

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

We are cheered by the prospect of a new library building. It seems there is to come a day in which it will not be necessary to plan with each accession a series of shifts, transfers to storage, and other expedients, by way of making room for the new arrival. Notwithstanding the handicap of cramped housing, the pressure of ever-growing space limitations has not affected acquisitions greatly. In perennial hope, we have continued to expand the Library's holdings.

NEWSPAPERS

In March, the Library's newspaper collection received its largest single accession—eight hundred volumes comprising the entire office file of the *Jersey Journal*. The paper was established in 1867 when Jersey City was a small community. Its founder was a one-time Vermont schoolmaster named Zebina K. Pangborn, a fearless and resourceful journalist who, with his partner William B. Dunning, built the *Journal* into a large, influential newspaper. Started as a Radical Republican organ, it later served the liberal cause in the Progressive era, and for many years has been the leading independent paper of New Jersey. Early in its history, Joseph A. Dear entered the partnership, beginning a family relationship which still exists. To the present publisher, Mr. Samuel I. Newhouse, are due the Library's thanks for an extensive and valuable research tool.

A volume of the weekly *New-Jersey Eagle*, Feb. 11, 1840-Jan. 25, 1842, has been presented to the Library by the city of Newark, through Mr. Harry S. Reichenstein, city clerk. A leading Newark paper of its day, the *Eagle* is particularly useful because of its Democratic alignment. Among the New Jersey newspapers whose files are available for research, those of Federalist-Whig-Republican orientation seem to predominate. Of the *Eagle* (aside from a number of scattered issues) the Library has also a short "run" of 1823-26.

MANUSCRIPTS

Mrs. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen has presented a second group of manuscript material, more than half of it concerned with the career of her late husband, who, among his other official services, was a member of the United States Senate, 1917-23. These papers consist largely of biographical notes, letters, and assorted political litera-

ture, chiefly in the period 1924-28, including some material connected with his campaign in the latter year for the Republican nomination to the Senate. The remaining papers, some twenty-five items dated 1772-1829, are chiefly correspondence and legal documents associated with John Frelinghuysen (1776-1833) of Somerset County, grandfather of the Senator and a Queens College (Rutgers) graduate of 1792.

Other manuscript accessions: The John M. Bilyeu papers, 1770-1882, Monmouth County (N.J.) material, including general store accounts, 1807-09; 70 items. The Condit family papers, 1761-1918, of Essex County, N.J., among them a blacksmith's ledger, 1807-20, records of dealings in cider, and a ciphering book; 106 items. Minutes, accounts, reports, and other papers of the Ashland Hook and Ladder Company, East Orange, N.J., 1883-89; about 200 items.

BOOKS AND OTHER THINGS

Most readers know that the Library is especially concerned to assemble materials on New Jersey, of which it has an excellent collection—books, pamphlets, newspapers, and other printed sources, as well as manuscripts. It may be supposed that the hardest part of building and maintaining such a collection is concerned with the rare, early materials. Not so! For these there is frequently no other measure available than to wait expectantly. In time a copy of the desired item will present itself in the hands of some dealer or, better yet, of some donor. Meanwhile, a perfectly adequate substitute usually can be had in the form of microfilm or photostatic copies.

Most difficult of all is to keep abreast of new publications. These are commonly in pamphlet form, small histories of local scope and for local readers, produced with no realization of the part which they form in the total literature of New Jersey history. Fortunately copies of such publications are received in most cases from the compilers, interested alumni, and friends, or in response to letters of inquiry. But there are a few which escape notice altogether, and by the time their existence is discovered, perhaps years later, it is often exceedingly difficult to locate copies. It is hoped that every New Jersey reader of the *Journal* will remember this lament when next his bank or some local church puts out an anniversary history.

During the past year more than 150 letters have been sent out, in the process of tracing such publications. It is pleasant to add that

in most cases the publications were obtained successfully. One which seems to be something of a rarity is Olindo Marzulli's *GL'Italiani di Essex* (1911), of which the author willingly presented his own copy. Here is a fair-sized book about the largest immigrant community in Essex County (i.e., Newark, chiefly), written in an early period of the community's history—and essential to a good collection of New Jerseyana, albeit received some forty years after publication. On the same general subject is Joseph Mainiero's *History of the Italians in Trenton* (1929). A copy was found in possession of the Columbus Civic League of that city, through whose secretary, Mr. Francis A. Caputo, it has been presented to the Library.

These particular acquisitions serve as a reminder that studies of the various immigrant communities must be undertaken soon, if they are to be made at all. Joseph W. Carlevale's biographical *Americans of Italian Descent in New Jersey* (1950) shows the extraordinary progress of assimilation, with its implication of dissolving language and cultural bonds. The Library has a typescript history of the Italians in Newark, completed by the Federal Writers Project, 1938-40, and it is understood that a larger report covering the whole state was also prepared. There is a doctoral dissertation of 1941 on the former subject. One Alberto Frangini is said to have written a pamphlet or book prior to 1911, *GL'Italiani del New Jersey*, but no particulars have come to light.

In the field of French history there have been two notable accessions. The first of these is a complete series of publications by the Société de l'Histoire de France, of which the Library has received 453 volumes, published 1835-1947. Another valuable series is that produced by the Ministère de l'Instruction Publique et des Beaux-Arts, the *Collection de Documents Inédits sur l'Histoire de France*, acquired by the Library in 395 volumes plus 6 atlases.

Two groups of special-collections items have been received: One lot of sixty Abraham Lincoln medals, tokens, badges, and the like was acquired in February. This material once formed a small part of the much-publicized Oliver R. Barrett collection of Lincolniana. In two other accessions, the Library has received several hundred American trade cards, many of them of New Jersey businesses. These colorful specimens proclaim the virtues of certain nineteenth century soaps, scents, patent medicines, and similar concoctions, frequently associated (as in present-day advertising) with pictures of young, pretty girls and occasionally with grotesque cartoons.

EXHIBITIONS

The schedule for 1951-52 as posted in the December *Journal* has been followed with slight change. The views of New Brunswick, planned for March, have given way to a display of salon prints, some of them in color, showing the picturesque formations and unusual creatures to be found in caves. The sponsors are a small group, the Rutgers Cave Club, associated with the National Speleological Society, an enthusiastic body devoted to the exploration and study of caves. As New Jersey is not well supplied with caves, the local chapter is obliged to carry its explorations into other states. The views of New Brunswick were used in April in lieu of the Poe exhibit, which has been postponed.

For the coming year, 1952-53, the following tentative exhibit schedule has been adopted:

Sept. 15-Oct. 14	Introduction to Rutgers (for incoming freshmen)
Oct. 15-Nov. 14	Election exhibit
Nov. 15-Dec. 14	The 1950 census
Dec. 15-Jan. 14	Rare maps
Jan. 15-Feb. 14	Early science books
Feb. 15-Mar. 14	New Jersey newspapers
Mar. 15-April 14	First books by American authors
April 15-May 14	Works of Poe in Italian
May 15-June 14	Commencement exhibit
June 15-Sept. 15	Nineteenth century advertising

D.A.S.