On October 11 examples of our illustrated American sheet music were framed and hung in the University Art Museum. The opening was a gala affair honoring Mr. and Mrs. Bly Corning of Flint, donors of our remarkable collection of 19th century American sheet music. Nancy R. Davison, who had prepared the descriptive printed guide, pointed out the highlights of the exhibition, Frances Scott played some of the numbers on a piano, and refreshments were offered. Guests included members of the Friends of the Art Museum as well as Associates. The printed guide, one of our bulletins, has been mailed to all Associates. It also served us a vehicle for announcing the existence of this collection of new source material for American social history. The exhibition continued through most of November.

Meanwhile, at the Library itself a display of examples of some early American newspapers was arranged for the annual meeting of the Michigan Press Club and journalism students. The oldest item was a copy of The Boston News-Letter in 1717, which contrasted in size and scope with The National Anti-Slavery Standard of 1841. It was arranged by Curator Douglas Marshall.

In middle December the Library opened a new exhibition commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party of December 16, 1773. The manuscript, printed, and illustrative documents we have on this curtain raiser of the Revolution are impressive. They are described in an accompanying bulletin, prepared by Arlene Kleeb, assistant curator of manuscripts, which narrates the incidents leading up to the dumping of the tea in Boston harbor and the political consequences. The bulletin will be mailed to all Associates about the time this issue goes out. It is our first publication in the Bicentennial series of publications the Library will issue. The exhibition will remain on view for three months.
THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES
of The University of Michigan
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(Appointed by the Regents of the University)

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--- James Shearer II ---

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, at its Oct. 11 meeting, heard a request from James Shearer II of Chicago not to be renominated. He had suffered a minor stroke and had removed to California to be nearer his only relatives. The Board unanimously refused to consider Jim’s request and instead by acclamation voted to name him the Board’s first Honorary Governor, thus testifying to their affection and respect for this longtime benefactor of the Library and one of the founders of the Associates. He heard of this honor with some pleasure, and the masthead of this issue carries that distinction for the first—and last time. Jim died on October 29, two weeks short of his 89th birthday.

James Shearer II was born in Bay City on November 9, 1884. He attended the University of Michigan where he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity, and graduated in 1908 with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering. He served in the Corps of Engineers in World War I and worked for Mr. Clements Industrial Works. Later he went with the F. W. Dodge Corp. in Chicago. Although Jim retired at the end of 1961, he continued to live at the University Club in Chicago and did volunteer work at a local hospital. He was also the treasurer of his church. After a successful cancer operation years ago, Jim enjoyed remarkably good health.

A loyal alumnus, he established with the help of a few relatives in 1952 the James Shearer Memorial Fund at this Library in honor of his grandfather, who was once a Regent of the University. Two years later he started another endowment fund in his own name, the income to be spent mainly on early western books. From time to time he gave special books to the Library. In 1947 he had helped to organize the Associates and served on the Board of Governors from 1954 onward. He also contributed eight articles to the Michigan Quarterly Review and published two other essays. More recently, to honor his other grandfather, Justice Isaac Marston, a graduate of our Law School, Jim set up a fund at the Law Library. In 1967 he received a Sesquicentennial medallion from the University for his services. Two years later he was awarded the distinguished alumni certificate from the College of Engineering. He was, of course, a member of the Presidents Club and during the recent golden anniversary campaign he tripled his endowment fund at the Clements Library.

A genial, generous, and witty individual, Jim had many friends who treasured him as much as he valued them. He appeared in Ann Arbor for the last time at the Library’s 50th anniversary dinner last May and was introduced as the oldest Associate. His remains were cremated and interred in Bay City. A memorial service was scheduled in Chicago.

Bruce Catton

THE BOARD OF REGENTS has appointed Bruce Catton to the Library’s Committee of Management. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in history and the National Book Award in 1954, he is noted for his studies of the Civil War. He was also editor of American Heritage magazine. The Committee welcomes him.
Early America's Most Prominent Composer

The Library Acquired through the Associates a notable addition to our growing tune-book collection: The Singing Master's Assistant by William Billings (Boston, 1778). Billings was a barber by trade, but became the most famous of the first generation of New England singing-school masters and composers. A self-taught musician, Billings ignored his nonmusical trade in favor of his consuming musical avocation.

The Singing Master's Assistant is popularly known as "Billings' Best" and is his second publication. The Library also holds his first work, The New England Psalm Singer (Boston, 1770). "Billings' Best" is especially noteworthy for its inclusion of the tune "Chester" fitted with new patriotic words, written by Billings himself. It became a veritable battle hymn of the Revolutionary War.

Our new copy of the work is unique because of a number of appended pieces of music by Billings. The Bird and The Lark are both known to exist in only one other copy. There is also An Anthem Psalm 127 which has not been located in any other copy. In addition to these printed items, there are thirteen leaves of manuscript which present various tunes, mostly by Billings, in a contemporary hand.

The Windward Passage

A Prime Research piece for study of the English-Spanish trade rivalry in the West Indies was included in purchases by the Associates. A Description of the Windward Passage (London, 1739) gives explicit navigational instructions, along with a chart, for sailing in the waters between Florida and the Bahama Islands. The writer emphasizes the importance of the sea passage for raiding Spanish ports and trade routes, and advises that the South Sea Company be given a grant to carry out the raids. The South Sea Company had been established in 1711 as a monopoly for English trade. Later it figured in the notorious South Sea Bubble.

This second edition, published the same year as the first, has a postscript not in the first, a seven-page Letter on the Present State of the Spanish West Indies, signed only with the initials J. N. describing ports, ships and shipping practices with first hand knowledge.

Secrets Revealed

An Unusual Item, The Mormon Endowment, connected with the Strangite branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was acquired by the Associates. In 1850 James Strang led a schismatic group from Voree, Wisconsin to Beaver Island, Michigan which had been revealed to him as a place of settlement. Among his adherents were Maria and Increase McGee Van Dusen, former members of the main church under Brigham Young in Nauvoo, Illinois. Following their initiation there, they had published The Mormon Endowment (Syracuse, N.Y., 1847) a detailed exposé of the secret ceremony in the Nauvoo Temple. It describes seven degrees taken by the participants, continues with sharp criticism of Brigham Young, and finally sets forth the claims of Strang for the leadership of the church. Our copy is one of the two known copies of the Syracuse edition, considered to be the rare first edition. The Library already owned strong funs of the Voree Herald, the important Strangite newspaper, and the Book of the Law of the Lord, "printed by Command of the King at the Royal Press, St. James, 1856."

Van Dusen, moving to New York, began to publish his own revelations as well as thousands of copies of this book, at least 22 editions in all, each more sensational than the last. Strang, beset by internal squabbles and resentful outsiders, was murdered by an apostate in 1856.

French Revolutionary War Map

One of the Few French maps of the Revolutionary War which we do not already own was acquired by the Clements Associates for us. The large French map probably never enjoyed a good sale, and is something of a rarity as a result. While the background of the map remains a mystery, it represents the divergent types of maps that were being published in this period—and passed off to the public as being accurate.

The cartographer is designated as J. B. Eliot, supposedly a member of the engineering corps of the American army; but there was no officer of this name in the engineering brigade under Major General Louis Duportail. Neither was there any French engineer named Eliot.

The map was published in Paris by the firm of Mondare. Although located on the Rue St. Jacques with other map sellers, this publisher is not known for other books or maps and is not...
listed in any of the standard bibliographies. Considering the curious cartography of this map, it is not surprising that his business did not prosper. The projection is an unusual trapezoidal pattern and the entire northern orientation of the map it out of position.

Chinese Architecture

The visitor today to Kew Gardens in England is struck by the Chinese Pagoda and other exotic and ornamental features of the famous gardens. The initial basis for all this development is found in Plans, Elevations, Sections, and Perspective Views of the Gardens and Buildings of Kew in Surrey (London, 1763).

The author, Sir William Chambers (1726–1796) had, as a young man, visited China several times while in the employ of the Swedish East India Company. He studied architecture in Paris, and later became the official architect for the Princess Dowager of Wales. His several Chinese design books were the first authentic ones in England, much more accurate than the fanciful Chinoiserie of Chippendale and others. Preceding the 43 views and plans are 10 printed pages.

Thomas Jefferson, who was keenly interested in architecture and a designer himself, owned this book in an edition of the same year with only six pages of introductory material. This latest addition to our architectural books is a gift of the Clements Library Associates.

Daveiss v. Jefferson

Through a Gift from the Associates, the Library has been able to add an extremely important pamphlet to its collection of over twenty titles on the Burr conspiracy. Joseph Daveiss' View of the President's Conduct (Frankfort, Ky., 1807) is considered one of the rarest items concerning the Burr case.

Daveiss, a brother-in-law of Chief Justice Marshall, was a Federalist who had been appointed U.S. district attorney of Kentucky by President Adams in 1800. When Aaron Burr made the first of two visits to the western country early in 1806, Daveiss became suspicious that the appearance was part of an effort to revive the rumored Spanish conspiracy to separate the western territories from the rest of the country. He conveyed his misgivings to President Jefferson but failed to arouse his interest. Then, when Burr made a second visit later that same year, Daveiss twice attempted and failed to secure an indictment against him by a grand jury. He was then removed from office by Jefferson and subsequently wrote his highly partisan criticism of the President, which has been seen as an effort to discredit Jefferson and build up a Federalist following in the West. In this Daveiss also failed, and his popularity rapidly dwindled in Kentucky, even after his suspicions of Burr proved to have been justified.

Witchery

The Rev. John Hale of Salem was an interested observer of the infamous witchcraft trials held at that place in 1692. Not only did he attend the trials; he actually testified against some of the alleged witches. When his own wife was denounced as a witch, however, he did a rapid turnabout. In his A Modest Enquiry into the Nature of Witchcraft, (Boston, 1702) he reviewed the history of the trials and pointed out the necessity of certain legal safeguards to protect the rights of those accused. We were pleased to acquire through the Associates this first edition of what has been described as “one of the rarest of the books relating to the New England witchcraft delusion.”

N. Greene, Creditor

The popularity of a recent tongue-in-check exposé of George Washington's expense account obscures the real sacrifices of public service in the Revolutionary era.

Nathanael Greene bears ample witness to this fact in a superb manuscript letter which the Associates have purchased for the Library. Writing to his cousin, Governor William Greene of Rhode Island in April, 1782, he notes that “I have received no pay for four years past!” Displaying a stoicism worthy of an American Revolutionary hero, he adds that “if I have but justice 'tis all I can claim, but I have done business enough and gone through hardships sufficient, to entitle me to an ample fortune to smooth the down hill of life. I shall leave the State to do by me as they think proper.”

Greene provides a graphic summary of the desolation of war-ravaged South Carolina and Georgia as the American noose tightened around remaining British forces at Charleston and Savannah.