

## GIFTS AND ACQUISITIONS

### BOOKS

THE Hiram E. Deats estate, through Charles Taylor Deats, executor, and Norman C. Wittwer, continues to be a source for a wide variety of interesting and valuable research materials. A recent acquisition includes a remarkably fine bookplate collection and an impressive lot of handsome volumes and pamphlets dealing with the subject (i.e., history, design, collections). A large quantity of New Jersey Baptist Association minutes and New Jersey Baptist Convention minutes, in some instances complete runs, was also received. The new items, important sources for local as well as church history, supplement the Library's already rich holdings. Other Deats materials consist of general Americana, chiefly Nineteenth-Century, New Jersey books and pamphlets, foreign and domestic periodicals (including several amateur journals), state documents and pictures (prints, photographs, etc.), chiefly local views and portraits.

A gift of approximately two hundred volumes of modern German literature was received from Mrs. Paul H. Hock of New York City. Mrs. Myra Biggs of Edison, N.J., presented the Library with a gift of old school books. A first edition of Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* (Brooklyn, N.Y., 1855) was presented by Daniel Maggin.

Among the recently processed materials from the Charles A. Philhower estate were the following early imprints: Robert Boyle, *The Martyrdom of Theodora and of Didymus*, London, 1687 (Wing, B3987); Thomas Dilworth, *A New Guide to the English Tongue*, Philadelphia, 1770 (Evans, 11634); Joseph F. Lafitau, *Moeurs des Sauvages Ameriquains*, Paris, 1724 (Sabin 38596); J. G. Purmann, *Sitten und Meinungen der Wilden in America*, Frankfurt, 1777-1781 (Sabin, 66712); J. Long, *Voyages and Travels of an Indian Interpreter and Trader*, London, 1791 (Sabin, 41878).

### RARE NEWSPAPER

The movement to abolish slavery which spread gradually throughout the northern American states beginning with the 1830's was not without its significant positive effects in New Jersey—traditionally

conservative and having social and economic ties with the South. One evidence of such an effect was the appearance in June of 1844 at Boonton, Morris County, of the first issue of *The New Jersey Freeman*, the state's first anti-slavery newspaper. Printed monthly on the press of Dr. John Grimes, an eminent physician and one of the early residents of Boonton, the *Freeman* continued to appear for nearly six years, expiring with the fifty-second issue (Volume IV, No. 4) in March, 1850.

Dr. John Grimes, an acknowledged crusader for unpopular causes (e.g., temperance, pacifism, vegetarianism, women's rights, anti-tobacco use), was first and foremost the humanitarian idealist. As such he abhorred especially the South's so-called "peculiar institution." Driven by a strong desire to contribute to its abolition, he joined actively in the state's infant anti-slavery stirrings. The launching of *The New Jersey Freeman* is only one testimony of the sincerity of his convictions; there were others. Grimes was one of the leading instigators and the first president of the New Jersey Anti-Slavery Society (with headquarters in Boonton), the first such society to become active in the state during the pre-Civil War era. He was an indefatigable worker in the cause of the fugitive slave, frequently using his private residence in Boonton as a way-station for the underground railroad. Not least of all, he fearlessly argued in public against slavery and denounced those elements obstructing the progress of abolitionism.

Slavery did not emerge as a principal national issue until about 1850, and the anti-slavery agitation which erupted before that time was very often treated with suspicion and hostility by conservative factions, a reaction that occurred in New Jersey. For his conspicuous advocacy of the then radical notions, Grimes was subjected to much annoyance and physical danger. He was frequently mobbed and, in at least one instance, was arrested and imprisoned.

In addition to providing an illuminating view of the little known slavery controversy in New Jersey during the second quarter of the Nineteenth Century, *The New Jersey Freeman* stands as a memorial to both the character and the thinking of its humanitarian editor.

Above all it shows with respect to many controversial issues that Grimes was well ahead of his times.

The Rutgers Library is fortunate to have received a complete run of *The New Jersey Freeman*. This valuable literary relic, one of two known complete series, was deposited by Mr. Norman V. Grimes, a great-nephew of the publisher.

#### MANUSCRIPTS

A recent gift received from Dr. Elizabeth F. Boyd of Douglass College includes approximately one hundred letters of the Norwegian writer and Nobel prize winner, Sigrid Undset (1882-1949). The gift, taken as a whole, represents the papers relating to Madame Undset which belonged to the late Miss Hope Emily Allen, scholar and world traveler, of Kenwood (a suburb of Oneida), New York. In addition to the letters, chiefly written to Miss Allen (several are addressed to Mrs. Carlotta G. Kinsley also of Kenwood), the papers consist of drafts of letters sent, letters received concerning Sigrid Undset, photographs, clippings, and printed articles. The period covered is essentially the Second World War years, 1941-45, when, as a refugee from Norway, Sigrid Undset wrote principally from a Brooklyn Heights, N.Y., address. Several letters fall within the postwar years 1946-48, and were written from Lillehammer, Norway, her home, where in June of 1949, she died at the age of sixty-seven.

As was true with so many others who were forced to flee their homelands as a consequence of Nazi aggression, Madame Undset found a warm reception in the United States. Among the many friendships which were quickly formed was that with Hope Emily Allen. Madame Undset's letters, generally lengthy and written in an informal almost casual manner, testify to the closeness of this friendship.

Of the several main topics treated in the letters, none is given greater attention than the war, and particularly the war in Europe. Observations on the unfolding drama, beginning in 1941, make very interesting reading, especially when made to blend with the artist's reflections on national characteristics and traditions. In the years before the war Madame Undset had been an outspoken foe of

totalitarianism in any form. As a result, when the Nazis, whose Aryan race supremacy theories she especially repudiated, invaded Norway, she was forced to flee. The occupation of her homeland naturally intensified her earlier convictions, and in the United States during 1941, she quickly joined in the movement condemning the Axis powers and calling for America's entry into the war. The zeal and determination exhibited so often in speeches and printed articles during this trying time are also reflected in her letters.

#### OTHER MANUSCRIPTS

Among the other significant manuscripts received into the Special Collections Department are the following:

Condict, Silas. Papers: ciphering books (surveying, mathematics, etc.), 1759-72; personal accounts, 1791-1801; surveyor's commission (Eastern Division of New Jersey), 1784; letters received on tax collecting, 1801; Hayward estate accounts, 1789-93; Nathaniel Baker accounts, 1816-35; Ephraim Young accounts, 1795-1807; Silas Day estate accounts, 1761-63; James Cook (schoolmaster) accounts, 1801-23; Morris County miscellany. Morris County, N.J., 1759-1864. Gift of *Ralph H. Cutler*.

Coxe, Richard S. Papers: letters received 1813-44; bills, receipts, accounts, 1819, 1832; letters received of William Coxe (1762-1831), 1794-1825. Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Burlington, N.J.; etc., 1794-1844. Gift of the *Hiram E. Deats estate through Norman C. Wittwer*.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Camp Middlebrook Chapter, Bound Brook, N.J. Records: scrapbooks of correspondence, clippings, photographs, circulars, etc., 1893-1963, reflecting the history of the organization: also included are several letters, deeds, accounts, 1805-57, of the Rappleyea and Herbert families of Somerset County; historical and genealogical collections, 1931-35, dealing chiefly with central New Jersey subjects. Bound Brook, N.J.; etc., 1805-63. Presented by the Chapter through *Esther F. Stryker*.

Equal Franchise Society of New Jersey. Records: constitution and by-laws, [1910-13]; minutes, May 4, 1914; letters of the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association, 1914, 1920; typescript

- "The Hoboken Political Arena" (1964), by Ida E. Housman. Hoboken, etc., N.J., 1913-63. Gift of *Ida E. Housman*.
- Kennedy and Vroom. Daybook accounts, 1859-60, of a piano and melodeon sales business. Washington, N.J., 1859-60.
- Koran. Arabic manuscript fragment written in Thuluth script, A.D. 1327. Gift of the *Louis E. Stern estate*.
- New Brunswick Rotary Club, New Brunswick, N.J. Records: minutes, general accounts, attendance, membership roster, guest books, photographs, organizational histories, 1920-64. New Brunswick, N.J., 1920-64. Presented by *H. R. Segoine*, '08.
- New Jersey. Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission. Records: general correspondence, reports, legal briefs, statistical data, maps, diagrams, construction plans, printed materials (clippings, pamphlets, official reports, etc. chiefly relating to New Jersey's canals and canal projects in the United States), 1932-42. New Brunswick, etc., N.J.; 1932-42. Presented by *Morgan R. Seiffert*, '23.
- New Jersey Land Use Planning Committee. Reports, surveys, memoranda, statistical data, 1932-40, from the files of W. C. Krueger and W. F. Knowles, formerly of the College of Agriculture, Rutgers-The State University. New Brunswick, N.J., 1932-40. Presented by *W. A. Mitcheltree*.
- Potts, Charles. Papers: letters received, 1823-45; letters of Stacy Potts, 1815, 1822; Pennsylvania miscellany, c. 1820. Philadelphia, Meadville, etc., Pa. Gift of the *Hiram E. Deats estate through Norman C. Wittwer*.
- Rutgers, Henry. Letter of January 22, 1779, to Henry Sewall at West Point, [N.Y.], 1779. Gift of *Mr. and Mrs. Philip D. Sang*.
- Schenck, Ferdinand S., Sr. Letter, March 2, 1837; Fourth of July oration, c. 1820; diary, 1851-54, of Garret C. Schenck, Rutgers College student, relating primarily to religion, social matters and national politics and including short biographical sketches of Ferdinand S. Schenck, Jr. (1835-55), Leah V. Schenck (1796-1857) and Garret C. Schenck (1829-59); letter of Dr. John V. Schenck, June 12, 1881; genealogical notes, clippings, photo-

- graphs, etc. Franklin Park, N.J.; Washington, D.C.; etc., c. 1820-81. Gift of *Mrs. Albert Orear*.
- Spinning, Edward S. "Early Electric Lighting on the Railroad" (1963), typescript reminiscence. Bernardsville, N.J., 1963. Gift of *Edward S. Spinning*.
- Staats, Abraham. Ciphering books, c. 1759-1831, of the Staats-LaTourette families. South Bound Brook; Franklin Township (Somerset Co.), N.J., c. 1759-1831. Gift of *Lewis D. Cook*.
- Terhune, Edward P. Diary, 1876-1907, of a Presbyterian clergyman, concerning church matters and travel experiences and observations. Europe; Springfield, Mass.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Pompton Lakes, N.J., 1876-1907. Gift of *Edward Terhune Van de Water*.
- Townsend, Joshua. Deeds, surveyor's maps and diagrams, etc. of Townsend family land-holdings in Cape May County, N.J., 1770-1878; genealogical data; letters, etc., of Reuben Townsend, 1850-1904; Leaming family letters, deeds, miscellany, 1733-1907; Somers family letters, wills, 1793-1810; Corson family letters, 1836-38; Hand family deeds, etc., 1779-1902; will of Joseph Houldin, Cape May, 1696; Virginia land grant, 1786, to Richard Mason and signed by Governor Patrick Henry. Cape May County, N.J.; etc., 1696-1907. Deposited by *Mrs. Audrey M. Small*.
- Van Dyke, Mary Dix (Strong). Diary, 1849-50, of social and political observations while resident with her husband, New Jersey's congressman John Van Dyke (1807-78), in Washington, D.C. Washington, D.C., 1849-50.

ANTHONY S. NICOLosi

### MISS EDITH DEERR

The staff of the *Journal of the Rutgers University Library* and the officers of the Associated Friends of the Library wish to offer their sincere regards and appreciation to Miss Edith Deerr, who is retiring from her position as Secretary to the Librarian. Miss Deerr has served as Secretary to the *Journal* since its first publication in 1937, and she has been a member of the Library staff since August, 1925. *Vale*.