Founders Day

Founders Day, April 1, brought good weather and a large attendance for the program on "Gentle Manners and the Art of Politeness." Prof. LaMont Okey prepared excerpts from our etiquette books for presentation by his graduate students in interpretive reading. They were Jennifer Martin, Charles McGeever, Tony Lentz, William Rickert, and Howard Martin. The audience was highly amused by their talents, and the Library appreciated their contribution. The usual social hour followed.

The Board of Governors met in the early afternoon to discuss pertinent business and to consider possible purchases. Their vote to spend $2749 (on items described elsewhere in this issue) brought to $10,660 the total expenditures of the Associates for the Library in this fiscal year. These great additions to the shelves permanently enrich University resources for research.

We are able to announce now that the Associates Assembly in the fall is scheduled for September 19, with an illustrated lecture planned.

Gentle Manners and Decorum

Guests at the Founders' Day program could stroll around the exhibit cases to view the books from which the entertaining program had been selected. Examples from colonial times through the Victorian period demonstrated a continuing absorption in matters of deportment in all walks of life.

At first the colonial magistrates and clergy oversaw social behavior with laws and sermons prescribing proper behavior. Punishments were often public for violations of public decorum such as scandalmongering, cursing, lying, name-calling, etc. As times became more settled and reading more general, rules were reinforced by education. School children were soon indoctrinated with books of precepts and rules to ease them into becoming acceptable little citizens with such commands as: "Go not singing, whistling or hallowing along the street."

Inevitably, enterprising American publishers began to reprint the English classics and finally drew on an expanding group of American authors. By the late 1820s, a shift to American values was discernible. In 1827 an indigenous American Chesterfield, Or Way to Wealth, Honour and Distinction was published in Philadelphia, capitalizing on the popularity of Lord Chesterfield's self-promoting "Letters" republished here in at least 31 editions between 1775 and 1800. To the idea of moral manners, he had added the theme of profitable behavior as a way to win friends and influence people.

Many of the works between 1830 and the Civil War reflected the general ferment of reform and equality. A current idea affirmed that access to good conduct was a birthright of every American.

After the Civil War, moral essays were supplanted by numerous formal etiquette books with complex sets of rules for every social occasion. Though harking back to formalized manners of English nobility, which the throng of newly rich admired, they could not be as exacting in a land with different traditions. Our books in this elaborate period are primarily from the collection of the late Mrs. Mary Reed Bobbitt of Albion, Michigan whose bibliography of etiquette books is a standard reference work.

The exhibit open to the public was designed and mounted by Mrs. Georgia Haugh with the assistance of Mrs. Joyce Bonk, Mrs. Marjorie Brunner, and Mr. Bruce Gustafson. A list of approximately 70 books on manners and decorum in the Library is available.

The Price of Early Settlement

A Rare Indian captivity, Robert Hubbard's Historical Sketches of Roswell Franklin and
Family (Dansville, N.Y., 1839) narrates the adventures of a Connecticut family that settled in Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley in 1770. During the American Revolution they were caught up in the fighting between the Americans on the one side, and the British and their Indian allies on the other. On three separate occasions, a total of seven members of the Franklin family were captured by Indians. Two of them, including Mrs. Franklin, died in captivity, and an infant was carried off by the Indians, never to be seen again. The despondent husband later committed suicide. The narrative was written about fifty years after the events took place and was based on the recollections of the three surviving children. Only seven copies of this captivity are known, and none had appeared for sale in recent years. Our copy came to us as a gift of the Clements Library Associates.

First New England History

NATHANIEL MORTON MIGRATED to Plymouth as a boy and grew up in the household of his uncle, Gov. William Bradford. He served his uncle as clerk and as secretary of the colony, growing wealthy. Using the manuscript history of Plymouth compiled by Brandford (and not published until 1855), Morton produced New England's Memorials, an attempt at a history of the colony. It was published at Cambridge in 1669. As it was criticized for its brevity in covering the early years, Morton prepared a longer account, lost his manuscript in a fire, and rewrote it. A second, enlarged edition, with a supplement by another hand, was printed at Boston in 1721. Subsequently, it was reprinted in 1722, 1826, and 1855. In 1903 the first edition was reproduced in facsimile.

With the recent purchase of the 1721 edition, we now have copies of the book for all the above years.

Whig Politics

AN IMPORTANT MID-NINETEENTH century periodical, the American Whig Review, was a major selection by the Associates. Complete in 16 volumes, it ran from 1845 through 1852. Frankly partisan, it strove to elect Whigs and to elevate Senator Henry Clay to the presidency in 1848. Despite his defeat for the nomination, it continued as an organ for the party until a second overwhelming disaster in the election of 1852.

The loyal subscribers, some 5000 in number, were supplied with far more than political propaganda and current events. In fact, the magazine was general in nature. Literary features included poetry (some by Edgar Allan Poe), fiction, German and French works in translation, essays on art, and drama reviews. The editors at all times were staunch defenders of American literature. Among the known contributors were John Q. Adams, Webster, Everett, Calhoun and Greeley. One of the most appealing attractions of the monthly is its series of splendid engraved plates totaling around eighty which accompany the numerous biographies of statesmen.

This set, in excellent condition, formerly belonged to James Gordon Bennett, renowned owner of the New York Herald, whose bookstamp appears along with that of a staff member of the Evening Telegram, another of Bennett's papers. It was sold in the Herald book sale in 1893.
Our Land

Two of the Books chosen by the Associates are geographical descriptions of sections of the eastern United States. The earlier and larger one by John Kilbourn, principal of Worthington College in Ohio, is entitled Columbian Geography and was published in Chillicothe, Ohio in 1815. One of the first physical descriptions of the United States to be published in the midst, it depicts the country, emphasizing the frontier, as it was at the close of the War of 1812. Kilbourn, originally from New England, followed this now very scarce book with a notable gazetteer of Ohio which ran to many editions, several of which we own.

While the author of the above numbered promotion of canals among his publishing enterprises, the other author, J. Gray Smith, pursued land speculation. He wrote a Brief Historical, Statistical and Descriptive Review of East Tennessee (London, 1842) to supply information about Tennessee, a region not touched upon in our other land promotion tracts. A naturalized citizen of this country, Smith wrote in behalf of the East Tennessee Land Company of London whose advertisement for farm sales is inserted at the end. This rare work in its original binding is enhanced by a map and lithographed sketch of a Tennessee farm, mansion house and buildings.

First Chart of the St. Lawrence

Jean Deshayes came to the village of Quebec in 1685. He must have been about 35 years old, but we know nothing of his early background. He arrived with impressive credentials in cartography, earned from the famous attempt of Cassini and the French Académie Royale des Sciences to determine correct latitudes and longitudes in Africa and the West Indies.

A cool reception greeted Deshayes. The Governor of Quebec, Denonville, wanted to protect the position of Franquelin, who had been appointed Royal Hydrographer, and Louis Jolliet, the runner-up for the same position. Denonville took Deshayes for a canoe ride on the St. Lawrence, and the cartographer became so ill that the Governor thought Deshayes would die before the trip was over. Yet, after other attempts Deshayes managed to obtain a remarkably accurate set of drawings and soundings of the river. He returned to France the next year and laid out the survey on a Mercator projection. It was not published until 1695, and was later re-issued in 1715 by a different printer.

The copy of the chart on two large sheets which we recently acquired differs from both known versions. It has no title or date and only a small imprint crediting the cartographer and first publisher. Deshayes eventually succeeded his rivals Franquelin and Jolliet to the title of Royal Hydrographer and returned to Quebec about 1704 (the date is disputed) to teach piloting and complete another chart of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He died at Quebec in December 1708.

But the first printed chart of the St. Lawrence has a longer history. It was copied by the important British firm of Thomas Jefferys in 1757 and re-issued three more times until 1775. Thus, the chart served a purpose the cartographer never intended—the British military and commercial penetration of Canada.

Meet Me in St. Louis

We Have Been adding to our collection of early city directories and were fortunate enough to acquire through our Associates a copy of William D. Skillman’s The Western Metropolis; or St. Louis in 1846. Following an almanac for 1846, the book contains a description of the city, its history, important buildings, commercial statistics, lists of city officials, and a street directory. It also includes on p. 119-142 a copy of the new constitution for the state of Missouri which was drawn up at a convention in 1845. It is the only Missouri constitution ever to be rejected by the people, largely because it provided for the election of certain judicial officers who had formerly been appointed by the governor. At the end are tables of steamboat and stage routes, and advertisements for local merchants.

Jesuits in Brazil

Francisco Alvarezs’ Historia de las Cosas de Ethiopia (Saragossa, 1561) is a Spanish translation of a Portuguese book first printed at Lisbon in 1540. Although it is the second Spanish edition, bibliographers report that it is much more rare than the first which was printed at Antwerp in 1557. Copies are known only at Harvard and the New York Public Library.

While it deals mainly with central Africa, it is notable and of particular interest to us for its special section of 30 pages containing letters
from Jesuit missionaries in India, China, Japan, and Brazil—areas in which Portugal had an interest at that time. Our library has no other Jesuit reports from Brazil in the sixteenth century. The Associates bought it for us.

**Labor Speaks**

A **NEW ENGLAND MECHANIC**, Seth Luther, convinced of social inequities, became an eloquent advocate of political action. As a result of a trip down the Ohio River in 1817 from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati, he was imbued with the democratic spirit of the frontier as opposed to the aristocratic distinctions he felt in his native area. Working as a carpenter, he went about New England delivering addresses on measures to improve the health and happiness of the poor.

The Clements Library Associates acquired the first edition of his first published work: *An Address to the Working-Men of New England* (Boston, 1832) based on some of those speeches. In it he excoriates abuses in the factory system which he claimed to know through personal observation of cotton mills then proliferating in New England. As a result of his influence, the first child labor law was enacted in Massachusetts in 1842, though many of his suggested reforms took longer to accomplish and some never were adopted.

**Bentley Historical Library**

OUR FRIENDS AT THE Michigan Historical Collections dedicated their new building on North Campus last month—the Bentley Historical Library. At long last the scattered holdings on Michigan and modern U.S. history have been gathered in one handsome structure, largely the gift of Mrs. Alvin IVL Bentley of Owosso in memory of her husband, a Regent and Congressman. Not only are the manuscript materials safeguarded, but they are much more accessible to scholars here and from around the country. University archives are preserved there as well as the papers of eminent Michiganders. We congratulate our colleagues on their new quarters.

**German View of the Revolution**

THE LIBRARY HAS recently acquired a rare copy of a military pocketbook through the generosity of the Vann Foundation. The *Militarischer Almanach auf das Jahr 1780*... (Leipzig 1779) provides information on the military strengths and organization of the European powers in 1779-80. Almost one hundred pages are devoted to a history of the English colonies and England's war with them, including the earlier military events of the American Revolution itself. A publisher's note indicates that the history was continued shortly, but this is the only known issue of this title.

**Verse or Worse**

We have some books of doggerel that only a determined lover of poetry could admire. To our surprise a similar poem about the Regent Clements turned up in *The Michigan Alumnus* for November 1, 1923. It was called "The Michigan Alphabet." We spare our readers the whole effusion, but since the Library had opened only a few weeks earlier, we reprint the verse on Regent Clements:

C stands for Clements, busy business man
"If no one else can do it, William Clements can"
He makes big machinery for lifting things on hooks;
Then takes his recreation in buying precious books:
And when he gets enough of them to fill to the top,
He builds a handsome library—and then he doesn't stop
But gives both books and building to the University
Of which as worthy Regent he helps shape the destiny.

**Partisan Dogs**

ONE ALMOST SUSPECTS, at times, that the British Army was as intent upon alienating their Tory allies as defeating their enemies. Undecided as to whether to encourage sympathizers or ignore them, the British forces, by their arrogance and thoughtlessness, eroded most of their natural support in the course of seven years of war.

We recently came across an entry in our George Wray Orderly Book dated Charleston, July 12, 1780, which undoubtedly drove many pet-loving Loyalists into full sympathy with the American army. It reads: "The Nausence of Dogs is become so intolerable that the Soldiers off duty cannot get rest. The Commander is therefore under the necessity to give the most positive Orders for all dogs to be Destroyed or turn'd out of Town."