

We have been able to complete our set of Odell's *Annals of the New York Stage* this year, and are now subscribing to the Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's *Correspondence*, the first ten volumes of which were a gift from Mr. Maitland Griggs. One of our members, Mr. Edward P. Chrystie, who made the beautiful drawing of the old University Place reading room which now hangs behind the loan desk, has given us a photostat from the Hall of Records of a plan of the lots belonging to the Library and its neighbors in Nassau street in 1804. We are glad of this addition to our material on all of the Library's former buildings.

Our old ledgers of books borrowed from 1789 to 1907 have settled a question from one of our readers. She came in search of a certain Mrs. Colden, "of much charm but with great education and masculine ability" who lived in New York around 1790. Might not those qualities indicate a membership in this institution of learning? We were able to show that Mrs. Henrietta Maria Colden had bought a share in 1795 and made excellent use of it, as evidenced by the large and scholarly array of books that she borrowed. Our unique collection of records has enabled us to supply interesting information along many lines. We answered an inquiry from a man who believed his great grandfather was Assistant Librarian here in 1840. We found his salary receipts as convincing evidence. He received thirty three dollars a month with an additional six dollars for making fires, dusting and sweeping the Library!

We plan an exhibition in the autumn of some of the more interesting items from these old records, as well as letters from the famous who have used the library through the years. We hope that any of our members having ancestors on the Library Board will be moved to help us fill out the collection of letters of our Library Trustees.

We made a bibliography on historic literary hoaxes in justification of *The Autobiography of Ephraim Tutt*. It was another literary hoax which was responsible for the Library's entrance into the Atlantic Monthly last December in an article by Miss Emily Wedge of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, describing her experiences and ours, with one of Mr. Stephen Vincent Benet's little jokers.

In our recataloging we have found in the open stacks *Biographia Britannica*, 1760, and a thirteen volume set of the *History and Proceedings of the House of Commons*, 1742-43, bearing our first bookplate which indicates that they are pre-Revolutionary possessions. Since few of these books were left after the British occupation of New

York we keep them (even though not otherwise of great value) in the Rare Book Collection and have thus far accumulated about two dozen volumes. A few requests have been made for samples of our various bookplates which we are always happy to exchange for additions to our own bookplate collection.

Our enviable collection of early travel books has been used recently for contemporary geological reports of the Gold Rush of '49 and accounts of American travellers in Central Europe. The member working on the latter project was particularly pleased to discover here David F. Door's pseudonymous *A Colored Man round the World*, by a *Quadroon*, Cleveland 1858. Our newspaper files have been searched for Columbia University commencement programs 1790-1810, contemporary accounts of Arnold's Quebec campaign in the Revolution, propaganda on Utopian communities published by the nineteenth century philosopher and reformer, Josiah Warren, and obituaries of Robert Livingston Patterson, the founder of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company for the centennial booklet published by that company. A checklist of our editions of Dumas père has been sent to a bibliographer in England and the preliminary edition of the catalogue of Rhode Island broadsides and pamphlets has been checked for the Imprints Survey, which is sponsored by the Bibliographical Society of America.

A college professor working on Herman Melville has had photostated the pages of our ledgers showing the books loaned to Melville. In 1850 he was appropriately enough reading Scoresby's *Journal of a Voyage to the Northern Whale Fishery* and *Account of the Arctic Regions*, but in his later years he (or more likely another member of his family) was reading novels exclusively at the rate of four or five a week.

Our manuscript collection yielded four Jefferson letters for the definitive edition of Jefferson's papers to be published at Princeton. One of our letters, dated Jan. 16, 1816 and addressed to James Monroe (then Secretary of State) concerns the appointment of Mr. LaMotte as consul at LeHavre and includes a neighborly request for permission to make cuttings from some of Monroe's shrubs for transplanting at Monticello. These letters have all been photostated for inclusion in the Princeton project. We also found in the collection two letters of Bishop Benjamin Moore for a reader doing research on Clement C. Moore's father. A professor who is doing a biography of Thomas Pownall was pleased to find here a broadside commissioning Benjamin