

# NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

## GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

BY CLARK BECK, JR.

### BOOKS

Among recent acquisitions of Continental European imprints are two titles by Giovanni Giorgio Trissino, *La Sophonisba* and *Rime* (both Venice, 1529), Sutphen Fund; [Nicholas Baudot de Juilly], *Germaine de Foix, Reine d'Espagne* (Amsterdam, 1700?), gift of Sarah Cook; and Andrés de Parra, *Relación Breve de los Grandes y Rigurosos Martirios* (Madrid, 1624), Wilhelm Fund. The latter item, in news sheet format, describes the execution of 118 Christians in Japan in 1622. Anxious to rid Japan of Western influence, the Tokugawa Shogun began the systematic repression of Christians in 1613, and by 1638 had banned all Japanese nationals from travelling abroad. This ban was not lifted until the Meiji Restoration in 1868, which explains why the first Japanese students came to Rutgers under assumed names.

Richard Schlatter has presented a number of works by Puritan theologian Richard Baxter. Prominent are *Aphorismes of Justification* (1655), *The Unreasonableness of Infidelity* (1655), *Directions for Weak Distempered Christians* (1669), and *The Poor Man's Family Book* (1674), all London imprints. Professor Schlatter's gift brings the number of contemporary Baxter titles held by the Library to twenty-seven.

Other English material received includes Richard Cumberland, *A Treatise of the Laws of Nature* (London, 1727), gift of Richard Schlatter; Wilfred Latnam, *The States of the River Plate* (London, 1866), Mailer Fund; Ben-

jamin Jowett's two-volume *Thucydides* (Oxford, 1881), gift of the heirs of Mason W. Gross, inscribed and signed by Robert Browning; Edmund Spenser, *The Shepheard's Calendar* (London, 1898), Taylor Fund, with a lengthy signed presentation inscription in verse by Algernon Charles Swinburne; William Butler Yeats, *The Celtic Twilight* (London, 1902), Keese Fund; Gordon Hannington Luce, *Poems* (London, 1923), Mailer Fund; Nancy Cunard, *Parallax* (London, 1925), Williamson Fund; and Stephen Spender and John Lehman (eds.), *Poems for Spain* (London, 1939), Williamson Fund.

Of United States and New Jersey interest are Pedro Lozano, *A True and Particular Relation of the Dreadful Earthquake* (Boston, [1755]), gift of the heirs of Montagu Hankin; three pamphlets by American Loyalist Joseph Galloway, *A Letter to the Right Honourable Lord Viscount H[ow]e* (1779), *Plain Truth: or, a Letter to the Author of Dispassionate Thoughts on the American War* (1780), and *Cool Thoughts on the Consequences of American Independence* (1780), all London and all Alexander Fund; and *To the Electors of the County of Burlington* (Burlington, N.J., 1794), Blauvelt-Demarest Fund. The later piece, advocating the building of a new courthouse in Burlington rather than in Mount Holly, is the only known copy extant.

### MANUSCRIPTS

The Library has been designated as the official repository for the papers of

former Senator Harrison Williams. Before a formal collection description can be made public, the massive numbers of files must be arranged and processed. The Williams material, by far the largest manuscript group held by the Library, augments substantially its collections of twentieth century New Jersey politicians' papers, including those of Representatives James Florio and Edward Paten and the late Senator Clifford Case.

James Florio, representative from the first district of New Jersey, has donated his congressional papers. The thirty-four cartons contain his subject, legislative, special project and case files, 1974-1978. Permission to examine the case files must be secured from the Library's Department of Special Collections and Archives staff, but the remainder of the collection is unrestricted.

Ferdinand W. Roebling III of Trenton has presented the papers of his father, Ferdinand W. Roebling, Jr. (1878-1936). The eight cartons and nineteen volumes consist of letters received from John A. Roebling, Washington A. Roebling, Emily W. Roebling, etc., 1863-1866, 1869-1880, 1887-1888; correspondence and other papers of John A. Roebling, 1824-1850; Roebling Company business papers, including ledger, 1873-1893, annual statements, 1873-1899, test data for suspension bridge wire (largely for the East River [Brooklyn] Bridge) correspondence, bonds, patents, etc., 1866-1931; historical and genealogical material on the Roebling family, including correspondence of biographer Hamilton Schuyler, 1905-1907, 1930-1958; and photographs. Additions to the Roebling Papers have been made steadily over the past twenty years. Research interest, always significant, has increased dramatically with the approaching (1983) cen-

tennial of the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge.

A recent gift from Judge Arthur S. Meredith of Somerville has expanded the Library's Hall-Mills murder case holdings to probably the largest single collection on the subject anywhere. Much of the latest material was used for courtroom exhibits in the 1926 trial of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall and alleged accomplices, her brothers Henry and Willie Stevens. Included are the clothes worn by the victims; letters and post cards exchanged by Reverend Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills; Hall's diary; the calendar-diary of Jane Gibson, the theatrical "pig woman" and star prosecution witness; a grotesque demonstration mannequin; and photocopies of depositions and other official documents. Regrettably, an envelope marked "Exhibit 1," the famous love letters found strewn about the bodies, is empty. These were already long gone when Judge Meredith took possession of the items in 1962.

Additional papers of physician, chemist and Rutgers professor Lewis Caleb Beck (1798-1853) have been acquired (Famulener Fund). The two volumes and five fascicles contain addresses on temperance; an address on the importance of natural science delivered before the Philosophical Society of Rutgers College, July 4, 1834; lecture notes on mineralogy and other scientific subjects, April 1852; and miscellaneous lecture notes on chemistry, electricity and other scientific topics. Previous acquisitions of Beck material, including his autobiographical narrative for the years 1819 to 1850, total seven boxes.

Records of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Bergen and Monmouth Counties are the gift of Janet Minschwaner. Received were executive

committee, annual convention and spring institute minutes of the Bergen County WCTU, 1896-1909, 1924-1940, and of the Monmouth County WCTU, 1893-1930; minutes of the monthly meetings of the Hackensack WCTU, 1892-1908, 1943-1948; and treasurers' records of the Monmouth County organization, 1893-1911. Records of the Middlesex County WCTU were presented to the Library in 1969.

An unfinished and apparently unpublished holograph manuscript by Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967) is a major addition (Friends of the Library of Rutgers University Fund) to an already substantial collection on the English pacifist author. Titled "A Beginning," the manuscript is a non-autobiographical fictional account of an English upper-class family named Caplet. Three pages of additional notes in Sassoon's hand are laid in.

The Library has acquired (Baldwin Fund) a contemporary manuscript of the 1664/1665 "Concessions and Agreements," one of the most significant documents in New Jersey history. Officially titled "The Concessions and Agreements of ye Lords Proprietors of ye province of New Ceseria or New Jersey to and with all and every the Adventurers and

all such as Settle or plant there," this manuscript once belonged to the notorious colonial governor Sir Edmund Andros. It consists of eight pages on paper identified by watermark as dating prior to 1676. The original "Concessions and Agreements" was destroyed by fire in 1686 and of three contemporary copies extant, the Rutgers example is probably the most important historically.

Other items of New Jersey interest have been received. Thirty-two volumes of funeral and burial records of the Charles R. Hoffman Funeral Parlor in Hoboken, 1894 to 1961, are the gift of Elizabeth Biggio, whose grandfather established the firm. The Hardwick Township Historical Society, on behalf of the township committee, has donated six volumes of that Warren County community's original records, 1774-1948. Elmer D. Opie has presented the 1887 diary of his grandfather, James Vredenberg Opie (1860-1945), a Hillsborough Township (Somerset County) farmer whose accounts came to the Library previously. Finally, a volume of records (1887-1889) of the Shongum Lake Club in Dover were acquired through the Frelinghuysen Fund.