THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY CELEBRATES 
75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Clements Library will celebrate its 75th Anniversary and the Associates 50th Anniversary in 1997-1998. To mark the occasions, a campaign to raise $1,500,000 is being launched. The Associates Board of Governors is planning a variety of activities programs, publications, a celebration banquet — for the coming year. We will be making regular announcements, and hope that all the Library’s friends will enjoy participating in the festivities. The Associates Board of Governors has set specific goals and priorities for the 75th Anniversary fund-raising campaign, identifying them in three categories.

The first category centers on our immediate goals, projects which we hope to accomplish within the next year and a half. Our top priorities include the purchase of several major items; retrospective conversion of our book card catalog into a national bibliographic database, the Research Libraries Information Network; improvement of our exhibit space; restoration of priceless maps; replacement of worn building furnishings; creation of new library promotional material — brochures, guides, a video; and funding a variety of events celebrating the Library’s 75th Anniversary.

The second category aims to expand the Clements Library’s academic mission. Our goals include establishing a new publication fund, increasing support for our Price Visiting Research Fellowships, creating a premier lectureship in early American history, and designing teaching materials based on the Library’s collections for use in public schools.

The final category sets forth long-term goals for the coming decade: building endowment funds so we can develop specific subject areas such as American Judaica, Asian-American history, Frontier history, American business or journalism history; establish-
handwritten orders which started the American Revolutionary War, an original copy of the Treaty of Ghent, or Grant’s letters to Sherman announcing the capture of Richmond. Where is the traditional military and political history for which the Clements Library collections are famous?

That happens to be the very point I wish to make. On its twenty-fifth birthday (1948), the typical Clements Library visitor would probably have been shown, or been pursuing research in source materials documenting the discovery of America, the Stamp Act, or the Battle of Lexington. The original Clements collection of 1923 was rich in the “great books” on the “great events” of American history. Our resources on these timelessly important subjects are several times richer today than they were then, and the Library continues to add to its collections in its traditional areas of strength whenever it has the opportunity. In the past few years alone we have acquired the letterbooks of Anthony Wayne’s Fallen Timbers campaign, pamphlets on the settlement of Virginia, the earliest known portrait engravings of Franklin and Jefferson, volume one complete of Isaiah Thomas’ first newspaper, and the earliest atlas of sea charts published in America. A year does not go by that we do not add a few items of this sort.

A truly great research library, however, is known not only for its exciting high points, but for the breadth and depth of its collections. Seventy-five years after its founding, the Clements Library is not only a notable resource for studying the Age of Discovery and Exploration or the American Revolution, but a wonderful place to investigate American sports and leisure activity, the reading and book-collecting habits of our ancestors, ecology and the gradual change in attitudes about the treatment of animals, the fine points of cartographic history, or crimes and scandals which tell us something about the failings of our changing civilization. These are subjects which interest today’s students, and we are able to serve them well.

A library such as this is only as good as its collections. The Clements Library, thanks in large part to the visionary terms of Mr. Clements’ gift, the generosity of its Associates, and a supportive University, has done an exceptional job of keeping its focus on its primary purpose — building the collections so that year by year, it can serve a larger and more sophisticated constituency of researchers in whatever aspect of American history they care to investigate.

Our modest but essential fundraising effort in celebration of our 75th Anniversary is aimed at making it possible for us to continue concentrating on the fairly straightforward activity of building the collections. We are now much more than a great book collection. We are a rich and unique repository of our nation’s past experience — a national treasure. With your continued support, we will only get better.

—John C. Dann, Director

THE JACKSONIAN UNICORN

Short-tempered, short-sighted, and sharp-horned, the rhinoceros was the perfect animal for the savage world of Jacksonian politics. Until the Pliocene epoch, rhinos had been among the most abundant perissodactyls on the continent, but like the Federalists, they had become extinct by the mid-1820s. In October 1826, however, a lone rhino appeared on our teeming shores, the first in over a million years, and within five years, he and his thick-skinned compatriots could be found treading the stage of Peale’s Museum in New York, chewing the scenery at Washington Gardens in Boston, touring the Eastern seaboard with the American National Caravan, or biding time with the Association Menagerie. Among the earliest of these immigrant sons was a three-year-old rhino captured on the plains of the Brahmaputra River north of Calcutta, and sold to Marmaduke Burrough (ca.1798-1844) in March 1830. In Burrough’s papers, recently acquired by the Clements Library, lies one of the best-documented stories of rhinocerine immigration before this century.

Curiosities in Europe for centuries, pachyderms (rhinos, elephants, and hippos) exerted a particularly strong fascination for Americans. Their size and power, and their exotic good looks, made these creatures popular fare for children’s books and scientific minds. Noting the paucity of large-bodied mammals in North America, French natural historians in the 1790s theorized that the impoverished climate of the United States must have stunted the growth of its fauna. Simply put, America lacked the vital spark that animated the Old World. To nationalists like Thomas Jefferson, of course, this was pure balderdash. With the vast, unexplored reaches of the nation before him, Jefferson looked to the elephantine bones of mastodons and mammoths littering the countryside (having studied them himself), and asked Lewis and Clark to keep an eye out for any pachydermal herds that might still be roaming the trackless Louisiana Purchase. Although the explorers returned empty handed, the American ardor for gargantuan creatures survived; the reputation of the pachyderm as an American icon was ensured. The rhinos and elephants that occupied center stage in early national museums, then, became part of the intellectual project of building a nation — they signified our strength and vitality, our control over nature and over the colonized nations from which they were liberated.

For men like Marmaduke Burrough, rhinos also promised fun and profit. As a young man enamored of natural history, Burrough studied the closest subject available at the time, medicine, and pursued his science on the side wherever and whenever he could. His lucky break came in 1828, when he received a little slop from the bucket of diplomatic spoils, a consular appointment in Calcutta. Exotic and virtually unknown to Jacksonian Americans, the Indian subcontinent overflowed with natural riches. Shortly after assuming his post, Burrough ambitiously set out to join in the scientific bonanza, setting his cap on acquiring the most treasured resource of all, a live rhinoceros. Spurning an
exorbitant offer from the Rajah Budinath Roy to supply a rhino at 9,500 rupees, he accepted an offer he could not refuse by a man named Andrew Davidson: a nine foot female accompanied by a much smaller male. Although there were already at least three rhinos in the United States, Davidson assured Burrough that “there is room enough in America for even more than three Rhinoceroses, as I’m informed ‘tis rather a large Town.” To spice up the deal, Davidson even offered to rig a harness for the female to allow her to draw a carriage or plow — the ultimate civilized act — adding ruefully that the young male was unlikely to cooperate in this enterprise “as he was caught when too old.” Even British cool, it seems, could not offset bad habits acquired in childhood.

True to form, this savage rascal refused to recognize legitimate commerce and threatened to capsize the deal, not to mention the boat on which he was being transported to Calcutta. In a fit of shipboard pique, he badly injured his legs while struggling with the ropes that bound him, delaying any further progress while he healed. Stating the obvious, Davidson begged Burrough not to remove the restraining nose ring, for it might be “rather a difficult business to put it in again.” Once in Calcutta, the male settled into a resigned calm, and Davidson turned his attention to nurture. Experienced in rhinocerine cuisine, he recommended that Burrough lay in a good stock of dried dooglobin, well pressed, along with a good quantity of pressed wheat bran, adding that the discerning pachydermal palate preferred its bran wetted with salt water, “as the animal is fond of salt and might even prefer it with the Bran.” For a change of pace, the rhino might enjoy its bran patted into cakes and baked, to which Davidson pragmatically added “I have no doubt he would eat ship biscuit,” though in his experience, rhinos “did not like biscuit when very hard.” Finally, for the ultimate in rhino comfort during hot weather, a good salt water bath was recommended twice a day. With this last piece of advice carefully in hand, Burrough, his servant, and rhinos set sail aboard the Georgian, in June 1830, bound for the United States.

Burrough’s rhinos next surfaced in November 1830, when the male was placed on exhibit at 48 South 5th Street, Philadelphia, appropriately enough, only about a block from the State House. In a media blitz, this rhino was boasted of as “distinct from all the others” of Africa, Java, or Sumatra, and was said to be powerful and brave, and “in excellent condition.” An ad in the Pennsylvania Packet vowed that “the public has

seldom enjoyed an opportunity of witnessing so rare and interesting a curiosity; and circumstances render it quite certain, that many years must elapse, ere another animal of the kind can be imported here.” Even at 25¢ per head (half price for children), the rhino was a bargain, and despite all the excitement and savagery in store, the whole family could attend. Burrough guaranteed that the display would be tidy and tasteful, and that females “need entertain no compunction or delicacy of feeling in accompanying their Husbands or friends.”

The most revealing feature of these advertisements, however, is the way in which Burrough made clear, that like the uncivilized, colonized people of the world, rhinos could be improved. Despite the absence (or death) of the refined female, the Packer boasted that the male on exhibit, “though stupid and savage by nature . . . is not altogether incapable of domestication, or insensible to the kindlier affections.” As proof, it claimed that the present specimen “is perfectly gentle, and obedient to the command of his keeper, (who is a native of Bengal).”

Turning the rhino into a cash cow, however, proved to be too demanding a job for a dilettante showman like Burrough. After already shelling out 500 rupees for shipping, and $7.50 for that essential rhino accessory, a good, stout chain, Burrough found that the costs rapidly escalated. Between December 1830, and January 1831, his accounts include entries for $20.00 for engravings, $65.00 for placing ads in the American Sentinel and the Pennsylvania Inquirer, $6.00 for printing 300 fliers, $80.00 for two months’ rent, and $120.00 for “two men in attendance.” A friend, George Hough, advised Burrough to sell, but to hold out for a 100% return.

“There being so many [rhinos] at home,” he thought, “ought not diminish the value of yours as I believe it the finest animal which has been taken home.” Burrough sold out. The subsequent fate of Burrough’s rhino remains uncertain. However there are tantalizing clues. A massive poster for the Association Menagerie of New York, printed for the winter of 1834-35, depicts a rhino in a wheelied cage, and the accompanying text informs the audience that this rhino was seven years old, weighing 4,200 pounds — the right size and age for Burrough’s beast — and it reported “the growth of its horn is much retarded as it continually thumps its head against the bars of its cage.”

—Robi Cox, Manuscript Curator
GRENADA'S FIRST REVOLUTION
A CARTOGRAPHIC CURiosity

Grenada, most southerly of the Windwards of the eastern Caribbean, dangles at the end of that string of lush and mountainous volcanic islands. Indeed, the long westerly curve of Point Salines gives Grenada a distinctive shape that rather resembles a fish hook. Point Salines shelters Grande Anse Bay and a number of lesser inlets from the southeast trade winds to form a broad roadstead that has served as the island’s primary anchorage for large vessels, from warships of the seventeenth century to the cruise ships of today.

It was the distinctive form of Grenada that drew our attention to a peculiar series of early eighteenth-century maps of the Windward Islands, also known as the French Antilles. In each of at least seven examples in the Clements Library map collection, Grenada has been moved to the west and rotated nearly 180 degrees from its true position and relationship to the island chain — literally turned upside-down. What happened here?

For many readers, the name Grenada will conjure up memories of the events of 1983 when United States naval and military forces intervened in this small Caribbean state. Point Salines then served as more than a landmark, for much of its length was taken up by an unfinished airport that was a drop zone for American paratroopers and a battleground for their fight with Grenadan PRA and Cuban forces. Invasion and turmoil are no strangers to Grenada’s history. The people of the island have been affected by the shifting political interests of outsiders from the time of Columbus until their independence in this century.

European explorers first sighted Grenada in 1498 during Christopher Columbus’ third voyage. He named the island Concepción, but it was the English who made the first attempt at settlement in 1609. The native Caribs repulsed them but were not so fortunate when a French expedition arrived in 1650. Over the next one hundred years the French developed “La Grenade” as one of their sugar islands. The chief settlement, Port Royal, was established on a fine harbor at the southwest end of the island. A lofty peninsula commanding the entrance provided the site for Fort Royal, constructed of stone in 1705-06.

Warfare returned to Grenada in 1762 when the British captured the island as they swept through the Spanish and French Caribbean near the end of the Seven Years War. The peace of 1763 awarded Grenada to Britain, but the War of American Independence gave the French an opportunity to return. In 1779 French naval and military forces lay siege to Fort George, the former Fort Royal, and took the island. The Peace of 1783 restored Grenada to Britain, and, though shaken by the French-inspired Fedon’s Rebellion in 1795, the island remained a British colony until its independence in 1974.

Despite all this activity, Grenada was not particularly well rendered on maps until the middle of the eighteenth century. Smaller scale maps of the Caribbean generally show a nondescript rounded island form or an exaggerated sickle-shape, as, for example, Samuel Thornton’s ca.1700 chart of the West Indies. Such maps at least place Grenada in the correct location, and the sickle shape reflects the westward reach of Point Salines.

In 1717, however, the premier géographe du roi, Guillaume Delisle, published his Carte des Antilles Françaises et des Iles Voisines. As the King’s geographer, Delisle had access to manuscript maps and surveys in the Royal collections, including those of army and navy officers. He was known for his care in assembling maps from the best and most recent sources and for being a stickler for detail. What a shock it is, then, to see the French Antilles rendered carefully from Guadeloupe south to a perfectly recognizable Grenada, with all its place names, harbor and fort intact, placed on the map upside-down. Pointe des Salines (Point Salines) is shown at the northeast rather than at the southwest corner.

How did a cartographer of Guillaume Delisle’s stature and reputation come to make such a glaring error? The title of the map tells us that Delisle prepared it from the manuscript memoirs of a royal engineer, M. Petit. A cata-

Guillaume Delisle’s upside-down Grenada showing the “Fort et Bourg” and the distinctive “Pte. des Salines” at the northeast corner of the island. They properly belong at the southwest. The town is today known as St. George’s, and the fort was renamed for King George III when the British took the island in 1762.
A detail from Samuel Thornton’s A New and Correct Large Draught of the Trading Part of the West Indies (London, ca. 1700). A sickle-shaped Grenada is correctly placed at the end of the “Caribe Islands” with the main anchorage properly shown near the southwest end.

Carte des Antilles Françaises et des Isles Voisines by Guillaume Delisle (Paris, 1717). Dutch copyists Ottens (1730) and Covens & Mortier (1733 or before) each re-engraved this map on wider plates and added insets or notes but did not correct Delisle’s error. Philippe Buache (1745) simply added a new date to Delisle’s 1717 plate and reissued the map.

Logue of manuscript maps in Delisle’s possession lists a plan of the islands from Guadeloupe to Grenada drawn by Petit in 1713 or 1715. The engineer was then surveyor-general of the French Antilles and might have prepared his map to document France’s island colonies in the aftermath of the War of the Spanish Succession and the Treaty of Utrecht. Without seeing the manuscript plan, however, we cannot confirm whether the Grenada error was that of Petit, Delisle, or Delisle’s engraver.

One simple explanation may be that the error occurred during the engraving process. For printing, the map was laid out to fit a piece of copper, an expensive commodity and not always available in large sizes. The printed map of the Antilles was substantially reduced from Petit’s manuscript — 22% in its north-south orientation and 34% east to west. The printed border of the map is very close to the edge of the plate mark, and there was little extra space on the 1717 plate to fit in all the French Antilles. As Delisle or one of his assistants laid out the full circuit of islands, it is possible that they simply ran out of plate. Rather than begin anew the task of drawing on a reduced scale, they may have decided to tuck Grenada into the available area in a manner that, although it rotated the island 180 degrees, still placed its true north end adjacent to the small islands to the north and otherwise kept the shape of the island intact. The inverted Grenada was later copied by the Dutch map publishers Ottens (1730) and Covens & Mortier (1733 or before). Delisle’s son-in-law and heir, Philippe Buache, reprinted the 1717 Carte des Antilles in 1745 without correcting Grenada’s shape and position. It was not until the French naval hydrographer Jacques-Nicolas Bellin published his 1758 chart of the Antilles and his Grenada of 1760 that the island once more assumed its rightful place on the map.

—Brian Leigh Dunnigan, Map Curator
Mary S. Pedley, Assistant Map Curator
Most volumes on the Clements Library's shelves were acquired because of their content, but occasionally a book is purchased because its provenance tells us something about our ancestors' reading habits and intellectual interests. Particularly desirable are volumes with colonial bookplates that document the existence of large personal libraries and provide hints of the original owner's social aspirations.

Two books with particularly interesting bookplates recently came our way. Both date from the decade before the American Revolution, both are from Maryland, and both have armorial designs in a "Chippendale" pattern.

The bookplate of John Rosse AM of All Hallows, Worcester, Maryland, was probably engraved in England. It follows a fairly standard pattern for eighteenth-century armorial bookplates. Rosse had attended Cambridge University and matriculated at Merton College, Oxford in 1723. He was obviously proud of his educational attainments. He emigrated to Maryland in 1754, and served for twenty-one years as the last rector of All Hallows Parish Church in Snow Hill, Maryland. With the coming of the Revolution and the retirement of death of Rosse, the church fell vacant for many years.

And what is the book the Reverend Rosse owned? It is the second volume of Tobias Smollett's, *The Expedition of Humphry Clinker*: 3 vols. (London, 1771), highly predictable reading for an Oxford educated, eighteenth-century cleric living in a rural colonial American parish. Although Rosse himself undoubtedly would have had Loyalist sympathies in the American Revolution, the family must have survived the conflict. There is an ink inscription that Mrs. Rosse presented this volume to a neighbor in 1812, and it happily survived to the present day — bookplate intact.

The second bookplate is most unusual. Designed and executed by J. Smithers in Philadelphia, ca. 1770, it belonged to William Eddis who emigrated to Annapolis before his Loyalist sympathies drove him back to England in 1777. His autograph signature appears on many pieces of colonial currency issued in Maryland before the war. Eddis is primarily remembered for his book, *Letters from America...1769 to 1777* (London, 1792), an invaluable, highly readable source on Maryland society in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War.

What makes this bookplate notable is that it is oriented lengthwise, the horizontal measurement being greater than the vertical, and it is printed entirely in red ink. The design of the plate was also personalized to some extent, in that a volume of Shakespeare in the foreground documents a rather shadowy career in the theater which Eddis had followed in his youth. The plate is affixed to a 1753 English translation of Espiard's, *The Spirit of Nations*, a theoretical study of national character, the sort so dear to the hearts of America's Revolutionary generation. This is exactly the type of book one would expect to find in the library of a man whose *Letters from America* attempted to describe colonial society to a European audience. When Eddis returned to England in 1777, he left this particular volume behind. Inscriptions indicate that as of 1810 it belonged to Samuel Jenifer, and in 1823 it was bought at a sale of Jenifer's effects by J. Barnes.

Too often rebinding of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century books, even today, obliterates book plates, and with them evidence of our colonial forefathers' reading habits. It is important that such information be saved, and particularly fortuitous in these two cases.

—John C. Dann, Director
Six years after the British conquest of Canada in 1759, Thomas Dunckerley, describing himself as a “super-annuated” officer of the Royal Navy, struggling to support his family on an annual pension of £44, sent a letter to Major Edward Walpole of the 16th Light Dragoons. Major Walpole was the grandson of one of the most famous politicians in British history, Sir Robert Walpole, described by some historians as the first Prime Minister. Dunckerley’s letter to Major Walpole in 1766 somehow found its way into the papers of Sir Henry Clinton, and today is part of the collections of the Clements Library.

This is no ordinary letter begging for help. It is drenched in sex, scandal, and the eternal sad story of power and privilege. Today it would make the front page of the tabloid press. Thomas Dunckerley claimed to be the bastard son of the late King George II. His mother, Mary Bolnist, according to her enclosed testament taken just before her death in January 1760, served in the household of the wife of Sir Robert Walpole in the early 1720s when the Prince of Wales (the future George II) met and “debauched” her. When she learned of what had happened, Lady Catharine Walpole quickly arranged a marriage for Mary to Mr. Dunckerley, an attendant of the Duke of Devonshire, who happened to be visiting Sir Robert Walpole in Norfolk. Dr. Bland performed the ceremony.

Sometime later, after Christmas 1723, while Mr. Dunckerley was away attending the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth, his magnificent house in Derbyshire, Mary was inveigled to visit Lady Ranelagh. Ranelagh Gardens was a popular and fashionable resort in Chelsea, the London suburb, and there the widow Ranelagh presided. As she stepped out of Lady Ranelagh’s coach, Mary said she met Charles Lumley, who told her she “might be the happiest woman in England.” Mary understood his meaning. Lumley, to use plain words, was pimp to the Prince of Wales, and Lady Ranelagh was his confederate. When the Prince appeared, Mary recalled that she “could deny him nothing.” In the course of several days the future king visited her five times.

Soon after returning to Somerset House, where the Dunckerleys had a “grace and favor” apartment in the once royal palace, doubtless arranged for them by the Walpoles, Mary found herself ill and pregnant. When she told the wife of the head porter, herself probably part of the conspiracy, what had happened, Lumley sent a note enclosing £50 “acquainting me, it was by the Command of his Royal Highness.” She also confessed to her husband when he returned from Chatsworth in May. At first he seemed pleased, but later turned ugly. Near her term, in October, he threw a cat in her face and “swore he would mark the bastard.” They separated soon after she gave birth to Thomas.

Returning to England from Quebec on HMS Vanguard in 1760, Thomas learned that his mother had just died and for the first time heard the story of his parentage from her deathbed confession. But the French were counter-attacking in Canada, and he could not linger. His captain told him that no one except the king would believe his story, and to say nothing until he could take it directly to George II. But when Thomas returned again from Canada, the king was dead.

THE CONFESSION OF MARY BOLNIST
In fact, by 1766, when Dunckerley sent his story to Major Walpole, virtually all witnesses were dead. Walpole, whose chief vices were said to be drinking and gaming, himself died in 1771, having done nothing for Dunckerley except pass the letter and its enclosure on to fellow officer Colonel Henry Clinton, who also appears to have done nothing.

The affair is puzzling. Dunckerley's name does not appear on the lists of British naval officers for the eighteenth century, although he claimed he had been an officer for twenty years. "Dunckerley" is a very unusual name and does not appear in a search through the usual historical indexes. But details in the story as documented by Thomas Ring true. George Augustus, both as Prince of Wales and later as King George II, took pride in his sexual prowess and treated any pretty woman within reach as fair game. Lady Catharine Walpole, in whose household the Prince had first spotted Mary, was herself notoriously wanton. Dr. Bland, who married the Dunckerleys, can be identified as Henry Bland, headmaster of Eton College, where Sir Robert Walpole had sent his sons. Dr. Mead, sent to attend Mary early in her pregnancy, was a fashionable physician known to keep a "seraglio." Mrs. Cannon, who attended the birth, was midwife to the royal family.

The story of Thomas Dunckerley and his mother Mary leaves us feeling uneasy, as we often do in glancing at the lurid headlines on supermarket tabloids today. Is it true? Most of the names check out, but why is Thomas missing from the list of naval officers? Does the apparent obscurity of mother and son suggest that these were little people, on whom the great depended for services, but who could be tossed aside with a few crumbs when their service was no longer needed? If nothing was done by Major Walpole or Colonel Clinton to assist Thomas, their very inaction would fit this interpretation. Tempted to believe Thomas Dunckerley's story, we can also fit it to the endless sad story of famous people troubled by too much time, money, and prestige, and by too little self-restraint.

—Arlene Shy, Head, Reader Services

LANDING THE KNOCKOUT PUNCH

Boxer Tom Molineux was the first American athlete to challenge a European champion in any sport. He went to London in 1809, trained with William Richmond, another expatriate boxer, and fought a match with British champion Tom Crib in 1810. A racist referee and audience denied Molineux his clearly won victory. A rematch, shown here, was set in Ireland the following year, but Molineux had failed to train properly and was beaten in eleven rounds.

Taking instant advantage of a one-time opportunity is as important in rare book collecting as in boxing!

Nat Fleisher was the leading figure in American professional boxing from the 1920s until his death in the 1970s. He edited Ring Magazine and was boxing’s preeminent historian. Fleisher collected everything in print relating to boxing, creating an extraordinary archive. He saved books and ephemera that libraries had never taken seriously and most people simply threw out after reading. Drawing on his personal library, Fleisher published authoritative annual yearbooks and wrote several fine histories of boxing.

Four years ago, Fleisher’s virtually complete run of the National Police Gazette, from 1876 to 1932, came up for sale at a sports memorabilia auction in New York. This was the publisher’s own file, acquired by Fleisher at a bankruptcy sale in the depths of the Depression. It is one of only two extensive runs (the other is in the Library of Congress) of this somewhat disreputable but exceedingly important workingman’s magazine from the age of pre-Prohibition saloons and "torsorial parlors." The Gazette is a unique historical record of urban life, crime, off-Broadway theatrical gossip, popular amusements, and the Wild West, which so fascinated eastern readers. The Gazette is essentially the only detailed source of information on boxing in the era of John L. Sullivan. The Clements owned a few rare pamphlets on professional and amateur boxing, but this single purchase greatly increased the library’s ability to serve social historians interested in 19th century urban popular culture, including boxing.

This winter, the bulk of Nat Fleisher’s personal library was offered for sale at Swann Galleries. Amidst the signed photographs of Joe Louis, posters, watches, and autographs which attracted great interest among collectors, were obscure British and American books and pamphlets on pugilism, items so rare as to be virtually unobtainable.
The Fleisher Sale was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to acquire, at one auction, not only the basic sources of boxing history, but a remarkable selection of the ephemeral rarities which transform a strong collection into a truly great one.

The Clements bid vigorously and got every lot it wanted. Among the scarce pamphlets were "lives" of, and "how to" manuals by Tom Hyer, Yankee Sullivan, William Poole, Ned Donnelley, James Ward, Jack Randall, "Battling" Nelson, John McCormick, and John L. himself — names now largely forgotten, but famous in their own day as sports heroes idolized in America and England. Unlike baseball, yachting, cricket, and football, the other newsworthy competitive sports of the nineteenth century, boxing successfully never banned athletes on racial grounds. Boxing is an important chapter in Afro-American history.

Among the Fleisher Sale acquisitions, The Black Champions of the Prize Ring (1890), published by the Police Gazette, is a particular treasure. William Oxberry’s Pancratia, or, a History of Pugilism (London, 1812), was the first book-length history of the sport. The Fancy, by An Operator (London, 1826), in spite of its unorthodox title and authorship, is another serious, book-format compilation. Pierce Egan’s Boxiana (London, 1812-1829) is the real "bible" of the sport. Complete sets, like the one we purchased from the Fleisher Sale, are scarce because they were originally issued in monthly parts, put together in five thick volumes and published over a twelve-year period. Odd numbers occasionally surface on the rare book market, but to secure the entire set is a collector’s lifelong dream.

The Clements has now acquired the cornerstones of boxing history. What is particularly pleasing, in spite of their London imprints, is that all are true "Americana" of a type which entirely eluded Sabin and his fellow bibliographers. Throughout, these works contain a considerable amount of material on American prize fighters. Two Afro-American boxers, Bill Richmond of Staten Island, born in 1763, and Annapolis-born Tom Molineux (1784-1812), were the first American athletes to gain international stature.

Following the tradition established by William Clements’ collecting at the turn of the century, the Library has transformed its holdings in one particular area from mediocrity to excellence by taking advantage of two once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. The history of sports, leisure activities, and popular amusements is currently of great interest to historians. Whether one studies the sport of boxing itself, the ideals it represented, or the questions of class and ethnicity so central to the sport’s development, the Clements is prepared, as few other libraries are, to serve scholars.

—John C. Dann, Director
CLA PURCHASES
The Associates Board of Governors at the October 1, 1996 meeting made the following purchases for the Library’s collections:
Humphrey Marshall, The History of Kentucky (Frankfort, Kentucky, 1812).
John Hall, The Cabinet Makers’ Assistant, Embracing the Most Modern Style of Furniture (Baltimore, 1840).
H.D. Gurney, photographer. Two carte de visite photographs of Belle Boyd (Natchez, Mississippi, 1863-1865).

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Price Visiting Research Fellowships
1997 Price Visiting Research Fellowships were awarded to three Ph.D. candidates.
Elizabeth Fenn, Yale University, for her dissertation, “As the Fire Consumes the Grass: The North American Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-1783.” Catherine Ann Lawrence, Yale University, for her dissertation, “Narrating the Empire: Private Visions and Published Lives of British Soldiers and Sailors in the Late Georgian Age, 1770s-1830s.” Greg O’Brien, University of Kentucky, for his dissertation, “To Satisfy Our Wants: Trade, Diplomacy, and Politics among the Choctaws, 1759-1801.”
Applications for 1998 Fellowships, which provide support for travel, should be made between October 1 and December 20, 1997. For further information contact Head of Reader Services, phone (313) 764-2347, fax (313) 647-0716, email ashly@umich.edu.

IN MEMORIAM
THOMAS N. CROSS, M.D.
On December 13, 1996, Thomas N. Cross, M.D. died in Ann Arbor after a short illness. A longtime Clements Library Associate, he had served on the Board of Governors since 1972. A graduate of Groton School, Yale University, and Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, he did his residency in Psychiatry at the Neuropsychiatric Institute of the University of Michigan Medical Center. He was on the University of Michigan Medical School staff and later in private practice in Ann Arbor.
A direct descendant of Thomas Jefferson, Tom had a deep interest in American history and collecting. Following his father, former Director of the New York Botanical Gardens, Tom was an enthusiastic collector of maps and manuscripts, both literary and historical. Tom had a particular fascination with Rudyard Kipling, an interest that led him to write a biography of that highly complex individual which was published in 1992.

CRAIG W. ROSS
It was with sorrow that the Library learned, early in January, of the death of antiquarian book dealer Craig W. Ross (1914-1996) of Medina, New York. A real friend to the Library’s Director, Craig Ross provided a good many treasured books and manuscript collections over the past three decades. He had a keen eye for the special item and a delightfully modest sense of the profit margin needed to keep a dealer in business — so much so that almost every item was sold before his famous mimeographed catalogues arrived in the mail! Fortunately, he kept the particular interests of valued customers in mind and quoted prized items on an individual basis. Craig and Vivian, his wife of fifty-nine years who survives him, graciously welcomed clients to their home. Craig was a man of sterling character and constant good humor who will be missed by all who knew him.
“Peter Porcupine”: Nasty Political Press in the New Republic, 1793-1800

April 1-June 27, 1997, Open weekdays 12 - 4:45 pm

American democracy and ugly politics are not a new combination. Since 1776, the price of popular government, where all decisions are openly debated and contested, has been a political process that includes exaggeration, misrepresentation, and vicious personal attacks. Not even today has political warfare gone lower than the level of personal abuse seen in the 1790s, when the Founding Fathers held power. Englishman William Cobbett, writing as “Peter Porcupine,” was one of the most abusive — and effective — journalists of that troubled decade.

Cobbett spent eight years in America, from 1792 to 1800. During that time he rose from an emigrant language teacher to one of the strongest forces molding public opinion in the New Republic. “Peter Porcupine” became a superstar in American journalism — loved or hated, but unrivaled for his vigorous, racy political commentary. As a writer and publisher, Cobbett was remarkably prolific. He produced a score of pamphlets, a sensational magazine, the Political Censor, and created The Porcupine Gazette, for a brief period the most widely read newspaper in the country. Unquestionably, Cobbett was a founder of the American political press.

Cobbett’s stay in America coincided with a decade of extraordinary political rancor, as the Federalist and Republican parties began to develop their identities and draw their battle lines. Controversy was fueled by the intense rivalry between Hamilton and Jefferson within Washington’s first Cabinet — animosity that was both ideological and deeply personal. Domestic politics were inflamed by foreign events as well. When the French Revolution triggered war between Britain and France, Americans found themselves strongly divided in their loyalties. “Peter Porcupine” took the Federalist, anti-French side. But he insisted he was no more than a loyal, independent Englishman defending British interests in America against attack from Revolutionary France and her Republican supporters.

Returning to England in 1800, Cobbett became a leader in the Radical movement, using the pages of his Political Register to champion the rights of working men and the cause of parliamentary reform. By 1835, no writer was more widely known in Britain, among every class. But it was in America in the 1790s that Cobbett first developed his inimitable style, a peculiar blend of personal anecdote and controversy, observation and argument, that made him one of the great satirical writers and political commentators in the English language.

William Cobbett, “Peter Porcupine”
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Announcements

Clements Library Director
John C. Dann

Calendar of Events

April 1–June 27, Exhibit, “‘Peter Porcupine’: Nasty Political Press in the New Republic, 1793-1800.” Open weekdays 12 noon to 4:45 pm.

April 16, Clements Library Associates Spring Lecture and Exhibit Opening. Professor Emeritus John Shy, UM History Department, will speak on “The New Republic in the 1790s: Revolution Stabilized,” 4 pm at the Library, reception following.

May 2, University of Michigan Department of History Honors Convocation, 9–11 am. Reception for graduating History majors and their parents, 4–6 pm.

May 4, 19th Annual Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair, a benefit for the Clements Library, at the Michigan Union Ballroom, 11 am–5 pm, admission $3.00.

May 6, Clements Library Board of Governors Special Meeting regarding the 75th Anniversary Celebration, first session 10 am–12 noon; Lunch in the Library; second session 1–2:30 pm.

May 8, UM Waterman Alumnae Meeting and Program, “‘I had no Idea!’ Discovering Clements Library Treasures,” 1–3 pm.

July 1–August 29, Exhibit, “‘In the Good Old Summertime’: 19th Century America on Vacation,” featuring photographs, prints, ephemera, and travel literature from the Library's collections.