

**A CENTENNIAL
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1891**

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A Centennial Bibliography of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1891 by Samuel A. Green

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SAMUEL A. GREEN

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OF THE

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

1891.

With an Appendix.

By SAMUEL A. GREEN, M.D.

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1891.

CENTENNIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY.

At a meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, held January 8, 1891, Dr. SAMUEL A. GREEN, in presenting a Centennial Bibliography of the Society, made the following remarks:—

Twenty years ago, at the January meeting, I communicated a paper containing a bibliography of the Society's publications, which was then in a great measure tentative. Since that time I have found many old titles previously unknown to the Library; and keeping pace with the new ones, I have added all such to the list, which is herewith submitted as fairly complete.

The first publication of the Society appeared on January 6, 1792, in "The American Apollo,"¹ a weekly magazine beginning at that time. Successive numbers were printed in connection with the periodical during thirty-nine weeks, and comprised usually a signature of eight pages, which could be separated from the rest of the pamphlet, and was called Part I. of each number. The first 208 pages of Volume I. of the Collections were published in this way; and the remaining part of the volume, which consisted of 80 pages, was issued in monthly parts, in September, October, November, and De-

¹ The Prospectus of this magazine reads as follows: "To all the Friends of Science, Arts, Agriculture, Manufactures and Commerce. PROSPECTUS OF Joseph Belknap & Alexander Young, FOR PRINTING A WEEKLY PAPER; to be entitled THE AMERICAN APOLLO, containing the Publications of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Political and Commercial Intelligence, and other entertaining Matter. PRINTED AT BOSTON, (Massachusetts) BY J. BELKNAP AND A. YOUNG. MDCCXCI."

ember, 1792. The second and third volumes were continued in monthly parts, but the fourth and fifth were issued in quarterly parts. The Collections, including the Centennial volume to be published, on January 24, the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Society, now number fifty-four, and are divided into series of ten volumes each. The Reverend William Hubbard's "General History of New England," which forms Volumes V. and VI. of the second series, was published with titlepages to correspond with the other volumes of the Collections, and also with a different one, so that the work might be sold as a volume complete in itself; but in both instances the paging is continuous. In the year 1848 Hubbard's History reached a second edition, when it was again printed on the same plan of having two titlepages. This edition was carefully collated with the original manuscript, and contains numerous additional notes. In the early part of 1878 some missing pages were supplied, which had been copied from the original manuscript before the Revolution, when it was in the possession of Governor Hutchinson; and these were then printed for the first time, and inserted in such copies as the Society had on hand. See Proceedings (XVI. 12, 38) for January and February, 1878. A similar plan was followed in publishing Governor William Bradford's "History of Plymouth Plantation," which is Volume III. of the fourth series, so that it appears both as an independent volume and as one of the set. Fifty copies of this work were printed, with a new titlepage, for the private use of the editor. The Winthrop Papers, Part III. (fifth series, Volume I.), published in the year 1871, was stereotyped; and this was the first of the Society's Collections so printed. Since that time all the succeeding volumes of the set have been either stereotyped or electrotyped. A "Centennial Volume" of Revolutionary letters was published in April, 1878, and forms Volume IV. of the fifth series. In January, 1882, an "Appendix to the Belknap Papers" was printed, which has since been inserted after page 371 in Part II. (fifth series, Volume III.) of the work. It consists of additional letters written by Dr. Belknap to Mr. Hazard. Soon after the publication of the last volume of Sewall Papers, in the spring of 1882, certain corrections were made in the plates, and the whole set was again struck off with "SECOND EDITION" on the verso of the titlepage.

The first twenty-one volumes of the Collections have been reprinted; and Volumes I. and V. of the first series have reached a third edition. The following list gives the years of their publication respectively:—

Vol. I. was printed in 1792, reprinted in 1806, and again reprinted in 1859.

Vol. V. was printed in 1798, reprinted in 1816, and again reprinted in 1835.

Vol. II. was printed in 1793, and reprinted in 1810.
 " III. " " " 1794, " " " 1810.
 " IV. " " " 1795, " " " 1835.
 " VI. " " " 1800, " " " 1846.
 " VII. " " " 1801, " " " 1846.
 " VIII. " " " 1802, " " " 1856.
 " IX. " " " 1804, " " " 1857.
 " X. " " " 1809, " " " 1857.

SECOND SERIES.

Vol. I. was printed in 1814, and reprinted in 1838.
 " II. " " " 1814, " " " 1846.
 " III. " " " 1815, " " " 1846.
 " IV. " " " 1816, " " " 1846.
 " V. " " " 1815, " " " 1848.
 " VI. " " " 1815, " " " 1848.
 " VII. " " " 1818, " " " 1826.
 " VIII. " " " 1819, " " " 1826.
 " IX. " " " 1822, " " " 1832.
 " X. " " " 1823, " " " 1843.

THIRD SERIES.

Vol. I. was printed in 1825, and reprinted in 1846.
 " II. " " " 1830.
 " III. " " " 1835.
 " IV. " " " 1834.
 " V. " " " 1836.
 " VI. " " " 1837.
 " VII. " " " 1838.
 " VIII. " " " 1843.
 " IX. " " " 1846.
 " X. " " " 1849.

FOURTH SERIES.

Vol. I.	was printed in	1852.
" II.	" " "	1854.
" III.	" " "	1856.
" IV.	" " "	1858.
" V.	" " "	1861.
" VI.	" " "	1863.
" VII.	" " "	1865.
" VIII.	" " "	1868.
" IX.	" " "	1871.
" X.	" " "	1871.

FIFTH SERIES.

Vol. I.	was printed in	1871.
" II.	" " "	1877.
" III.	" " "	1877.
" IV.	" " "	1878.
" V.	" " "	1878.
" VI.	" " "	1879.
" VII.	" " "	1882.
" VIII.	" " "	1882.
" IX.	" " "	1885.
" X.	" " "	1888.

SIXTH SERIES.

Vol. I.	was printed in	1886.
" II.	" " "	1888.
" III.	" " "	1889.
" IV.	" " "	1891.

The first volume of the Proceedings, which is now Volume III., was published in the year 1853, and the series has since been continued to the present time. These volumes comprise the transactions of the Society, and originally began with the Annual Meeting on April 12, 1855. They were not then numbered on the back of the covers, but were marked with the years in which the meetings were held; for example, the volume just referred to is marked "1855-1858." It was then thought by the Publishing Committee that the proceedings of all the previous meetings would at some time be printed, but

it was not known exactly how many volumes there would be; and so the customary ordinal numbers were left off. It was a matter of doubt whether there would be two or three volumes of such Proceedings; but it finally resulted in two,—each larger than they had usually been, and published, respectively, in 1879 and 1880. There have now been printed twenty-five volumes of Proceedings, of which the first twenty form a series, which has an additional Index volume of more than 500 pages. The other five constitute a second series, which, presumably, will also be extended to twenty volumes. The first stereotyped volume of the Society's publications was the Proceedings for 1869-1870; and since then all the subsequent volumes have been thus printed. Whenever copies are now struck off from the plates and bound, the proper ordinal numbers are placed on the backs. The volume (XI.) for 1869-1870 was printed in eight parts; each one, with a single exception, containing the transactions of two meetings or more, according to the length of the record. This practice has since been kept up by the Publishing Committee, though sometimes the part coming at the end of a volume is omitted. Usually one hundred copies of such serial numbers are printed for the convenience of the members; and in this way an opportunity is also given to detect mistakes for correction in the plates.

The first printed Catalogue of the books in the Library was a pamphlet of 40 pages, and appeared in the year 1796. This was followed by a "Catalogue of the Books, Pamphlets, Newspapers, Maps, Charts, Manuscripts," etc., in 1811. The first volume of the present Catalogue appeared in 1859, and the second volume was issued during the next year. These three catalogues are the only printed lists of books in the general library. A few copies of the first 240 pages of Volume I. of the Catalogue were printed separately, as specimen numbers to show to the members. It may be worth while here to put on record a fact in regard to the Catalogue of the Dowse Library. The book was printed before the Library was given to the Historical Society, and a titlepage was prepared for twenty-five copies, the owner deciding to limit the issue to that number during his life. At a later period, however, the additional sheets of the Catalogue were found, and it was deemed advisable to print a new titlepage for the remain-