

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

We lately commented on the extreme rarity of seventeenth-century promotional tracts relating to New Jersey. Although available copies of these seldom come to light, we were able to report at that time that two of them had just been acquired by the Library.

If bad luck comes in threes, the same may well be true of good luck. In recent months, with the help of several Friends of the Rutgers University Library, an additional item has been secured: *Brief Account of the Province of East-Jersey* (London, 1682). It is a much smaller publication (8 pages) than Scot's *Model* of 1685, but there are notable similarities in text. It is more interesting bibliographically than Scot, however: only five copies seem to be known, and among them are at least three variants. A more detailed note concerning the variations will be made when photostats of all the copies are in hand for comparison. From information presently available, it appears that the Rutgers variant may be unique.

Manuscript accessions include the papers of Mary T. Norton (1875-1959), received from her niece, Mrs. Edmund Burke, of Greenwich, Conn. Mrs. Norton had a long and fruitful political career, thirteen terms in Congress, and was greatly respected for her ability and integrity. There are four boxes of miscellaneous correspondence (with a number of short letters from Presidents Roosevelt and Truman and from Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt), speeches, etc., and books of clippings. Of some interest is an article about Frank Hague which she prepared in 1945.

Mr. H. B. Pratt has presented a group of letters written 1859-60 by Rev. Joseph F. Berg of Philadelphia to his undergraduate son at Rutgers. This series, apparently complete for the period, yields a good deal of insight on college life, particularly as reflected in the disapproval of a severe parent. Apart from the special Rutgers interest, the letters are of value for their picture of the father. The latter was a Reformed clergyman of some prominence, founder and editor of the *Evangelical Quarterly*, an enterprise of which he wrote in various of the letters.

Other gifts of manuscript material include additional Robert Morris papers, from Mrs. Madelyn Rembert; William F. Manning papers, part of a bequest from the Agnes W. Storer estate; an anony-

mous New Brunswick store account book, 1847-51, from Paul Silverthorne; an original almanac calculation for 1848 by John Ward, from Milton Drake; Civil War letters, etc., of Sayres Ogden Nichols, from Roy F. Nichols '18; some papers of a German silversmith named Knoll, who settled in New York during the mid-1800's, from Mrs. John Raff.

Further books and pamphlets have been received from many sources. Among these are 402 American almanacs, presented by Amos Thatcher; two early volumes on cookery, from Louis Silver; two substantial additions to the Library's collection of amateur newspapers (1880-1900), the first from Brown University Library, the second received from Mrs. A. E. Owen through Howard E. Johnston; two early shorthand books, one in manuscript, from Charles Bonard. Other donors: Dr. Horace Holaday, Howard R. Kemble, Dr. Harry B. Weiss, Princeton University Library, Mrs. Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, Philip D. Sang, Mrs. Frederick W. Schmidt, Col. Cleo Hammond. Files of the Metuchen (N.J.) *Recorder*, 1896-1958, have been presented by Charles N. Prickett '21 and the Sentinel Publishing Company; from the latter also, files of the South River *Spokesman*, 1927-58, and Milltown *Sentinel*, 1949-58.

MORE DIARIES

The project of searching out diaries in the Library's manuscript collection, and preparing descriptions of them, continues and is near completion. In the meantime, some further accessions (including copies) can be added to the substantial list of newly-received diaries printed in the December *Journal* (donors' names in italics):

- Bloomfield, Joseph. Revolutionary War journal, Feb. 8-July 23, 1776, kept during service in the Mohawk Valley. Microfilm. Original owned by New Jersey Historical Society.
- Brinckerhoff, Isaac W. "Port Royal Gazette" (Civil War journal), 1862-63, South Carolina. *Helen M. Sims*.
- Clark, Addison S. Diary, 1849-55 (scattered). California gold rush, etc.
- Crane, Elizabeth (Mulford). Diary, 1824-28, New Providence, N. J. Farm wife. Microfilm of an edited typescript copy by Mrs. Mabel Day Parker.

- Flack, George W. Civil War journal, 1861-64, kept during his service in the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Microfilm. Originals owned by Mr. and Mrs. David Bowen.
- Gerow, Hiram C. Travel journal, 1850, New York to San Francisco. Microfilm. Original owned by Aline Gerow.
- Mulford, Daniel. Diary, 1801-07, New Providence, N. J., etc. Student life, social and romantic events. Microfilm of edited typescript copy made by Stephen S. Day.
- Peloubet, David A. Civil War journal, Oct. 31-Dec. 17, 1863, covering service of the 33rd N. J. Vols. in Tennessee. Photocopy from typescript owned by Mrs. William V. Toffey.
- Redding, William F. Diary, 1922-53, Hackettstown, etc., N. J. *Mrs. Frederick K. Kelley.*
- Weyl, Walter E. Diary, 1911-18, New York City, Woodstock, N. Y. Economist, writer, traveler. *Nathaniel Weyl.*

At present it appears that the Library has between 175 and 200 diaries (including copies), the longest contained in sixty-four small volumes, the shortest occupying only a few pages. It is notable that nearly forty of these have been received quite recently (chiefly in 1961), ten being the gift of the late Charles A. Philhower.

In the matter of form, diaries vary a great deal. They are commonly irregular (as to frequency of entry) and may last only a short time—although the Library does have one multi-volume diary covering sixty years and others of more than forty years. The fulness is another variable. For every volume of detailed, well-written narrative there are many whose entries are brief, terse, and occasionally enigmatic. One Civil War sergeant writes of little more than the current deaths in his company. Another gentleman, who apparently supported himself during the middle 1800's by writing school books, described his activities cryptically and concealed behind discreet initials the names of his associates and friends: thus the long diary of an alert and interesting man in an unusual occupation was rendered obscure.

While diaries are indeed personal records, the writer frequently reveals an awareness—perhaps an unconscious one—that profane eyes may someday, somehow read his words. This feeling shows itself in the tendency to omit skeleton-in-the-closet material or occa-

sionally, indeed, to handle all kinds of perfectly innocuous details with elaborate delicacy, as in the case of our textbook author. On the other hand, this consciousness sometimes results in a rather elephantine effort at literary style. The Library has one especially interesting Ohio travel diary of this kind from the 1820's; its writer, incidentally, was addicted to character analyses of the people whom he encountered. His pre-Freudian sketches were soundly based in the science of physiognomy, it may be added, and his judgments were usually quite uncharitable.

MURDER

From time to time, a new bibliography comes to hand which has special pertinence to the Library's collection—or perhaps merely some kind of special fascination—and we find ourselves checking it against our holdings. There are few bibliographies more intriguing than Thomas M. McDade's *Annals of Murder; a Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets on American Murders from Colonial Times to 1900*. As any addict of contemporary television and lurid paperbacks well knows, the subject of murder holds a snake-like fascination for most people. Unfortunately, most of the murders chronicled were unimaginative affairs involving bludgeons and similar messy techniques, and very little intelligence on the part of investigating officers. This is not to say, of course, that all of the 1,126 murder tracts listed in the present bibliography are without elements of drama, suspense, and so on. They were also, some of them, not without another saleable commodity often threaded into fictional murder plots of today—namely sex.

The word "saleable" explains the *raison d'être* of these delectables. Despite certain moralities sometimes professed as reasons for the printing of such juicy chronicles, the fact of public curiosity lurks in the shadows. Quite a number of the characters in these little dramas were jilted lovers, philandering husbands, and ladies of easy virtue. No doubt the trial testimony and confessions were titillating literature in their day—although palid enough by today's standards.

Annals of Murder has been put together with a good deal of zest. Larded with Mr. McDade's interesting and often amusing comments, it is actually a readable volume—enlivened further by contemporary woodcuts of hangings and charnal scenes. It is also a val-

uable reference work, giving evidence of careful compilation and reasonable completeness, although several items in the Library's collection have not been included:

- Cole, Mary. *A genuine sketch of the trial of Mary Cole, for the wilful murder of her mother, Agnes Thuers . . .* New-Jersey: Printed for the purchaser, 1812. 16p. There are other pamphlets about this case.
- Eames, John Costin. *Innocence rewarded, or the successful triumph of Margaret Garrity, who was tried for the murder of a false lover, at Newark . . . October, 1851 . . .* [n.p., n.d.] Broadside.
- The Burdell mystery unravelled.* New York: National police gazette office, 1863. 31,[1]p. Similar to McDade 603.
- Ogilvie, J. S. *History of the attempted assassination of James A. Garfield . . .* New York: J. S. Ogilvie & Co., 1881. 62,[2]p.
- Parke, Peter W. *Protest of Peter W. Parke, who was executed . . . Aug. 22d, 1845, in which he declares his innocence . . . Published for the benefit of his widow and three orphan children.* New-York, 1845. 24p.
- Personel, Francis Burdett. *An authentic and particular account of the life of Francis Burdett Personel, &c.* [caption title]. Title leaf and C4 lacking. Presumably of 1773 and of 23p., but differs from the recorded New York and New Haven editions.
- Ein neues Trauer Lied, auf die Hinrichtung von Peter Robinson, der am 16th April, 1841, in der Stadt Neu Braunschweig . . . hingerichtet wurde, für die Ermordung von Abraham Suydam . . .* [n.p., 1841?] Broadside in verse.
- Life and confessions of Peter Robinson, the murderer of A. Suydam . . . with his last letter and declaration . . .* [n.p., 1841] [2]p.
- The great "trunk mystery" of New York City. Murder of the beautiful Miss Alice A. Bowlsby . . . Her body placed in a trunk and labelled for Chicago.* Phila.: Barclay & Co., 1871. 1 p.l., 19-104p. Also 1872 edition with same pagination. Differs slightly from McDade 828.
- The trial and confession of Jesse Strang . . .* (McDade 937). Rutgers copy differs somewhat.
- A history of Wesley Warner's crime! The murder of Lizzie Peak.* Mount Holly, N. J., 1894. 26p. Photocopy, from an original pamphlet privately owned.

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