



1985

## Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 5, no. 3]

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### Recommended Citation

McCann, Claire (1985) "Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 5, no. 3]," *The Kentucky Review*: Vol. 5 : No. 3 , Article 7.  
Available at: <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/kentucky-review/vol5/iss3/7>

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## Selected Acquisitions

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### *Kentuckiana*

A significant Lexington imprint published by Thomas T. Skillman in 1812 has been added to our Kentuckiana Collection with the acquisition of Joseph Cabell Breckinridge's *An Oration, Pronounced At Maxwell Springs in The Vicinity of Lexington, on The 4th July, 1812*. The natural patriotic fervor occasioned by celebrating our nation's independence on July 4th was heightened by the impending war with Great Britain. The British policy of interfering with neutral countries' trade with England's foes and her continual impressment of alleged British subjects from American merchant ships finally culminated in a declaration of war which President Madison signed on 18 June. No doubt enthusiastic cheers greeted Breckinridge's impassioned rhetoric since the war was a popular cause in Kentucky.

The genealogical and historical information which Karen Mauer Green has abstracted from the newspaper files for her index to *The Kentucky Gazette, 1787-1800* is particularly significant because the 1790 and 1800 U.S. censuses for Kentucky are no longer extant; therefore, incomplete tax records of the period serve as a guide to pioneer settlement of Kentuckians. Mrs. Green has included every local name mentioned in *The Gazette* from John and Fielding Bradford's first issue in Lexington, Kentucky, 18 August 1787 through 1800. The work is chronologically arranged according to the dates of the newspaper's publication. Mrs. Green has also included both a surname file as well as a place name and subject index to facilitate the use of the volume and serve as a guide to locate specific references in *The Gazette* itself. Many a frustrated researcher will be most grateful for the additional resources which Mrs. Green has provided.

The third Fayette County Courthouse, which served the community from 1806-1883, is captured in a colorful print offered by the Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission. The print was originally handpainted by Lexington artist Diane Blazy to illustrate the dust jacket of Dr. John D. Wright's *Lexington: Heart of the Bluegrass*, published by the Commission in 1982. This recreation of nineteenth-century Lexington is an enlarged reproduction from



the black and white sketch appearing in the 1882 *History of Fayette County, Kentucky*, written by Dr. Robert Peter and edited by William Henry Perrin. Our current courthouse, our fifth, was completed in 1900 and stands on the same site as the one depicted in this historic Lexington lithograph.

Another welcome addition to our Kentuckiana Collection is the 1983 reproduction by Russell Lutes of "Man O'War and His Groom Will Harbut," given to us by Dr. Lawrence S. Thompson, Department of Classics. The lithograph was taken from the original photograph which was published as the cover picture for an issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*.

### *Printing*

The Victor and Carolyn Hammer Printing Collection was recently augmented by the manuscripts of John Rothenstein's *Victor Hammer: Artist and Craftsman* (Boston: D.R. Godine, 1978) and its related volume, *Victor Hammer: Artist and Printer* (Lexington, Ky.: The Anvil Press, 1981) as well as a portion of The Anvil Press Archives and additional Bur Press items. These two manuscripts capture the multi-faceted skills and artistry of Mr. Hammer as expressed through the versatility of his portraits, mezzotints, engravings, woodcuts, inscriptions, and, of course, his American Uncial type face. They are a fitting tribute to a master artisan and artist who graced Lexington, Kentucky, from 1948 until his death in 1967.

For almost a quarter century Mark Catesby immersed himself in collecting specimens and drawings and creating the phenomenon of *A Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*, the first volume of which was published in 1732, a year later than the date carried on the title page. This handsome 1974 facsimile, a gift received last year from our generous benefactor W. Hugh Peal, recreates fifty strikingly colorful plates which amply illustrate why Catesby was the eighteenth-century harbinger of J.J. Audubon. A complete set of the original two hundred and twenty plates in black and white is included in a bound catalogue which complements the portfolios of selected color plates. Catesby's *Natural History* was reproduced from the third edition of 1771 owned by the Boston Athenaeum. The book is designed and printed by the Stinehour Press with facsimiles by the Meriden Gravure Company. The Beehive Press of Savannah, Georgia, is the publisher.



Now celebrating its centennial year, the Grolier Club has produced an interesting volume appropriately called *The Grolier Club, 1884-1984*, composed of essays by members who highlight its splendid library, its notable exhibitions, and its numerous well-executed publications. The various articles feature significant milestones in the development of the organization, opening with a history of the library by the current librarian, Robert Nikirk. A particularly useful section is the bibliography of the Grolier Club publications through 1983 which updates the 1948 compilation. Several plates enhance the volume, including a reproduction from its manuscript collection of the last page of Thomas Jefferson's 26 May 1795 letter to M. Frouillé, Parisian bookseller, to whom he complains that salt water has damaged many of the books in a recent order.

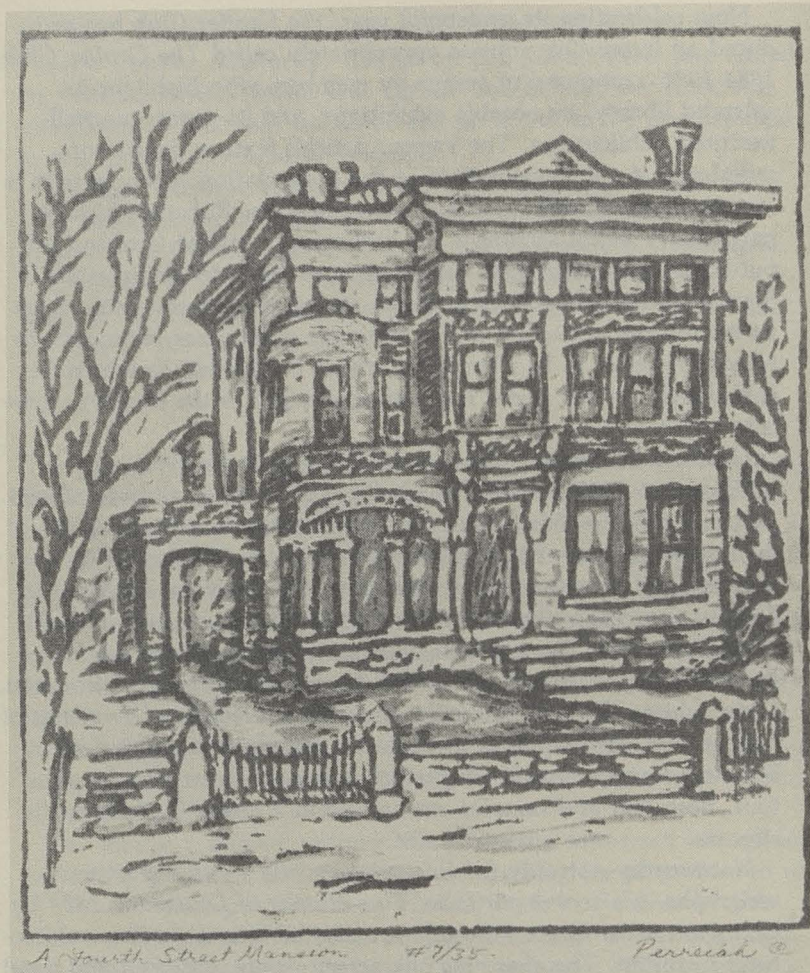
Geoffrey Wakeman's *Nineteenth Century Trade Binding*, published in 1983 by The Plough Press of Oxford, consists of two parts. In the text, Mr. Wakeman discusses the materials, equipment, and artisans that created trade bindings. The text is illustrated by twenty-seven reproductions from several nineteenth-century sources, aptly demonstrating the various aspects of the binding process. The text and illustrations were printed by Jonathan Stephenson at the Rocket Press, The Vicarage, Steventon, Oxfordshire. The second section includes a selection of swatches of leather and cloth bindings as well as a sample of bookbinder's brass type and a nineteenth-century engraved decorative brass tool. Both text and samples are housed in a tastefully executed slipcase.

Noteworthy not only for fine printing, the seven attractive serigraphs in a recent portfolio, *Fine Homes of Louisville, 1888* by Lexington artist Grace Perreiah, are also of interest to the architectural historian. The charming silk screen prints, designed and hand printed by the artist, are accompanied by a copy of the article from the 7 January 1888 *Harper's Weekly*, which originally included the engravings from which the serigraphs were rendered. The portfolio is a fitting companion piece to the artist's *Elegant Homes of Lexington*, published in 1982.

### *Lambiana*

The outstanding assemblage of Charles Lamb letters and books in our W. Hugh Peal Collection continues to grow with the acquisi-





From Grace Perreiah's *Fine Homes of Louisville*, 1888. By permission of the artist.

tion of four charming Lamb items. We have added the first edition, the so-called "surprize" issue, of the familiar and delightful tale of *Beauty and the Beast: or, a Rough Outside with a Gentle Heart* (London: M.J. Godwin, 1811). Illustrated with eight hand-colored plates, the "surprize" issue substitutes "surprize" for "surprise," page 7, line 11. Our copy lacks a title leaf although the





*Beauty in her Prosperous State.*

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.

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A MERCHANT, who by generous pains  
 Prospered in honourable gains,  
 Could boast, his wealth and fame to share,  
 Three manly SONS, three DAUGHTERS fair;  
 With these he felt supremely blest.—  
 His latest born surpass'd the rest:  
 She was so gentle, good and kind,  
 So fair in feature, form and mind,  
 So constant too in filial duty,  
 The neighbours called her LITTLE BEAUTY!

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original paper cover is intact proclaiming the availability of the story ". . . to be had of all Booksellers and Toymen throughout the United Kingdom." We have also obtained both the 1811 and 1818 versions of the story of the hapless *Prince Dorus: or, Flattery put out of Countenance*. The 1811 volume was issued separately, while the 1818 edition includes the second edition of *Beauty and the Beast* in addition to *Think Before you Speak: or, the Three Wishes*, sixth edition. Lest the undiscerning reader overlook the moral significance of these magical, spellbound tales, the didactic purpose is clearly stressed. In the last story, for example, the wishes granted by the sprite are foolishly squandered; therefore, the lesson we are instructed, pointedly, to note is ". . . suit our wishes to our station" in life.

In addition to these light-hearted, enchanting stories, we glimpse the humourous side of Lamb in his undated letter to Joseph Hume's daughters, written in appreciation for the button-holes which were mended in his coat while visiting the Hume family.

### *Manuscripts*

With the addition of two recently acquired Henry Clay letters, the libraries have received one letter from Clay's early career as a practicing attorney in 1803 as well as a candid epistle written during the fall of his 1832 presidential campaign. In the 18 May 1803 letter to William Taylor, a Baltimore merchant, the young Clay outlines the legal services rendered to his client and assures him the fee charged is equitable. In response to Thomas H. Baird's 23 August 1832 letter, Clay answers on 8 September frankly expressing his opinion concerning the political climate in Pennsylvania relating to the forthcoming presidential election and stating "If Penna. should think proper either to support our cause, or to withhold her vote from Genl. Jackson, I should Regard his defeat as *certain*." However, Andrew Jackson not only won Pennsylvania, but a second term in the White House defeating Henry Clay by over 117,000 popular votes. Baird was a resident of Washington, Pennsylvania, and presiding judge of the district court.

Also of historical interest are the Willian/Tuley Family Papers, 1799-1898, which include letters, receipts, legal documents and photographs of this Hancock County, Kentucky, family, some of whom migrated to Missouri.



## *Ephemera*

Numerous interesting letterheads are included among the statements from various Lexington, Kentucky, business firms which transacted business with the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station during the thirty year period from 1890-1920. This collection, which provides a cross section of the Lexington business community for three decades, was donated by Joseph G. Duncan from the files of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Mr. Duncan was research publications editor and associate professor in the U.K. College of Agriculture for twenty-three years before his retirement in 1977. This diverse assortment of papers contains records relating to insurance, printers, carriage makers, clothiers, electrical contractors, saddle and harness makers, photographers, druggists, and veterinary surgeons to list only a few of the numerous types of goods and services available. One specialist's banner proclaimed his occupation as basket maker and chair repairer as well as his proficiency in willow work. Several groups include bills from a long span of years, providing a record of stylistic changes in the letterheads.

—Claire McCann