

GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

BY CLARK L. BECK, JR.

Assistant Curator of Special Collections

Books

Professor Richard Schlatter has presented some three dozen titles, primarily English imprints of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Among the more prominent are Joseph Hall, *Meditations and Vowes, Divine and Morall* (London, 1614); William Camden, *Historie of the Most Renowned and Victorious Princesse Elizabeth, Late Queen of England* (London, 1630); Matthew Griffith, *Bethel; or, a Forme for Families* (London, 1633); John Pearson, *An Exposition of the Creed* (London, 1662); Theophilus Gale, *The Court of the Gentiles. Part I* (Oxford, 1672); and Roger L'Estrange, *Twenty Two Select Colloquies out of Erasmus Roterodamus* (London, 1699).

Other recent acquisitions of European interest are Virgil, *Opera Vergiliana docte & familiariter exposita* (Lyons, 1517); *Vergilio Volgare qual narra le aspre Battaglie & li fatti di Enea nuouamente Historiato* (Venice, 1528), Brower Fund; Guy Joly, *Remarques pour servir de Réponse à deux Ecrits Imprimez à Bruxelles contre les Droits de la Reine* (Paris, 1667); *Lessings Denkmal. Eine vaterländische Geschichte; dem deutschen Publikum zur Urkunde vorgelegt, von Grossmann* (Hanover, 1791); Jean Nicolas Gannal, *History of Embalming . . . Including an Account of a New Process for Embalming* (Philadelphia, 1840), gift of J. F. Smithcors of Santa Barbara, California; and Jean Cocteau, *Le Coq et l'Arlequin* (Paris, 1918).

Among the American titles received is Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia* (Philadelphia, 1801), gift of Richard Schlatter. Designated on the title page as the "first hot-pressed edition," it is one of five versions published in conjunction with Jefferson's first inauguration as President. Dr. Schlatter's gift brings to four the number of these inaugural editions held by the Library. Other works of American or New Jersey significance include Ezra Pound (ed.), *Des Imagistes. An Anthology* (New York, 1914), Alexander Fund; Frank Brinkley, *Oriental Series* (Boston, 1901-1910), 24 volumes, gift of Professor Ardath W. Burks of Bridgewater; fifteen yearbooks of the Essex County Bar Association, gift of the Association (the Library formerly had only two); *Biographical Cyclopaedia of Ocean County, New Jersey* (Phila-

delphia, 1899), gift of Winifred Berry Romefelt of Pine Beach; and Ambrose E. Vanderpoel, *History of Chatham, New Jersey* (New York, 1921), Chapman Fund, and one of six copies known to exist.

Manuscripts

The Library has acquired the papers of former U.S. Representative Edward J. Patten (Democrat, New Jersey), who served 1963-1981. Presented by Mr. Patten, the 37 cartons of material cover his legislative career from 1969 until retirement. Included are committee and subject correspondence, press releases, clippings and photographs. The papers cannot be used for research without the expressed permission of the former congressman. Mr. Patten's gift follows closely that of former U. S. Senator Clifford Case, who donated his papers to the Library in 1979.

Another 28 boxes of papers have been added to the records of the Consumers' League of New Jersey. Among them are compensation files, 1940-1973; files on consumer credit, 1962-1970, weights and measures legislation, 1961-1979, medical assistance and health services, 1960-1972; and various publications on the Consumer Education Foundation, 1971-1978.

Records of the Botany Worsted Mills of Passaic are the gift of Joseph Daroff. The five volumes of records, 1889-1945, consist of minutes of stockholders' and directors' meetings. A German-backed enterprise founded to circumvent U. S. protectionism against foreign woolsens, Botany Worsted Mills became the largest employer in Passaic within a few years of its establishment in 1889. Botany thrived from its inception, partly due to sound management and innovative approaches to technology. During World War I, the German-controlled operation was confiscated by the government's Alien Property Custodian, and the walkout of some 5000 company workers precipitated the violent Passaic Textile Strike in 1926. Clearly, the records should provide a wealth of information for scholars of industrial and labor history.

Two significant items of Revolutionary War interest have been added recently. Both were written from New Brunswick a few days after the Battle of Monmouth (June 28, 1778), and both provide detailed and graphic accounts of this controversial engagement. In a four-page letter (Chapman Fund) to his brother, Robert R. Livingston, Colonel Henry Beekman Livingston recounts the exploits of his battalion, which played a crucial role in the action and which sustained heavy

losses, and remarks candidly on the behavior of General Charles Lee. A second letter (Frelinghuysen Fund), three pages long, was sent by Captain William Watson to the Reverend Joseph Lyman of Hatfield, Massachusetts. Watson, who by coincidence served in Livingston's unit, reports minute details of the campaign including counts of dead and wounded on both sides. The letters bring to three the number of eyewitness accounts of the fighting housed in the Library, the third being a report by John Taylor to Colonel John Neilson the morning after the battle.

Some important Peter D. Vroom material has been acquired (Chapman Fund), complementing a large body already in the Library. The addition includes correspondence as U.S. Minister to Prussia, February-July 1857; a scrapbook kept during his tenure as Minister, 1856-1857; and a volume of early legal notes, May 1810. Vroom's diplomatic correspondence is particularly rich and full, being highlighted by a lengthy draft letter to outgoing President Franklin Pierce which begins, "Now that you are exempted from the cares of office, I feel as if I may address you without trespassing too much on your time." The writer then proceeds with a detailed analysis of U.S.-Prussian relations.

Twenty-six full and personal letters (many with impressive literary content) from British poet and novelist Siegfried Sassoon to Richard Seymour date between 1952 and 1966. The lot also contains manuscripts of four of Sassoon's poems. Acquired through the Friends of the Rutgers University Libraries Fund, the letters enhance a growing body of Sassoon correspondence which is highlighted by several letters from Edmund Gosse on the contemporary literary scene.

Among miscellaneous acquisitions is the daily journal of New Brunswick's Phoenix Steam Fire Engine Company No. 3, May 10, 1871—February 9, 1910, the gift of Wilma Van Doren of Edison, a descendant of the company's assistant chief. Additionally, Eleanor von Erffa of Piscataway has given a draft letter by American artist Benjamin West (1738-1820) discussing the unfinished work by artist Charles Forrest on the West window of the Collegiate Church of St. George in Windsor Castle. Mrs. von Erffa donated the letter in memory of her late husband, art historian Helmut von Erffa.

FROM THE EDITOR

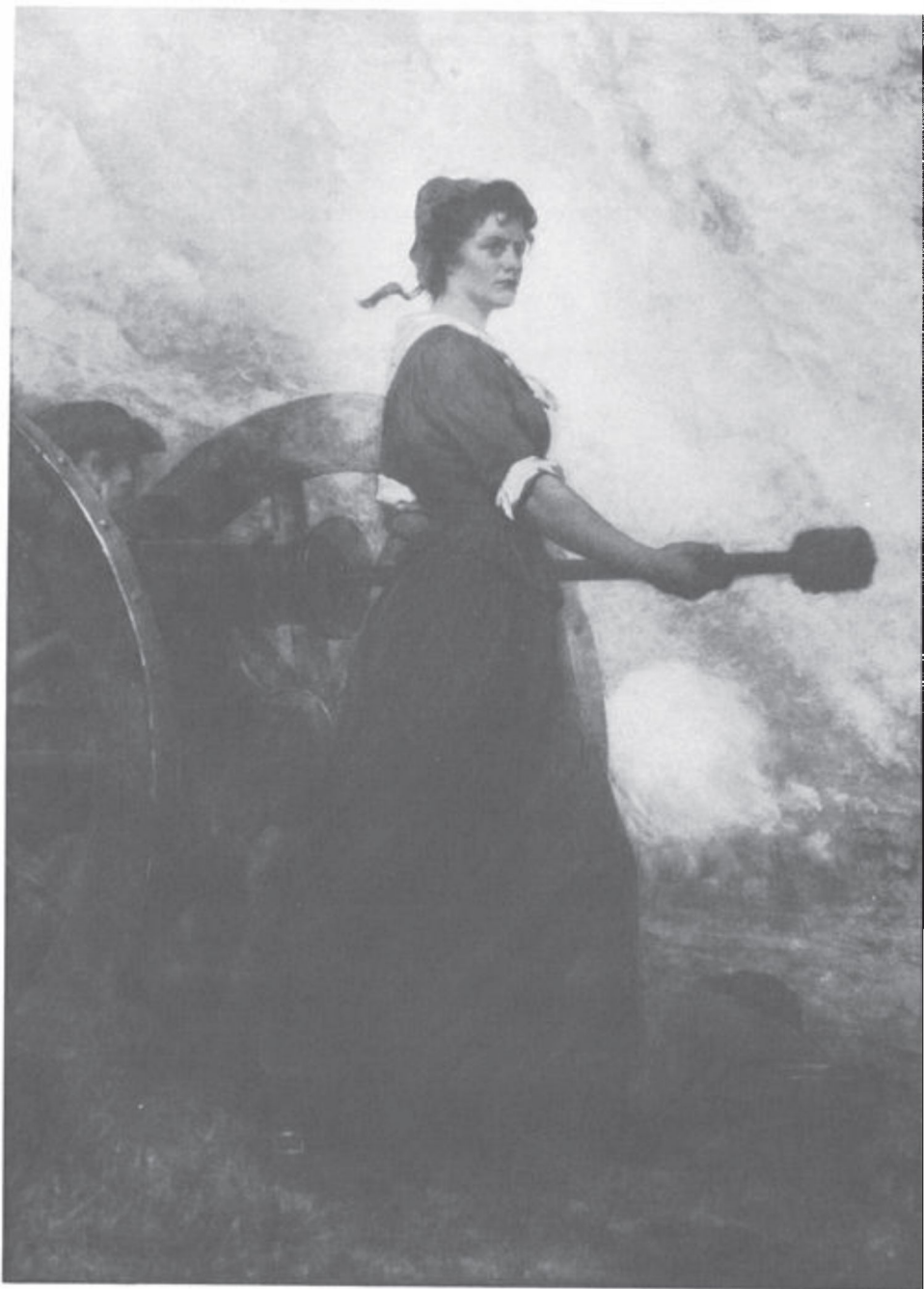
In the fall of 1781, combined French and American troops aided by a French blockade forced the capitulation of the British General Corn-

wallis at Yorktown, Virginia, effectively ending the American Revolution. A drawn-out conflict, fought mainly on land and frequently in populated areas, the Revolution brought the random violence of war close to the home life of thousands of American civilians. This was particularly the case in New Jersey, lying flat and defenseless between New York City and Philadelphia, the premier ports of British North America. Two hundred years after Yorktown, when the republic which grew from Washington's victory is considering drafting women for military service, historians are turning with renewed interest to sources on American women's wartime experiences. The Special Collections of Rutgers University Library, with its extensive files of civilian Revolutionary accounts, offers some unique and fascinating glimpses into New Jersey's Revolutionary women.

While perhaps no other American woman can rival the personal heroism of Margaret ("Molly") Corbin (1751-1800), a Pennsylvanian who was permanently disabled from wounds sustained while manning her fallen husband's cannon at the Battle of Fort Mifflin in 1776, New Jersey's Mary Ludwig is probably more famous. Born in Trenton in 1754, Ludwig gained renown as "Molly Pitcher" at the Battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778, to which she accompanied her husband, artilleryman John Hays of the Seventh Pennsylvania Regiment. Washington's forces confronted the British under Clinton as they retreated from Philadelphia during a fiercely hot June. During the battle, she carried water back and forth from a well to the exhausted and wounded, thus earning her nickname; when her husband was overcome by the heat, she manned his cannon for the rest of the battle. While described by her contemporaries as a "short, thick set woman of rather coarse appearance,"¹ Ludwig presents a predictably magnificent figure in all of the many totally imaginary portraits of her to be found in Special Collections at Alexander (see opposite page). In real life, Ludwig supported herself after the war and an unhappy second marriage to George McCauley, by scrubbing and caring for children. She died in 1832.

Records of more obscure Revolutionary women also abound in Special Collections. The British, whom Washington had not succeeded in totally defeating at Monmouth, withdrew after that battle to their base in New York, from which they continued to launch attacks spo-

¹ *Dictionary of American Biography*, s.v. "McCauley, Mary Ludwig Hays," by Virginia Ronsaville.



"Molly Pitcher" by Charles Yardley Turner, 1917.

radically until the end of the war. During one such sortie, on June 7, 1780, Hannah Caldwell, wife of Rev. James Caldwell of Connecticut Farms in the vicinity of Elizabethtown, was tending her children inside their home. For unknown reasons she was shot and killed by a single musket shot fired through the window by a British sniper, an act for which her husband in vain sought legal retribution, or even acknowledgment, from the British.²

More cheerful for patriots and feminists alike is the "Anecdote of a Jersey Girl" found in Special Collections' copy of the Huntsville (Ala.) *Democrat* of February 6, 1851:

In the year 1777, a young woman passing a deserted house in Woodville, N.J., saw through the window an intoxicated Hessian soldier, who had strayed from his party. There being no man within a mile of the town, she went home, put on men's clothes, and, armed with an old firelock, returned to the house and took the Hessian prisoner. She stripped him of his arms, and was marching him to the American camp when she fell in with the patrol of a Jersey regiment stationed at Woodbridge, to whom she delivered her prisoner. Here was a true heroine, "a maid of honor," in the American sense of the word.—She saw, planned, and effected the capture of the whiskered Hessian in ten minutes, though his brawny arms had sufficient muscle to tear her limb from limb.

² *Union County Historical Society Proceedings* 2(1923/4):10-15.