

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Although the American-born Benjamin West (1738-1820) is acknowledged as an artist of stature, there is still much about him and about his work which awaits study. From the Class of 1933 has been received a gift of major significance to that end. This remarkable collection of West material, begun by Mr. Joseph Mayer of Liverpool, was acquired in 1889 by Mr. Warren C. Crane of New York, who added to it largely. Binding—by J. Larkins—in 1905 fixed the material in its present form.

The collection is organized around John Galt's biography, *Life, Studies, and Works of Benjamin West* (London, 1817 and 1820), expanded by extensive extra-illustration and supplementary material about West, to fill seven morocco-bound volumes. The supplementary text includes the West biography which formed part of Allan Cunningham's *Lives of the Most Eminent British Painters, Sculptors, and Artists* (London, 1830) and the Robins sale catalogue of West's work in 1829.

The extra-illustration is composed of manuscript, printed, and pictorial items, most of which are in spotless condition, expertly mounted and interleaved. There are ninety-two autograph letters and documents, with fourteen by West himself and several received by him, and much similar material relating to him in a variety of associations. Of greatest significance, however, are the more than twelve hundred engravings, ninety-two of them portraits of West. There are portraits also of his associates, and views of places concerned in some way with his life. Most valuable of all are the engravings (mezzotints, etc.) after West's own painting. Many of these, by such artists as Hall, Green, Cunego, and Heath, are important in their own right; moreover, certain of them represent paintings by West which today are not known in any other form.

The Library has another rare Frelinghuysen pamphlet, the gift of Mrs. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, a sermon by Theodorus Frielinghuysen, *Ieugd-oeffening of Verhandeling van de Godlyke Waarheden der Christelyke Religie* ("Nieuw-Jork," 1748). The writer was a son of Dominie Theodorus Jacobus Frielinghuysen, who so vigorously stirred the Dutch church in America for a generation.

MANUSCRIPTS

In 1794 an expeditionary force composed of several state militia detachments marched grandly into Western Pennsylvania to put down the Whiskey Rebellion. It was a comic-opera affair, rather enjoyed by all participants except the pursued. Many of the tax-resistant farmers were arrested, and some were paraded through the streets of Philadelphia by General White and his cavalry.

Anthony Walton White (1750-1803), who commanded the cavalry on the Western Expedition, was a Jerseyman of military bent. He was a veteran of the Revolution, and when in 1792 it was decided to enroll the able-bodied men of New Jersey for militia training he was called upon to help in the organization. In that connection he served as commissioner for Middlesex County, was named adjutant general of the state, commanding officer of all New Jersey cavalry (for which he wrote a manual), and finally commanded all cavalry on the Pennsylvania Expedition.

The Library has a quantity of his papers, presented some years ago by Mr. Charles Deshler. As a gift of Dr. Royall M. Calder, of San Antonio, Texas, an additional group of 139 items was received recently, along with an excellent miniature and other memorabilia of General White. With the new gift, the Library's A. W. White papers consist of 751 items, extending largely from the 1780's through the early 1800's. Included is much material concerning the militia organization and the Western Expedition. Also of interest are numerous manifests and coasting licenses, accumulated by White as surveyor and inspector of the Port of New Brunswick, 1797-1802.

With both lots of White papers were found also papers of one William R. Boote (410 items, 1748-1804), a military gentleman of English birth. In 1797-99, Ensign Boote maintained a recruiting office at New Brunswick which lured many a rustic youth into the United States Army. Later he engaged in more active campaigning at various frontier forts.

The Ferrer Colony, which came to Stelton in 1915, is best known for the progressive-type school which it established. The Modern School, however, after years of inadequate financial support, has finally closed its doors. Two boxes of the Modern School records have been placed in the Rutgers University Library, largely through the interest of Mrs. Anna Schwartz, long one of the teachers and acting principal. Mr. Alexis C. Ferm, who served as principal during

most of the school's history, has provided some further items. The material received includes reports of the principal and teachers, 1922-50, incomplete; correspondence, 1935-52; and scattered reports, minutes, clippings, etc. The Library has many of the publications also, among them a nearly complete file of the *Modern School* magazine, 1912-22, and *Voice of the Children*, written and printed by the students, 1921-26, 1931-35.

Among other manuscript accessions are three Civil War lots, two presented by Dr. Hubert G. Schmidt. One group of 183 items consists largely of letters received by Henry A. Wiley, an officer of the 104th New York Regiment serving in Virginia and Washington. With these are letters from the wife of a Washington photographer, Allan Pearce, describing the wartime confusion there. For a camp site the military had commandeered their farm, and the Pearces sadly chronicled the growing damage. On one occasion some friends "went over to our farm . . . & I went to tell them where the house was & did I tell you that there is 40 or 50 dead horses in our cellar & cistern . . ."

The second Civil War lot consists of 162 papers of Adelbert C. Sherman, captain of the 28th U.S. Infantry (Colored), serving 1864-65 in Virginia and Texas. The Library has received also twelve letters, 1861-63, all but one written by George S. Hupman, a soldier of the 89th New York Regiment in Virginia.

A few additional manuscripts acquired: Papers of Francis Barton Stockton (93 items, 1823-84), navy purser, including sixteen from Captain Hiram Paulding. Business letters of John Reade of Red Hook, N.Y. (16 items, 1790-1803), fifteen from Elisha Boudinot. Minutes of the Burlington County (N.J.) Board of Chosen Freeholders, 1722-90. Monmouth County (N.J.) writs for seizure of Loyalist properties; 12 items, 1779.

NEWSPAPERS

The Library's bulging walls stretch a little more each time another run of newspapers is added. Nevertheless, with roomy new quarters in prospect, we seek and welcome files of New Jersey papers. Most of these are not preserved elsewhere, and they should be saved for future research.

Recent accessions include the office file (eighty-nine volumes) of

the *Sussex* (N.J.) *Independent*, presented by Mr. Richard Stanton, the late editor and owner. It was established in 1870 and continued in existence until recently. The Library has also files of another *Sussex* newspaper, the *Wantage Recorder*, which started in 1894.

From Mr. M. Martin Turpanjian, its editor, have been received six volumes of the Waldwick (N.J.) *Jersey Parade*, 1947-52. With another volume presented earlier, the Library has a complete set of the *Jersey Parade* from its beginning in 1946.

Seventeen volumes of the *Newark Daily Advertiser*, 1842-53, have been presented by the Princeton University Library. One of the earliest dailies in the state, the *Advertiser* is a particularly useful research tool. While the Library has a 124-reel set of this paper (1832-1907) in microfilm, prepared from the Newark Public Library file, there are deficiencies which sometimes require reference to an original.

The New Jersey State Library has presented twenty-six volumes of the *Trenton State Gazette*: 1831-35, weekly; 1840-45, thrice-weekly; 1847-52 and 1857-61, daily. With these volumes the Library acquired a file of the *Trenton Daily Republican* (later *New Jersey Republican*), which ran from November, 1856, through July, 1857, before being absorbed by the *Gazette*.

Several newspapers published in New Jersey have been sent to the Library regularly by their publishers, in some cases for many years. These heretofore, except in special circumstances, have been recorded and stored for eventual permanent disposition. Beginning with the issues for 1952, however, such papers are being microfilmed, and it is planned to work back gradually through the stored-away files. The following titles are represented thus far in the Library's growing set of microfilm negatives: *Belvidere Apollo-Journal*; *Bergenfield New Jersey Interboro Times-Review*; *Cranbury Press*; *Hackettstown Gazette*; *Flemington Hunterdon County Democrat*; *Keyport Weekly*; *Maple Shade Progress*; *Matawan Journal*; *Middlebush Record*; *Mountain View North Jersey Times*; *New Brunswick Spokesman*; *Newark Italian Tribune*; and *South River Spokesman*.

In addition to the current titles, the Library is filming, as time allows, files of other papers dating back into the late 1800's. At present a run of the Milford (N.J.) *Leader*, 1880-1949, is being committed to film. The *Clinton Democrat*, 1868-1918, will follow.

EXHIBITIONS

There was one deviation from the published schedule for 1952-53, the early science books planned for January having been displaced by an exhibit of nineteenth-century trade cards. These curious items, of which the Library has some two thousand specimens, attracted considerable interest and were covered in a *New York Times* article.

Currently on display is the scheduled exhibit of Edgar Allan Poe literature in Italian, largely the collection of Professor Remigio U. Pane, of the University's Romance Language Department. For almost a century Poe has been the best known American writer in Italy and in spite of the present popularity enjoyed by Hemingway, Steinbeck, Erskine Caldwell, Tennessee Williams, Pearl Buck, and others, Poe still holds his primacy. As a matter of fact he seems to gain in popularity with the passing of time. A year does not pass in which one or more new Poe translations fail to appear in Italy.

From the year 1856 (when the first article on Poe was published in an Italian literary journal) to the present, Italian critics and scholars have devoted about one hundred articles and five full-length studies in book form to Poe.

The first of his works to reach Italian readers in their language was "Mesmeric Revelation," which was included in a volume of incredible stories published in 1858. "The Raven" has the double distinction of being the first poem to be translated and the one with most (more than a dozen) translations. The great Italian poet Giovanni Pascoli (1855-1912) while still a student at the University of Bologna rendered "The Raven" into Italian. In 1945, one of her darkest years, Italy celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of "The Raven" with a new translation in a very fine edition.

Almost all of Poe's work is or has been available in Italian, but because most of the editions appeared in paper covers and because Poe is so popular, it is almost impossible to find old editions on the market. A search of four months in Italy last summer netted Professor Pane only a few items.

His collection, however, as shown in the present exhibition, is the largest on Poe in Italian anywhere. The University of Virginia has the next largest, which consists of slightly more than a dozen items. The New York Public Library has a half dozen.

The tentative schedule for 1953-54 is as follows:

Sept. 15-Oct. 14	Introduction to Rutgers (for incoming freshmen)
Oct. 15-Nov. 14	New Jersey governors
Nov. 15-Dec. 14	Cookbooks
Dec. 15-Jan. 14	Almanacs
Jan. 15-Feb. 14	Valentines
Feb. 15-March 14	Newspapers
March 15-April 14	Medals
April 15-May 14	United Nations publications
May 15-June 14	Commencement exhibit
June 15-Sept. 14	Paper money

D.A.S.