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Syracuse University
Library Associates

COURIER

NUMBER 9

MAY, 1961

The Gift of Mrs. Lyman J. Spire

A most extraordinary gift to Syracuse University Library was made recently by Mrs. Lyman J. Spire (Nancy Woodson Spire) in the form of a collection of 419 printed works pertaining to the American Revolution, many with special emphasis on the activities of the Tories and Loyalists during the era of conflict and conciliation, reason and treason, skirmishes, battles, massacres, and other melancholy disturbances.

A graduate of the university, a Trustee of Library Associates since 1958, a member of the Executive Committee since 1959, Mrs. Spire, of nearby Fayetteville, N.Y., also served on the Senate Library Committee which studied recently-constructed buildings at several mid-western universities in connection with the planning of a new library for Syracuse University.

Mrs. Spire, whose academic interest is chiefly centered on the Tories and Loyalists, had the assistance of one of the oldest and most reliable of rare book houses of Boston in the acquisition of these early revolutionary printings, with the pleasant result that only the most desirable and unusually significant items in the best condition possible were selected for inclusion in this collection.

Some of the outstanding works, chosen at random, may be described briefly as follows:

Copies of the original editions of the twelve *Oration*s in commemoration of "The Bloody Tragedy" at Boston, March 5, 1770, delivered by various and sundry patriotic worthies such as John Hancock, Dr. Joseph Warren, Thomas Dawes, Junr., James Lovell, Benjamin Highborn, William Tudor, Dr. Benjamin Church, Jonathan Mason, Jonathan Williams Austin, and others, bearing Boston imprints between 1771 and 1783 of Edes and Gill, Thomas and John Fleet, B. Edes and Sons, Joseph Greenleaf, and John Gill.

The copy of *Essays on Liberty and Necessity*, by Samuel West (Boston: Samuel Hall, 1793), which belonged to Robert Treat Paine, of Boston, American jurist and signer of the Declaration of Independence, with his signature on the title-page. Another of Paine's books bearing his signature is *A Sermon before the Humane*

Society, delivered by Dr. Jedidiah Morse, June 9, 1801, and published by John and Thomas Fleet, of Boston, the same year.

The Letters of Junius (London: John Wheble, 1771), which belonged to William Floyd, of New York, member of the Continental Congress, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, with his signature on the title-page.

A Discourse on Government and Religion, Calculated for the Meridian of the Thirtieth of January, by "an Independent" (Boston: D. Fowle and D. Gookin, 1750), which belonged to Samuel Adams who wrote his signature on the title-page.

The first book dedicated to George Washington: *Military Instructions for Officers Detached in the Field*, by Roger Stevenson (Philadelphia: R. Aitken, 1775), with all the plates present and in excellent condition.

A copy of the extremely rare printing of *An Ordinance of the Convention of the State of New York*, printed at Fish-Kill by Samuel Loudon, 1777, concerning the convention which had been held at Kingston in May of the same year.

The Genuine Principles of the Ancient Saxon, or English Constitution, by Demophilus (Philadelphia: Robert Bell, 1776), which contains (pp. 41-6) the first printing in book or pamphlet form of the Declaration of Independence, with Bell's advertisement at the back dated July 8, 1776.

The first London edition, with the imprint of G. Kearsley, 1774, of *A Summary View of the Rights of British America, Set forth in some Resolutions intended for the Inspection of the present Delegates of the People of Virginia, now in Convention*, by "a Native, and Member of the House of Burgesses", who was none other than a thirty-one-year-old Virginian from the Albemarle region named Thomas Jefferson, who had reduced his proposals to writing since illness had prevented him from attending the convention. In England the first printing of the pamphlet was immediately exhausted, and demands required numerous additional editions; in America the pamphlet placed Jefferson right up in the front rank of the revolutionary leaders, and obtained for him the distinctive honor later of drafting the Declaration of Independence, the historical parts of which are largely a revision of portions of the *Summary View*.

A fine copy of the first edition of *The Speech of Edmund Burke, Esq; on moving his Resolutions for Conciliation with the Colonies*, delivered before Parliament, March 22, 1775, bearing the imprint of J. Dodsley, London, 1775.

A copy of the rare Boston edition, folio size, uncut, of the *Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union between the States*, published by John Gill in 1777, printed from the edition issued earlier the same year at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

A most interesting group is the series bearing the imprint of James Rivington, of New York, bitter opponent of the revolutionary movement, Tory journalist, and "Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty". The seventeen Rivington publications range from

the anonymous, unique, and rare tract entitled *A Dialogue, between A Southern Delegate, and His Spouse, on his return from the Grand Continental Congress, 1774*, to the volume called a *Collection of Papers*, relating to the proceedings of His Majesty's Commissioners, 1778. Though Rivington's editorial policy was "never to admit any Performance, calculated to injure Virtue, Religion or any other public happiness, to wound a Neighbor's Reputation, or to raise a Blush in the face of Virgin Innocence", the Sons of Liberty, in 1775, attacked his plant, wrecked his printing presses, and ruined his business. Undaunted, he obtained other equipment from England and continued his Loyalist publications until he became a bankrupt. Rivington died, a pauper, ironically on Independence Day, 1802.

After a careful inspection of the collection, Mr. Lester G. Wells, Librarian of the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room, declared that "There is no doubt the availability all in one place of this wealth of hitherto uncollected and inaccessible material, very rare and extremely scarce, will be appealing not only to students, researchers, scholars, professors, and writers of this and the immediately surrounding area, but also to those from other universities, libraries, and colleges elsewhere in this country and abroad, who will want to come here to examine and make use of this valuable source material. Everything will be done to introduce the collection to as wide a circle of potential users as possible."

Mr. Wells, presently processing the collection into the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room, added that he plans as soon as possible to hold an exhibition of the most outstanding of the 419 items Mrs. Spire has so graciously presented to the Syracuse University Library.

JOHN WESLEY BROOKS

At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, held November 29, 1960, Mrs. Lawrence L. Witherill presented the following resolution which the Trustees approved by standing silently:

In recognition of his loyalty and leadership as a Founder of Library Associates and as a Trustee from 1953 to 1960;

In recognition of his influence and indefatigable efforts in expanding the membership of Alumni and friends in Library Associates during the four years he served as Chairman of the Board's Committee on Membership;

In recognition of his deep conviction about the vital importance of the Library to academic excellence at Syracuse University; and

In grateful recognition of his initiative, personal sacrifice, and business acumen in promoting plans for a new Memorial Library Building;

The Trustees of Library Associates express their profound sense of loss in the death of John Wesley Brooks on August 26, 1960 and in extending their sincere sympathy to Mrs. Brooks express their belief that on the Board Mr. Brooks will be superseded but can not be replaced.

Trustees were advised that friends had created the John W. Brooks Library Memorial Fund for the purchase of books on insurance, the subject field in which Mr. Brooks exerted national leadership.

From Syracuse University to Newstead Abbey

(Editor's Note: The following is a letter written on Dec. 25, 1960, by Mr. John S. Mayfield, a Trustee of Library Associates, residing at Bethesda, Maryland, to Dr. Cecil Y. Lang, Professor of English, Syracuse University.)

"Dear Dr. Lang:

"At the Sotheby sale on 27 March 1956, I was fortunate to acquire lot 510 which consisted of a group of miscellaneous autograph items pertaining to Algernon Charles Swinburne.

"One of these was a fragment in the form of a sheet folded to make the concluding four pages of a letter by John Nichol of Glasgow. Nichol's addressee was of course not shown, but you, as editor of the superb new collection of Swinburne letters, four volumes of which have now been issued, readily identified this as the portion missing from the hitherto unpublished letter by Nichol to Swinburne, 27 September 1879, in the Roe-Byron Library at Newstead Abbey, described as being incomplete under the listing in paragraph K.10, page 148, of the magnificent catalogue of that collection compiled by the Staff of the Nottingham Public Libraries and published by the Corporation of Nottingham in 1937. How, when, why, and by whom this letter came to be divided will doubtless remain forever a mystery.

"Believing that the originals of the two parts should be brought together, and that the desirable place from my selfish standpoint was in my collection, despite the fact that I held a minority of only one-third of the letter, I accordingly made an offer to accomplish this, but Mr. Duncan Grey, Curator of Newstead Abbey at that time, politely declined my proposal in his letter from Nottingham, 18 January 1957. I was not surprised, and rather expected him to do this.

"I bided my time, thinking other people and things might change while I remained adamant, solid, and firm. More recently, in fact, last July and August (through my friend, Mr. E. R. S. Fifoot, Deputy Librarian, University of Nottingham), I was in touch again, this time with the present Curator of Newstead Abbey, Mr. F. C. Tighe, also the City Librarian of Nottingham, in a second effort to bring the two parts of the letter together, preferably in my collection. But I had not remained adamant, solid, and firm while others changed. I had changed. I had seen the light of day. I now realized that my one-third should go where the majority of the letter was preserved; so in my correspondence with Mr. Fifoot I declared that if it was still impossible for me to acquire the two-thirds in the Roe-Byron Collection, then I should be perfectly willing to relinquish and present my one-third so that the complete letter would be in the Library at Newstead Abbey.

"Mr. Tighe, in his very kind letter of 31 August 1960, informed me that 'there could be no possibility' by which I would come into ownership of the eight pages at Newstead, and that everyone there would very much like to have my portion of the letter.

"My reply to Mr. Tighe on 4 September 1960 was: 'It shall be done.'

"Since you are to be in England within a short time, I should appreciate it ever so very much if you would please act as my intermediary and present with my compliments my portion of this letter, attached here, to the Curator of Newstead Abbey so that the two imperfect parts may become the perfect whole.

"Mr. Tighe will be expecting to hear from you upon your arrival in England.

"Ever sincerely and gratefully yours, John S. Mayfield."

(To be continued in the next issue)

Spare Moments Press

A new enterprise with unusual potentialities has made its initial bow in the Syracuse University area.

Using the facilities of the Frederic W. Goudy Typographic Laboratory at the School of Journalism, David M. Norton, Professor of Graphic Arts, designed, set by hand in Goudy's *Deeptime*, and issued recently an edition of *Printing Should Be Invisible*, an address delivered before the British Typographers' Guild at St. Bride's Institute in London by Beatrice L. Warde.

Mrs. Warde, a native New Yorker transplanted to England, is editorial manager of the Monotype Corporation Ltd., a Governor of the English-Speaking Union and St. Bride Foundation, a well-known authority and lecturer on the art of typography, and author of several works in the same field.

In a printed note accompanying each copy, Prof. Norton declared: "Occasionally we like to break away from the classroom to spend a few spare moments in designing and producing an experimental job, just to keep in practice," and promised that this printing, the first circulated project from the SMP, will serve as a credo for future releases.

This edition, limited to 100 copies, reflects a grace, a refinement, and an aristocratic quality, all in conformity with Mrs. Warde's contention that printing should be invisible; and it is hoped there will be further breakaways and more spare moments in the future for the founder and operator of the Spare Moments Press "to keep in practice" by producing other typographic gems similar to this one.

Syracuse University Press Book Honored

Announcement has been made by the American Institute of Graphic Arts, New York City, that in view of the perseverance of the Syracuse University Press, its Director, and his associates and assistants, in observing and preserving the importance of the function of graphic arts and its relation to the Humanities, and in recognition of the superior craftsmanship employed in the production of the work entitled *William Caxton and His Critics*, by Curt F. Bühler, the book has been awarded one of the coveted places among the

Institute's Fifty Books of the Year, and copies will be included in exhibits to be sent throughout the country this coming season.

In *The American Book Collector* (Chicago, Oct., 1960), John S. Mayfield, later a Trustee of Library Associates and recently appointed Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books at Syracuse University, wrote as follows concerning this publication:

As England's first printing craftsman, William Caxton (1422?-1491?) had a leading rôle in developing, unifying, and refining the English language, and as an editor and translator, he exerted a tremendous influence on the literature of his country through his renditions of foreign classics into the nebulous and unsatisfactory language read and understood by only a portion of the English-speaking people of the world of his day and time.

Caxton recognized the crudeness of his native tongue and was sensitive to the criticism of his contemporaries that "in my translations I had over-curious terms which could not be understood of common people." His vexatious abashment he noted particularly in the Prologue he wrote for his translation from the French of *The Boke of Eneydos*, a version of Virgil's *Aeneid* which he published in 1490; and he requested specifically John Skelton, *poeta laureatus*, and anyone else so minded "to correct, add, or diminish whereas he or they shall find fault," since he had but followed his copy in French as closely as it was possible for him to do so.

In *William Caxton and His Critics*, Dr. Curt F. Bühler, Keeper of Printed Books at The Pierpont Morgan Library, presents a short biographical sketch of Caxton, defends him against his detractors, and reassesses the value of his contributions in the field of his endeavors. This scholarly essay is followed by reduced reproductions of the four pages of Caxton's Prologue as it appeared first in print 471 years ago, along with Dr. Bühler's transcription into present day vernacular.

The illustrations of the original pages of the Prologue were made from the beautiful copy of the extremely rare first edition now in the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room of Syracuse University Library. The book was presented to the University some while ago by Dr. Adrian Van Sinderen, corporation official and author, benefactor of Syracuse University, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Library Associates; it was at one time in the famous collection of Henry Huth, English merchant-banker and bibliophile.

William Caxton and His Critics is the third in the series devoted to famous typographers, published by Syracuse University Press, the other two being: *William Bulmer and the Shakespeare Press* (on the 1957 list of Fifty Books of the Year) and *Aldus Manutius and His Thesaurus Cornucopiae*.

Another Sol Feinstone Donation

Mr. Sol Feinstone, country squire of Buckstone Farm, Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, is a member of the first graduating class of the College of Forestry, Syracuse University, a retired construc-

tion contractor, a close observer and student of national and international affairs, a discriminating bibliophile and collector de luxe, and a Trustee of Library Associates, who on several occasions has been the donor of numerous valuable volumes and manuscripts to the Syracuse University Library.

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Library Associates in November 1960, Mr. Feinstone presented to the Library nineteen books and manuscripts which add greatly to the value and interest of the materials in the Lena R. Arents Rare Book Room where they are appropriately preserved for examination and study by scholars and researchers interested in the fields represented.

Each of the items, the books and the separate folders containing manuscript material, will bear one of Mr. Feinstone's individualistic and attractive bookplates, identifying it as having come from his own private collection.

The eleven books, pamphlets, and leaflets date from 1813 back to 1473 (leaves in Gothic type from the press of Peter Schoeffer of Mainz), and include imprints of Venice, London, New York, Philadelphia, and Albany. One of the unusually interesting items of this group is the very rare copy of the report of the Quaker committee for regulating the calendar, subscribed at the end: "From the Meeting for Sufferings in London, the sixth day of the Seventh Month, 1751." This was printed at Philadelphia, 1751, by Benjamin Franklin and his partner, David Hall, who took care of the heaviest part of the professional work of the firm. It was during this same year 1751 that Franklin was instrumental in establishing an Academy for the Education of Youth, the origin of the University of Pennsylvania, and in the publication of his 80-page *Experiments and Observations on Electricity* which made him famous first in France, and later throughout Europe.

The manuscript material includes such choice pieces as: the original of a survey, with field notes and plat written, drawn, and signed by George Washington, of a tract of 210 acres belonging to Thomas Wiggans in Frederick County, Maryland, along the banks of the "Potomack River", dated April 24, 1750; an autograph note by Thomas Jefferson in the third person; papers for the Brig Troy of New York, signed by Jefferson as President, and James Madison, Secretary of State, July 12, 1806; two letters to Benjamin Franklin signed by Robert Morris, Office of Finance, Oct. 1 and 7, 1782, the second one being for the most part in secret cypher; an endorsement written and signed by John Hancock, Boston, August 24, 1771, authorizing payment of an account owed to Capt. Samuel McCobb of Bermuda; a note signed by George III, Windsor, April 11, 1789; and an autograph letter signed by Lord Cornwallis, Dec. 21, 1795, regarding the transfer of an unnamed soldier.

Later issues of the *Courier* will contain detailed descriptions and additional comments concerning these and the other items for which Syracuse University Library is indebted to the generosity of Mr. Feinstone of Buckstone.

Memorial Funds

Friends and families have established Memorial Funds for the purchase of library books inscribed in honor of

Michael J. Alama
Blanch Merritt Baker

Mrs. David Owen
George Sachs

Additional contributions have been made to the John W. Brooks Library Memorial Fund and to the Lewis W. Crawford Library Memorial Fund.

In Memoriam

With deep regret the Executive Secretary records the loss from our membership of George Arents and Dorothy Thompson Kopf.

New Members

Mr. David Fraser, Chairman of the Membership Committee, announces with sincere pleasure the following new members:

Frank L. Baker	Irving L. Ingalls
Norman Balabanian	Edward K. Ives
Andrew Barta	Wladislaw P. Kulski
Joseph S. Berliner	T. D. MacGregor
Marion A. Buck	Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe C. Martin
Hobert W. Burns	Mr. and Mrs. John S. Mayfield
W. Carroll Coyne	Mrs. Joseph Mescon
Foster B. Crocker	Gaylord J. Monagle
James D. Curtin	Grover C. Morehart
J. Laurence Deene	Frank J. Munger
Mrs. Ralph L. Downes	Walter L. Murdock
Eugene E. Drucker	Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Newton
James R. Fitzgerald	Spencer D. Parratt
Mr. and Mrs. DeFred G. Folts	Frank Sacco
Mrs. C. William Frykman	Mr. and Mrs. William G. Scheerer
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Gabriel, Jr.	Ben F. Smith, Jr.
Glenn M. Glasford	Helen C. Smith
Samuel S. Goldich	Joseph Staub
Stanford Goldman	Robert E. Stone
Wilber C. Haseman	Tun Thin
Mary L. Henderson	Bishop W. Ralph Ward, Jr.
J. Winifred Hughes	

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

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