

## GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

### NEW BOOKS

The library in recent months has acquired no less than six incunabula, all of them fine examples of the art of printing during a period when printing was indeed an art. In chronological order, they are: Johan Gerson, *opusculum tripartitum de praeceptis decalogi de confessione et de arte moriendi*, Cologne, Ulrich Zell, c. 1467 (Stillwell, G 219); Cicero, *epistolae selectae*, Rome, B. Guldinbeck, c. 1485 (Stillwell, C 486), both gifts of John Fleming; Cato, *Disticha*, "Catho moralissimus cum elegantissimo commento," Antwerp, Gerard Leeu, 1487 (GKW 6287; H-C 4720), purchased through the Charles H. Brower (Class of 1925) Fund; Jacobus de Voragine, *historia Lombardica seu legenda sanctorum*, Leyden, Mathias Huss, 1487 (Stillwell J 108); Ovid, *De arte amandi, de remedio amoris*, Venice, Johan Tacuinis, 1494 (Stillwell O 131), gift of John Fleming; and Urbanus, *Institutiones graecae grammaticae*, Venice, Aldus Manutius, 1497/8 (Stillwell U 56), a gift of Mrs. Grace H. Talmadge.

Among the finest collections of books received in recent years are the volumes received in three groups from the library of Victor S. Riesenfeld. They are notable as much for their completeness of the author collected as for the rarity of individual volumes. In 1959, for example, Mr. Riesenfeld added significantly to the Library's collection of works by Melville, Borrow, and H. M. Tomlinson. Thirteen first editions of Melville, twenty-two volumes of early and rare works by George Borrow, and thirty-nine rare works by Tomlinson were included in a single gift. The following year Mr. Riesenfeld gave the Library nearly 200 more volumes, rare and interesting works about the sea, travel, and exploration. These included approximately forty volumes each by Frank T. Bullen, Louis Becke, William McFee, and R. B. Cunningham-Graham, along with twenty works by Hugh Clifford and several others. Now the Library has received from Mr. Riesenfeld yet a third group of volumes from his library. This most recent group, about 150 volumes in all, includes many rare issues of Dickens's novels in the original parts, a complete series of Cruikshank's *Comic Almanac*, and other unusual items.

Among hundreds of volumes presented by Charles A. Philhower

in recent months, several titles stand out as extraordinary additions to the Library's collections. Among these are an edition of Luther's *Catechism* printed in parallel columns of Swedish and "American-Virginiske Spraket," or, more properly, the Delaware Indian dialect, printed in Stockholm in 1696 (Sabin 42726). This volume is intimately connected with the history of New Jersey, since it was intended for use by the Swedish settlers of "New Sweden," along the Delaware River, in their efforts to convert the Indians. A second exceedingly rare volume of New Jersey interest presented by Mr. Philhower is the Charles Varlo "Grant of New Albion," a curious document probably printed in London in 1784. Varlo purchased in England, just before the American Revolution, a third part of the lands included in a charter granted to Sir Edmund Plowden in 1634 for "New Albion." In 1784 Varlo travelled through New Jersey and Long Island claiming, with this pamphlet as proof, to be governor and owner of "NEW ALBION . . . a part of the Continent of TERRA FIRMA . . . to begin at Cape May . . . running by the River DELAWARE . . . turning and including to the Top of SANDY HOOK." His quest was, in general, unsuccessful, but he left behind a record, in the volume presented by Mr. Philhower, of one of the strangest sidelights of New Jersey history. According to the Church Catalogue (1209), only three other copies of this work are known.

## MANUSCRIPTS

More than sixty groups of manuscripts have been accessioned during the past few months. Although they deserve a more detailed description, perhaps this listing will give an idea of the range, variety, and value of the more prominent additions.

George Borrow. Manuscript poem, "Frithiof Saga, from the Danish of Tegner."

Sturgis Cary. Legal and other papers, New York, 1806-1905. Gift of Mrs. R. L. Coerr.

John P. Carey and Harry F. Swayzey Collection. Letters, photographs, and other material relating to the history of the Morris Canal, 1833-1928. Gift of Mr. Carey.

Clifford P. Case. Papers as Congressman from New Jersey, 1944-1954, an open entry. Restricted. Gift of Senator Case.

- Rutherford Lee Coerr. Letters received, etc., from members of the Kilmer family, Metuchen, N.J., 1905-1931. Gift of Mrs. Rutherford Lee Coerr.
- Consumers' League of New Jersey. Archives of material relating to reform of child labor laws, factory and retail store working conditions, minimum wage laws, and other social problems, Newark, Maplewood, N.J., 1913-1955, an open entry. Deposit by the League through Mrs. Richard A. Zwemer.
- Lucy H. Eddy. Diary, January 1-October 26, 1830, partly describing "Liberty Hall" in Elizabeth, N.J., owned in 1830 by Count Niemciewicz. Gift of Charles A. Philhower.
- Thomas Egberts. Memo book, including orders and returns for the Middlesex County militia near British-occupied New Brunswick, April 4-June 14, 1777, other militia memoranda, 1775-1779.
- Elmer family. Letters describing social activities in Westfield, N.J., 1804-1821.
- Edmund Gosse. Letter to Arthur Stedman, 5 June 1899, and to an unidentified correspondent, 21 September 1925.
- Harriot, David, & Co., New York, N.Y. Umbrella manufacturing accounts, etc., 1831-1845.
- Livingston Township, N.J. Overseers of the Poor. Records, 1821-1855. Gift of Mrs. Margaret C. Tomkinson.
- Middlesex County. Court of Quarter Sessions . . . held in Perth Amboy. Minutes: records of judgments, grand juries, petitions to the royal governors, etc., 1721-1737. Microfilm.
- Parse family. Letters received from Ohio and Indiana, 1829-1830, papers relating to tailor shop in Scotch Plains, N.J., 1811-1923.
- William F. Redding. Diary and other papers, Hackettstown, N.J., 1834-1953. Gift of Mrs. Frederick K. Kelley.
- George Bernard Shaw. Collection of fifteen letters and manuscripts relating to the production of his plays and socialist activities for the Fabian Society, 1884-1931.
- Henry Cotton Shumway. Letters describing duty of the Seventh New York Regiment during the first months of the Civil War; journal of a sea voyage from San Francisco to New York, 1849-1850; letters received relating to Shumway's work as a portrait painter, 1835-1870. Gift of Mrs. Ray D. Murphy.

John E. Van Fleet. Civil War letters relating to the 23rd Pennsylvania Volunteers ("Col. D. B. Birney's Zouave Regiment") and 9th New Jersey Volunteers, 1861-1889.

Anthony Walton White. Letters received describing service in the American army during the American Revolution and the Whiskey Rebellion, including letters of Josiah Hardy, George Washington, St. George Tucker, John Cleves Symmes, Elias Boudinot, Niemciewicz, and Koskiusko, 1764-1814.

Abraham Tenbrook Williamson. Papers relating to militia service with the 4th Regiment, Hunterdon County militia, and other Williamson family papers, Hunterdon County, 1769-1857.

Robert Wilkinson. Records of service as Ensign on the U.S.S. "Silver Cloud" with the Mississippi Squadron during the Civil War, 1862-1865.

Herbert F. Smith