

## GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

BY CLARK L. BECK, JR.

### *Books*

Recent additions of European books include two Continental imprints: Giovanni Battista Ubaldini, *Istoria della Casa de gli Ubaldini, e de' fatti d'alcuni di quella Famiglia* (Florence, 1588) and Jean de Thévenot, *Relation d'un Voyage fait au Levant* (Paris, 1665). The former work is especially important as a biographical source for Niccola Acciaiuoli, 1310-1365, the leading statesman in southern Italy of his time. Among the English-language acquisitions are Sir Matthew Hale, *The History and Analysis of the Common Law of England* (London, 1713); the fourth edition of Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France, and on the Proceedings in Certain Societies in London Relative to that Event* (London, 1790); and Maurice Baring, *Fifty Sonnets* (London, 1915), one of three copies printed for private circulation.

Of general United States interest is Alexander Hamilton, *American Budget, 1794. The Income and Expenditure of the United States of America* (London, 1794). The brevity and simplicity of Hamilton's report is refreshing, as is the fact that the Treasury Department was able to report a surplus of more than one million dollars at the end of 1793. It should be noted that the proposed federal budget for 1794 was only two million dollars!

A number of New Jersey-related items have been received. Among them is volume two of Robert Dodsley, *The Preceptor: Containing a General Course of Education. Wherein the First Principles of Polite Learning are laid down in a Way most suitable for trying the Genius, and advancing the Instruction of Youth* (London, 1754), bearing five 1760 signatures of future governor William Paterson, then a student at Princeton College. Of Rutgers significance are two addresses by John Henry Livingston, president of the College from 1810 to 1825. They are *Oratio Inauguralis de Veritate Religionis Christianae* (New York, 1785) and *An Address Delivered at the Commencement Held in Queen's College in New-Jersey* (New Brunswick, 1810). New Jersey imprints include Samuel

Stanhope Smith, *An Oration upon the Death of General George Washington* (Trenton, 1800), signed by Governor Joseph Bloomfield; and Peregrine Pallet [pseud.], *The Limner, a Book of Outlines* (Burlington, 1822), a compilation of fictitious "sketches" of which the Rutgers copy appears to be the only one extant.

### *Manuscripts*

The Library has added to its collection two important Revolutionary-period letters. The first, written in 1777 by General "Mad" Anthony Wayne to the eminent physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Rush, narrates the progress of the American Army in New Jersey. The second, a letter of 1786, reflects the financial chaos and attendant political chicanery in post-Revolutionary America. Addressed by the national treasury commissioners to Elias Boudinot, statesman and one-time president of the Continental Congress, it decries the monetary frauds being committed in the state of New Jersey and calls for the speedy "bringing to punishment [of] the persons guilty of such nefarious Practices." Both documents are the subjects of recent articles. Wayne's letter is examined by Dr. Richard McCormick in the *Journal*, December 1973, Vol. XXXVII, No. 1, while the fraud account was featured in the *New York News*, August 2, 1974, page 37.

Another eighteenth-century accession is the records of the First Reformed Church of New Brunswick. Deposited by the Church officers, the volume contains the earliest extant church records for the city. The Library already has other material relating to the Church, including choir records, records of the Ladies' Foreign Missionary Society and museum objects. The latest acquisition, written primarily in Dutch, comprises baptisms, 1717-1794; elections of officers, 1717-1757; membership lists, 1717-1793; minutes of the Consistory at Raritan (New Brunswick, Six Mile Run, Raritan and North Branch [Readington]), 1736-1738; pew records [1735?]-1742; and ledger accounts, 1735-1743. This should prove a valuable research source for colonial local and church history, as well as for genealogy.

Three organizations, in accordance with previously established agreements, have added to their archives maintained by the Library. The largest of these deposits, totaling three boxes, comes from the

Consumers' League of New Jersey. Included are correspondence with the National Consumers' League, 1938-1958; correspondence on the fiftieth anniversary celebration, 1951; president's correspondence, 1930-1939, 1944-1953; minutes, 1940-1949; financial and membership records, 1931-1951; material concerning household employment, 1945-1959, 1965-1968; biographical material on prominent members of the National and New Jersey Leagues; and publications. In addition, the *Partisan Review* has deposited two boxes of editorial correspondence for the year 1969, and the New Jersey Academy of Science has presented one box of material from the files of its executive secretary, 1968-1972.

Numerous items of local New Jersey interest have been acquired recently: three day books of James V. Emmons, a cobbler at Freehold, dating between 1860 and 1866; the ledger of Azariah Conover, a Middletown farmer, 1856-1873; a ledger for paper and wallpaper hanging kept by R. L. Nixon of Mount Holly, 1869-1880; and accounts, receipts, etc., of Freehold lawyer Peter Van Dorn, 1828-1869. Gifts in this area include two boxes of papers of Benjamin Hornbeck, farmer, miller and long-time Montague Township Clerk, 1808-1840, donated by Mrs. Walter S. Purdy of Brooklyn, N.Y. In addition, one box of miscellaneous papers of the Frazee and Lee families of Union County, 1751-1915, has been deposited by the Plainfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historical Societies through Charles S. Detwiller. A box of Mundy family papers (chiefly Samuel Mundy of Piscataway), 1695-1866, is the gift of a descendant, Irene Van Nuis Best of Highland Park.