

EXHIBITIONS

Subject to minor modifications, the following displays have been planned for the current school year, 1950-51. Exhibits will change mid-monthly.

Sept. 15-Oct. 14	“Introducing Rutgers” (for incoming freshmen)
Oct. 15-Nov. 14	“Elections in Old Jersey”
Nov. 15-Dec. 14	Paper money, coins, and medals
Dec. 15-Jan. 14	The Rutgers University Press
Jan. 15-Feb. 14	The Extension Division (anniversary)
Feb. 15-March 14	G. Washington
March 15-April 14	Unpublished research materials
April 15-May 14	A printing display (with Mr. Joseph Ishill)
May 15-June 14	Commencement: a display of photos and memorabilia for the anniversary classes

At the date of this writing, “Elections in Old Jersey” occupies the cases, and with the near approach of November 7th the subject is a timely one.

Now on display are tracts and broadsides of assorted parties and factions, their dates covering nearly two hundred years. It is curious to read these fervent warnings, issued year after year for so many generations, that the opposition path leads to assured ruination. Somehow, it seems, we have muddled through!

With the tracts and broadsides are displayed a variety of election tickets, 1836-99; a group of silk badges, 1840-96; three political cartoons, 1856-95. In the way of manuscript is a selection of Henry W. Green correspondence revealing the elaborate promotion by which Theodore Frelinghuysen was made Whig Vice-Presidential candidate in 1844. Pertinent to the same campaign is a small volume of the Paterson [N.J.] Clay Club, containing its constitution, by-laws, and proceedings. Less important than uncommon is a cautiously-worded letter by the henchmen of an 1860 Congressional candidate—“I will go up to Warren [County] Friday . . . You had better arrange to have me leave a little at each place . . . You can afford to put 100 in Warren . . . Dont send a check better send the money . . .”

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

A LOST TRIBUTE TO WASHINGTON

MOSES GUEST, a New Brunswick (N.J.) poet, wrote a letter to Thomas Paine in 1802 in which he reprimanded the "infidel" for his political actions and attacks on the Christian religion and the "justly cilebrated [*sic*] Washington." Guest's father, whose associates included John Adams, Lafayette and many other notables, had once, on the principle of fair play, sheltered Paine from a crowd incensed by his cowardly attack on Washington.¹

Moses Guest continued his defense of Washington by enclosing with the letter to Paine an original "Accrostic" singing the praises of the ex-President. The letter, from all indications, has never been published, although a portion of the poem (excluding Guest's comments and an additional stanza) has appeared in "Poems on Several Occasions" by Moses Guest, published in limited number in 1824.

A recently uncovered photostatic copy of the letter, which is on file in the Rutgers University library,² reveals the contents as follows:

Philadelphia, Dec. 1, 1802.

"Sir,

When I was informed of your arrival in this country I flattered myself you would have used your influence to heal the divisions which have prevailed to an alarming degree throughout the United States, but instead of acting thus I am sorry to find by your late productions, you appear to have inlisted yourself under the

banners of a party, and are now adding fewel to the flaims of discord; I am still in hopes you will make an apology for your crewel attact on the Christian religion, which teaches mankind the divine precepts of forgiving injuries, and to do to others as we would they should do unto us; and tho' many of the professors of this religion do not act up to the spirit of it, yet it is not owing to any fault in that sitem but to the fals professors of it. I cannot account for your unjustifyable attact on the character of our justly cilebrated Washington, who must certainly be acknowledged by every unprejudiced mind to be the greatest and best man that has ever yet appeared on this earth, and to show you my opinion more fully of him, I now take the liberty of sending you the following Accrostic which was wrote near the close of the American revolution; and when you appear to be deserving of it I will then subscribe myself

Yours Humble Servt.
Moses Guest."

¹ For an account of Henry Guest's correspondence with John Adams, friendship with Lafayette, and sheltering of Paine, see "Old Letters: New Understanding" in *Social Studies*, January 1950, Volume XLI, Number 1.

² The letter is contained in a volume labelled, "Items pertaining to the Guest Family. Portraits, Family Record, Journal, Letters, etc." This material was compiled by the late Alexander Stuart Graham, Rutgers librarian, and photographed by the late Rutgers professor, F. H. Dodge. The whereabouts of the original letter is unknown and attempts to reach Guest's descendants have failed.

The Acrostic, as it appeared in the letter, reads:

Accrostic

“Great noble chief, thy venerable name,
 Ever shall shine first on the roll of fame;
 Of thee, the ages yet unborn shall sing,
 Resound thy praise whilst Britain mourns her king,
 Glory to thee, great leader of a train,
 Engag’d the cause of freedom to maintain;
 Whilst with thee blest, what tyrants nead we fear,
 And Heaven in smiles, bids thee at helm appear,
 Slavory herself, with her infernal train,³
 Heartless appears shakeing her gauling chain⁴
 Immortal honours, shall thy name secure,
 Never to fail, whilst Sun and Moon indure.
 Great heros, kings, to honour shall combine,⁵
 The greatest, best, and worthyest, of mankind;
 Old Greece, and Rome, who mighty heros sang,
 Never produced so great, so good a man.”⁶

Guest concluded with a comment and additional verses which did not appear in his published works:

“What the great Mr. Addeson says of the duke of Marlborough, might have been, I think, justly applied to the immortal Washington—

Greatness, and goodness in him
 at once where seen

Sweetly enthroned in his majestic mean,
 How mild, yet awfull pearceing, yet serean.
 Should all earths sons of malice say,
 The sun is dark that gives us day;
 Say, would that planet yield less light;
 Or vail her face in gloomy night;
 Neither can Calendar or Paine, Blast, or eclips the honest fame,
 Of Columbias favorite son,
 The great, immortal Washington.”

Thus, through the uncovering of this long-forgotten letter to Paine, an arch enemy of Washington’s, a lost tribute can be added to the glory of the first President—the man, who during the Revolutionary War, was called “the greatest General in the World.”

JULES B. FARBER

WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS

THE FOUNDER and editor of the *Journal* during its first eleven years, Professor Rudolf Kirk, in collaboration

³ “Infernal train” was changed to “perfidious band” in the published version.

⁴ “Shakeing her gauling chain” was changed to “in freedom’s happy land” in the published version.

⁵ Footnote in published version: “Soon after the close of the revolutionary war, Frederick, King of Prussia, made a present of an elegant sword to General Washington, on which was the following inscription:

From the oldest General in Europe,
 To the greatest General in the World.”

⁶ Footnote in published version: “The above was written, Nov. 10, 1781, soon after Lord Cornwallis with his army, had surrendered to General Washington, in Yorktown, Virginia.”

with his wife, Dr. Clara Marburg Kirk, has made a notable contribution to the current reappraisal of the great American realist William Dean Howells. (*William Dean Howells: Representative Selections with Introduction, Bibliography, and Notes*. New York: American Book Company, 1950. Pp. ccv, 394.) To many hard-boiled critics of the past thirty years Howells has been the symbol of everything namby-pamby and weakly Victorian in American literature, "genteel" in the worst sense of that word. In 1919 H. L. Mencken, for example, pictured him as "an Agnes Repplier in pantaloons." And Theodore Dreiser once remarked that with the exception of *Their Wedding Journey* Howells' books were "pewky." To many critics of the soft-boiled school, on the other hand, Howells has stood as the most important novelist, editor, and critic of the whole nineteenth-century realistic tradition, a kind of "dean" of American letters, or as Professor Henry Steele Commager remarks of him in his recent *Selected Writings of W. D. Howells*, "More nearly Pope than Dean." Despite differences in critical opinion, however, it is no exaggeration to say, as Professor Carlos Baker does, that Howells was "the greatest editor of his time and the paternal grandfather of modern American literature." Together with Professor Commager's book the present volume is in the nature of a sympathetic, accurate, and just appraisal that Howells' works certainly deserve.

The book marks an important addition to the distinguished handbooks constituting the American Writers Series. Under the general direction of Professor Harry Hayden Clark of the University of Wisconsin this series has

been characterized by careful scholarly editing and exhaustive research, and the Kirks' book, which obviously represents prodigious labor, takes its place rightfully in this justly celebrated set devoted to American literary art and its scholarship.

Notwithstanding its 461 footnotes, the 167-page introduction preceding the selections provides an interesting as well as a reliable biographical study of Howells. The authors (who have made use of a good deal of manuscript material, including some in the Rutgers Library) trace in successive divisions the growth of the young Ohio farm boy from printer's apprentice, to poet-journalist, to novelist, to social critic, and, finally, to literary critic. To this introduction they have added a valuable annotated bibliography, compiled by Professors George W. Arms and William M. Gibson. As for the selections from Howells' works, they are generally good, although the inclusion of thirteen pages of prose poetry seems questionable, even if the purpose is to show the development of the novelist. But the delightful farce entitled "The Sleeping Car" entertains and at the same time shows briefly and skillfully how expert the author was at handling a situation involving manners, for this was Howells' forte. The present reviewer would have liked to see among the critical essays included from *Criticism and Fiction* the brilliant plea for realism in the poetic image of a "simple, honest, and natural grasshopper." And certain statements in the preface concerning the so-called "autobiographical" nature of the novels make one wonder if a more esthetic and a less biographical approach might not have been more rewarding with respect to the comments

on these works. But in general this is a fine and useful handbook, probably the best volume that has yet appeared on Howells.

RICHARD E. AMACHER

A VOLUME FROM SAMUEL SEWALL'S LIBRARY

AMONG the rare books in the Library is one of particular interest to students of colonial American history and literature. It is a copy of Arthur Hildersam's *Lectures upon the Fourth of John Preached at Ashby-Delazouch in Leicester-shire* from the personal library of the Massachusetts Bay diarist and judge in the Salem witchcraft trials Samuel Sewall (1652-1720).

Arthur Hildersam, or Hildersham as he was sometimes called, (1563-1632), was an English puritan divine who, although not a Separatist, was active in the reform movement and was several times imprisoned for his puritanism. He was invited to join the Pilgrims in their emigration to Leyden, but declined because of ill-health. He was the author of a number of theological texts and volumes of sermons, one of the most popular of which was the *Lectures upon the Fourth of John*. The Rutgers volume is the first edition (folio), printed at London by G. M. for Edward Brewster in 1629. Except for the usual foxing and a few slight tears, the book is in remarkably well-preserved condition, still apparently in the original calf binding.

"Sam Sewall; Febr. 1. 1695/6." is inscribed in ink over the prefatory

notes and there are many notes in the same hand scattered throughout the book. He has expanded the initialing of the prefatory note from "I.C." to "I. Cotton," apparently referring to John Cotton, the early colonial divine. But he errs here, for "I.C." was John Carter of Bramford, Suffolk. But Sewall's other annotations are correct. He changes a Biblical reference (p. 6) from Exodus 36.37 to Ezekiel 36.37. When Hildersam attributes Acts 26.18 to Cornelius, Sewall corrects it to Christ. When the author says, "The Water in Baptisme is holy, because the Lord in his Word hath consecrated it to that holy use," Sewall comments, "Where is ye holiness of ye Cross then!" (p. 151).

Apparently Sewall kept track of his reading with dates written in the margins, starting with "Febr. 9. 1695/6" on page 1 and continuing at intervals to "March, 21. 1696/7" on page 273. On one of the fly leaves at the back of the book he has compiled his own index of some thirteen favorite quotations scattered through the book. In the text he has inscribed each of these with the letter "N" or a marginal bracket.

I can find no reference to Hildersam in Sewall's diary nor any particular influence there. But the annotations and corrections show us the care with which Sewall read the book and offer the student of colonial theology an insight into the mind of one of the foremost Puritan lay leaders.

WALTER HARDING