

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Children's Books

FROM Dr. and Mrs. Walter Hausdorfer of Philadelphia, the Library has received an impressive gift of children's literature. Numbering approximately one thousand separate items, the materials consist of children's books, covering the late eighteenth century through the early twentieth century, children's periodicals, reference books for the study of children's literature, and a catalogue of the entire grouping prepared by the Hausdorfers. The collection, which is to be known hereafter as the Walter and Abigail Hausdorfer Children's Book Collection, is especially significant for its fine examples of the work of eighteenth century English and American publishers of children's literature. Included are selections by such publishers as Elizabeth Newberry (Arnaud Berquin), Francis Powers, C. Ware, Frederick Warne and H. & E. Phinney. Of special note also, are numerous excellent copies of English and American books written by Thomas Bewick, John Gay, Randolph Caldecott, Walter Crane, Sophie May, Samuel G. Goodrich, Louisa M. Alcott and Jacob Abbott.

The John A. Roebling Papers

Perhaps the most valuable manuscripts received into the Special Collections Department in recent months are the papers of John A. Roebling (1806-69), the famous nineteenth century American bridge builder and founder of the successful Roebling Iron Works at Trenton, New Jersey. Presented as a gift by Mr. Joseph M. Roebling and Mrs. John A. Roebling, the collection numbers some one thousand separate items and includes letters, both family and business, 1855-69, a personal diary, 1824-31, unpublished writings, 1860-68, bridge building data, 1847-69, and accounts of the infant Iron Works at Trenton, 1849-55.

The collection covers the period of Roebling's life from about 1824, when as a student at the Berlin Polytechnic Institute he studied for a degree in engineering, to his accidental death in 1869, while directing the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City. The scope of the material extends beyond the period of his

life, however, and includes letters and business papers of other members of the Roebling clan, principally Washington A. Roebling (1837-1926), the equally famous son, who in 1883 brought to a successful conclusion the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. A substantial part of the bridge building material deals with the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge (1869-83).

Essentially the bulk of the papers relates to the construction of suspension bridges and the manufacture of wire rope, the two enterprises for which the elder Roebling gained an international reputation. Roebling emigrated to the United States in 1831, a particularly auspicious time since the impetus for canal and railway construction had just got under way. After a brief involvement in the establishment of an agricultural community in western Pennsylvania, he became active in projects to extend transportation across the nation, gaining wide acclaim for the successful application of the wire suspension principle in the building of bridges. National recognition brought increased demands for his techniques, and subsequently he established a wire rope industry, first in Pennsylvania, and then, about 1849, at Trenton, New Jersey. The bridge building material in the collection comprises the largest single grouping and includes construction notebooks, work progress reports, expense accounts and materials specification literature. An equally impressive, although decidedly smaller, portion concerns the manufacture of wire rope and consists of general account ledgers, payroll records and sales data.

Although the emphasis of the papers as a whole is on the bridge building and manufacturing aspects of John Roebling's life, there is, nonetheless, a substantial body of unpublished books and essays, some of which reflect his keen interest in human problems other than engineering. Under such titles as "The Truth of Nature," "Life and Creation" and "An Enquiry into the Nature and Order of Matter," Roebling appears as the intellectual searching for the meaning of existence, exploring nature and investigating the mysteries of the universe. These and similar treatises are of a metaphysical complexion, and they stand in marked contrast to such hard and dry utilitarian offerings as "Bridge Building" and "Principles of Bridging, Trussing and Roofing."

The Frederick W. Ambuhl Papers

Another valuable accession to the Library's manuscript holdings are the papers of Frederick W. Ambuhl (1876-1962), life-long social worker and director of the State Home for Boys at Monroe Township, N. J., 1927-29. The papers reflect a lifetime of unselfish devotion to the problems of the delinquent child and represent an excellent research source for the sociologist and psychologist alike.

Frederick W. Ambuhl emigrated to the United States in 1919 from Switzerland where he had been active in welfare work, particularly among problem children. He continued his work in this country, becoming widely known as a leading advocate of "Hamlet" therapy for the treatment of psychopathic children. The Hamlet idea, which was based on the establishment of an artificial rural community made up of disturbed children, originated in Europe where it had achieved notable success. For many years Mr. Ambuhl worked for acceptance of the idea in this country. In 1927 his objective was realized in the inauguration of a Hamlet, which he personally directed, at the State Home for Boys at Jamesburg, New Jersey.

Mr. Ambuhl's personal papers total some three hundred items and include correspondence (chiefly letters received), studies on Hamlet life, personal writings relating to experiences in social work and several unpublished fictional compositions (short stories on the social conflict theme). Of special interest is a holograph "Autobiography of a Hamlet Boy" which depicts the sad plight of a bewildered child under a tyrannical and sadistic stepmother. The collection was presented to the Library as a gift by Mr. Fred E. Crawford of Monmouth Junction, New Jersey.

Other Manuscript Accessions

Among the other significant manuscripts received by the Special Collections Department are the following (donors' names in italics): Sykes, George. Papers, chiefly political letters received, Burlington Co., N.J., 1838-78. *William C. Coles Jr.*

Satterthwait, Alvin. Civil War papers, c1861. *Charles O. Johnson.*
Drake, Simeon B. Civil War letters (N.J. 11th Infantry), 1861-64.
Lent by John Balas.

- Manley, Garret V. Doctor's prescription book, Long Island, N.Y., 1845. *Irving D. Manley*.
- Kite, Elizabeth S. Papers, including research data on the Jackson Whites, Trenton, etc., N.J., 1840-1962. *St. Alban Kite*.
- Alcott, Louisa May. Letter, c1884; manuscript of *Prudy and the Peddler* by Sophie May, Boston, Mass. *Walter and Abigail Hausdorfer*.
- Hommel, Philemon E. Papers of a New Jersey pharmacist, Jersey City, N.J., 1880-1932. *Mrs. Lila Lane, through Professor David L. Cowen*.
- Cornell, Frederick F. Papers, Princeton, N.J., etc., 1819-83.
- Nelson, Julius. Papers, including college lecture notes and oyster research data, New Brunswick, N.J., 1907-15. *Mrs. Ingrid Nelson Waller*.
- Hopper, John. Letters of a Rutgers College student, 1830-35. *Mrs. Forbes McCreery*.
- Johnstone, Edward R. Papers, chiefly relating to the Vineland, N.J., Training School, 1910-14. *E. L. Johnstone*.
- North, Samuel. Family correspondence, Middle Haddem, Connecticut, etc., 1840-98. *Mrs. Arthur E. Owen*.
- Ogden, Hannah. Letter to Major Francis Barber, 1776, Connecticut Farms, N.J. Photocopy courtesy of *Dr. Theodore Thayer*.
- Livingston, N.J., Baptist Church. Records, 1860-1953. *Miss Elizabeth Teed*.
- Race, Henry. Doctor's holograph autobiography, 1812-97, Hunterdon County, N.J. *Dr. Oscar M. Race*.
- Williamson, Julia and Helen. Papers, including early family items, New Brunswick, N.J., 1894-1945. *Julia Williamson Estate*.
- Nelson, Thurlow C. Papers, chiefly research data on oyster and related Marine biology studies, New Brunswick, etc., N.J., 1929-57. *Mrs. Thurlow C. Nelson*.
- Crane, Elizabeth. Diary, 1824-28, New Providence, N.J. *Mrs. John V. C. Parker*.

Anthony S. Nicolosi