

REPORT OF THE RARE BOOK LIBRARIAN, JULY, 1956-JUNE, 1957

By DAVID A. RANDALL

Unusual opportunities in the market and gifts during the past year accounted for major acquisitions in English literature and history, American literature and Americana, printing, bibliography, medicine, and classical music.

Taken chronologically, our incunabula were strengthened by five additions; the most important, a fine St. Augustine *De civitate dei* (Jenson, Venice, 1475), one of the very earliest examples of his use of Gothic type, and the same work, Venice or Florence, A. Miscomini (1480?), in its first Italian edition. Of later presses, there is a fine copy of the first issue of Ben Franklin's printing of *Cato Major* (Philadelphia, 1744), admittedly the finest production of the Colonial press and a Baskerville Bible (Birmingham, 1763), in its correct state and in a handsome contemporary binding. Useful material in the form of a collection of some 336 Douglas McMurtrie reprints relating to printing and bibliography, and a notable lot of the works of the late British bibliophile, Holbrook Jackson, including letters and manuscripts and his own copy of his celebrated *Anatomy of Bibliomania* (London, 1931), 2 volumes, extensively annotated for a second edition which was never published, was obtained.

Americana are headed by the first newspaper appearance of the *Declaration of Independence*, printed in *The Pennsylvania Evening Post*, July 6, 1776. This was the only important contemporary printing lacking from the Lilly collection, and is particularly valuable, as it is the form in

which "we the people" were first enabled to read it. Very few copies appear on the market, and the present, when recently discovered, was the subject of an article in the *New York Times*. The first map printed in the state of Kentucky was Jared Brooks's *A map of the rapids of the Ohio River, and of the countries on each side thereof, so far as to include the routes contemplated for canal navigation . . .* printed in Frankfort in 1806. Our copy is possibly unique. One other copy has been reported, owned either by the Filson Club of Louisville, Kentucky, or the University of Chicago, but is now possessed by neither. The map was originally accompanied by printed text, which we hope to acquire eventually; meanwhile, we are of necessity contented with a photostat. The Lilly collection contained all contemporary editions of the *Travels* of the famous Belgian-born Franciscan friar, Louis Hennepin, who was chaplain of the exploring expedition of La Salle, except the first translation into Italian by Casimiro Freschot (Bologna, 1686). This has now been acquired.

Some good additions were made to our rapidly growing War of 1812 collection. Perhaps the chief item was a copy, in original condition, stitched as issued, of the *Answer tended to the District Court* (New Orleans, 1815), Andrew Jackson's famous reply to a writ of habeas corpus.

The Ellison collection of Western Americana was strengthened by the purchase of one of two recorded copies of a contemporary account of *A history of the murder of Colonel Davenport* (Galena, Illinois, 1845), Englishman, soldier, trader, and one of the founders of Davenport, Iowa, and by a manuscript draft of Edward Bonney's *The Banditti of the Prairies*, first published in Chicago in 1850. Bonney lived in Montrose, Iowa, just across the river from Nauvoo, the Mormon headquarters, prior to their expulsion and

move to Utah. The manuscript account, differing in respects from the printed version, describes the pursuit and capture of the murderers of Davenport, and gives the names and addresses not only of criminals under arrest but also of suspects. (See article by Doris M. Reed in this issue.) Another book of rarity which was secured was authored by Thomas J. Dimsdale, and printed at Virginia City, M.T., 1866. The title is sufficient description: *The Vigilantes of Montana, or, Popular justice in the Rocky Mountains. Being a correct and impartial narrative of the chase, trial, capture and execution of Henry Plummer's road agent band, together with accounts of the lives and crimes of many of the robbers and desperadoes, the whole being interspersed with sketches of life in the mining camps of the "Far West"; forming the only reliable work on the subject ever offered the public.*

In American literature, there were considerable additions to our holdings before 1850, the most important being H. H. Brackenridge's *Death of General Montgomery* . . . (Philadelphia, 1777), with the first state text and the first state portrait. Only two other copies thus are located by Jacob Blanck in his recent *Bibliography of American Literature*—at Brown University and Harvard. So, typical of many of our books in this field, this is the only copy not in an Eastern university. For the later nineteenth century, the most significant addition was a manuscript of General Lew Wallace's first book, *The Fair God*. It should comfort aspiring authors to know that, though not printed until 1873, it was begun as early as 1856.

An important scholarly lot acquired was one of some seventy-five very early letters of Theodore Dreiser, in the 1890-1900 period, written to the girl whom he later married. These have never been seen by biographers and derive

directly from the family. Negotiations for their purchase originated some years ago, but the owner refused to part with them because of their intimate nature. An appeal to Hoosier feelings, however, and a guarantee of their restricted access to qualified scholars secured them.

By far the most significant acquisition was the complete files, records, and manuscripts of Upton Sinclair. The collection is so vast that it will be some time until it can be sorted and assimilated. The following brief description, given as a press release in June, gives some extent of its magnitude:

The complete files of manuscripts and letters of Upton Sinclair and his wife, Mary Craig Sinclair, have been acquired by the Indiana University Library. The collection comprises a record that in length of time covered, variety, and fullness is unsurpassed by that of any figure of American literature and culture of any period.

When transported recently from California to Bloomington, the collection weighed 8 tons.

Beginning with scrapbooks in 1893, when his first printed efforts appeared in New York magazines—jokes sold at \$1 each—the tons of material acquired document Sinclair's long and varied life and writings to the present.

Sinclair probably is America's most widely translated living writer. His works, as represented by the collection, have appeared in about 1,000 titles in 60 languages in 55 countries.

Although he was successful in America, as evidenced by his selection for a Pulitzer Prize, his greater international reputation is attested to by the fact that his nomination for the Nobel Prize in 1932 originated in Europe and numbered among the foreign backers three former Nobel Prize winners and such people as Albert Einstein, Bertrand Russell, Romain Rolland, and George Bernard Shaw.

Sinclair's wide range of interest and extensive writings led Shaw to comment:

'When people ask me what happened in my long lifetime I do not refer them to newspaper files but to the novels of Upton Sinclair.'

The documentation of Sinclair's various crusading books—*The Jungle*, *The Goose-Step*, *The Brass Check*, *Oil*, *Boston*—has been preserved. Documents related to his famous Lanny Budd series include correspondence with such varied persons as Einstein, Mahatma Gandhi, Carl Jung, and Generals Douglas MacArthur and Leslie Grove.

Material in the family records extends back to Sinclair's great grandfather. Present is Arthur Sinclair's unpublished account of the Battle of Lake Huron, June 7, 1813, where he was in command, and records of his grandfather, who was with Perry in Japan. Other family items include records of uncles who served aboard the "Merrimac" and the "Alabama" in the Civil War and a few notes on his cousin, the Duchess of Windsor.

On his wife's side (nee Kimbrough) the records range from correspondence with the Jefferson Davises, the family intimates and neighbors, to hundreds of unpublished letters and manuscripts that she received from the California poet, George Sterling.

There are also all the records of her pioneering experiments in extrasensory perception with William McDougall and his famed successor, Dr. Joseph B. Rhine.

The letters alone, exclusive of all other material in the Sinclair collection, are estimated at around 250,000.

In addition to the above, Sinclair's library of many thousand volumes was secured, many of which will strengthen the general library's holdings.

In English literature, there were numerous additions to the Augustan and Defoe collections, including the rare first issue of the latter's *Conjugal Lewdness; or, Matri-*

monial Whoredom . . ., with the title page thus. The title apparently aroused comment, as later and commoner issues appear as: *A Treatise Concerning the Use and Abuse of the Marriage Bed* Both were issued in London, 1727, and dull reading they make. Additions were also made to the Wordsworth and Lake Poets holdings, including some letters and several presentation copies, and, most interesting, the original marble bust of William Wordsworth done by F. Chantrey in 1820.

The main acquisition in nineteenth-century English literature was the famed collection, the finest ever assembled, of the works of George Alfred Henty. Formed over many years by Pete Martin, *Saturday Evening Post* editor, there are many of Henty's own copies, mostly of the elusive "three-deckers"; all the English and American editions in their variant issues and pictorial bindings; files of newspapers to which he contributed when a war correspondent in the Crimea, Africa, and elsewhere; boys' magazines he edited; scrapbooks containing interviews with his remaining relatives, etc. Here, in short, is all the material for both a badly needed biography and bibliography of England's most popular writer of juveniles. *With Clive in India* and *With Lee in Virginia* may not be read much nowadays, more's the pity, but they are whacking good stories still, and form a nice counterpart to our extensive holdings of the "American Henty," Harry Castlemon, of *Frank Before Vicksburg*, etc., fame.

The main addition to twentieth-century English literature was the Joseph Conrad collection which is described in a later paragraph. But the collection of William Butler Yeats, formed by his bibliographer, Alan Wade, merits attention. Though by no means complete, it contains such rarities as the elusive pamphlets, *Is the Order of R.R. &*

A.C. to remain a Magical Order? and its *Postscript* (both London?, 1901). A good collection of T. S. Eliot contains, among presentation copies, etc., those rarities, *Poems* (Richmond, 1919), with the label in red; and the leaflet, *Bel Esprit*, sponsored by Ezra Pound and others (n.p., ca. 1922), "in order that T. S. Eliot may leave his work in Lloyd's Bank and devote his whole time to literature, we are raising a fund," etc. These form a solid base for future expansion. The purchase of the major portion of the surviving books of the late Montgomery Evans of New York, most of whose library went down, alas, with the "Athenia," brought us very full lots, mostly with association interest, letters, mss., etc., of some lesser twentieth-century writers—some of whom have already been mentioned. Others are Thomas Burke, Rhys Davies, David Garnett, L. A. G. Strong, and Liam O'Flaherty; and better known, Aldous Huxley, H. M. Tomlinson, and Norman Douglas, as well as the most complete collection on this side of the Atlantic of Evans' friend, that notable eccentric, mystic, mountain climber, and charlatan, Aleister Crowley, whose large output in small editions is not easily come by. And there is also Evans' autobiography, left unfinished by his sudden death, entitled *Around the World with a Thirst; or, Books, Bottles and Blondes*.

A choice lot of "Volume I, Number 1's" of Little and other magazines, formed by a bibliographer in New York, Raymond Roberts, nicely supplements our substantial Little Magazine files, while the bulk of the late Carroll Wilson's collections of "First appearances of familiar quotations" which we, or the Lilly collection, did not possess, fills out about as completely as can be expected this fascinating bypath of collecting. Some day it will form a stunning collection.

Other notable works acquired include the first printing of the Aitken Bible (Philadelphia, 1782). This is the original American Bible printed in English, and is quite rare. It was forbidden, before this time, to print the Bible in English in the colonies, as this was an English prerogative, and all Bibles had to be imported. Its printer, Robert Aitken, was a Scotsman who arrived in Philadelphia in 1769 and became a leading printer of the Revolutionary period. It is a small and unattractive volume, on bad paper with narrow margins, but it forever symbolizes one of the liberties we strove for. We also secured the New Testament of the first Catholic Bible in English (Rheims, 1582), completing our set. We already had the Catholic version of the Old Testament in English which was not printed until 1609. A major acquisition was the manuscript of the only known authentic certified copy of James II's Memoirs, the original of which was burned during the French Revolution. This is now in the process of being edited, and will be published shortly.

Among medical items, the rarest were the offprint from *The British Journal of Experimental Pathology*, containing the announcement by Fleming of his discovery of penicillium (London, 1929), and John Snow's classic *On the inhalation of the Vapour of Ether in Surgical Operations . . .* (London, 1847).

Our holdings in early editions of classical music are not strong, so an opportunity to secure a small choice collection of Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, Schubert, etc., was welcome. Among the seventy-five or so items was some early American music of the War of 1812 period, but the best pieces include firsts of Handel's *Messiah* (London, 1767), Gounod's *Faust* (Paris, 1859), and the full scores of Cesar Franck's *Symphonie* (Paris, 1890), Mozart's *Così*

fan Tutte (Leipzig, 1810), and Wagner's *Parsifal* (Mainz, 1883).

The English, French, and other departments were constantly purchasing works with their departmental funds, which add greatly to our rare-book strength. Their cooperation and advice has been constantly sought and freely given. A great many of the relevant purchases by the Department of English center around the novel up to 1830, minor titles which supplement the major items already in the Lilly collection. Among acquisitions by the Department of French and Italian were some 300 manuscripts, letters, etc., of Alexandre Dumas, fils. Miscellaneous purchases included facsimiles of the Gutenberg Bible (Leipzig, 1914-1923) and *Codex Lindisfarnensis* as well as the long-sought Leonardo *Codice Atlantico* (Milano, 1894-1904).

The most important gift of the year was that of Fred Bates Johnson, I.U. 1902, now residing in Indianapolis, who gave his notable collection of first editions and other material of Joseph Conrad, together with funds for the eventual publication of a revised bibliography. The Johnson collection is considered one of the best in the country and is especially rich in the early magazine and other ephemeral material. This collection has already been strengthened by the purchase of one of the few Conrad manuscripts outside an institution, "Because of the Dollars," which first appeared, with omissions and changes, in his *Within the Tides* (London, 1915), and of several letters signed with his rarely used Polish signature, as well as an unusual group of early letters written to him by shipmates, some of whom figure as characters in his novels.

From Della J. Evans, I.U. 1897, we received a fine copy of the one-volume reprint, by Bein, of Audubon's

Birds of America (New York, 1860), which completes our holdings of all important editions of this famous work.

Five Arabic papyri of the eighth and ninth centuries and four Arabic manuscripts on paper of the ninth and tenth centuries were presented by Dr. Aziz Suryal Atiya, Patten lecturer at Indiana.

Graham A. Barringer, I.U. 1918, gave his collection of the Henry Smith Lane papers. Lane was a friend of and contemporary of Lincoln, and the autograph letters include one of Lincoln and others of Horace Greeley, Lew Wallace, and John Quincy Adams. Other gifts came from Hoagy Carmichael, I.U. 1926, and John Foster Dulles, who have continued depositing manuscripts and other material.

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