

For many years loose book covers with early library bookplates have been saved. These have provided copies of the library's first bookplate, engraved by Elisha Gallaudet in 1758 and more of the second and third bookplate, engraved by Peter Maverick in 1789 and 1797. In soaking off the plates from the old book covers we found many personal bookplates under the library bookplates, indicating the original ownership of the volumes. These private bookplates have been preserved also. The names on them include many of New York's old families: Samuel P. Broome, Arnold Duncombe, Daniel Horsmanden, William S. Johnson, Brockholst Livingston, William Smith Livingston, Joseph Youle.

Those who are interested in the library's early history should read the chapter entitled "News and Reviews" in Frank Monaghan's "This Was New York," a fascinating story of every phase of life in this city in 1789. When it was published last summer Dr. Monaghan presented a copy to the library with the following flattering inscription on the fly leaf: "For the New York Society Library and to its staff . . . this modest but earnest little book . . . the best of which their cooperation and resources made possible."

Our outstanding gift of the year is an Edgar Allen Poe letter presented by Mr. Christian A. Zabriskie. The letter is now on exhibit with several contemporary periodicals containing early appearances of Poe's literary work. Other notable gifts were the original manuscript of Scott's "Dome of Devorgoil," also presented by Mr. Zabriskie; six scrapbooks from Mrs. William Greenough containing clippings concerning her father, Mr. Whitney Warren, the architect; from Mrs. Charles H. Langmuir, a deed signed by DeWitt Clinton, then mayor of New York, for a plot of land formerly purchased by the city from Miller and Baker "for the use of Canal street" and resold by the city to the same firm; and a copy of "The Unfortified Boundary," a diary of the first survey of the Canadian boundary line from St. Regis to the Lake of the Woods by Major Joseph Delafield, presented by his grandson, Colonel Edward C. Delafield.

The library has continued to help the war effort by maintaining a collection center for books to be sent to the armed forces. A large reserve collection of books for nearby government hospitals was also stored here by the Red Cross. These books have now been distributed to those hospitals. The Librarian, Miss Crowell, has been serving one day a week in an advisory capacity to Hospital Librarians working as Red Cross Gray Ladies in local and nearby Government Hospitals.

We wish to commend the members of the Library staff for their faithful service during this busy year.

For the Trustees,

LEWIS SPENCER MORRIS,

*Chairman.*