will be pleased to learn that several such groups have come to us this last term. Of the publications of the Hunterian Club, which printed between 1875 and 1883 the works of Thomas Lodge, Patrick Hannay, Alexander Craig, Samuel Rowlands, and others, the Library recently acquired the complete set. A run of the Fuller Worthies' Library has brought us the writings of Andrew Marvell, Phineas Fletcher, Robert Southwell, and various others. Several volumes of the publications of the English Dialect Society have also taken their place on the shelves.

We are at the same time filling out our reference sets. No one knows what the future of the new edition of the British Museum Catalogue may be (at present it has reached only the letter B), but if it continues to be issued according to the original plans, we shall continue to receive it. It would be useful to have the older edition as well, which, though about fifty years old, at least includes all the alphabet; but we rejoice in what we have. Another welcome possession is the complete set (to date) of the publications of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. Now almost a small library in itself, it continues to grow by the issuance of new volumes, which keep us abreast of the contents of the great private English libraries. Similarly our files of the Early English Text Society and the Calendars of State Papers are steadily growing.

An incident which happened last May made me aware of the unexpected treasures to be found in the Library. On coming into the librarian's office one day, I was introduced to a visiting professor from a southern university, who was preparing a book on Philip Freneau and who had come to Rutgers to consult some manuscripts of that American poet. On inquiry, I learned that Rutgers has an extensive collection of manuscripts and association copies of Freneau's works. This visiting scholar had come to Rutgers to study the unique material which was to constitute a sizable share of his forthcoming book. When we possess such collections, we are providing the scholarly world with service of the finest quality and incident-

tally emphasizing to the outside world our equipment for scholarly work.

I should like, before ending, to italicize a thesis which has been implicit in this article from the beginning. Theoretically, there should be no more necessity of arguing for the advantages of research and advanced study than there should be for the benefits of godliness and cleanliness. But precisely as numerous misguided messiahs keep announcing that this world can be saved only by astrology or some new-fangled cereal, so do the attackers of the academic citadel keep up a din which necessitates an occasional rebuke. Typical, though somewhat exaggerated, is the following pernicious expression of the obscurantist point of view with regard to the basic requirement for a professor of English composition:

No Ph.D. and no intent to get it. The method of study, the sort of information acquired, the psychological effects (tension, introversion, distorted view of life and probably monocarpism) unfit one to teach freshmen and elementary composition.

It is not so much that there is no basis for such an indictment, as that the writer has no sense of proportion. If a Ph.D. ruins a prospective teacher, an A.M. must be at least poisonous, and an A.B. the equivalent of smallpox. The ideal teacher, if we follow this Rousseauistic philosophy to its logical end, is one who has never been hampered by any education whatsoever, and who therefore brings to the classroom the same stimulating freshness as a Fiji Islander. The thesis that research spoils teaching has just about the same force as the notion that advanced study spoils a pianist, that the reading of Department of Agriculture bulletins demoralizes a farmer, and that the study of government incapacitates a voter. An intelligent farmer might concede that too much sun or rain sometimes ruins crops, and still feel reluctant to protect himself by dispensing with them altogether. Constant study is the life-blood of a good teacher, and a growing library is the heart.

In this connection it may be worth remarking that there is a great difference among the various subjects in the college curriculum as to the number of books needed for scholarly purposes. In a field in which a considerable part of research is carried on in a laboratory, comparatively few books are needed.

The scientist seldom consults more than a few score books to perform an intricate and profound investigation. A comparatively small number of recent volumes and a file of standard journals will satisfy most of his needs. But the historian and the student of literature require a very large number of books for their investigations. They must have many old books, to which modern reprints, however useful, bear the same relation as that of a line of X's in a letter to a real kiss: they carry the same message but with less encouragement. The original edition is the only final authority. The literary or historical scholar, again, must browse through many volumes, picking a date here, a name there, and an allusion elsewhere. The library is his laboratory, and a university library must expect to pay at least double to provide him the necessary opportunity for his work that it spends on the scientist, since the scientist's expensive equipment and materials come from a different fund. If the soul of man is to be accorded as much nourishment as his body is given, this necessity must be fairly recognized by those who have the university's welfare at heart.

Though the last paragraphs may seem a digression, they are actually a vital part of this report. I have been stressing throughout the value of those books which will help to build up graduate work. We need, of course, hundreds of novels, plays, essays, and texts of various kinds for undergraduate work; and we shall continue to buy largely in this direction. But if we hope to do work of university caliber, we need a generous supply of books some of which may never be used by more than a few men. In recent years Rutgers has been growing steadily and laudably from the status of a small college to that of a university. To continue this advance, it must constantly grow in the stature of its faculty and in the resources of its library. "A good book," said Milton, "is the precious life-blood of a master-spirit embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life." If it is true, as Milton also said, that "he who destroys a good book kills reason itself," it should be equally true that he who adds a good book to the library performs an inestimable service.

J. MILTON FRENCH

*Art Reference Books*

Professor Franklin M. Biebel, of the Art Department, sends the following announcement:

"The art section of the University Library was greatly enriched this year through the gift of \$500 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the purchase of needed art reference books. With this sum more than seventy volumes dealing with the history of art have been purchased. These include general histories of architecture, sculpture and painting, books on aesthetics, costume and design, and studies of individual artists.

"The Carnegie gift for art books was part of a larger gift of \$2000 made to the Art Department of Rutgers University by the Carnegie Corporation, to enable it to acquire the Carnegie Art Reference Set of photographs and colored reproductions. This set, consisting of some 2,000 mounted photographs and 45 large color facsimiles, covers the entire history of art. It includes a portfolio of twenty-six original prints, illustrating the various processes of wood-cut, engraving, etching, and lithography, and contains original prints by such artists as Dürer, Goya, Millet, Corot, Whistler, and Matisse."

*Associated Friends Gift*

When in the spring of 1938 the library of J. Lawrence Boggs came up for sale at the Parke-Bernet Galleries, the Associated Friends, acting through its Honorary President, Dr. Gabriel Wells, bought and presented to the Rutgers University Library a number of papers having to do with the Morris family of New Jersey. At that time it was impossible to acquire all the items that the Library felt it ought to have. Recently, however, three important manuscripts, which had been first purchased by others, again came on the market. This time the Associated Friends was able to appropriate \$150 more to assist the Library to add these papers to its collection.

One of the new manuscripts is an agreement signed by Sir George Carteret, Proprietor of New Jersey, May 1, 1677, to encourage the production of iron in the province. A second paper, which is undated but which evidently was written in

the very early eighteenth century, is a petition to the King for Andrew Hamilton as governor of New Jersey, and is signed by Thomas Lane and Thomas Hart. The third item is a letter to Queen Ann by the General Assembly of New Jersey, requesting that the government of New Jersey be separated from that of New York. It is signed by Thomas Gordon, Speaker, June 10, 1709.

### *Gifts*

The Class of 1940 of the Graduate School of Banking continued the practice of preceding classes by generously presenting the sum of \$1150 to the Library. This money is to be spent for the purchase of books on banking subjects.

Other very valuable and interesting gifts have been received from the following persons:

Charles S. Aitkin, '80	Herbert J. Metzger
Dr. and Mrs. John A. Anderson	Thomas J. Murray
Barnet J. Beyer	Thurlow C. Nelson, '13
Augustine W. Blair	George A. Osborn, '97
Sigmund Brodsky	Victor H. Paltsits
Samuel Engle Burr, '19	Remigio U. Pane, '38
William H. Cole	Clarence E. Partch
M. Ethel Fair	Hubert Schmidt
Edward F. Johnson, '01	Eugene L. Schwaab
Rudolf Kirk	Frank H. Stobaues, '08
I. Robert Kriendler, '36	John P. Wall
William H. F. Lamont	Gabriel Wells
Millard L. Lowery	Ralph G. Wright
Walter T. Marvin	

### *New Members*

Since the first of April the membership in the Associated Friends has increased to 366. The new names are here listed:

Julius Bloom, '33	Mrs. Agnes Glen Saunders
J. Milton French	Mrs. Helen S. Sperling
Frederick W. Hall, '28	C. L. Traver
Arthur F. Mabon, '90	Helen L. Williamson
Howard D. McKinney, '13	Julia B. Williamson
David Potter, '37	Nicholas Williamson, '02