

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
COLLECTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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The beginnings of the Pacific Northwest Collection at the University of Washington are found in the efforts of Professor Edmond S. Meany to accumulate materials to teach courses in the history of the Pacific Northwest. With scant formal preparation in history, Meany faced an arduous task in the preparation of his courses when he first began to teach at the University of Washington in 1895. He met the challenge with optimism and energy. According to his biographer, George A. Frykman, Meany

. . .wrote to individuals who might have libraries devoted to history and regional subjects in order to discover what he must obtain. Attics were searched for documents, and Washington teachers were lectured on the need to preserve source materials for teaching local history. Congressmen and federal and state officials were requested to find and submit copies of government publications for use in his courses.¹

Meany was successful in acquiring a considerable amount of historical materials and in addition was able to get the university designated a depository for federal documents. With his support the friends of the late Frederick James Grant solicited funds in 1895 to establish an American history collection for the library in Grant's memory. By 1897 over 200 volumes had been obtained for this collection.²

It was well that Meany labored so diligently to acquire books for the university, since the state legislature provided so meagerly for library growth. An analysis in 1896 of the 6,780 titles in the library showed 5,000 were for public documents and 1,000 were for meteorology. The remainder of 780 titles for all other subjects demonstrated clearly the inadequacy of the library. With such sparse resources it was unlikely that the job of

librarian would be taken seriously. Low paid librarians of short tenure were the rule during the first forty-odd years of the university's existence.³

The circumstances which motivated Meany to search for his own materials also prompted Harry C. Coffman, Librarian of the university from 1899 to 1905, to look beyond his meager book fund to the generosity of Washington citizens. In 1905 he issued a leaflet entitled "Objects of Collection Desired by the University Library." This remarkable document laid the basis for the Pacific Northwest Collection at the University of Washington. The leaflet began briefly with a request for general Americana, but the principal plea was for everything relating to Washington. What Coffman really wanted was every book, pamphlet, diary, manuscript, newspaper, map and legal document that had some bearing on the history of the territory and state of Washington. In addition, he would also welcome coins, medals, paintings, stone axes, arrow heads, pottery or other curiosities relating to the state. Coffman wanted:

In brief, everything that, by the most liberal construction, can illustrate the History of Washington, its early settlement, its progress, or present condition. Contributions will be credited to the donors in the published reports of the University, and will be carefully preserved in the Library or Museum as the property of the State, for the use and benefit of the people for all time.⁴

Although later librarians would extend Coffman's appeal for Washingtoniana to the broader region of the Pacific Northwest, Coffman's solicitation of gifts was prophetic of the primary means by which the collection would be acquired.

In 1896 the Board of Regents evinced some grasp of the importance of the library to the university when they recommended hiring a librarian trained in library service. The first trained professional, however, was not secured until 1905.⁵ In September of that year Charles Wesley Smith, newly graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.L.S. degree, arrived on the campus. This marked the beginning of Smith's distinguished tenure of forty-two years with the university, first as Assistant Librarian 1905-1913; then as Associate Librarian 1913-1929; and finally as Librarian 1929-1947.⁶

Years later Smith would recount his first introduction to the Pacific Northwest Collection. He was shown a locked cabinet with glass doors behind which were ensconced some one hundred rare books, so precious he was advised that he should never allow Mr. Meany's students to use them. This modest group of books has now grown into a distinguished collection of Pacific Northwest Americana numbering over 42,000 volumes.⁷

In 1905 Smith had no inkling that a specialized collection of such magnitude could ever be developed. The realities of a small budget, a rapidly growing student body, and the consuming day-to-day tasks of operating a library precluded any such vision. In a letter in 1906 to William E. Henry, the newly appointed Librarian of the University of Washington, Smith made clear the limitations of the library - but did not ignore its promise:

Do not expect too much of the library. Our conditions are far from ideal. The book selection has been excellent, however, and I am sure you will find a good working basis. . . .⁸

William E. Henry was not a professionally trained librarian, but he was experienced, having served nine and one-half years as State Librarian of Indiana. His appointment as University Librarian in 1906 continued to his retirement in 1929, when he was succeeded by Smith. During this long association Smith and Henry worked closely and amicably together in the development of the library's collections, which was the major task before them.⁹

The library held about 20,000 books when Smith arrived and by 1908 the library had expanded from its basement quarters in Denny Hall, which it retained, to an assembly room upstairs. By 1910 library holdings had doubled to 40,000. It was fortunate that several of the state buildings constructed for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition were acquired by the regents for the university at that time. Among these was the Washington State Building which became the university library in 1910. The addition of a fireproof stockroom capable of holding 150,000 volumes was completed in 1912.¹⁰

H. C. Coffman's objective of acquiring Washingtoniana was greatly expanded as Smith and Henry undertook the task of building a regional collection. In a speech before the Oregon Historical Society in 1939, Smith outlined their objectives:

In building up our collection we decided at the onset to secure as many as possible of the early maritime voyages to the Northwest coast, also the principal over-land narratives involving Oregon and Washington. In particular we took the state of Washington as our field, with a general interest in the old Oregon country of which it was originally a part. This area comprises the present states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington and the province of British Columbia. We have added considerable material relating to Alaska and the Yukon,

but California and the southwest have been definitely out from the beginning.

Within the geographical limits thus described we have secured as many books as possible relating to the fur trade era, the missionary movement, immigration, settlement, the cattle trade, mining, agriculture. . . . We have made an effort to secure source materials, such as laws, journals and other government publications. Great importance has been attached to contemporaneous accounts by participants in historical events. . . . Newspapers constitute an invaluable source and we have been fortunate in acquiring sets of rare Washington newspapers. . . .¹¹

A few years after coming to the university Smith concluded that there should be a cooperative effort among Pacific Northwest libraries in developing regional collections. In the preface to his Check-List of Books and Pamphlets. . . published in 1909 Smith states that "In April, 1908, as the result of informal correspondence among librarians of the Pacific Northwest, it was decided to prepare a cooperative library check-list of books and pamphlets relating to the region."¹² Each of the thirteen regional libraries which participated was to provide a list of its materials to Smith so that these lists could be combined into a single alphabet and published. The scope of the check-list as compiled by Smith:

. . . was made to include all books and pamphlets relating to the history of that geographical area lying north of California and west of the Rocky mountains, including the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, together with British Columbia, Alaska and the Yukon.¹³

"History" was to be broadly construed to include works of description, travel, fiction, science and commerce as they had a bearing on the region. Only manuscripts, state and federal documents, and most newspapers and journals were to be excluded from the listing.¹⁴ The Check-List of Books and Pamphlets . . .

was published in 1909 at the expense of the Washington State Library and served until 1921 as an invaluable guide to libraries, book dealers and collectors. It was revised in 1921, with eighteen libraries participating, and given a new title, Pacific Northwest Americana.¹⁵ The latest edition of this work entitled Charles W. Smith's Pacific Northwest Americana was published in 1950 under the editorship of Isabel Mayhew of the Reference Division of the University of Washington. The participation of thirty-eight libraries in this third edition attested to its continuing value and popularity.¹⁶

Since 1909 the Check-List. . . and its subsequent editions have served as guides for the expansion of the Pacific Northwest Collection at the University of Washington. In actuality the base of the collection is considerably broader than that envisaged by Smith. Instead of merely collecting ". . .as many as possible of the early maritime voyages to the Northwest Coast. . ." Robert D. Monroe, Head of the Special Collections Division, states that nearly all editions of these voyages ". . .and in nearly all the languages in which they were published. . ." have been assembled in the collection. Monroe further notes that from the beginning many general works dealing with Indians of North America, not merely those of the Northwest, have been included in the collection.¹⁷

The appearance of the Check-List. . . in 1909 was a major step toward defining the area of Pacific Northwest Americana, but the poverty of the book fund remained a critical problem. Smith and Henry both realized, as did their predecessor Coffman, that they would have to go outside of the university for funds to expand

the collection. Henry was successful in securing aid from his friends Judge and Mrs. Charles E. Remsberg, also formerly of Indiana. The Remsbergs donated \$250.00 in 1909 and \$100.00 a year for the next four years. Smith searched the numerous secondhand book catalogs that were pouring into the library, and cautiously expended the Remsberg fund on inexpensive items. Time, at least, has proven the wisdom of his selections. For seventy-five cents Smith acquired a copy of Asa S. Mercer's Washington Territory, published in Utica, New York in 1865.¹⁸ This classic, which is the first published description of the territory of Washington, has recently been offered for sale by a book dealer for \$750.00.¹⁹ This illustration of the vast difference in the value of the dollar between 1910 and 1976 also highlights the considerable purchasing power of the Remsberg's \$650.00 gift around 1910. Years later Smith warmly remembered the generosity and timeliness of the Remsberg's gift. In a letter to Judge Remsberg in 1925 he wrote:

Please permit me to express once more our appreciation of the splendid service which you rendered to this institution at a time when funds for Northwest history books were almost impossible to secure. Hardly a day passes that we are not using material purchased from the Remsberg fund, and our collection, you will be glad to know, is quite rapidly increasing.²⁰

Since only relatively small sums were included in the library budget for buying Pacific Northwest Americana, gifts large and small continued to be the primary means for augmenting the collection. In the history of the development of the Pacific Northwest Collection the acquisition of Clarence Booth Bagley's library is the sole example of a major purchase.

Clarence Bagley came to Seattle in 1860 and for the next thirty-odd years he worked as a businessman and newspaperman in Olympia and Seattle. Settling permanently in Seattle in 1885 he served for one term on the Seattle City Council and between 1893 and 1900 worked in the office of the Seattle city comptroller. He was appointed secretary of the Seattle Board of Works in 1900, a position he held until his retirement in 1929.²¹

Early in his business career Bagley began to collect the newspapers of Washington Territory and its laws and journals. In 1874 he purchased a part of Elwood Evans' newspaper collection. He continued to preserve various state newspapers until his collection was unmatched anywhere in its variety and completeness. About 1900 as he began writing articles on the early history of western Washington and Seattle for local newspapers and magazines, his interest in the collection of all kinds of regional historical materials was further stimulated. He regretted that he had waited so late in life to begin to collect books and pamphlets on the region. He became an avid book collector and quickly made up for lost time. Bagley scanned rare book catalogs, attended local book auctions and purchased what he was able to with limited funds. He made exchanges of historical materials with George H. Himes of the Oregon Historical Society, E. O. S. Scholefield of the British Columbia Legislative Library, Thomas W. Prosch of Seattle, and T. C. Elliott of Walla Walla. People from all walks of life who sought information on topics of Pacific Northwest history knew Bagley could supply them with the best information available - either

from the deep well of his personal experiences and knowledge or from his vast collections of books, newspapers, directories, journals, pioneer diaries and letters. He generously made all of these resources available to students of Pacific Northwest history.²²

William E. Henry and Charles W. Smith at the University of Washington were among the multitude who appreciated the depth and value of the Bagley collection. Smith claimed that he spent ten years maneuvering to obtain Bagley's library. Bagley decided in 1918 that he would dispose of his collection in order to spare his heirs the problems of its disposition.²³ He could not, however, afford to give the collection to the university. Fortunately for both Bagley and the university, money was available for the purchase at the time that Bagley chose to sell. Nearly twenty years later Smith recounted the rather unusual circumstances of the purchase:

During the war (World War I) the University conducted upon the campus a student army training corps for which it received from the United States government one dollar per student per quarter. A good friend of mine in the comptroller's office gave me a tip that the sum of about \$16,000 was to reach the University just at the close of the biennium ending in March, 1919. This money would revert if not spent during the biennium. Quick action was needed. I made a visit to Mr. Bagley and found him in a mood to sell. He made a price of \$12,200. Next I went to Comptroller Condon and discussed the matter with him. I found that the College of Engineering was anxious to secure an engine which would require the major portion of the S.A.T.C. fund. It became immediately apparent that the money would go either for this engine or for the Bagley collection. I called the Library Committee together and secured their unanimous approval. The matter went to the Board of Regents and they also approved the purchase.²⁴

Librarian William Henry gave his strong endorsement for the

purchase in a letter to Comptroller Compton:

The intrinsic value of this material to the university is very great, quite beyond money estimate. If lost, it could not be replaced. . . . No man can write the history of Washington or of the Pacific Northwest without access to this collection, wherever it may be.²⁵

The decision of university officials to buy books rather than an engine, aside from the educational implications, was a wise investment. For \$12,000 the university could have acquired an engine that would have worn out in time, but instead it chose manuscripts that were priceless as well as books that would be worth tens of thousands of dollars in the rare book market today. More importantly, of course, the Bagley collection gave the university library its first solid dimension as a great resource center for regional history.

The Bagley collection consists of some 800 rare or scarce books and pamphlets; Oregon and Washington laws and journals; twenty large scrapbooks of mounted newspaper clippings, early business and legal papers, etc; maps and charts; early University of Washington records; Seattle ordinances, charters and directories; the note books, letters and manuscripts of William I. Marshall; and fifteen bound volumes of transcripts and documents.²⁶

Perhaps the most unique and priceless aspect of the Bagley collection is its complete or nearly complete run of regional newspapers and its wealth of pioneer letters, documents and manuscripts. It includes, for instance, the Seattle Gazette, the first newspaper published in Seattle, and its successors until it became the Post Intelligencer, covering the years 1863-1875.

The excessively rare Oregon American and Evangelical Unionist published in 1848; the Columbian and its successor, the Pioneer and Democrat 1852-1861; the Walla Walla Statesmen 1862-1869 are among numerous other newspapers that Bagley had collected.²⁷

Charles W. Smith in assessing the worth of the pioneer documents noted that:

The manuscripts include more than one thousand documents, letters and papers covering many phases of the history of Washington from the thirties to the seventies. The wealth of this material is illustrated by the documents relating to the Hudson's Bay Company. Here is the original plan of incorporation of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company. . . . There are twelve letters each by McFarish, P. S. Ogden and Governor Douglass, and over twenty-five letters by Dr. John McLoughlin.²⁸

In later years Bagley or his heirs donated additional manuscript materials to the University of Washington Library. Thirty-nine volumes of materials relating to the Washington Mill Company at Seabeck were given the library by Bagley in 1921. In 1924 he donated a collection of manuscript letters and papers relating to the history of the University and state of Washington. The year following Bagley's death in 1932 his family donated additional letters of Oregon and Washington pioneers including such well known figures as Edward Huggins, Edwin Eells, Ezra Meeker and George H. Himes. In 1959 University Librarian Harry C. Bauer learned of additional Bagley papers still in storage. His negotiations with the Bagley-Mercer Company eventually led to a final donation of the remaining Bagley manuscripts. This included over a thousand bound and unbound volumes of printed materials and twelve letter transfer files containing manuscripts.²⁹

Even before the Bagley acquisition in 1919 the library had become overcrowded. A new building had been included in the general scheme of the campus layout prepared by architects and accepted by the Board of Regents in 1914. Henry Suzzallo who became president of the university in 1915 took a great interest in the improvement of programs and services at the university. He expressed this interest by urging the furtherance of building plans. Under his direction in 1923 ground was finally broken for the first unit of the new building which was completed in December, 1926.³⁰

President Suzzallo and his staff also approved of the plan to make the university a well-equipped research center. The generous book fund provided by the state legislature for the 1923-1925 biennium was to help make this possible. Charles W. Smith was sent to Europe in the summer of 1923 with \$25,000 to spend and instructions to search for scientific journals and essential research publications. Only a relatively few of the several thousands of books purchased that summer by Smith were in the field of Pacific Northwest history.³¹ However, more importantly for the future benefit of the Pacific Northwest Collection, Smith made many new, friendly contacts with influential rare book dealers in Europe. The year following his trip Smith capitalized on these new contacts when he became interested in securing a copy of the German edition of Heinrich Zimmermann's Reise um die Welt mit Captain Cook. This extremely rare book was an important source of the early history of the Northwest. Smith solicited the aid of Otto Lange, a book dealer of Florence, Italy who specialized

in voyages. Within a year and a half Lange was able to supply a copy to Smith. According to Smith the Zimmermann volume was ". . . apparently the first copy to be obtained by any library in the United States." Smith continued as in the past to acquire northwest materials through purchases or exchanges from American dealers, notably Edward Eberstadt and Peter Decker in New York and Goodspeed's Book Shop in Boston.³²

The operations of the Washington Historical Quarterly which began publication in 1906 provided a means by which the university could obtain some Pacific Northwest books and magazines on very advantageous terms. The quarterly received no state aid and hence was entirely self-supporting. Subscriptions, however, failed to provide the necessary funds for operation so ". . . the deficit was made up by a few men, including Professor Meany, who went down into their jeans to keep the magazine on its feet."³³ These drastic measures were apparently insufficient and the quarterly ceased publication after the October 1908 issue. With the financial assistance of the University of Washington the quarterly recommenced publication with the April 1912 issue. Thereafter, under a new arrangement the quarterly was printed and bound in the university's printing plant, and the costs of publishing and mailing were paid from the fund of the University Library. In consideration of this financial support, the quarterly deposited all of its books and magazines received in exchanges with other journals in the university library. The arrangement was a boon to both parties.³⁴

Smith, who also served as business manager of the quarterly,

pointed out in a letter to T. C. Elliott of Walla Walla that the library was receiving the lion's share of the advantage:

You will notice for this year (1926-1927) the total outlay to the university was \$142.60, and this sum was paid out of the library budget as a slight return for more than \$700.00 worth of books and magazines received as a deposit from the Quarterly. . . . For the fiscal year 1927/1928, the exchange material received on a conservative basis amounted to \$840.00. The cash outlay to the Library was \$217.22.³⁵

In addition all books received for review in the Quarterly were deposited in the university library.³⁶

Charles W. Smith was ever vigilant in the matter of augmenting the Pacific Northwest Collection. Even though he had many responsibilities as librarian, and surely had other collections in the library to develop, his letters and articles portray a deep commitment to the expansion of the collection. His correspondence with book dealers and collectors, scholars and university administrators, community leaders and fellow librarians demonstrate a persistent concern with preserving the historical materials of the Pacific Northwest - and, hopefully, of preserving them in the university library. He responded generously to all kinds of requests from local book collectors, providing them with needed reference information or book loans, and at times arranging for exchanges of library duplicates for Pacific Northwest items lacking in the collection. He became personally acquainted with most of the major collectors of Pacific Northwest Americana in the Seattle area, and had a first hand opportunity to view and assess their collections. Thus he knew Clarence B. Bagley, Mrs. William Pitt Trimble, Manson Backus, Winlock Miller, Jr.,

Charles S. Hubbell and others. Smith fully understood the potential contribution each could make to the growing northwest collection at the university. To each of them he candidly communicated his hope that their particular historical treasures would not be dispersed outside of the region.³⁷ His letter to Charles S. Hubbell, who held a magnificent Alaska collection, is illustrative of his direct approach:

Could we at some time obtain your splendid collection of maps and atlases, it would greatly strengthen our holdings particularly with regard to Alaska. Such a collection would be very serviceable in this library as it is a logical place for study and research with reference to Alaska. . . . So long as you are still actively using and adding to your collection, I would not think of asking you to transfer it, but as none of us know what the future holds in store, I do think you should make provision for the ultimate disposition of this fine working collection. The gift of your books to some educational institution would prove a boon to historical scholarship. I think it would be a great pity to allow your collection to be scattered. I cannot claim to be unbiased but I sincerely believe that the University of Washington is the best place for the ultimate location of your historical material.³⁸

Smith's persistent solicitation of gifts and bequests for the collection often bore good results. Hubbell did not will his Alaska collection to the university as Smith had hoped, but the library was eventually able to buy it for a very nominal sum.³⁹

The bequest of the Manson F. Backus library to the University of Washington in 1935 was the climatic event of Smith's forty-two year quest for Pacific Northwest Americana.⁴⁰ Earlier the acquisition of the Bagley collection had appeared as the ultimate bonanza. Although it did contain many rare books the real strength of the Bagley library lay in its priceless newspaper and manuscript

collection. The Backus library complemented this by adding over 4,000 rare, high quality monographs on Pacific Northwest history. The Pacific Northwest Collection would continue to receive valuable accretions of materials in the future, but the addition of the Backus library made the university without peer in its collection of Pacific Northwest heritage.

Manson F. Backus, Chairman of the Board of The National Bank of Commerce and pillar of the business and social community of Seattle, was well into his seventies when he developed a serious interest in Northwest history. He acquired a copy of Smith's Pacific Northwest Americana (2nd edition, 1921) and set out with characteristic energy to acquire all its listed 4,500 items. The high prices of rare books were no impediment to the wealthy banker. Smith assisted Backus in establishing contacts with book dealers and in making recommendations for purchases. An exchange account was established for Backus at the university library enabling Smith and Backus to exchange duplicates. Within four years Backus had acquired over 4,000 books and pamphlets. More than half of these were listed in Pacific Northwest Americana.⁴¹

In May, 1933, shortly after Backus had passed his eightieth birthday Smith wrote him a friendly letter similar to the one written to C. S. Hubble, Mrs. William Pitt Trimble and others outlining the financial limitations of the library for adding to the Pacific Northwest Collection and asking for gifts:

What is even more desirable than the gift of books is some substantial form of income, apart from the regular University book appropriations, available to the Librarian for the purchase of Pacific Northwest

Americana. The opportunity which I wish to extend, providing it meets with your approval, is that you give your collection to the University, together with an endowment to perpetuate it in your name. . . . You ask me what sum would be required. . . . For several years we spent approximately \$500 a year and found with that amount, we could do little more than buy the current books. . . . If one were to fill in all gaps and make the collection approximately complete. . . a considerable sum would be required. . . . If, in addition to the library you have already formed. . . we might also have provision for its continuous growth and upbuilding, countless generations of students will rise up to call you blessed.⁴²

Backus did not respond specifically to this letter, but upon his death two years later his intent was made clear in his will which directed that all of his Pacific Northwest collection should go to the University of Washington. Smith described the bequest as ". . . the most useful and considerable collection of books ever donated to the University of Washington Library."⁴³ Among the row upon row of "pedigreed" titles were included numerous editions of the early sea voyages by Captains James Cook, George Vancouver, James Colnett, Dionisio Galiano and others. The great overland expeditions were well represented by George Wilkes The History of Oregon. . .; Overton Johnson's and William H. Winter's Route Across the Rocky Mountains. . .; Joel Palmer's Journal of Travels Over the Rocky Mountains to the Mouth of the Columbia River, and several editions of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Supplementing these were the early Pacific fur trade narratives of Gabriel Franchère Relation d'un Voyage à la Cote du Nord - ouest. . .; Ross Cox's Adventures on the Columbia River; and several editions of Washington Irving's Astoria and The Rocky Mountains. . . . These titles were only a few examples of the

more than 4,000 books and pamphlets in the Backus group.⁴⁴ This splendid library conveyed in one stroke a relative completeness and sophistication to the Pacific Northwest Collection that is unmatched in its history.

The Backus bequest and others that preceded it were not due solely to the efforts of Charles W. Smith. Smith's part was certainly substantial, but Professor Edmond S. Meany, in a forty year career at the university, was also a major influence in the development of the Pacific Northwest Collection. As a university teacher and writer of the region's history his concern about the library's collection was natural. Beyond this he had a deep emotional commitment to the Pacific Northwest. He loved his Puget Sound homeland and the pioneers who built its farms and cities. He knew and cultivated the friendship of such early settlers as Arthur A. Denny, Dillis B. Ward and Daniel Bagley and his son Clarence. The feeling that there was a need to preserve and record their reminiscences and other areas of local history motivated Meany in the late 1890's to join kindred spirits in the formation of the Washington University State Historical Society. In 1906 this society began to publish the Washington Historical Quarterly with Meany as Managing Editor.⁴⁵

The quarterly's printing of pioneer memoirs and local and regional history well expressed Meany's deepest loves. Thus it was a logical extension of his work and his personal commitments to urge local people to step forward with diaries, journals, books, manuscripts and ledgers bearing on the pioneer history

of the Pacific Northwest and place them in the university library where they would have proper care. As Meany's prestige grew over the years, he developed extensive contacts with the business leaders of Seattle, many of whom had marvelous libraries. Among them were Judge Thomas Burke and Edwin G. Ames both great admirers of Meany. The university was bequeathed over 8,000 books from their libraries - unquestionably the result of their friendship with Meany. Only two or three hundred of these books, however, bore on the Pacific Northwest. Meany's friendship with Robert Moran, a pioneer Seattle ship builder, brought to the library a large collection of manuscript papers, books and journals relating to ship building and the early history of Seattle.⁴⁶

In other cases Meany was able to elicit support from the business community at a critical moment. The university library wanted to buy a complete run of the Seattle Union Record when that newspaper ceased publication and the publisher's file was offered for sale. The university was unable to furnish the money and it appeared that this valuable record of organized labor from 1900 to 1928 might be lost to another bidder - probably from outside the state. Meany wrote to several Seattle businessmen asking each for a \$100.00 donation towards the purchase. The money was promptly provided and the newspaper successfully secured.⁴⁷

In another case Meany assisted significantly in acquiring some of the newspapers and manuscripts of the late Thomas W. Prosch, a pioneer newspaperman and historian. His daughter and executor, Miss Edith G. Prosch, put the Prosch library up for sale after

her father's death in 1915. The university had no funds available at the time, so Meany recognizing the value of the materials to Northwest history, solicited \$150.00 from Samuel Hill, a Seattle businessman. A partial payment was thus made, and later the university was able to complete the payment. Miss Prosch also donated a considerable number of her father's manuscripts and scrap-books to the university library. Among these were the official letters of William H. Wallace, territorial official in both Washington and Idaho.⁴⁸

The Pacific Northwest Collection was the beneficiary of Meany's efforts to aid Edward S. Curtis. Curtis experienced some financial difficulties while he was involved in the production of his magnificent photo-history of The North American Indian. Sympathetic to this project Meany left his work at the university for a full week to assist Curtis in taking subscriptions. Fifty thousand dollars was raised and a grateful Curtis promised to give Meany a personal set of the history. Meany refused the gift, but suggested to Curtis that he donate the set to the library instead. This was done, and a twenty volume, twenty portfolio set, then valued at \$3,000, became a part of the Pacific Northwest Collection.⁴⁹

Meany's generosity also involved giving his own valuable collections of manuscripts and documents to the university library. Meany explained his gift:

Of course there was a natural temptation for us (Meany and his son, Edmond S. Meany, Jr.) to cling to many of these priceless and unique manuscripts for future study and publication, but we have mutually agreed that they would go toward the enrichment of Alma Mater and serve many graduate students in the years to come.⁵⁰

Additional gifts and bequests continued to swell the Pacific Northwest Collection during the Smith-Meany era. Mrs. Kate Stevens Bates, daughter of Washington's first territorial governor Issac I. Stevens, presented the library with a chest containing letters, diaries and documents written by her father. Letters addressed to her father as well as a large group of letters written by her brother General Hazard Stevens were included in the collection. Harry B. McElroy and his heirs donated or sold to the university early newspapers and documents of McElroy's father Thorton F. McElroy, a pioneer newspaperman. More than one hundred books and pamphlets of Pacific Northwest history were given to the library from the estate of S. L. Crawford, a pioneer Seattle real estate dealer. Horton Force, a Seattle lawyer, donated two volumes of scrapbooks containing various Seattle theater programs from 1903 to 1912, and numerous books. From the estate of Eliza Ferry Leary, daughter of Governor Elisha P. Ferry, the library received an important collection of pamphlets, manuscripts and newspapers. Asahel Curtis, pioneer Seattle photographer gave much of his correspondence and some 1,600 photographs of early Seattle and other Washington cities to the Pacific Northwest Collection.⁵¹ Other important books and documents came from the estates of General Hiram C. Chittenden, Miss Mary Banks and Colonel Granville O. Haller. Numerous other donations were cited in the issues of the Pacific Northwest Quarterly.⁵²

In the thirty years since Charles Wesley Smith retired as Librarian, the Pacific Northwest Collection has experienced a steady growth. Relatively small budgets for the purchase of new materials

have continued to reemphasize the importance of gifts. Such a collection is never complete, and indeed, must continue to grow to meet the increasingly specialized and sophisticated demands of the scholarly community. That the Pacific Northwest Collection continues to be able to meet those demands is a tribute to the generosity of its donors.

Among recent large gifts to the collection were those of Edward E. Allen, a prominent Seattle lawyer. Allen donated over one hundred volumes relating to the Pacific voyages of Captain James Cook; many early Alaskan and Pacific Northwest maps; Klondike Gold Rush materials; and over fifty volumes relating to the voyages of the distinguished French navigator Jean François de La Pérouse.⁵³

Robert Hitchman, a Seattle businessman, has given many books and substantial funds for the purchase of books over the years. In 1957 over one hundred scrapbooks containing articles of regional interest from many newspapers were given by Paul Dubuar. These scrapbooks complement the important Clarence B. Bagley scrapbooks and provide the researcher with important historical data from the newspapers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Other important recent donations include those of Viola Garfield, Mrs. Sidney Gerber, Ruth MacDonald, Iwao Matsushita, Professor Victor Steinbrueck, Professor and Mrs. Andrew Hilén, Jr., Professor Calvin F. Schmid, and the Arctic Club of Seattle.⁵⁴

Today there are approximately 42,000 volumes in the Pacific Northwest Collection. In 1972 the card catalogue of this massive collection was published in six volumes as The Dictionary Catalog

of the Pacific Northwest Collection of the University of Washington Libraries. The collection is supplemented by one hundred vertical file drawers of newspaper clippings and ephemera, and a valuable photography collection documenting Washington and Alaskan history from 1860 to 1920. A separately administered Archives and Manuscripts Division contains thousands of manuscripts, letters and other documents relating to Pacific Northwest history. The Archives and the Pacific Northwest Collection together provide the scholar with abundant resource materials for the study and interpretation of the history of the Pacific Northwest.⁵⁵

Meanwhile, the collection continues to grow with the region. The words of Charles Wesley Smith are timeless, "Let no one suppose, however, that the collecting of Northwest material has been completed. Our work is only off to a good start."⁵⁶

FOOTNOTES

1. George A. Frykman, "Edmond S. Meany, Historian," P.N.Q., Vol. 51 (1960), 161-62.
2. Ibid., 162; University of Washington Catalogue for 1898-99 (Olympia, 1899), 29; F. J. Grant, editor of the Seattle Post Intelligencer, was lost at sea in 1894; Welford Beaton The City That Made Itself (Seattle, 1914), 131; Charles W. Smith, "Early Library Development in Washington," The Washington Historical Quarterly, Vol. 17 (1926), 248-51.
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