

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

In addition to those noted in the last number of the *Journal*, runs of several significant scholarly periodicals and serials have been acquired: *Recueil Général de Traités* (vols. 1-6; n.s., vols. 1-7; ser. 2, vols. 1-35; ser. 3, vols. 1-15; with indices; 1846-1926); *Sammungen der deutschen Abhandlungen* (1788/89-1803) of the Berlin Akademie der Wissenschaften, and its successor, the *Abhandlungen* (1804-87); *Abhandlungen* (vols. 1-17) of the Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen, Philosophisch-historische Klasse; *Le Moyen Âge, Revue d'Histoire et de Philologie* (ser. 1, vols. 2-9; ser. 2, vols. 1-30; ser. 3, vols. 1-4); *Recueil Général des Lois et des Arrêts* (1833-1913).

A lesser (but rarer) periodical, valuable to the Library both for its agricultural and for its New Jersey association, has been received: *The Rural Visiter, A Literary and Miscellaneous Magazine*, vol. 1 (252 pp., Burlington, N.J., 1820), with a supplement, *A Journal of News* (25 pp.). As its title implies, the magazine contains a variety of material—poetry, essays, agricultural treatises—part of it with some local flavor. It is an unusual item in several ways. Pagination is continuous, the intervals of publication were irregular, and the individual issues have no caption titles or dates (unless originally on their covers, now removed), so that if the volume title-page were lost there would be some difficulty about its dating and identification as a periodical. This particular *Rural Visiter* seems to be unrecorded, but a previous magazine (1810/11) of the same name and publisher is well known and rather widely held (the Library has a copy). From information kindly provided by Mr. Elmer T. Hutchinson, it appears that there was a second volume (1821) of the later *Rural Visiter*, and in 1825 David Allinson, the editor and publisher, established still another of his short-lived magazines, this time entitled *The Saturday Evening Visiter*.

MANUSCRIPTS

Miss Eleanor B. Price has added further to the several groups of papers she had contributed previously, and these may now be summarized: the Tuckerton Railroad papers, 1863-1937 (1487 items, of which 1243 are tickets and passes); Theophilus Townsend Price

papers, 1793-1919 (78 items), including accounts, minutes, etc., of the Union Sunday School, West Tuckerton, N.J., 1865-81 (28 items), and a report of Dr. T. T. Price in 1855, on "the health of that portion of Burlington Co. . . . contiguous to the Sea Shore"; Charles Haines French, surveyor's notes on land of the Benjamin B. Cooper estate, Sussex and Warren counties, N.J., 1835-36 (2 vols.); Archelaus Ridgway Pharo papers, c.1836-74 (4 items).

The John Cooley papers, 1783-1822 (40 items) have been presented by Mr. Harvey Cooley. Part of this material relates to the Sir Robert Barker tract in western Hunterdon County, N.J., managed by James Parker, John Cooley being the latter's agent for a number of years. The Library has also a quantity of James Parker papers, in which there is much concerning the Barker tract.

From Miss Meribah T. Todd have been obtained the Augustus Ferdinand Todd papers, 1858-1905 (76 items), chiefly letters from church associates and relatives. Rev. A. F. Todd was a Rutgers graduate, '55, and a New Brunswick Theological Seminary graduate, '58, and Miss Todd has presented to the Library a very tall student's desk which he used while attending the two institutions.

The Library has also acquired: the John Annin papers, 1744-1900 (69 items), miscellaneous papers of a Somerset County, N.J., family; and the Henry Rutgers papers, 1807-08 (3 items), one of which is a very interesting political letter from Benjamin Romaine, March 14, 1808, written from Albany ("There is considerable bustle here since the protest of the seventeen members of Congress became known here. Parties begin to display considerable violence already . . .").

NEWSPAPERS

It may be of interest to the reader, recalling our comments on the application of microfilm to the problem of newspapers, to learn that the Library has under way a project of the sort. No complete file of the *Brunswick Gazette* (New Brunswick, 1786-92) and the *Guardian*; or, *New-Brunswick Advertiser* (1792-1816) exists, but several short runs and a number of scattered issues are owned by various Eastern libraries. These are being copied and will be combined to form on microfilm as nearly complete a series as it is possible to obtain. What cannot be done with the original, in the way of assembling all issues of a paper in one place, can be accomplished by film.

WANTED

The periodic minutes and reports of various church bodies constitute a source too often overlooked or ignored by historians. It is perhaps assumed that they are of value only to the students of church history. Actually, they contain a great deal more. It should not be forgotten that religious organizations have concerned themselves steadily with the social and economic problems confronting our country. In the form of committee reports or resolutions many expressions of opinion can be found on matters such as slavery, temperance, racing, gambling, sundry forms of vice, women's rights, suffrage, working conditions, and the like. And much can be learned about our immigrant populations—the Reformed and Presbyterian churches have been especially preoccupied with certain of these groups. Education is another field in which most church bodies were directly involved at one time, either in the form of parochial schools or of Sunday school work.

The failure of historians to use these sources adequately is due not entirely to ignorance, but, more often than not, to the difficulty of locating full sets of such publications. A particular effort has been made to assemble in the Rutgers Library, for ready consultation, complete series of the reports published annually by the various church organizations in New Jersey. The Library has available for research very satisfactory runs of several such series—e.g., *Journal* of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, 1785 to date (including the first few years in reprint form); and *Minutes* of the Methodist New Jersey Conference from 1847 to date.

Although the Library's collection of these publications is of entirely useful proportions, we are constrained to note here two series which are tantalizingly near to completeness—but yet not complete. The eighty-year set of *Minutes* of the Reformed Particular Synod of New Jersey (formerly Synod of New Brunswick) extends from 1870 to date, broken unfortunately by a single missing issue, that for 1911. It is hoped that some kind reader will be able to provide the missing item, or inform us where it may be had.

A second particularly useful series, also near to completeness, is the set of *Minutes* published annually since 1865 by the Presbyterian Synod of New Jersey. Lacking are those for 1865-1873, 1896, 1906, 1908, 1921, 1924 (fourteen from the total of eighty-five).