

# GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

BY CLARK BECK

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Mrs. Mason W. Gross has presented several important European imprints from the library of her husband, the former University President. Among the more significant are C. Plinius Secundus, *Historia naturale, di lingua latina in fiorentina tradocta per Christophero Landimo fiorentino novamente correcta* (Venice, c.1510); Priscianus, *Opera* (Venice, 1519); Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus, *Opera* (Basel: Froben press, 1521); Aldo Pio Manuzio, *Index, sive commentarium Linguae Latinae* (Venice: Aldine press, 1527); and a presentation copy of Vitruvius Pollio, *The Architecture of Marcus Vitruvius Pollio in Ten Books. Translated from Latin by Joseph Gwilt, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London* (London, 1826).

Another acquisition of early European imprints is the gift of University Professor Richard Schlatter. Notable are John Wycliffe, *Wycklyffes Wycket* (London, 1546); *Hispania* (Leyden: Elzivir press, 1629); Francis Bacon, *Historie of the Reigne of King Henry the Seventh* (London, 1629); *Portugallia* (Leyden: Elzivir press, 1641); Hubert Languet, *A Defense of Liberty against Tyrants* (London, 1648); Margaret Fell, *A Declaration from us the People of God called Quakers, to the present Governors, the King and Both Houses of Parliament* (London, 1660); and three works by Richard Baxter, *Five Disputations of Church-Government, and Worship* (London, 1659), *The Life of Faith* (London, 1660), and *Catholick Theologie for Pacification of the Dogmatical World-Warriours* (London, 1675).

Other European works received include *Reports of Sr. Henry Hobart, Lord Chiefe Justice of Common Pleas* (London, 1641); Charles de Fieux, Chevalier de Mouhy, *Lamekis; ou, les Voyages Extraordinaires d'un Egyptien* (Paris, 1735, 1738), Alexander Fund; Ovid, *Operum Tomus I* (Amsterdam, 1746); *Instruction Abrégée sur les Mesures. . . Et sur les Calculs relatifs à leur division décimale* (Montélimar, 1794), Brower Fund; Just Jean Étienne Roy, *Histoire d'Olivier de Clisson, Connétable de France* (Tours, 1856), gift of Mrs. André Hadamard; Edmund Gosse, *On Viol and Flute* (London, 1873), Van Deventer Fund; Arthur Conan Doyle, *Micah Clarke* (London, 1889); *Wheels: a Second Cycle* (Oxford, 1917), Van Deventer Fund; and

Roger Martin du Gard, *Confidence Africaine* (1931), gift of Mrs. André Hadamard.

Recently acquired titles of United States interest are Cotton Mather, *Magnalia Christi Americana* (London, 1702), gift of Richard Schlatter; Samuel Nevill, *History of North-America* (Woodbridge, N.J., 1760), Chapman Fund; William Dunlap, *Memoirs of the Life of George Frederick Cooke* (New York, 1813); Anna Cora Richie, *Mimic Life; or, Before and Behind the Curtain* (Boston, 1856), presented by Oral S. Coad; an inscribed copy of John Gould Fletcher, *Goblins and Pagodas* (Boston, 1916), Van Deventer Fund; and a curious piece entitled *The Spankers* by "the Dutchess of Pain" (privately printed, 1935), estate of Harry Bischoff Weiss.

### MANUSCRIPTS

The Library recently acquired the early records of the Middletown Old First Church, the oldest Baptist congregation in the state of New Jersey (founded 1688). Four boxes of material include a church book containing minutes, membership lists, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and financial records, 1712-1741, 1785-1796, 1804-1922; a volume of trustees' and financial records, 1746-1845, minutes, 1841-1889, and financial records, 1739-1889; notes for sermons delivered by pastor Abel Morgan, 1743-1745; miscellaneous financial records, 1871-1929; and records of the Female Missionary Society, 1839-1863, Women's Baptist Missionary Society, 1884-1894, and Middletown Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Society, 1894-1915. The collection was received through Joseph H. Heartberg, interim pastor, and is especially significant since the Library is a designated repository for New Jersey Baptist material.

In conjunction with the University Art Gallery, the Library has established a collection of contemporary children's authors. The Gallery will maintain the illustrative material, while the Library will house the manuscripts (corrected galleys, page proofs, etc.) and upgrade its juvenile book collections. So far, the manuscripts of John Joseph Loeper, a New Hope, Pennsylvania, resident have been received. Mr. Loeper specializes in children's literature with an early American historical theme, and the works acquired date between 1970 and 1979. It is expected that more authors will donate their papers as the project gets underway.

Robert Y. O. Warren III, president of the National Musical String Company, has presented the firm's records dating 1895-c.1960. The gift

consists of twenty-four storage cartons and includes letterbooks, 1897-1920s; order, sales, and quotation books, beginning in 1897; payroll records, accounts, and miscellaneous records, from 1895; company trade catalogs, 1890s-1960s; and early photographs of company operations. Established in 1897, the New Brunswick company became within ten years the world's largest manufacturers of steel and wound strings for musical instruments and for some time was the only producer of harmonicas in the United States. Since the firm in its heyday employed a considerable number of persons, the records should prove to be a useful source for labor, as well as for business and local history.

Several additions have been made to the records of the Consumers' League of New Jersey. The Library received twelve boxes of material last year covering various aspects of League activities from 1924 to 1979. Prominent subjects are radiation poisoning, aging, unemployment compensation, child labor, women's rights, status of minorities in secondary education, fair packaging and labeling, and former League president Mary L. Dyckman.

The New Jersey Home Economics Association, by way of an archival relationship with the Library similar to that of the Consumers' League, presented one carton of trustees', executive committee, and general membership meeting minutes, 1975-1979; membership lists, 1960-1978; lists of elected officers, 1965-1978; and by-laws, 1970-1978. The records were received through Kaye K. Boyer, executive director of the Association.

Seven cartons of Wells family papers, c.1750-1955, are the gift of Miss Anna Wells Rutledge through the South Carolina Historical Society. The bulk consists of the Julia Wells papers, c.1880-1955, including records of the family's Elm Farm near New Brunswick, now owned by the Rutgers Preparatory School. Of substantial interest also are the papers of Thomas Lawrence Wells (1799-1886), a prominent attorney in New York, and later New Brunswick.

Other gifts and acquisitions of local interest have come to the Library. James R. Siebert of Trenton has presented some 200 manuscripts, pamphlets, trade catalogs, serials, etc., relating to the city of Trenton, 1800-1923. Noteworthy groups include dockets of the municipal police department, 1874-1901; correspondence relating to electric lighting in the city, 1882-1883; and publications of John A. Roebling's Sons Company. Mrs. Sarah Parker Tiger of Morris Plains has given the four-volume diary of her ancestor, Stephen Sylvester Day (1850-1934). Day

was director of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company's Newark district agency, and the diary records business, family, and personal affairs between 1895 and 1932. The surveyor's field books of Garretson Hageman (1846-1915) trace his activities in the Middlebush and Millstone areas of Somerset County from 1875 to 1912. Procured through the Chapman Fund, the eighteen volumes complement other Hageman material in the Library, including his extensive diary of approximately the same period.

Acquisitions of miscellaneous interest are a volume of Delaware and Raritan Canal accounts kept for James Neilson, 1834-1840, Chapman Fund; a journal of furnace operations and local events for Weymouth Furnace in Atlantic County, 1843-1844, gift of the Historical Society of Princeton through Joseph J. Felcone, librarian; and some thirty-five letters received by United States Representative from New Jersey George Sykes, 1839-1849, gift of William Coles, Jr., of Medford Lakes, the source of previous donations of Sykes papers. Finally, the Library acquired (Chapman Fund) six printed petitions to the New York Legislature involving the steamboat controversy which led to the Gibbons vs. Ogden landmark Supreme Court decision in 1824. These items augment other material on the controversy, including papers of both Thomas Gibbons and Aaron Ogden and some rare, possibly unique, imprints.