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Announcements and Comments

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Announcements and Comments

DURING THE SUMMER, Special Collections made two significant acquisitions in the field of nineteenth century social history. Both new accessions provide historical context for the extensive nineteenth century American literary collections already on file with Special Collections.

Julius Seelye Bixler, President of Colby College, 1942-1960, donated nearly 500 letters written between 1848 and 1887 to several women of the William James family of Albany, New York. The letters illustrate in part the lives of well-educated, middle and upper-middle class women as they deal with the Civil War, religious issues, benevolent activities, and personal crises. For example, Fanny Hotchkiss, unmarried and living with her family, wrote regularly to Elizabeth James Seelye, granddaughter of William James, during the Civil War. Her introspective letters reflect her dependence on religious faith as well as her bitter feelings about having to pursue a teaching career instead of being an author. Another of Elizabeth's regular correspondents from 1848 to 1865 was Fanny Fisk, who wrote of events at Union College in Schenectady, New York, and of her efforts to set up a sewing society for women of impoverished families.

Elizabeth's sister, Katherine Barber, also maintained an extensive correspondence. Mary Chamberlain Stewart, who served as a teacher in the Unitarian Mission in Calcutta, India, wrote regularly to Katherine from 1873 to 1887 asking for gifts of money, books, and clothing. Katherine also received thank-you notes from a number of native students at the mission. One of the students, who later became a teacher, continued the correspondence for ten years. Katherine also counseled her niece, Katherine James Edwards, through the girl's adolescence and young womanhood, 1874-1883. Hotchkiss, Fisk, Stewart, and Edwards are only four of approximately forty different correspondents whose letters have been added to the William James Family Collection. This collection is an impressive source for the study of American social and intellectual history of the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Another, quite different gift, was received from the estate of Leon Lascelle through his daughter Mrs. Margaret Loghry. Mrs. Loghry, on behalf of her father, donated a run of *Tip Top Magazine*, 1890-1912,

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complete in 850 issues and thirty-three volumes. Each weekly issue contains one of the famous Frank Merriwell stories as well as other short fiction and sports news notes. *Tip Top* is a superb source for documenting the character traits the progressive mind deemed most advantageous for the individual as well as the United States during the enormous dislocations wrought in the transformation of America from a rural, agricultural society to an industrialized, international power prior to World War I.

J. FRASER COCKS III

Acting Director of Miller Library

THE NEXT ISSUE of *CLQ* (March, 1977) will be the special issue devoted to "Studies in Psychology, History, and Literature" which was first announced for the fall of 1976. Douglas Archibald's article on Edmund Burke, in this issue, will be continued in the March issue. Since a number of articles which we publish might be included under the title of this special issue, it may seem appropriate that at least one article overlaps the issue.

A special issue on William Blake is now planned for June, 1977.

The picture on the front cover is reproduced from an engraving by Albrecht Dürer (German, 1471-1528), and the picture on the back cover is from an engraving by Lucas Van Leyden (Dutch, 1494-1533). Both engravings are in the permanent collection of the Colby College Art Museum.

J H S