

Alexandre Vattemare's System of International Exchanges in North Carolina

by Maurice C. York

The power of eloquence spurred legislators in 1849 to authorize North Carolina's participation in an innovative international exchange program that led to a brief, but interesting, sharing of information. That year Nicolas Marie Alexandre Vattemare, a French ventriloquist, impersonator, and philanthropist, came to North Carolina to gain support for his system of literary and scientific exchanges. Inspired by his ideals and persuasive manner, the General Assembly added the state to a roster of countries and American states that had already begun to exchange publications and artifacts in an effort to promote good will and understanding. After a flurry of activity, North Carolinians lost interest in the program, even though the State Library had received considerably more material than the state sent to Vattemare's agency in Paris. The exchange program, which dwindled in importance prior to Vattemare's death in 1864, had little impact on the people of North Carolina. The program's significance lies not in what North Carolina gained through exchange, but in the light it sheds on the state and its people at a progressive moment in history.

Alexandre Vattemare (November 8, 1796-April 7, 1864), was born in Paris and grew up on his father's small estate in Normandy, where he discovered his talent as a ventriloquist. He studied at a seminary and at l'Hospital Saint-Louis, but ultimately chose to pursue a career as a ventriloquist and impersonator. Monsieur Alexandre, as he called himself, entertained commoners and kings throughout Europe. During his travels, Vattemare visited libraries and

museums. He noticed that many of them held duplicate books, documents, art objects, and artifacts. Considering this wasteful, he conceived the idea of an international exchange program and garnered support for it in Europe.¹

Encouraged by the Marquis de Lafayette and other prominent supporters, Vattemare promoted his exchange program in the United States during a performing tour that began in 1839. In 19 months he visited many American cities, extolling the virtue of his idea while advocating the development of public libraries. Vattemare's hard work and eloquence bore fruit. Many Americans signed petitions and wrote testimonials in favor of his plans. In response to a memorial Vattemare prepared late in 1839, Congress in 1840 authorized the librarian of Congress, under the supervision of the Joint Committee on the Library, to exchange documents and duplicate books.² The legislatures of several states quickly voted to participate in the program. Louisiana appropriated \$3,000 in March 1840, and New York joined the effort in May. In March 1841, Maine agreed to print and distribute 50 extra copies of its public documents.³

Vattemare returned to France in 1841 with tangible evidence of his success — as he put it, "... upwards of 1,800 volumes of books, 500 engravings, 250

original drawings, many specimens of natural history and mineralogy, (among them a piece of native iron, weighing 2,500 lbs.) and several interesting relics of the aborigines."⁴ His commitment to the exchange program thus strengthened, he distributed the materials and convinced the French government in 1846 to provide limited financial support. Various French agencies provided him with additional publications to distribute.⁵ It was during this time that Vattemare formally created a central agency for exchanges in Paris, with himself as agent and with the assistance of his son and son-in-law.⁶

Seeking additional participation from Congress and individual states, Vattemare returned to America in 1847. He brought with him a collection of books, prints, and medals valued at \$80,000, which he expected to use to attract support for his program. The energetic Frenchman made a second appeal to Congress in February 1848. Accordingly, in June Congress enacted legislation that fostered Vattemare's efforts by appointing him agent, appropriating \$1,500 for the exchange agency's expenses, and allowing exchanges to enter the country free of duty. It also granted franking privileges. Congress required Vattemare to stamp exchanges with the name of the program and to ship packages in care of the

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collector of customs at the port of destination.⁷ Later that year, Vattermare published *Report on the Subject of International Exchanges*, which he used to account for his activity as agent of five states and to encourage other states to support his endeavors. He also addressed legislatures as they met. By the time Vattermare left for France in December 1850, 17 states had made commitments to assist him in some fashion.⁸

Vattermare appears to have contacted North Carolina's governor, William Alexander Graham late in 1848.⁹ On December 11, Graham wrote the General Assembly to recommend that legislators appropriate a small sum for use by the governor to facilitate the state's participation in the program of "... Mr. Alexander Vattermare, a distinguished citizen of the French Republic, for a system of International Exchanges, of Works of Literature and Science, and of the products of Nature and of Art in different Countries." Graham attached a pamphlet describing the program and suggested that the governor be authorized to exchange copies of the revised statutes and other public documents.¹⁰ That Graham would take Vattermare's proposal seriously is not surprising. During his two terms as governor, he had served as a trustee of the State Library, located in the State Capitol — itself a monument to the state's progressive mood — and was aware of the library's long-standing practice of exchanging printed documents with Congress and with other states. He had played a key role in developing the State Library's well-selected collection by overseeing the efforts of Joseph Green Cogswell to collect in America and Europe such notable works as John James Audubon's *Birds of America*.¹¹

The timing of Vattermare's contact with North Carolina was fortuitous, too, because of the progressive spirit prevalent at that time. Beginning in 1835, the Whig Party had dominated the General Assembly, which supported the development of railroads, public schools, and a school for the deaf and dumb, among other improvements. The state's economy advanced during the 1840s. Scientific farming methods, promoted in journals and by local societies, assisted some farmers in enhancing their yields. Fisheries contributed significantly to the economy of eastern North Carolina. The importance of gold mining in the state had led in 1837 to the establishment of a branch of the United States Mint at Charlotte. Iron mining was carried out successfully, but

on a small scale, in the Piedmont. Turpentine distilleries in the southeastern counties and a fledgling textile industry flourished. Although North Carolina's cultural achievements did not rival those of some states in the North, the development of the University of North Carolina and a few private colleges, the appearance of newspapers throughout the state, and the publication of books and pamphlets of varying types were



Title page from book 12 of *Institutio oratoria*, by Marcus Fabius Quintilianus (c. AD 35-after 96), an important contribution to the field of rhetoric. This volume is one of the few gifts of Vattermare still in the State Library's collection. Note the official stamp of the *Système D'Échange International* at the bottom of the page. Courtesy of the State Library of North Carolina and the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

evidence of a growing interest in education and reading. A survey published in 1851 noted that the State Library in Raleigh contained 3,000 volumes and briefly described libraries associated with the University of North Carolina, Davidson College, Wake Forest College, "Fayette Academy" in Salem, and a mission school at Valle Crucis, although other libraries certainly existed.¹²

Actions of the General Assembly of 1848-1849 epitomized this forward-looking mood. During the session legislators incorporated the North Carolina Railroad Company and authorized the development of a hospital for the

insane. They gave their blessing also to many private academies and institutes, including Plymouth Academy. The Mecklenburg Agricultural Society was incorporated, as was the Williamston Library Association, founded to support a library in the town of Williamston.¹⁴

The General Assembly lost little time in responding to Governor Graham's recommendation. On motion of William Nathan Harrell Smith of Hertford County, the Senate voted on January 6, 1849, to send a message to the House of Commons proposing that a joint select committee of eight be formed to consider the adoption of Vattermare's plan. The House of Commons promptly concurred.¹⁴

The appointment of a remarkable group of legislators foreshadowed support for the exchange program. The Senate chose Smith, a graduate of Yale College who later would serve in the United States House of Representatives and as chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court; William Henry Washington, a founder of the New Bern Literary Society; and William D. Bethell of Rockingham County.

The House of Commons selected five members. Hamilton Chamberlain Jones, a lawyer and journalist, had published the *Carolina Watchman*, an anti-Jackson weekly newspaper in Salisbury. Rockingham County's Daniel William Courts served as state treasurer both before and after his tenure in the House of Commons. James Cochran Dobbin, whose impassioned support insured the passage of legislation creating North Carolina's hospital for the insane, represented Cumberland County. Later he served as Franklin Pierce's secretary of the Navy. An avid Whig who served terms in the United States House of Representatives and, in 1862, a stint as Abraham Lincoln's military governor of North Carolina, Edward Stanly represented Beaufort County. Kenneth Rayner, a planter from Hertford County who had served in the United States House of Representatives from 1839 to 1845, was elected chairman of the committee. It is possible that Rayner accepted this role because he had served in Congress when Vattermare first addressed that body.¹⁵

On January 8, the committee invited Vattermare, who had arrived in Raleigh on January 4 to gain support for his system, to address both houses of the General Assembly and the public "on the subject of that noble and philanthropic purpose, to which you are devoting the labors of your life." The *Raleigh Register* heralded the arrival of

"this distinguished French gentleman" and informed the public that he would deliver on the evening of January 9 a lecture in Commons Hall of the State Capitol.¹⁶

Vattemare's reputation attracted a "crowded and intelligent audience," which responded enthusiastically to his eloquent and very lengthy speech.¹⁷ In it Vattemare told about the libraries he had visited and the duplicate or unwanted books and manuscripts he had seen in them. He boasted of his success in promoting exchanges in the old world:

Within the last twenty years more than 500,000 exchanges have taken place; thousands of volumes have been withdrawn from darkness and the dust, and countless libraries enriched by these exchanges, while nobody has been taxed, nobody impoverished; missing volumes have been supplied, mutilated series made perfect Exchanges have taken place between Moscow and Lisbon, Madrid and London, Rome and Constantinople — Paris and the rest of the old world.¹

The Frenchman described the "exalted approbation" of emperors, cardinals, and bishops. He reveled in his passage through the "tribunal from whose judgment there is no appeal" — England and France.¹⁹

After describing his accomplishments, Vattemare lamented America's shortcomings — its lack of libraries accessible to the public and the state of its museums, which he found to be "degraded raree shows." He told the audience that state libraries were the institutions most suited to rectifying America's literary shortcomings. Vattemare believed that most state libraries consisted chiefly of legal works intended for the use of legislators and thus of little interest to the public. He envisioned them becoming a cultural resource for scholars and laymen alike: "This would be a true intellectual democracy — the best books, selected to suit the wants of all classes and professions, freely thrown open to the use of all."²⁰ His system of exchanges, administered through state libraries, could help effect this metamorphosis.²¹

Realizing that Americans could not match the literary resources available in Europe for exchange, he suggested appropriate alternatives, including public documents. He urged his listeners to compile detailed responses to a series of 15 questions designed to provide infor-

mation about the natural history, people, government, economy, educational institutions, religious denominations, charitable institutions, and literature of their localities. He also provided a copy of printed instructions outlining the best methods for collecting, preserving, and transporting objects of natural history.²²

Vattemare augmented his oratory with a tangible expression of his commitment to working with North Carolina. He presented the State Library over 50 books, pamphlets, and issues of periodicals, most of which had been published in France during the 1840s. Practical in nature, they pertained to such agricultural topics as silk culture, irrigation, horse breeding, and the diseases of the lungs of cattle. Crowning the gift was an engraving, "Sir Walter Raleigh spreading his Cloak at the feet of Queen Elizabeth," given to the General Assembly on behalf of the engraver, Mr. Girard.²³

Impressed by Vattemare's speech and gifts, public officials and the press responded enthusiastically. Kenneth Rayner, Edward Stanly, Daniel Courts, and James Dobbin, as well as North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin and former United States Senator Robert Strange, "spoke

with animation and force" on the importance of Vattemare's mission. The editor of the *Raleigh Register* declared that "It would argue a deplorable state of barbarity among us, if this proposition of the distinguished Frenchman, were met by a niggardly and stupid parsimony." William Woods Holden, publisher of the *North Carolina Standard*, also endorsed North Carolina's support of the exchange program.²⁴

Legislators acted swiftly and decisively. During the evening session of January 9, Kenneth Rayner reported a resolution and bill in favor of Vattemare's work, and they were ordered to be printed. Rayner's report as chairman of the joint select committee appointed to consider the exchange program was dated January 10. In flowery language equal to that of the Frenchman himself, the legislator from Hertford County praised Vattemare and the fruits of his work. He felt that the "stupendous" program belonged "emphatically to this age of rapid improvement and discovery, in which destiny has cast our lot." He emphasized the positive effects the program would have on the development of art, science, literature, and a spirit of conciliation among peoples of the world. In return for the "rich stores of the intellect and genius of Europe," Rayner suggested that the state contribute its laws, legislative journals, and court decisions, which reflected well on this country's mastery of the "science" of government.²⁵

Despite this outpouring of support, Vattemare remained in Raleigh while the General Assembly pondered the matter. State librarian James Fauntleroy Taylor invited Vattemare to his home several times during this period. Taylor told University of North Carolina president David Lowry Swain on January 20 that "We have found him a perfect specimen-*avis rara*." Vattemare, who knew the most distinguished men in Europe, entertained Taylor with numerous anecdotes.²⁶

Final passage of the resolutions and law in support of the system of international exchanges took place four days later. The resolutions expressed appreciation for Vattemare's work and for his gifts to the State Library. Legislators authorized the gover-



Pencil drawing of Alexandre Vattemare (n.d.) by William Walcutt (b. 1819), portrait painter and sculptor from Columbus, Ohio, who studied art in Paris in the early 1850s and later worked in New York City. Original in the Print Collection, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundation.

nor to insure that Vattemare be given six copies each of several legal publications and histories of the state written by William Henry Foote, Joseph Seawell Jones, Francois-Xavier Martin, and Hugh Williamson. The Frenchman also was to receive six copies each of Denison Olmsted's geological survey of North Carolina, "all the papers and proceedings relating to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence," and Fordyce Mitchell Hubbard's biography of William Richardson Davie. Two copies of the latest state map and five copies of *Indexes to Documents Relative to North Carolina during the Colonial Existence of Said State* were to be included in the gift. In the future, the governor would oversee the transmittal to Vattemare of six copies of all state documents, including laws, journals, and court reports.²⁷

The act to provide for the support of the exchange system contained additional instructions. The sum of \$300 was to be appropriated annually to defray expenses of the central agency in Paris. Lawmakers authorized the governor to appoint a person to serve as the state's agent in Paris, and to transfer appropriated funds to the agency after it had been officially established. Annual reports of the agent were to be submitted to the governor, who would report biennially to the General Assembly. The act called for the printing of 1,000 copies of the proceedings of the General Assembly on the subject of international exchanges, which were to be distributed to legislators, academic institutions in North Carolina, and the governors of each state.²⁸

The state and individual legislators acted promptly to fulfill commitments. Governor Charles Manly appointed Vattemare the state's agent and gave him \$300 for the 1850 calendar year. On January 26, 1849, Manly instructed state librarian James F. Taylor to procure multiple copies of books and documents for the exchange program. He asked Henry D. Turner, a bookseller in Raleigh, to obtain books and send them to Paris.²⁹ Some of the works specified by the General Assembly and a few additional titles probably were given to Vattemare before he left Raleigh; others, including those obtained and shipped by Turner, were lost when the packet *Oneida* sank off the coast of England in February 1850.³⁰

In response to Vattemare's request during his speech and personal contacts he made while waiting for the General Assembly to act, at least ten legislators and a few other men wrote descriptions

of their counties or legislative districts. In general, they reflect the writers' pride in the natural resources and economic conditions of their localities, as well as appreciation of the value of sharing such information with others. Some of the accounts shed light on the progressive spirit of the period. Alexander Murchison noted that there were 45 saw mills, seven cotton factories, and two turpentine distilleries in Cumberland County. Seven steamboats owned by citizens of the county plied the Cape Fear River to transport lumber and turpentine. Senator William Albright of Chatham County mentioned the specimens of bituminous coal and iron ore he had given Vattemare. Other accounts touched on iron forges in Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston counties, "sheep walks" in Macon County, commerce in the town of Washington, and the potential economic impact of the North Carolina Railroad. Of particular importance are Samuel Finley Patterson's description of gold mining in Burke and McDowell counties, Kader Biggs's account of the vast fisheries of the Albemarle Sound region, and an exposé on the Roanoke River Valley by Henry King Burgwyn.³¹

This flush of enthusiasm did not last long. Despite the fact that Vattemare supplied two shipments of books in 1850, North Carolinians, like exchange participants elsewhere, lost interest in the program. The state appears not to have contributed additional volumes for exchange, and no further payments were made. In December 1850, the General Assembly's Joint Select Committee on the Library, which had studied the matter, reported a bill to repeal the act in support of the system of exchanges. Legislators ratified the bill on January 28, 1851.³² The French government had withdrawn financial support in 1848, and Congress rescinded its legislation in 1852. New York, Massachusetts, and a few other states contributed to the program longer, but most governments ceased their support because the expenses involved outweighed the value of the books Vattemare supplied, and because the Frenchman was unable, with limited assistance, to organize the program efficiently.³³

Vattemare refused to acknowledge failure. Although he appears to have received no official correspondence from North Carolina after 1850, the determined philanthropist submitted annual reports in 1851 and 1852. He made two or three shipments of books and documents in 1851. Such actions were typi-

cal of his optimistic relationship with other governments prior to his death in 1864.³⁴

Vattemare's failed experiment had little lasting impact on North Carolina. The State Library acquired at least 165 publications through exchange. Ranging in date from 1526 to 1850, they pertained to such subjects as agriculture, criminology, geography, history, and religion. Most of them were written in French or Latin, however, and it is doubtful that they were heavily used by the library's patrons. Some multi-volume sets were incomplete when they were sent to the State Library, a fact that lessened their utility. Today, only a handful of the titles remain in the State Library's collection.³⁵

Yet the episode is significant for several reasons. It provides further evidence of a charismatic cosmopolite's burning desire to foster cultural development and a cooperative spirit among the peoples of the world. Reflecting the optimism of the times, it reveals the desire of broad-minded leaders to try something new in an effort to enhance the value of the State Library — one of the state's principal literary resources. Finally, through the thoughtful responses of legislators to Vattemare's request for information about their localities, it provides valuable insight into how educated men viewed the natural resources, economic conditions, and potential of their state during a time of relative prosperity.

References

¹ *Dictionary of American Biography*, s.v. "Vattemare, Nicolas Marie Alexandre," hereinafter cited as DAB; Elizabeth M. Richards, "Alexandre Vattemare and His System of International Exchanges," *Medical Library Association Bulletin* 32 (October 1944): 414-416, hereinafter cited as Richards, "Alexandre Vattemare."

² DAB; Richards, "Alexandre Vattemare," 418-422; *Dictionary of American Library Biography*, s.v. "Vattemare, Nicolas-Marie-Alexandre," hereinafter cited as DALB.

³ George Burwell Utley, *The Librarians' Conference of 1853: A Chapter in American Library History*, ed. Gilbert H. Doane (Chicago: American Library Association, 1951), 174.

⁴ *Proceedings of the General Assembly of North Carolina on the Subject of International Exchanges, Session 1848-'49* (Raleigh: Seaton Gales, Printer for the State, 1849), 37, hereinafter cited as *Proceedings of the General Assembly*.

⁵ Richards, "Alexandre Vattemare," 426; *Proceedings of the General Assembly*,

38-39.

⁶ DALB; Richards, "Alexandre Vattemare," 426.

⁷ DALB; Richards, "Alexandre Vattemare," 426-428.

⁸ Richards, "Alexandre Vattemare," 428-429; Utley, *Librarians' Conference*, 175.

⁹ Graham (1804-1875), a lawyer and planter, served as governor from January, 1845, until January, 1849. During his tenure he promoted humanitarian causes and internal improvements, including the development of railroads. President Millard Fillmore selected Graham in 1850 to serve as secretary of the Navy. *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, s.v. "Graham, William Alexander," hereinafter cited as DNCB. ¹⁰ *Proceedings of the General Assembly*, [3]. It is likely that the pamphlet was Vattemare's *Report on the Subject of International Exchanges*, published in 1848. A card file in the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh indicates that a copy of this pamphlet was in the papers of Graham's successor, Charles Manly, but the writer was unable to locate it.

¹¹ Cogswell (1786-1871), who became librarian of the Astor Library in New York in 1848, was hired by North Carolina in the early 1840s to recommend and purchase a broad range of literary, historical, and scientific works to replenish the State Library, which had been destroyed in 1831 when the State Capitol burned. He worked on behalf of North Carolina while collecting books for the Astor Library. Maurice C. York, "A History of the North Carolina State Library, 1812-1888" (master's thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1978), 20-22, 33-41; Maurice C. York, "Born Again: Rebuilding the North Carolina State Library, 1834-1847," *North Carolina Libraries* 50 (Spring 1992): 32-34. A new State Capitol was completed in 1840 at the enormous cost of \$530,000. It was thought of as one of the most beautiful examples of Greek Revival architecture in the country. Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, *North Carolina: The History of a Southern State* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973), 352.

¹² William S. Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 308-327; Charles C. Jewett, *Notices of Public Libraries in the United States of America* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1851), 148-149.

¹³ *Laws of North Carolina, 1848-1849*, c. 1, 82, 112, 120, 148.

¹⁴ *Journal of the Senate of North Caro-*

lina, 1848-1849, January 6, 1849; *Journal of the House of Commons of North Carolina, 1848-1849*, January 6, 1849.

¹⁵ *Proceedings of the General Assembly*, [4]; *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, s.v. "Smith, William Nathan Harrell," "Washington, William Henry," "Jones, Hamilton Chamberlain," "Courts, Daniel William," "Dobbin, James Cochran," "Stanly, Edward," and "Rayner, Kenneth"; John L. Cheney, Jr., ed., *North Carolina Government, 1585-1979: A Narrative and Statistical History* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1981), 316-317.

¹⁶ *Proceedings of the General Assembly*, [4]; *Raleigh Register*, January 10, 1849. The newspaper's notice of the public meeting appeared the day after Vattemare's speech.

¹⁷ *Weekly Raleigh Register, and North Carolina Gazette*, January 17, 1849.

¹⁸ *Proceedings of the General Assembly*, 27.

¹⁹ *Proceedings of the General Assembly*, 28-29.

²⁰ *Proceedings of the General Assembly*, 33-34, 64.

²¹ *Proceedings of the General Assembly*, 64-65.

²² *Proceedings of the General Assembly*, 38-40, [67]-114.

²³ *Proceedings of the General Assembly*, [115]-118.

²⁴ *Weekly Raleigh Register, and North Carolina Gazette*, January 17, 1849; *North Carolina Standard* (Raleigh), January 10, 1849. The favorable comments published in the *Standard* may have been written prior to Vattemare's speech. Ruffin was a trustee of the State Library. Strange in 1839 had published *Eoneguski, or The Cherokee Chief: A Tale of Past Wars*, the first novel set in North Carolina. Roy Parker, Jr., *Cumberland County: A Brief History* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1990), 30.

²⁵ *North Carolina Standard* (Raleigh), January 17, 1849; *Proceedings of the General Assembly*, [7]-13.

²⁶ Ja[me]s F. T[aylor] to Dear Sir [David Lowry Swain], January 20, 1849, David Lowry Swain Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill.

²⁷ *Laws of North Carolina, 1848-1849*, 230-231.

²⁸ *Laws of North Carolina, 1848-1849*, c. 63. This impressive pamphlet of 116 pages, cited above, includes Governor Graham's communication; the joint select committee's correspondence with Vattemare; the report of the joint select committee; copies of the committee's proposed resolutions and bill; Vattemare's address; instructions for collecting, preserving and transporting objects of natural history; and a list of works presented to the State Library by Vattemare.

²⁹ Governor Charles Manly to James F. Taylor, January 26, 1849, Letter Books of

Charles Manly, 1849, GLB 39, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh; Alexandre Vattemare to Governor David S. Reid, November 10, 1852, William Gaston Papers, Southern Historical Collection, hereinafter cited as Gaston Papers.

³⁰ Vattemare to Reid, November 10, 1852, Gaston Papers; Manly to Vattemare, June 17, 1850, GLB 39, State Archives; Vattemare to his Excellency the Governor of the State of North Carolina, September 30, 1851, Governors' Papers, David S. Reid, G.P. 127, State Archives; Manly to Vattemare, January 26, 1849, Correspondence (1838-64), Letters Arranged by Place of Origin, New York-North Carolina, Microfilm Reel 4, Alexandre Vattemare Papers, Rare Books & Manuscripts Division, New York Public Library, hereinafter cited as NC Letters, Vattemare Papers. This series of letters includes also two lists of books and documents pertaining to North Carolina. One of them contains the "Presentation of the State"; the other, works that "never reached their destination."

³¹ NC Letters, Vattemare Papers.

³² Vattemare to His Excellency the Governor of the State of North Carolina, September 30, 1851, Governors' Papers, David S. Reid, G.P. 127, State Archives; *Journal of the House of Commons of North Carolina*, December 5, 16, 1850; *Laws of North Carolina, 1850-1851*, c. 61.

³³ Richards, "Alexandre Vattemare," 432-435, 441-443, 446. The decision of Congress to end its association with Vattemare may have resulted in part from the newly created Smithsonian Institution's involvement in exchanging textual and other materials.

³⁴ Vattemare to His Excellency the Governor of the State of North Carolina, September 30, 1851, Governors' Papers, David S. Reid, G. P. 127, State Archives; Vattemare to David S. Reid, November 10, 1852, Gaston Papers; J. H. Sawyer to His Excellency the Gov[.] of No[.] Ca[.], January 14, 1852, Governors' Papers, David S. Reid, G. P. 129, State Archives; Richards, "Alexandre Vattemare," 435-436.

³⁵ O. H. Perry, *Catalogue of Books Belonging to the North Carolina State Library, Prepared by O. H. Perry, Librarian* (Raleigh: Nichols, Gorman & Neathery, Book and Job Printers, 1866), 76-79. This catalog contains a separate listing of the works obtained through the system of international exchanges. The writer wishes to thank Mrs. Cheryl McLean, head, Information Services Branch, State Library of North Carolina, for locating in the State Library's collection a few books obtained through Vattemare's exchange program, and for arranging to have their title pages photographed for this article.