

Acquisitions Committee Highlights: Part I, 2014-2015

By Matthew Hofstedt, Associate Curator, Supreme Court of the U.S.

In the last issue of the *Quarterly*, a review of some of the acquisitions made over the past few years began with a few objects acquired during 2012-2013. A few more objects from the last two years follows here, reflecting the continuing work of the Society's Acquisition Committee and the staff of the Court's Curator to preserve objects relating to the history of the Court and its Justices. And thank you to all of the donors from the past few years who have supported the efforts to build the collection.

Acquired in 2014:

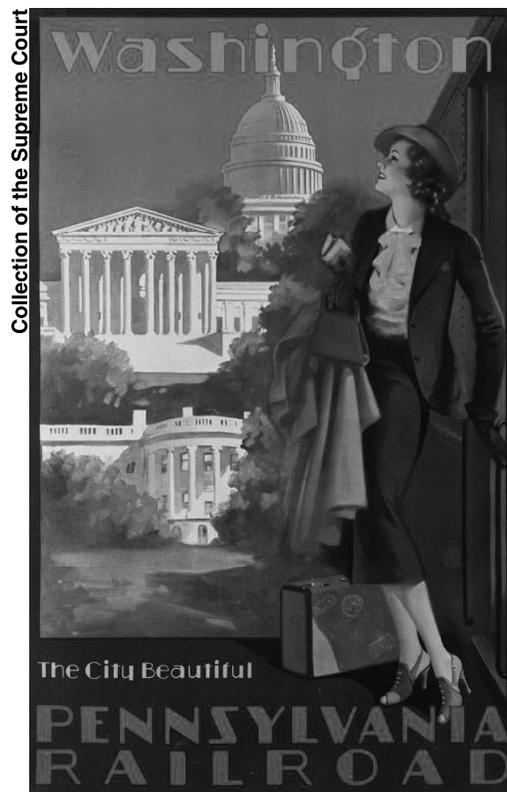
Justice William Paterson's signed copy of Salkeld's *Reports of Cases Adjudged in the Court of King's Bench*, Volume I, printed in London by Henry Lintot, 1742.

The Presidential Commission appointing Owen J. Roberts as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, 1930. Roberts was appointed by President Herbert Hoover, who signed this Commission, along with Attorney General William D. Mitchell.

In 1978, David Mason of Baltimore, MD, asked the Court's permission to take photographs of the panels of the Court's Bronze Doors, which depict the evolution of the law. Mason produced a limited edition print titled "The Law's Progress"



Collection of the Supreme Court



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which incorporated the photographs taken by Greg Pease with descriptions of each panel. Mr. Mason donated all of his research notes about the panels, along with prints of the photographs and his personal copy of the print.

Acquired in 2015:

A 1793 printing from Philadelphia of the Supreme Court's decision in *Chisholm v. Georgia*. Pamphlet printings of early Supreme Court decisions are rare with *Chisholm* being one of the first to be published outside of a newspaper. It was printed five years before Alexander J. Dallas issued his second volume of *Reports* (1798) which included a compilation of the Court's decisions to date. *Chisholm* was also printed as a pamphlet with a Boston imprint, suggesting its importance throughout the nation.

A collection of pamphlets relating to the *Amistad* case, including a report of the case at the federal Circuit Court of Connecticut printed in 1839,

was donated by Ms. Dorothy T. Goldman, chair of the Acquisitions Committee. She also donated a copy of the *Decisions of the High Court of Chancery* of Virginia published in Richmond in 1795 once owned by Justice James Iredell who served from 1790-1799.

A colorful Pennsylvania Railroad poster featuring the "new" Supreme Court Building, c. 1935. Used to entice potential visitors to come to Washington, D.C., by rail to see "The City Beautiful." Over 100,000 visitors came to tour the building in the summer/fall of 1935, before the building had officially opened. Despite being the home of the third branch of the federal government, the Supreme Court Building is rarely seen in Washington tourist advertising. While the Capitol and White House are almost always featured, the Lincoln or Jefferson Memorial often appears instead of the Supreme Court!

Harlan Fiske Stone, who served on the Court from 1925 to 1946 (the last five as Chief Justice), was an avid traveler who had a great appreciation for Asian art. Traveling in Paris during 1923, he acquired a Chinese limestone relief sculpture of Maitreya, a bodhisattva. He displayed the piece in his home library which also served as his office. After Stone's death, the piece descended in the family and was donated by the Chief Justice's grandsons, Harlan F. Stone II and Peter H. Stone.