Adams Lectures Again!

The Randolph G. Adams Memorial Lectures will be reinstated this fall for Associates and friends of the Library. Dr. Adams, first director of the Library, died in 1951, and the following year our Associates started a series of fall lectures named in his honor. When the funds collected for that purpose were exhausted, the Library continued a fall program that occasionally featured music and drama along with talks. Now through the generosity of a steadfast friend of Dr. Adams who wishes to remain anonymous, the Library is enabled to revive the named lectureship annually with sufficient funds to attract the most distinguished scholarly speakers.

It is particularly appropriate in this first year of the Bicentennial to inaugurate the new series of Adams lectures with the appearance of Dr. John R. Alden, James Biddle Duke Professor of History at Duke University. Dr. Alden earned his doctorate at the University of Michigan after research at this Library, and he knew Dr. Adams well. He taught at Bowling Green State University and the University of Nebraska before going to Duke. He has also written several books, on Southern Indian affairs, on the American Revolution, on the colonial South, and biographical studies of Gen. Thomas Gage, Gen. Charles Lee, and Gov. Robert Dinwiddie. Dr. Alden won the Beveridge Prize of the American Historical Association and has held a Guggenheim Fellowship. He will speak here on “What Kind of a Revolution Was It?”

Meanwhile, we express our appreciation to the modest donor who makes this program possible and permanent.

Founder’s Day

It Was A splendid program and a great crowd. Associates and friends met in the lounge of the Lawyers Club and heard Prof. John Shy, of our history department and a member of the Committee of Management, speak on the road to war in 1775. He described what separated the Massachusetts colonials from British authority and the steps that led from disagreement to armed resistance. It was an admirable introduction to the ensuing exhibition in the Library on Lexington and Concord.

Some of our most significant letters depicted the events of those April days 200 years ago. Gen. Thomas Gage’s orders sending the troops to Concord, the reports of the British officers who led them, the deposition of Capt. Parker of the Minute Men at Lexington, Mrs. Revere’s letter to Paul, the official printed reports of the rebels and of Gen. Gage that were sent to London, the message that went to all the other colonies, the proclamation of martial law in Boston—they were all on display in an exhibition that could not be equaled in any other location. Most of the items were from our Gage Papers. Explaining the sequence of events and the show is an absorbing booklet, Lexington and Concord, Rationale For Independence, written by our assistant curator of manuscripts, Arlene Phillips Kleeb, who also arranged the exhibition. It was mailed to all Associates and to many libraries.

The tour de force of the tea was an elaborate table bouquet of red, white, and blue flowers on top of a Revolutionary War drum, with ribbon streamers falling over it and edged by four blue candles. At the other end of the Main Hall were souvenir tricorn hats, three British flags, and one of the original chests in which Gen. Gage filed his yearly correspondence.

Throughout the week of our party, WWJ-TV gave two minutes during its news broadcasts each night to a visit to the Library, with Roger Schatz interviewing staff and showing some of the exhibition pieces. WUOM broadcast an in-
interview with Mrs. Kleeb, and there were newspaper feature stories as well. We felt our Bicentennial commemoration opened with a bang. The exhibition is still in place.

Board of Governors
The Associates Board of Governors met at noon on April 18 and heard an encouraging report on membership contributions, plans for next fall’s gathering, and discussed the availability of certain manuscript collections. The secretary showed a number of books to the Board, which authorized purchase of six titles. They are described in other columns. A bequest from James Shearer II of Chicago of $17,000 doubled the fund he had established earlier, interest on which is used for acquisitions.

Committee of Management
The Governing Body of the Library met at night on April 18 and discussed a declining Library budget, means of obtaining supplementary acquisition funds, participation in exhibitions elsewhere, progress in Bicentennial research and publishing, and redecorating needs. The dynamics of the Library were apparent.

Orchards
William Prince and his son, William Robert, were the proprietors of the Linnaen Garden and Nurseries at Flushing, New York, which covered over thirty acres by 1828. Besides being the most prominent commercial grower of fruit trees in the country at that time, the elder Prince distinguished himself by introducing over 100 species of Australian plants into the United States, and by writing a number of important works on horticulture. In one of his works, *The Pomological Manual; or, A Treatise on Fruits* (New York, 1831), he collaborated with his son in describing varieties of apricots, pears, and peaches suitable for cultivation in the United States. This book, one of the most important early American works on horticulture, was purchased for the Library by the Associates.

Indian Treaty
In 1753, just two years before the outbreak of the French and Indian War, Sir William Pepperrell and other commissioners, acting on behalf of Gov. William Shirley of Massachusetts, negotiated a treaty with the Penobscot and Norridgewock tribes of Indians, who lived in what is now the state of Maine. They discussed topics of practical concern to the Indians, such as the price of beaver and rum; while the British representatives complained that the Norridgewocks had failed to fulfill a condition of an earlier treaty to return the captive children of English settlers. The children, in fact, were being held by French allies of the Indians. Running throughout the treaty is a thread of complaint against the French. The Indians were urged not to trust them, particularly their Jesuit missionaries who were attempting, according to the Massachusetts negotiators, to sow seeds of jealousy and misunderstanding between the English and French. The British, on the other hand, were said to have treated the Indians honorably, and to have their best interests at heart. The proceedings of the treaty, entitled *A Conference Held at St. George’s in the County of York* (Boston, 1753), was selected by the Associates for addition to our collections.
The French in Brazil

In 1612 a French expedition headed by René de Labadie settled on the island of Maragnan off the coast of Brazil, in defiance of the papal Bull of Demarcation of 1493 which awarded that part of the new world to the Portuguese. Several Capuchin missionaries, including Father Claude d’Abbeville, accompanied the French colony. When in 1615 the Portuguese forced a complete surrender of the French, the members of the expedition had already produced books and pamphlets giving a first-hand account of the settlement. One of these, d’Abbeville’s *Histoire de la Mission des Pères Capucins* (Paris, 1614) is a recent gift to the Library of the Associates. An important source book for material on the local Tupi Indians, the edition that we received is recorded in only two other copies.

**Atrocity Reports**

**Seventeenth Century Imprints relating to the United States** are hard to come by, and when a choice one was available recently the Clements Library Associates purchased it. Their new acquisition, elegantly bound in morocco, encloses the sobering account by George Fox and other Quakers of *The Secret Workes of a Cruel People Made Manifest* (London, 1659). Made up of reports and letters from persecuted Quakers in New England, it is an indictment of the government in Boston for their harsh treatment. This first tract by George Fox, the leading Quaker, typifies the general tone of thundering condemnation of the New Englanders. This collection indeed demonstrates the statement that in an age of pamphlet writers the Quakers besides being the most prolific were also often the most virulent, and often the most impressive.

**Maple Sugar Stock**

Maple sugar is a peculiarly American product. Early reports of its common use by the Indians begin in 1634 in a *Jesuit Relation* where Father Le Jeune mentions “sweet juice.” Later descriptions call it Indian, Canadian, or American sugar, and the syrup “Maplewater” or “sorup.” The Indians sometimes mixed it with their ground corn. The syrup was reduced to sugar by putting hot stones into the troughs in which it was gathered, and by freezing. The cakes were carried by the Indians in birch bark baskets, called “sugar baskets.” Observers saw no reason why the white settlers could not use it too, especially since there were no sugar cane plantations in this country. Furthermore, many considered the native product as good as the West Indian cane sugar, and even to excel it in medicinal value.

Eventually, production of maple sugar became a quasi-commercial enterprise. In 1792 farmers in New York and Pennsylvania were finding it a profitable business during the sap running season in the spring. In 1809 a writer noted that perhaps two thirds of the families in Vermont made and sold maple sugar. Gradually, the syrup supplanted the sugar in popularity, and as today accounted for most of the output.

Capitalists too were interested in the profitable possibilities as shown in a scarce pamphlet recently purchased by the Clements Library Associates. In this *Constitution* (Philadelphia, 1793) the “Society for Promoting the Manufacture of Sugar from the Sugar Maple-Tree” outlines the corporate structure. An accompanying stock certificate with a list of dividends paid by the treasurer indicates that at least for a time there were returns on the investment.

**What to Study**

**Through the Generosity of the Associates, the Library has acquired a rare and interesting educational guide.** William Godwin’s *Letter of Advice to a Young American: on the Course of Studies It Might Be Most Advantageous For Him to Pursue* (London: 1818) is known in only four other copies in this country. Written for an unidentified American, the *Letter of Advice* sheds considerable light on the intellectual priorities of its author, a noted radical philosopher and political writer who is perhaps equally well known on account of his wife and daughter. Godwin married the famous (or notorious!) feminist author Mary Wollstonecraft in 1797, shortly before her death in childbirth; their daughter Mary was the author of *Frankenstein* and the wife of the poet Shelley.

The recommendations in it may come as a bit of a surprise. Urging a classical education, heavy in emphasis on Greek and Latin literature and history, Godwin advised the Young American “to be very moderate in his attention to new books. In all the world I think there is scarcely anything more despicable, than the man that confines his reading to the publications of the day.” Extensive reading in fine old authors, English history, and metaphysics, Godwin argued, would also aid in forming characters.
of elevated morality. Neither practical subjects nor American authors (Jonathan Edwards is the only exception) have any place in the recommendations, and political works do not appear. Interestingly, Godwin informed the American youth that it was a great virtue of the medieval period that it had placed women on a pedestal to be adored; “Love is never love in its best spirit,” he wrote, “but among unequals.”

*Island Hopping on Maps (Part II)*

In *The Last* issue of *The Quarto*, it was reported how we had sought and obtained five eighteenth-century maps of the West Indies showing land ownership. Since other sorts of documents did not survive the climate there, the maps are particularly important. They can be used to show migration patterns and settlement changes by tracing family names.

This spring we added two more maps showing plantations: George King’s 1798 survey of Tortola with 104 names; and Robert Baker’s magnificent 1749 survey of Antigua. The latter measures over 3½ x 4½ ft. and includes about 400 names. The relationship of these maps showing inter-island family land transfers will make a fine study.

To complete our collection of British land surveys in the West Indies, we would like to acquire Daniel Patterson’s 1780 plan of Granada, Samuel Baker’s 1754 map of Antigua, and William Mayo’s 1756 map of Barbadoes.

*The South in Peace and War*

Interest from the Schoff Fund has recently enabled the Library to purchase two superb nineteenth-century diaries.

Corydon B. Fuller, driven by a compulsion to travel and to see first-hand what the South was like, closed his store in Mishawaka, Indiana, in the spring of 1857. Signing up as a salesman of maps and atlases for J. H. Colton & Co., he embarked in April on a Mississippi River steamboat, bound for Arkansas. He stayed for a year and a half, traveling from door to door, getting to know intimately a rural slave society which at first amused him, but which he gradually came to despise. He recorded daily events and impressions in the two-volume diary, painting particularly vivid character sketches of the planters, school teachers, and storekeepers who were potential customers.

The Nathaniel B. Webb dairy, five volumes covering the period from March, 1862 to November, 1864, is the best Civil War journal we have ever obtained. The author, a nineteen-year-old student with insatiable curiosity and a firm command of descriptive prose, joined the First Maine Cavalry at its formation. He participated in Banks’ campaign in the Shenandoah Valley and all actions of the main body of the Army of the Potomac until captured on June 17, 1863. As a cavalryman, he enjoyed greater freedom of movement than the average soldier, and he took full advantage of it. Besides portraying camp life and military action, he made a continual effort to talk with local people, especially with Negroes, to describe them and record their thoughts. Conversations are often fully quoted in the first person. Over 100 pages cover his imprisonment at Libby and Belle Isle Prisons.

The descriptive and analytical quality of both diaries make them valuable historical sources for social conditions in the Civil War South and worthy additions to the Schoff Collection.

*Director Honored*

At its Commencement last month, Olivet College conferred the honorary degree of doctor of letters on the Library director, Howard H. Peckham. He attended the college his first two years and has remained actively interested in its development.

Mr. Peckham has attended two meetings recently on behalf of the Library. One was a gathering of scholars interested in Loyalists of the American Revolution, a subject on which we have a good deal of printed and manuscript material. The Bicentennial is stimulating research in this area. The other meeting was of a group of rare book librarians, held at the University of Texas, to discuss problems of appraising materials and of encouraging access to them. This group met at the Clements Library in 1973.

Douglas Marshall, Curator of Maps and Newspapers, attended the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society in California, because the theme of the program was the effect on Europe of the discoveries to the West and East. The sessions were somewhat related to the theme of our discovery conference of last November, and the significance of our program was mentioned more than once.