

“At the Instance of Benjamin Franklin”

A Brief History of the
Library Company of Philadelphia



Francesco Lazzarini, *Benjamin Franklin*. Marble sculpture, ca. 1792, commissioned by William Bingham for the Library Company's first building.

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PHILADELPHIA:

The Library Company of Philadelphia
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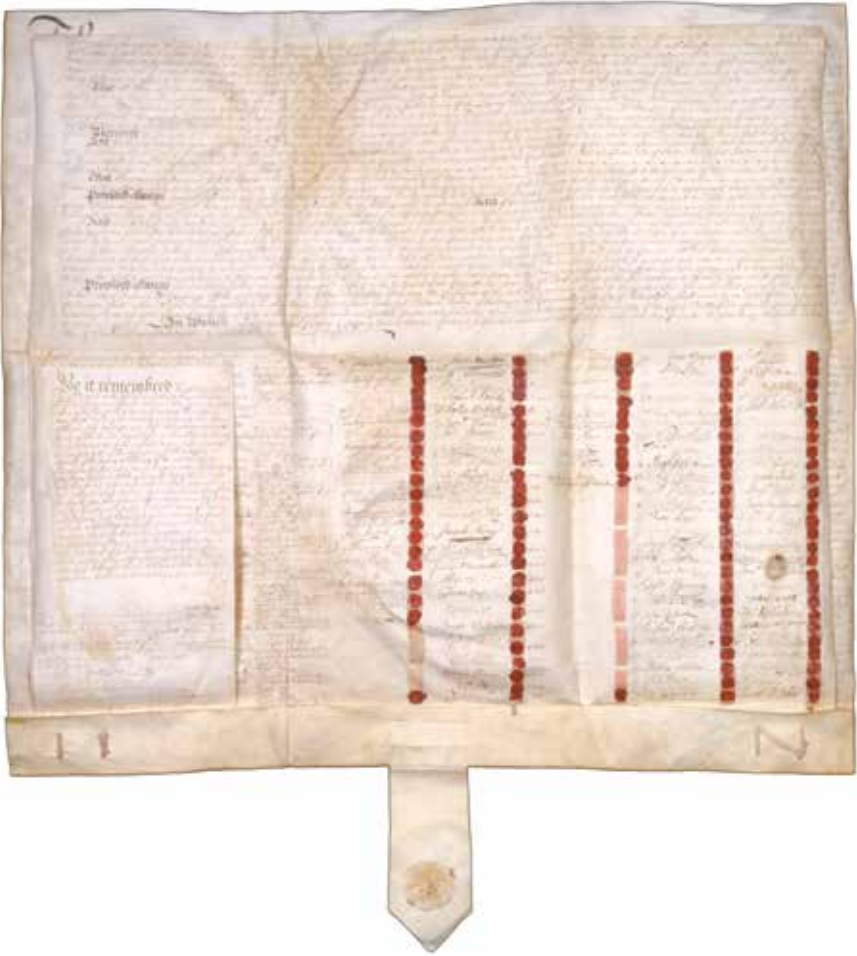
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Cover illustration: James Reid Lambdin, *Benjamin Franklin*. Oil on canvas, 1880. Purchased by the Library Company, 1880.

On July 1, 1731, Benjamin Franklin and a number of his fellow members of the Junto drew up “Articles of Agreement” to found a library. The Junto was a discussion group of young men seeking social, economic, intellectual, and political advancement. When they foundered on a point of fact, they needed a printed authority to settle the divergence of opinion. In colonial Pennsylvania at the time there were not many books. Standard English reference works were expensive and difficult to obtain. Franklin and his friends were mostly mechanics of moderate means. None alone could have afforded a representative library, nor, indeed, many imported books. By pooling their resources in pragmatic Franklinian fashion, they could. The contribution of each created the book capital of all.

Fifty subscribers invested forty shillings each and promised to pay ten shillings a year thereafter to buy books and maintain a shareholder’s library. Thus “the Mother of all American Subscription Libraries” was established. A seal was decided upon with the device: “Two Books open, Each encompass’d with Glory, or Beams of Light, between which water streaming from above into an Urn below, thence issues at many Vents into lesser Urns, and Motto, circumscribing the whole, *Communiter Bona profundere Deum est.*” This translates freely: “To pour forth benefits for the common good is divine.” The silversmith Philip Syng engraved the seal. The first list of desiderata to stock the shelves was sent to London on March 31, 1732, and by autumn that order, less a few books found to be unobtainable, arrived. James Logan, “the best Judge of Books in these parts,” had assisted in the choice, and it was a representative one.

Were one to draw up a list of the works most commonly found in colonial American—and probably provincial English—libraries, the early selection of the Library Company could serve as a pattern. In the earlier ecclesiastical and collegiate libraries of British America the choice of books was imposed from without for theological or educational purposes and reflected the formal learning of donor or teacher. In the Library Company the desire for the book stemmed from the prospective reader.

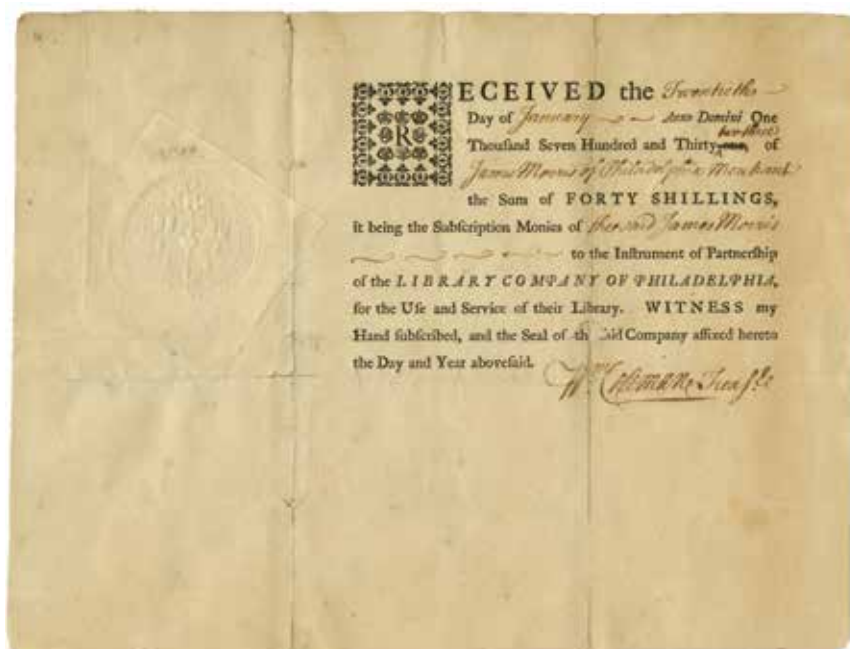


Articles of Association. Manuscript on vellum, Philadelphia, July 1, 1731.

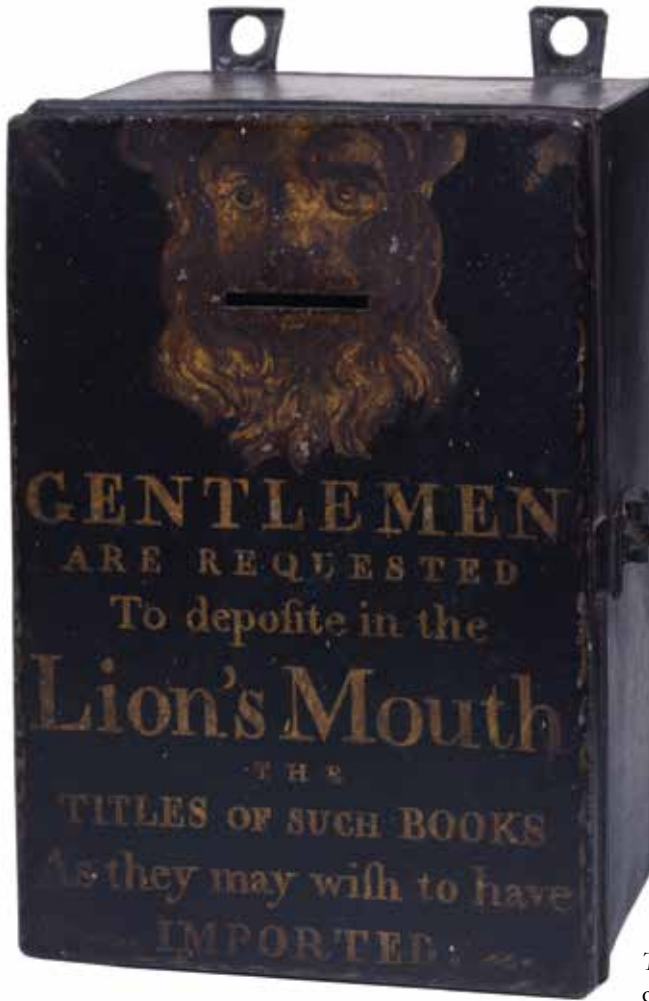
Gifts in kind and in cash began to increase the book and financial resources of the library, as indeed they have continued to do to this day. In February 1733, Librarian Louis Timothée, Secretary Joseph Breintnall, and Franklin presented a number of volumes, including *A Collection of Several Pieces*, by John Locke; *Logic: or, The Art of Thinking*, by the Port Royalists Arnauld and Nicole, which Franklin in his Autobiography said he had read at the age of sixteen; Plutarch's *Morals* in the translation of Philemon Holland; Lewis Roberts's *Merchants Mappe of Commerce*;

and others. A bit later William Rawle added a set of Spenser's *Works* to the collection and Francis Richardson gave several volumes, among them Francis Bacon's *Sylva Sylvarum*. That same year the Proprietor Thomas Penn sent a print of an orrery to the infant institution "where it was fram'd & hung up at our late annual Election of Officers, when the Presenter was frequently named with just Gratitude." Much more Penn bounty was hoped for.

In the spring of 1735 a florid address was delivered to John Penn, then in residence at Pennsbury, which concluded: "That Virtue, Learning & true Religion may increase and flourish, under the Encouragement and Protection of your honourable House, is our earnest and hearty Endeavour." Penn acknowledged the Library Company's thinly veiled request for patronage with thanks. More generous was the unsolicited gift of £34 sterling which arrived in the summer of 1738 from Walter Sydsferfe, Scottish-born physician and planter of Antigua, who had heard of the establishment of the library from John Sober, one of its original Directors. A good start had been made.

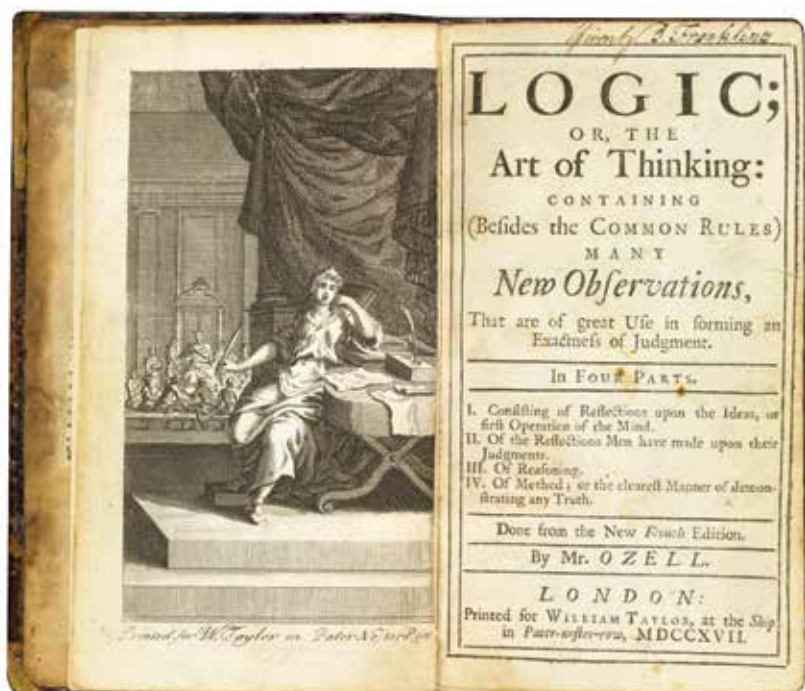


Receipt for a Library Company share, January 20, 1733. Printed by Franklin.



Tin Suggestion Box,
ca. 1750.

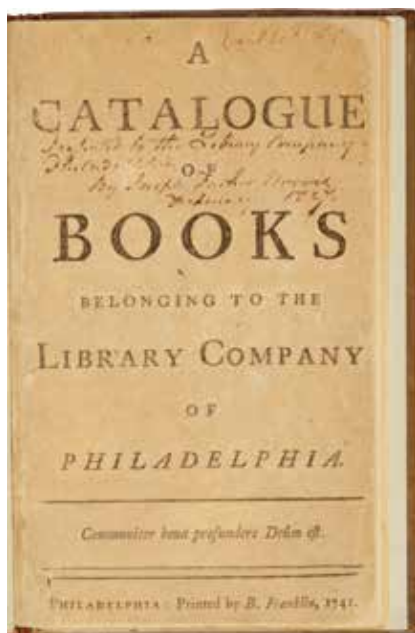
By the time the library issued its earliest surviving printed catalogue of 1741, the general mix of its collection was established for over a century. Excluding gifts, historical works broadly defined accounted for approximately one-third of the total holdings. These included geographical books and accounts of voyages and travels, which latter category the Library Company emphasized until comparatively recently. Literature—plays and poems mostly—comprised a little more than twenty percent, approximately the same proportion as science. Theology accounted for only a tenth of the titles. This was in marked contrast to



[Antoine Arnaud and Pierre Nicole], *Logic; or, The Art of Thinking*. London, 1717. Benjamin Franklin's copy, given to the Library Company in 1733. In his *Autobiography* Franklin said that this book helped him form "an Exactness of Judgment."

the earlier libraries of Harvard and Yale, but a harbinger of other popular libraries that were founded later. Such a diminution of printed religiosity was a characteristic difference between a religious seventeenth century in the British colonies and a Deistical eighteenth century. To conclude the selection, it should be noted that philosophy matched theology in numbers, and that economics and such social sciences, the arts, linguistics, and the indefinables accounted for the rest. Bought for many years through the agency of the Quaker mercer-naturalist of London, Peter Collinson, this was and long remained the basic weighting of book selection until the decline of the proprietary libraries in the last half of the nineteenth century.

The Library Company flourished because it adopted a purchasing policy responsive to the needs of its intellectually alert, economically ambitious, but non-elite membership. Its successful example was quickly copied along the Atlantic seaboard from Salem to Charleston.



A Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Library Company of Philadelphia. Philadelphia: Printed by B. Franklin, 1741. The earliest extant catalogue of the Library Company; Franklin also printed broadside catalogues in 1733 and 1735, of which no copies have survived.

It was Franklin's opinion that "these Libraries have improved the general Conversation of Americans, made the common Tradesmen and Farmers as intelligent as most Gentlemen from other Countries, and perhaps have contributed in some Degree to the Stand so generally made throughout the Colonies in Defence of their Priviledges."

The library soon became not only an increasing collection of books but also a full-fledged cabinet of curiosities in the Renaissance mode. Donors deposited in its rooms antique coins, fossils, fauna pickled in spirits, unusual geological specimens, tanned skins, and other oddities. In accordance with its role as an all-embracing cultural institution, the Library Company also participated in the increasingly popular scientific experimentation of its day.

At first housed in a room in the Librarian's lodgings, the burgeoning accumulation became too much for private quarters. When John Penn sent an air-pump to the quasi-learned society, the Directors had to take a major step to house it properly. The instrument arrived early in 1739. A handsome cabinet was commissioned for it. That glass-fronted case survives as the earliest extant example of American-made Palladian architectural furniture. Arrangements were promptly made to move



John Harrison, *Air-Pump Case*. [Philadelphia, 1739]. Built to house a gift of scientific glassware from John Penn, which Franklin used in his electrical experiments. It is the earliest surviving piece of architectural furniture in the Palladian style made in America.



George Heap, *A View of the State House in Philadelphia*. Engraving from *The Gentleman's Magazine*, London, 1752.

the books, cabinet of curiosities, and air-pump press into rooms on the second floor of the newly finished west wing of the State House (now Independence Hall). It was there that Franklin and his associates performed their first experiments in electricity. Exactly when Collinson sent over a hollow glass tube to the Philadelphians which introduced them to the intriguing phenomenon of static electricity is not known. There is a record of the arrival of a “Trunk of Books, Glass Tubes &c.” in the summer of 1742, but Franklin, reminiscing later, gave other dates for the beginning of the experiments. They must have been well under way by 1747 when “a compleat Electrical Apparatus” was received from Thomas Penn.

Suitably settled, the library could turn its attention to making known its holdings. Although broadsheet catalogues of the Library Company’s books may have been issued in 1733 and 1735, no copy of either survives. An existing small octavo of fifty-six pages, printed by Franklin and issued in 1741, lists the 375 titles then in the library. As eighteenth-century catalogues go it was a good one, the first American library catalogue to give titles at some length as well as place and date of publication. Franklin wrote “A Short Account of the Library” to fill a final blank page. No waste, no want. Franklin noted that the library was open Saturday afternoons



Original Charter; Signed on Behalf of the Proprietors of Pennsylvania. Manuscript on vellum, Philadelphia, March 25, 1742.

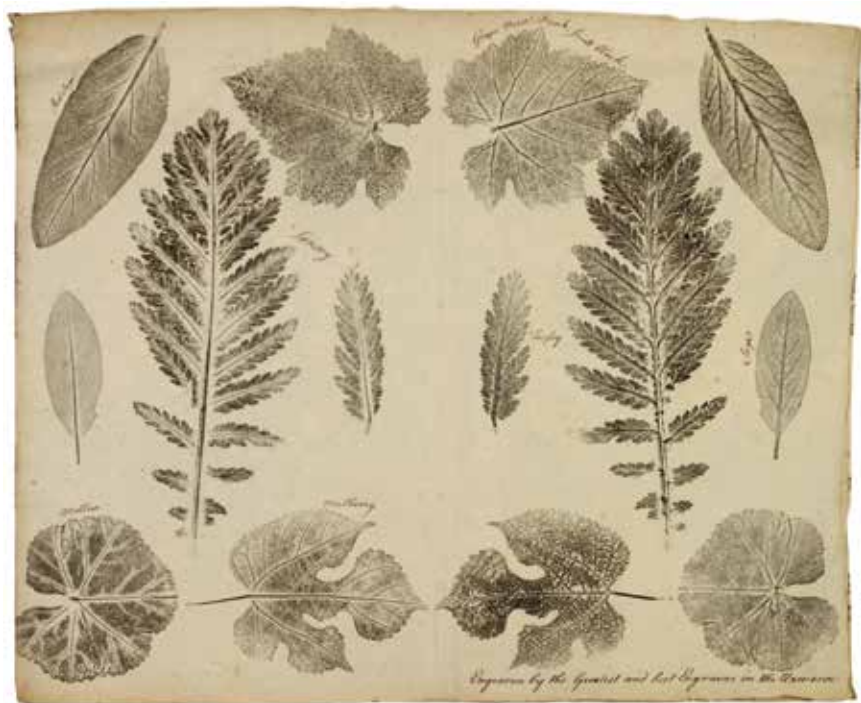
from four until eight o'clock. Members could borrow books freely and without charge. Nonmembers could borrow books by depositing their value as security "and paying a small Acknowledgment for the Reading." In the early days this latter fee was apparently either never collected or discontinued; it does not appear as income in the first financial reports.

With a catalogue available, the books shelved in the State House wing, regular orders of books sent to the volunteer agent Collinson, and annual shipments received from London, the Library Company again sought the patronage of the proprietors of Pennsylvania. What the Directors really wanted was a handsome benefaction in books or cash. They did get a plot of land for a hoped-for building of their own, and on March 24, 1742, a charter from John, Thomas, and Richard Penn, issued in their name by Governor George Thomas. By it, since the members had "at great expense, purchased a large and valuable collection of useful books, in order to erect a library for the advancement of knowledge and literature in the city of Philadelphia," there was created "one body corporate and politic in deed." The charter was printed in 1746, together with the

by-laws and a supplementary catalogue.

The first Librarian, Louis Timothée, or Timothy as he became, left after a short tenure to become Franklin's printing partner in Charleston. For a very brief period Franklin himself took on the bibliothecal responsibility. He was succeeded by the erstwhile shoemaker and self-trained surveyor William Parsons, who served from 1734 to 1746. He was followed as Librarian by Robert Greenway, who remained in office for seventeen years.

The more important functionary of the institution was the Secretary, at first the scrivener and amateur botanist Joseph Breintnall. He kept the minutes and wrote the letters ordering books to Collinson, who faithfully carried out the Library Company's requests for over a quarter of a century. After Breintnall's death in 1746 it was Franklin who performed the secretarial duties. Despite his mythical reputation as the careful, methodical "Poor Richard," he was careless about the Library Company's records. When



Joseph Breintnall, *Nature Prints of Leaves*. Philadelphia, 1731-44. Gift of his widow, 1746.

he went to England in 1757, first the schoolmaster Francis Alison and then young Francis Hopkinson served as Secretary. When the latter took custody of the Library Company's box that Franklin had left with his wife, he found that the notes of minutes taken on separate pieces of paper during the printer-politician's years in office were scattered and imperfect. To create a permanent record Hopkinson copied into a book all the minutes of the Library Company from the beginning, although lacunae exist for some periods in the 1740s and 1750s.

The books which flowed regularly across the Atlantic from the London book shops were in subject matter the same mix as in the first shipments. There were recent works of history and travel, some poems, plays and novels, and standard vade mecums and popularizations in the field of practical arts and sciences. Franklin wrote that "in the Scheme of the Library I had provided only for English Books." Likewise in his College of Philadelphia he provided only a good English education. Although Provost William Smith stressed a classical education more than Franklin had hoped, the members of the Library Company, with little Latin and less Greek, bought very few books not in English.

Treasures-to-be came in 1755 and in 1758 in the boxes from Collinson in the form of his own copies of a score of seventeenth-century accounts of the newly established British colonies in America, among them such classics of colonization as Strachey's *Lawes*, Mourt's *Relation*, and John Smith's *Generall Historie of Virginia*. New catalogues were issued in 1757 and 1764.

At the same time the museum aspect of the Library Company and its role as a scientific institution were not neglected. In 1752 a surprise gift of a collection of Roman coins came from Charles Gray, a Tory member of Parliament from Colchester who later voted against the repeal of the Stamp Act. Two years later Charles Swaine deposited in the Library Company's room some tools and Eskimo parkas that were the only tangible fruits of the abortive Philadelphia-financed expedition to seek a Northwest Passage. In the care of Francis Hopkinson, Benjamin West sent over the hand of a mummified Egyptian princess. The institution's microscope and telescope were frequently requested for use by various scientific investigators. The latter at one time had to be sent to the London instrument-maker James Short to be repaired, and in 1769 it was used by Owen Biddle to observe the Transit of Venus from Cape Henlopen.



John Smith, *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England and the Summer Isles*. London, 1624. Gift of the naturalist Peter Collinson, with his manuscript notes.



American Weekly Mercury. Philadelphia: Printed by Andrew Bradford, December 22, 1719. Joseph Breintnall's copy, and the only known copy of the first issue.



Mummy's Hand. Gift of the artist Benjamin West, 1767.

Among those who guided the fortunes of the Library Company in the years before the Revolution were the silversmith Philip Syng, Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, the schoolmaster Francis Alison, the builder-architect Samuel Rhoads, Secretary Richard Peters of the Governor's Council, and a bit later the merchant-patriot Charles Thomson and John Dickinson, the "Pennsylvania Farmer."

The library kept growing in part by absorbing some of its own progeny. The Union Library, founded in 1746, into which had been incorporated the much smaller Association Library and Amicable Library, was merged in 1769 into the Library Company. Duplicates—alas, any edition of the same title—were sold. The holdings and members of the two institutions were consolidated. A new printed catalogue with 2,033 entries was prepared and published in 1770. On this occasion the books were renumbered by size, beginning an accession record that is continued to this day.

Women were never officially excluded from using the library. In her diary, Hannah Callendar mentioned visiting and using the Library Company in the 1750s and 1760s. She did not own a share, but her

father did, and she is probably representative of a number of female family members who used the collection through their male relatives. The first official female shareholders are documented in 1769. Two of them, Sarah Emlen and Susanna Carmalt, joined when the Library Company absorbed the Union Library Company in April, and on May 9, Sarah Wister was voted a share. Ann Bartram, daughter of the famous botanist William Bartram and herself an illustrator, was also an early member. It seems likely that there was some discussion among the Directors about the admission of women into their ranks, but the Minute Books are silent on the issue. By the turn of the nineteenth century there were twenty-nine women shareholders, a number that would increase dramatically to nearly 800 by the end of the century.

In 1772 the library having “become large & valuable, a Source of Instruction to Individuals and conducive of Reputation to the Public,” and



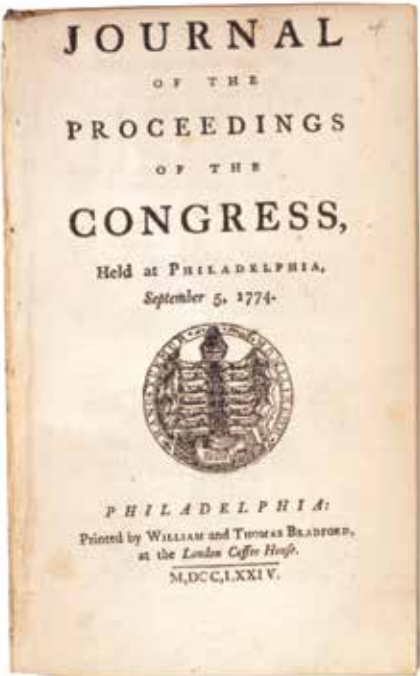
Bookplates of the Amicable Library, the Association Library, and the Union Library Company. These early subscription libraries were absorbed by the Library Company in 1769.

much too crowded in its rooms in the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall), the Directors petitioned the Pennsylvania Assembly for permission to build on the State House Square. The request was turned down. After much consideration and no alleviation of the space problem, agreement was reached with the Carpenters' Company in 1773 to rent the second floor of its new hall off Chestnut Street near Fourth. "The Books (inclosed within Wire Lattices) are kept in one large Room," Franklin then in London was informed, "and in another handsome Apartment the [scientific] Apparatus is deposited and the Directors meet."

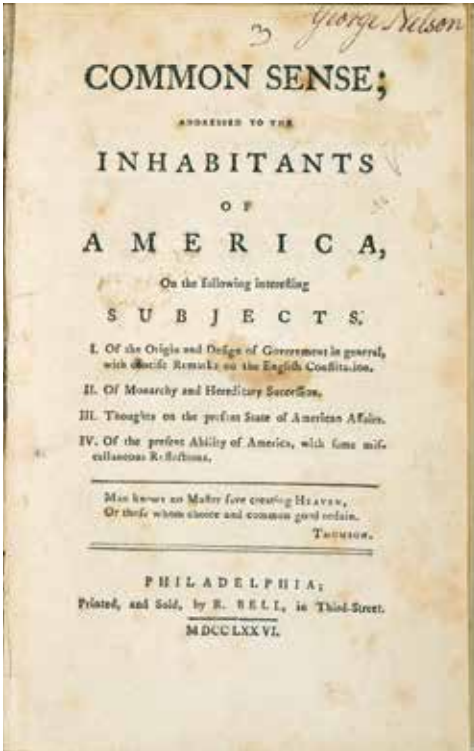
It was a historic move. On September 5, 1774, the First Continental Congress met on the first floor of Carpenters' Hall. John Adams reported that the site committee had taken "a View of the Room, and of the Chamber where is an excellent Library." In anticipation of the meeting the Library Company's Directors had ordered that "the Librarian furnish the Gentlemen who are to meet in Congress in this City with the use of such Books as they may have occasion for during their sitting taking a Receipt for them." The first day it met Congress recorded the credentials of the delegates. On the second day it formally expressed its thanks for the Library Company's courtesy.

The offer of the use of the collections was renewed when the Second Continental Congress met the following spring, and again when the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met in 1787. In fact, for a quarter of a century—from 1774 until the national capital was established in Washington, D.C., in 1800—whenever Philadelphia was the seat of government the Library Company, long the most important book resource for colonial Philadelphians, served as the *de facto* Library of Congress. Unfortunately, no circulation records for the period exist, so we can never know which delegate or Congressman borrowed or consulted what work. But virtually every significant work on political theory, history, law, and statecraft (and much else besides) could be found on the Library Company's shelves, as well as numerous tracts and polemical writings by American as well as European authors. And virtually all of those works that were influential in framing the minds of the Framers of the nation are still on the Library Company's shelves. It was said—although the records of neither Congress nor the Library Company contain any information to corroborate the story—that the colossal bust of Liberty made by Giuseppe Ceracchi, which stood behind

United States, Continental Congress,
Journal of the Proceedings of Congress.
Philadelphia: William and Thomas
Bradford, 1774. Gift of Owen
Biddle, 1779.

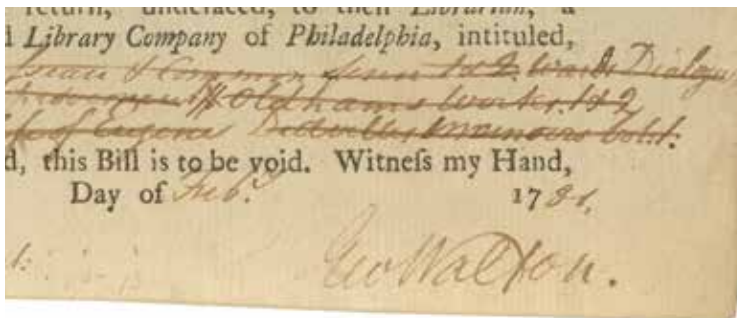


Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan, or The Matter, Forme and Power of a Commonwealth.* London, 1651 [i.e., 1680]. John Dickinson's copy.



Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*. Philadelphia: R. Bell, 1776.

Loan Slip for *Common Sense*.
 Signed by George Walton, Philadelphia, 1781.



the chair of the Speaker of the House in the late 1790s, was given to the Library Company as a token of thanks when the government left the city.

In 1775, at the time he had joined with Dr. Johnson in opposition to the actions of the colonies, the evangelical preacher John Wesley sent some books to the library—of a religious nature, not political polemics. In the months of growing turmoil the Directors tried to continue normal procedures. Just when the news of Lexington and Concord reached



Giuseppe Ceracchi,
*Minerva as the Patroness
of American Liberty*.
Painted terra cotta,
Philadelphia, 1791.
This monumental
sculpture loomed over
the Speaker's chair in
Congress Hall while
the federal capital was
in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, a supplement to the 1770 catalogue was delivered by Robert Aitken, who later also printed the “Bible of the Revolution.” Nonetheless, the affairs of the Library Company were overwhelmed by events. On July 9, 1776, only two Directors showed up for a meeting and “no business was done.” At the end of the year it was announced that books had to be obtained from the Librarian’s house, because the first floor of Carpenters’ Hall was being used as an infirmary for sick soldiers. The occupation of the city by the British also interrupted the routine; the Directors did not meet between October 1777 and March 1778, but then things seem to have gone on smoothly. Just before the British left, the Tory bookseller of New York, James Rivington, sent the library “all the Books to be procured at present in this place.” Insofar as the Minutes reflect what was going on, the Library Company seemed insulated from the trials and successes of the new nation.

During the war years, importation of books from abroad had ceased. With the peace in 1783 a flurry of orders went to London agents Joseph Woods and William Dilwyn. The seriousness of purpose of the library was reiterated when the Directors told their correspondents that “tho



[John André], *Ticket for the Meschianza*. Philadelphia, May 18, 1778. Gift of Mrs. John M. Read, 1900.

[John André], *Sketch of a Meschianza Costume*. [Philadelphia, 1778]. Gift of John Fanning Watson, 1830. The Meschianza was an extravagant fête orchestrated by Major André for the British officers on the eve of their withdrawal from Philadelphia.

we would wish to mix the *Utile* with the *Dulce*, we should not think it expedient to add to our present stock, anything in the *novel* way.” It was with presumably unspent book funds that the Library Company in 1785 made what has proved to be the most valuable purchase in its history. At the sale of the effects of the Swiss-born would-be historian of America, Pierre Eugène Du Simitière, the Library Company was the main buyer, securing most of his manuscript collections and almost all the volumes of broadsides, prints, and pamphlets offered at the auction. Du Simitière, with an eye to the future, had picked up ephemera from the streets. An unbelievably high percentage of the printed items he gathered is today unique, illuminating the Revolutionary era as only the informal productions of a period can.

When the Reverend Manasseh Cutler visited Philadelphia in 1787, he paid his respects to the institution which had “become the public library of the University and City”:

Every modern author of any note, I am told, is to be met with here, and large additions are annually made. The books appeared to be well arranged and in good order. . . . I was pleased with a kind of network doors to the book-shelves, which is made of a large wire sufficiently open to read the labels, but no book can be taken out unless the librarian unlocks the door. This is a necessary security from any persons taking books without the knowledge of the librarian. . . .

From the Library we were conducted into the Cabinet, which is a large room on the opposite side of the entry, and over the room where the Mechanical models are deposited [by the American Philosophical Society]. Here we had the pleasure of viewing a most excellent collection of natural curiosities from all parts of the globe.



[Benjamin Franklin], *Magna Britannia: Her Colonies Reduc'd*. [London, 1765-66]. Only known copy; Du Simitière Collection, 1785.

For SALE at PUBLIC VENDUE,

On THURSDAY the 10th Day of March, at the late Dwelling House of

Pierre Eugene du Simitiere, Esq.

In Arch-Bishop, between Third and Fourth-streets, where the State Lottery Office is now kept,

THE AMERICAN MUSÆUM.

This curious Collection was, for many Years, the principal Object of Mr. Du Simitiere's Attention, and has been thought worthy of Notice by both American and European Literati: It consists of the following Articles, which will be sold in Lots, viz.

BOOKS.

1. **ALMANACS** and **Regimens**.

2. **Archæology**, viz.

3. **Cartography**, viz.

4. **Dictionaries** and **Encyclopedias**, viz.

5. **Drawing**, viz.

6. **Mineralogy**, viz.

7. **Geography** and **Astronomy**, viz.

8. **Chemistry**, viz.

9. **History**, viz.

10. **Mathematics**, viz.

11. **Medicine**, viz.

12. **Botany**, viz.

13. **Zoology**, viz.

14. **Metallurgy**, viz.

15. **Mineralogy**, viz.

16. **Chemistry**, viz.

17. **Geography**, viz.

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173. **Mathematics**, viz.

174. **Physics**, viz.

175. **Metallurgy**, viz.

176. **Mineralogy**, viz.

177. **Chemistry**, viz.

178. **Geography**, viz.

179. **Astronomy**, viz.

180. **Mathematics**, viz.

181. **Physics**, viz.

182. **Metallurgy**, viz.

183. **Mineralogy**, viz.

184. **Chemistry**, viz.

185. **Geography**, viz.

186. **Astronomy**, viz.

187. **Mathematics**, viz.

188. **Physics**, viz.

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233. **Chemistry**, viz.

234. **Geography**, viz.

235. **Astronomy**, viz.

236. **Mathematics**, viz.

237. **Physics**, viz.

238. **Metallurgy**, viz.

239. **Mineralogy**, viz.

240. **Chemistry**, viz.

241.



An ELEGIAC

POEM,

On the DEATH of that celebrated Divine, and a silent Servant of JESUS CHRIST, the late Reverend, and pious

GEORGE WHITEFIELD,

Chaplain to the Right Honourable the Countess of HERTINGFORD, &c. &c.

Who made his Exit from this transitory State, to dwell in the celestial Realms of Eld, on LORD'S Day, 30th of September, 1770, when he was visit'd with a Fit of the Apoplexy, at NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, near DUREN, in NEW-ENGLAND. In which is a Consolatory Address to His vix'd sister, BENEVOLENT the worthy and pious Lady HERTINGFORD, and the Orphan-Children in GRACIOUS, who, with many Thousands, are left by the Death of this great Man, to lament the Loss of a Father, Friend, and Simulator.

By PHILLIS, a Servant Girl of 17 Years of Age, belonging to Mr. J. WHEATLEY, of BOSTON:—And has been but 9 Years in this Country from AFRICA.

HAIL, happy Saint on thy immortal throne !
To thus complaints of grievance we unknown ;
We hear no more the music of thy tongue,
Thy wond'rous auxiliaries cease to throng,
Thy lessons in unequal'd accents flow'd !
While consolation in each bosom glow'd !
Thou didst, in strains of eloquence refin'd,
Inflame the soul, and captivate the mind.
Unhappy we, the living Sun deplore !
Which once was splend'ful, but it shines no more :
He leaves this earth for Heaven's unmeasur'd height ;
And worlds unknown, receive him from our sight :
Three WHITEFIELD wings, with rapid course his way,
And sails to Zion, through vast seas of day.

When his AMERICANS were burden'd sore,
Whom sinners were crimin'd with their guiltless gore !
Unrival'd friendship in his breast now flows :
The fruit thereof was charity and love
Towards *America*—couldst thou do more
Than leave thy native home, the British shore,
To cross the great Atlantic's wat'ry road,
To fix *America's* sister's shade !
Thy prayers, great Saint, and thy incessant cries,
Have pierc'd the bosom of thy native skies !
Thou moon hast seen, and ye bright stars of light
Have witness'd been of his requests by night !
He pray'd that grace in every heart might dwell :
He long'd to fix *America's* dwell !
He chang'd his youth to let the grace divine
Arise, and in their future actions shine :
He offer'd *truth* he did himself receive,

A greater gift not GOD himself can give !
He us'd the need of HIM to every one ;
It was no less than GOD's co-equal SON !
Take him ye wretched for your only good !
Take him ye starving souls to be your food,
Ye thirsty, come to this life giving stream :
Ye Perishers, take him for your joyful theme !
Take him, " my dear AMERICANS," he said,
Be your complaints in his kind bosom laid !
Take him ye *Africans*, he longs for you !
Impartial SAVIOUR, is his title due :
If you will choose to walk in grace's road,
You shall be sons, and kings, and priests to GOD.

Great COUNTRY ! we *Americans* revive
Thy name, and thus console thy grief sincere !
We mourn with thee, that *truth* obviously plac'd,
In which thy Choptain unfalter'd hath rest,
New-England fare, dost feel the Oswayan's smart !
Reveals the true sensations of his heart :
Since this fair Sun, withdraws his golden rays,
No more to brighten these distressful days !
His lovely *Tabor*, sits no more
A WHITEFIELD landing on the British shore :
Then let us view him in yon starry skies :
Let every mind with this lov'd object rise.
No more can he exert his lab'ring breath,
Fold'd by the cruel messenger of death.
What can his dear *AMERICA* return !
But drop a tear upon his happy urn,
Thou ramb, shalt felt again thy sacred truth,
Till life divine to animate his dust,

Sold by ELLIEN RYDELL, in Queen-Street, and JOHN RYDELL, in Pall-mall-gate.

Phillis Wheatley, *An Elegiac Poem, on the Death of . . . George Whitefield*. [Boston, 1770].
Only known perfect copy; Du Simitière Collection, 1785.



Pierre Eugène Du Simitière, *Musiciens d'un Calinda*. Ink and wash drawing, Jamaica, ca. 1760. Du Simitière Collection, 1785.

Although the contents of the museum and the scientific instruments of the Library Company remained in its possession for some time, gifts to the cabinet fell off. There is no record of the disposal of any of the items, but only a very few of them have survived.

There was an upsurge of optimism after the government was established under the Constitution. Growth had continued and the library's rented

quarters became inadequate. Negotiations with the legislature for ground and with the American Philosophical Society for some jointure of interest fell through. In 1789 the Library Company bought a piece of land on Fifth Street near Chestnut across from the State House Square. A competition for the design of a building was held. An amateur architect, Dr. William Thornton, won it with plans for a handsome Palladian red-brick structure with white pilasters and a balustrade surmounted by urns. A curving double flight of steps led up to the frontispiece over which, under a pronounced pediment, was an arched niche. This was filled by a gift from William Bingham, a statue of Franklin classically garbed in a toga—with his permission—carved out of marble in Italy by Francesco Lazzarini (see frontispiece). The cornerstone text, composed by Franklin except for a flattering reference to him, was laid on August 31, 1789. He did not live to see the building finished. The new quarters were opened on New Year's Day, 1791. For the new library Samuel Jennings, an expatriate Philadelphian living in London, painted a large picture, *Liberty Displaying the Arts and Sciences*.



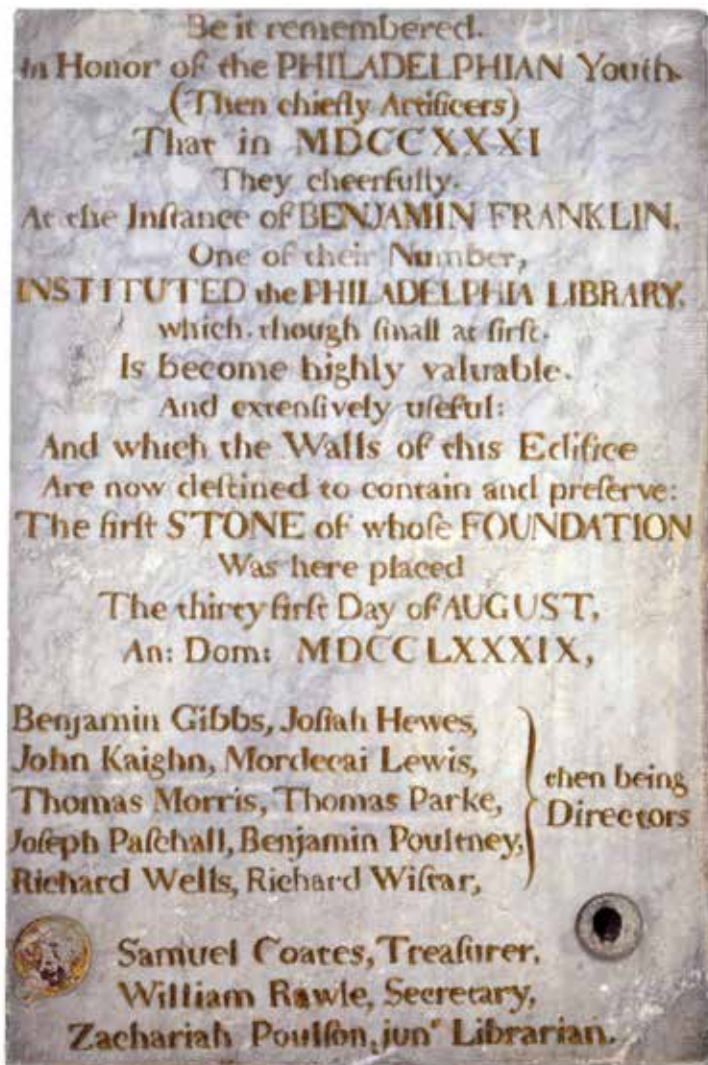
William Birch, *Library and Surgeon's Hall, Fifth-street*. Engraving, from *The City of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia, 1800.



Benjamin Evans, *Interior of Phila. Library, Fifth and Library Streets*. Watercolor, 1878. One of 151 Evans drawings purchased in 1975.

Samuel Jennings, *Liberty Displaying the Arts and Sciences*. Oil on canvas, London, 1792. Gift of the artist.





Original Cornerstone of the Library Company's Building on Fifth Street, 1789.

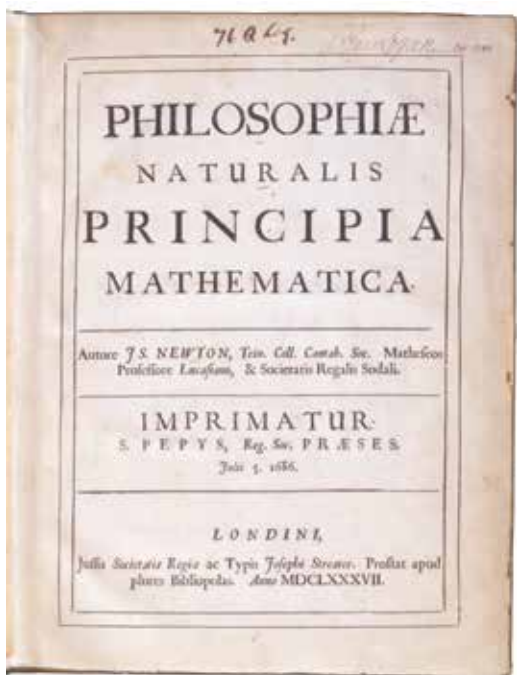
When the new library was in operation, conversations were held seeking an arrangement with the Loganian Library, housed on Sixth Street across the State House Square. James Logan, who had come to Pennsylvania as William Penn's secretary in 1699 and in the course of years occupied many of the highest political and judicial offices of the province, was a Bookman all his life. A linguist of competence in a bewildering number of languages, a classicist who in the margins of his

books crossed swords with the greatest European editors, and a scientist who described the fertilization of corn by pollen, understood and used the new inventions of calculus, wrote on optics, and made astronomical observations, the Quaker virtuoso bought books to feed the wide-ranging appetite of his mind. By the time he died in 1751, Logan had gathered over 2,600 volumes, chiefly in Latin and Greek, constituting the best collection of books in colonial America.

In his later years he had decided to leave his books for the use of the public and established a library, an American Bodleian. He designed and commenced the building to house it on Sixth Street and wrote an elaborate codicil to his will setting up and, with the rents of a property in Bucks County, endowing the institution. The original trustees had included his son-in-law Isaac Norris, Jr., but as a result of a disagreement with him, Logan canceled the codicil. In spite of his intention to frame another instrument, illness prevented him from perfecting it. Nonetheless, after his death his heirs carried out the old man's wishes. The Loganian Library was created in 1754 as a trust for the public with Logan's sons, William



Thomas Sully, *James Logan*. Oil on canvas, Philadelphia, 1831. After an original by Gustavus Hesselius. Commissioned to replace a portrait lost by fire in 1831.



Isaac Newton, *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*.
London, 1687.



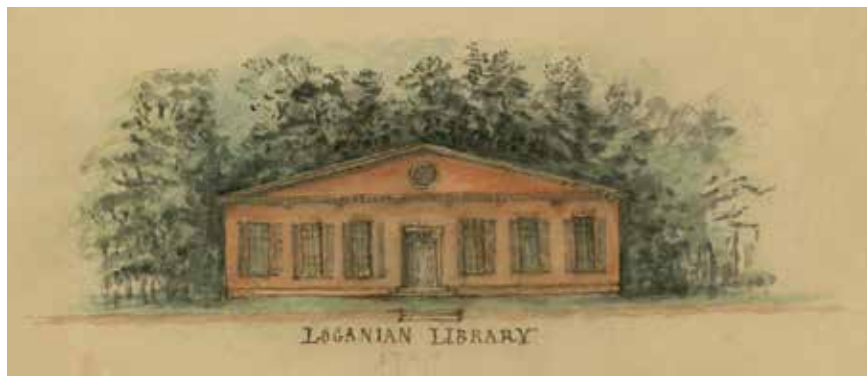
James Logan, *Difficiliorum quorundam Elucidatio*.
Manuscript explanations of certain of Newton's propositions tipped into the front of Logan's copy of the *Principia*.



Geoffrey Chaucer, *Works*.
London, 1602. James Logan's
copy, originally bound for Henry,
Prince of Wales, with his arms
and feather insignia.

and James, his son-in-law John Smith, Benjamin Franklin, Richard Peters, Israel Pemberton, Jr., and William Allen as trustees. A second deed of trust, almost identical with the earlier one, was dated March 25, 1760.

A printed catalogue of the Bibliotheca Loganiana, prepared by Lewis Weiss, an educated German immigrant, was issued in 1760 in which year the library was opened. Although Franklin in his promotional tract for



Loganian Library. Ink and wash drawing, [1797?].



Euclid, *Works*. Basel, 1533. Given to the Loganian Library in 1776 by William Logan of Bristol. Inscribed in 1553 by John Dee, first English translator of Euclid.



Euclid in Arabic. Rome, 1594. James Logan's copy, with notes in his Arabic handwriting.

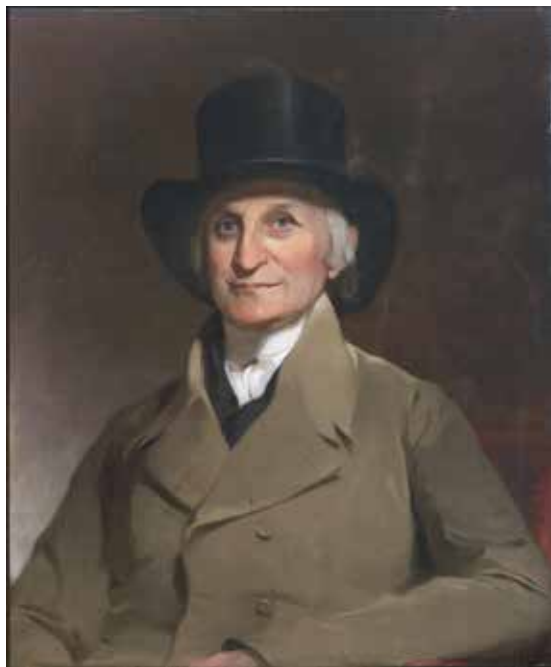
the establishment of a college in Philadelphia had described Logan's library as a valuable book resource available to professors and students, use was seldom made of the scholarly works in the collection. In the eighteenth century there was furthermore little interest in the classics and advanced mathematical sciences on the part of merchants and artisans in Philadelphia. Moreover, two factors that made Logan's library unique contributed to its unpopularity; it included few English works of *belles-lettres* and, at the opposite pole, almost no polemical theology or politics.

In 1758 Dr. William Logan, a physician of Bristol, England, and the younger brother of James, died without issue and left much of his estate including his library to his nephew William Logan of Philadelphia. Dr. William Logan's books included a high proportion of medical works, and in pre-Revolutionary days it may have been the largest and best—albeit somewhat old-fashioned—such collection in the colonies. When the American William Logan died in 1776, he left from his inheritance such books as did not duplicate titles in the Loganian Library to that institution and the duplicates to the Library Company.

When the handsome Library Company building began to rise across the square from the Loganian Library, James Logan, Jr., the sole survivor of the original trustees, asked the General Assembly of Pennsylvania to vest the trust in the Library Company in order to make his father's benefaction more useful. By an act of March 31, 1792, the books and assets of the Loganian Library were transferred into the custody of the far more active institution. An addition to its just completed building was quickly erected as an east wing. There were almost 4,000 volumes in the Loganian Library which, after it was moved into new quarters, were listed in a new catalogue published in 1795. The weightiness in pounds and in contents can be judged from the fact that almost one-quarter of the total number of volumes was in folio size.

A succession of functionaries of brief incumbency, including John Todd, Jr., the first husband of Dolly Madison, handled the operation of the library until Zachariah Poulson, Jr. became the Librarian in 1785. Poulson was a printer, newspaper publisher, and excellent keeper of books and records. He compiled and printed an indexed catalogue in 1789, kept admirable accounts of books borrowed, and set up "A Chronological Register" of shares which retrospectively listed the original and successive owners of each share from 1731 on. The register has been kept

Thomas Sully, *Zachariah Poulson, Jr.* Oil on canvas, Philadelphia, 1843. Librarian from 1785 to 1806. Commissioned from the artist.



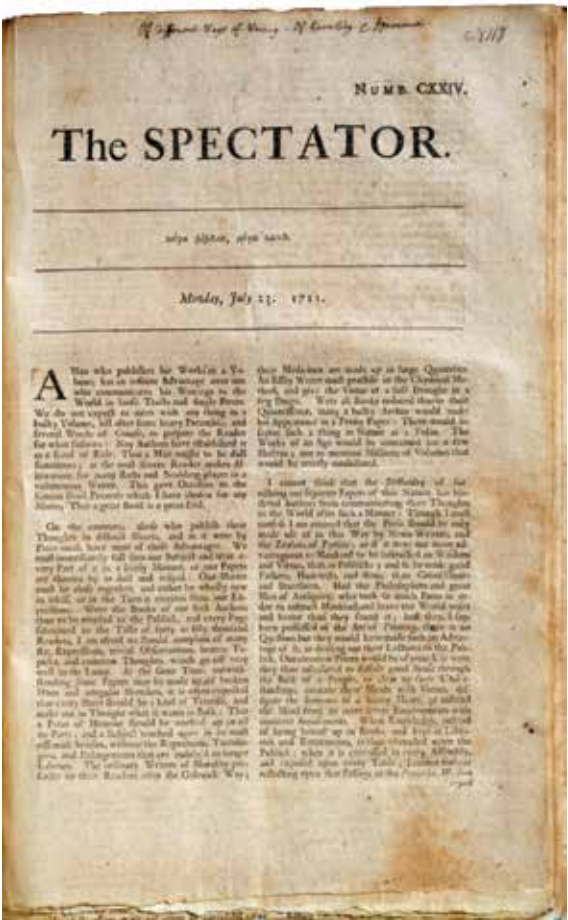
up and is still in use. Each Librarian was held personally responsible for the integrity of the collection, and inventories were taken when one resigned or was replaced to determine how much should be charged him for loss during his incumbency. This amount was sometimes waived; it was frequently uncollectible.

The number of shareholders had reached 100 in 1763 and remained at that level until the merger with the Union Library in 1769, when it jumped to 400. To pay for the Fifth Street building, 266 shares were in 1789–1793 sold or given to the carpenters, bricklayers, and others in partial payment for work done. The cost of a share was increased in 1793 from £20 fluctuating Pennsylvania money to \$40 in good Hamiltonian currency, and the annual dues were set at \$2. Thereafter growth was gradual, the membership rising to over 800 in the 1820s. Both members and nonmembers paid a fee for taking out books, but anyone was permitted to read in the library without charge. Penalties were levied for keeping books out overlong.

Poulson, who was responsible for getting the operational affairs of the institution on a workmanlike basis, served as Librarian for over two decades. On December 3, 1801, in appreciation of the Directors'

commendation of his services up to that time, he gave the library ten folio, thirty-seven quarto, and four octavo volumes of miscellaneous pamphlets, chiefly of the seventeenth century. These added over 1,000 titles to the Library Company's holdings. The number in itself was important, but it was far outweighed by the comparatively recent discovery that all these volumes once belonged to Benjamin Franklin. Poulson's gift represents almost half of the 2,150 titles on the Library Company's shelves that once belonged to Franklin.

The library's role in the life of Philadelphia was maintained. It was, and remained until late in the nineteenth century, "the City Library" or "the Philadelphia Library." Men of prominence were its members. Nine



The Spectator. London, 1711. Franklin's copy; gift of Zachariah Poulson, Jr., 1801. Franklin taught himself to write by emulating the style of this English periodical.



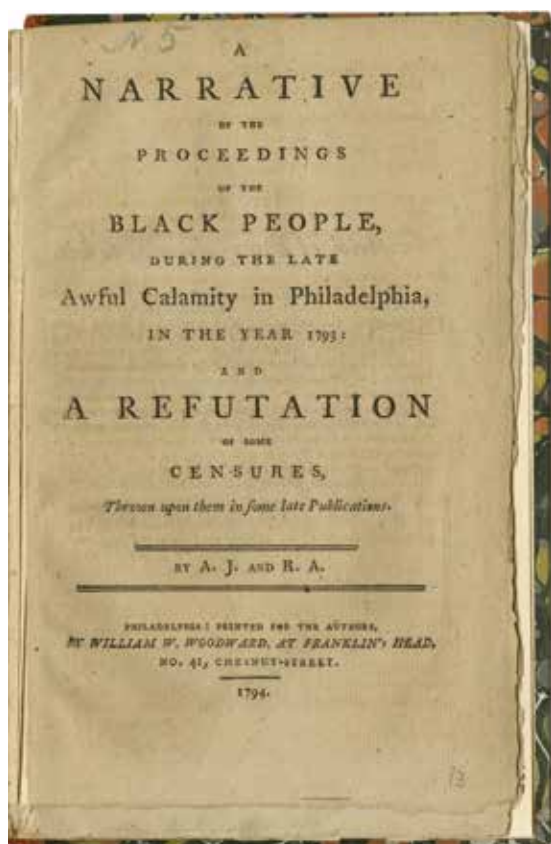
Joseph Frederick Wallet Des Barres, *The Atlantic Neptune*. [London, 1777]. This atlas was taken as a prize from a British brig and was used by the Continental Congress during the Revolution. Gift of Joseph Parker Norris, 1824.

signers of the Declaration of Independence—Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush, Francis Hopkinson, Robert Morris, George Clymer, John Morton, James Wilson, Thomas McKean, and George Ross—owned shares, and some of them served as Directors. At the turn of the century those most active in the management of the Library Company were Richard Wells, Benjamin R. Morgan, William Rawle, Joseph Parker Norris, Robert Waln, and Samuel M. Fox, all of whom were leaders or participants in the civic and philanthropic activities of the city. They saw that the finances of the library were properly managed and that orders for books were sent regularly to London agents and, after the semianual shipments were carefully checked, paid for. Local booksellers and publishers were also patronized, but it was the important works from abroad—novels by Sir Walter Scott and Charlotte Smith, poetry by Lord Byron, accounts of Napoleon and his wars, and descriptions of travels into the still “new worlds” of Africa and Asia—for which the Library Company was justly renowned. Philadelphia printers borrowed the English importations and used and abused them to such an extent that a by-law was passed in 1805 declaring that printers would be sued if they took

the Library Company's books apart in the course of reprinting the work. The same problem recurred in the second half of the twentieth century.

In addition to gifts of their own works by member-authors such as Charles Brockden Brown, a number of interesting accessions flowed into the library. In 1788, as secretary of the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery, Tench Coxe, later Hamilton's assistant in the Treasury Department, placed in the Library Company a handful of antislavery pamphlets sent to the Society from England and France, and remarked that he knew of no depository "so proper" for such material.

The Directors were surprised in March 1799, to receive as a gift from a stranger, Henry Cox of Ireland, a black box containing a number of books, manuscripts, and printed records. They had come down to him from his grandfather, Sir Richard Cox, Lord Chancellor of Ireland 1703–1707, who had appropriated them. When William Hepworth Dixon, a British



Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, *Narrative of the Proceedings of the Black People*. Philadelphia, 1794. Gift of the authors, 1794.

James I, *Instructions for Sr
Arthure Chicester*. Manuscript
on vellum, Greenwich, June 5,
1614. Gift of Henry Cox, 1799.



historian, saw the manuscripts in Philadelphia in 1866, he recognized them as part of the official Irish archives and suggested that they were of such paramount importance that they should be returned to Great Britain. The Directors agreed and formally offered to Lord Romilly, Master of the Rolls, several of the manuscripts containing correspondence between James I and the Privy Council of Ireland, orders of the Council, and the diary and letterbook of the Marquis of Clanricarde, Lord Deputy of Ireland. The offer was gratefully accepted. In return the Library Company was given several series of British government publications of an antiquarian nature. Of greater import, however, was the discovery thirty years later of the “Mayflower Compact,” which was generously sent back to Massachusetts by Queen Victoria’s officials. *The Times of London* noted: “The precedent of the Library Company of Philadelphia ... has unquestionably played a considerable part in determining the action

of the Consistory Court.” Inexplicably, the Directors did not return a number of other valuable documents from the same source, including James I’s original instructions of 1614 to his Lord Deputy of Ireland, Sir Arthur Chichester, and some dozens of unique Irish seventeenth-century broadsides.

A far larger gift came as the bequest in 1803 of the Reverend Dr. Samuel Preston, rector of Chevening in Kent. It is not known exactly why he chose the Library Company to be the recipient of his book bounty. In 1783 Preston, an ardent Whig, had written to the Directors congratulating them on the exploits of their fellow countrymen and wishing the Library Company well in the days to come, and in 1784 he sent the Library Company a copy of the two-volume folio Hebrew Old Testament prepared by the erudite Benjamin Kennicott because, he said,



Benjamin West, *The Reverend Samuel Preston, of Chevening in Kent*. Oil on canvas, 1797. Gift of Preston’s widow, 1803.

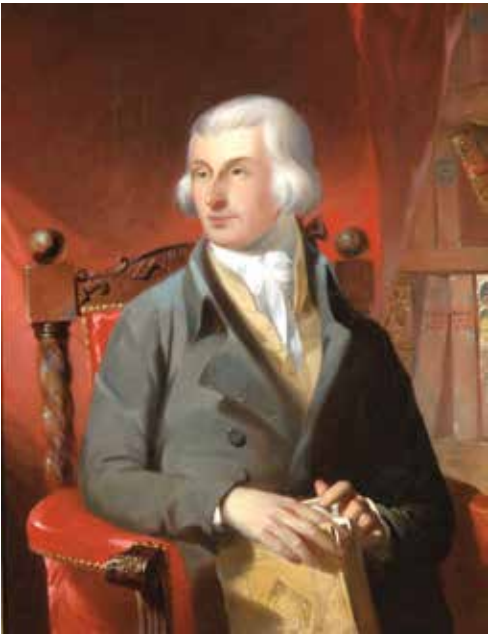


Willem Janzoon and Jan Blaeu, *Le Theatre du Monde ou Nouvel Atlas*. Amsterdam, 1644-46. Bequest of Samuel Preston, 1803.

of the “high regard I have ever entertained for the People of America, particularly those of the Province of Pennsylvania.” Preston may have met Franklin during the latter’s visit to Chevening in August 1774. Nicholas Biddle later related that the American artist Benjamin West, who painted Preston’s portrait in 1797, “induced Preston to give his valuable library to Phila.” In any event, the Preston bequest consisted of over 2,500 volumes, the lifetime accumulation of a well-to-do, cultured gentleman cleric with an appropriate proportion of theological works, but rich in handsome and expensive works of geography, history, and the fine arts. When the books arrived in America, Congress refused to remit the duties, which were begrudgingly paid.

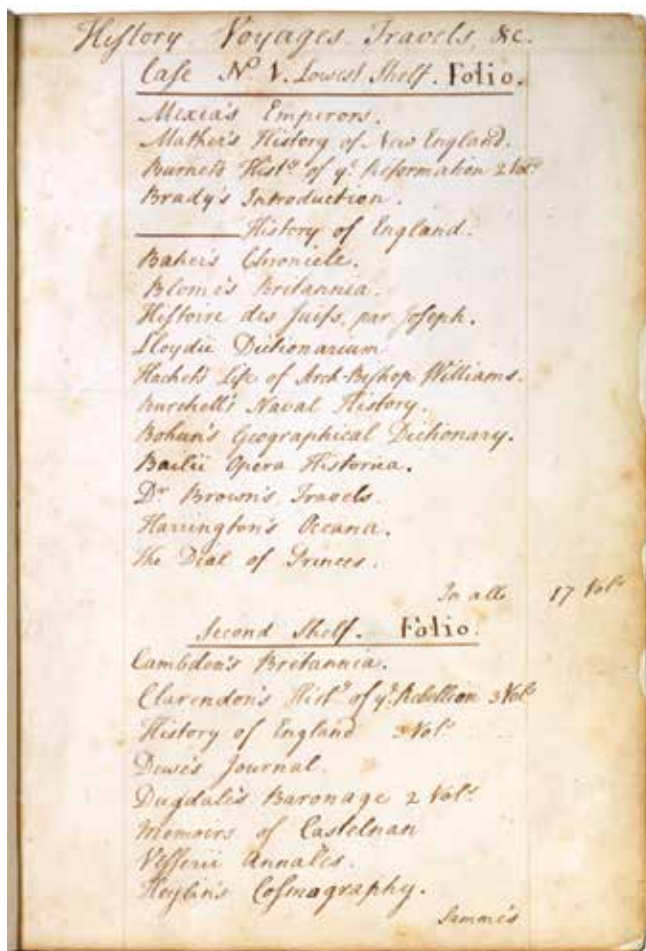
The next major accession of the library was in 1828 upon the death of the Philadelphia merchant William Mackenzie. Little is known of the man except that he was wealthy, generous, and a true bibliophile. Mackenzie was the first American to collect books for the sake of their rarity, their age, or their beauty, gathering them together from every part of Europe and America. He was, in short, America’s first rare book collector, who acquired such “collectors’ items” as Jacobus de Voragine’s

John Neagle, *William Mackenzie*.
Oil on canvas, 1829. After an
original, now lost, given by Dr.
James Abercrombie in 1828.



Caius Plinius Secundus, *Historia
Naturale*. Venice: Nicolas Jenson,
1476. Mackenzie bequest, 1828.

Golden Legende printed by Caxton in 1483, Jenson's 1476 Italian Pliny on vellum, and many French books, from romances of chivalry to Oudry's rococo masterpiece, *La Fontaine's Fables Choiesies* (Paris, 1755–1759). In addition to rarities, among them dozens of pamphlets of the period of the Revolution and other extremely valuable pieces of Americana, Mackenzie purchased the books of his day as they were published, and he bought heavily when important libraries were dispersed locally. As a result he was a major customer of the bookseller Nicholas Gouin Dufief in 1801–1803 when the collections of Benjamin Franklin and of William Byrd of Westover were broken up and sold piecemeal. By his will Mackenzie left all his books before 1700 to the Loganian Library



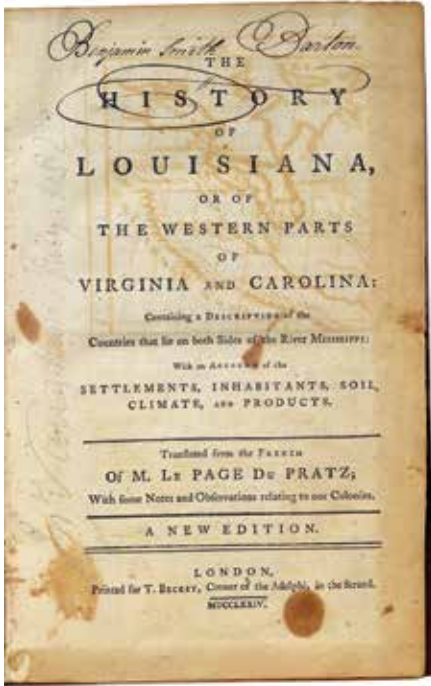
William Byrd,
*A Catalogue of
Books, in the
Library at Westover.*
Manuscript, ca.
1751. William
Mackenzie
bequest, 1828.
The Library
Company
published a critical
edition of this
catalogue in 1995.

(which since 1792 had been consolidated with the Library Company) as well as another 800 volumes which the Loganian trustees could select from his French and Latin works. These amounted to 1,519 volumes; an additional 3,566 volumes were purchased on most favorable terms by the Loganian trustees from Mackenzie's executors. At the same time the Library Company acquired 1,966 volumes, mostly books in English. Thus Mackenzie's entire collection of over 7,000 books found its way into the Library Company.

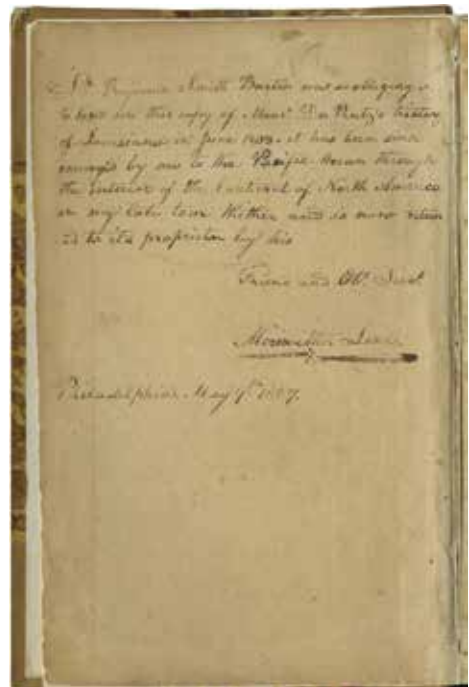
In 1832 two other large libraries were added to the book resources of the Library Company. After the death of Zaccheus Collins, an amateur naturalist and longtime Director of the library, the administrator of his estate offered his books for sale. For \$1,200 the collection, rich in works of botany and other fields of natural history, was purchased for the Loganian Library. Collins's books complemented the Library Company's already significant holdings in the field of natural history, for the Library Company was founded just as the Linnaean revolution was inspiring the first systematic classification of new American species of plants and animals. Many of the early naturalists were associated with the Library Company—John Bartram, James Logan, Peter Collinson, Joseph



Hortus Sanitatis. Strasbourg, ca. 1500. Collins Collection, 1832.



Antoine Simon Le Page du Pratz, *The History of Louisiana, or of the Western Parts of Virginia and Carolina*. London, 1774. Purchased 1823 at the sale of the library of Benjamin Smith Barton. Barton previously lent this copy to Meriwether Lewis, who took it on the famous expedition.



Inscription on fly-leaf by Meriwether Lewis, Philadelphia, May 7, 1807.



Mark Catesby, *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and The Bahama Islands*. London, 1771. Purchased 1772.

Breintnall—and many other members at least dabbled in this exciting new field. One of the first books placed on the shelves of the library was Philip Miller's *Gardener's Dictionary*, the gift of Peter Collinson. Mark Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina*, the first great color plate book of American natural history, was snapped up when a new edition was published in 1771.

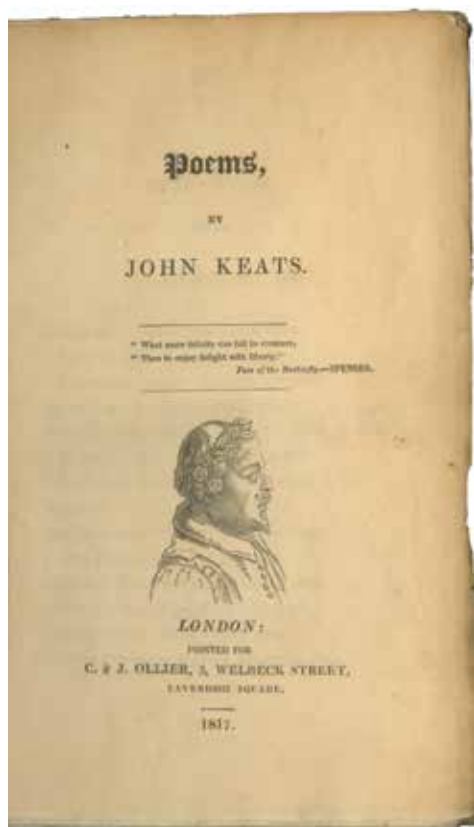
The second major collection to come to the Library Company in 1832 was that of James Cox. He was an artist who had emigrated from London shortly after the Revolution. By chance, near his house on Almond Street in Philadelphia, he met a woman who came from his own native village in England and who befriended him and made him her

heir. When the lady died, Cox came into a modest fortune, enabling him to buy books and more books which he did to the exclusion of all but the essential necessities of life. An eccentric bibliomaniac, he filled his house to overflowing with an accumulation of about 6,000 volumes, chiefly of a literary nature, including a first edition of Keats's *Poems* which he seems to have bought when it was first published. A solitary octogenarian, overwhelmed by the size of his collection, Cox agreed in 1832 to give it to the Library Company in return for an annuity of \$400. Two years later Cox died; his library proved to be a most unusual bargain.

In 1806 Zachariah Poulson resigned as Librarian and was succeeded by George Campbell, who remained in office until 1829. These were the days of printed catalogues. Supplements came out regularly; a new "complete" listing was published in 1803; a Loganian supplement was issued in 1828; and then, of course, the addition of the Mackenzie books called forth another catalogue. In the spring of 1829 John Jay Smith was elected Librarian. He was a man of broad culture and considerable energy, with a host of extracurricular activities such as the editing of a periodical,



Joshua Shaw, *Picturesque Views of American Scenery*. Philadelphia, 1820. From the library of James Cox, 1834.



John Keats, *Poems*. London, 1817.
From the library of James Cox,
1834.



Thomas Sully, *George Campbell*. Oil
on canvas, 1856. Librarian from
1806 to 1829. Gift of Edwin Wolf
2nd, 1960.



James Reid Lambdin,
John Jay Smith. Oil on
canvas, date unknown.
Librarian from 1829 to
1850. Gift of the Smith
family, 1883.

the promotion of Laurel Hill Cemetery, the practice of landscape gardening, and the collection of family and other early Pennsylvania manuscripts which he eventually gave to the Library Company. He was a descendant of James Logan through Logan's daughter Hannah and was proud of his ancestry. Through no fault of his, the only fire in the long history of the Library Company occurred early in Smith's tenure. On January 6, 1831, heat from the fireplace in the Loganian room kindled a wooden beam hidden beneath a veneer of masonry. Before it was extinguished some of the contiguous woodwork caught fire, and a clock, the portrait of Logan, a bust of Penn, and some books were destroyed. The loss, covered by insurance, was not so great as had been feared at first. Few books were a total loss; some had their edges scorched; 1,403 volumes were rebound because their spines had been damaged.

A major catalogue of the Library Company's books, arranged by subject, was issued in 1835, followed two years later by one of the Loganian Library. These, with their supplements of 1856 and 1867,

315

This Insurance Company ought to pay to the Library Company the amount of damage to maps \$25 and the value of the large front and plan of the siege of Gibraltar \$20. but that they ought not to pay for the clock or the bust of William Penn.

Feb'y 26. 1831. Signed H. B. Finney

Amount of loss by the fire at the Library on the 6th Jan'y 1831 exhibited to American Fire Insurance Company.

| | Albany | June | City | July | Total |
|---|--------|----------------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Destroyed | 24 | 79 | 220 | 11 | 334 |
| Ex. Account | 132 | 242 | 490 | 489 | 1453 |
| Repaired | 11 | 10 | 18 | 119 | 158 |
| Value destroyed | \$92 | \$112 | \$1737 | \$175 | \$2066 |
| Ant. Damage | \$4775 | \$115 | \$2074 | \$1223 | \$8925 |
| Clock Destroyed | \$200. | Damage to maps | | | 225 |
| Portrait of Logan | \$100. | Bust of Penn | | | 150 |
| Large Front of bottle before Gibraltar | | | | | 20 |
| Expense of John Smith Jr bill | | | | | \$167.09 |
| Appraisers bill | | | | | 52.00 |
| Total damages & expenses to be paid | | | | | \$2165.21 |
| by the Insurance Company not including the expenses of obtaining an estimate of which was submitted herewith at | | | | | 1375.43 |
| | | | | | \$3540.64 |
| Not allowed \$350. Charges | | | | | 247.09 |
| Nett loss received | | | | | \$2943.55 |

A letter was read from Mr James Cox,

Minute Book.
Philadelphia, March
1831. Lists the
number and value
of books affected by
the fire on January 6,
1831.

remained the basic finding aids of the library for over a century. Statistics were then printed showing that in the two collections there were 25,684 works in 43,884 volumes. In 1845 Smith noted that the number of books in the building had doubled in the sixteen years of his administration, and "with the rapid multiplication of books in America, importations from England & the Continent, &c." he foresaw another doubling in the next twenty years. A new building was considered in 1846, and John Notman actually drew plans for it, but nothing came of that. Growing

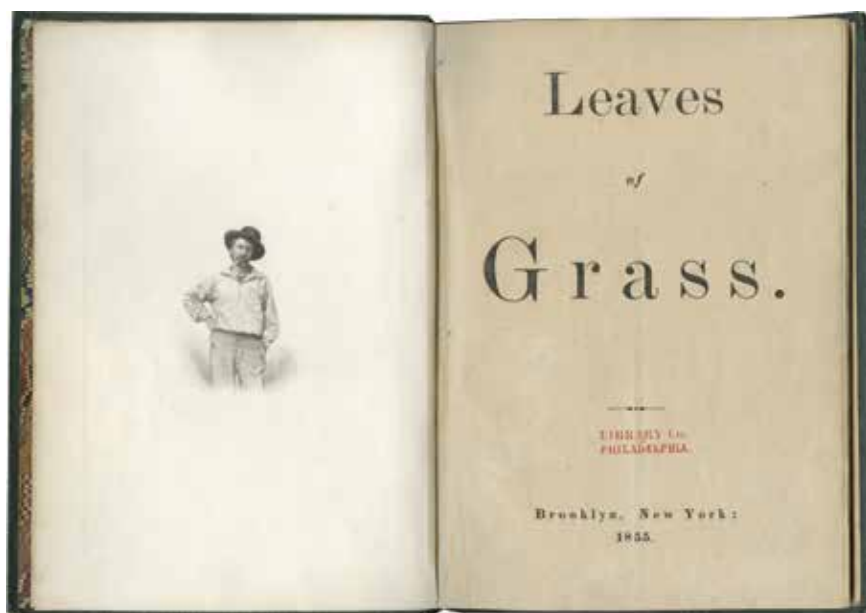
pains continued. When Charles Jewett published the first comprehensive survey of American libraries in 1851, the Library Company was one of only five institutions with as many as 50,000 volumes. The others were Harvard and Yale (both inclusive of their specialized graduate school collections), the Library of Congress, and the Boston Athenaeum. Only Harvard had more than the Library Company's approximate count of 60,000 volumes.

After more than two decades as Librarian, John Jay Smith resigned in 1851 and his son, Lloyd Pearsall Smith, succeeded him. He was more of a classicist than his predecessors and was known for his wit and his judicious spicing of conservation with Latin tags. "*Custos librorum nascitur, non fit*," he once wrote—"Librarians are born, not made." Lloyd Smith was also the first to look upon librarianship as a career.

The library continued to grow. Smith noted in 1856 that the majority of the 18,000 volumes added since the appearance of the 1835 catalogue had been purchased with the annual payments of the members. The quality and comprehensiveness of the library's acquisitions were maintained, a little bit of the best of everything, but an emphasis on history, biography, and travel, with a slowly increasing incursion of novels onto the shelves. American and foreign bestsellers, fiction and nonfiction, were ordered



Archibald Binney and James Ronaldson, *Specimen of Printing Types*. [Philadelphia], 1812. The publisher Mathew Carey's copy; gift of Isaac Lea, ca. 1850.



Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*. Brooklyn, New York, 1855. First edition, purchased 1855.

as a matter of course, but it is doubtful that any other library had the imagination—or the boldness—to buy when they were first published the then-little-regarded *Moby-Dick* and *Leaves of Grass*. The Library Company did.

Concern about the inadequacy of the Fifth Street building increased in pace with acquisitions. “Subscriptions for the erection of a Fire-Proof Building for the Library” were sought. The destruction of much of the Library of Congress made many institutions fire-conscious. By 1869 a substantial fund, including a legacy of almost \$50,000 from Joseph Fisher, had been raised; some lots were purchased in an attempt to assemble sufficient ground at the corner of Juniper and Locust Streets.

One of the Library Company’s treasures came to it in 1857 as a gift from George Mifflin Dallas, then American minister at the Court of St. James’s. “One of the members of Parliament in looking over the rubbish of a City curiosity shop” brought him a view of the southeast prospect of Philadelphia painted by Peter Cooper about 1720 (see cover illustration). He sent the “antique daub” back to its place of origin, deprecating its value except as a curiosity. The Cooper view, now restored and framed,

is one of the most valuable of all Philadelphia paintings, the oldest surviving canvas of any American city.

Shortly before the Cooper view arrived, loss by theft had been noted. Books belonging to the Library Company were discovered at an auction, with the “labels partially erased or concealed,” where they had been consigned by William Linn Brown. The book thief was the son of the author Charles Brockden Brown. The Directors promptly ordered that he be excluded from the library.

During the Civil War the struggle of the nation made the operation of the library of secondary importance. When the Confederate Army under Lee threatened Pennsylvania in 1863, Lloyd P. Smith joined the Germantown Company of volunteers, leaving the servicing of books in the hands of fifteen-year-old George Maurice Abbot, who had just joined the staff, and Smith’s now aged father. A map was set up in the reading room with colored pins to show the changing positions of the armies as campaigns ebbed and flowed. When the Great Central Fair was held in 1864 on Logan Square, the Library Company lent such historic items as William Penn’s desk and clock and some of its rarest books for exhibition. With money scarce, prices high, and many of the members in



Detail from *The Liberator*. Boston, January 1, 1831. Gift of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, 1866.

the army, it took all of Smith's ingenuity to maintain the currency of the book purchases which were increasingly being dominated by a demand for novels by such popular, now almost-forgotten authors as Ellen Price Wood, Lady Blessington, and Mayne Reid, as well as French texts of the prolific Alexandre Dumas and George Sand.

In 1869 Dr. James Rush died. He was the son of the physician-patriot Benjamin Rush and husband and heir of Phoebe Ann Ridgway Rush, who had inherited a portion of her father Jacob Ridgway's immense fortune and had predeceased her husband. They were childless. In accordance with his will as presented to the Directors of the Library Company by Henry J. Williams, Rush's brother-in-law, sole executor, and long-time Director of the Library Company, Rush left an estate of nearly a million dollars to the Library Company—under certain conditions. The original will had been drawn up in 1860, and in the remaining years of his life Dr. Rush added codicil upon codicil until he succeeded in obscuring his own somewhat eccentric wishes in a fog of words and admonitory clauses.

His original intention was clear. With his money the Library Company was to purchase a plot of adequate size "situate between Fourth and Fifteenth and Spruce and Race Streets" and there build a "fire-proof building sufficiently large to accommodate and contain all the books of the Library Company of Philadelphia . . . and to provide for its future extension." He did not want anything fancy. Matters, however, were not permitted to rest there. In his second codicil Dr. Rush authorized his



Anna C. Peale, *Jacob Ridgway*, *James Rush*, and *Phoebe Anne Ridgway Rush*. Watercolor on ivory, 1829. James Rush bequest, 1869.

executor, at his discretion, to do whatever he thought fit. Mr. Williams asserted that on his deathbed Dr. Rush had expressed his specific desire that the library be built on a lot at Broad and Christian Streets toward the purchase of which he had made a payment. The executor announced his intention of carrying out the testator's last oral wishes.

Dr. Rush, who was a studious, somewhat misanthropic, and definitely eccentric gentleman, set forth a number of curious stipulations and precatory provisions in his will, but he had a clear idea of what he wanted the Library Company, where he had spent many quiet, happy hours, to be. He wrote:

I know that an ostentatious library to keep up with the progress of our country, collecting too many books, may be like an avaricious man who accumulates money to the ruin of both his modesty and his intellect.

Let [the library] rest in a modest contentment in the useful quality of its volumes for the benefit, not the amusement alone of the public, nor let it over an ambitious store of inferior printed paper, flap its flimsy leaves, and crow out the highest number of worthless books. Let it be a favor for the eminent works of fiction to be found upon the shelves; but let it not keep cushioned seats for time-wasting and lounging readers, nor places for everyday novels, mind-tainting reviews, controversial politics, scribbles of poetry and prose, biographies of unknown names, nor for those teachers of disjointed thinking, the daily newspapers, except, perhaps for reference to support, since such an authority could never prove, the authentic date of an event. In short, let the managers think only of the intrinsic value of additions to their shelves.

While such a Catonian opinion of the printed word would not have reflected the tastes of the membership at large and while other stipulations were somewhat aggravating, it was Williams's firm decision to build the new library in South Philadelphia, both physically and psychologically removed from the homes and businesses of the members, which aroused the most opposition. At a meeting in October 1869, the membership voted to "accept the legacy of Dr. James Rush according to the

terms expressed in his will,” with 378 of the 969 members abstaining, 298 voting in favor of the resolution, and 293 voting against it. The members, however, voted down a purely polite corollary motion expressing their gratitude for the bequest and their willingness to unite with Mr. Williams to carry out Dr. Rush’s philanthropic intentions. A subsequently passed vote of thanks did nothing to placate Mr. Williams.

The Directors of the Library Company were torn between a desire to benefit from the million-dollar bequest and their disapproval of Williams’s plans for the site and the building. After several years, much bitterness, and a number of lawsuits, the huge Parthenon-like structure designed by Addison Hutton was erected at Broad and Christian Streets. In 1878 the Library Company reluctantly accepted the impressive edifice, named the Ridgway Library in honor of the original source of the funds which made it possible, and the Rush bequest. The reader-members, however, had no intention of going down to South Philadelphia to browse or pick up the latest novels and biographies bought for the library.

By the time the Ridgway Library was completed, plans, energetically



The Ridgway Building, Broad and Christian Streets. Ca. 1940.



Interior of the Ridgway Building. Ca. 1940.

forwarded by Henry Wharton, William Henry Rawle, and John S. Newbold, were well advanced for another building at Juniper and Locust Streets, a location more central and more convenient for most of the members. Indeed, 692 of the 950 members were then living in town west of Tenth Street. It was decided to use the Ridgway Library as a kind of storage house, although it was never so crudely phrased. The Directors proceeded to relieve the crowded shelves on Fifth Street by moving to Broad Street “such books as, if destroyed by fire, could never be replaced” as well as all the Loganian books included in the 1837 catalogue. Frank Furness, a popular architect who favored the use of bricks to create his individualistic kind of Victorian eclecticism, designed the in-town library where more modern books would be housed and the main lending aspect of the Library Company could be conducted. On February 24, 1880, the new Juniper and Locust Street library opened its doors. Soon afterward the Fifth Street property was sold.

In acknowledgment of the increasing number of women who became members throughout the nineteenth century, the plans for the Juniper



Frank Furness, *Juniper and Locust Street Building*. Ink and wash drawing, ca. 1879.

and Locust Street building included a ladies' sitting room. The Library Company also hired its first woman librarian, Elizabeth McClellan, who had charge of the Women's Room (and attended exclusively to the wants of female readers) from 1880 until her death in 1920. (Because of the separate accommodations at the Juniper and Locust Street building, attendance records were kept by gender. They indicate that in the late nineteenth century, attendance of female and male shareholders was almost equal.)

Lloyd P. Smith, in whose home the plans for the first meeting of the projected American Library Association took place, was proud of his two "fire-proof" buildings. As one of the leaders in the new movement to professionalize librarianship, he wrote articles for the *Library Journal*, gave papers at meetings of the association, went with his peers to an international meeting in England, and developed a classification system for the shelving of the books in the two new buildings. The system used *A* for theology, *E* for jurisprudence, *I* for science and arts, *O* for literature, *U* for history and biography, and *Y* for bibliography, with lower-case letters and numerals for divisions and subdivisions of the categories. Within



*Women's Room of the Juniper and Locust Street Building. From George Maurice Abbot, *A Short History of the Library Company of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia, 1913.*

these subject classifications the books were shelved by size—folios, quartos, octavos, and duodecimos—and then by accession number.

This might have presented no problem had not the holdings of the Library Company been fragmented. The Library Company's old books were housed in the north wing of the Ridgway Library; the Loganian Library's old books were ranged on the balcony which ran around the huge, open reading room; the Library Company's new books were in the uptown library. Each collection was arranged separately according to the Smith system, and as new collections came into the library each of those was also separately arranged. Duplicate catalogues and accession books had to be maintained for the two sites, for only the accession numbers appeared in the printed catalogues and on the handwritten paper slips which were used after 1856. The method was ponderous, but for the 100,000 volumes which the Library Company had, according to a government survey of 1876, it worked. Although a new shelving method was introduced in 1953, some of the library is still arranged according to Smith's system.

The first considerable new accessions after the occupation of the

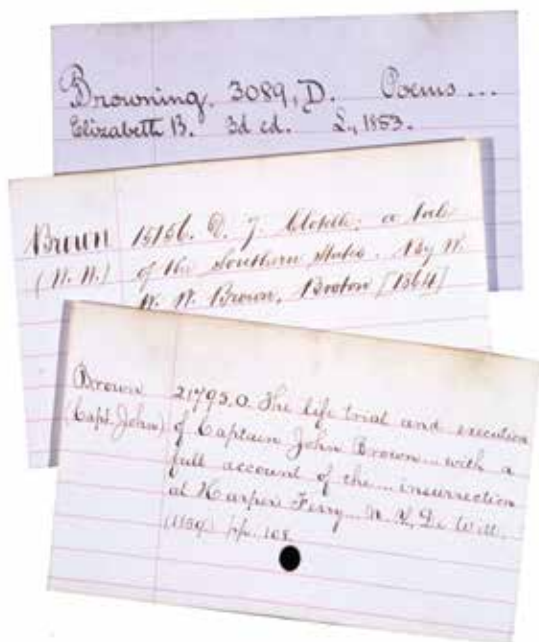


The Revolution, Vol. 1, No. 1 (January 8, 1868). Inscribed to Lucretia Mott from Susan B. Anthony, gift of Edward W. Davis, 1883.

Ridgway Library were the library and papers of Dr. James Rush that were part of his bequest. These included almost all the books of his celebrated father Benjamin Rush (probably the largest and best medical collection in the United States at the time of his death in 1813) and the manuscripts of many of his writings and lectures, notebooks, ledgers, medical records, and letters received. James Rush's own books and papers were far from in-



James Reid Lambdin,
Lloyd Pearsall Smith. Oil
on canvas, date un-
known. Librarian from
1851 to 1886. Gift of L.
M. Smith, 1915.



Handwritten cards from
the original card catalogue.
After 1856.



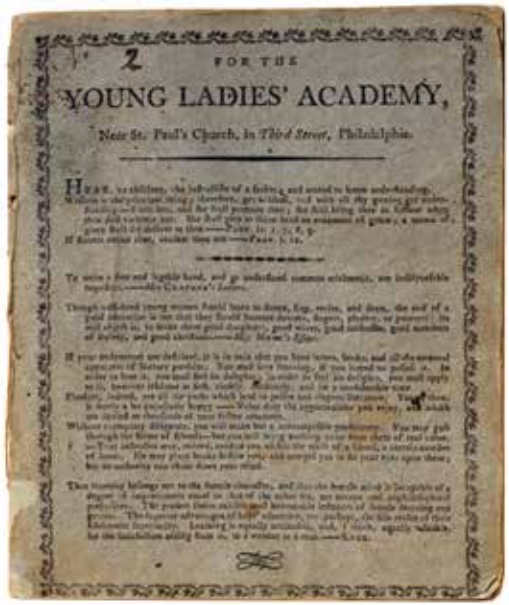
Frederick Catherwood, *Views of Ancient Monuments*. London, 1844. James Rush bequest, 1869.

consequential. His interests ranged from the valuable reference material that he had accumulated for the studies he wrote on the human voice and the human intellect to expensive, illustrated books on art, architecture, and antiquities.

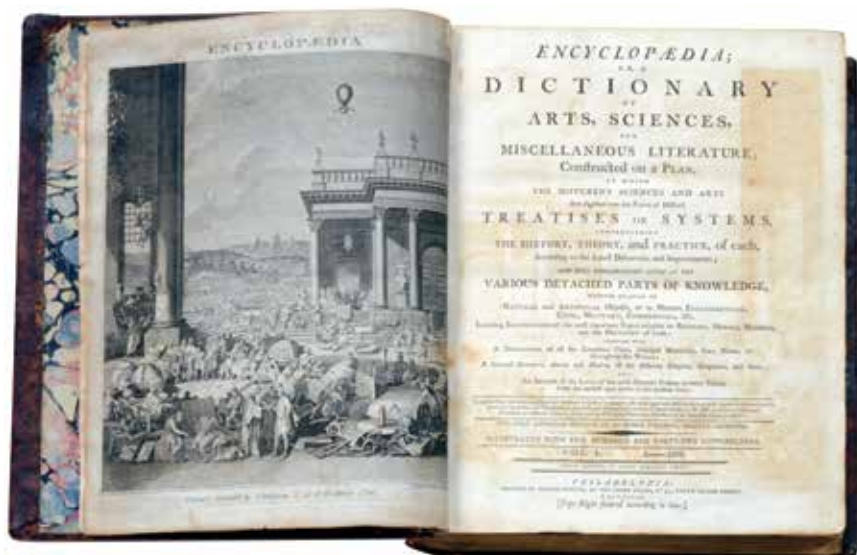
After the Civil War, the position of the Library Company and of similar American subscription libraries was gradually but inexorably altered. The challenge came first from the mechanics' libraries, which provided reading material for workingmen, and then from the universities and the newly organized free public libraries that grew rapidly in size, displacing the private subscription libraries as a community's principal repository of books. The Library Company noticed that far more nonmembers than members were beginning to use its resources. Subscribers without voting privileges could pay a fee for the right to borrow books. It was a recognition of the changing times that impelled Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, author and physician, to suggest in 1886 that a study be made "to consider whether it may not be possible to make of the Philadelphia Library a Library free to all." Certainly the historian of the inquisition, Henry C. Lea, had that

| Date | Patient | Service | Fee |
|--------|------------|--------------|-----|
| Nov 1 | John Adams | Consultation | 1/2 |
| Nov 2 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 3 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 4 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 5 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 6 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 7 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 8 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 9 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 10 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 11 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 12 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 13 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 14 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 15 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 16 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 17 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 18 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 19 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 20 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
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| Nov 26 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 27 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 28 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 29 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |
| Nov 30 | John Adams | Visit | 1/2 |

Benjamin Rush, *Manuscript Journal*. Page for November 1790 listing fees charged various patients, including the family of Vice President John Adams. James Rush bequest, 1869.



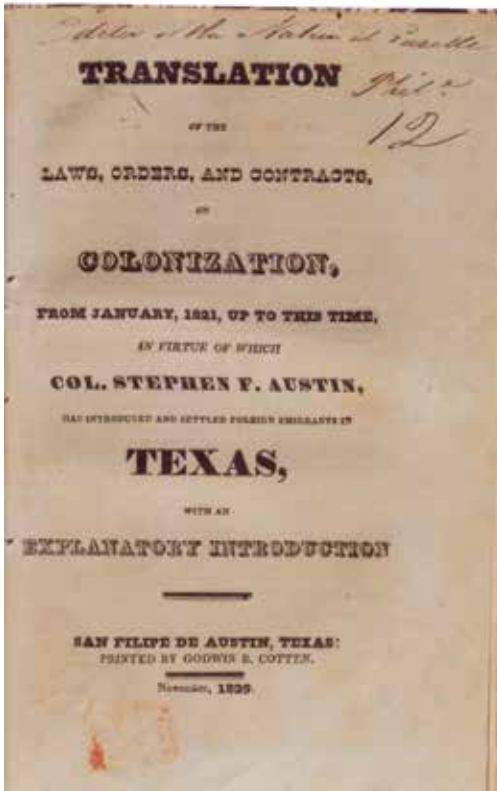
Benjamin Rush, *For the Young Ladies' Academy*. Printed cover of an exercise book, 1787. James Rush bequest, 1869.



Thomas Dobson, *Encyclopædia; or, A Dictionary of Arts and Sciences*. Philadelphia: Thomas Dobson, 1798-1802. Benjamin Rush's copy, James Rush bequest, 1869.



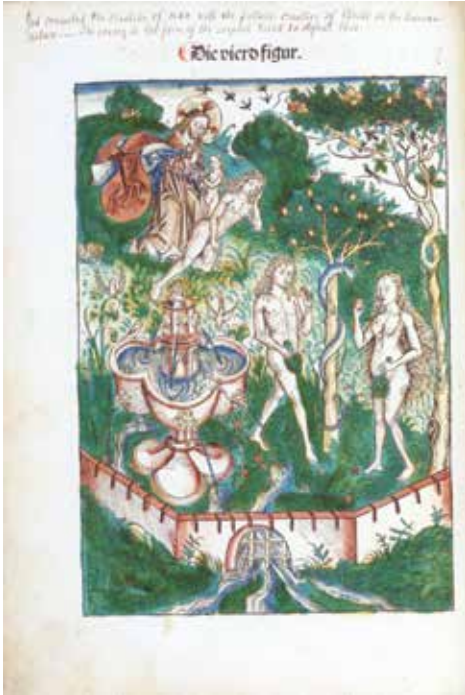
John Moran, Nos. 114 &
116 N. Water St. 1868 from
*A Collection of Photographic
Views in Philadelphia &
Its Vicinity*. Albumen
print photograph, 1868.
Purchased from the
photographer, 1870.



Stephen Fuller Austin, *Translation of the Laws, Orders, and Contracts, on Colonization*. San Filipe De Austin, Texas, November, 1829. Purchased at the sale of the library of Henry D. Gilpin, 1878.

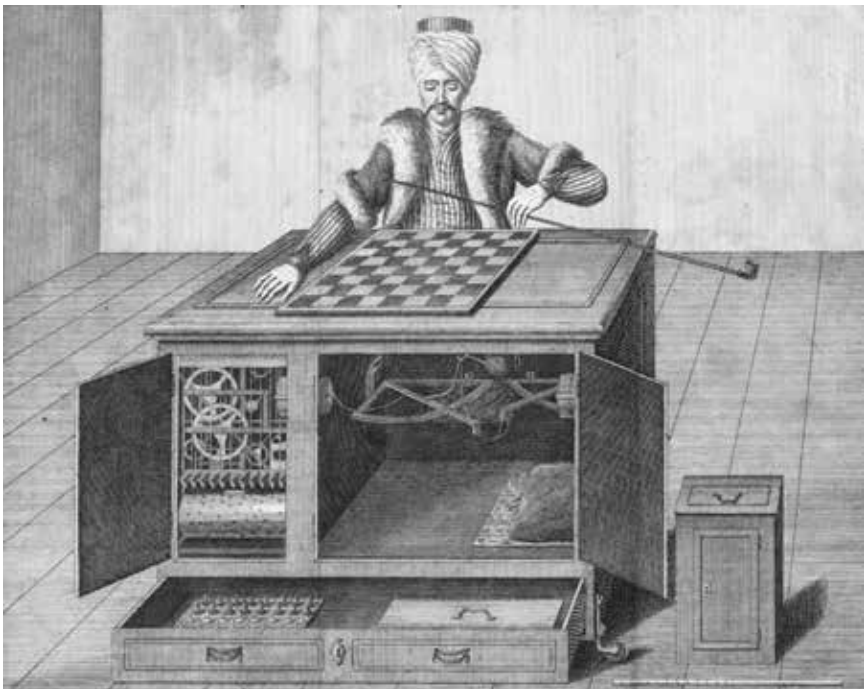
concept in mind when he gave \$50,000 to enlarge the library building, conditioning his gift upon the Library Company's agreement "not at any future time to abridge the privileges heretofore so liberally extended to the public."

At the same time the potential scholarly resources of the library grew impressively. In 1884 the chess library of Professor George Allen—said at the time to have been the fifth finest collection of its kind in the world—was bought. Late that year Margaretta A. Dick donated a collection of books, chiefly Americana and many editions of the *Book of Common Prayer*, which she had purchased for \$1,000 from the estate of John McAllister. A year and a half later his son, John A. McAllister, owner of the city's leading optical supply house and an incorrigible magpie, gave the Library Company his comprehensive pickings of a lifetime, including prints, photographs, playbills, political cartoons, paper currency, song-sheets, broadsides, newspaper clippings, letters, and



[Stephan Fridolin], *Das Büch der Schatzbehalter.*
Nuremberg, 1491.
Purchased 1878.

Chess Automaton. George Al-
len Chess Collection, 1884.



memorabilia of all kinds. The Civil War period was covered exhaustively: the Directors, expressing appreciation of the gift, commented that the collection "cannot fail to be of interest to the student of this period of the history of our country." To McAllister is owed the preservation of many once little valued printed trifles of the nineteenth century.

A not dissimilar collection came as the result of the foresight of Librarian Lloyd P. Smith. In 1885 he presented the library with 400 bound volumes of pamphlets, and after his death in 1886 his widow sold about as many volumes again to the trustees of the Loganian Library



John A. McAllister, *Scrapbook*. Gift of John A. McAllister, 1886.



Cephas Grier Childs, *Mah-has-kah, Chief of the Ioways (White Cloud)*. Colored lithograph, [Philadelphia, 1830]. Gift of John A. McAllister, 1884. A trial proof, never used, intended for Thomas L. McKenney and James Hall, *History of the Indian Tribes of North America*.

for \$300. Covering the political, social, economic, and philanthropic life of the country—but naturally richest in local publications—these illuminated many facets of the half-century 1830–1880.

In 1886, Mary Rebecca Darby Smith, another descendant of James Logan and a cousin of Lloyd P. Smith, bequeathed her library of over 600 volumes, consisting mainly of literature and history, to the Loganian collection. Most of the volumes were presentation copies from their authors. Her autograph collection of nineteenth-century celebrities was also part of the gift. Anne Hampton Brewster, nineteenth-century fiction writer and one of the first female foreign correspondents to American newspapers, made the Library Company the beneficiary of her will in 1892. Brewster, a member of the Library Company for forty-one years

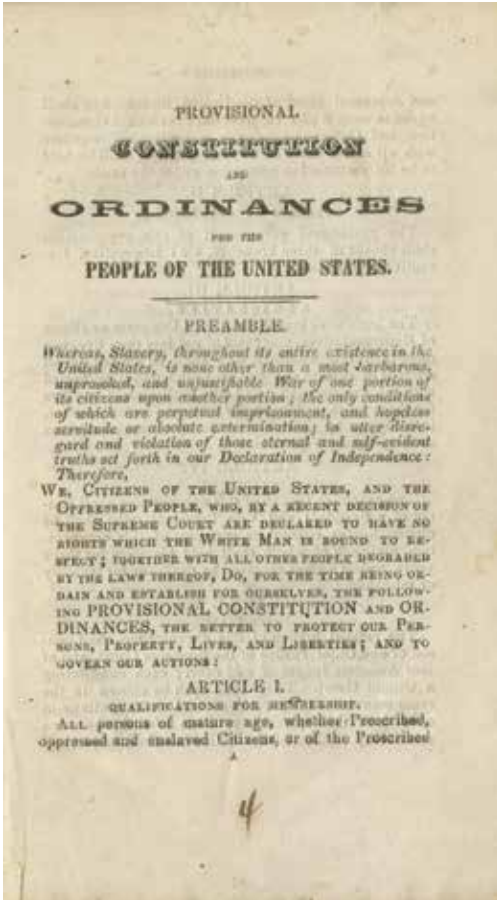


William and Frederick Langenheim, *Girard Bank*. Daguerreotype, Philadelphia, 1844. Gift of John A. McAllister, 1896. This view of militia gathering in the wake of an anti-Catholic riot is Philadelphia's first news photograph.

and a friend of Lloyd P. Smith, left her entire library of approximately 2,000 volumes, as well as manuscripts, journals, notebooks, newspaper clippings, and all of her apartment furnishings. Brewster's library consisted mainly of European histories, and her personal papers chronicle the life of an unmarried professional woman as well as the lives of the American expatriates in Rome on whom she reported for eighteen years.

Two bequests added specialized collections. Albert G. Emerick, a pioneer American musicologist, left his books to the Library Company in 1896, and in 1904 the library received from Charles G. Sower, a descendant of the country's first German printer, a family collection rich in Pennsylvania-German imprints.

With two buildings to operate, Lloyd P. Smith had at first divided



John Brown, *Provisional Constitution and Ordinances for the People of the United States*. [St. Catharines, Ontario: William Howard Day, 1858]. Gift of Lloyd P. Smith, 1883.



Mary Rebecca Darby Smith. Frontispiece from *Leaves from the Past*. Philadelphia, 1872. Gift of Smith, the compiler.



Thomas Holme, *A Mapp of ye Improved Part of Pensilvania in America*. Engraving, London, ca. 1700. Purchased ca. 1890.



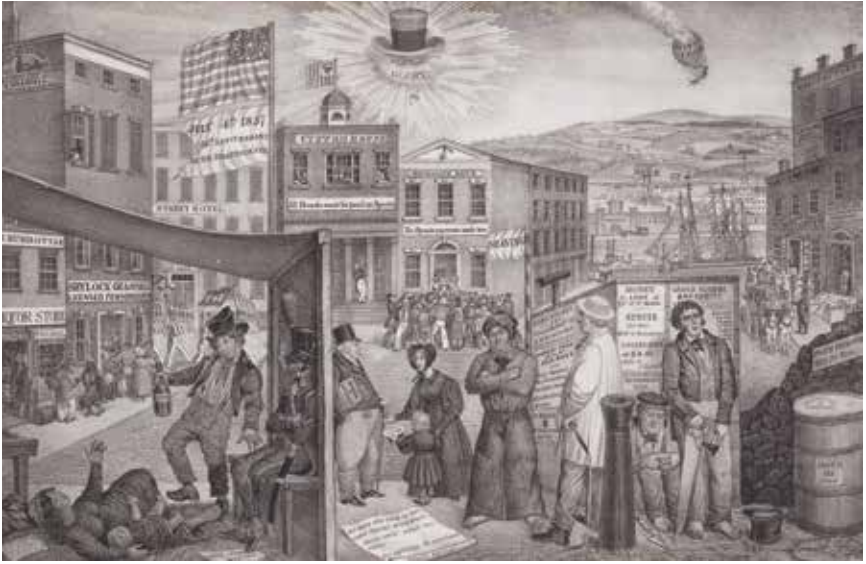
Jans Adolf Jerichau, *Anne Hampton Brewster*. Pencil on paper, 1872. Brewster bequest, 1892.

his time between the Locust Street and Christian Street libraries. George Maurice Abbot, who had been hired as a boy to help in the old Library Hall, was soon sent down to supervise the Ridgway Library. J. Bunford Samuel was taken on as a stack boy and messenger there. Smith's successors—James G. Barnwell from 1887 to 1907 and the patient Abbot from 1907 to 1929—emigrated as soon as they could to the more socially rewarding milieu of Locust Street. Few of the Directors and few of the members gave much thought to the dusty vastness of the gray Greek temple in which James and Phoebe Ann Rush were entombed and, it sometimes seemed, in which the books were entombed also. They were satisfied to have Samuel take over the curatorship of the Ridgway Library.

Bunford Samuel was not a professional librarian nor a formally educated scholar, but he loved the books in his care. While others depended on catalogue entries to know what books were on the shelves and where to find them, Samuel over the years built up a memory bank more ef-



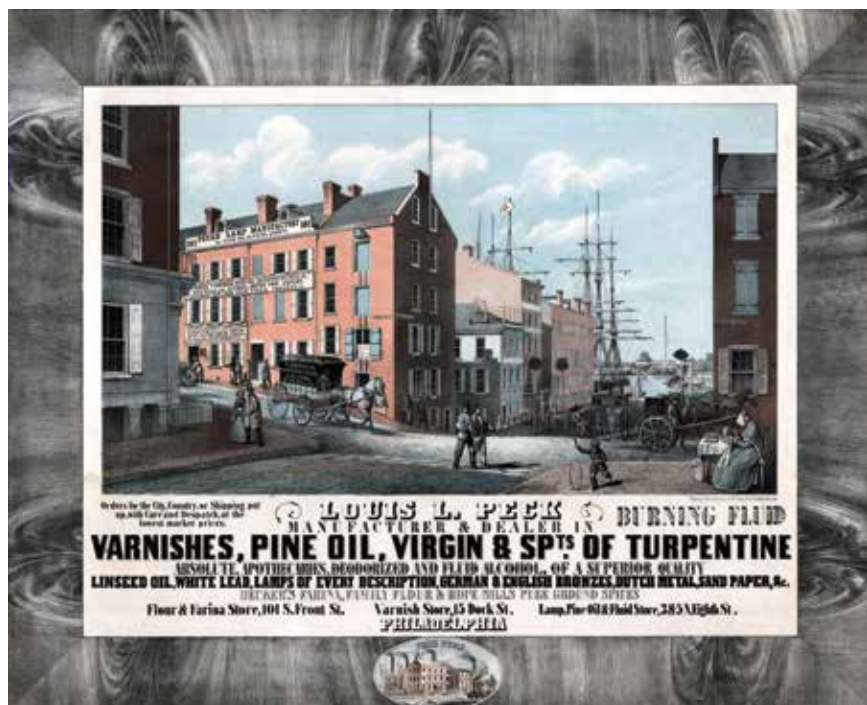
James Smither, *Benj. Randolph, Cabinet Maker*. Engraving, Philadelphia, [1769].



Edward Williams Clay, *The Times*. Lithograph, New York, 1837.

ficient than the scattered arrangement and the separate catalogues. He was more like the European librarians of his day than his contemporaries of the American Library Association; he was primarily a defender of the books in his care. The curiosity-seeker did not find Samuel very helpful; the serious scholar received his serious attention. The survival almost intact of the old books in the Library Company is due, in no small measure, to Samuel's concern for half a century.

On the other hand, the main concern of the Directors and the Librarian was seeing that the members were supplied with the most recent books for their leisure-time reading. After the Free Library of Philadelphia opened its main building on Chestnut Street in 1895 and later moved to 13th and Locust Streets, the Library Company was destined to drift, its members resigned to seeing it an institution of undistinguished gentility. It was recorded in 1895 that fewer persons had used the library and fewer books were taken out than usual. "The library facilities of the city have become so much enlarged during the past few years," the Directors reported to the shareholders in 1903, "that a library of the character of your institution cannot hold the same position that it formerly did, when libraries were fewer in number." As an afterthought they added that, however, as "a library for the student and the thoughtful



Louis L. Peck. Lithotint, Philadelphia, ca. 1855.

reader” its position remained preeminent. This statement summarized the library’s history for the first part of the twentieth century. In his brief history of the Library Company published in 1913, Abbot noted that the number of books in its collections was 237,677, divided equally between the two buildings, and that there were 909 members and “many subscribers.” Regular purchases, chiefly of popular works of fiction and nonfiction, buttressed with a considerable number of solid biographies and monographs on American history, continued to increase the library’s holdings.

In 1929 Austin K. Gray became Librarian. A gentle, cultured Englishman and literary historian, he attempted to rouse the library from its lethargy with lectures and exhibitions. However, he was unable to prevent the Library Company from inching toward bankruptcy as the depression deepened. The real estate holdings of the Rush Estate, mostly in a deteriorating section of the city, melted away. Income from dues (\$8 a year) and from a small endowment failed by a wide margin to



The Homilies of Michael. Ethiopian manuscript, Gondar, ca. 1682. Gift of Countess Van Cuelenbroeck, 1900.



Austin K. Gray. Photograph, 1930. Librarian from 1931 to 1943.

a Library dedicated to the care of and making additions to its remarkable collections of valuable books.” If such a policy did not please the majority of the shareholders, it was inevitable that such a policy would prevail. Under the will of Arthur K. Lea in 1938 the Company received \$50,000 “as a means towards a more aggressive administration of its library, so that said library may occupy a more conspicuous part in the educational facilities of the city and perform a more useful service than it has done in the past.”

A further thrust in the direction of change was given by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation to recatalogue and reshelve the library so that its scholarly resources would be more readily available. Unfortunately, the program carried out with WPA (Works Progress Administration) help was not well conceived or executed. The old printed catalogues, the paper slips of the nineteenth century, and current cards were consolidated into a single author card catalogue. However, the entries were simply copied from the original entries. None was checked against a book on the shelf, and the whole was never edited to provide uniformity or to correct errors. Furthermore, the shelf location was not placed on the main card but had to be found by reference to a second catalogue arranged by serial numbers only. These cards went to the National Union Catalogue in Washington, D.C., and were the only record there, inaccurate and incomplete as they were, of the Library Company’s holdings. At the time, no one looked upon the results of the Carnegie grant as anything but strengthening the status and stature of the Ridgway Library and its research materials.

At the annual meeting on May 1, 1939, the members unanimously agreed that the Directors be given authority to sell or lease the Locust Street property. A small circulating library was to be retained in the center of the city for the convenience of the members. During the following year all the books were moved to the basement of the Ridgway Library under the supervision of Barney Chesnick. He had been hired to assist Samuel at Broad and Christian Streets and succeeded him in charge of the old collections then being used by a comparatively few discerning and imaginative scholars. Chesnick was Samuel’s spiritual successor as well; he matched his preceptor in concern for the books in his care and in his computer-like knowledge of their whereabouts. The labyrinthine arrangement of the shelves was made even more confusing by the expe-

dients used to house the books from the uptown library. That building, empty, was torn down; the land was leased as a parking lot. The two-centuries-old Library Company was at the nadir of its fortunes.

About this time, two studies—one by Robert H. Downs, then librarian of New York University, and the other by the Bibliographical Planning Committee of Philadelphia under Charles W. David—looked at the Library Company's holdings and operations. They came to similar conclusions: that the circulation of modern books to members and subscribers was an obsolete service, and that the Library Company should become a research library, preferably in association with one of the city's other institutions.

This required long-term planning. For the moment, the rent from the parking lot and income from endowment funds were not sufficient to pay for all the library's operating expenses. This situation, World War II, and Austin Gray's resignation as Librarian impelled the Directors in 1943 to make arrangement with the Free Library of Philadelphia whereby that institution became the corporate Librarian of the Library Company, responsible (for a fee) for the administration of the library. The Free Library also opened a branch in the Ridgway Library. With Barney Chesnick in the service, the scholarly aspects of the Library Company were entrusted to the young historian John H. Powell, who at the same time was a research assistant with the Free Library. He wrote several monographs on the collections, including a survey of the large archive of the diplomat John Meredith Read, and he compiled a calendar of the papers of John Dickinson which the Library Company received as a gift from Robert R. Logan. The latter, with the drafts of such significant state documents as the Continental Congress's first and second addresses to the King and Dickinson's annotated copies of the printed preliminary drafts of the Constitution, is a treasure house of prime historical importance. At about the same time the Library Company's endowment funds were reorganized and brilliantly reinvested by Moncure Biddle, who in concert with the Treasurer, W. Logan Fox, began to build a solid financial base for the institution.

The resurgent feeling that "something should be done" had been repressed during the 1930s and 1940s because the financial difficulties of the Library Company precluded any constructive change. During the war some of the Library Company's most valuable treasures had been

John Dickinson's

7 August 1787

WE the People of the States of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, do ordain, declare and establish the following Constitution for the Government of Ourselves and our Posterity.

ARTICLE I.

The title of this Government shall be, "The United States of America."

II.

The Government shall consist of separate legislative, executive and judicial powers.

III.

The legislative power shall be vested in a Congress, to consist of two separate and distinct bodies of men, a House of Representatives, and a Senate; each of which shall, in all cases, have a negative on the other. The Legislature shall meet on the first Monday in December in every year, except a different day shall be appointed by law.

IV.

Section 1. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen every second year, by the people of the several States comprehended within this Union. The qualifications of the electors shall be the same, from time to time, as those of the electors in the several States, of the most numerous branch of their own legislatures.

Section 2. Every Member of the House of Representatives shall be, at the age of twenty-five years at least, all have been seven years in the United States for at least three years before his election; and shall be, at the time of his election, a resident of the State in which he shall be chosen.

Section 3. The House of Representatives shall, at its first formation, and until the number of citizens and inhabitants shall be taken in the manner herein after described, consist of thirty-five Members, of whom three shall be chosen in New-Hampshire, eight in Massachusetts, one in Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, five in Connecticut, six in New-York, four in New-Jersey, eight in Pennsylvania, one in Delaware, six in Maryland, ten in Virginia, five in North-Carolina, five in South-Carolina, and three in Georgia.

Section 4. As the proportions of numbers in the different States will alter from time to time; as some of the States may transfer be divided; as others may be enlarged by addition of territory; as two or more States may be united; as new States will be created within the limits of the United States, the Legislature shall, in each of these cases, regulate the number of representatives by the number of inhabitants, according to the provisions hereof here made, in the one of one for every forty thousand, provided that each State shall have at least one Representative.

Section 5. All bills for raising or appropriating money, and for fixing the salaries of the officers of government, shall originate in the House of Representatives, and shall not be altered or amended by the Senate. No money shall be drawn from the public Treasury, but in pursuance of appropriations that shall originate in the House of Representatives.

Section 6. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment. It shall choose its Speaker and other officers.

Section 7. Vacancies in the House of Representatives shall be supplied by writs of election from the executive authority of the State, in the representation from which they shall happen.

V.

U. S. Constitution. First printed draft. Philadelphia, August 7, 1787. John Dickinson's copy with his manuscript notes. Gift of Robert R. Logan, 1943.

placed in the custody of the Free Library, and informal thought was given to the possibility that the old institution might become the Free Library's rare book collection. However in 1952, the exigencies of the past having been relieved by an increasing flow of income from the parking garage that had been erected on the Locust Street property, the Directors found themselves in a position to plan for the future and do something about it. They sought the advice and guidance of a number of experts. First, Edwin Wolf 2nd, formerly with the rare book firm of Rosenbach, was engaged to make a survey of the collections, to assess their scope, size, and importance, and to suggest means to improve their care and usefulness. Then, four eminent librarians—Lloyd A. Brown of the Peabody Institute, William A. Jackson of Harvard, Paul North Rice of the New York Public Library, and Clifford K. Shipton of the American Antiquarian Society—were invited to inspect the Library Company and consult with the Directors about its future.

Unanimously the experts agreed that the Library Company's greatest strength lay in its rare books and manuscripts, and that its greatest contribution to society would be as a scholarly research library with special emphasis on American history and culture. There was no doubt that the rare books and manuscripts were far more numerous and more valuable than had been generally believed. The first and immediate step the consultants urged was a program of rehabilitation. The most valuable books should be taken from the scattered locations, recatalogued, repaired, and temporarily reshelfed in a room to be refitted and air-conditioned. Then the experts recommended that the Library Company reduce and refine its mass of late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century books, keeping only those which would supplement as reference works the basic historical collections.

These steps were, however, considered preliminary to a decision to move out of the Ridgway Library. That structure, once considered fireproof, was judged instead to be a fire-trap. Furthermore, the roof leaked, the basement was damp, and the building's location in the city was unfortunate. The consensus was that the Library Company should move to modern quarters in or adjacent to another compatible library as soon as possible. Meanwhile, it was recommended that the best be made of the physical facilities and work begun on rehabilitating the books and replacing the inadequate WPA catalogue. In January 1953, Wolf was



Edwin Wolf 2nd. Photograph, 1952. Librarian from 1955 to 1984.

appointed Curator to carry out the program of revitalization.

As the shelves began to be searched, the richness of the collection became apparent to a greater degree. While it was in bibliographical circles known that the Library Company possessed American, and particularly Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, rarities, the quantity and quality of these had never been adequately judged. It had not been known how extensive were the holdings in the mathematical sciences, botany, and medicine, in architecture and the useful arts; how many of the volumes had provenances of distinction—scores of books from the libraries of Benjamin Franklin, William Byrd of Westover, Isaac Norris II, John Dickinson, and Benjamin Rush, and, surprisingly, others which had belonged to Ben Jonson, George Sandys, and Henry Vaughan; what unexpected, isolated treasures of English literature and history there were; and what a potential source of funds lay in the hundreds of duplicates. In these years during which all pre-1700 books and eighteenth-century American imprints were scrutinized and recatalogued on a priority basis, hardly a day went by when some exciting find did not surface: two copies of Thomas Jeffer-

son's first published work with his manuscript corrections; books printed by the early Parisian printer Antoine Vérard; a history of Louisiana that Lewis and Clark took with them across the continent; and almost all Isaac Newton's writings in their first printings.

By 1955, with income from the parking garage increasing, the Library Company could stand on its own feet. In December of that year the arrangement with the Free Library was amicably terminated. Wolf became Librarian. As he wrote in his first *Annual Report* for the year 1955, the old library was a phoenix reborn. He shared the excitement of rediscovery and revitalization with an audience of bookmen—librarians, collectors, booksellers, and, of course, members of the Library Company—through his paradoxically light yet scholarly essays in the *Annual Reports*. When duplicates were first identified as such and sold, the Directors agreed that all moneys received from book sales would be used solely for the purchase of rare books to strengthen the permanent research col-



Thomas Jefferson, *A Summary View of the Rights of British America*. Williamsburg: Printed by Clementina Rind, [1774]. With Jefferson's manuscript corrections, acquired before 1789.



William Shakespeare, *Plays and Poems*. Philadelphia, 1795-96. Thomas McKean's copy, with stencilled American eagles, signed at the foot of the spines by the binder, John Lightbody of Philadelphia. Purchased 1954.

lections and for binding pamphlets. Wolf blended the announcement of significant acquisitions by purchase and by gift with news of the Library Company's latest finds on its own shelves. One of the most significant of the latter-day acquisitions was a large portion of the Americana collection of W. Logan Fox, which came as a gift in 1962–1964. Over the years the *Annual Reports* of the Library Company have been widely circulated at home and abroad and still remain the chief medium through which the institution makes itself and its books known.

The experts' primary recommendation—to move from the totally inadequate and unsuitable Ridgway Library—had not been forgotten. Conversations took place and preliminary studies made of the practicability and advantages of locating in the vicinity of the University of

Pennsylvania, the American Philosophical Society (which had just recreated for its own use the Library Company's eighteenth-century building on Fifth Street), or the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Eminent rare book librarians and historians were again turned to for advice. Of the eleven consulted, ten favored a location next to the Historical Society; only one preferred another site. Consequently, at the annual meeting of the Library Company on May 2, 1960, urged to do so by the President, Nicholas B. Wainwright, and the Directors, the members voted overwhelmingly to authorize the Directors to petition the Orphans' Court for permission to sell the Ridgway Library and to erect a new library on Locust Street adjacent to the Historical Society.

The steps necessary to bring the plan to fruition were interlocking and complicated. Fortunately, at the critical time the City of Philadelphia made a satisfactory offer for the building and land. An elaborate, lengthy legal brief, justifying the sale and the move, was presented to the Orphans' Court which according to the Rush will had to approve all sales of real estate. After a full-dress hearing the Library Company was given permission to make the sale and also to use such other funds as were part of the Rush estate to build the new library. Three nineteenth-century brownstone houses, owned by and contiguous to the Historical Society, were purchased and torn down. Plans for a modern eight-story building were drawn by the architectural firm of Carroll, Grisdale, and Van Alen,



Johannes Hevelius, *Selenographia*. Danzig, 1647. With movable volvelles. Purchased 1955.



Taufschein for Elisabeth Romich. [Frederick, Md.: Matthias Bärtgis, 1786]. George Allen Collection, purchased 1959.

and construction began in 1964. Meanwhile, in order to carry out another of the original recommendations concerning the future of the Library Company and to avoid moving unwanted books, a sweep of the shelves was undertaken. With formal authorization from the Directors and the membership as a whole, Wolf culled and disposed of such works printed after 1880 as were deemed not germane to the Library Company's main collections. Perhaps as many as 100,000 volumes were removed and sold, the largest segment by far consisting of novels. One of the most unusual events in the process of relocation was the transfer of the remains of James and Phoebe Ann Rush from a crypt at the Ridgway Library to a crypt beneath the Locust Street building.

With the Library Company's holdings down to an estimated 375,000 volumes, the Library Company was ready to return to the center of the city. The new building was completed by the end of 1965. The difficult transfer of the books nevertheless provided an opportunity to revamp



William P. C. Barton, "Geranium Maculatum" for *Vegetable Materia Medica*. Watercolor, gift of Elizabeth S. Abbot, 1961.

the shelving arrangement and gather together subject classes which the space problems in the old building had fragmented. Because approximately two-thirds of the funds for the new library derived from the Rush estate, the building, like its predecessor, was named the Ridgway Library. The building was opened to the public in April 1966. A reciprocal arrangement was reached with the neighboring Historical Society whereby its rare books are shelved and used by readers in the Library Company, and the latter's manuscripts are shelved and used by readers in the Historical Society.

With the transfer of the collections to the new Ridgway Library, the goals set in 1952 by Wolf and the other consultants had been achieved. In an amazingly short time, the venerable circulating library had been utterly transformed into a research library specializing in American history and culture and its European background up to roughly the Civil War. Before 1860 this had been the largest public library in America, and the collections were already strong in all areas. It had become apparent, however, that the Library Company's decline in the 1860s and 1870s had resulted in a much spottier collection. The post-1880 materials had largely been deaccessioned. The exchange of books and manuscripts with the Historical Society committed the Library Company to remaining primarily a collection of printed materials. Thus the mission of the library was defined.

This mission implied a blueprint for future growth based on the principle of building to strength. The opening of the new building was marked by an exhibition in 1966 called *Bibliothesauri: or, Jewels from the Shelves of the Library Company of Philadelphia*; included were new acquisitions as well as rarities discovered in the course of recataloguing and rearranging the collections for research. The new acquisitions resonated with the core collection in ways which articulated its complex and distinctive character. Wolf's conception of the collection, and hence the types of books he added to it, had been evolving for a decade and was to change considerably in the decades to come.

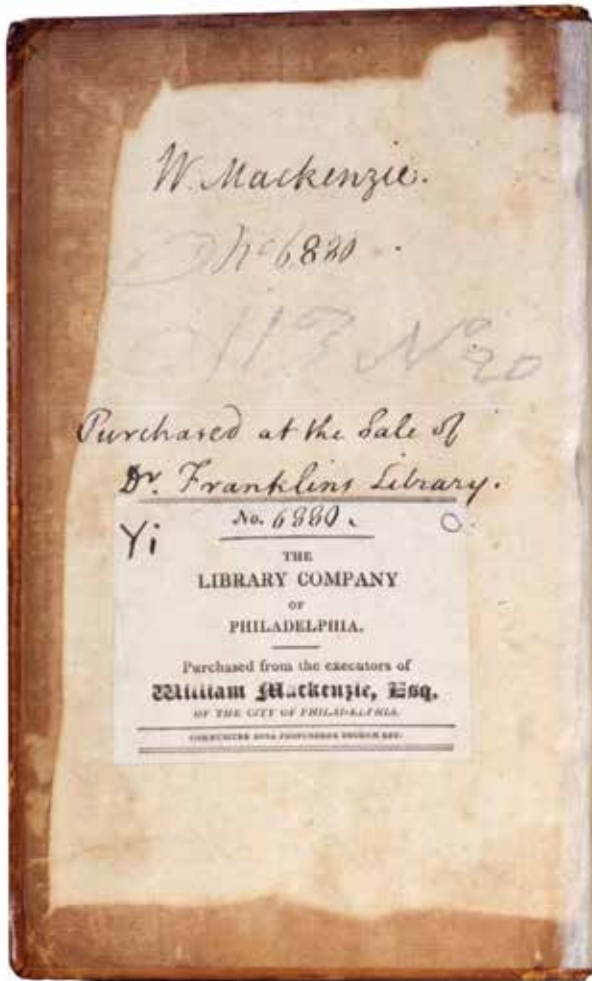
From his first visit as a consultant, Wolf focused on the older collections and on the era of the library's foundation. Here was the only major colonial library to survive nearly intact; what could it reveal about the intellectual world of the eighteenth century? From 1954 to 1956 Wolf published several articles about the selection of books in the early years of

the Library Company, as well as a facsimile of the 1741 catalogue printed by Franklin. His first new acquisitions were replacements for books that had been listed in the early catalogues but were no longer on the shelves. Many a book that had cost five shillings in the 1750s was bought for the same price two centuries later. He also bought first editions of important works of early science and erudition where the Library Company had only later editions or none at all, in order to round out this ideal enlightenment library.

This same interest in eighteenth-century intellectual history led Wolf in 1956 to begin the reconstruction of three colonial private libraries which had been partly or wholly incorporated into the Library Company—those of James Logan, Benjamin Franklin, and William Byrd of Westover, Virginia. He published a definitive catalogue of Logan's library in 1974. The other two libraries had been scattered by 1800, but he was able to locate substantial parts of them on the Library Company's shelves and in other collections across the country. (A catalogue of books owned by Franklin, based on Wolf's card file, was published in 2006.)

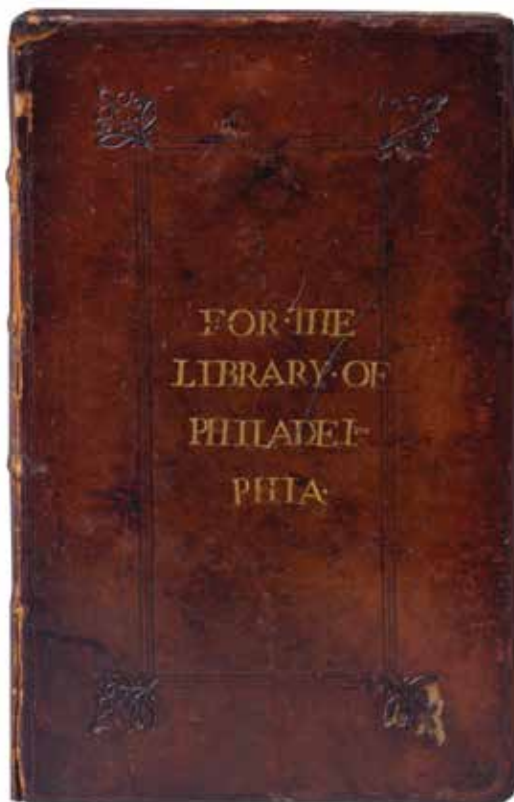
The study of provenance gave new meaning to the Library Company's collections. Books owned by a host of other colonial and early national figures were located on the shelves or were received as gifts over the years. In 1959 Wolf published a catalogue of the Library Company's holdings of books that were in (or omitted from) Wing's *Short Title Catalogue* of British books, 1641–1700; he indexed the provenance of all 4,000 titles, thus uncovering complex patterns in the movement of seventeenth-century British books through eighteenth-century American private libraries. The only public collection of books in the city before the Library Company's founding was the parish library at Christ Church, which included some 300 books given in 1700 by the English philanthropist Thomas Bray. It had survived, and shortly after the move to Locust Street it was placed on deposit in the Library Company. Meanwhile Wolf began privately to accumulate data about who owned what books in colonial Philadelphia, and to assemble a collection (which he donated in 1989) of the books most commonly owned. All this data was methodically presented in his 1985 Lyell Lectures in Bibliography at Oxford University, published as *The Book Culture of a Colonial American City*.

This vision of the Library Company as a microcosm of eighteenth-century American book culture embraced only the older part of



William Smith, *Discourses on Several Public Occasions*. London, 1759. Mackenzie bequest, 1828. The pencilled shelfmark, C113 N20, on the pastedown endpaper was the key to Edwin Wolf's reconstruction of Franklin's library.

the collection and did not account for the Library Company's later development. During the 1960s recataloguing proceeded chronologically, and the wealth of the nineteenth-century collections emerged. For the first time the *Annual Reports* began to mention a few early nineteenth-century acquisitions. In the 1960 *Annual Report* Wolf somewhat daringly predicted that some day a speech by Daniel Webster or a memorial by Dorothea Dix would be sought out by rare book libraries. In 1963 he published a catalogue of the thousands of song sheets from 1850 to 1870 in the McAllister scrap books. Soon he was buying nineteenth-century

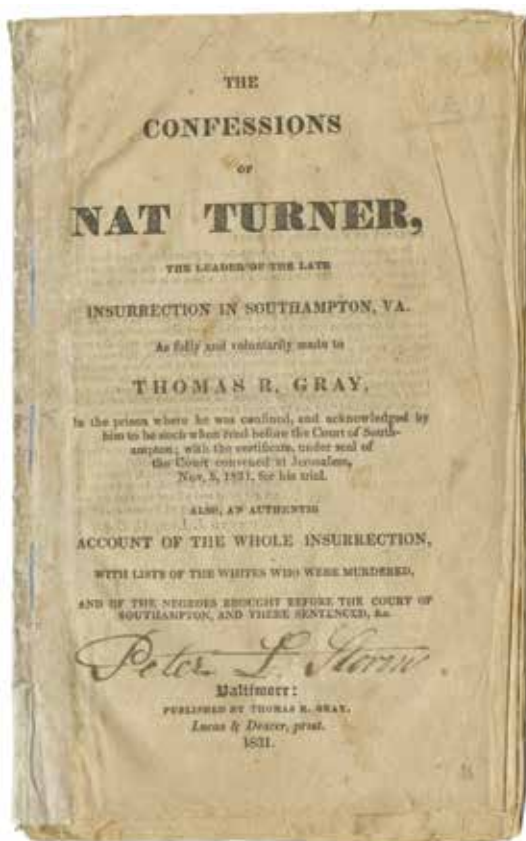


Book from Christ Church Library, donated by the Rev. Thomas Bray ca. 1700, deposited with the Library Company 1966.

books in quantity.

The widening scope of acquisitions went hand-in-hand with new ways of seeing the collections and presenting them to the world. In 1969 Wolf mounted an exhibition called *Negro History: 1553–1903*. The preface to the catalogue began with a manifesto: “Everybody is talking about Negro history, so we decided to do something about it.” The exhibition was so successful that the entire collection was culled in the following three years, with the help of a Ford Foundation Grant, and everything relating to African American history was catalogued: early European accounts of Africa and the Atlantic slave trade, the economy of slavery, antislavery and abolition literature, apologies for slavery, the antebellum politics of slavery, slave narratives, documents of urban free black communities (especially in Philadelphia, the largest), materials relating to Reconstruction and the “Negro question,” and literature by and about black Americans.

Most of this material had been classified in other ways: travels, politics, autobiography, etc. By seeing this material in a new way, by recovering the common thread that linked these diverse books, a subject collection of surprising strength was formed. *Afro-Americana, 1553–1906*, with 16,500 entries, appeared over the imprint of G. K. Hall in 1973. It immediately became a standard bibliography of the subject, and remained so even though it was out of print for many years. In the years since its publication another 2,500 books have been added to the collection, which has attracted more scholars from greater distances than any other collection in the Library Company. In 2008 a revised edition including the new acquisitions was published by Oak Knoll Books. In the following years other “special collections” were uncovered in the general collection. In the late 1970s, with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the collections were again culled and catalogues were published in four



Nat Turner, *Confessions*.
Baltimore, 1831. Purchased
1974.

areas: American education, philanthropy, agriculture, and natural history, all before 1860. These were all areas in which existing bibliography was weak, scholarly interest was intense, market prices were low, and the Library Company's collecting had historically been outstandingly strong. The catalogues included the collections of the Historical Society and the American Philosophical Society, thus sowing the seeds of future inter-library cooperation, and making it easy to acquire more books in those areas without unnecessary duplication. As with the Afro-Americana Collection, these catalogues reunited bodies of literature which crossed several disciplinary boundaries. For example, the education and philanthropy catalogues are in effect bibliographies of voluntary organizations, even of a broad movement of social reform which permeated every aspect of antebellum society.

Comparing the Library Company's holdings with already-published subject bibliographies uncovered still more collections of surprising strength in areas such as technology, Judaica, household and cookery books, courtesy books, gift books, and architecture. The 1974 exhibition *Women, 1500 to 1900* was as pioneering as *Negro History*; though no full catalogue of the collection was ever compiled, a card file of women's history books has been kept ever since, and it is one of the most active collecting areas. In 1983 the Library Company became headquarters for Werner Tannhof's compilation of a bibliography of German-American imprints through 1830. The Sower Collection mentioned above had been supplemented by huge collections of German-Americana purchased from George Allen in 1959 and Wilbur Oda in 1961. Together with the collection of the Historical Society on deposit with the Library Company, this turned out to be by far the largest collection of German-Americana when the two-volume bibliography was published by the Göttingen University Library in 1989 as *The First Century of German Language Printing in the United States of America*.

In the process of strengthening and extending the Library Company's core collection, unnecessary or expensive duplication of the holdings of other local libraries was always avoided. This principle was applied not only to individual books but to whole areas of collecting. For example, the Library Company's core collection of American medicine is superb up to about 1820, but thereafter it yielded responsibility for collecting in that area to the College of Physicians. The bequest of Benjamin Rush's

library by his son James further enriched the pre-1820 collection. Austin's bibliography of American medical imprints up to 1820, published in 1961, revealed the Library Company's strength. Today no attempt is made to collect medicine after 1820, but the earlier collection has been developed vigorously, to the point that it is difficult to find anything to buy. In the same way children's books and Western Americana are left to the Free Library, and manuscripts to the Historical Society. The vast field of American literature is easily shared with the University of Pennsylvania without expensive duplication; the Library Company's collection is smaller but is currently growing faster, in response to scholarly interest in



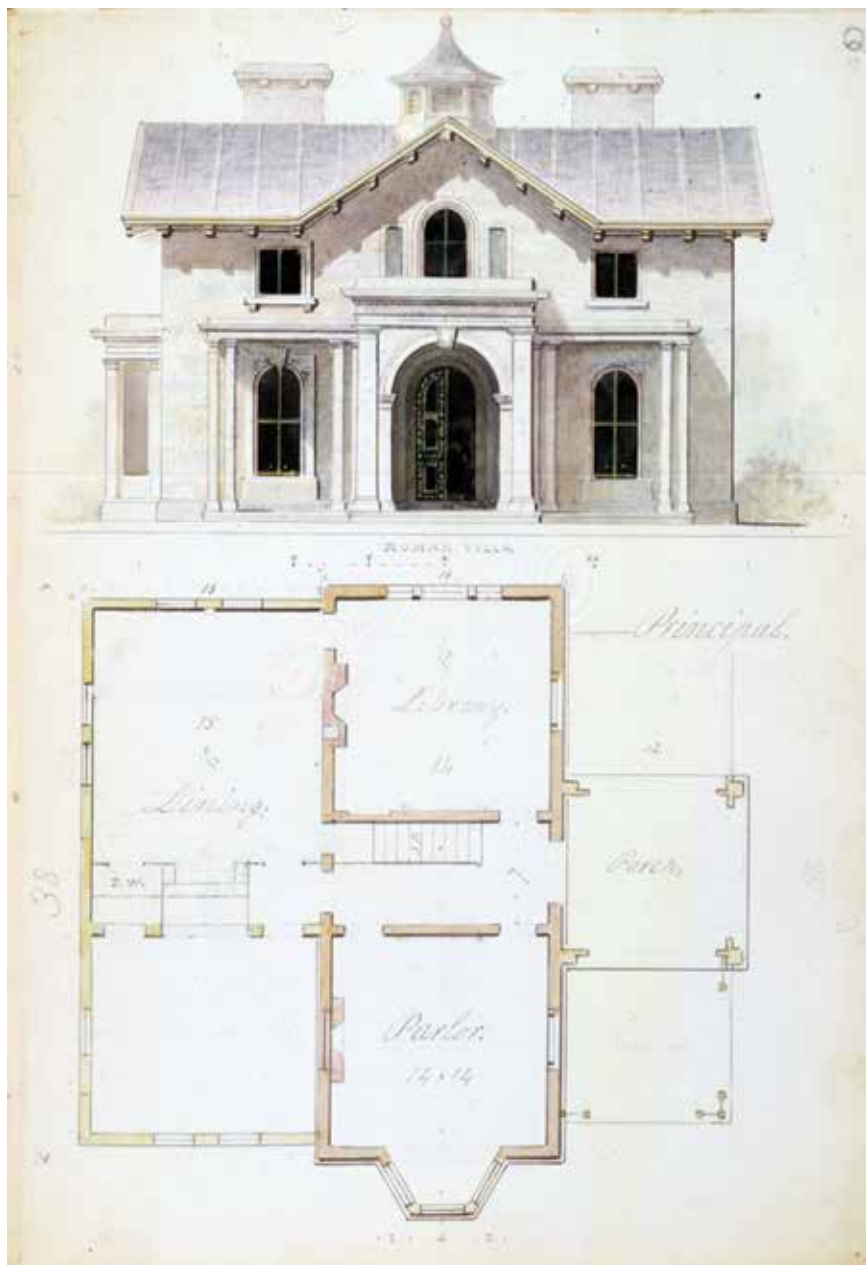
Hoch-deutsches lutherisches ABC. Germantown, 1802. George Allen Collection, purchased 1959.

popular and non-canonical writing.

Marie Korey, who came to work as Curator of Printed Books in 1972, played a major role analyzing the Library Company's strengths and choosing new subject areas to open up for development. She left to become head of the rare book department at the Free Library of Philadelphia in 1983. Her successor, James Green, has continued to build the collections in the main areas marked out by Wolf and Korey, as well as in other areas not previously cultivated so intensively, such as economics, philosophy, popular fiction, popular medicine, photographic literature (in support of the Print Department), books by women, and illustrated books. All acquisitions still build on the core collection acquired between 1731 and 1880, as described incidentally throughout this volume. The collection is constantly growing and adapting to new currents in scholarship, but its essential character has not changed.

The Library Company's increased visibility has attracted gifts of major significance. In 1976 Jean Hoopes Epstein presented the European books of science and technology collected by her father, Penrose R. Hoopes. The next major gift came in 1980 when Librarian Wolf presented his extensive collection of early American Judaica consisting of manuscripts, books, and broadsides printed in America from 1718 to 1875. In 1982 the Chew family formally turned over to the Library Company the books at Cliveden, their handsome Georgian mansion in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. The volumes include the law library of Benjamin Chew, colonial chief justice of Pennsylvania, as well as books and vast quantities of pamphlets owned by his son Benjamin, William White Chew, and William Tilghman, a relative by marriage and later chief justice. And the Library Company received the spectacular collections of ornithological plate books of Louise Elkins Sinkler and Francis R. Cope, Jr. Important collections have also arrived as long-term deposits by institutions that recognize the Library Company's ability to provide care for such collections. Among those deposits are the historical libraries of Christ Church, St. Peter's Church, and Girard College. In the past sixty years, over 40,000 books have been added to the rare book collection, including gifts as well as purchases. The total holdings approach half a million volumes.

The move to the spacious, pleasant quarters of the new Ridgway Library proved fruitful for the print collection of the Library Company



Alexander Jackson Davis, *Rural Residences*. New York, 1837. Gift of Anthony N. B. Garvan, 1978. Unique copy, with extra ink-and-wash plans.



Daniel Giraud Elliot, *Phasianidae*. New York, 1872. Gift of Mrs. Wharton Sinkler, 1976.



John Gould, *Birds of Great Britain*. London, 1873. Collection of Francis R. Cope, Jr., 1992.



Joseph Ben Gorion, *History of the Jews*. Boston, 1718 [i.e., 1722]. Gift of Edwin Wolf 2nd, 1980.

as well. With the appointment of Stefanie A. Munsing as Curator of Prints in 1971, the Print Department was born and quickly became a center of activity. A vast task faced the new Curator of reorganizing and cataloguing the accumulation of Philadelphia views, portraits, American political cartoons, and early photographs. When Munsing moved on to the print collections of the Library of Congress in 1975, Bernard Reilly moved from the Reading Room to the Print Department. It was during his tenure and due to his initiative that the Library Company's remarkable collection of nineteenth-century Philadelphia photographs began to be appreciated.

In 1977, when the Library of Congress lured Reilly away, Kenneth Finkel took over the Print Department. Under his aggressive and



Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, *Historique et Description des Procédés du Daguerriotype et du Diorama*. Paris, 1839. First printing of the first description of photography.



Wenderoth, Taylor & Brown, *Gallery of Arts & Manufactures*. Philadelphia, [1871]. Gift of S. Marguerite Brenner, 1984.

celebrate in the 1983 exhibition and catalogue, *Philadelphia ReVisions*. As a direct result of *ReVisions*, Virgil Kauffman gave a collection of almost 4,000 glass negatives, representing pictures taken in the Philadelphia area by his Aero Service Corporation. Since the mid-1990s the Print Department has been led by Sarah Weatherwax and has continued to grow.

Conservation of the ever-growing collections grew in importance over the years. A bindery was first set up at the Library Company in 1954 by the German master bookbinder Fritz Eberhardt to repair and rebind in chronological order the vast collection of pamphlet Americana. After Eberhardt left in 1957 to work on his own, Kaspar Reder was hired to continue the work. The care of the print collection was taken up in 1971 with the bindery staff working under the guidance of Curator of Prints Stefanie Munsing, who had some training in conservation from Winter-



Robert Cornelius,
Grandma Toppan.
Daguerreotype, ca.
1841. Purchased 1986.

thur. Under Chief of Conservation Jennifer Woods Rosner, who came to the Library Company in 1980, the staff has begun to move systematically through the entire rare book collection, and its range of treatments has widened to include making protective boxes, reattaching covers detached from leather bindings, repairing cloth bindings of the nineteenth century, and replacing old library bindings with new ones made of high-quality archival materials.

The exhibition program became more formalized with the move to Locust Street. Jointly with the Historical Society and the American Philosophical Society an exhibition was held during the Bicentennial year, *A Rising People: The Founding of the United States, 1765–1789*, drawing upon the resources of the three historic institutions. In 1983 *Germantown and the Germans*, a major exhibition and catalogue produced jointly by the Historical Society and the Library Company, celebrated the 300th anniversary of the founding of Germantown and the beginning of German settlement in America.

The climax of the new emphasis on exhibitions and public programs



Examples of the craftsmanship of the Conservation Workshop. Photograph, 1995.

was the Quarter of a Millennium celebration in 1981. A symposium on “The Intellectual World of 1731” brought speakers not only from across the U.S. but from the People’s Republic of China, West Germany, Italy, and England to bring to life the era in which the Library Company was born. Representatives from some thirty national and university libraries throughout the world that had been founded before 1731 attended the events as the guests of the Library Company, while a host of members and friends participated in the receptions, lectures, lunches, and banquet dinner that made up the celebration. A superb exhibition and its magnificently produced catalogue displayed 255 books, manuscripts, maps, prints, drawings, paintings, and furniture selected from the Library Company’s 250-year accumulation of riches.

Under the direction of Librarian Wolf the Library Company assumed a leading role in the cultural and intellectual community of Philadelphia and established a reputation of scholarly service both locally and internationally. Wolf often referred to himself as *Dinosaurus Bibliothecarius*,

a librarian of an antediluvian genus now all but extinct. There were profound changes in the way libraries were run in the 1960s and 1970s, and the Library Company was independent enough to be able to pick and choose which trends to follow and which to ignore. Franklinian common sense, with a dash of thrift, was its guide, as befit a library struggling to be reborn. It remained, to use another Wolf metaphor, a mom-and-pop library with a supermarket stock.

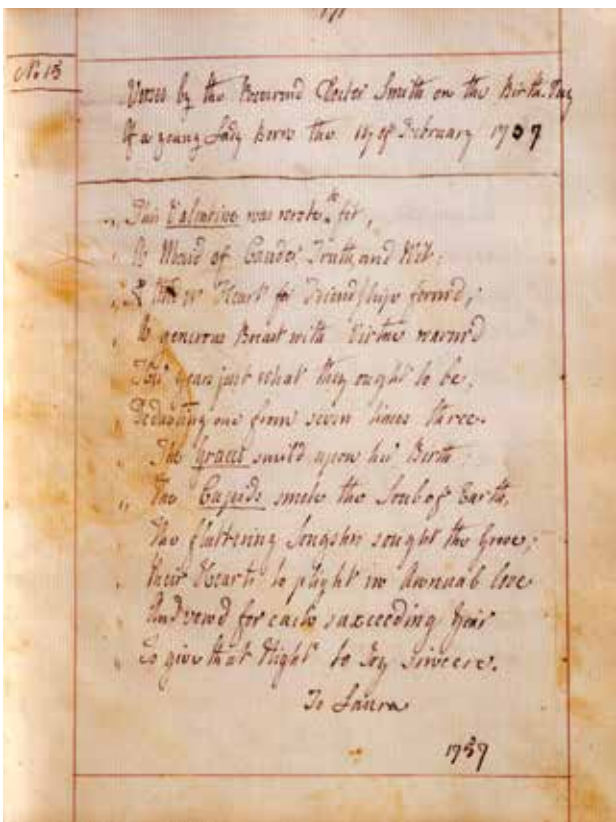
Wolf retired at the end of 1984 and was succeeded by John C. Van Horne, who came to the Library Company from the American Philosophical Society, where he had been an editor of *The Papers of Benjamin Henry Latrobe*. Under Van Horne's guidance the Library Company struck out in several new directions. In 1985 the Library Company took a leading role in the formation of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries. The first project of PACSCL was the ambitious 1988 exhibition *Legacies of Genius: A Celebration of Philadelphia Libraries*, which displayed in the adjoining galleries of the Library Company and the Historical Society treasures selected from the collections of the sixteen member institutions. PACSCL, at first an informal cooperative association, subsequently became a non-profit organization with some three dozen member institutions engaged in various collaborative undertakings.



John C. Van Horne. Photograph, 1995.
Librarian from 1985 to 2004; Director
2004-2014.

In 1986 the Library Company became a member of the Research Libraries Group and began the long and arduous task of recataloguing its rare imprints into RLG's computerized bibliographical database, which was later merged with the OCLC online database known as WorldCat. Records of about 300,000 of the Library Company's rare books, pamphlets, and broadsides are now accessible in WorldCat and in WolfPAC, the Library Company's Internet-accessible public access catalogue somewhat ironically named in honor of the self-described dinosaur. These advances in access to the rare imprints collection were complemented by efforts to improve access to the graphics collections through ImPac, the digital collections catalogue.

The Library Company maintains high cataloguing standards, allowing readers multiple avenues through which they may gain access to the collections. WolfPAC allows researchers to identify virtually all of the



The Rev. William Smith, *Valentine Poem to Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson*, 1759, transcribed in Fergusson's *Poemata Juvenilia*. Gift of Mrs. Howard Aley, 1985.

Library Company's rare imprints collection. (And through the PACSCL union catalog a single search can be extended to the collections of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Horticultural Society, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the American Philosophical Society, the Rosenbach Museum & Library, the Wagner Free Institute of Science, and numerous other member libraries.)

The digital collections catalogue ImpAC features a growing number of the Library Company's graphic, ephemera, bindings, and art and artifacts collections. It complements and supplements some of the descriptive records in WolfPAC and the online exhibitions and collections mounted on the website. At this writing ImpAC displays more than 24,000 images comprising fifty digital collections.

Supplementing the in-house digitization of the collections are several major projects undertaken in partnership with commercial publishers that produce large electronic databases available to libraries by subscription. These publishers bring to the task the equipment, expertise, and personnel that exceed the Library Company's resources, and in this way many important collections become more readily accessible (and fully searchable) than would be possible otherwise. Projects completed or in progress include 3,200 unrecorded books, pamphlets, and broadsides printed in America before 1819 (many acquired with the Michael Zinman Collection); more than 12,000 imprints in the African Americana Collection; thousands of Civil War images; and thousands of books, pamphlets, trade cards, and ephemera in the Popular Medicine Collection (many acquired as gifts from William H. Helfand and Charles E. Rosenberg).

The Library Company began to attract more scholars to the collections by instituting a fellowship program that provides stipends to enable graduate students and senior scholars to travel to Philadelphia to conduct their research. The program got off to a modest start by offering a dozen one-month fellowships in the summer of 1987, but it soon had an endowment provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and matching contributions. By the time the program had reached its twenty-eighth anniversary in 2015, it had grown to such a degree that it was awarding each year \$200,000 in stipends to more than three dozen fellows. These funds came from restricted endowments; renewable grants, such as those from the National Endowment for the Humanities for post-doctoral fellowships; and annual contributions that support



Facade of 1314 Locust Street Building. Photograph, 2015.

work in particular fields, such as the Reese Company Fellowship in bibliography and the Helfand Fellowships in the history of medicine and in visual culture. The list of former fellows has exceeded 700, and the list of books they have published based at least in part of research at the Library Company has reached 200.

The Library Company also established a revolving Publication Fund that supports the publication of a variety of works, usually carrying the joint imprint of the Library Company and a commercial or university press co-publisher. These books include exhibition catalogues, bibliographies, collections of essays emanating from conferences, and titles in topical monograph series. Books relating to exhibitions have included *Traveling the Pennsylvania Railroad: The Photographs of William H. Rau* (2002), *The Pennsylvania German Broadside: A History and Guide* (2005), and *Philadelphia on Stone: Commercial Lithography in Philadelphia, 1828-1878* (2012). Conference volumes have included *The Abolitionist Sisterhood: Women's Political Culture in Antebellum America* (1994), *The Birth of the Grand Old Party: The Republicans' First Generation* (2002), and *The Economy of Early America: Historical Perspectives and New Directions* (2006). Bibliographies have included *The Library of William*

Byrd of Westover (1995) and *Afro-Americana, 1553-1906* (second expanded edition 2008). Monographs are issued in two series: Studies in Early American Economy and Society from the Library Company of Philadelphia (with Johns Hopkins University Press) and Race in the Atlantic World, 1700-1900 (with the University of Georgia Press).

Heeding Franklin's admonition to "join, or die," the Library Company has over the years confederated with many other institutions for various purposes. In 1972 the Library Company was one of the founding members of the Independent Research Libraries Association. Now a consortium of a dozen and a half member institutions—such as the Huntington, Folger, Morgan, and Newberry Libraries and the American Antiquarian Society—IRLA brings its Directors together each year to discuss the common problems and needs of independent, privately-supported research libraries, from fund raising and relationships with foundations and federal agencies to the conservation of library materials, applications of technology, and the support of scholarship. Other consortia to which the Library Company belongs include the aforementioned PACSCL; the



Joseph Moxon, *Mechanick Exercises*. London, 1683. Franklin's copy of the first printer's manual. Purchased 1986.

Peace, Liberty, and Independence.

PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 24, 1783.

Yesterday arrived, after a passage of 32 days from Cadiz, a French Sloop of War, commanded by M. Du Quefne, with the agreeable Intelligence of PEACE.

The particular Articles respecting this happy and glorious Event, are as follow:

The principal articles of the
Preliminaries of the Peace,
of the 20th of January,
1783.

FRANCE to retain Tobago and Senegal.
France to restore to Great-Britain, Grenada, St. Vincent, Dominica, and St. Christopher.

St. Eustatia, Demarara, Barbice and Ifiquibo; to be restored to the Dutch.

Great-Britain to restore to France, Goree, St. Lucia, St. Pierre, and Miquelon.
The fishery of France and England on the coast of Newfoundland to remain on the same footing on which they were by the treaty of 1763, except that part of the coast, Cape Bonaville, at Cape St. John's, shall belong to the English.

France to be re-established in the East Indies, as well in Bengal as on the east and west coast of the Peninsula, as regulated by the treaty of 1763.

The articles of the preceding treaties, concerning the demolition of Dunkirk, to be suppressed.

Spain to retain Minorca and West-Florida.
Great-Britain cedes East-Florida to Spain.

An agreement to be entered into between Spain and Great-Britain, about the cutting of wood in the Bay of Honduras.

Great-Britain to retain the Dutch settlement of Negapatnam, in the East-Indies.

Great-Britain to restore Trincomale to the Dutch, if not re-taken.

St. Eustatia, Demarara, and Ifiquibo to be restored by the French to the United Provinces.

Great-Britain acknowledges the Sovereignty and Independence of the Thirteen United States of America.

The limits of the United States to be as agreed upon in the provisional articles between them and Great-Britain, except that they shall not extend further down the river Mississippi than the 31d degree of north latitude, from whence a line is to be drawn to the head of the river St. Mary, and along the middle of that river down to its mouth.

Printed by E. OSWALD, at the Coffee-House.

Peace, Liberty, and Independence. Philadelphia, 1783. Only known copy of the first announcement of the preliminary peace agreement ending the Revolutionary War. Anonymous gift, 1992.

Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine; and the Civil War History Consortium; and the National Digital Stewardship Alliance. The Library Company has also established a particularly strong relationship with the McNeil Center for Early American Studies—a

consortium of regional educational institutions and archival repositories that is headquartered at the University of Pennsylvania—which has become a partner in presenting conferences and seminars and in sponsoring fellowships in Early American Literature and Material Texts.

In the early 1990s a major renovation of the nearly thirty-year-old building took place. The Print Department, which had been expanded in 1984 to keep pace with the rapid growth of the collection, was again doubled in size. The Lazzarini statue of Franklin was restored and once again became part of the façade in a new glass-fronted, street-level niche. The lobby and Reading Room were revamped to make them more inviting. A fire-suppression system and a new state-of-the-art security system were installed. Lastly, the nearly worn-out climate control system was largely replaced with equipment that will maintain constant temperature and humidity throughout the building reliably and economically. And as 1314 Locust Street approached fifty years of age, beginning about 2010 additional capital improvement projects furthered the goal of ensuring the long-term viability of the building and the preservation of the collections.

The physical plant was expanded in 2002 with the opening of the Cassatt House next door at 1320 Locust Street. This historic townhouse (designed by the firm of Frank Furness and Allan Evans) now serves as a residential research center that can accommodate five visiting scholars and provides offices, study carrels, a common room, a kitchen and dining room, a seminar/conference room, and some elegant public spaces.

Another innovation of recent years has been the creation of capital-P Programs relating to several great collection strengths. The first to come into being was the Program in Early American Economy and Society. Established in 1999, PEAES became fully endowed in 2008 with the completion of a campaign to match a Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Under the direction since its inception of Cathy Matson, of the University of Delaware, PEAES promotes scholarship and public understanding about the origins and development of the American economy, broadly defined, from the colonial era through the mid-19th century. PEAES offers research fellowships for both junior and senior scholars, collaborates on the aforementioned publication series, holds an annual conference and seeks publication of their proceedings, presents seminars and public programs, and aids the

acquisition, cataloguing, and conservation of printed materials that augment the rich collections of the Library Company.

With the success of PEAES serving as a prototype for other endeavors, the Program in African American History was established in 2007 with the support of a multi-year grant from the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation. Under the direction since 2011 of another Delaware history professor, Erica Armstrong Dunbar, PAAH has quickly established itself as an indispensable resource in its field. This Program, too, received a highly-competitive NEH Challenge Grant for endowment in 2013. Once in place, the endowment will provide permanent support for the Program's offerings, including research fellowships, conferences and public programs, acquisitions, and publications.

Two additional Programs have followed. Launched in 2008, the Visual Culture Program promotes the use of historical images as primary sources for studying the past and fosters research, collection, and interpretation of historic visual material. Scholars and the general public are increasingly aware of the importance of visual images in examining the past. With the proliferation of sophisticated digitization technologies, researchers now have the opportunity to "see" images in new ways. No longer considered secondary to text and used merely to illustrate the written word, visual materials are taking their rightful place as primary evidence that documents the past and influences understanding of the present. Through exhibitions, research fellowships, conferences, and public programs, VCP at LCP (under the direction of Curator of Printed Books Rachel D'Agostino and Associate Curator of Prints and Photographs Erika Piola) promotes the creative use of the Library Company's varied collections of visual materials. And finally, in 2013 a Women's History Program was established with an endowment gift made in honor of Trustee Davida T. Deutsch. Again, this Program (under the direction of Chief of Reference and Curator of Women's History Cornelia King) offers an array of research fellowships, public programs, and acquisitions to augment the permanent collections. With the successful establishment of these Programs, the Library Company has clearly staked its claim to eminence in these four critical fields of historical inquiry.

The early years of the twenty-first century saw significant changes in organizational structure. In 2004 the office of Librarian, which had been the title since inception of the Library Company's chief executive,

was changed to Director to better comport with the actual duties and responsibilities of the position. At that time the Associate Librarian was promoted to Librarian, and the Board of Directors became the Board of Trustees to avoid possible confusion with the newly-designated Director. In 2009 a major endowment gift from long-time Library Company benefactor Robert L. McNeil, Jr. resulted in the Director being designated henceforth (at Mr. McNeil's request) the Edwin Wolf 2nd Director, in recognition of Mr. McNeil's close friendship with and great regard for the late Librarian.

The year 2008 was notable because the tercentenary of Benjamin Franklin's birth coincided with the Library Company's own 275th anniversary. (Franklin in his *Autobiography* described his conception of the Library Company at the age of only twenty-five as "my first project of a public nature.") The celebrations had a number of elements: an exhibition and accompanying publication on *Benjamin Franklin: Writer and Printer* (the exhibition later traveled to the Grolier Club); the publication of the massive catalog of *The Library of Benjamin Franklin*; the publication of a special issue of *The Magazine Antiques* featuring nine articles on the Library Company's history and collections; and of course the obligatory gala dinner. In addition, the Library Company was one of five institutions constituting the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, a large-scale undertaking that mounted a major exhibition that traveled to four American cities and Paris, published an accompanying catalogue, created a website and a Frankliniana database, and sponsored a wide array of public programs.

During Van Horne's tenure the collections grew significantly with several major acquisitions. Mrs. H. Lea Hudson contributed numerous pamphlets and books written or published by Mathew Carey, as well as a portrait of Carey by John Neagle and Carey's pocket watch. Mrs. Robert R. Price, Jr., a descendant of the Rittenhouse family that established the first paper mill in America along the banks of Wissahickon Creek near Germantown in 1690, presented to the Library Company the archive documenting that early industry. The Francis R. Cope, Jr. Collection of ornithological color-plate books brought a raft of Goulds, Elliotts, and Audubons to supplement those already in the collection.

Since the turn of the last century many other significant collections have arrived on Locust Street. Chief among them would be the Michael

Zinman Collection of Early American Imprints. Mr. Zinman spent almost two decades accumulating the largest private holding of books, pamphlets, magazines, and broadsides printed in what is now the United States before 1801, in the process developing close relationships with late Librarian Edwin Wolf and current Librarian James Green. In 2000 the Library Company acquired this 14,000-item collection by gift and purchase, instantly becoming the second-largest holding of these early American imprints in the nation. In the years that followed, Mr. Zinman served on the Board of Trustees and gave to the Library Company several other significant collections—of bindings, children’s literature, and raised letter printing.

Other major acquisitions have included a bequest of the Robert L. McNeil, Jr. Americana Collection (about 600 books and pamphlets and 100 maps mostly from the period 1750 to 1825); several dozen watercolors, lithographs, engravings, and albums from the Jay T. Snider Collection; thousands of books, prints, and ephemera on popular medicine donated by Trustees William H. Helfand and Charles E. Rosenberg; and almost a thousand items comprising the Joe Freedman Collection of Philadelphia Ephemera.

In 2014 Van Horne retired after more than twenty-nine years at the helm and was succeeded by Richard S. Newman, a professor of history at the Rochester Institute of Technology and a distinguished historian with research specialties in Early American, African American, and Environmental History.

Since the mid-twentieth century, the Library Company has been utterly transformed from a dusty mausoleum filled with books that were deteriorating from heat, damp, and dust, to a busy and vital center for research and education of national importance. Attractively arranged exhibitions interpret different aspects of the collections to the general public in provocative ways. Frequent public programs and scholarly publications reach large audiences. The Reading Room is a comfortable and dynamic environment in which to conduct research. The staff shares its extensive knowledge of the collections with visitors and learns from them in turn. The Library Company remains open and free of charge to any serious scholar, but the collections are now housed in closed stacks, and no rare materials circulate except as loans for exhibition in other institutions. The collections are constantly and vigorously expanded and en-

riched, and the online catalogue provides vastly superior access not only for those who visit the library in person, but also for scholars in their own offices and libraries throughout the world.

All these changes have been made in order to carry out the Library Company's new mission as articulated in the 1950s: to collect, preserve, and make available books, graphics, and other primary source materials for the study of American history and culture up to the closing years of the nineteenth century. Much has changed and will change, but one thing remains constant: the collections are the focus of all the library's energies, and the reason for its existence. Some speculate that the book as it has been known for more than half a millennium is on the road to extinction, soon to be replaced by the so-called "virtual library" and its promised electronic access to the cumulative wisdom of mankind. But surely in such a world the book as object will gain in stature and intellectual value not only as the recognized source and vessel of that wisdom, but also as the essential source for its more ephemeral electronic cousins. In such a world institutions like the Library Company of Philadelphia that have been providing excellent stewardship of the nation's intellectual heritage and resources will continue to be indispensable.

LIBRARIANS

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Louis Timothée (d. 1738) | November 14, 1732 - December 10, 1733 |
| Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) | December 10, 1733 - March 11, 1734 |
| William Parsons (1701-1757) | March 11, 1734 - May 5, 1746 |
| Robert Greenway | May 5, 1746 - June 13, 1763 |
| John Edwards | July 11, 1763 - February 13, 1764 |
| Francis Hopkinson (1737-1791) | February 13, 1764 - May 13, 1765- |
| James Johnston | May 13, 1765 - May 9, 1768 |
| Ludowick Sprogell | May 9, 1768 - November 13, 1769 |
| John DeMauregnault | May 2, 1769 - August 5, 1771 |
| William Attmore | August 5, 1771 - May 10, 1773 |
| Charles Cist (1738-1805) | May 10, 1773 - March 7, 1774 |
| Francis Damon | April 14, 1774 - June 10, 1777 |
| Samuel Lobdell | June 27, 1777 - December 8, 1778 |
| John Todd, Sr. | December 8, 1778 - June 16, 1779 |
| Bernard Fearis | June 24, 1779 - January 11, 1780 |
| Joseph Fawcett | January 11, 1780 - January 13, 1784 |
| John Todd, Jr. | January 13, 1784 - February 3, 1785 |
| Zachariah Poulson (1761-1844) | February 8, 1785 - March 6, 1806 |
| George Campbell, Jr.(d. 1855) | April 10, 1806 - May 14, 1829 |
| John Jay Smith (1798-1881) | May 14, 1829 - February 6, 1851 |
| Lloyd Pearsall Smith (1822-1886) | February 6, 1851 - died July 2, 1886 |
| James G. Barnwell | February 3, 1887 - November 7, 1907 |
| George Maurice Abbot | November 7, 1907 - June 30, 1929 |
| David C. Knoblauch | July 1, 1929 - October 1931-(acting librarian) |
| Austin K. Gray | October 1, 1931 - March 31, 1943 |
| Barney Chesnick (1909-1966) | April 1 - September 1943-(entered army) |
| Free Library of Philadelphia | November 16, 1943 - December 19, 1955 |
| Edwin Wolf 2nd (1911-1991) | December 19, 1955 - December 31, 1984 |
| John C. Van Horne (1950-) | January 1, 1985-May 25, 2004 |

On May 25, 2004, the title of the chief executive officer of the Library Company was changed from Librarian to Director, and the Associate Librarian was promoted to Librarian. To prevent confusion over the word “Director” the Board of Directors became the Board of Trustees. In September 2009 the Director’s position was designated “The Edwin Wolf 2nd Director” in recognition of an endowment gift from Robert L. McNeil, Jr.

DIRECTORS

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| John C. Van Horne | May 25, 2004 – May 30, 2014 |
| Richard S. Newman | June 1, 2014 – |

A Note on the Text

This work is a revised and expanded version of *At the Instance of Benjamin Franklin* published by the Library Company of Philadelphia in 1995.

