

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

Books

A seventeenth century treatise promoting settlement in the British American colonies is the first acquisition made through the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation fund. Entitled *The Present State of his Majesties Isles and Territories in America*, the 1687 London imprint is dedicated by the author, Richard Blome, to King James II. In addition to a fascinating text, the volume contains a number of maps depicting possessions in the Caribbean as well as on the North American mainland, plus an appendix of astronomical tables. Blome's observations on the colony of New Jersey are interesting, though not entirely prophetic: "neither are we troubled with the *Musketo-fly* in this place, our Land lying generally high and healthy, and they being commonly in boggy ground. . .this Province affords all that is either for the Necessity, Conveniency, Profit or Pleasure of Humane Life."

Mr. Archibald S. Alexander, namesake of the University's research library for the humanities, has given some important works of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Three titles are associated with the renowned Dr. Samuel Johnson: his *Irene: a Tragedy* (London, 1749); his four-volume *Lives of the Most Eminent English Poets; with Critical Observations on Their Works* (London, 1781); and James Boswell's *Journal of a Tour of the Hebrides, with Samuel Johnson, LL.D.* (Dublin, 1785).

Especially significant is Mr. Alexander's gift of the second edition of Robert Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy: What It Is. With all the Kindes, Causes, Symptomes, Prognosticks, and Severall Cures of It* (Oxford, 1624); and William Mason's *Poems of Mr. Gray. To Which are Prefixed Memoirs of his Life and Writings* (York, 1775).

Generally considered Burton's most important work, the *Anatomy* is much more than a treatise on psychiatric disturbance. It is an invaluable primary source for the study of seventeenth century intellectual history. Burton contends that "all the world is melancholy or mad," the analysis of which melancholy is essential before reform can be effected. The Library had previously acquired the first edition (1621) of the book, although the second is considered by far the rarest of the five early editions produced.

William Mason (1725-1797) was the friend and first editor of

Thomas Gray and became his literary executor in 1771. While the *Memoir* contains only selected examples of Gray's poems and letters, it was considered a model in the literary circles of the day. Curiously, Gray's poetry constitutes only a small part of the volume, the bulk of which is devoted to those letters which best exemplify and chronicle his literary thought. A fifteen-page manuscript index in a contemporary clerical hand adds a unique feature to this choice work.

Other book material received includes the bound issues of the Boston newspaper *Columbian Centinel* for 1810 and the first volume of Charles Marshall's *Introduction to the Knowledge and Practice of Gardening* (Boston, 1799). The former, a gift of Thomas A. Larremore, completes the Library's run of the *Centinel* from 1790 to 1813. The Marshall volume, presented by Tanner M. Clark, is especially welcome, since the Library held already a copy of volume two. Thus the set is now complete—a singular joy for the dedicated librarian. Richard Dafforne's *English Merchants Companion: or, an Entertainment for the Young Merchants, Their Servants* (London, 1700) was donated by Mrs. Grace Clark. A final acquisition is Charles Balthazar Julien Fevret de Saint-Mémin, *The St.-Mémin Collection of Portraits; Consisting of Seven Hundred and Sixty Medallion Portraits. . . from Drawings Taken. . . during his Exile in the United States from 1793-1814* (New York, 1862). Gift of the heirs of Montagu Hankin, this book is one of only 100 copies printed.

Manuscripts

A most noteworthy acquisition is the eye-witness records of the United States Naval Expedition to Japan, under Commodore Matthew C. Perry. Gift of the heirs of Montagu Hankin, these six volumes include the official flag journal, July 31, 1852-September 6, 1854; Perry's personal narrative (retrospective and not in his hand), July 2, 1853-February 9, 1854; a two-volume journal kept by Perry's secretary (and son), May 23, 1853-July 27, 1854; and two other contemporary records concerned with the expedition. The narratives, both official and personal in nature, record Perry's careful dealings with the suspicious and reluctant Japanese, the signing of the "treaty of amity and intercourse" between Japan and the United States, nearly verbatim official conversations, and American observations of the Ryukyu Islands (especially Okinawa), Hong

Kong, the China coast and Japan. These volumes, believed to be the true official journals of the expedition, are especially important to the Library because of the William Elliot Griffis Collection, printed and manuscript, including the journal of flag lieutenant Silas Bent, January 24-August 4, 1853, and ten letters of Commodore Perry written in preparation for the voyage. Most of the material in these important journals has never been published, although they were used, along with other sources, in the preparation of Perry's printed *Narrative* (1856).

Another interesting item from the Hankin gift, which included many eighteenth and nineteenth century American books, maps, pictures, manuscripts and broadsides, is a brief but significant record of activity during the early months of the Revolution. It is the diary of John Kaighn, a Quaker who, along with three other men, travelled from Philadelphia to Boston in the summer of 1775. Their journey was most eventful. In Taunton, Massachusetts, they breakfasted with Robert Treat Paine, soon-to-be signer of the Declaration of Independence. At Braintree they delivered a letter to Abigail Adams from her illustrious husband and had coffee with her. They then proceeded to Cambridge, where Washington and some of his officers conducted them on a tour of army fortifications. Later they dined with Washington and were entertained by several high-ranking officers. Unfortunately, all this is recorded in a mere fifty-one lines!

Several other personal narratives have been received. The diary of Walter Taylor Marvin, a New Yorker, shows the change from religious preoccupation in 1850 to the mundane concerns of a prosperous flour merchant in 1864. Another Marvin diary records three months spent in Honduras overseeing operations of the Rosario Mining Company in 1885, a trying experience filled with the daily setbacks of equipment breakdown, labor troubles, insect annoyances, and some revolutionary stirrings. Both volumes are the gift of the writer's granddaughter, Dr. Dorothy H. Marvin. The diaries of Emma and Laura Gwinnup record numerous aspects of the work, social and family experiences of a comfortable farm family living near Blairstown, New Jersey. Emma's brief account covers the months February through September, 1855, while that of her sister runs for nearly three-quarters of a century (1854-1914) and fills forty-eight volumes! With the above, the gift of Mrs. Samuel T. Beatty, are some papers and medical instruments of Dr. Jabez Gwinnup, the

diarists' grandfather. The fifteen-volume diary of Philip Melancthon Doolittle (1831-1906) was presented by Henry M. Beekman. Minister of the North Branch Reformed Church for fifty years, Doolittle's observations on the religious and social life of the neighborhood from 1877 to 1906 are unusually full and detailed.

Two recent acquisitions have added important pharmaceutical source material. Through the efforts of Alvin N. Geser, executive officer of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, and Roy A. Bowers, dean of the New Jersey College of Pharmacy, the early records of the Association have been presented to the Library: minutes of meetings, 1870-1877; membership records, 1870-1894; and the constitution and by-laws, 1870, signed by many of the original members. The Association was founded to insure the "advancement of Pharmaceutical Knowledge and the elevation of the professional character of apothecaries and druggists of our State," the early meetings were concerned particularly with "regulating the sale of Poisons and dispensing of medicines and the prevention of adulteration." For more than a century, the Association has striven to attain and maintain these goals. A related gift is fifteen volumes of druggists' prescription books from Deckertown, New Jersey, 1875-1915, donated by Cyrus Ettinger. The firm involved changed its name many times, alternately being known as Linn and Company, Linn and Lawrence, Lawrence and Hayward, and the Lawrence Drug Company. Among other pharmaceutical sources already in the Library are the papers of Dr. Philomen E. Hommell, former president of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association and an organizer of the New Jersey College of Pharmacy.

A significant addition of British literary material is a group of letters from Sir Edmund Gosse and family to the pacifist-satirist Siegfried Sassoon. There are some forty outstanding letters on the contemporary literary scene (1908-1928) in which Gosse, respected critic, translator, journalist and man of letters, provides his friend with detailed and sometimes incisive criticisms of the latter's writings. Ten letters to Sassoon from Mrs. Gosse and other family members (1925-1928), while more subdued in their literary content, give vivid insight into the social cohesion between Sassoon and the Gosse family. Another twenty letters (1929-1956) from Philip, son of Edmund Gosse, are rich in personal, literary and publishing-trade information. This lot is unpublished, and the letters are as refreshing in style as they are informative. The acquisition is an impor-

tant supplement to the substantial Gosse material in the Library's J. Alexander Symington Collection, which is concerned chiefly with nineteenth and early twentieth century British authors.

A heated local political controversy is well documented in the papers of Clifford R. Powell, more than three cartons of correspondence, clippings, court dockets, legal briefs, etc. Most of this material relates to legal action conducted by the state of New Jersey against the Burlington County Bridge Commission, 1948-1956. Powell, a prominent attorney and for many years Burlington County Republican leader, represented a firm (in which he was a principal stockholder) which sold the Burlington-Bristol and Tacony-Palmyra bridges to the Burlington County Freeholders in October, 1948. An angry Governor Alfred E. Driscoll charged Powell with conflict-of-interest and denounced the secret transaction for its profiteering, since the sum paid was more than twice what the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania (Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission) had expected to pay for the spans. After a vicious legal battle which pitted the forces of the Governor against those of the County's politicians, a New Jersey Superior Court ruling voided the sale on the grounds it was "replete with chicanery" (December, 1950). All profits were ordered returned, an unfortunate circumstance for Powell, whose personal share was in excess of \$750,000. The lower court decision was upheld by the State Supreme Court in January, 1952, and the United States Supreme Court refused to hear Powell's appeal. The proceedings opened the way for the eventual purchase of the bridges by the Joint Commission.

The political climate in New Jersey during the gubernatorial administration of Robert B. Meyner, 1954-1962, is unusually documented in a series of original cartoons drawn by Bill Crawford for the *Newark News*. There are nearly 200 individual drawings, which deal with state and local politics, especially of Essex and Hudson counties, with biting satire and excellent graphics. This acquisition handily complements some fifty similar drawings by Lute Pease on state and national issues during the period 1912-1953, as well as a few cartoons by other artists.

The Library has received some papers of Vincent Adams Renouf, who served for several years as professor of history and political economy at the Imperial Peiyang University, Tientsin, China. In 1907 he authored the *Outline of General History* especially for the use of Chinese students, a compilation which saw fifteen editions

within the first fifteen years of its publication. It was quickly adopted by schools and colleges throughout the Orient. Among the Renouf Papers (six boxes) are several volumes of lecture notes taken while he was a student at Johns Hopkins University, 1895-1899; articles on Chinese history and culture; some correspondence, mostly with his publisher; and miscellaneous drafts for sections of his book. These papers are an important addition to the Library's material by Westerners dealing with the Far East, notably William Elliot Griffis and Arthur D. Waley, as well as the Perry journals noted previously. They were donated by Mrs. Katherine G. Martin, through the kind offices of Professor Jessie Lutz of the Douglass College History Department.

Another box of material has been added to the Jared Lane Papers, a body of correspondence, accounts, estate papers, etc., concerning iron manufacture in western Connecticut and mercantile businesses in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The recent acquisition contains papers relative to the business interests of Richard Smith, 1768-1798; estate papers of Partridge Thatcher and James McEvers, 1767-1789; and general store and foundry accounts, 1758-1837.

Items of miscellaneous interest received include a 1936 hand-drawn cartoon entitled "A Judicial Substitute," satirizing the intervention of New Jersey Governor Harold G. Hoffman in the case of Lindbergh kidnapping suspect Richard Bruno Hauptmann; an astrological manuscript by Florentine mathematician and musician Mauro, 1550; and two certificates for shares in the estate of Alexander Hamilton (1804), signed by Rufus King, Gouverneur Morris and Oliver Wolcott, the gift of Nicholas Gouverneur Rutgers IV. The account book of Thomas Cooper was acquired with funds provided by the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation. Apparently the record of a general store in Burlington County, its entries cover the period 1768-1792.

The Bequest of Harry Bischoff Weiss, 1883-1972

Author of more than 800 books and articles, Harry Weiss never earned a college degree, and yet he was widely recognized as an authority in many fields. A noted entomologist and historian, he spent nearly forty years with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and was the first to discover the Japanese beetle in North

America. He was an honorary member of the American Entomological Society and long-time associate editor of its journal. An important contributing member to regional entomological organizations, he was also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1950 Rutgers University awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. Dr. Weiss' historical interests were of renaissance proportions. He authored books on almost every conceivable subject, from mineral springs to the history of applejack, with particular emphasis on New Jersey. Nor did advancing age seem to diminish his scholarly output. At the time of his death at eighty-nine, he was busily working on another book, *The History of Whaling in New Jersey*, during which time he was a familiar figure around the Library. It was a privilege to know and work with this most unusual man—methodical, productive, whimsical and humorous.

The bequest of some 4,000 volumes reflects his broad interests. It includes an outstanding collection of chap books (inexpensive books, largely for children) and bibliographical works about them. There is significant representation in the fields of entomology, art and juvenile literature. Some of the more interesting sidelights concern the history of Virginia, gambling, the circus, china, silver, chimney sweeps, machinery and early tools. A solid portion of the collection relates to New Jersey, and there are a number of private press items.

Clark L. Beck, Jr.

The Friends of the Libraries of Rutgers University

The Friends of the Libraries of Rutgers University, an organization which became increasingly inactive following the completion of the building in 1956, has been reconstituted by the Trustees Advisory Committee for the Libraries.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Marijane Singer, Chairperson of the Trustees Advisory Committee for the Libraries, the Constitution of the Friends of the Rutgers University Libraries was rewritten and adopted. At the first annual meeting, May 20, 1975, Executive committee and officers were elected for three year terms:

Archibald S. Alexander	President
Charles H. Brower	Vice President
Robert G. Kelsey	Secretary-Treasurer
Leo Nover	} Executive Committee
Earl R. Silvers, Jr.	
Joseph M. Ruggieri	
Marijane Singer	
	Chairperson of the Trustees Advisory Committee for the Libraries
Virginia P. Whitney	University Librarian

Annual dues were set at \$15.00 per year.

The *Journal of the Rutgers University Libraries* owes its existence to the Friends. For many years its expenses were underwritten by the organization. While the *Journal* is currently sponsored by the Rutgers University Libraries, the Friends continue to give it interested and concerned support.

The Rutgers University Libraries, suffering from the budget cuts imposed on the university, took some encouragement recently from an example of private generosity in time of public parsimony.

Archibald S. Alexander has established a fund for the acquisition of library materials to enable the libraries to continue their program of buying rare books, manuscripts and similar resources of scholarship.

In 1973 of course, the University Library building on College Avenue was named to honor Mr. Alexander's long and distinguished service to Rutgers as well as to the State. Mr. Alexander is returning the compliment by endowing this new fund for our libraries. He needs no convincing of the importance of continuing support for libraries in the academic enterprise for, in addition to being a long-time book collector himself, and giving books to Rutgers, he makes contributions to the library of his own alma mater, Princeton, as well.