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Syracuse University Library Associates

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The old Phillipsburg, New Jersey passenger station on the
Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. 1913

THE COURIER

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 4

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Open for Research . . . Notes on Collections

The papers of Hezekiah Spencer, fur trader during the first half of the nineteenth century, have been prepared for scholarly use in the George Arents Research Library. Dating from 1777 to 1863, with the major portion covering the period 1827 to 1862, the papers consist of correspondence and financial and legal records relating to Spencer's occupation.

Spencer lived in Suffolk, Connecticut. From this home base he conducted his business, securing his furs from small dealers and peddlers whom he commissioned to travel into the hinterlands to buy pelts, and selling to larger dealers in New York for shipment to Europe and China.

The correspondence of approximately 1000 items, 1817-1863, includes incoming letters and copies of some of Spencer's outgoing letters, mainly to fur dealers. It details fur prices and quantities of pelts for each season, problems of transport, marketing prospects, payment of notes and drafts and agreements for commissions. The correspondence kept Spencer informed of fluctuating markets in Canton, London and Leipzig as well as at home. The market was affected by many elements, both national and international, such as fears of war in Europe, a cholera epidemic in New York, hard times in 1837 under Andrew Jackson, the death of the Turkish sultan and the trapping of sea otter on the California coast in the 1850's, all of which are subjects of comment in the correspondence.

The papers indicate that Spencer was in competition with John Jacob Astor and the American Fur Company during some period of his career; a letter of March 31, 1828, complains of having been outbid by Astor for some prime red fox.

The Green Family Papers, 1774-1889, provide a history of members of the Green family residing in Massachusetts, New York and South Carolina. The principal figures are Timothy Green and his son, Timothy Ruggles Green, both lawyers and merchants in New York City. The papers include correspondence, legal and financial records and miscellany. More than a dozen letters in the correspondence are from Asa Danforth, Jr. of Onondaga Valley, New York, concerning commerce and industry, including salt mining. The legal and financial papers often relate to transactions concerning the development of the salt industry around Onondaga Lake.

The records of the Clark Music Company of Syracuse comprise the correspondence, memoranda, merchandising and financial records of the retail trade in musical instruments and materials carried on from 1889 to

1960 by a family-owned firm in Syracuse. The company was managed for many years by Melville Clark (1883-1953), who acquired considerable fame as a harpist, musical inventor and collector and was a respected leader in the musical life of the city.

The papers of Bertie Charles Forbes, founder of *Forbes* magazine, consist of correspondence, writings and memorabilia and date from 1895 to 1957. Of special interest in the correspondence are single letters from F. D. Underwood, president of the Erie Railroad, Bernard Baruch, Wendell Willkie and Herbert Hoover. Among many other correspondents are Thomas Alva Edison, William Randolph Hearst, E. V. Rickenbacker, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Owen D. Young, Calvin Coolidge, A. W. Mellon, Arthur Murray, Robert A. Taft, Margaret Truman and John Wanamaker. Forbes' writings include articles, books and pamphlets, magazine and newspaper columns, novels, short stories and speeches.

Another collection relating to a publication is that of the *New York Review of Books*. The records, 1963-1969, consist of correspondence, production papers, financial and legal papers and manuscripts, all relating to the articles, book reviews, poetry, advertisements for the book trade and other items of literary interest that form the content of the bi-monthly *Review*.

The papers, 1797-1954, of Collis Potter Huntington (1821-1900), railroad financier and a builder of the Central Pacific Railroad, include correspondence, legal and financial records and organization records. The letters in the correspondence number approximately 190,000, with the major portion dated from 1867 to 1900, the year of Huntington's death. The papers provide a history of the building of the transcontinental railroad and the transportation industry in the United States during the last half of the nineteenth century. They include a substantial amount of the correspondence of Huntington's partners in the transcontinental venture: Mark Hopkins, Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker and his brother, E. B. Crocker.

Among recent acquisitions of rare books the following are particularly notable:

Byron, George Gordon Noël Byron, 6th Baron, *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*. London: For James Cawthorn, British Library [1809]. First edition, second issue. A satire on his reviewers and a tirade against other poets of his day.

The Outsider, Vol. 1, No. 1—Vol. 2, No. 4/5. New Orleans, La.: Loujon Press, Fall 1961—Winter 1968/69. These issues complete the full run of the journal in the Rare Book Department.

Di Prima, Diane, *The Book of Hours*, Poems. Drawings by Bret Rohmer. San Francisco: The Brownstone Press, 1970. No. 25, signed by the author. First and limited edition.

Engravings by Eric Gill. A Selection of Engravings on Wood and Metal representative of his work to the end of the year 1927 with a complete

Chronological List of Engravings and a Preface by the artist. Bristol: Douglas Cleverdon, 1929.

Burney, Fanny, *The Wanderer: or Female Difficulties*. By the author of Evalina; Cecelia; and Camilla. In five volumes. London: Printed for Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown, 1814. First edition.

Morris, William, *Gothic Architecture*, a Lecture for the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society. Printed by the Kelmscott Press during the Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the New Gallery, Regent Street, London, 1883. First edition, first issue.



News of Library Associates

Syracuse University Library Associates met on April 29 at Everson Museum in Syracuse, the first stop in a tour of three central New York points of special interest. Following an hour at the Museum, the Associates moved on to the Oneida Community near Oneida, Madison County, where Dr. Nelson M. Blake of the University's History department spoke on the history of the Community. Mrs. Miles E. Robertson, granddaughter of the Community's founder and a trustee of Library Associates, also spoke informally before the Associates toured the Mansion House, the main building of the Community where the entire Oneida "family" was housed and conducted their indoor activities. Luncheon was served in the Mansion House dining rooms before the Associates went on to Utica, where they saw the Shaker exhibit at Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute and visited its neighbor, the restored nineteenth-century home known as Fountain Elms.

On April 30 the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at Lawrinson Penthouse on the University campus. Dr. Howard L. Applegate presented the treasurer's report in the absence of Mr. Allen B. Coughlin and noted that thirty-eight contributions of gifts-in-kind with a total estimated value of \$19,674 have been given to the Library since January 1, 1971. Contributions to the Purchase Fund during the past nine months amounted to \$7,900.

The Nominations Committee reported the resignation of Mr. Coughlin as treasurer of Library Associates. The slate presented by the Committee, including the Reverend R. Wayne Archer to succeed Mr. Coughlin, was elected unanimously. New members of the Board of Trustees are Mrs. William L. Broad, Mrs. Allen B. Coughlin and Richard L. Engel, all of Fayetteville, Mrs. Robert H. Knapp of Cazenovia and Ernest L. Sarason of Syracuse.

Mrs. Antje Lemke, chairman of the Publications Committee, reported on the editorial procedures adopted by the committee relative to *The Courier* and Miss Arsiné Schmavonian spoke of the character of the *Courier* articles and the relationship of the authors to the University and Library Associates.

Mrs. Auchincloss, reporting for the Program Committee, said that local meetings of the Associates are being planned for Fridays of the month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. during seven months of the year and listed some program possibilities. A questionnaire will be sent to members to ascertain their special interests.

The Reverend Benjamin J. Lake appointed the following committees:

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R. Wayne Archer
Mrs. J. Howland Auchincloss
Warren N. Boes
Mrs. William L. Broad
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Nelson M. Blake
Mrs. Arpena Mesrobian
William G. Peacher
Walter Sutton

Publicity Committee

Richard G. Case, chairman
Miss Arsiné Schmajovian

Estate Planning and Memorials

Frank C. Love

Dr. Applegate presented the following list of 1971 recipients of the Library Certificate of Merit, presented to those persons whose gifts-in-kind have reached the value of \$25,000 or more:

James L. Adams, Unitarian clergyman
Ken Bald, cartoonist
Clarence D. Batchelor, cartoonist
Pietro Belluschi, architect
Doris Caesar, sculptor
John Canaday, writer and art critic
Edwin Dickinson, artist
Burgess Green, cartoonist
Lurelle Van Arsdal Guild, industrial designer
Irwin Hasen, cartoonist

Cecil Leon Jensen, cartoonist
Roy Braxton Justus, cartoonist
Warren Thomas King, cartoonist
Dong Kingman, artist
Edward D. Keukes, cartoonist
Phyllis McGinley, poet
John Prentice, cartoonist
Raymond Spilman, industrial designer
Don Tobin, cartoonist
Charles Werner, cartoonist
Don Conway Wright, cartoonist

It was moved that the above be made life members of Library Associates and the motion was carried.

Miss Ruth Salisbury reported that the Rare Book department staff is concerned primarily at present with the bringing together physically of all uncataloged material, an internal evaluation of all materials now classified by the Dewey classification system and an evaluation of special author and subject collections. She exhibited the most recent gift of Library Associates to the Library, a volume of German incunabula leaves assembled by Konrad Haebler, authority on early German printing.

Mr. Warren N. Boes, Director of Libraries, reported on future plans, including improved services to patrons through automation and centralization in the new Ernest S. Bird Library, cooperation with sister institutions to provide broader research services to patrons using manuscripts and rare books and economies resulting from budgetary control and accountability made possible by concentration and automated systems. In the area of rare books and manuscripts, Mr. Boes said that participation in such a consortium as the Five Associated University Libraries, of which Syracuse is one, will permit the possible concentration of specialists and a pooling of collections with resulting economies in purchases. He pointed out that personnel is the Library's greatest expense; the new era of automated systems indicates a shift of costs from staffs to systems and networks. He stated that with the new facilities in use after June 1972 and the reorganization resulting from years of planning, the more effective service provided by the Library will add substantially to the quality of education available at Syracuse University.

The Executive Committee of Library Associates has accepted with regret the resignation of Robert Phillips from the Board of Trustees. Mr. Phillips is moving to Dusseldorf, Germany, to become Creative Director of Gramm and Grey International Partners, advertising consultants.

The Executive Committee has elected Mr. Alan Dietch of Rochester, New York, to replace Mr. Phillips on the Board. Mr. Dietch is a well known national collector of books and manuscripts relating to canals and the history of printing. His term on the Board of Trustees will expire in 1974.

Mr. Gordon Banks, head of the Autograph Department of Goodspeed's Book Shop, Boston, will be the speaker at the Fall 1971 meeting of Library Associates on October 22.





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