

## GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

### BOOKS

**A**MONG the significant early imprints received by the Library during the past few months are the two exceedingly rare New Jersey pamphlets, *A Brief Account of the Province of East New Jarsey in America*, published at Edinburgh in 1683 (Sabin, 53079), and *Proposals for Traffick and Commerce, or Foreign Trade in New Jersey*, a printing (New York?) of 1718. There are only perhaps two dozen seventeenth-century imprints which relate to New Jersey, so that the 1683 *Brief Account*, which incidentally is one of three known surviving copies, is a truly outstanding acquisition. An excellent representation of the kind of promotional literature which was issued by the proprietors to attract settlers to the Jersies, it was acquired by means of the Frelinghuysen, Chapman and Famulener funds. The *Proposals for Traffick*, believed to be the work of printer Andrew Bradford, is likewise one of three extant copies and was acquired through the Stonier Fund. It is described elsewhere in this issue.

Other valuable accessions include the extremely rare incunabulum, *Tractatus de venerabili sacramento* (Hain 15745) by Juan de Cardinal Torquemada (1388-1468). The volume was published in 1484 and is from the first Delft (Holland) press. From the estate of Hiram E. Deats the Library has received, among numerous other valuable books and pamphlets, the following: John Selden, *Of the Dominion, or, Ownership of the Sea*, London, 1652 (Wing, S2432); David Jones, *A Compleat History of Europe . . . 1676. To . . . 1699*, London, 1699 (Wing, J928); David J. Dove, *The Quaker unmask'd; or, Plain Truth*, Philadelphia, 1764 (Evans, 9646); Hull Abbott, *A Disswasive against the impious Practices of Profane Swearing and Cursing in Common Conversation*, Boston, 1747 (Evans, 5898). The final processing of the Charles A. Philhower gift has brought to light the following: William Jemmat (ed.), *An Abridgment of Dr. Preston's Works*, London, 1648 (Wing, P3298); C. Plinius Caecilius Secundus, *C. Plimii Caecilii Secundi Epistolae et Panegyricus Notis Illustrata*, Oxford, 1677 (BMC cxci, 1802). From the estate of Julia B. Williamson has come a London imprint of 1664 entitled *A Dissuasive from Popery* (Wing T321) by Jeremy,

Lord Bishop of Down. A gift of Silas Cook includes: Thomas Shadwell, *The Medal of John Bayes: A Satyr against Folly and Knavery*, London, 1682 (Wing, S2860); Thomas Hoy, *Agathocles the Sicilian Usurper*, London, 1683 (Wing, H3199); Martin Clifford, *Notes upon Mr. Dryden's Poems in Four Letters*, London, 1687 (Wing C4706). Other accessions are Alexander Grosse, *Sweet and Soule-Perswading Inducements Leading unto Christ*, London, 1632 (STC, 12396); William Whately, *The New Birth: or, A Treatise of Regeneration*, London, 1635 (STC, 25313).

#### MANUSCRIPTS

In recent months the Library has had the good fortune to acquire a large and valuable body of the papers of William E. Griffis, clergyman, educator, writer, and, most significant of all, authority on Japan. The new materials, which were presented in two separate gifts by Mrs. Katharine G. M. Johnson of Laguna Beach, California, and Mr. Hughes Griffis of New York City, are a welcome supplement to an already large collection of papers which reflect the vigorous personality and humanitarian spirit of William E. Griffis.

The new materials (the great bulk of which came from Mrs. Johnson) deal with the period of Griffis's life from 1856 to 1928, and relate chiefly to Japan. Included are general and family correspondence, diaries, memoranda books, accounts, lectures, travel scrapbooks, drafts of writings, printed materials and memorabilia, comprising in all, twenty-one manuscript boxes. Aside from the William E. Griffis items, the gifts include papers, especially diaries, of a sister Margaret Quandrill Clark Griffis (1838-1913), a brother Montgomery Patterson Griffis (1840-1902), and William's two wives, Katharine Lyra Stanton Griffis (1855-98) and Frances K. Griffis (1868-1959). Actually, diaries account for a large share of the accessions, and are without a doubt their most impressive feature. Griffis himself is represented by twenty-three volumes which provide a virtually unbroken seventy-year chronicle (1859-1928). The others include: Margaret, seven vols., 1858-1913; Montgomery, two vols., 1859-63 (also a volume of reminiscences, 1856-65 written in 1901); Katharine, eleven vols., 1873-98 and Frances, five vols., 1900-04.

The diaries of Margaret and Montgomery, presented by Mr Hughes Griffis, are of particular interest for the important historic

events with which they deal. Margaret, a teacher by profession, had been a tutor or governess for the children of plantation owners in Virginia and Tennessee during the immediate pre-Civil War period (1857-60). Her diary for this period provides an illuminating view of the daily life of the plantation family and, to a somewhat lesser extent, Southern society in general. At the outbreak of the war in 1861, Margaret was traveling from Washington to her native Philadelphia. Her experiences as a Yankee in a hostile Maryland are worthy of special attention. The diary contains many additional details and observations of the Civil War period. Montgomery, William's elder brother, was a merchant seaman who joined the U.S. Navy in 1860. His diary covering the war years 1861-63, was kept while he was serving as engineer aboard the gunboat *Winona* which operated in the Mississippi River and Mobile Bay. Other Montgomery items include a short journal of a voyage from Philadelphia to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in 1859-60, and a nautical reminiscence, 1856-65, written in 1901.

#### OTHER MANUSCRIPTS

Among the other significant manuscripts received into the Special Collections Department are the following (donors' name in italics):

- Appleby, William. Farmer's accounts, 1875-76, Old Bridge, N.J.; list of voters, Old Bridge; records of the Twentieth New Jersey Regimental Association (constitution and minutes of Dec. 28, 1887); roster of the survivors of the Twentieth Regt., N.J. Volunteers at the 1887 reunion, South Amboy, N.J. Old Bridge, South Amboy, N.J., 1875-87. Photocopied from originals lent by *Mrs. Murray A. Chittick*.
- Coriell, Abner S. Diary of full, regular entries covering social, political and business matters, 1864-65, New Market, N.J.; records of the New Market Library Company, including a constitution, list of original subscribers, and minutes of regular meetings of the Board of Trustees, 1812-17. New Market, N.J.; New York, N.Y., 1812-65. Gift of *Mrs. Clarence W. Slocum*.
- Corporation for the Relief of Poor Children in the City of New Brunswick, N.J. Financial records: letters of the Treasurer, 1920-26; bank statements, etc., 1908-34; annual financial reports,

- 1927-64; Lancastrian School fund accounts, 1927-40; insurance policy, 1929. New Brunswick, N.J., 1920-64. Gift of *Percy L. Van Nuys*.
- Croes, John (1787-1849). Letters received, May 23, 1814; Feb. 14, 1820 and letter sent July, 1821; letter of Robert B. Croes, Jan. 20, 1827; volumes i-ii, vi-viii of *The Spectator* (Edinburgh), 1766. New Brunswick, Shrewsbury, N.J., etc., 1814-27. Gift of *Eleanor M. Bloomfield*.
- Finley, John H. Signed typescript poems "And to Such as Play only the Bass Viol," and "Paderewski in Troy"; typescript poems "William McKinley" by David Stoneglass and "The Duel" by Eugene Field. New York, N.Y., 1941. Gift of *James Grabitz*.
- Harrison, Joseph. Deeds to land in Caldwell and Livingston Townships (Essex County), N.J., 1803, 1815; deed of Jared Harrison, Livingston Twp., 1850; Tanner's apprentice indenture, 1816; general accounts, 1841-45; deed of John Duryee, Bridgewater Township, etc., N.J., 1789-94; Reformed Church minister Duryee's records: churches visited (chiefly in North-central and Northeastern New Jersey), sermons delivered and accounts, 1808-29; Duryee family Bible records, 1715-1871; deed of Mary Shaw, Bergen Co., N.J., 1785; lease of Derick Brinckerhoff to land at Albany, N.Y., 1772. Livingston, Bridgewater, etc., N.J.; etc., 1715-1871. Gift of *Edith Lee Harrison*.
- Kearny, Philip (1780-1849). Merchant's letter book relating to the import-export business and land investments and farming in Northern New York, 1809-15; letter book of merchants Philip and John W. Kearny of New York dealing with ships, cargoes, markets, etc., 1811-16; accounts of the Kearny estate, 1849-51; ledgers of merchant Philip Kearny (1733-98) of Perth Amboy, N.J., 1768-76, 1772-76, including Kearny estate accounts, 1798-99, 1801; letter book of General Philip Kearny (1814-62) and his agent relating to land investments, 1849-50. New York, N.Y.; Perth Amboy, N.J.; etc., 1768-1851.

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