

## GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

### BOOKS

**A**MONG the recent additions to the Library's rare book collection is a 1546 pocket-sized edition of the Psalms of David (*Cinquante-deux Presaulmes*) translated from the Latin into French by the Huguenot poet Clément Marot. The Marot translations of the Scriptures, which began to appear in print around 1540, were among the first available for those not competent in Latin, and materially advanced the cause of the Reformation in France. This very early edition was acquired through Anthony L. Antin, '47, of Reader's Digest Association, Inc., under that firm's employee-choice college contribution program.

From the late Professor Stuart B. LeCompte, Jr., the Library has received a copy of Benedictus de Spinoza's *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus* (Hamburg, 1670). The Silas Cook Fund made possible the acquisition of James Ussher's *Uzziah and Jotham*, a London imprint of 1690. A limited facsimile edition (1921) of Casper Scheidt's *Rede von Wegen des Meyen* (Worms, 1561), from the library of musicologist Curt Sachs, was acquired through the Naumburg Fund. Other significant early imprints which have been received include: Theodore Spandugino, *I Commentari de Theodore Spandugino* (Florence, 1551); Richard Glover, *Nobilitas Politica vel Civilis* (London, 1608); Thomas Barlow, *Pegasus or the Flying Horse* (Oxford, 1648); Marie Dominique Joseph Engramelle, *Papillons d'Europe* (Paris, 1779-1792); Etienne Cabet, *Voyage et Aventures de Lord William Carisdall en Icarie* (Paris, 1840).

A large collection of New Jersey documents and law books was received from the estate of Hiram E. Deats through Norman Wittwer. Books relating to social work were presented by Janet Wood. From the Belgian Ministry of Education have come numerous printed items dealing with Belgian literature.

### MANUSCRIPTS

For forty-five years Peter Still, a Negro (1801-1868), native of New Jersey, lived and worked as a slave in the South. Kidnapped from his Burlington County home at the age of six, he was trans-

ported to the border state of Kentucky and sold into slavery. From Kentucky he moved with a new master to Alabama where he was to remain for the better part of his life. There he met and married his wife and began to raise his family. Nonetheless, Peter Still was restless with memories of a former life among loved ones in the North and undertook with patience and skill to regain his independence. Endowed with a fine mind and a strong will, he gained the respect and confidence of those whom he served and was granted the right to work in order to purchase his freedom.

Emancipated in 1850, Still returned to New Jersey and a dramatic reunion with his mother, sisters, and brothers. Shortly thereafter, he set about trying to free his wife and children who were still in bondage in Alabama. A first attempt by way of the underground railroad ended in failure and in the death of an abolitionist who had volunteered to guide the Still family to safety. Convinced that this method was hopeless, Still next decided to purchase their freedom, and to this end he inaugurated a full scale campaign to raise funds. For five long years he travelled throughout the Middle Atlantic and New England states soliciting aid from individuals, church groups, and anti-slavery organizations. By 1855 he had collected a stipulated five thousand dollars with which he made his purchase.

A gift of Peter Still papers was presented to the Library by Mr. Philip D. Sang. The lot of slightly more than fifty separate items which cover the years 1850-75 and deal chiefly with Still's efforts to raise money to free his family consists of letters received, letters of introduction, collection accounts and a family record. Represented throughout the correspondence are the names of several important figures in the anti-slavery movement as, for example, William Lloyd Garrison, Horace Greeley, Fletcher Webster, and Samuel J. May. Also to be found are several letters of Kate E. R. Pickard pertaining to the writing and publication of her book (*The Kidnapped and the Ransomed*, 1856) about Peter Still's experiences. Though small in number, the Still papers represent a significant source for the study of the American Negro and the anti-slavery movement.

The papers of Lewis C. Beck (1798-1853), Rutgers professor of chemistry and natural history, 1830-53, and one of America's foremost science educators of the first half of the nineteenth century, constitute another important acquisition. The papers, which span the

period 1814-54, and provide a valuable insight into the man and his times, consist of letters received, chiefly from outstanding scientists, diaries, reminiscences, lecture notes, addresses, unpublished articles, memoranda notebooks, and printed items. From Mr. Charles E. G. Lloyd, executor of the Henrietta Baldwin estate, has come a body of papers of Robert McAllister, New Jersey general in the Civil War. Included in the materials, which cover the years 1843-78 and relate chiefly to his military career, are commissions, certificates of promotion and an honorable discharge, 1843-66; official letters, 1864-86; certificate of appointment to a Pennsylvania state hospital site commission, 1876; family miscellany; Civil War memorabilia (battlefield souvenirs, etc.). A separate McAllister item, a scrapbook of clippings, pamphlets, etc., relating chiefly to the 11th N.J. Regt., has come from the same source through Charles W. Mann, Jr. of the Pennsylvania State University Library. These new materials are welcome additions to the Library's large collection of McAllister's papers which were presented as a gift not long ago by Mrs. Edith Butler Lloyd and Mrs. Edith Lloyd Blunt. Several items relating to Washington A. Roebling, builder of the Brooklyn bridge, which were presented as a gift by Mr. Joseph S. Roebling, have been absorbed into the Library's Washington A. Roebling papers. The papers of Washington and of his father, John Roebling, which incidentally had also come as a gift from Mr. Joseph S. Roebling, represent excellent sources for research in such varied areas as the Civil War, early nineteenth century immigration, and bridge building. Among the items presented in a gift of Miss Eleanor M. Bloomfield are family letters, 1822-35, of the Rev. John Croes (1787-1849). Mr. Oliver Drummond has given the Library a valuable Indian deed of 1702, which conveys to one Gavine Drummond certain lands in the Deal area of Monmouth County, N.J.

Of particular interest is a recent discovery in the Library's holdings of an important collection of eighteenth century manuscripts and printed editions of the compositions of George Frederic Handel (1685-1759). The materials are described elsewhere in this issue.

#### OTHER MANUSCRIPTS

Among the other significant manuscripts received into the Special Collections Department are the following:

- Coxe, William (1762-1831). Deeds to property in Burlington County, N.J. Burlington Co., N.J., 1770-1806. Gift of the *Hiram E. Deats Estate* through *Norman C. Wittwer*.
- Ellis, Thelma B. "Pancoast Family: Some Descendants of John Pancoast, Quaker Emigrant to Burlington County, West Jersey in America from Northampton Shire, England," Trenton, N.J., 1965. Presented by *Mrs. Thelma Beck Ellis*.
- Glenn, Isa. "Connective tissue" (background compilation) for novel, *A Short History of Julia* (1930); also autographed copy of the work [New York, N.Y., 1930]. Gift of *Robert E. Galbraith*, '24.
- Joyce Kilmer Memorial Shrine Committee. Scrapbook of correspondence, architectural drawings, photographs, and clippings, 1939-40, relating to the establishment of a historical shrine to Joyce Kilmer. New Brunswick, etc., N.J., 1939-40. Gift of *Mrs. Gerard Q. Decker*.
- Lakewood Hotel and Land Association. Records: correspondence, minutes of the board of directors, 1898; photographs of the Gould Estate, c.1920. Lakewood, N.J., 1898, c.1920. Gift of *Arthur R. Smock, Jr.*
- Matthews, Samuel. Justice of the peace docket, 1827-49. Dennis Creek, Cape May County, N.J., 1827-49.
- Miers, Earl Schenck. Typescript draft of *The Living Lincoln* edited by Paul M. Angle and Earl Schenck Miers (Rutgers University Press, 1955). New Brunswick, N.J., 1955. Presented by *Earl Schenck Miers*.
- Olden, Walter H. Papers, chiefly letters received, relating to his term in the New Jersey Assembly, 1926-28; autograph book of Frank D. W. Gulick, 1869-75. Princeton, Trenton, etc., N.J., 1869-1928. Gift of *Mrs. Marcus S. Wright*.
- Shelley, Harry R. Organ music compositions; letters, 1920, 1942. New York, 1920, 1942. Gift of the *Rev. John H. S. Putman*.
- Stryker, Garrit V. General store accounts, 1807-17, 1829-39. Whitehouse, Hunterdon County, N.J., 1807-39. Gift of *Miss Edith Stryker* through *Mrs. Alvah Ramsey*.
- Upson, Jesse. Justice of the peace docket, 1812-15. Mendham Township, Morris County, N.J., 1812-15.