

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

A significant addition to the Library's collection of New Jersey source material is the folio nine-page address, *To the Honourable, the Commissioners, "Appointed by his most Gracious Majesty, for Ascertaining, Settling [etc.] . . . the Boundary . . . between the Colonies of New-York, and . . . New-Jersey."* This was New Jersey's representation, under date of July 18, 1769, in the development which was to resolve a long-standing controversy between the two colonies. An address *To the Honourable His Majesty's Commissioners . . . A plain and full State of the Demands . . . of New-York* appeared at the same time, followed by a two-page supplement eight days later. During the subsequent months, documents were assembled and surveys were made. On September 28, 1769, the commissioners received a forty-four-page *Brief of the claim, On the Part of New-Jersey* and, two days after, *An Argument delivered on the Part of New-York*, some eighty pages. A decision of the commissioners, confirmed by legislative action on both sides and by royal approval in 1773, established the northern line of New Jersey.

The above-described publications are exceedingly rare, not more than five or six copies of any one being known to exist. With the item just acquired, the Library has original copies of three—both July 18 addresses and the New York supplement of July 26—and a fourth in microfilm, the *Brief of the claim . . . of New-Jersey* (September 28).

Abraham Z. Idelsohn's monumental *Thesaurus of Oriental Hebrew Melodies* (10 volumes, Berlin, 1925-33) is the latest outstanding gift from a group of Jewish alumni in New Brunswick. A systematic compilation of the traditional melodies of the Oriental Jews, it is a work of exceptional scholarship. It originally appeared (1914-32) in German.

The Library has enjoyed particularly happy relations with Mr. Joseph Ishill, printer and publisher of Berkeley Heights, N.J. Two exhibitions have been held, showing the fine work of his press. Mr. Ishill has recently presented to the Library forty-seven books and pamphlets which he had printed or published over a period of thirty-five years, 1917-51. Extending as they do from the time of his earliest independent work, these bear first the imprint of the Ferrer Colony, Stelton; then of the Free Spirit Press; and, for two dozen years past, of the Oriole Press.

With other gifts of the University's retiring president, Dr. Robert

C. Clothier, the Library has received *Poems by the Way. Written by William Morris* (Hammersmith, 1891). Printed by the author at his Kelmscott Press, it is unusual because of the double rôle assumed by Morris, typographer and poet. The copy in hand is also enriched by a handsome binding of Riviere & Son.

MANUSCRIPTS

About fifty new accessions have been recorded since our previous *Journal* statement. Although it would be impractical to describe them all, a few of the more interesting or significant items may be noted.

One letter of particular interest is the gift of Mr. John Wyckoff Mettler, '99. In writing to Robert Morris, the financier, on October 26, 1781, General Anthony Wayne comments on the recent surrender of Cornwallis. His cautious warning against "that unworthy Torpor and supineity . . . which but too much pervaded the Councils of America after the capture of Gen^l Burgoyne" has a timely sound. In further remarks which deserve more extended notice, he compares American and French contributions in the recent action, with conclusions somewhat unfavorable to the former. Far from relaxed by news of the surrender, Wayne plans for continued operations.

Among other letters acquired is one by Basil Hall (writer and traveler) to Charles Dickens, March 29, 1841. Begging Dickens to allow the making of a bust for him, Hall discusses at length the merits and misfortunes of the proposed sculptor, Samuel Joseph. He not only describes some of Joseph's work but also appends a list of thirty-three busts which the latter had executed.

Navy Secretary Samuel L. Southard, in a letter of April 6, 1828, writes to James Fenimore Cooper, in Paris. Discussing the relative merits of Cooper's *Last of the Mohicans* and *Red Rover*, he finds the latter a superior work.

Mrs. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen has presented a group of John Frelinghuysen papers (9 items, 1750-1824) and several early newspapers. The manuscripts, of Somerset County (N.J.) interest, include a contemporary copy of Rev. Jacob R. Hardenbergh's will, dated 1790. Dr. Hardenbergh had married the widow of an earlier Frelinghuysen. He was president of Queen's College (Rutgers), it will be recalled, at the time of his death.

From Dr. William H. S. Demarest, president-emeritus of Rutgers, have been received two further lots of his own and certain family papers, totaling 194 items, 1838-1947. Additions have been made

to several other groups of papers already in the Library: Peter D. Vroom papers (9 items, 1828-64), Garret D. Wall papers (4 items, 1822-60). The Vanderveer papers, consisting chiefly of a hundred-volume series of nineteenth-century general store accounts, have been increased by a few items, and several family photos have been added to the Ten Eyck papers. These two are related groups, both concerned with North Branch, N.J. The extensive Ten Eyck papers date from well before the Revolution.

Mr. William T. Hulsizer, '14, has presented through his sister, Miss Blanche Hulsizer, what appears to be a single leaf from the account book of Andover Furnace (Andover, N.J.), covering dates May 21-22, 1773.

Under the head of economic materials, the Library has acquired several assorted account books, not to mention some four hundred trade cards of New Jersey merchants (late 1800's). The former include a Burlington County farm ledger, 1824-41; a Frenchtown carpenter's ledger, 1853-57; Middlesex County farm accounts, 1768-1813; a New York naval stores dealer's ledger, 1828-34; a Trenton blacksmith's daybook, 1839-43; a Millstone general store daybook, 1837-39; Hunterdon County general store accounts, 1837-55.

Along with a printed copy of her recent play, *Country Gentleman*, the original manuscript (i.e., typescript) has been presented by the author, Jean Carter (Mrs. Robert Lexa).

EXHIBITIONS

At the date of this writing, the Library's exhibition program is well into its 1951-52 schedule. A summer-length display, "The Evolution of a Book-Page," had closed the past year. Planned by Mr. Joseph Ishill and illustrated by many examples of his own Oriole Press work, it was organized to show the equipment, materials, and techniques concerned with printing. Well conceived and informative, Mr. Ishill's exhibit was a particularly good one with which to end the year.

As heretofore, monthly changes are planned for the future. The tentative exhibit schedule for 1951-52 follows:

- Sept. 15-Oct. 14, "Introduction to Rutgers"
- Oct. 15-Nov. 14, New Jersey political posters
- Nov. 15-Dec. 14, Marine stamps
- Dec. 15-Jan. 14, Bindings

Jan. 15-Feb. 14, Abraham Lincoln
Feb. 15-March 14, Newspapers
March 15-April 14, Views of New Brunswick
April 15-May 14, Poe's works in Italian
May 15-June 14, The anniversary classes

Two of the exhibits have become annual features, repeated from year to year in somewhat the same form. The "Introduction to Rutgers" is a display prepared each fall to acquaint incoming freshmen with the highspots of Rutgers history and with some of the personalities and activities to be encountered in their student life ahead.

The second recurring feature is attached to the other end of the school calendar—commencement time. For the benefit chiefly of returning alumni, it is a display of materials concerned with the anniversary classes, i.e. five, ten, fifteen, twenty years, and so on.

The actual items shown, although subject to constant variation, are in the same general pattern: pictorial and printed material about Rutgers and its people. With few exceptions, the examples of both types are of an ephemeral nature, which the Library has assembled with care and no little difficulty.

Such materials, and considerably more as well, form the Rutgersensia collection. Here are brought together, for display, historical, and sundry other uses, examples not only of its more formal products (e.g., university publications, histories, and certain records) but also the innumerable small appurtenances of Rutgers life. The latter include posters, programs, invitations, announcements, tickets, reports, etc., pertaining to academic, sport, and social activities of every kind—indeed the print-and-paper reliques of all campus life. Photographs illustrating the same areas of Rutgers experience are, needless to add, of equal value.

While much is now channeled into the Library as it is created, such material is difficult to corral in its entirety. For items of this sort, especially the older ones, the Library has many friends and alumni to thank. Mrs. Elizabeth R. Boyd, Curator of Rutgersensia, will be pleased to receive Rutgers memorabilia of any kind for the collection.