

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

One year ago we noted with satisfaction that the Library had acquired a third publication of 1769 dealing with the New York-New Jersey boundary controversy, a nine-page address of July 18, 1769, *To the Honourable the Commissioners* (etc.). Two items in the series, however, still were lacking. By an uncommon bit of chance, one of the latter has already come to hand: *An Argument Delivered on the Part of New-York, at the Hearing . . . to Settle and Determine the Boundary Line, between . . . New-York, and New-Jersey* (N.Y., 1769). This publication of eighty-odd pages contains much valuable testimony, particularly in the way of affidavits by old settlers of the border area.

An equally rare pamphlet is the fourteen-page *Claim of the Inhabitants of the Town of Newark, in Virtue of the Indian Purchase Made by the First Settlers of Newark, in 1667, Stated and Considered* (Woodbridge, N.J., 1766), dealing with the disputed titles which produced unrest and disorder in the colony for several generations. The publication is an early piece of New Jersey printing, the work of Samuel F. Parker.

One acquisition of note: Lewis Carroll's *Doublets* (London, 1879), a first edition with the extra eight pages of answers, presented by Mr. Arthur Y. Pardun, Jr. Other rare items recently acquired: *An Enquiry into Public Abuses, Arising from Want of a Due Execution of Laws, Provided for the Suppression of Vice in New-Jersey* (Phila., 1784). *The African Miscellanist; or, A Collection of Original Essays, on the Subject of Negro Slavery, by Philanthropos* (Trenton, 1802). *A History of the Steamboat Case* (Trenton, 1815). *Concerning Steam Boats: Documents without Comments* (1816?).

A number of maps have been received, among them *A New Chart for the Seacoasts of Newfound Land New Scotland New England New Jersey wth Virginia and Maryland* (London, possibly before 1682), by William Fisher and Richard Mount. Another is by John Senex, *A New Map of the English Empire in America* (1719).

MANUSCRIPTS

More than seventy accessions are recorded for the past six months. These range from single items to lots of several hundred.

About 150 additional Zebedee M. Wills papers, 1769-1854, have been received. Wills was a typical nineteenth-century country squire with business and quasi-legal dealings of every kind in South Jersey. Included are some resolutions, minutes, and a constitution, 1828-30, of the Burlington and Gloucester County Association for the Detection of Horse Thieves. There are three petitions of the late 1840's asking legislative relief from the impositions and inadequacies of certain turnpike companies. A somewhat earlier petition addressed to the Philadelphia City Council protests the high rent and other mistreatment of farmers using the city's Jersey Market.

Mrs. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen has added three items, 1781-1814, to the John Frelinghuysen papers presented earlier. The Library has received from Mr. Harvey Cooley a 1795 letter of John Jay to James Parker concerning the New Jersey lands of Sir Robert Barker, which were managed by Parker with John Cooley as his local agent. With its James Parker papers and the John Cooley papers given previously by Mr. Cooley, the Library has considerable material on the Barker tracts.

The Charles Bartles papers have been increased by an accession of about 350 items. With the usual quantity of personal bills, letters received, and many documents concerned with Bartles' legal practice, there are a few items of the Flemington (N.J.) Copper Mine, 1846-53, and a route survey of about 1852 for the Flemington Railroad Company. The accompanying papers of Andrew Bartles, father of Charles, include some material concerning Andover Furnace lands, 1812-22, and letters, leases, and accounts connected with his agency for lands of James Parker, Jr., in Hunterdon and adjoining counties. The Parker name, it must be noted, continues to recur in the history of land speculation in New Jersey.

The Rutherfurds were another notable land-owning family. Long associated, like the Parkers, with the East Jersey Board of Proprietors, they gained sizable holdings, which they divided, developed, leased, and ultimately sold. The Library has acquired three account books of the family which reveal something of their business activity: one of Walter Rutherford (1723-1804), with records 1792-1804; another of John Rutherford (1760-1840) contains memoranda of farm rents, tenants' credit for services and produce, occupancy agreements, etc., 1792-98. The third is a notebook of John Rutherford (1810-1871) listing the numerous real estate and security holdings

which comprised his very considerable estate, together with an account of their respective valuations and returns.

In New Brunswick the Kirkpatrick family occupied during the early 1800's a high position socially, Andrew Kirkpatrick (1756-1831) having served on the state supreme court from 1797 until his death. The Library is fortunate to have a ten-year diary (1824-34) of his wife, Jane (Bayard) Kirkpatrick, the gift of Mrs. Karl E. Metzger. It is an unusually good one, dealing in a literate and interesting fashion with many important personalities and events, as for example the local reception for Lafayette in 1824. While by no means verbose, the entries go far beyond the terse weather notes of which old diaries commonly consist.

Mrs. Anna H. Leonard has presented a group of Captain John F. Ludwig's Civil War papers. These thirty items are largely reports, orders, and other documents pertaining to a company of the Eleventh Regiment ("Washington Rifles"), New York State Militia, serving in Virginia and New York.

Various business records have been added, some of them from Maine: accounts of a schooner captain, 1796-1836; a blacksmith, 1798-1810; a farmer, 1800-31; a sawmill, 1823-45; a physician, 1853-58; and a lawyer, 1847-60. Of New Jersey interest are accounts of two Burlington County farmers, 1788-1802 and 1827-80; of a Gatesville tavern, 1842-44; and three general stores, at Bedminster, 1793-1800; Ten Mile Run, 1818-22; and New Brunswick, 1816-18, the last being a gift of the American Antiquarian Society.

NEWSPAPERS

The most recent additions include comparatively modern newspapers. The latter have been microfilmed, due to the impermanence of newsprint.

From the estate of Boyd Fullerton, through his daughter Mrs. Jessie F. Barrett, have come nearly complete runs of the Somerville *Unionist-Gazette* and the Trenton *Weekly State Gazette*, 1902-05. Mrs. Hugo Kormos has presented the publisher's file of the New Brunswick *Magyar Hírnök* (Hungarian Herald), 1922-51, and with it other Hungarian newspapers: the Perth Amboy *Magyar Szó*, 1920-22, and the *Middlesex Megyei Magyar Hírlap* of New Brunswick, February-May, 1930. It is hoped that further files, or even single issues, of these obscure foreign-language journals can be found.

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

THE RUTGERS PRESS *LINCOLN*

FOR the past eight years the major project of the Abraham Lincoln Association has been the preparation of a new and complete *Collected Works* under the direction of Dr. Roy P. Basler, now Chief, Division of General Reference and Bibliography, the Library of Congress, and financed by sizable grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, gifts from interested persons, and the Association's own reserve funds.

An arrangement by which the University Press at Rutgers became the publishers for the Lincoln Association had been initiated in 1946 by Earl Schenck Miers, former director of the Press; and it is now a matter of publishing history how this small organization, under the direction of Harold N. Munger, Jr., worked out final plans by which this costly but impressive work could be done. After over two years in press, the set of nine volumes will be published on the 1953 anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Although the preface to the 1905 Tandy edition of the Nicolay and Hay *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* predicted it "hardly probable that any of Lincoln's writings of importance can be any longer undiscovered," the diligence of the Association during the last quarter of a century has succeeded in bringing to light close to half again as many items.

The editors were fortunate in discovering a considerable number of letters written early in Lincoln's career, but the bulk of the new material concerns the Civil War period. The

Robert Todd Lincoln papers, opened in 1947, provided a good many new items and furnished a rich source of background information to many Lincoln writings and public utterances. A not inconsiderable number of these documents, particularly letters written to the Civil War president, are reproduced in full or in part in the annotation which illuminates individual papers.

Representative of the many additions which contribute to a larger understanding of Lincoln are the early letters to William Butler which averted a duel between two of Lincoln's close friends; the letter to William S. Wait, containing one of Lincoln's few statements on taxation; the fragmentary report of Lincoln's speech at Carthage containing his direct answer to Douglas' charge that as attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad Lincoln was lobbying to help the railroad escape its tax obligations; the letter to John Hill which Lincoln never sent, containing his reply to an old friend who was misrepresenting him; the several revisions of the First Inaugural Address and the Message to Congress of July 4, 1861, which illustrate the care with which these addresses were prepared; and the reprimand to Captain James Madison Cutts (which the Nicolay and Hay editors refer to only anonymously in a footnote), revealing the workings of Lincoln's sense of justice and human sympathy in the midst of a burdened executive schedule.

Lincoln items will probably continue to turn up here and there, but the editors predict the number will be relatively small. A few papers have

become available during the publication process, but in all cases their existence was already known to the Lincoln editors. As Allan Nevins has said, "By its very completeness, the *Collected Works* presents in no small degree a new and greater Lincoln and throws a bright new light on the whole era Lincoln dominated."

RUTH W. FIELD

BIBLE RHYTHMS

"Certain Rhythms in the English Bible" by Lane Cooper, Professor Emeritus of the English Language and Literature, Cornell University. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press

16 pp.

THIS little booklet, in the main a collection of examples of dactylic and anapaestic feet in the Authorized Version of the Bible, is "intended for all who have occasion, in public or private, to read from the Bible aloud." The intention is appreciated by this reviewer for one, who would rather not hear it read at all than to hear it read badly. Yet the author (a Rutgers graduate in the class of 1896 and a distinguished scholar in the Classics and English literature), I feel sure, would be the last to contend that this is in any sense a guide-book for reading the Bible aloud. It serves rather, through examples chiefly from the Psalms, Ecclesiastes and The Lord's Prayer, to show that an awareness of the rhythm of certain passages may add to the pleasure and the edification of both reader and listener.

It may be wondered at times whether the author would advocate reading some of the lines with the stresses as indicated, for example, "Ō give thanks ũnto the God ōf Gods,"

(if he would, I should not care to hear it). In short, a slavish following of indicated stresses would reduce the reading to a tiresome sing-song. A word of caution to the reader, at this point, might well have been included.

If a choice must be made between "verbal music" and accurate meaning, the author would take the former, and for this reason he finds the Authorized Version far superior to any of the modern translations for reading aloud. There are those of us, however, who feel that sense should not always be sacrificed to rhythm, and that if archaic words cloud the sense of a passage, as they frequently do, they should be abandoned, even though the substitute sound be not as pleasing to the ear.

The scope of the little booklet is limited, admittedly, but appreciation is due to one whose love of good English has prompted him to start others on the road to more perceptive reading of the Bible.

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VICTOR H. PALTSITS

THE DEATH of Dr. Victor H. Paltsits in New York, on October 3, has ended for the Library a valued association of some twenty years' standing. A distinguished student of colonial America, he became interested in the University perhaps originally because of its historical relationship to the early Dutch settlement. Between him and Mr. Osborn, late Librarian of Rutgers, a friendship soon developed which lasted until the latter's death in 1947. Several of his articles have appeared in the *Journal*, dealing in part with rare materials which he had presented to the Library.