

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Caveat Scriptor

A recent acquisition affords an interesting sidelight on the vagaries of fame, in particular, the fame of authorship. It is an extremely rare, if unimportant, volume of Johan Cluver's *Diluculum Apocalypticum seu Commentarius Posthumus*, edited by Johan's nephew, Michael Cluver, and published in Lübeck in 1647. Of the major libraries in this country and Europe, only the Bibliothèque Nationale seems to have a copy, and references to either Johan or Michael in biographical works are exceedingly rare. Book, author, and editor have quietly faded into obscurity with time. But the interesting thing about the book is a manuscript comment written on the front flyleaf by Jeremiah Searle, a minister of Coxsackie, New York, who bought the book in 1832. He wrote:

Bought of a tin pedlar who had purchased it by weight among some old rags, who made, as he said, a most capital speculation by selling it to me for 25 cents—

O Cluver! when thou didst labour hard & trim the midnight lamp to instruct the world what wouldst thou have thought of such a sale? Happy wast thou Cluver! that whilst thou wast attempting to shed light on the prophetic page thou thyself couldst not penetrate the future. And happy too are multitudes who now strut in all the pride of authorship, I do not say, because they do not see two hundred years ahead, but because they cannot see an inch before their nose.

NEW BOOKS

The Holland Society of New York, an organization of direct male descendants of the early Dutch settlers of New York, recently presented the Library with one of the largest gifts lately received. It comprised the entire contents of one section of the Society's storage library, about two hundred volumes in all. These were separated into three groups: books of general interest for the University Library, books of theological interest for the New Brunswick Seminary, and Bibles to be returned to the Holland Society after their valuable family records had been filmed. The books retained by the University Library are a fascinating and varied lot. About half of them are written in Dutch, very few are in French, the rest in English.

Included among the English and American imprints are several early ones. They are: Grimeston, E. A., *A General Historie of the Netherlands* (London, 1627), STC 12376; Tate, Nahum, and Brady, Nicholas, *A New Version of the Psalms of David* (London, 1698), Wing B2606; Chardin, Sir John, *Travels in Persia and the East* (London, 1686), Wing C2043; Patrick, Symon, *Christian Sacrifice* (London, 1685), Wing P767; Lower, William, *A Relation . . . of the Voiage and Residence . . . [of] Charls II . . . in Holland* [trans. from French of William Reinking], (Hague, 1660), Wing R781; S. —, J. —, *Fortification and Military Discipline* (London, 1688-9), Wing S75; Ronde, Lambertus de, *The True Spiritual Religion* (New York, 1767), Evans 10757; Dilworth, Thomas, *The Schoolmaster's Assistant* (New-London, 1797), Evans 32048; *The Psalms of David* (New York, 1796), an unlisted variant of Evans 30071.

Besides these there are of course many others with imprints not quite so early, but nonetheless valuable and interesting works. The entire lot will be a welcome addition to the Library's collection.

Mr. Hiram E. Deats of Flemington, New Jersey, presented to the Library another useful collection. His gift included thirty-one large folio volumes of a variety of American publications. Among other things they included a six year run of *The Illustrated American*, from February, 1890, to June, 1896. With these came both volumes of publications of The Author's Club of New York, their *Liber Scriptorum*, volumes I and II. Both these volumes are bound in gilt-stamped morocco, with gilt tops and deckle edges. The unique feature of the books is that each of the more than one hundred articles in every volume is signed by the author. Another fine item in Mr. Deats' gift is a four-year run of the prints published by the Dürer Society, 1898-1901. And there are other volumes in the lot as useful and valuable. They have all been catalogued and are now in circulation.

Mrs. Joseph Conn, of Boonton, New Jersey, presented the Library with a collection of several hundred issues of religious "family" magazines, mostly of the decade before the Civil War. Some of the titles are: *The New York Organ*, *The People's Organ*, *The New York Messenger*, and others. With these were several early American books, largely printed between 1800 and 1830.

Several other rare books have been acquired by the Library recently. One is a hornbook, an example of the most primitive kind of primer. Another is Henry Stubbe's *The Indian Nectar, or a Discourse Concerning Chocolata*, published in London in 1662. This book, one of the rarest books about chocolate, was donated by Mr. Louis Silver. Two more first editions of Howells were added to the Library's collection; they are described earlier in this issue along with the Howells letters that accompanied them. Mrs. C. Rexford Davis contributed several publications of William Cobbett from the late Professor Davis's library. One other collection of rare books, a gift of Dr. Anna Starr, has not been available long enough for any more than a cursory examination, but even that has shown it to be a valuable donation indeed. It consists largely of books on medicine and alchemy from the sixteenth and seventeenth century. It will be described more fully in later issues of the *Journal*.

NEWSPAPERS

The Library is anxious to fill out its holdings in New Jersey newspapers, but in spite of our aspirations recent acquisitions have been meager at best. We purchased scattered volumes of the Monmouth County *Democrat* and *Enquirer*, 1864 to 1892, and one volume of the Freehold *Transcript* for 1895-6. The only other newspaper acquisition came from the library of the Peddie School in Hightstown, New Jersey. They allowed us to microfilm their copy of the Cranbury *News*, a paper that flourished for only one year, 1882.

MANUSCRIPTS

Over thirty lots of manuscripts, many of them large ones, have been added to the Special Collections Department of the Library since last June. Because of the limitations of space, I shall describe only a few of them in detail.

A letter from James Kinsey to Elias Boudinot was acquired at a relatively low price because it was undated and because it discussed New Jersey politics in very mysterious terms. Here is a transcription of it:

Dear Sir

The attempt mentioned in your last has frightened us I have had a consultation with Mr. Wallace and he agrees there is no method so proper to guard against future steps of the kind as to prevail on all the western committee to attend—We have waited on Mr Smith who you know will not willingly be carried from home We have written to Ellis and with a little of your assistance showing your sentiments as to the necessity, I think we shall prevail on all but Cape May, and probably on him too to go if this shall be kept a perfect secret till the time The surprise it occasions will do much

I have already told them in answer to the objection we are not summoned: so much the better You will show a spirited attempt not to be imposed on & will convince all that you deem the matter of so much importance that you come so far to inspect the propriety of the proceedings We shall either press it or putt a stop to the measure but I repeat keep the whole a secret won from your most confidential intimate

J Kinsey

—Pray do all the business of getting me absolution for thus employing the most part of the day

Professor Richard P. McCormick identified the letter as one relating to the contested New Jersey election of 1789, specifically, to the attendance of representatives from all the counties of West Jersey at a meeting of the Governor's Privy Council to decide the legality of the election. The letter can, therefore, be dated between February 18 and March 3, 1789.* It is an example of cloak-and-dagger politics at their lowest ebb in New Jersey.

Another interesting accession is the lender's record book for the New Market Library, deposited in the Rutgers University Library by the Piscataway Public Library Association. The record is a ledger-type account of the books borrowed by the library's fifty subscribers for the period from 1812 to 1843. The library's holdings were limited enough to make it possible to examine the whole book and get a fair idea of what books were popular at the time. Here are my conclusions. The most popular book lent by the library seems to have been someone's *Universal History* in twenty-four volumes. Nearly every one of the library's users borrowed at least one of the volumes of the set, and many read the entire work. The other most popular group of volumes was the collected titles of the eighteenth century

* Cf. Richard P. McCormick, *Experiment in Independence* (Rutgers University Press, 1950), pp. 289-303.

essayists Steele, Addison, and Johnson. *Idler*, *Spectator*, and *Rambler* were about equally popular, and as a group they were among the most frequently borrowed items. Smollett's *Roderick Random* was easily the most popular of the library's few novels, especially during the first two decades covered by the record. It outcirculated its nearest competitor, *Charlotte Temple*, by about three to one. However, *Roderick* waned in the last few years in competition with Saint Pierre's *Paul and Virginia*. Another sentimental novel, Mackenzie's *The Man of Feeling*, was popular also, but not nearly so much as was *Paul and Virginia*. Only a few poets were represented in the library, as far as we can tell from the record, but among these, Goldsmith was about twice as popular as Cowper, and the others were not even in the running. Young's *Night Thoughts*, for example, was borrowed only rarely. Biography as a whole went well, Plutarch about even with lives of "Buonaparte" and Washington. One other "literary" work was more than occasionally examined, *The Memoirs of Duncan Campbell*, which has been doubtfully ascribed to Defoe. Several works of geography also circulated well, as did the library's holdings of magazines.

From I. Robert Kriendler, a University trustee, came the original manuscript of Oliver La Farge's *A Pause in the Desert* (Houghton Mifflin, 1956) to be added to the Kriendler Collection of manuscripts of modern authors. English literature of the late nineteenth, early twentieth century, represented in the Library by the Symington Collection, continues to be one of the Library's strongest collecting areas. Mr. Lowell Kerr, of Brooklyn, New York, donated a photostatic copy of a Swinburne letter in his possession. The Library purchased a large collection of manuscript material centering around Edmund Gosse. The collection contains about 130 pieces, including letters from such men as W. D. Howells, A. E. Housman, and Swinburne. Since the purchase was from an English auction, it has not been received yet, but more will be written about it in the next issue of the *Journal*.

Additions to the New Jersey holdings have been especially numerous. Mrs. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen added several items to the Frelinghuysen papers. Of these perhaps the most interesting are several militia commissions, c. 1800, and papers of the New Brunswick

Colonization Society. The Society was one chapter of a national organization that attempted to resettle the Negroes of this country in Africa. It flourished in 1838 and 1839, and was revived briefly in 1853. Piscataway Township continued its admirable policy (one which we wish more towns would follow) of depositing its historical records in the Library. Besides the record book of the New Market Library described above, the Township deposited sample election records from as early as 1830, relief lists of 1938-9, and the minutes of annual and special town meetings from the period 1832-1904. The Library purchased two rather large groups of letters pertaining to New Jersey, one a group of sixty-four letters of Charles Hodge to several important Jerseymen, the other a miscellaneous grouping of over 200 letters, legal papers, and indentures from several hands, covering the miscellaneous period from 1788 to 1934. Also purchased was a list of sermon texts ascribed to Isaac Rysdyck, *c.* 1764. Asher A. Howell added several more papers to the Wilson Stout Howell collection of papers relating to the "Edison Pioneers," an organization of the men who worked with Edison in his early years of experimenting. Two New Jersey societies added their papers to the collection. They are the New Jersey Folklore Society papers, given by the officers, and the New Jersey Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs papers, through Miss Genevieve Ford. Three monographs on New Jersey subjects were added to the Library's holdings, one by Carrie J. Hoffman on Bloomsbury, New Jersey, one by Evelyn P. Ivey on the New Jersey Neuropsychiatric Association, and one by Theodore W. Bozarth, about Gamaliel Bailey, of Mount Holly, New Jersey, the publisher of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Three more family records were added to the Library's collection, gifts of Mrs. Helen V. Thompson, Albert L. Stokes, and Miss Catherine L. Davidson. Two purchases relate to the first inhabitants in New Jersey, the Indians. They are a return of the survey of "land laid out the Indian Purchase above Delaware Falls in June 1711 by order of Col. Lewis Morris," and a decree of the Prerogative court of New Jersey on the will of one Charles Moolis, an Indian, dated April 27, 1802. There were two additions to the account book collection. The day book of Theodore Brokaw, a carpenter in Green Brook, Plainfield, New Market, and Bound Brook, covering the

periods 1846-53 and 1857-62, was presented by Miss Virginia M. Zilg. Reuben Hendrickson, of Cookstown, New Jersey, presented six day books and ledgers containing the records of a flour mill in Cookstown for the period from 1847 to 1885. J. K. Leeds, Rutgers, '11, donated a copy of a proclamation of Elizabeth (widow of George) Carteret of February, 1681/2. Finally, George C. Rockefeller gave the Library a positive photostat from the original in the Library of Congress of a broadside printed by Isaac Collins in Burlington, New Jersey, in 1771.

Herbert F. Smith