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Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 7, no. 2]

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Selected Acquisitions

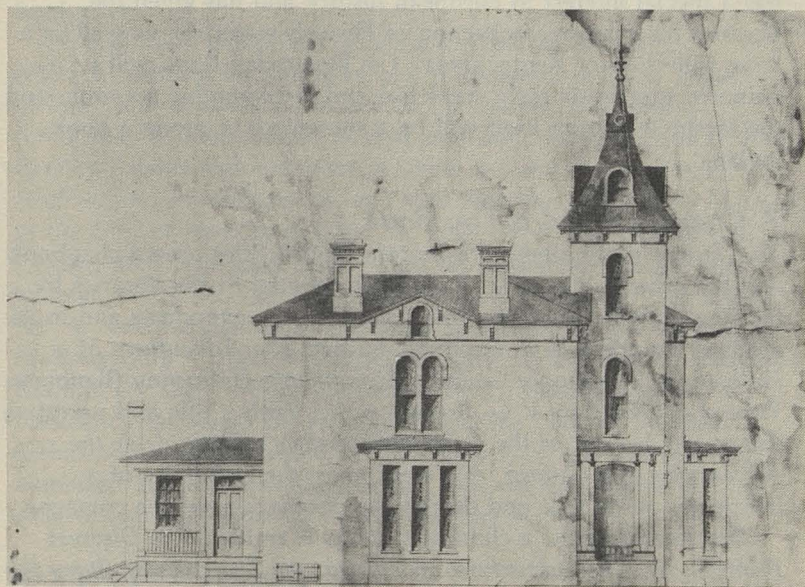
The E. I. Thompson Collection

The University of Kentucky was fortunate recently to receive an important group of materials from Lexington businessman, historian, and former Kentucky Civil War Round Table president E. I. Thompson. Part of the materials aided background research on two important publications by Mr. Thompson, the essay "The Mulligans of Maxwell Place," in *Lexington, As It Was: A Memento* (Lexington: Paddock Publishing, 1981), and the book *Madame Belle Brezing* (Lexington: Buggy Whip Press, 1983). The total collection, however, is of broad scope and contains many significant documents on Lexington and the Commonwealth.

Of special interest are those items in the collection pertaining to Judge James Hilary Mulligan. These include a manuscript "fair copy" of Mulligan's famous poem, "In Kentucky"; a fine original architectural rendering of the "Elevation fronting Rose Street" of Mulligan's Italianate house, "Maxwell Place" (more recently the home of University of Kentucky presidents); photographs showing Judge Mulligan, then Consul at Samoa, with Robert Louis Stevenson; and correspondence, including letters of such figures as John G. Carlisle and William Goebel. There is an abundance of related family material.

The Belle Brezing Collection consists of approximately three hundred items relating to Lexington's famous madame. Included are many photographs, canceled checks, clippings, and a pardon signed by Governor Blackburn. Also present is the extensive research file on which the donor's recent biography of Belle Brezing was based. Mr. Thompson also presented to the university's textile collection examples of her gowns.

The Thompson Collection contains also over a thousand photographic images. These embrace examples of the daguerreotype, the ambrotype, the tintype, glassplate negative, carte de visite, cabinet card, and various other types of paper print. There is an autographed portrait of Reuben T. Durrett, the Louisville historian and collector; photographs of Kentucky soldiers; a portrait of Gen. John Hunt Morgan and wife; images of



Maxwell Place, the home of University of Kentucky presidents, was built in 1870 for Judge James Hilary Mulligan. Here it is shown in the architect's rendering of the "Elevation fronting Rose Street." (E. I. Thompson Collection)

river transportation in Eastern Kentucky; and thirteen images of train wrecks. There are over a hundred magic lantern slides, approximately 10,000 post cards, and over 150 pieces of sheet music, including early editions of Stephen Foster. The Thompson collection contains much more, as well, and provides a rich trove of source material for many avenues of research.

The Domesday Book

The oldest public record in Britain is the Domesday Book, also known as the Book of Winchester. Created in 1086, it represents a sophisticated demographic survey compiling important statistics on property, population, taxes, and other subjects. Alecto Historical Editions, an English publishing firm, is in the process of publishing, over the next several years, a painstakingly authentic facsimile of the Domesday Book, and University of Kentucky Fellow David Ringo, of Palm Beach Shores, is making a generous gift to the university of this extraordinary publication. Mr. Ringo

has a special interest in European history and has given the libraries his extensive collection of Flemish materials, as well as a large collection of Kentuckiana. The Domesday Book will be a valuable source for early statistical and demographic research, and the facsimile edition itself will be a showpiece of modern book making.

A Chapbook and a Toy Book

Two fragile early nineteenth-century British titles, one a chapbook and the other a toy book, have been donated to the libraries by the Rev. Edwin Fountain. The first, with nine woodcuts and in its original wrappers, is a chapbook entitled *The Adventures of a Halfpenny; Commonly Called a Birmingham Halfpenny* (Banbury: Printed and Sold by J. G. Rusher, n.d.). With a title and narrative device reminiscent of the eighteenth century's *Chrysal, or the Adventures of a Guinea*, this work gives the testimony of a halfpenny on its use, and decries the debasement of the coinage.

The second work, a children's book, is entitled *The Discreet Princess; or, The Adventures of Finetta. An Entertaining Story for the Amusement of Young Masters and Misses* (Glasgow: J. Lumsden & Son, 1818). In its original paper-covered boards with printed label and with thirteen woodcuts, *The Discreet Princess* is a conventional didactic tale. It concludes with a series of instructive verses: "But if we see in this delightful tale, / The vicious punish'd, so we likewise see / Virtue triumphant, and prevail"

These two valuable artifacts of nineteenth-century social history are survivors of a fugitive popular subliterature that all too often perished in the hands of lively children.

Kentuckiana

Brig. Gen. James Winchester's logbook from the War of 1812, covering the period 27 August to 9 November 1812, has been added to the libraries' manuscript collections. It contains partial records of the Northwest Army of the U.S., massacred at the River Raisin at Frenchtown, Michigan on 22 January 1813. Daily orders and accounts are entered in the log, which notes encampments at Piqua, Defiance, St. Marys, and Ft. Winchester, Ohio. This document is written in a notebook made up of paper from the Craig and Parker paper mill at Georgetown, Kentucky, and bound by William Essex, the Lexington bookbinder and

bookseller.

Several early pamphlets have augmented the collections' research material on Kentucky and presidential politics. These include John Breathitt's *Circular to the People of Kentucky* (Louisville: S. Penn, 1828), a tract opposing the re-election of John Quincy Adams and endorsing Andrew Jackson for the presidency. *Address and Resolutions of the Great National Republican Meeting in the City of New York, Dec. 31, 1830* (New York: Elliott and Palmer, 1831) endorses Henry Clay for president. The libraries have also obtained "Breckinridge and Lane Campaign Documents, No. 4," entitled *Speech of President Buchanan, on the Evening of Monday, July 9, 1860* (Washington: National Democratic Executive Committee, 1860), which endorses John C. Breckinridge for the presidency; although the pamphlet describes "one of the most enthusiastic demonstrations of the Democracy that has ever been witnessed in the Federal Metropolis," the popular choice in 1860 was, of course, Kentuckian Abraham Lincoln.

Modern Fine Printing

An important recent acquisition is the Anvil Press edition of Jean Racine's *Andromache: A Tragedy*, printed by Carolyn Reading Hammer in the two uncial typefaces of Victor Hammer—the American Uncial and the Andromache—and illustrated with woodcuts by Fritz Kredel. The text of Racine is given in a seventeenth-century English translation by John Crowne and is introduced by the British literary scholar Dr. Desmond Flower. The book is printed by hand on Iyo, a Japanese handmade paper, and bound in black cloth. The printing of *Andromache* realizes a project planned long ago by the late artist-printer Victor Hammer, and the publication of the specially commissioned woodcuts of Fritz Kredel, once a student at Rudolf Koch's *Offenbacher Werkstatt*, is an important event in the world of the book arts. Kredel's tableaux were arranged and printed by W. Gay Reading at the Windell Press.

August, a poem by Guy Davenport, has been obtained in the hand printed edition of Cary Wilkins's Close-Grip Press. The book is printed on French handmade paper from the Richard de Bas mill, contains calligraphic title lettering by Ken Williams, and is one of thirty-five copies printed on a Reliance press. The book was produced as a part of the Book Arts program of the University of Alabama, under the direction of the well-known designer and

publisher Richard-Gabriel Rummonds.

In 1975 the King Library Press published the *Phenomena of Aratus*, illustrating the text with woodcut designs used in the 1482 *Poetica Astronomica* published at Venice by Erhard Ratdolt. The work was translated by John Lamb and annotated by Paul Q. Holbrook. The libraries recently acquired a copy of the King Library Press Aratus in an exhibition binding by Elizabeth Marples, an English binder and a Licentiate of the organization of Designer Bookbinders. The binding, in green goatskin with red and white inlays, was twice exhibited on the Continent in 1985, at Brussels and The Hague.

—Claire McCann and James D. Birchfield