

# GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

## THE PHILHOWER GIFT

Charles A. Philhower died in January of this year at the age of eighty-three. Under the terms of his will, the Library received his entire collection of books, pamphlets, maps, and Indian objects. This bequest completed a gift which had been in the process of transfer for nearly three years.

Mr. Philhower was widely known throughout the state as an educator, speaker, writer, amateur historian, archaeologist, and collector. He served some forty years as superintendent of schools in Westfield, a forceful administrator who raised the city's school system to a high level of quality. His avocations were pursued with no less energy than his vocation. Chief among these was the study of American Indian culture—particularly the Delawares, of New Jersey—to which he first became attracted soon after 1900. In the subsequent years, his search for knowledge made him an insatiable collector of archaeological literature and Indian artifacts, a great many of the latter excavated by him personally. His boundless curiosity about things of the past also carried him frequently beyond these limits into other fields of collecting and study.

In 1959 he committed the major part of his collection to Rutgers University and began transferring it in a steady stream which continued until his final illness. By his gift and bequest the University's collections have been significantly enriched in two areas: Indian artifacts and library materials.

The library materials are substantial in quantity and varied in form. Of these, the books and pamphlets, totaling about 8000 (exclusive of duplicates), are strong particularly in literature on the American Indian, in general and Western Americana, and New Jerseyana. Among the special items is *Novvs Orbis, seu Descriptionis Indiae Occidentalis Libri XVIII* (1633) by Joannis de Laet, a Leyden merchant associated with the West Indies Company. Published first in Dutch (1625), this valuable account of the New World deals chiefly with Latin America (although it does contain chapters on the New Netherlands, New France, and Virginia), with maps and a number of illustrations picturing the aborigines, flora and fauna.

An outstanding pamphlet is the 1744 *Treaty, Held at the Town of Lancaster, in Pennsylvania . . . with the Indians of the Six Nations*, printed by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia.

Manuscripts formed a large part of the Philhower collection, nearly a hundred running feet (boxed). They include the papers of various persons and families, business records, minutes, etc., a few items (e.g., an Indian deed) dating as early as the seventeenth century. In one way or another, much of the manuscript material has New Jersey associations, although there is a quantity of records concerned with the Delaware and Hudson Canal and areas of Rockland and Orange counties, New York.

Mr. Philhower presented also innumerable items of other kinds. The maps totaled perhaps two hundred, and there were many pictures, broadsides, rare newspapers, specimens of paper money, and so on.

#### Books

Two incunabula have been added to the Library's collection. Concerning one of these, *Reportorium de Pravitare Haereticorum* (Valencia, 1494), a Spanish Inquisition manual, the reader will find a short article elsewhere in this *Journal*. The other incunabulum is Claudius Claudianus, *Opera* (Parma, 1493), presented by James D. Pitney.

From Kenneth Perry has been received a gift of some 2260 volumes. Other groups of books have been presented by Thomas R. P. Alsop, Mrs. Ingrid N. Waller, Robert L. Scharring-Hausen, '16, Arthur H. Mershon, '14, Miss Gladys Parker, Norman C. Wittwer, Mr. and Mrs. George Lionikis, and H. Richard Segoine, '08. A lot of seventy-one almanacs has been given by Charles L. Ragot. From John F. Fleming, among other gifts, has been received an Ashendene Press edition (1933) of Thucydides.

#### Manuscripts

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey has deposited in the Library recently the complete body of its records covering the period 1922-55. Once again we are indebted to Mrs. Susanna P. Zwemer, who has not only been helpful in arranging the deposit but has also devoted long hours to the gathering and organization

of the records (voluminous enough to occupy seven storage boxes), so that they were received in first-class research condition. The League has been involved in many activities which render its records of historical value.

The following are among other manuscript materials received by gift (donors' names in italics):

- Butler, Francis E. Papers, including Civil War letters, 1862-63, and diary, 1846-62, Paterson, N.J., 2 boxes, 6 vols.
- Furman, Moore. Revolutionary War letters received, 1778-80. 3 items. *Donald B. Jensen*, '49.
- Doughty, Sinus P., and related families. Papers, 1810-85, Somerset County, N.J. 77 items. *Abraham Dickinson*.
- Connet family. Sawmill and lumberyard records, 1864-1907, and related material, Morris County, N.J. *Helen M. Wright*.
- Roberts, Charles H. Letters received, 1874-1913, Norristown, Pa. *Jody Gorran*.
- Ruark, Robert. "Uhuru." Author's typescript. *Mr. Ruark, through I. Robert Kriendler*, '35.
- Bartle, Crissie. Letters received, 1905-06, New Brunswick, N.J. 9 items. *William Schultz*.