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CONTENTS:

ARTICLES

- The Izard Library**
by Robert F. Neville and Katherine H. Bielsky 149
- Albert Capers Guerry: Itinerant Southern Artist
of the Nineteenth Century**
by Lewis P. Jones 171
- Osteopathy in South Carolina:
The Struggle for Recognition**
by Susan Giaimo Hiott 195

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES

- Gallay: *The Formation of a Planter Elite: Jonathan Bryan and the
Southern Colonial Frontier*
by Lawrence S. Rowland 210
- Golden, ed.: *The Huguenot Connection: The Edict of Nantes,
Its Revocation, and Early French Migration to South Carolina*
by Elise Pinckney 212
- Ford: *Origins of Southern Radicalism:
The South Carolina Upcountry, 1800-1860*
by Daniel W. Hollis 213
- Numbers and Savitt, eds.: *Science and Medicine in the Old South*
by Anne K. Donato 215
- Foner: *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877*
by Vernon Burton 217

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THE IZARD LIBRARY

ROBERT F. NEVILLE*
KATHERINE H. BIELSKY**

Begun in seventeenth-century America, the Izard library, a collection of 394 surviving titles and 867 volumes, is one of the few privately owned, colonial libraries of its size in existence. Added to and passed down through ten generations, the library was donated to the College of Charleston on May 14, 1974, by Sarah Izard Smith, Rita Izard Hunter, and Laura Izard Harris, the great-great-granddaughters of South Carolina's first United States senator, Ralph Izard, and his wife, Alice deLancey Izard.

The books remained in relatively good condition considering they endured 200 years in the steamy southern climate. That they survived as well as they did is a testament to the craftsmanship of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century bookmakers. It is not known how complete the library is. Surely any collection that has survived numerous wars and natural disasters must have had a few casualties through the years. For example, over half the multi-volume sets are incomplete, but there are a number of possible explanations for these "missing" volumes. The first and most obvious reason is that they may not have been purchased in the first place, either because the complete set was unavailable or not desired. Another explanation is that some of the volumes may have been loaned to family members or friends and never returned. A third possibility is that later generations of Izards took and kept selected volumes that appealed to them, as several volumes were donated by relatives of the three Izard sisters after the receipt of the initial collection. As no inventory has ever been found, the completeness of the collection may never be known.

Richard Beale Davis has suggested that a study of the books owned and read by colonial Southerners might reveal a number of things about "the nature or character of early southern thinking." However he correctly cautions that scholars "can offer no final answers about the general literacy and literary taste, about general familiarity with written English and provincial law, or about the relative liberalism or conservatism, theologically or politically or socially, of even the owners or borrowers of books."¹ While Davis's caution must be applied to any conclusions drawn about the

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¹Richard Beale Davis, *A Colonial Southern Bookshelf* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1979), p. 1-2.

Izards and their times from their library, a study of the books themselves and not merely a listing of them offers scholars an opportunity to gain some insights into the tastes and character of an eighteenth-century southern family.

I. THE FAMILY

The Izards of South Carolina were "one of the oldest and richest families in the province," and for many generations they served with distinction as members of the colonial government, the Continental Congress, and eventually the young United States government.² The family descended from Ralph Izard of London, a gentleman and landowner, and Elizabeth Prior Izard. Their son, Ralph, was born in England and emigrated to St. James Parish, Berkeley County, South Carolina in 1682. Through his marriage to Mary Middleton, widow of Arthur Middleton, and by grants and purchases, Ralph acquired over 3,800 acres in present-day Berkeley County, and soon became prominent in the political and social affairs of the colony. He served on numerous committees and commissions, most notably as "Commissioner under the Church Acts, of the Public Library, Free Schools, and Indian affairs, and president of the commission on Indian trade."³

Ralph and Mary Middleton Izard had two sons, Ralph and Walter, founders of the two branches of the South Carolina Izards. Mary Izard died in 1696, and Ralph, in 1708, married Dorothy Smith of Stock Prior, Berkeley County; the marriage produced no issue. Ralph Izard, the first of the South Carolina Izards, died in 1710 or 1711.

Ralph Izard, the heir, was born in 1688 in South Carolina and educated in England. Upon his father's death he inherited a large estate and he, too, became involved in the public affairs of the colony, serving on many of the same commissions as had his father. He was appointed Lords Proprietor's deputy in 1712 and attorney general of South Carolina in 1737. Ralph married Elizabeth Chastaigner in 1712 and they had eight children, only five surviving infancy. Ralph died at the family estate, The Elms, in 1743.

Ralph and Elizabeth's heir, Henry, was born about 1717 at The Elms in Berkeley County. He was probably educated abroad, then returned to South Carolina and married Margaret Johnson, daughter of Colonel Robert Johnson, governor of South Carolina. As did his father and grandfather, Henry Izard served the public in several capacities: as commissioner of taxes, as a member of the Commons for a number of years, and as a member of the Commission of the Peace. Henry and Margaret Izard had two

²Langdon Cheves, "Izard of South Carolina," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 2 (July 1901), p. 205. Much of the following genealogy is taken from this article, pp. 205-240.

³*Ibid.*, p. 207.

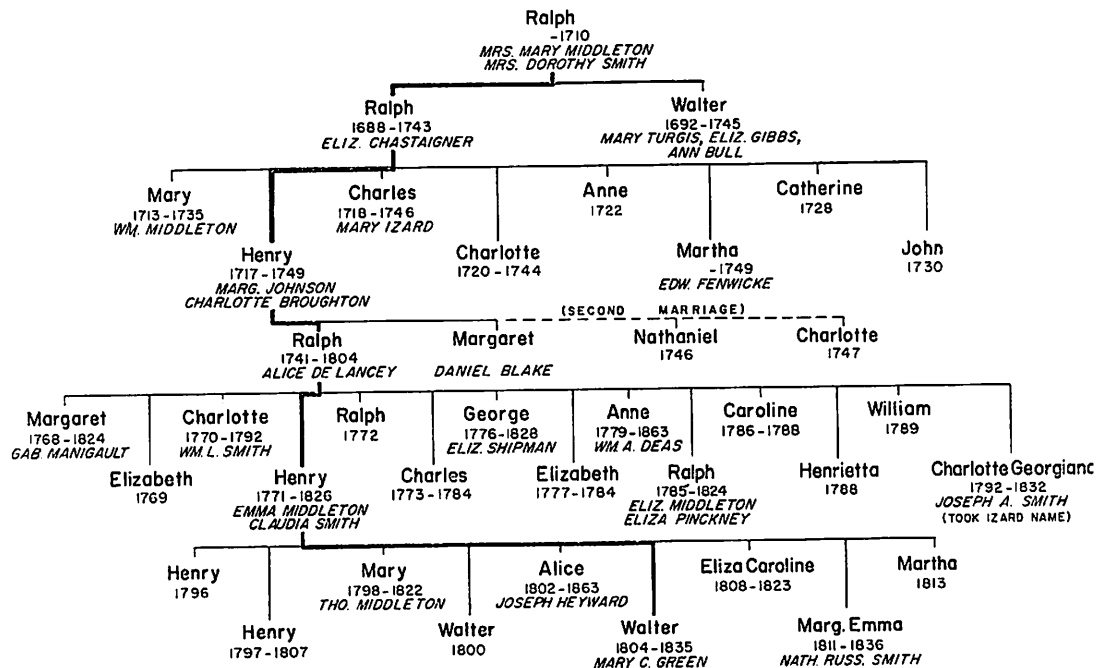
children, Ralph and Margaret. Margaret Izard (the mother) died in 1743 and Henry married Charlotte Broughton in 1745. None of the offspring of Henry and Charlotte Izard survived and Ralph inherited the substantial Izard holdings upon the death of his father in 1749.

Ralph Izard was born at The Elms in 1741 or 1742. At age twelve he was sent to England for his education, which he concluded at Cambridge University. He returned to South Carolina in 1764 and in 1767 married Alice deLancey, niece of James deLancey, former chief justice and lieutenant-governor of New York. In 1771 Izard and his wife and son left South Carolina and sailed to London where they established their home. When conflict between England and the American colonies became inevitable, the family moved to Paris. Izard was then appointed by the Continental Congress as commissioner to Tuscany, but was never received by the Tuscan duke, whose loyalty was to the English crown. Consequently Izard remained in Paris, where he attempted to assist in the American negotiations with the French. His efforts were viewed as interference by Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane, who had him recalled in 1779. Izard was, however, exonerated by the Congress and George Washington after his side of the disagreement became known. Izard's commitment to the revolutionary cause was so strong that he pledged his South Carolina property as collateral for a loan to purchase warships.⁴ He returned to America in 1780 (the rest of the family followed three years later) and in 1782 represented South Carolina in Congress during the last year of the war. Izard prospered over the next decade, so that by 1790 he owned the second largest amount of plantation land in South Carolina, including eight plantations and nearly 600 slaves. In 1789 he was selected as South Carolina's first United States senator, serving as president pro tem of the Senate during the Third Congress. He died in Charleston on May 30, 1804, of a long illness resulting from a stroke. Seven of Ralph and Alice's fourteen children survived to adulthood: Henry, George, Ralph, Margaret, Charlotte, Anne, and Charlotte Georgina.

Henry, the heir, was born at sea between Charleston and New York in 1771. Educated in England and France, he returned to South Carolina after spending several years studying the law. In 1795 he married Emma Philadelphia Middleton, daughter of the Honorable Arthur Middleton, scion of a large planter family and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. After Emma's death in 1813 he married Claudia Smith, daughter of Thomas Loughton Smith, Charleston merchant. Henry was elected to the South Carolina house of representatives in 1800, to the South Carolina senate in 1807, and again to the house, serving from 1821 to his death in 1826.

⁴Ralph Izard, *Correspondence of Mr. Ralph Izard of South Carolina from the year 1774 to 1804* (New York: Charles S. Francis, 1844), p. x.

THE IZARDS OF THE ELMS



PG. REITZER - BASED ON -
- S.C. HIST. MAG., JULY, 1901



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Izard (Alice Delancey), 1775, by John Singleton Copley. Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund; Courtesy, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

George Izard, second surviving son of Ralph and Alice, was born in England in 1776, and educated in New York, Charleston, and Philadelphia. He completed his education at military schools in England and France and was appointed a lieutenant in the Artillery in 1794. In 1803 he married Mrs. Elizabeth Carter Shippen of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. George had a distinguished military career, rising to the rank of senior major general during the War of 1812. He was appointed governor of the Arkansas territory in 1825 by President Monroe and died in Little Rock in 1828. He was survived by his sons, Ralph Farley, George, and James Farley Izard.

Ralph Izard, the third surviving son, was born in 1785 and attended schools in Charleston and Philadelphia. At the age of sixteen he was appointed a Navy midshipman by President Adams. He served with distinction in the naval battles during the Tripoli campaign, but resigned his commission in 1810 to return to his South Carolina estates. He married Elizabeth Middleton, daughter of the Honorable Thomas Middleton, and by her had Ralph deLancey, Anne Middleton, and Charlotte Georgina Izard. Following the death of Elizabeth he married Eliza Lucas Pinckney, daughter of Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, prominent Federalist and twice unsuccessful presidential candidate. The marriage produced no issue. Ralph died in New York in 1824.

Margaret, first surviving daughter of Ralph and Alice, born in 1768, married Gabriel Manigault, noted amateur architect, in 1785, and died in 1824.

Charlotte, second surviving daughter, was born in New York in 1770 and in 1786 married William Loughton Smith, who had represented South Carolina in the Congress and served as U.S. charge d'affaires to Portugal and Spain. Charlotte died in 1792.

Born in Paris in 1779, Anne, the third surviving daughter, married the Honorable William Allen Deas, a South Carolina state senator. Anne died in 1863.

The youngest of Ralph and Alice deLancey Izard's children, Charlotte Georgina, was born in Philadelphia in 1792. She married Joseph Allen Smith, the brother of William Loughton Smith, and died in 1832.

Walter Izard, son of Henry and Emma Philadelphia Izard, was born at The Elms in 1804. He became a civil engineer and later a planter at The Elms before moving to land on the Catawba River. He married Mary Cadwalader Green in 1827 and by her had sons Walter, Henry, and Allen and one daughter, Lucy Green Izard. He died in 1835 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Walter.

After the death of Henry Izard in December 1826, The Elms, the family estate, was sold, and the family scattered to Pennsylvania, Virginia, and upstate South Carolina. To a considerable degree this was the end of the family's economic and political influence in South Carolina.

II. THE COLLECTION

In his *The Libraries of Colonial South Carolina*⁵, Walter Edgar has compiled a list of "Popular Titles in Colonial South Carolina" from the South Carolina Inventories⁶, listings of the property of estates after 1745 and many prior to that date. However, as Richard Beale Davis has noted, Edgar failed to include some important collections of local societies and certain other private collections in his study which is limited to the years 1670-1775.⁷ Nevertheless, a comparison of the titles of the 438 libraries listed in the Inventories to those in the Izard library may give some indications of the similarities and differences in the tastes and reading habits of the Izards and their contemporaries. Since what a library lacks may be as revealing as what it contains, deficiencies as compared to other libraries of the day have been noted.

In the category of literature and language, including the classics, the Izards owned one-third of the works on Edgar's list. Classical authors Homer, Cicero, Horace, Sophocles, Tacitus, Ovid, Aristophanes, and Plutarch are represented while other luminaries Virgil, Seneca, Juvenal and Terence are missing. Shakespeare, Swift, Dryden, Addison, Fielding, Richardson, Sterne, and Smollett can be found, but not Milton or Pope. From the continent Moliere, Racine, Rabelais, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Cervantes, and Boccaccio are included, but not Dante. The family owned a good selection of eighteenth-century novels, including perennial favorites *Clarissa*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Tristram Shandy*, *Peregrine Pickle*, *Tom Jones*, and *Joseph Andrews*. Dramatic works were similarly well represented with several volumes and adaptations of Shakespeare, works by Sophocles and Aristophanes in Greek and Latin, the works of Congreve, plays by Hayley and Howard, and eighteen volumes of a collection entitled *The British Theatre*. Poetry, however, was less well represented with few individual volumes other than Horace, Dryden, Burns, and Scott. Two copies of Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language* are included as well as three copies (two in French) of *The Adventures of Gil Blas of Santillane* and three copies of the *Arabian Nights*. Despite lacking some authors of the first magnitude owned by a number of others in the province, the Izards seemed to be considerably fonder of literature than their South Carolina contemporaries, as this category made up almost one-third of the library's titles as compared to less than 9 percent of the titles listed in the Inventories. Comparing the Izards'

⁵Walter Bellingrath Edgar, "The Libraries of Colonial South Carolina" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of South Carolina, 1969).

⁶Recorded Instruments, Inventories of Estates, 1736-1776, Records of the secretary of state. Manuscript volumes in South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

⁷Richard Beale Davis, *Intellectual Life in the Colonial South 1585-1763*, 3 vols. (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1978), p. 519.

holdings in literature to the those of Virginia colonists shows the family's greater interest in eighteenth-century than seventeenth-century or earlier authors. In addition to eighteenth-century authors, Virginians were also reading Milton, Donne, Butler, Temple, Browne, Bunyan, Jonson, and Chaucer, all lacking from the Izard collection.⁸

Historical works were popular with the Izards, comprising more than one-fifth of the collection. A comparison of these titles with those in the "Popular Titles" list shows the Izards owned three of the eleven titles, Bayle's *Dictionary*, Raleigh's *A Historie of the World*, and Smollett's *A Complete History of England*, all popular works of the time. Also popular with South Carolinians but not found in the Izard library were Rapiin de Thoyras's *History of England* and Flavius Josephus's *The History of the Jews*. The collection does, however, contain a number of standard works of the day, such as Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Plutarch's *Lives*, Voltaire's *The History of Charles XII*, Marshall's *The Life of George Washington*, and an edition of the works of Tacitus. The family's strong interest in historical works is statistically greater than that of their South Carolina contemporaries, as less than 6 percent of the titles from the Inventories fall into the history category. However, in the colonies as a whole, private collections similar to the Izards' were well-stocked with history books. The reading of history in the colonies was a necessity to any man aspiring to a political career, and, as separation from Britain neared, "historical contemplation had become a mainspring of political action."⁹

Addison and Steele's *Spectator*, *Guardian*, and *Tatler*, the most widely read periodicals of the day, were owned not only by the Izards and many other South Carolinians, but also found extensively throughout the rest of the colonies. Edgar found the *Spectator* to be the most frequently cited book in the Inventories, and in southern colonial collections it "is almost as likely to be present as the Bible."¹⁰ Other periodicals represented in the collection are the *Annual Register*, *Political Register*, *European Magazine*, *Monthly Review*, *Lady's Magazine*, or *Entertaining Companion for the Fair Sex*, thirteen volumes of *Affaires de l'Angleterre et de l'Amerique*, *Annual Review of History and Literature*, and *Literary Magazine and British Review*. Izard contemporaries purchased the *Independent Whig*, *Athenian Oracle*, and *Rambler*, among others. The collection contains no colonial periodicals or newspapers, the latter unlikely to have survived 200 years in the humid, subtropical climate.

More than one-fifth of the library is comprised of titles dealing with

⁸George K. Smart, "Private Libraries in Colonial Virginia," *American Literature* X (1938), p. 35-36.

⁹H. Trevor Colbourn, *The Lamp of Experience* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1965), p.8.

¹⁰Davis, *A Colonial Southern Bookshelf*, p. 114.

science or medicine, approximately the same percentage Edgar found in other South Carolina libraries. The Izards, however, owned only one of the eleven titles on Edgar's list, Pluche's *Le Spectacle de la Nature*. Three copies of William Buchan's *Domestic Medicine* (one in French) may be found along with *An Introduction to the Practice of Midwifery* by Thomas Denman. Since all but the gravest of illnesses had to be treated on the plantation by the family using what books and skills they had, a basic medical collection was a necessity. The family owned five works by James Ferguson on astronomy, electricity, and mechanics; four volumes of Nollet's *Leçons de Physique*, and two editions of Joseph Priestley's *The History and Present State of Electricity*. The presence of *The Natural History of Barbados* is indicative of the importance of South Carolina's historic and economic connections with Barbados and the Caribbean. Private libraries in other southern colonies had, with few exceptions, negligible holdings in science, excepting standard medical texts.¹¹

As a family actively engaged in public affairs, it is not surprising that nearly 10 percent of the collection is made up of political and legal works. This figure is, however, lower than the over-15 percent for this category on Edgar's list. The correlation between other collections in South Carolina and the Izards' is remarkably small — only one title (Montesquieu's *De l'Esprit Dans Loix*) out of twenty-five. Private libraries in South Carolina were far more likely to include legal than political works as those times seemed to be nearly as litigious as now. Trott's *The Laws of the Province of South Carolina* and Wood's *Institute of the Laws of England* head the "Popular Titles" list in this category. The family's interests, however, tended more toward the legislative branch of government. Twenty-four volumes chronicle the proceedings, debates, and history of the House of Commons and eight volumes are from the *Journals of Congress*, *Congressional Register*, the *Political Register*, and *Acts Passed at a Congress of the United States of America* (1789). Other works of interest included are John Adams's *A Defence of the Constitution of the United States of America* (1788) and *The Works of the Famous Nicolas Machiavel, Citizen and Secretary of Florence* (published in 1675). In other colonies libraries held a variety of political tomes, many considered to be influential in shaping the political philosophy of the leaders of the Revolutionary era. John Locke's *Two Treatises on Government*, More's *Utopia*, and Bacon's *The New Atlantis* were found throughout the colonies but were not represented in the Izard library.¹²

Travel literature was a popular diversion in the eighteenth and nineteenth century and this was no exception for the Izards. Six percent of the

¹¹Louis B. Wright, *The First Gentlemen of Virginia* (Charlottesville, Va.: Old Dominion Books, 1964), p. 133.

¹²*Ibid.*, p. 132.

collection (twenty-four items) deal with travel or geography. Edgar's list contains only five items in this category and none was owned by the Izards. His calculations show that less than 3 percent of the titles in the itemized Inventories were concerned with travel and geography, less than half the percentage in the Izard's library. Five gazetteers or atlases may be found in the family's collection, along with books of voyages to exotic destinations. Titles such as *Travels in Various Countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa*, *Travels into Poland, Russia, Sweden and Denmark*, *Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt*, and *Travels through Holland, Flanders, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Lapland, Russia, the Ukraine & Poland* reveal a strong interest in and curiosity about distant peoples and lands. Also included is James Cook's popular *A Voyage to the Pacific Ocean*.

Religious works were the pre-eminent category of books found in South Carolina's colonial libraries and were considered "essential to every man who pretended to civilized culture."¹³ Books on piety and the conduct of life were staples in colonial libraries from the smallest to the largest. It is not surprising that the Bible or New Testament was the most frequently owned book "in an overwhelming majority of libraries throughout the South from the beginning to 1800."¹⁴ Although a family Bible is not to be found among the Izard books, they most assuredly owned one if not several; the only Bible included is a Greek translation purchased in 1807. Oddly enough, though, the Izards did own a 1719 French translation of the Koran. The family owned twenty-four religious or philosophical titles, only one of which (Locke's *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*) is found on the "Popular Titles" list. The family's holdings in this area (6 percent of the collection) is considerably less than the 31 percent Edgar found in the Inventories, and certainly less than the "considerable percentage of the total number of volumes" that Smart found to comprise religious holdings in Virginia's colonial libraries.¹⁵ Judging from the books they collected, the Izards' tastes were as much philosophical as religious. Titles such as Beattie's *Elements of Moral Science*, Burgh's *The Dignity of Human Nature*, and Stanley's *The History of Philosophy* are as plentiful as Bayly's *Practique de Pieté*, Simon's *Historie Critique du Vieux Testament*, or the Church of England's *Book of Common Prayer*. There is a surprising paucity of collections of sermons which were so popular among South Carolinians and other colonists; only Hugh Blair's *Sermons* represent this popular genre.

Because the Izards were plantation owners and much of their prosperity was due to the cultivation of the land, books on agriculture and husbandry have been considered separately from those on science and

¹³Ibid., p. 134.

¹⁴Davis, *Intellectual Life in the Colonial South*, p. 67.

¹⁵Smart, "Private Libraries in Colonial Virginia," p. 46.

medicine. Almost five percent of the collection (nineteen items) fall into this division. A number of general works were acquired, no doubt, to assist in the management of their estates: *The Complete Farmer, or, A General Dictionary of Husbandry*¹⁶, Hall's *A Compleat Body of Husbandry*, Lisle's *Observations in Husbandry*, Mill's *A New System of Practical Husbandry*, and Jethro Tull's *Horse-Hoeing Husbandry*. In addition to general works, there is also a series of titles on agricultural practices in Yorkshire, Wiltshire, and Norfolk. Also included are one work on beekeeping, Wildman's *A Treatise on the Management of Bees*, and two works on viticulture, Speechly's *A Treatise on the Culture of the Vine*, and Locke's *Observations on the Growth and Culture of Vines and Olives*. Perhaps the Izards grew tired of the high price of imported wine and became interested in producing their own. They also expressed an interest in the cultivation of silkworms.¹⁷ In general, the works on agriculture owned by the family are similar to those described by Smart in his study of colonial libraries in Virginia with broad treatises and British works predominating.¹⁸

Eleven titles (just under 3 percent of the collection) fall into the class of economics. The economic treatises acquired by the family would seem to serve two functions: (1) to aid in the running of the family business, the plantations, by supplying practical information, and (2) to serve as basic texts for the family members seeking a theoretical background and understanding. Under the former would be such practical works as *Almanach General des Marchands, Negocians, Armateurs, et Fabricans de la France et de l'Europe*, Baldwin's *A Survey of British Customs*, and Crouch's *A Complete View of the British Customs*. Under the latter category one finds Davenant's *The Political and Commercial Works ... Relating to the Trade and Revenue of England, the Plantation Trade, the East-India Trade and African Trade*, Mortimer's *The Elements of Commerce, Politics and Finance*, and Adam Smith's ubiquitous *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*.

Few colonial libraries of the time had extensive collections in music and the fine arts, and the Izards' was no exception. Only five items, including one unpublished collection of sheet music (probably privately bound for the family), may be found. In addition to the sheet music manuscript, *A Collection of Songs* by Richard Leveridge is the only other volume on music. The fine arts are represented by Ferguson's *The Art of Drawing in Perspective*,

¹⁶*The Complete Farmer, or, A General Dictionary of Husbandry in all its Branches* (London: Printed for J.F. and C. Rivington, 1777; 3rd ed.); a brief list of supplies received from a Mr. Hunter may be found in the preliminary pages.

¹⁷Ralph Izard, "Letter from Ralph Izard to his wife, dated Dec. 7th 1794." Izard Family Papers, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.

¹⁸Smart, "Private Libraries in Colonial Virginia," p. 46.

The Life of Benvenuto Cellini (one of the few biographies in the collection), and Spence's *Polymetis*.

In summary, the Izards' library of 394 extant titles seems, in many ways, typical of other collections of the times. Although their tastes were more inclined toward literature, history, and science (almost two-thirds of the collection) and much less so toward religious works than their contemporaries, they purchased and read many of the same titles as other southern colonists. The differences between their collection and the statistics Edgar compiled from the Inventories are likely the result of two factors: (1) there was no "average" collection, as each library was the result of the individual tastes of its owners, and (2) the Izards added significantly to their library for another forty years or so past Edgar's cutoff date of 1775.

III. MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE COLLECTION

Over two-thirds of the collection was signed or had bookplates designating ownership, and more than 61 percent by a member of the Izard family. Although the signing of a volume is not necessarily proof that an individual purchased or read the book (a number of items were signed by more than one person), it does indicate that the individual felt strongly enough to proclaim his or her ownership. Because the family tended to use the same Christian name again and again, it was impossible, in some cases, to determine which Ralph or Walter owned a given title. Compounding the problem some twenty-three titles were inscribed simply "Izard."

Thirty-three books or 6 percent of the collection were signed by or include the bookplate of the family's most illustrious member, Senator Ralph Izard (1741/42-1804). Schooled in the tradition of other wealthy English landowners' sons, Ralph's taste in books reflects his classical education. The works of Tacitus, Horace, Aristophanes, a Latin reader by Heuzet, and a Latin dictionary to aid in translation bear his mark. Additionally he certainly would have enjoyed the classical works left to him by his father and grandfather. Ralph also acquired a few works of literature, most notably titles by Shakespeare, Swift, and Congreve. However, his greatest interests in book acquisition lay in the fields of history and political science. The histories he purchased ranged from Gibbon's *Decline and Fall* and Leland's biography of Phillip of Macedon to a history of Scotland by Robertson. Sen. Izard acquired a number of works that would later assist him in his career as a diplomat and politician. Two works by Bougeant on the Treaty of Westphalia, the works of Bolingbroke, a biography of Gustavus Adolphus, Harrington's *Oceana*, and Mortimer's *The Elements of Commerce, Politics, and Finance* all reflect his deep interest in the historical, theoretical, and practical aspects of politics. Ralph acquired no religious works and only John Locke and a biography of Erasmus represent his philosophical tastes. He also collected several practical works on agriculture, but nothing on travel literature or the fine arts, although he was fond

of painting and music and played the violin. In a letter to Thomas Jefferson dated June 10, 1785, he acknowledges receiving four volumes of *Bibliothèque Physico-Oeconomique* for the years 1782-1785.¹⁹ These volumes are not part of the extant collection and may have been a loan that was returned to its owner. Ralph Izard, like many other men of his time, acquired books for instruction and enlightenment rather than for amusement.

Henry Izard (1771-1826), the heir of Ralph Izard, left evidence of ownership in sixty-eight items or almost 14 percent of the collection. It is not surprising that Henry's interests and tastes differed from those of his father. For Henry and his generation, the struggle for independence was past, and the political, economic, and social circumstances were not the same as for the "revolutionary" generation. The prosperity of the post-revolutionary generation enabled them to pursue and "spend more on the life of the mind."²⁰ As a result, the two generations "necessarily led different intellectual lives."²¹ Henry's reading interests focused on literature and history; he inscribed twenty-six items classified as literature. A striking aspect of Henry's literary tastes is the absence of any classical authors save Cassius Longinus and Quintilian in translation. Fielding, Sterne, Johnson, Boswell, and Burns are the English (and Scottish) authors he favored. English drama was also one of his interests as he acquired a large set entitled *The British Theatre*, in addition to several other works by Hayley and Poole. Nineteen historical works contain Henry's signature. His preference was for biography and he collected works about Pitt, Walpole, Fox, Napoleon, Washington, and Lorenzo de Medici. Other works of interest include Crauford's *Sketches Chiefly Relating to the History, Religion, Learning, and Manners of the Hindoos* and Edwards's *The History, Civil and Commercial, of the British Colonies in the West Indies*. Henry's reading tastes were far-ranging as he acquired works in all of the other subject categories except music and the arts. Twenty United States imprints among his books show the growth and new strength of the young American publishing industry, but it is notable that one in six of his books were in French; cultural ties to the continent were still strong. In general Henry's books are less utilitarian in nature than his father's, and they indicate the books read by him and his generation were as often for the purpose of pleasure as instruction. Prosperous Charlestonians of Henry's generation had more time available for intellectual pursuits.²²

¹⁹"Letters of Ralph Izard," *South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine* 2 (July 1901) p. 196.

²⁰David Moltke-Hansen, "The Expansion of Intellectual Life: A Prospectus," in Michael O'Brien and David Moltke-Hansen, eds., *Intellectual Life in Antebellum Charleston* (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1986), p. 27.

²¹*Ibid.*, p. 22.

²²*Ibid.*, p. 27.

Emma Philadelphia Middleton Izard (1776-1813) was the wife of Henry Izard (1771-1826) and daughter of the Honorable Arthur Middleton. She came from one of the few families in South Carolina as illustrious and wealthy as the Izards. Well-to-do planters like the Middletons usually engaged private tutors to educate their children and this was likely the case with Emma. While boys were instructed in the classics, mathematics, geography, rhetoric, etc., girls were being taught " 'polite' subjects, such as music, drawing, fancy needlework, and dancing, as well as French, geography, cyphering, letter writing, and elocution."²³ Emma's name or initials are in twenty-five items or 5 percent of the library, almost half of which are books of language or literature. Her taste in fiction was for popular works of the day, such as Bage's *Hermesprong*, Brooke's *The Fool of Quality*, Edgeworth's *Tales of a Fashionable Life*, and Fanny Burney's *Cecilia*. She also inscribed both volumes of Johnson's dictionary as did her sister Elizabeth Caroline Middleton (1774-1792). In addition she acquired two volumes about the theater (in French) by the Comtesse de Genlis. Several works of travel literature were acquired by Emma, notably two sets by William Coxe about travels in Europe, and one by Denon concerning Egypt. The events of the French Revolution were of interest and concern to many Americans, and this was, no doubt, a reason for her obtaining two works chronicling visits to France at that time: Moore's *A Journal During a Residence in France* and Helen Maria Williams's *Letters Written in France in the Summer of 1790*. Two magazines, *Lady's Magazine* and *The Literary Magazine and British Review*, are also included among her books, along with works describing the proper conduct and duties of young women. In general the books inscribed by Emma Philadelphia Middleton Izard seem to reflect the typical education of women of her social standing in that time.

Walter Izard (1804-1835), son of Henry and Emma Philadelphia Izard, signed twenty-five items or 5 percent of the collection. Judging from those he signed he had wide-ranging tastes in books as his name is present in at least one volume in each of the subject categories. For literature he read *Don Quixote*, Henry Fielding's works (also signed by his father), the works of Addison, and a copy of *Robinson Crusoe* inscribed "Henry Izard gave this book to Walter Izard." Historical works read include Raleigh's *The History of the World*, Weems's *The Life of General Francis Marion*, and volumes of *The Modern Part of an Universal History*. Several works must have been acquired to aid him in his profession of civil engineering. Adams's *Geometrical and Graphical Essays, Containing a General Description of the Mathematical Instruments Used in Geometry, Civil and Military Surveying, Levelling and Perspective* is inscribed "Walter Izard, A. C. Engineers, 1820," Ferguson's *The Art of*

²³Thomas P. Abernathy, *The South in the New Nation 1789-1819* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1961), p. 11.

Drawing in Perspective, and Nicholson's *The Operative Mechanic and British Machinist* all would certainly have been of use to a civil engineer. Other works of interest signed by Walter include a 1613 edition of Erpenius' *Grammatica Arabica* and a child's arithmetic notebook signed "W. Izard" and profusely illustrated with calligraphic birds, animals, and fishes throughout.

Mary Cadwallader Green Izard (1808-1889), wife of Walter Izard (1804-1835) and daughter of a wealthy Charleston merchant, inscribed eighteen volumes, slightly more than 3.5 percent of the Izard family's books. Mary and Walter together account for nearly 9 percent of the collection. Her preference was for works of literature and history. Pepys's diary, one volume of the works of Voltaire, a romantic novel by Lee Gibbons, and poems by William Leggett represent her interests in literature and Marshall's biography of Washington, James Fenimore Cooper's *Notions of the Americans*, Richard Snowden's *The History of North and South America*, and a copy of Trescot's *The Diplomacy of the Revolution*, inscribed "Mary C. Izard, from the author" indicate her tastes in historical works. Several titles on travel and two on religion (including a 1636 edition of Pagett's *Christianographie*, published in London) also bear her signature. In addition, an unpublished, privately bound collection of sheet music with "Mary C. Green" on the cover points to a childhood interest in music. Not surprisingly, no works on politics, law, science, agriculture, or economics bear her signature as wealthy Southerners commonly educated their daughters in "the ornaments" — singing, piano playing, drawing, painting, and French.²⁴

In all, eighteen members of the Izard family signed or left evidence of ownership in the collection. Besides the above, these were: Charles Izard (1719-1774), Charlotte Izard (1770-1792), George Izard (1776-1828), Henry Izard (1717-1748/9), Henry Izard (1771-1826), Magdeleine Elizabeth Chastaigner Izard (?-1746), Margaret Izard (1768-1824), Ralph Izard, Jr. (1785-1824), Sarah Izard Smith (1892-?), and Walter Izard (1828-1905). The contributions of the individuals not discussed were judged too small to draw meaningful conclusions.

A number of volumes (thirty-one in all) were signed by individuals outside the Izard family: B. Bayley, Thomas Brotherton, David B. Clayton, And. Craigie, John Cuthbertson, Made. de Beaumanior, M. de la Doupliniere, Elizabeth deLancey, Allen Jones Green, James B. Green, W. Hamilton, F.C. Hill, Elizabeth Caroline Middleton, Emma Angelina I. Middleton, Mary Middleton, Lewis Pasquereau, John Penn, T. Rutledge, W. Skipworth, Francis H. Smith, Thomas L. Smith, John Verney, and Elizabeth R. Watts.

These "non-Izard" volumes probably found their way into the collec-

²⁴Clement Eaton, *The Growth of Southern Civilization, 1790-1860* (New York: Harper & Row, 1961) p. 117.

tion by one of several methods. During the eighteenth and early-nineteenth century, books in the colonies were an expensive, usually imported item; consequently a thriving market in used books existed. It is very likely that some of the "non-Izard" volumes, and, for that matter, a portion of the unsigned titles, were purchased from previous owners, their estates, or from booksellers who had purchased them used. Another possibility is that they were borrowed from friends or acquaintances and never returned. At that time loaning books "had been a bad habit among the gentry."²⁵ This rampant borrowing and loaning may also account for the number of missing volumes from multi-volume works in the collection. A third possibility is that some of the books with non-Izard signatures were gifts, although none of the inscriptions indicate this. A fourth alternative, of which there is some evidence, is that they came to the family through marriage. Books signed by Middletons, Smiths, and Greens fall into this category.

IV. HOW THE COLLECTION WAS ACQUIRED

Since no record of the family's book purchasing has been found, we can only speculate as to how the Izards acquired their books. The majority of the collection consists of European imprints (over three-fourths), and these books must have found their way to South Carolina in several ways. Some of the volumes may have been brought across the Atlantic when Ralph Izard emigrated in 1682, although it is unlikely that any significant number came over with the first of the South Carolina Izards. Many titles must have been purchased through booksellers, both foreign and domestic. Many wealthy men of the time, such as Peter Manigault and Henry Laurens, engaged agents in London to fill their orders.²⁶ The Izards, with their wealth and European connections, must have purchased works in this manner, although no hard evidence for this has been unearthed. As increasing prosperity in colonial South Carolina enabled more people to buy more books, the Charleston bookselling and publishing trade began to flourish. Undoubtedly the Izards made use of Charleston's well-stocked book merchants. Books from Europe "were offered for sale in newspaper and broadside advertisements, occasionally by catalogues, and sometimes at auctions."²⁷ Although the price was high, especially in Charleston, the convenience of immediate possession of a title over waiting months for an overseas shipment must have tempted the Izards.

²⁵Richard Beale Davis, *Intellectual Life in Jefferson's Virginia* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1964), p.87.

²⁶Edgar, "The Libraries of Colonial South Carolina," p. 52.

²⁷Edwin Wolf, *The Book Culture of a Colonial American City: Philadelphia, Books, Bookmen, and Booksellers* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988), p. 4.

A good portion of the collection must have been purchased during trips abroad and shipped home. Many of the Izards were educated or well-traveled in Europe, affording them ample opportunity to patronize the continent's great booksellers. Ralph Izard (1741/42-1804) spent more than a decade in London and Paris, with occasional trips to Italy and Switzerland. His London home was reputedly furnished with "a valuable library."²⁸ A substantial number of the titles he inscribed were published during the time he was in Europe or two decades preceding, strongly suggesting that many of these titles were acquired in Europe and shipped home.

After the Revolution, American publishing began to come into its own, and, within the Izard collection, the distribution of British imprints compared to American parallels the rise of the United States publishers. Not surprisingly, a higher percentage of the latter imprints in the collection were published in American cities. Although New York, Philadelphia, and Boston were pre-eminent, titles from Washington, Baltimore, Fredericktown, Richmond, Columbia, Hartford, and even Poughkeepsie were purchased by the Izards. Of Senator Ralph Izard's books only two were American imprints, whereas his son Henry acquired nineteen domestic titles, more than one-quarter of his total.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Any conclusions we draw about the Izards from an analysis of their library can be little more than informed speculation. Having owned or signed a particular volume does not necessarily imply that an individual read it or that it had any effect whatsoever on his or her life. On the other hand, because books were, at that time, a rare and expensive commodity, their purchase cannot be lightly dismissed. Therefore, we may safely draw a few generalizations about the family from the books they owned. As a group they had strong interests in literature and history as titles in these categories make up a much higher percentage of the collection than in their contemporaries' collections. Although several generations of Izards had the wealth to afford almost any book they desired and were able to acquire many volumes for their entertainment value, other generations, especially after the death of Senator Ralph Izard, experienced waning fortunes and their book purchasing declined accordingly. The titles they did acquire for utilitarian and educational reasons were often in the fields of science and medicine or politics and the law, reflecting careers in public service, the military, and engineering. As a family they seemed far less concerned than their peers with the purchase of religious and philosophical materials, as

²⁸Gabriel Manigault, "Ralph Izard, the South Carolina Statesman" *Magazine of American History* 23, No. 1 (Jan. 1890), p. 61.

well as volumes on music and art. Although their library differed in some ways from other colonial and early-nineteenth-century libraries, overall the similarities were far stronger than the differences. Perhaps the most significant difference was that it, unlike other privately-owned collections, was not a library built by one collector; it was the result of the efforts of a number of individuals with diverse interests over a span of many decades and generations.

**APPENDIX I:
IZARD LIBRARY ANALYSIS
BY DATE OF PUBLICATION**

<u>Decade</u>	<u>Number of items</u>	<u>Percent</u>
pre-1600	1	.25%
1600	0	-
1610	1	.25%
1620	0	-
1630	1	.25%
1640	0	-
1650	1	.25%
1660	2	.5 %
1670	2	.5 %
1680	5	1.2 %
1690	4	1.0 %
1700	10	2.5 %
1710	4	1.0 %
1720	7	1.7 %
1730	10	2.6 %
1740	9	2.2 %
1750	34	8.6 %
1760	51	12.9 %
1770	71	18.0 %
1780	28	7.1 %
1790	43	10.9 %
1800	39	9.9 %
1810	22	5.5 %
1820	12	3.0 %
1830	9	2.2 %
1840	4	1.0 %
1850	10	2.6 %
No Date	14	3.5 %

**APPENDIX II:
IZARD LIBRARY ANALYSIS
BY PLACE OF PUBLICATION**

	<u>Number of items</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1. England	223	56.6%
2. United States	77	19.5%
3. France	46	11.7%
4. Scotland	10	2.5%
5. Ireland	9	2.3%
6. Netherlands	6	1.5%
7. Switzerland	5	1.3%
8. Belgium	3	.8%
9. Unknown	14	3.8%

**APPENDIX III:
IZARD LIBRARY ANALYSIS
BY LANGUAGE**

	<u>Number of items</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1. English	313	77.4 %
2. French	66	16.3 %
3. Latin	14	3.4 %
4. Greek	9	2.2 %
5. Arabic	1	.025%
6. Spanish	1	.025%

**APPENDIX IV:
IZARD LIBRARY ANALYSIS
BY SUBJECT**

	<u>Number of items</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1. Literature & Languages	130	32.9%
2. History	87	22.0%
3. Science & Medicine	43	10.8%
4. Political & Legal	37	9.3%
5. Travel & Geography	24	6.0%
6. Religion & Philosophy	24	6.0%
7. Agriculture & Husbandry	19	4.8%
8. Economics	11	2.7%
9. General Magazines & Encyclopedias	10	2.5%
10. Music & Art	5	1.2%
11. Miscellaneous	5	1.2%

THE IZARD LIBRARY

By Robert F. Neville & Katherine H. Bielsky

is available on microfiche, including:

- Description of the Library
- Appendix I: Analysis by Date of Publication
- Appendix II: Analysis by Place of Publication
- Appendix III: Analysis by Language
- Appendix IV: Analysis by Subject
- Appendix V: Identification of IZARD Family Signees
- Appendix VI: Identification of Non-IZARD Family Signees
- Bibliography of all 394 books in IZARD Library

(The first five items above are included in the July 1990 issue of *The South Carolina Historical Magazine*. The last three items are available only on microfiche, and comprise more pages than the first five items combined.)

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