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# Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 6, no. 2]

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## Selected Acquisitions

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### *Historical Manuscripts*

Our Henry Clay collection has been strengthened by the addition of two letters. In a candid letter of 1 July 1813, Henry Clay, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, upbraids William Widgery of Portland, Maine for not keeping him informed of political developments. Clay questions whether Widgery is "seized with apathy, or do you acquiesce in the retention of power by those who have gained it in your State, without struggle? . . . I hope our friends will not despair . . . but will be able at your next elections to displace those who are so wantonly abusing their authority." He concludes his letter by noting that although Pres. James Madison has been gravely ill, he is recuperating.

On 22 June 1836, some twenty years after his letter to Widgery, Clay writes as U. S. Senator from Kentucky to Seth Hawley noting that Martin Van Buren's election is doubtful, since "he is evidently losing ground, and must continue to do so." His evaluation was erroneous, however, as Van Buren won the 1836 presidential election.

A recently acquired Civil War document bears on the activities of Gen. John Hunt Morgan. In a 23 March 1864 letter, Capt. John B. Dortch, representing officers of the Second Battalion of Cavalry, petitions Gen. Samuel Cooper, Confederate Adjutant, for a transfer to General Morgan's command. Dortch and his comrades had been recruited by Morgan and originally served under him. Morgan had recently resumed his duties after he and six of his captains, following four months of confinement, escaped from the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus in November 1863.

The libraries have acquired a letter of the naturalist and artist John James Audubon, written in London. In the 11 December 1828 letter to his son Victor, in Louisville, Audubon discusses his improving financial situation and, in particular, urges his family to join him. Two years before, Audubon had gone to England to seek a publisher for *The Birds of America*; although in 1828 he needs to return to America for specimens, he is concerned about leaving London without someone to oversee his business affairs. He



continues by describing his paintings and notes that he "will send . . . what *I call* the first volume of my voluminous work in about 2 months. It will be bound up in sepia leather and will be a monument to my having existed."

### *Literary Manuscripts*

A particularly noteworthy addition to the Samuel Taylor Coleridge letters in the Peal Collection is the charming 26 May 1826 letter in which the poet earnestly apologizes for neglecting to invite the Rev. Mr. Cattermole to dine when the latter had recently called on business. Coleridge offers to make amends for his forgetfulness and lack of hospitality. In his attempt to catch the Rev. Cattermole, writes Coleridge, ". . . off I ran, or rather shuffled, but alas! my speed is defunct, and I have left its Ghost to skip with the Echoes and vault from Rock to Rock on our Cumbrian mountains. . . ." Richard Cattermole was the secretary of the Royal Society of Literature.

In a letter of 12 September 1978, evidently written in response to inquiries from a student seeking information for a paper, Robert Penn Warren notes his preferences in the arts. He stresses his inclination towards poetry, particularly that of the Elizabethans and the Romantics. He mentions that music is not a favorite because he is practically tone deaf. Both painting and sculpture capture his interest, however, because his son and daughter are involved in these two creative arts. Warren, a native of Todd County, was recently designated America's Poet Laureate.

Through the generosity of Mrs. Logan B. English, of Paris, the libraries have acquired the papers of her son, the late Kentucky folk singer and poet Logan E. English. The collection consists of drafts of original songs, poetry, plays, sheet music, recordings, and miscellaneous materials relating to Logan English's work as a writer and performer. Also represented in the papers are Frederick W. Eberhardt, the father of Mrs. English, and Logan B. English, her husband.

### *Lexington Photographs*

Our Photographic Archive has been enriched by the acquisition of more than a dozen albumen prints of Lexington buildings and scenes in the 1890s. These were obtained from Ms. Darnall Stone and Mr. Hammond Dugan, the daughter and son of Mrs. Hill Shine, who spent many years developing the rare book collection





*A Lexington photographic view, 6 1/8" x 8", depicting 115-117, 121, 125, and 129 Constitution Street in the 1890s. In 1868 the poet Rosa Vertner Jeffrey (1828-1894) and her husband Alexander Jeffrey occupied 121 Constitution (Photographic Archives, University of Kentucky Libraries)*

and serving as its curator. Included in the photographs are a Lexington stage coach and a view of the grounds of Ingleside.

### *Victor B. Howard Civil Rights Collection*

A significant gift documenting the struggle for civil rights has been given the university by Dr. Victor B. Howard, Professor of History at Morehead State University. The collection's importance lies not only in its more than thirty-year chronological span (1940s-1970s) and voluminous content, but also in the comprehensiveness with which it records social change in many areas of the country. It provides substantial evidence of patterns in education, housing, employment, labor unions, and segregation over several decades. Dr. Howard's broad vision and inclusiveness in assembling the collection has resulted in a gathering of papers which provide widely divergent views and opinions, from liberal to reactionary. The collection is a rich source for the social



historian, and includes pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and periodicals.

### *Sourcebook for Iconographers*

A recent acquisition complements the libraries' extensive collection of emblem literature, books of the Renaissance period developed around iconographic conventions and characterized by a series of poems commenting on symbolic engravings. Vincenzo Cartari's *Delle Imagini de Gli Dei della Antichi* (Padua: Pietro Paolo Tozzi, 1626) is an illustrated encyclopedia of mythology prepared for the use of artists. It was first published in 1556 at Venice. As an iconological resource it influenced the work of the emblematisers as well as that of the Baroque painters. This edition of Cartari includes supplementary chapters by Lorenzo Pignoria dealing with Mexican, Japanese, Chinese, and Indian mythology.

### *Hill Shine Fund*

A first edition of Thomas Carlyle's *French Revolution* (London: James Fraser, 1827) has been added to the libraries in memory of the late Dr. Hill Shine, Professor of English at the University of Kentucky. This acquisition was made on the Hill Shine Memorial Fund, administered by the Department of English. Prof. Shine, who taught at the university from 1950 to 1966, was a well-known authority on the writings of Carlyle and author of numerous Carlyle-related publications, including *Carlyle's Fusion of Poetry, History, and Religion* (1938), *Carlyle's Unfinished History of German Literature* (1951), and *Carlyle's Early Reading* (1953).

### *Printing History and Modern Fine Printing*

An attractive group of letters from key figures in the field of printing history has been presented to the libraries by Dr. Barbara S. McCrimmon of Tallahassee, Florida, former president of the Manuscript Society. Perhaps the most interesting is a letter from the famed English wood engraver Thomas Bewick (1753-1828), presenting "an imperial set complete, of my publications" to an unnamed recipient. Bewick, who perfected the meticulous technique of "white line engraving," arranges for the delivery of the books through this letter, dated at Newcastle, 15 April 1824. (The library also possesses an original Bewick wood block, a gift of the late Chicago Bewick authority Robert Hunter Middleton.)



Included as well is a letter from the famous Boston printer and printing historian Daniel Berkeley Updike (1860-1941), author of the classic *Type Faces: Their History, Forms, and Use*. The letter is on the letterhead of his well-known printing establishment, The Merrymount Press.

Also included in the McCrimmon gift are letters of the polyglot Bible publisher Samuel Bagster (1772-1851), the English-born artist and illustrator W. J. Linton (1812-1897), the journalist (son-in-law of William Cullen Bryant and briefly an attorney at Louisville) Parke Godwin (1816-1852), the Edinburgh publisher John Sutherland Black (1846-1923), as well as various others. Perhaps most curious among the letters is one from a certain John Wyche, penned at Stamford, England 6 January 1814, concerning a "rather insane" bookseller who "goes about ye Country selling Books and old Shoes" and who has "sometimes been in Gaol for annoying People in their peaceable possession of their dwellings" (once "with an [sic] Pistol in his hand").

Also in the McCrimmon gift is a group of publications of the Rampant Lions Press, supplementing an earlier donation of Rampant Lions imprints. Sebastian Carter, who spoke to friends of the King Library Press in May 1985, is, with his father Will Carter, proprietor of this highly-regarded Cambridge printing house. Included among the dozen items are Stanley Morison's *Tact in Typographical Design* (a specimen showing of Will Carter and David Kindersley's "Octavian" typeface), David Piper's *Shades: An Essay on English Portrait Silhouettes* (winner of the first Francis Minns Award for book design, 1971), and the limited special issue of the Fitzwilliam Museum's *The Rampant Lions Press: A Printing Workshop Through Five Decades* (with a sixteen-page special supplement on handmade paper displaying woodcuts printed from the original blocks of Eric Gill, Reynolds Stone, and others). Complementing this generous gift is the recent acquisition of Sebastian Carter's *The Book Becomes*, his account of carrying out William Morris's projected edition of *Cupid and Psyche*, using the Kelmscott typefaces and original illustrations.

The libraries have recently acquired volumes three, four, and five of the British typographical annual *Matrix*. This publication offers articles on various aspects of fine printing and the book arts—wood engraving, paper making, punch cutting, printing presses, type design, reviews, and biographical sketches. The interest of the articles is much enhanced by the frequent inclusion

of illustrations, typographical specimens, woodcuts, and samples of decorative papers. A number of the well-known contributors to *Matrix* have been visitors to the University of Kentucky's King Library Press, including John Dreyfus, Sebastian Carter, David Chambers, Hans Schmoller, and Roderick Cave.

—*Claire McCann*