

## GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Very recently the Library has acquired long sets of two valuable series, both published by the Vienna Akademie der Wissenschaften. First of these are the *Sitzungsberichte* (Bd. 1-225; 1848-1945) of the Philosophisch-Historische Klasse of that institution. Second are the *Sitzungsberichte* of the Akademie's Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Klasse, of which volumes 69-96 (Abt. 2) and 97-147 (Abt. 2*b*) have been purchased.

Apart from the three typescripts noted in another paragraph below, the Kriendler Collection has been increased by other gifts. In particular, recent books containing presentation inscriptions by their authors have been added to the collection. The latest titles in hand at the date of this writing are: Nathaniel Benchley, *Side Street*; Bob Conscience, *Innocents at Home*; Leonora Hornblow, *Memory and Desire*; and Benjamin A. Javits, *Peace by Investment*, all published in 1950.

### NEWSPAPERS

It is well known to readers of the *Journal* that the Library has a sizable research collection of newspapers. Again the collection has been enlarged by the gift of an extensive publisher's file. Mr. Leon A. Carpenter, publisher of the *Clinton* (N.J.) *Democrat*, has presented a fifty-year set of his newspaper. Originally named the *Constitutional Democrat*, it was established in 1868, and with the issue of February 5, 1869, it became the *Clinton Democrat*. It is a weekly, and it bears the same name still, although for a period of ten years (May, 1904-January, 1913) it was called—for reasons which must be apparent—the *Twice a Week Clinton Democrat*.

The Library's file of the *Democrat* extends from May, 1868, through the end of 1918. It is planned by Mr. Carpenter to add the later years, from time to time, in the form of periodic instalments.

By acquisition of a volume of the Newark (N.J.) *Sentinel of Freedom* covering incompletely the years 1815-1820, a likewise fragmentary file of the paper for the same years, already in the Library's collection, has been brought near to completeness. Apart from numerous scattered issues for other years, the Library now has satisfactory files of the *Sentinel* for 1807-1810, 1813-1823, 1861, 1865-1868, 1870-1874, 1876-1877.

It may be well to note here that newspaper files—irreplaceable research tools—present ever-growing problems to the librarian. It is little realized by the public, perhaps, that the newspapers of today are printed on a paper of such poor quality that their preservation approaches the impossible. Quickly becoming brown and brittle, they disintegrate rapidly, even under careful handling. Strengthening of the paper by several methods is conceivable, but, in the quantity required, its cost would be generally prohibitive. One practical solution of the problem can be found in microfilm, to which librarians and publishers increasingly resort. Nevertheless, of the many newspapers—of whatever size, language, or frequency—published in the state of New Jersey alone, the number recorded currently on film is still conspicuously small.

As yet, the Library has undertaken no microfilming projects of its own. However, several newspapers of the state (as well as the *Times* and *Herald Tribune* of New York) whose publishers have arranged for regular microfilm processing are now being preserved in that form by the Library. It is expected that the trend will continue, as the urgency of the situation is considerable. In this connection it will be recalled that Robert C. Crane has regularly presented, for the Library's files, the film edition of his *Elizabeth Daily Journal*. We are pleased to acknowledge, further, that the Trenton *Times* is now being received in microfilm as a gift of its publishers.

#### MANUSCRIPTS

Among the recent additions are four Revolutionary War letters acquired through the William H. S. Demarest Fund. They all pertain to the Raritan Valley region, in New Jersey. The first is from Jonathan Elmer to his brother Ebenezer, at the Middlebrook camp, June 27, 1777; another, from William Alexander (Lord Stirling), at Middlebrook, to Governor George Clinton, is dated January 7, 1779. The third, from Alexander Scammell to General Edward Hand, November 19, 1779, states the regulations for huts to be used in housing troops. In the fourth of these letters, Governor William Livingston addresses Colonel Henry Vandike ("Van Dycke"), of the Somerset County militia, under date of April 8, 1781: "[Militiamen are needed to reinforce the troops at Woodbridge.] Altho' I am exceedingly loth [*sic*] to burden the County of Somerset (which

has always exerted itself with alacrity) yet as Morris has just furnished a guard for Newark, & I have no prospect that one can be procured from Hunterdon . . . I find myself necessitated . . . to call twenty five men from your Regiment.”

A series of general store accounts has also been received, twelve volumes covering the years 1822-1837. The business, located first at Point Pleasant and later at Manasquan, New Jersey, was run by a varying assortment of partners—Miller, Osborn & Eastwood; Miller & Osborn; Osborn & Forman; Osborn, Forman & Co.; Forman, Pearce & Co.; and Forman, Cook & Williams. With this group of account books there are a justice-of-the-peace docket of John S. Forman, 1833-1839; a farm ledger of 1827-c.1858; and a shoemaker's accounts, 1789-c.1819, of the same area.

The Library has acquired three record volumes of the New Jersey Commissioners of the Loan Office for the County of Salem. Two of these contain the original mortgages, 1733-1741 and 1737-1753, respectively, the former containing also brief minutes of the Commissioners, 1741-1744. The third volume is a ledger, in which are recorded the loans and subsequent payments, 1737-1753.

Additions to the Kriendler Collection include the partial typescripts of John O'Hara's book, *A Rage to Live* (published by Random House, 1949), of Paul DeKruif's *Life Among the Doctors* (Harcourt, 1949), and of Oliver LaFarge's *Eagle in the Egg* (Houghton, 1949). Additions have been made also to the Johnston Papers, Peter D. Vroom Papers, etc.

Mr. John Wyckoff Mettler, '99, has presented an eleven-page manuscript of former President Herbert C. Hoover. It is the pencilled draft of an address made in November, 1945, at the conclusion of the "Yama" conference of the National Industrial Conference Board, in which Mr. Hoover summarized the conference. Accompanying the notes is a more formal copy in typewritten form, later prepared by the speaker from the same notes. Through the further kindness of Mr. Mettler, the pencil draft, the typed copy, and pertinent correspondence have been appropriately preserved.