

## GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

### *Books*

A collection of some seven hundred volumes of modern Mexican literature was purchased by the Library from Dr. Elias Nandino, prominent Mexican surgeon and poet. The collection demonstrates the development of Mexican letters over four decades and is particularly significant for its large number of literary periodicals.

A fifty-five-volume set of Hungarian literature, *Magyar Remekirók* (Hungarian Writers of Masterpieces), a cooperative effort by twenty-seven literary critics and published over the period 1902-1906, was donated by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Hungarian Studies Foundation for use in the University's Hungarian Studies program. A formal presentation was made on March 8 to Acting Librarian Norman D. Stevens by Mrs. Irene Pardun and Mrs. John J. Mazernik on behalf of the Foundation. Books on Hungarian studies were presented by the Kossuth Foundation of New York City through Professor Joseph Held, head of East European Studies in University College. Professor Held was also the donor of several Hungarian imprints including the unusual *Történelmi Materializmus* (Historical Materialism), 1908, and *Összegyűjtött Cikkek, 1915-1918* (Collected Articles from 1915), 1918, by Oszkar Jászai and the very rare two-volume work *É'letem és Működésem Magyarországon az 1848-49-es Esztendőkbén* (My Life and Activities in Hungary in the Years 1848-1849), 1861, by General Arthur Görgei.

A gift of over two hundred volumes, chiefly modern history, was presented by Benjamin R. Beede, Newark '61. One hundred and fifty volumes, mostly English literature, came from Mrs. George L. Burton. Approximately the same number of volumes of history and English literature came from Mr. and Mrs. Abram J. Suydam, Sr., through G. Clifford Nevius. Other gifts were received from Gust Johanasson, Carlos D. Bullick, Mary V. Gaver, Miss Ching-Chih Yee, C. W. Bohmer Jr., Rafael S. Vichal, Grace Perry, Fred Lape, Marshall W. Fiskwick, Mrs. Morton W. Stark, Dan Blackley, August K. Eccles, Mr. V. Vidalis, William Pearson Tulley, David

E. Jollym, the Hazen Foundation, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the Robert Owen Lehman Foundation.

Money from the Julia B. Williamson Book Fund made possible the acquisition of the rare fifteenth-century imprint *De Censuris* (Hain 1267) by Saint Antoninus (1389-1459), Bishop of Florence. It was printed at Mantua about 1475 by Paul de Butzbach. A two-volume folio, *The Baronage of England, or An Historical Account of the Lives and Most Memorable Actions of Our English Nobility*, by William Dugdale, London, 1675-1676 (Wing D2480) was acquired by means of the Drury-Keese Fund.

### *Manuscripts*

#### PAPERS OF JOHN A. ROEBLING AND OF HIS COMPANY

Recently the Library acquired the management and investment records of the John A. Roebling's Sons Company from the year 1876 and also records of the Roebling Security Corporation, a successor venture which continued the company's investment accounts from 1952 until they were finally closed in 1960. Regrettably most of the earliest records relating to the business of wire-making were destroyed in 1908 in the first of several great company fires. The recent acquisition, presented by the Roebling family, includes the following: minutes of meetings of directors and stockholders, 1876-1952; stock distribution and securities investments, 1902-1960; stock certificates issued, 1876-1959; minutes of meetings of directors, stockholders and trustees of the Roebling Security Corporation, 1953-1960; stockholders' and securities investment portfolios; financial statements, 1935-1956; general business files of the Roebling Security Corporation, 1953-1960; scrapbooks of clippings, early advertisements, etc., and miscellaneous printed and pictorial items.

Included in the Library's John A. Roebling Papers, also a gift of the family and presented in several lots over the past few years, are what appear to be the earliest surviving records relating to the wire-making industry, accounts for the period 1848-1855. Though little else is to be found pertaining to this activity, the papers of the senior Roebling contain a wealth of material bearing on his career as the world's first successful builder of wire suspension bridges as well as

his interest in Hegelian philosophy (at the Royal University of Berlin he had been a favorite student of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel). The papers consist of general correspondence, 1821-1869, relating to the business of wire-making, the construction of wire suspension bridges, and family matters; engineering notes from student days at the Royal University of Berlin; bridge construction progress reports, work notes, memoranda, expense accounts, etc., 1847-1869; personal and family accounts; unpublished writings on engineering topics and metaphysical questions, e.g. "The Origins and Nature of Matter."

Of particular interest to the Civil War enthusiast are letters and related papers of Washington A. Roebling (1837-1926), the founder's oldest son and the builder of the Brooklyn Bridge after the accidental death of John Sr. in 1869 while involved in that undertaking. Washington served for the duration of the war, first with a New York regiment and from 1863 with the Engineering Brigade of the Army of the Potomac (in charge of wire-suspension bridge construction). The highly informative letters which are written to members of the family and to his future wife, Miss Emily Warren, deal largely with combat situations and experiences. They cover the period from the first great pitched battle at Manassas Junction, in July 1861, to the hard fighting before Petersburg in 1864-1865. Military maps, dispatches, and miscellaneous related notes constitute a segment of this grouping.

Among other notable acquisitions received in recent months are the records of the Bonnie Brae Farm and Camp for Boys, Millington, New Jersey, 1918-1966. They were presented by that institution through Professor Hace Tischler of the Graduate School of Social Work. Included are annual reports, publicity literature, letters of appeal, benefit announcements, schedule of events, and property maps and diagrams. Records of the Methodist Church of New Brunswick, 1861-1960, consisting of the records of three component churches: The Pitman Methodist, St. James Methodist, and First Methodist, were presented by the Church. The records concern membership, marriages, baptisms, pastors, congregational statistics, accounts, religion classes, historical notes and mementos, and church

societies. From Mrs. Vera W. Beggs, have come papers relating to the New Jersey Committee on the Cause and Cure of War, 1928-1942, and papers of the International Relations Department of the General Federation of Women's Clubs concerned with Pan American relations (social and cultural), 1929-1940.

Also acquired by the Library are papers, chiefly letters received, of John Burt (1789-1866), Scottish intellectual, political reformer and poet, who came to America in 1817 and settled in southern New Jersey (Bridgeton area). His life, both in Scotland and in the United States, was varied. Given the benefits of a classical education, he became a school teacher, wrote verse and political satire, attended medical lectures at the University of Glasgow, took up the weaver's trade, and, for five years, served as an impressed sailor on board one of His Majesty's naval vessels. In America Burt again taught school, became an enthusiastic student of Swedenborgian philosophy and theology and for a time was involved in the "New Church Society" movement, studied theology at the Princeton Theological Seminary, became a missionary to Presbyterian congregations in southern Ohio, served as minister to churches in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and edited religious newspapers. Meanwhile, he continued to write and publish verse. The Burt letters cover the years 1812 to 1821 when he was active among political reformers and literary figures in Scotland and when he was a new arrival in America.

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