

# GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

## NEW BOOKS

To the excellent collection of Walt Whitman material in the Library we recently added a copy of the first edition of *Leaves of Grass* in the "second state." This issue contains the eight double-column pages of reprints of the reviews of the first issue, including the three that Whitman himself wrote and had published in the *American Phrenological Journal*, the *Brooklyn Daily Times*, and the *United States Review*. Two points about the Rutgers University Library copy are unusual and deserve mention. First, the title-page and frontispiece are placed in a "true-Shandean" manner between damning reviews of the first issue, tipped in between sheets two and three of the inserted reviews. Second, in spite of the comments of the reviewers quoted by Whitman, that the book was "a mass of stupid filth," a "gathering of muck,"<sup>1</sup> or "a curious and lawless collection of poems,"<sup>2</sup> the flyleaf of our copy is endorsed "To My Dear Mother, Christmas, 1858. Ella Carter." Not the sort of endorsement one would expect for a "gathering of muck." The Library now has copies of all the major early editions of *Leaves of Grass* except the first edition, first issue, which is identical to the second issue except for the interpolated press notices.

Other important first editions of American authors recently acquired are Longfellow's *Evangeline* (1847) and Henry James's *Stories Revived*, Series I and II (1885).

Two important incunabula were added to our growing collection recently. One is a copy of Suetonius, *Vitae XII Caesarum*, the third edition, printed in Venice by Nicolaus Jenson in 1471 (Stillwell S723). It is a remarkably clean copy, beautifully initialed, and a fine example of Jenson's skill as a printer and designer of type. The other recently acquired incunabulum is the *Editio Princeps* of Homer, printed in Florence by Bartolommeo da Libri for the Brothers Nerli in 1488 (Stillwell H269). The two folio volumes of this work are in even better condition than the Jenson, free even from the ubiquitous marginalia of former owners.

<sup>1</sup> *Criterion*, November 10, 1855, quoted on the first inserted page of the second issue of *Leaves of Grass*.

<sup>2</sup> *Putnam's Magazine*, September, 1855, quoted on the verso of the fourth inserted page of the second issue of *Leaves of Grass*.

An extensive and valuable collection of printed works was recently received from the Princeton Theological Seminary, including many hundreds of titles. There are far too many to do more here than sketch out the general areas included. Several hundred pamphlets and books relate chiefly to New Jersey, including many early Princeton Press imprints. There are also many eighteenth-century American imprints, chiefly of a theological nature, but often of much wider usefulness, and a smaller number of seventeenth-century English publications of the same character. A rather large section of the books deals with early missionary work in the American West, the South Seas, and Alaska. Other works, like Bower's *The History of the Popes* (7 Vols., London, 1749-1766), are perhaps more valuable as mirrors of the eighteenth century mind than as histories, but they are worthwhile additions to the Library nonetheless.

Mrs. A. W. Bryan of Lambertville, New Jersey, presented the Library with a large selection of books. Along with a great many scientific and technical works were several pamphlets of considerable rarity and New Jersey interest. These, along with the scientific journals presented, have taken their places in the Library's collections.

#### NEWSPAPERS

While the Library's strongest holdings of newspapers are of those published in New Jersey, we are also fortunate in having several good runs of New England newspapers, especially in the late eighteenth century. This collection was augmented recently by the acquisition of four volumes of Massachusetts and New Hampshire newspapers. They were the (Boston) *Columbian Centinel*, from June 16, 1790, to March 12, 1791, and complete for the year 1797, the (Boston) *Massachusetts Centinel* for 1788, and the (Walpole, New Hampshire) *Farmers' Weekly Museum: New Hampshire and Vermont Journal*, April 4, 1797, to March 25, 1799.

#### MANUSCRIPTS

Mrs. Houston Rawls of Beverly, Massachusetts, recently presented the Library with a large collection of the papers of the Williams family, an important family in the history of Detroit. The bulk

of the papers, nearly 1000 items in all, belonged to Thomas and John R. Williams, early Detroit merchants and active leading citizens of the community, and Gershom Mott, an Albany resident with an active and interesting history in the Continental Army. The papers of Thomas Williams cover the period from 1767 to 1804, and are chiefly concerned with mercantile conditions in Detroit before, during, and after the Revolution. The reflections of wartime conditions (Williams cooperated freely with the British administration) and postwar problems are particularly informative. The John R. Williams papers constitute the largest single body in the collection, some 465 items covering the years 1795 to 1854. They reflect his extensive business dealings (with John Jacob Astor, among others), his political activities, and, in general, the exigencies of life in what was then virtually the frontier. Gershom Mott's papers include letters relating to his service as a captain in the New York Line and in the Continental artillery under Colonel John Lamb. His Revolutionary War experiences were unusually full, and his papers should be of considerable historical interest. One letter, for example, criticizes the Continental Congress, another contains a description of the siege of Yorktown. Others have to do with the campaign against Quebec and dissatisfaction about rank among officers of the artillery. To list all the other interesting and important items in the collection is impossible, but mention should be made of the several letters of Lewis Cass to Williams, three Indian deeds of the 1780's, and an excellent group of early Michigan broadsides. All in all, the papers are a very significant addition to the manuscript collection of the Library.

Of the other manuscript accessions the largest is a collection of over one hundred letters and documents signed by New Jersey governors and justices. Included among this collection are many letters that supplement existing papers and collections in the manuscript department. There are sixteen letters to Peter D. Vroom, for example, a considerable addition to our collection of his papers. The papers of Lewis Morris, Garret D. Wall, and Belmont Perry were similarly enriched. Other letters and documents from this collection, while they fit into no established papers, are no less valuable as New Jersey research materials. One of these letters is particularly interesting in-

sofar as it throws light on the career of Thomas Gordon, a career that was among the most checkered in a period of extremely partisan politics. The letter reads as follows:

To the Hono.<sup>ble</sup> Coll: Richard Ingoldesby  
Esq.<sup>r</sup> Lieu.<sup>t</sup> Governor and Comander in  
Chief of her Maj.<sup>ties</sup> Provinces of New  
Jersey New Yorke & And Vice Admirall  
of the Same &

May it please your Hon.<sup>r</sup>

Wee the members of her Maj.<sup>ties</sup> Counsell think it our Duty in discharge of our Oaths to Represent to your hon.<sup>r</sup> the great dissatisfaction of the Province at their being under Soe hard a fate as to have Such a Chief Justice of the Province Namely Thomas Gordon a man that is not endow'd with one Necessary quallification for such a Trust. his promotion to that Employ was the Wonder of all men and as it was a Just Reflection upon the Conduct of those who placed him there So it will truly Remain the greatest and most reall Grievance this Province ever Lay under and a Great Reflection upon the Present Administration if not remedied. all the Province Earnestly desiring & Expecting that Justice from your hon.<sup>r</sup>—The reasons we offer to your hon.<sup>r</sup> for his Removall is not Only his total Incapassity but the Generall Objections Grounded on his Ill behaviour in the offices of Clerk of the Court and High Sherriff which he formerly enjoyed, a full Account whereof your Hon.<sup>r</sup> will please to See in our Answer given in to My Lord Lovelace with Relation to our Address which duly wayed we presume alone will prevaile with your hono.<sup>r</sup> to remove him from Such a Trust as that of Chief Justice of the Province which is A Shame to think he should Enjoy Scandalizes the Verry office itselpe and is the Generall Scorne and Jest of all men; Besides his being a man Notoriously concerned in all the factions of the Governmt: and allways a Busie party man. And his family under such Necessitous Circumstances that they are a Meere Emblem of Poverty and is Contrary to an Instruction of her Maj.<sup>tie</sup> to Suffer Such Indigent persons to bear offices of Such Trust which Says you Shall take care that the Principle officers Judges & be men of a good life and Well Effectted to our Governmt: of Good Estates and Abilities and not Necessitous people or much in Debt. The Gent. Joyned with him in the Comission as Assistants of the supream Court think it Scandelous to that degree to Sitt with him on that Bench that they utterly Refuses it and with all Submission humbly offer it as our Opinion that it Appears Highly Convenient for the hon.<sup>r</sup> of

her Sacred Majesty and the Interest peace and Quiet of her Subjects Inhabiting this Province that y<sup>e</sup> Said Thomas Gordon be Imediatly Suspended from the Said office of Chief Justice

Wee are your hono:<sup>rs</sup> most  
Obedient Serv.<sup>ts</sup>—

Wm Pinhorn  
Ric: Townley  
Dan<sup>l</sup> Coxe  
Peter Sonmans  
Hu :Huddy

The letter may be dated approximately from information contained in a published letter from Thomas Gordon to the Secretary of State, December, 1709.<sup>3</sup> In it he requests reinstatement as Chief Justice of New Jersey, a position, he wrote, which was granted him by Lord Lovelace in April, 1709, and taken away in August of the same year by Ingoldesby. Since Lovelace died in May, our letter was probably written between June and August, 1709. The background of the letter goes back to the factions that developed during the governorship of Lord Cornbury. Thomas Gordon was a key member of the so-called "Scotch" proprietors, who were aligned against the "English" proprietors, a group which included all of the signers of the letter. When Ingoldesby took office, the English group completely dominated New Jersey politics. In one year Ingoldesby disposed of 196 offices to 90 persons. "Favorites like Hugh Huddy and Peter Sonmans held eleven and nine positions respectively,"<sup>4</sup> and Roger Mompesson, also a member of the "Ring," got back the office of Chief Justice that he had resigned under Lovelace's pressure, and which Gordon had filled very briefly. In view of these facts, we are probably justified in not taking the allegations contained in the letter too seriously. Thomas Gordon had a long and relatively successful career in New Jersey politics, even after factionalism was suppressed under Governor Robert Hunter, so the condemnation of him in the letter was very possibly only a manifestation of the dog-eat-dog nature of New Jersey politics of that period.

<sup>3</sup> *Archives of the State of New Jersey*, First Series, Vol. III (Newark, N.J., 1881) 500-501.

<sup>4</sup> Donald L. Kemmerer, *Path to Freedom, The Struggle for Self-Government in Colonial New Jersey, 1703-1776* (Princeton, 1940), p. 82.

Other recent manuscript acquisitions are the following:

- Salem County, N.J., Inhabitants. Petition to Col. Lewis Morris, December 17, 1731. Through Mrs. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen.
- William Paterson. Letters received, 1791-1799. 2 items.
- Piscataway Township, N.J. Maps of divisions of the township, 1871-1954. 26 items. Deposit by the township.
- Archibald D. Chapin. Ink original cartoons, chiefly political, 1915-1958. 16 items. Gift of the artist.
- Jerome Weidman. Author's manuscript and corrected galleys of *The Enemy Camp* (Random House, 1958). Gift of the author, through I. Robert Kriendler, class of 1936 and currently a Rutgers trustee.
- Adrian Lyon. Papers relating to his candidacy for delegate for Theodore Roosevelt in the Third Congressional District, Middlesex County, N.J., April-May, 1912. Gift of the Rutgers Preparatory School, through Mr. Frank V. Sperduto, class of 1952, Bound Brook, N.J.
- Nicholas I. M. Bogert. Letters received, 1910-1939. 4 items. Gift of Miss Julia Bogert, Metuchen, N.J.
- Grover Cleveland. Letters to Rev. William W. Knox, 1898. With others, 8 items. Gift of Mrs. Asher Atkinson, New Brunswick, N.J.
- Martin Coryell. Scrapbook, 1874-1882, and "memory Album" of Miss Myra Coryell, 1836-1841. 2 items. Presented by Mrs. A. W. Bryan, Lambertville, N.J.
- Selah W. Strong. List of sermons, medical case book, and ledger, 1838-1880. 3 items. From the estate of Mrs. John H. Raven.
- Richard Watson Gilder. Microfilms of manuscripts and corrected galleys of lectures, 1888-1903. Also obituary clippings. Gift of Miss Rosamond Gilder, New York, N.Y.
- William Livingston. Papers, 1686-1839. Microfilm, 13 reels.
- Alexander Macwhorter. Accounts, personal and of the First Presbyterian Church, Newark, N.J., 1795-1807. Microfilm.
- Richard Baxter. Correspondence, 1615-1691. Microfilm, 3 reels.
- Great Meadows, N.J., Presbyterian Church. Records, 1831-1867. Microfilm.
- Joseph Black. Copy Book, Newark, N.J., 1807-1833. Microfilm.
- John Force. Journal of a trip from Caldwell, N.J., to Cincinnati, November 11, 1811, to February 6, 1812. Microfilm.