

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

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BOOKS

A NUMBER of works relating to colonial America were acquired during the bicentennial year. Prominent among them is *An Answer to a Bill in the Chancery of New-Jersey* (New York, 1752), a famous legal document prepared by William Livingston and William Smith, Jr., in response to a suit initiated by the East Jersey Proprietors against the land claims of certain Elizabethtown residents. The controversy that ensued was popularly regarded as a struggle between the proponents of home rule and those of absentee privilege and typifies the disputes that eventually led to the American Revolution. Ironically, the case was never settled. Rutgers has long held two copies of the Proprietors' exhaustive *Bill in the Chancery of New-Jersey* (New York, 1747), and the addition of the considerably scarcer *Answer* is most welcome.

Another item of American Revolutionary significance is John Wesley's *A Calm Address to our American Colonies* (London, 1775?). Essentially a condensation of Samuel Johnson's "taxation no tyranny" argument, the tract pits Wesley, an acknowledged spokesman for the disadvantaged, against the American colonists in their worsening dispute with the English Crown. The publication of Wesley's essay instigated a heated controversy that polarized Britain's theologians on opposing sides of the colonial taxation issue, and numerous polemics followed. Rutgers already possesses Caleb Evans' *Reply to the Rev. Mr. Fletcher's Vindication of Mr. Wesley's Calm Address* (Bristol, 1776), a defense of colonial civil liberties.*

Two early New Jersey imprints received are *Extracts from the Minutes and Proceedings of the Assembly of New-Jersey, Relative to the Robbery of the Eastern Treasury* (Burlington, 1772) and *A Journal of the Proceedings of the Legislative-Council of the State of New-Jersey* (Burlington, 1790). The former pamphlet concerns the legislative debate that followed the 1768 robbery of the home of Stephen Skinner, treasurer of East Jersey. Despite its apparent non-

* John Fletcher's *A Vindication of the Rev. Mr. Wesley's "Calm Address to our American Colonies."* In some letters to Mr. Caleb Evans asserts that Wesley's doctrine was "rational, Scriptural, and constitutional."

partisan origins, the incident provoked one of the most bitter feuds between the lower house and the chief executive in New Jersey's colonial history, as the Assembly tried to wrest from the governor control of the provincial treasurers. Both pieces augment an already substantial collection of contemporary printed legislative documents for eighteenth-century New Jersey.

Other American titles acquired include, chronologically, *On the Culture of Potatoes* (Boston, 1798); Thomas Browne, *Poems on Several Occasions* (New York, 1801); *Memorials concerning Deceased Friends* (Philadelphia, 1821); Mortimer Thomson's satirical *Nothing to Say: a Slight Slap at Mobocratic Snobbery* (New York, 1857); and a signed, limited edition copy of George Ade's poignant *The Old-Time Saloon. Not Wet—Not Dry. Just History* (New York, 1931).

Among several early European works received are *Considerations on Agriculture* (Dublin, 1730); *Discursos Sacros, e Académicos, Obras Poéticas de Varios Autores. Escritas na Occasiao, em que a Excellentíssima Senhora D. Luíza Maria do Pillar* (Lisbon, 1737); John Gay, *Fables* (London, 1737); Gabriel Pereira de Castro, *Ulyssea, ou Lisboa Edificada* (Lisbon, 1745); Jean Roger Schabol, *La Théorie du Jardinage* (Paris, 1774); Hester Lynch Piozzi, *Observations and Reflections Made in the Course of a Journey through France, Italy, and Germany* (London, 1789); and a timely piece entitled *Of Chimney Fire-Places, with Proposals for Improving Them to Save Fuel; to Render Dwelling-Houses More Comfortable and Salubrious, and Effectually to Prevent Chimnies from Smoking* (London? 179-).

Numerous examples of early twentieth-century English literature have been added, all but one published in London. Notable are Edgar Wallace, *The Four Just Men* (1905); Laurence Binyon, *Paris and EOnone* (1906); John Drinkwater, *The Death of Leander and Other Poems* (Birmingham, 1906); Siegfried Sassoon, *Counter-Attack and Other Poems* (1918) and *The War Poems of Siegfried Sassoon* (1919); Arthur Conan Doyle, *Three of Them* (1923); and a signed, limited edition copy of Edith Sitwell, *Elegy on Dead Fashion* (1926).

MANUSCRIPTS

Rutgers acquired significant New Jersey-related manuscripts during 1976-1977. Most important is a letter dated February 2, 1777,

concerning the state's role in the American Revolution. Bearing the signatures of three signers of the Declaration of Independence, the missive originally accompanied the first congressional reports to American diplomatic commissioners Benjamin Franklin, Silas Deane and Arthur Lee on the military victories at Trenton and Princeton and as such may be one of the earliest extant dispatches of the United States Department of State. The document was once owned by publishing tycoon William Randolph Hearst and was purchased from funds contributed by the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation for the acquisition of historic New Jersey material.

Other New Jersey manuscripts of this period received include the 1783 military discharge of Private Daniel Blue signed by George Washington, gift of the late John H. McMurray of Bound Brook; a religious letter-diary of circa 1760 by Jane Hoskins, a Burlington Quaker; some forty assorted military papers of Major William M. McKissack, a Somerset County physician who in 1786 was instrumental in founding the Masonic Grand Lodge of New Jersey, dated 1762-1846 (on deposit from the Somerset County Historical Society); and a substantial and interesting political letter from Governor Joseph Bloomfield to State Treasurer James Mott in 1802.

Acquisitions of nineteenth-century material are highlighted by a number of original autobiographical (primarily) accounts of United States congressmen from New Jersey in the antebellum era. Most are in the form of letters by the legislators or close relatives to Charles Lanman, a government librarian and private secretary to Daniel Webster who in 1859 first published the well-known *Dictionary of the United States Congress*. The accounts, some of which vary substantially from the printed text, document the lives and careers of Robert Field Stockton, senator from 1851 to 1853; Thomas Sinnickson, representative from 1789 to 1791 and from 1797 to 1799; Thomas Sinnickson (nephew of the former), representative from 1828 to 1829; Ferdinand Schureman Schenck, representative from 1833 to 1837; Garnett Bowditch Adrain, representative from 1857 to 1861; and James Parker, representative from 1833 to 1837. The collection complements some previously acquired papers of Schenck and Parker, including letters addressed to the latter as representative.

Of Civil War interest are a letter from New Jersey Governor Charles S. Olden affirming his support for the Union cause in 1861 and some 140 letters from Pennsylvania soldier Thomas Hathaway

to his wife and children, 1861-1863. The latter provide an excellent account of the early Virginia campaign, including the battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. A sad post-script is a letter to Mrs. Hathaway from a Confederate army surgeon informing her that her husband had died of wounds received in battle near Middleburg, Virginia, in June 1863. This fascinating resource is the gift of Kathryn Green Robinson of Mount Vernon, Maine, a descendant of Hathaway.

Among acquisitions of twentieth-century papers are a group of twenty letters and telegrams from New Jersey Governor Harold G. Hoffman, 1934-1945, dealing with government employment and his World War II service. These were donated by the addressee, Edwin J. Nicorvo of Sayreville, a personal friend of the controversial politician. Also received were nearly 100 letters of condolence to Mrs. Tracy S. Voorhees following the death of her husband in September 1974. Voorhees '11, a longtime trustee of the University and high-level official in the Truman and Eisenhower administrations, had previously deposited his papers with Rutgers.

Of local significance are the records of the New Brunswick Children's Aid Society, 1878-1976. These are primarily minutes of a social welfare agency founded in 1877, now known as the Family Service Association, and were acquired through Helen G. Hurd, secretary to the Association's board of directors. Another donation of local historical interest is fifteen miscellaneous legal documents pertaining to the southwest Jersey area, 1759-1845, including some petitions for tavern licenses in Cumberland County. These are the gift of the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society through Elizabeth Wagner, trustee. The northwestern counties of the state are represented by the acquisition of nine volumes of accounts by a Washington blacksmith, 1884-1936, and a Sparta boarding house ledger of 1880.

Archival additions by currently functioning organizations continued through 1976-1977. Received were records from the Consumers' League of New Jersey and the New Jersey Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. The Consumers' League deposited seven boxes of material, including presidents' correspondence, 1942-1975; files on migratory labor and minimum wage legislation, 1933-1969; and miscellaneous scrapbooks, clippings and photographs, 1955-1975. The latter organization added eight boxes and ten volumes of records of its New Brunswick club, notably gen-

eral correspondence and reports, 1932-1973; financial accounts, 1924-1976; minutes of executive board and membership meetings, 1923-1976; committee reports, 1933-1976; and miscellaneous scrapbooks, news releases, public relations material, photographs, etc., 1926-1976. A final deposit is that made by the *Partisan Review*, which transferred five boxes of editorial correspondence for 1970, 1971 and 1973.