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Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 11, no. 2]

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Selected Acquisitions

Kentuckiana

A. T. Skillman, one of Lexington’s prominent nineteenth-century printers, was known for his publication of religious treatises. Skillman’s profile may be seen today on his monument in the Lexington Cemetery. The library has lately added a copy of an 1839 Skillman imprint, the Reverend J. D. Paxton’s *Letters on Palestine and Egypt*. This copy is signed by Paxton and bound in an embossed brown fabric with gilt lettering in a gilt panel on the spine.

Another addition to the shelves is William Brent Altsheeler’s 1912 illustrated essay, *The Long Shooters and the Origin of 300 Yards Revolver Shooting*, published in Denver by Outdoor Life Publishing Company. The narrative deals with the author’s adventures in turkey shoots as a member of the Louisville Rifle and Revolver Club. It gives particular attention to marksmanship with pistols, and the practice of shooting pistols at a distance of 300 yards.

Two Frankfort mercantile ledgers have also been brought into the libraries’ collections. One, covering the middle 1880s, records accounts for individuals’ purchases and lists such items as tea pots, cake pans, black powder, tobacco, and sugar. The second ledger is a record of purchases and sales of Thomas Vannatta and again records such items as textiles, shoe strings, carpet tacks, and textbooks.

Dr. Berle Clay, State Archeologist and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky, has given the libraries a rare Kentucky broadside of the Civil War era. Printed at Richmond, Kentucky on 20 September 1862, this piece is set as volume one, number one of the *Kentucky Rebel* and reprints copy from the *Kentucky Statesman*. Headed “Bloodless Victory at Munfordsville! [sic],” the broadside tells of Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg’s advance from Chattanooga to Glasgow and Munfordville and also prints a 14 September 1862 proclamation of General Bragg. On the back is written by hand, “Some People are Fools” and “To think this traitorous sheet was published in Ky.”
Architectural Drawings

The libraries have acquired four drawings by the architectural firm of Frankel and Curtis that depict a proposed Lexington civic center and auditorium. The building was to have stood on Short Street, facing down the Esplanade to Main Street. It would have been adjacent to the 1928 City Hall, built on Walnut Street (now Martin Luther King Boulevard) and facing Barr Street. Included are a floor plan, a front elevation, and two other views. The original plan for the project dates to December 1925, although there were revisions in June of 1931 and again in September of 1935. The building was never constructed, and so these drawings now significantly preserve what was once conceived as a major feature of downtown Lexington sixty-five years ago.

The libraries have also recently added a drawing for a bridge over the North Fork of Elkhorn Creek. Drawn to a scale of ten feet to the inch, this schematic shows a structure extending across the stream and supported at the center by a large stone pier. Construction estimates for the span, which appears to have been a covered bridge of the middle nineteenth century, show costs of $732 for masonry and $2,015 for the frame superstructure. The plans are signed by I. S. Evans, a civil engineer.

Modern Fine Printing

The Anvil Press has recently published Victor Hammer: A Second Book of Fragments and Alexander von Humboldt, "The Genius of Rhodes." The volume consists, first, of a series of passages from Victor Hammer's personal notes that deal with philosophical concepts and with observations on places visited; and, second, of Helmut Gordon's translation from the German of a short story (first published in 1795 in Schiller's periodical, Die Horen) that had interested Hammer and the text of which he had once copied out in his uncial hand. Eighty copies of this book have been printed, using Victor Hammer's American Uncial and Samson types, on paper made by hand for him at the Magnani paper mill in Tuscany and bearing his personal watermark. The libraries are pleased to hold a copy of this book in its collection of modern fine printing, a collection in which the work of Victor and Carolyn Hammer play a prominent role.

The Logan Elm Press, the collegiate press in the Art Department at Ohio State University, has recently published A Letter of
Christopher Columbus, a poem by David Citino, with monoprints by Anthony Rice. The poem is based on the well-known letter written by Columbus to Ferdinand and Isabella on 15 February 1493, describing the lands and peoples of the New World. It is printed in observance of the quincentenary of the discovery of America. All of the paper for the book was made by Russ McKnight, who also printed the text. Ann A. Woods carried out the calligraphy for the title page and drew the fine initials in various colors at the beginning of each section of the text. The volume is covered with a heavy paper vellum and kept in a box covered with decorated paste paper.