

# MANUSCRIPTS ACQUISITIONS

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In the summer of 1776 a Philadelphian named John Douglass, responding to the patriotic fervor of the day, raised a militia company in the city where he lived. As captain of the unit, he kept an orderly book which has recently been acquired by the Libraries (William Allen Chapman and Red Morrison Funds). Orders recorded in the volume date from August 3rd to August 29th, 1776, and from October 22nd to October 31st of the same year. In early August, Douglass' unit, together with other militia companies from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, was encamped at Perth Amboy. Entries in the orderly book announce assignments of field officers and other appointments, provide instructions for daily drills and give directions for submitting returns enumerating the troops. Other orders from early August recorded in the volume suggest that the militia troops gathered at Perth Amboy were not well disciplined. These orders establish procedures to ensure distribution of provisions in an orderly manner, announce limitations on travel, detail sentences given to individuals found guilty of unacceptable conduct, direct officers to avoid issuing orders which contravene the general orders and exhort the officers and men to be attentive in executing their duties. By late August some of the troops, including Douglass' unit, had apparently removed to Long Island. The later entries, from October, are very short, recording little more than the daily countersign and assignments of field officers. A brief retrospective narrative of two pages elsewhere in the volume (also used as an account book, 1776-1779) details the activities of Douglass' unit in central New Jersey during May and June of 1777.

A notable addition to the Libraries' collection of Roebling family papers and business records consists of over 60 letters received by Ferdinand G. Roebling, at Trenton, from his brother Washington A. Roebling and his father John A. Roebling. The letters were written by the two men between June 1865 and May 1867 while they were at work supervising completion of a suspension bridge across the Ohio River between Cincinnati and Covington, Kentucky. Begun originally in 1856, work on the bridge had been halted in 1858 and did not resume until 1863. In mid-1865 Washington Roebling, recently released from the Union Army, became an assistant to his father, the bridge's chief engineer. Earlier that

year, upon first seeing the unfinished bridge, the younger Roebling had been amazed at its scale: "The size and magnitude of this work far surpasses any expectations I had formed of it. It is the biggest thing in this country; the towers are so high that a person[']s neck aches looking up at them." In his letters to his brother, Washington Roebling reports on the progress of the bridge, his continuing efforts to solicit business for the family's wire rope factory in Trenton, various family matters and his personal finances and living conditions. Perhaps because Ferdinand Roebling did not actually supervise the wire rope factory, but only kept its accounts, the letters which he received from his father contain fewer details about the bridge; instead, they provide insights into the wire rope business, including information about competitors, markets, pricing considerations and profits.

Primary source material further documenting the career of Joyce Kilmer has been added (William Allen Chapman Fund). An essayist, journalist and lecturer, as well as a poet, Kilmer was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1886. He attended Rutgers Preparatory School, 1894-1904, and Rutgers College, 1904-1906, before transferring to Columbia University, from which he was graduated in 1908. Newly acquired by the Libraries are papers of bookseller Laurence J. Gomme (1882-1974) which pertain to Kilmer. Gomme was the publisher of Kilmer's third book, *The Circus and Other Essays* (1916), which followed two books of poems. Much of the material acquired, which includes eight letters by Kilmer, 1915-1917, and copies of seven letters from Gomme to the poet, 1916-1917, pertains to the 1916 volume of collected essays which Gomme published. In writing to Gomme regarding the book, Kilmer notes that "the essays are not dignified; they are modern and urban in theme, and rather impudent in spirit." He therefore suggests a vivid dust jacket, "a bizarre sort of a thing, very circusy" such as "a sort of pattern of clowns, in solid black," which was the design adopted. Also present is the May 1916 printing estimate for the book of essays and two typewritten drafts of publicity for the volume. Gomme's correspondence with other Kilmer family members relates primarily to the ordering of books. Included are a letter from Kilmer's mother (Annie Kilburn Kilmer) in 1916 and three letters from Kilmer's widow (Aline Kilmer) in 1928, together with the draft of a letter sent by Gomme to Kilmer's widow in 1918 after the poet had been killed in action during World War I.

Holdings of source materials documenting the activities and careers of twentieth-century New Jersey politicians have been augmented by a donation of over 90 cubic feet of papers, 1975-1989, received from the Hon-

orable James J. Florio. Together with an earlier gift, these papers document Florio's service in the U.S. House of Representatives. From 1975 to 1989 Florio, a Democrat, represented New Jersey's First Congressional District which comprises all of Gloucester County, most of Camden County and a small portion of western Burlington County. Elected governor of New Jersey in 1989, Florio is best known nationally as the principal author of the original "Superfund" legislation, designed to clean up toxic waste sites, which he championed while serving on the House Energy and Commerce Committee as chairman of its Subcommittee on Commerce, Transportation and Tourism. Included in Florio's papers received this year are extensive subject files covering state and national issues, 1978-1989; his Congressional voting record, 1975-1982, 1985 and 1989; legislative profiles, 1977-1982 (summarizing measures sponsored or cosponsored and giving legislative histories); speeches, 1976-1987; press releases, 1975-1979; newsletters and constituent mailings, 1979-1980; letters sent, 1979-1985; constituent correspondence, 1978-1985; political files, 1981-1987; photographs, 1975-1989; and video recordings, 1982-1988.

The Libraries have been chosen as a repository for copies of selected records of New Jersey's Pinelands Commission. This fifteen-member body was established in 1979 following creation the previous year of the Pinelands National Reserve in the southern New Jersey counties of Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May. Charged with preserving and protecting the region's distinct and fragile ecology, the Commission developed and maintains a Comprehensive Management Plan, adopted in 1980, which was subsequently approved by the New Jersey Governor and the United States Secretary of the Interior. In addition to certifying compliance with the Comprehensive Management Plan by local governments, the Commission monitors development in the state-designated Pinelands Area, which is slightly smaller than the 56 municipalities represented in the National Reserve. Included in the records received from the Commission are minutes of monthly meetings, March 1979 to date, and photocopies of news articles about the Pinelands, November 1988 to date. Also received under this agreement, but sometimes cataloged individually within the Libraries, are copies of consultant's studies, together with the Pineland Commission's newsletter, annual reports and other publications, including brochures and curriculum guides.

Diaries kept by four New Jersey residents have been added. These personal accounts collectively reflect life in the Garden State during a period

of over one hundred years. The earliest diary received, a gift of the New Jersey State Archives, is that of Maria Elmendorf Vroom (1825-1904), daughter of New Jersey governor Peter D. Vroom. A Trenton resident, Vroom wrote in her diary on several occasions between 1844 and 1885, but the volume is primarily a journal from the mid-1840s recording vacations in Long Branch and visits to relatives in Somerville. Kept from May 1872 to March 1874, the diary of Robert H. Belden (Lemuel W. Famulener Fund) describes in detail his move to and renovation of an estate located near New Brunswick in Franklin Township, Somerset County. Another diary acquired (Montagu Hankin Fund) is that of Edwin Manners (1855-1913), a lawyer of Jersey City who was graduated from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) in 1877. The diary, in two separate volumes covering 1895 and 1907, pertains to personal affairs, not professional activities, and includes poetry by Manners, as well as philosophical musings and brief attempts at literary expression. A much later diary, donated anonymously, is that of Trenton resident Sarah Coryell Shaw (1870-1955). In volumes for 1940, 1943-1945 and 1949-1950, Shaw, who had never married, recorded in brief, regular entries her daily life: household tasks performed, errands run, letters received and written, temperance meetings and church functions attended and frequent social calls made and received.

Three cubic feet of academic papers of Elizabeth French Boyd, a professor at Douglass College, have been donated to the Libraries. A 1928 graduate of Wells College in Aurora, New York, Boyd studied English literature at Columbia University, receiving an M.A. in 1933 and the Ph.D. in 1944. At Douglass College, Boyd taught literature from 1936 to 1939 and again from 1944 until her retirement in 1971, including four years, 1964-1968, as chairman of the English Department. Her papers include notes and essays kept while a student at Wells and Columbia, as well as course materials (syllabi, exams, class assignments and lecture notes) relating to her teaching at Douglass. Boyd's speeches, 1940-1980, concern literary topics and her life experiences. Accompanying the speeches are twelve lectures on the modern novel which Boyd delivered as broadcasts on public radio and television during 1957. The remaining papers consist of Boyd's writings, 1920s-1970s, which relate chiefly to literary topics, but also include several manuscripts of short fiction and an essay describing a two-year stay in Egypt during the 1920s. Of foremost interest among the materials relating to Boyd's writings are correspondence and research notes about Virginia Woolf and her circle which Boyd gathered while preparing her 1976 book *The Bloomsbury Heritage*.

Records of the New Jersey Folk Festival from 1975 to 1983 have been acquired through Dr. Angus K. Gillespie. Begun in 1975 as an event devoted to the revival of folk songs, the festival expanded in subsequent years to include persons whose folk music or folk craft was not a revival effort, but rather an outgrowth of traditions in the culture in which they were raised. Past festivals have emphasized the Pine Barrens, New Jersey agriculture and the many ethnic groups represented in the state. Held each April on the grounds of Douglass College, the festival is produced largely through the efforts of students in Rutgers University's American Studies Department, who receive academic credit for their efforts. Records of the New Jersey Folk Festival consist of general files, grouped by festival year, which include correspondence (arranging for speakers, craft demonstrators, performers and ethnic food vendors, as well as soliciting assistance and program funds), budgets, printed programs, photographs and reports of the student coordinators.