

THE COMPLETED SETS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE  
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, 1925.

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Included in the sale at public auction of the George C. Thomas collection of books and manuscripts in Philadelphia, in November, 1924, was a document containing the signature of Button Gwinnett, one of the three Signers of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia. It alone brought \$14,000.00, or one thousand dollars for each letter in his name, registering a new high-water mark in the value of historic autographs. This particular item was a deed for land which Gwinnett had sold, the contents of the document having no special historic significance, and it was for the signature that two well-known dealers, who presumably knew what they were about, spiritedly bid against each other until it was finally knocked down to one of them. At the same sale a Lynch signature on the title page of a book sold for \$2,600.00. The fifty-six items, constituting a complete set, were sold separately; the total obtained for them was \$29,500.00, the Gwinnett item representing nearly one-half the amount. A short time ago a complete set of the Signers, extra illustrated and handsomely bound, was sold to a California collector for a reported price of \$32,500.00. It is well known that Lynch and Gwinnett are the two limiting factors in getting together a set of the Signers. The supply of both seems to be exhausted, and it is only when an old collection is broken up that those who are working towards this desired goal may hope for success.

In 1889, Dr. Lyman C. Draper, of the Wisconsin Historical Society, published his "Essay on the Auto-

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graphic Collections of Signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution'' covering with the greatest care descriptions of the then existing sets of Signers. The author traces the origin of autograph collecting in this country and shows how very early the desirability was apparent of obtaining a letter or document of each of the fifty-six immortals who signed the Declaration. There have always been a glamour and interest about the Declaration of Independence that has not attached in an equal degree to any other state paper, not even the Constitution of the United States, a far more important document in our Nation's building.

It might be thought that the names of the delegates to the Albany Convention of 1754, the first coming together of representatives of as many as seven of the Colonies, would incite the interest of the collector. Or the delegates to the Stamp Act Congress held in New York in 1765, to register the first deep rumble of Colonial discontent. Or yet the representatives to the First Continental Congress gathered in Carpenter's Hall in 1774. The Signers of the Constitution of the United States, the officers of the Continental army, the Presidents of the United States, all of these are sought after, but the interest in the men who signed and the facts concerning the signing of the Declaration of Independence are undoubtedly first in the general interest of the public and in the regard of collectors.

Dr. Draper suggests that it was the Rev. William B. Sprague, long of Albany, N. Y., who originated the idea of making a collection of the Signers of the Declaration, and he states that Dr. Sprague was undoubtedly the first to complete his set. This was prior to 1834. The Rev. Thomas Raffles of Liverpool, England, completed his in 1837. Robert Gilmor of Baltimore, Md., and Israel K. Tefft of Savannah brought together their Signers within the next decade. By the close of

1870, there were sixteen sets known to be complete. By 1889, when Dr. Draper brought out his book, there were twenty-one complete sets of Signers in this country and one in England.

Collections tend to drift into Historical Societies and Libraries and away from private hands. Here, of course, they remain accessible to the student and public, and are usually well cared for and generally free from the danger of destruction by fire or the loss by dampness or theft. But every collection so placed makes the task of the collector more difficult. In addition to the complete sets of thirty-six years ago, there were listed forty-five additional sets in process of forming, many of them lacking only Lynch and Gwinnett, only a few of which have been completed.

It is the purpose of this article to trace the subsequent history of the twenty-two completed sets of 1889, as well as listing the present-day collections. In arranging them I have followed the order given by Dr. Draper, designating each collection with the Roman numeral corresponding to the number in his book. This is followed by a list of the sets which are in existence today.

#### THE TWENTY-TWO SETS OF 1889.

I. Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet (1828-1919), of New York City. He was one of the most active, successful and enthusiastic of collectors. His Number One set is generally acknowledged to be the most valuable and interesting in existence. It includes fifty-four signed autograph letters, one autograph signed document (Gwinnett) and but one signed document (Hart); thirty were written during 1776, the letter of George Ross of Pennsylvania bearing date July 4, of that year. The outstanding item is the letter from Thomas Lynch, Jr., to George Washington, dated July 5, 1777, the only *Lynch letter* in existence. The Middleton letter is

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signed by initials only, "A. M." Dr. Emmet lavished his affectionate care on this wonderful set. It is now in the possession of the New York Public Library, having been purchased by John S. Kennedy of New York and in 1896 presented to the Library.

II. Simon Gratz, Philadelphia, Pa. For sixty-nine years Mr. Gratz has been collecting autographs. He began as a boy of seventeen and his memory and acquaintanceship among collectors go back to the early days. His *Book About Autographs*, published in 1920, is the recognized present-day authority on the subject and it is a pleasure, while he is still living, to proclaim him one of the most discriminating, persistent and successful collectors of our times. Mr. Gratz's set of the Signers, completed many years ago, has been constantly strengthened until it is today almost perfect. For the number and variety of the letters, for the historic interest of their contents, for the dates so much prized by collectors, thirty-three being 1776, this set of the Signers ranks with Emmet's "Number One." The only point on which it falls behind is in the Thomas Lynch, Jr., item, which, in the Gratz set, is a cut signature from one of Lynch's books. October 4, 1917, Mr. Gratz gave his great collection, consisting of over seventy thousand autographs, the result of a lifetime of devotion to his hobby, to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Here it is being catalogued and that portion which is completed is now available for public inspection and the use of students and historians. Further details are given in Number 2 in the list of present-day owners below.

III. Ferdinand J. Dreer (1812-1902), Philadelphia, Pa. In 1890, Mr. Dreer presented his collection of autographs, the accumulation of years of patient search and industry, including his Signers, to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. In that year Mr. Dreer prepared for private distribution

a folio, two-volume catalogue of his collection, in the introduction to which he tells how and why he began collecting autographs and the benefits his pursuit had brought him.

IV. Professor Edwin H. Leffingwell (1803-1888), New Haven, Conn. His great autographic collections were sold in 1891, at auction at Boston, Mass. The set of the Signers brought \$10,350.00, then regarded as an enormous sum. Among the notable letters sold was one from Lyman Hall to Roger Sherman giving an account of the duel in which Button Gwinnett was killed. This letter alone brought \$1,775.00.

V. Dr. John S. H. Fogg (1826-1893), Boston, Mass. This collection was finished in 1875-1881 and on Dr. Fogg's death it was bequeathed to the Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me. See Number 4 below.

VI. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. This set, brought together by the labors of Lyman C. Draper (1815-1891), has been somewhat strengthened since his death. A description of each letter and document will be found in Dr. Draper's book, pages 56-59.

VII. Charles Roberts (1846-1902), Philadelphia, Pa. On Mr. Roberts' death, his widow, Lucy B. Roberts, presented his collections of about 12,000 historic letters and autographs to Haverford College, Haverford, Pa., and erected a building, Roberts Hall, to house them as a memorial to Mr. Roberts. For details see Number 6 below.

VIII. Col. Charles C. Jones, Jr. (1831-1893), Augusta, Ga. After the death of Col. Jones, the more valuable part of his collection was bought, at private sale, by J. Pierpont Morgan of New York, where it forms the "Number Two" set in the Morgan Library. See Number 7 below.

IX. Mrs. David J. Cohen, Baltimore, Md. A collection formed by Dr. Joshua J. Cohen (1801-1870) of

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that city. This set of the Signers, gathered from 1836-1850, was sold in Philadelphia, November 12 and 13, 1907, by Stan V. Henkels, then connected with the auction house of Davis & Harvey. It brought \$2,267.75.

X. Hon. John Boyd Thacher (1847-1909), Albany, N. Y. This collection, completed as early as 1846 by the Rev. William B. Sprague, for his son, was sold to Mr. Thacher and in 1923 it passed into the ownership of George A. Ball, Muncie, Ind. See Number 20 in the present-day sets following.

XI. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. The Sprague set. This interesting set was formed by Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet and presented on Christmas Day, 1872, to the Rev. William B. Sprague (1795-1876), who, with a contemporary, Israel K. Tefft (1795-1862) of Savannah, Georgia, shares the distinction of being among the first to appreciate the interest in sets of the Signers. Dr. Emmet presented the collection to Dr. Sprague, as the latter had generously given the former some much desired letters, including the famous Lynch letter referred to in Number I above. Members of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, realizing the importance of having such a collection, raised \$2,000.00 by subscription and purchased it in 1881.

XII. Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet (1828-1919), New York City. His "Second Set," extended with letters, portraits, maps and illustrative matter to twenty volumes, making it a mine of historical information. This collection was purchased by John S. Kennedy and presented in 1896 to the New York Public Library.

XIII. Col. Theodorus Bailey Meyers (1821-1888), New York City. In 1889 this set was presented to the New York Public Library by Colonel Meyer's widow and children and his grandson, Theodorus Bailey Meyers Mason. See Number 10 below.

XIV. Joseph W. Drexel (1833-1888), New York

City. This was the second set formed by Israel K. Tefft, Savannah, Ga., which, passing through several hands, was finally purchased by Mr. Drexel. Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet particularly needing a Lynch autograph, Mrs. Drexel presented him with the specimen from her set. The Gwinnett is also missing and possibly went the same way. On Mrs. Drexel's death, the incomplete set passed to her daughter, Mrs. Charles B. Penrose, and is now in the possession of the latter's son, Boise Penrose, 2d, of Philadelphia.

XV. Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet (1828-1919), New York City. His "Third Set." This is included in Dr. Emmet's set of Members of the Continental Congress. Bought by John S. Kennedy of New York and presented in 1896 to the New York Public Library.

XVI. New York State Library, Albany, N. Y. This was the first and only complete set formed by Israel K. Tefft of Savannah, Ga. It was sold at auction in New York City, March, 1867, for \$625.00 and later purchased by the State of New York for \$800.00. It has since been improved. It contains a full letter of Thomas Heyward, Jr., and a fine Gwinnett document.

XVII. Mrs. William D. Ely, Providence, R. I. This collection was made by Mrs. Ely's mother, Mrs. Eliza H. Allen (1796-1873), one of the few women to be interested in collecting autographs. The set is still in the possession of the family.

XVIII. Charles C. Jones, Jr. (1831-1893), Augusta, Ga. This was Colonel Jones's "Second Set," which, with other parts of his collection, was sold at auction in Philadelphia, April 24-26, 1894, by Stan V. Henkels, then connected with Thomas Birch's Sons. It brought \$855.50.

XIX. Hon. T. Stamford Raffles, Liverpool, England. The set had been formed by his father, the Rev. Thomas Raffles (1778-1863). It was completed as early as 1837, and sold at auction at Sotheby's, in 1891, for £850.

XX. Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet (1828-1919), New York City. His "Fourth Set." This was sold to Henry Malkam of New York in 1912. On December 4-5, 1922, it was sold at auction by the Anderson Galleries, New York City. Here it was purchased by the Rosenbach Company and later sold to Henry E. Huntington, San Gabriel, Calif. Further particulars will be found in the list of present-day owners following.

XXI. John M. Hale, Esq. (1839-1894), Philipsburg, Pa. Mr. Hale was of the Class of 1862 at the University of Pennsylvania and on his death in December, 1894, bequeathed his collection to the University, and it is now deposited in the Library there.

XXII. Hon. Mellen Chamberlain (1821-1900), Boston, Mass. Mr. Chamberlain conceived the idea of cutting out from documents and letters original signatures of the Signers and pasting them on a facsimile of the Declaration. The whole was then varnished and framed and hangs in the Boston Public Library, of which Mr. Chamberlain for many years was the Librarian.

#### COMPLETED SETS OF THE SIGNERS, 1925.

In compiling the lists of completed sets, I have exercised all the care and diligence possible, through correspondence, personal inquiries and visits, and consultations with the leading Historical Societies, Libraries and the important dealers. If any set has been omitted, it is through inadvertence and not design, but it should be stated that one or two gentlemen who are reported to own sets of the Signers have so far neglected to respond to repeated requests for information.

In preparing these statistics but one letter or document, and that thought to be the best, has been selected. Many collections are strengthened by duplicates, particularly documents of 1776, so that the codification is



a matter of individual taste and judgment. The author has proceeded on the assumption that the specimens in the various collections are genuine. He has not had the opportunity to personally examine every set listed, nor the absolute knowledge or experience necessary to pass upon their authenticity had he been able to inspect them all. No collector would willingly harbor a forgery and in many cases, particularly with the Lynch, Gwinnett and other rare items, a letter accompanying the specimen traces its history or vouches for its genuineness.

The usual abbreviations familiar to all collectors have been used, A.L.S.—*autograph letters signed*, L.S.—*letters signed*, A.D.S.—*autograph documents signed* and D.S.—*documents signed*. While the statistics as to the relative numbers of each classification in each collection are of comparative unimportance, they do show the strength of the set, a full A.L.S. being naturally the most desirable.

1. The New York Public Library possesses four sets, of which the Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet's Number One is the unquestioned premier. A description of the volume in which it is bound, as well as a list of the illustrations and letters of the collection, will be found in the printed Calendar of the Emmet Collection, pages 95 to 108, inclusive.

A. L. S., 54. A. D. S., 1. D. S., 1. Items of 1776, 30.

2. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Simon Gratz Collection. This set is wonderfully rich in duplicates. It is kept in folders, with portraits, and filed in boxes placed in fireproof cases. Selecting one specimen of each of the fifty-six names for a comparison with other collections, there are fifty-three full autograph letters, thirty-three of them written in 1776. The Gwinnett item is a document in the handwriting of Lyman Hall and signed by Gwinnett, Hall and

Walton, the three Georgia delegates. The Lynch is a cut signature from the fly-leaf of a book. Bartlett, Hancock (2), McKean (2), Wilson (2), Wolcott (2), are all dated in July of 1776. Wilson is July 5, 1776, as is also Hancock transmitting a copy of the Declaration to the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania. The Hart A.L.S. of September 12, 1776, to Francis Hopkinson is a prize, while the Heyward A.L.S. is unique in any collection. The Hopkins A.L.S. is of an unusually late date, April 17, 1777. One of the choice specimens is the Livingston letter of September 24, 1776. For the number of items in this collection, the perfect condition of the papers themselves, the historic value of their contents, the Gratz set stands alone.

A. L. S., 53. A. D. S., 1. D. S., 1. Cut signature, 1. 1776 items, 33.

3. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Ferdinand J. Dreer Collection. This set is accompanied by portraits, all contained in two loose-leaf volumes from which, on numerous special exhibitions at the Historical Society, the letters have been removed for display in show cases. The Gwinnett is a bond signed by him in 1770. The Lynch is a cut signature "T. Lynch, Jun'," with a letter from General James Hamilton, dated April 6, 1836, attesting its authenticity. Perhaps the outstanding item is an Abraham Clark letter of July 4, 1776, on Revolutionary matters. Hancock, John Adams, Witherspoon, Hewes and Rutledge are all letters of July, 1776.

A. L. S., 50. A. D. S., 2. D. S., 2. A. D., 1. Cut signature, 1.  
1776 items, 19.

4. The Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me. This collection, bequeathed to the Society by Dr. J. S. H. Fogg, contains fifty A.L.S. Heyward and Middleton, L.S., and Hart, Morton and Gwinnett, D.S. Lynch is the usual cut signature. Forty-two of the letters were written during the Revolutionary period and thirty-

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one of these in 1776. Witherspoon, Clark and Hopkinson are in July of that year. Number V in Draper's list.

A. L. S., 50. L. S., 2. D. S., 3. Cut signature, 1. 1776 items, 31.

5. The Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wis. This collection originally made by Dr. Lyman C. Draper has had a few unimportant substitutions. The Lynch is the usual cut signature, and Gwinnett a document signed. Number VI in Draper's list.

A. L. S., 50. A. D. S., 1. D. S., 4. Cut signature, 1. 1776 items, 2.

6. Haverford College, Haverford, Pa. This collection, presented to the College by Lucy B. Roberts, widow of Charles Roberts, contains many duplicates, there being 425 letters and documents. Selecting the best contribution of each Signer, there are fifty-one A.L.S., four A.D.S. and Lynch a cut signature from a book. In forming the set Mr. Roberts apparently made no particular effort for 1776 letters. Joseph Hewes is represented by two of that year, one dated July 8, 1776. Number VII in Draper list.

A. L. S., 51. A. D. S., 1. D. S., 3. Cut signature, 1. 1776 items, 9.

7. The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York. Apparently most of this set came from the "Number One" set of Col. C. C. Jones, Jr., of Augusta, Ga. It was bound up, with portraits of the Signers and many duplicate letters and documents, by Mr. Morgan in 1894. Among the autograph documents signed is the bill of Francis Lightfoot Lee for his attendance in Congress from September 8, 1775, to August 10, 1776. The two outstanding features of this set are the Lynch and Gwinnett items and a full autograph letter of John Morton. Of Lynch there are no less than four specimens: (a) A cut signature; (b) a page of thirteen lines Latin manuscript headed "Lynch"—of it Dr. Emmet said in writing to Colonel Jones Nov. 5, 1890,

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"I congratulate you on obtaining it, not only for possessing the best Lynch known next to the letter, but as well as from a pecuniary point, for I believe it would bring \$500.00 at any time"; (c) a Lynch signature on the fly-leaf of *The Roman History* Vol. 1, London, 1766. This signature is faint and poor and of it S. P. Hamilton writes, Charleston, December 19, 1881: "The book was one of ten volumes, from nine of which the name has been cut. This particular volume fell in the river, which is why it is so faint"; (d) a Lynch signature on the fly-leaf of "*The Works of Dr. Jonathan Swift, Vol. VI.*" The Gwinnett item is unique in autograph collections, being his original will dated March 15, 1777, written in his own hand, and accompanying it are three supporting affidavits of the witnesses, William Hornby, Thomas Hovenden and James Foley, and the qualification of Dr. Lyman Hall as Executor.

A. L. S., 48. A. L., 1. A. D. S., 4. D. S., 2. Cut signature, 1.  
1776 items, 11.

8. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, the Sprague Set. Handsomely bound in three volumes, with portraits and illustrations. The Lynch is a receipt detached from a deed signed but a few days before the Signer departed on the voyage on which he was lost at sea. The signature shows that he was then in feeble health. The deed is in the Meyers collection in the New York Public Library. The Gwinnett item is a document of interest in Georgia history dated February 22, 1777, in which Archibald Bullock, the President of the State, was urged to take upon himself the whole executive power. The paper is signed by six members of the Council, Button Gwinnett's name being first on the list.

A. L. S., 48. L. S., 1. A. D. S., 3. D. S., 3. Cut signature (Middleton), 1. 1776 items, 3.

9. The New York Public Library, New York. Dr. Emmet's "Number Two Set." See Draper list Num-

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ber XII. This remarkable collection is fully described in the printed "Catalogue of the Emmet Collection" on pages 124 to 287 inclusive. The Lynch is the usual cut signature and Gwinnett is a deed of 1770.

A. L. S., 45. L. S., 1. A. D. S., 5. D. S., 4. Cut signature, 1.

10. The New York Public Library, New York, the Meyers Set. See Number XIII above. For a printed description of this set of the Signers see the Historical Magazine, Series 2, Vol. IV (November, 1868), but many changes were made by Colonel Meyers after the publication of this article. See also the Bulletin of the New York Public Library, Vol. 4, p. 112, and Vol. 5, p. 309. An interesting feature is a Wilson letter of July 4, 1776. The Lynch item is the deed described above in Number 8, while the Gwinnett is a bond, dated 1774.

A. L. S., 43. L. S., 2. A. D. S., 6. D. S., 6. Items dated 1776, 10.

11. The New York Public Library, New York. The Emmet "Number Three" Set included in Dr. Emmet's Collection of Members of the Continental Congress and intimately described in the printed catalogue of the Emmet Collections, pages 30 to 84. The Clark item has the endorsement "Given me by Mr. Sprague in 33 R. Gilmore." Lynch is on the half-title page of Haines' History of England, while Gwinnett is on an affidavit made before him as a Justice of the Peace.

A. L. S., 40. L. S., 4. A. D. S., 6. D. S., 6. Items dated 1776, 2.

12. New York State Library, Albany, N. Y. The nucleus of this interesting collection was formed by Israel K. Tefft, of Savannah, Ga., but the Library has added a number of items. The collection proper consists of ninety-six separate items. The Lynch specimen is the usual cut signature, while Gwinnett is an unusually fine document in the shape of a bond to Noble

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Jones, Treasurer of the Province of Georgia, dated January 6, 1768.

A. L. S., 46. A. D. S., 5. D. S., 4. Signature, 1. 1776 items, 9.

13. William Ely, Providence, R. I. This set of the Signers has been in Mr. Ely's family for three generations, but unfortunately, at the present time, details of it are not available.

14. The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York. This set was collected by Mr. Morgan. It is bound in one folio volume with biographical sketches and portraits. The Wilson A.L.S. was presented to Mr. Tefft by John Jay in 1838. This set contains two Lynch specimens, one an A.N.S., dated September 7, 1775, and signed by Lynch as the "Captain of the 4th Company of the First Regiment," the other is a signature cut from the title page of Middleton's Cicero. Gwinnett is an A.L.S. of May 5, 1773. No particular effort has been made to secure 1776 dates.

A. L. S., 47. L. S., 1. A. D. S., 7. D. S., 1. 1776 items, 7.

15. The Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. This set was presented to the Library by J. Pierpont Morgan, who, in a letter to President William H. Taft, November 19, 1912, says, "I learned with chagrin and regret that our national Library does not possess a complete set of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence." He therefore proceeded to supply the deficiency. On the title page of the handsome volume containing the collection is this inscription: "Letters and Documents collected by D. McN. Stauffer 1876-1890, with additions by J. Pierpont Morgan 1903." The Gwinnett item is a legal document. The signature appears with a red seal separating the two names, thus: Button (seal) Gwinnett. The Lynch has the word "Lynch" only. Clymer is an A.D.S. dated July 4, 1776.

A. L. S., 49. A. D. S., 3. D. S., 3. Signature, 1. 1776 items, 11.

16. The Henry E. Huntington Library, San Gabriel, Cal. This was the Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet "Fourth Set." See Draper Number XX above. It was purchased at the Anderson Galleries, sale of December 4 and 5, 1922. The collection is extended to eight volumes with nearly one thousand portraits, letters, documents, views, broadsides, etc. Lynch is a signature from the title page of a book. Gwinnett is an L.S. of March 21, 1777, less than two months before his tragic end.

A. L. S., 44. L. S., 1 (Gwinnett). A. D. S., 9. D. S., 2.  
1776 items, none.

17. The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. Both the Lynch and Gwinnett items in this collection, which was bequeathed to the University by John Mills Hale, came originally from the collection of Louis I. Cist, one of the early collectors. He acquired the Lynch, which is the usual cut signature, and dated it July 4, 1876, and it also bears the notation: "Sold at Bolton Sale, Boston, for \$145.00." The Gwinnett is a bond for money borrowed, dated July 8, 1774. The set, as a whole, contains a rather large proportion of documents.

A. L. S., 28. L. S., 2. A. D. S., 19. D. S., 5. Signatures, 2.  
1776 items, 3.

18. Z. T. Hollingsworth, Boston, Mass. When Dr. Draper's book was published, Mr. Hollingsworth was listed among those with incomplete sets. He has been collecting autographs and engraved portraits for forty years. His set of the Signers is strong in letters of 1776, and every letter and document is within the period of the Revolutionary War. The Gwinnett document is of 1777 date, and is an order approving payment to a dispatch rider. This came from Colonel Jones of Georgia. The Lynch is a cut signature, which was originally in the Raffles Collection, then in the

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ownership of Elliott Danforth, and from him to its present owner. Mr. Hollingsworth has a second set of the Signers included in his Members of the Old Congress, complete, with the exception of an Arthur Middleton.

A. L. S., 46. A. D. S., 6. D. S., 3. Signature, 1. 1776 items, 18.

19. Dr. George C. F. Williams, Hartford, Conn. This collection numbered in 1924 ninety-nine letters and documents. The Lynch is written on the back of an engraved frontispiece of "The Tragedies of Sophocles from the Greek," London, 1759. It is from the Joline collection. Mr. Joline says, "I myself detached the sheet from the book. The book came from the Pringles of Charlestown and was part of the Lynch library." Dr. Williams is in the enviable position of owning two Button Gwinnetts, one a signature on a bond, and the other a cut signature, which, Colonel Jones states, was cut from a memorial signed by the citizens of Sunbury. In making his collection, Dr. Williams has given special effort to obtain letters and documents of historical interest.

A. L. S., 33. L. S., 8. A. D. S., 11. D. S., 3. Signature, 1.  
1776 items, 8.

20. George A. Ball, Muncie, Ind. This set was obtained in 1923 from Mrs. John Boyd Thacher of Albany, N. Y., whose husband received it from Edward Everett Sprague, to whom it was given by his father, Rev. William B. Sprague. The Lynch is a lease for a lot in Charleston, while the Gwinnett is a receipt on a bill for cedar.

A. L. S., 50. D. S., 6. 1776 items, 27

21. The Rosenbach Company, New York. This set was sold in the Augustin Daly sale to James W. Ellsworth of New York, and later purchased by the present owners. It is handsomely bound in three folio volumes,



with the text of Sanderson's History of the Signers and copious extra illustrations. All the letters are in-laid to folio size. The Lynch is the ordinary cut signature accompanied by a substantiating letter from Dr. Emmet. Gwinnett is a complete deed for land.

A. L. S., 35. L. S., 1. A. D. S., 11. D. S., 8. Signature, 1.  
1776 items, 13.

22. James H. Manning, Albany, N. Y. While Mr. Manning has been an ardent collector since 1875, he did not begin work on his Signers until 1905. There are fifty-one A.L.S., an unusually large number. One of the prizes of Mr. Manning's collection is a letter from Cæsar Rodney to his brother, dated July 4, 1776. The Lynch signature is cut from a book and attested by Israel K. Tefft. It came from the Cohen sale in Philadelphia, and was among the first purchases made by Mr. Manning towards a set of the Signers. Usually Lynch and Gwinnett are the last items obtained. The latter item was bought at the Danforth sale and is the signature of Gwinnett subscribed as witness to a will.

A. L. S., 51. L. S., 1. A. D. S., 1. D. S., 2. Signature, 1.  
1776 items, 18.

23. Mrs. Thomas Redfield Procter, Utica, N. Y. Mr. Procter gathered this set between 1900 and 1920, and on his death it passed to Mrs. Procter. The Lynch is the usual cut signature, while the Gwinnett is a document signed, which Mr. Procter himself located in South Carolina. The collection was handsomely bound under Mr. Procter's supervision.

A. L. S., 49. A. D. S., 1. D. S., 5. Cut Signature, 1. 1776 items, 1.

24. Louis Bamberger, Newark, N. J. It was in 1921 that Mr. Bamberger completed his set. His Lynch in the usual form is a cut signature, its authenticity attested by Lyman C. Draper. The Gwinnett item is a note in the third person, beginning as follows: "Mrs. Gwinnett's compliments, etc." It is supposed that the

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note was written by Button Gwinnett on behalf of his wife.

A. L. S., 35. L. S., 3. A. D. S., 9. D. S., 8. Signature, 1.  
1776 items, 7.

25. Herbert L. Pratt, New York, N. Y. This set was gathered for Mr. Pratt by Joseph F. Sabin of New York about 1915-1917. Lynch is a cut signature, simply the word "Lynch" from the fly-leaf of the second volume of Dr. Swift's works, "Gulliver's Travels, London, 1766," with a letter from General Hamilton to Colonel Jones attesting its genuineness. The Gwinnett item in Mr. Pratt's collection has a romantic history. About 1914, the janitor of the Telfair Academy of Arts at Savannah was caught carrying out to burn a basket of old papers. Miss N. A. Bradley, the custodian, stopped him and made him return them to the basement. One of the ladies on the Board spent a month at odd times going through the papers and discovered a note to the order of Button Gwinnett containing his endorsement. This was framed and hung on the walls, but the Board decided that the \$2,800.00, which was offered for it, could be used to more advantage in purchasing pictures for their gallery, and so it found its way into Mr. Pratt's collection.

A. L. S., 37. L. S., 6. A. D. S., 4. D. S., 8. Cut Signature, 1.

26. Charles F. Jenkins, Philadelphia, Pa. This collection was completed in December, 1924. There are two Lynch signatures in this collection, both contained in a volume from his library with two words "Fantoritus, praeceptoribus" in Lynch's hand on the fly-leaf. The volume is "Dialogues on the Uses of Foreign Travel," London, 1764. The Gwinnett is a mortgage covering St. Catharines Island, with the signature divided, Button (seal) Gwinnett. The Williams item is a signed document of July 4, 1776.

A. L. S., 38. L. S., 2. A. D. S., 6. D. S., 9. Signature, 1.  
1776 items, 8.

27. Boston Public Library, Boston, Mass. The collection of cut signatures pasted on a copy of the Declaration and framed and hanging on the walls of the Library.

It will be seen from the above that the New York Public Library owns four complete sets of the Signers, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania three, and other Libraries and Historical Societies ten sets, leaving ten sets in the hands of Collectors.

To the Librarians, Curators and Owners, who have so generously assisted me in furnishing information, I return my thanks. In the limited space allotted it has been impossible to include all the data furnished, but I am placing all correspondence not of a personal nature, as well as the lists of specimens in the various collections in the files of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, where they will be available for students and those interested.