The Texas Show

During January and February, we exhibited fifty remarkably fine books from the library of our friend Mr Everett D. Graff, of Chicago. All of the books related to Texas, for we were celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the annexation of the United States by Texas. The official date of the event was December 29, 1845, but the Republic of Texas seems to have functioned until sometime in February, when the new state officers were installed. Therefore, we compromised and held our celebration on the 24th of January. Our friend Mr Wright Howes, also of Chicago, talked to a gathering of several hundred collectors and friends about the books in the exhibition.

The entire staff of the Library worked on the books, cataloguing them for the bulletin, digging out fascinating facts about them, even reading them to get at their true Texas flavor. We called upon George A. Schwengmann, Jr., of the Union Catalog at the Library of Congress for help in locating copies of the books displayed in other libraries. After appraising the results, we feel rather strongly that libraries should blush a bit, for they don't stack up very well against a single private collection. The University comes out fairly well in a field in which it has not specialized. In two libraries (ours and the General Library) ten titles are represented. All this goes to prove that private collectors deserve a great deal more credit for conserving books than they get.

Since the "Texas Show" we have added several titles exhibited by Mr Graff to this Library. The most exciting of the lot is a superb copy of Ramón Martínez Caro's Verdadera Idea de la Primera Campaña de Tejas y Sucesas Ocurrencias después de la Acción de San Jacinto ... (Mexico City, 1837). To Texans struggling for independence, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was a bête-noir. He was held responsible for both of the tragedies of 1836 — the Fall of the Alamo and the Goliad Massacre — but his

Home To Roost

A few days ago, a faculty member drifted into this office to talk about one thing and chattered about six others. One of his excellent suggestions was that this Library whip together an exhibition of rare books owned by hirelings of the University. We've been thinking about the idea and have decided that there are excellent possibilities in it. We are now convinced that it is a good idea, for a teacher of geography has just given us a corkingly good book and if it is a sample of the kind of thing lurking at the edges of the campus this town has books to show the world.

The generous donor is Charles M. Davis. His convincing demonstration is a copy of Militia Laws of the State of Michigan, approved May 18th, 1846 ... (Detroit, 1846). According to the Imprints Inventory of Michigan, there are only two other known copies. We think the book is now where it belongs — the property of the State of Michigan — for printed plainly on the front cover is the following statement: "This book is the property of the State, and the Officer holding it will be held responsible for its safe keeping and delivery to his successor in office." We note with interest that the original owner was very careful not to write his name in this copy. He had sense.
This man with a beard on his chin
Unhappily, never has been
Acquainted with books,
To judge by his looks,
And this we consider a sin.

Christmas, 1945

Usually, our first number after a Christmas contains a report of the gifts we received in celebration of the holiday. But you will remember that our Number 11 was a sharp departure from the ordinary. Therefore, we missed a chance to boast (in a genteel way), so even in this hot month of July, we shall trot our minds back to the time of cold weather and rejoicing.

The Year of Triumph, 1945, brought us many things, from a "reasonable facsimile" of peace to a housing shortage. We shall be worried about the former until an acceptable UN starts solving our problems, but as far as this Library goes, we are unabashedly frank in saying that we have plenty of room for rarities. Three Christmas presents of impressive importance plugged some holes and left us with slightly reduced shelf-space, but we can handle more of the same.

Two of our Christmas gifts came from Mr Harry B. Earhart, of Ann Arbor. It is the large colored plates for Reise in das innere Nord-Amerika in den Jahren 1832 bis 1834... (Coblenz, 1839) by Maximilian Alexander Philipp, Prinz von Wied-Neuwied. The plates are aquatints colored by hand from the original drawings of Charles Bömer, a distinguished artist who accompanied the prince on his travels. Maximilian followed the Ohio, Mississippi, Missouri and Yellow­stone Rivers and eventually found himself at the source of the Missouri. Staying this side of the Rockies, he and his party spent two exciting winters in the western country. The plates in color are a most magnificent record of the places Maximilian and his party visited. They are particularly val­uable because of the splendid portraits and scenes of activities of the Mandan Indians. The volume is so beautiful that we can hardly leave it alone; it is one of those books to which one returns over and over again for "just one more look."

Horticultural Note

We don't know what our assistant was looking for in the Faculty Directory (and we suspect she has forgotten by this time, too), but what she found is worth passing on to the rest of the world. Here is a sample of three names on page 19.

Bloom, Herbert J.
Bloomer, Mary
Blossom, Philip M.

Voice for Peace

Voices are a study of ours—not, however, in our line of work strictly. We like to hear good rich voices rolling out across a room without caring much what the voice says as long as it is pleasant to the ear. We like, too, the timbre of Marian Anderson's voice as it comes over the radio, particularly when she sings (as no one else can) "Home, Home Sweet Home." Each time she does it, we think of our copy of Payne's Clari, or the Maid of Milan (London, 1823) in which the words were first printed. Perhaps we shall have the pleasure of showing it to Miss Anderson someday. However, that is aside from the point, which started out to be something about male voices. One of the fascinating pieces given the Library by the Vawter's of Benton Harbor is a pair of phonograph records of the voice of Theodore Roosevelt. It wasn't much of a voice from modern standards—or, perhaps, the recording does not do Roosevelt's voice justice. We thought of the Roosevelt records recently when we heard (or, rather re-heard) a speech by Winston Churchill in which he spat out the word "Nazi" in a thoroughly Churchillian snarl. We wonder if
that single word in Churchill's voice might not be excerpted from the record and sent out over all radio waves once a year. The world might then never forget how revoltingly venomous a Nazi could be.

**Strong Beer in a Miserable World**

Our exhibition for the "Victory Reunion" of the Alumni, in June, dealt with early American colleges and universities. One of our favorite items was the 1774 edition of The Laws of Yale-College... (New Haven, 1774). Here we found that students were forbidden to assault the president of the college and were compelled to buy their "strong beer" from the College. Hm! Students cannot yet buy any kind of beer at the Michigan Union.

In trying to find a picture of the Jesuit College at Quebec, we ran across a manuscript ground plan of the establishment. It was made by a British officer after the capture of Canada at the end of the French and Indian War. It seems that such a plan was needed because the college building was being used as a "storehouse for provisions for his Majesty's troops."

Our good friend Mr Lawrence C. Wroth suggested we should show our copy of the 1789 engraving of the Baptist Meeting House at Providence, R. I., because it was erected "for the Publick worship of Almighty God; and also for holding Commencement in."

Already our attention has been called to our omission of Amherst which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Too bad, because we have a good copy of Noah Webster's address at the laying of the cornerstone, A Plea for a Miserable World (Boston, 1820). As of 1946, we cannot see that the world is much less miserable.

**Put On?—Take Off?**

A former Ann Arboran, now a St. Louisian, sent us a clipping of an Associated Press dispatch about how the American Revolutionary War found a place in the Pearl Harbor investigation. Counsel for the committee expressed doubt that any fortress could be called impregnable. He cited the Ticonderoga affair as an example, explaining that Ethan Allen caught the commander unaware with pants in hand. Senator Barkley asked the obvious question; "Was he putting them on or taking them off?" The answer—as far as we are concerned—is found in a painting of the episode which our art department friend Schubert E. Jonas disentombed from a campus art mausoleum. The commander had no pants.

Perhaps more fascinating than the progress of the pants on or off, is the question of what was said on the occasion in question. Ethan Allen says he called on the commander to surrender "in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress." Tradition asserts that more opprobrious terms, such as "darned old rat" or "d. o. skunk" preceded the graceful allusion to God being on the right side.

We have our own version of this part of the tale, too. It comes from our Gage Papers in a letter from Jocelyn Feltham (second in command at Fort Ticonderoga) to Thomas Gage written on June 11, 1775. Feltham reported as follows:

> from the top of the stairs I endeav'our'd to make them hear me, but it was impossible...I then ad'ress'd them, but in a stile not agreeable to them. I ask'd them a number of questions, expecting to amuse them until our people fired, which I must certainly own, I thought would have been the case. After asking them the most material questions I could think of, viz., by what authority they entered his Majesty's fort, who were the leaders, what their intent, &c., &c. I was inform'd by one Ethan Allen and one Benedict Arnold that they had a joint command. Arnold informing me he came from instructions rec'd from the Congress at Cambridge, which he afterwards shew'd me. Mr Allen told me his orders were from the province of Connecticut & that he must have immediate possession of the fort and all the effects of George the third (those were his words).

So, "youse pays yer money an' takes yer cherce."

**Bibliography**

One of the mishandled appendages of "scholarly research" is what the researcher tacks onto a dissertation (or "desert vegetation" as one of our friends calls it) and labels "Bibliography." It is, of course, not a bibliography, but a mere list of the books presumed to have been used in preparing the masterpiece. At best, such lists should be called check-lists, but never "bibliographies." We are all in favor of founding an SPWMB (Society for the Prevention of the Misuse of the Word Bibliography) unless some governmental agency has already preempted that group of letters and we suspect it has.

You see, we like bibliography in all its aspects and we have a hankering to be thought of as bibliographers. The result is that we spend considerable time thinking about what bibliography is, why it is worth worrying about, etc., etc.

One of our number—equally distraught—spent a happy Sunday afternoon (he is tone-deaf and can’t listen to the Philharmonic) recently composing the following explanation:

Critical bibliography is easy; all you have to do is read the book you are attempting to evaluate—critically. But descriptive bibliography is something else again. Properly to describe a book, you must not only have read it—you must know the history of the book, from the original manuscript to the latest editions; you must know all about its various recensions and editions; you must know about the type from which it was printed; the paper on which those impressions were made; the binding or bindings; the previous histories of particular copies; and, last but not least, why it is "collectible."

**Patrick McNiff's Map**

As this issue of The Quarto goes to print, the University Press tells us that there are only ninety-three copies of the facsimile of the McNiff map of the Detroit River left in stock. If you want a copy (and they are handsome things) please send your order to the University of Michigan Press, Maynard Street, Ann Arbor.
Washington & the Dodgers

Sometimes we cannot resist edition collecting. There is Henry Lee's famous address upon the occasion of the death of George Washington, in which he coined the expression "First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen." We had the first edition (Philadelphia, 1800) as well as those printed in New York and London. But as the Dodgers took the lead, we had to get the edition imprinted "Brooklyn, 1800."

Jefferson & Bikini Atoll

We always like to announce the acquisition of another item from the library of the great President and Book Collector, Thomas Jefferson. Our latest is a bound volume of ten pamphlets. It is No. 304 in the Jefferson sale catalogue of 1829. There it is described as *Tracts in Physics.* What more appropriate subject for 1946? We note with satisfaction that our physicist Ralph A. Sawyer has been elevated to the deanship of our Graduate School. His acceptance came from Bikini—or thereabouts.

Central Western States

In *The Quarto,* Number 10, we asked for a name to denominate our part of the country. Our old friend Mr Victor H. Paldtsits sent the sole reply. He suggests that the United States be divided as follows:

- New England States
- Middle States
- Central Western States
- Border States
- Southern States
- Rocky Mountain States
- Far Western States

We prefer "Pacific Coast States" to Mr Paldtsits' "Far Western States," because the latter is apt to provoke the comment "Yes—far west from New York, but what's New York?"

The War in the West

Ten years ago, Mr J. Christian Bay, the distinguished librarian of the Crerar Library (Chicago) published a little book at Christmas-time called *A Handful of Western Books* (Chicago, 1935). Mr Bay is a beguiling writer who communicates his enthusiasm for a book so skilfully that the reader feels he has always wanted whatever Mr Bay mentions. We have waited nearly ten years to find a desirable copy of Anthony Haswell's *Memoirs and Adventures of Captain Matthew Phelps...* (Benington, Vt., 1802); now we have it and it is just as delightful as Mr Bay claimed. What is more important from our point of view is the dramatic tale Phelps gives of the American attempt to break the British and Spanish control of the old Southwest, especially the activities around Fort Penmore. Still, the fascination of the book lies in the macabre story of how Phelps lost his wife and children, one after another, when he tried to move them from Connecticut to the Mississippi. The last two were drowned in the big river just as Phelps reached out his hand to rescue them from a dangerous situation. Whereupon, the bereaved father wrote the following lines:

"In this valley of folly and sin,
Though delights may embellish the way,
They are all, like the joys of an inn,
Too transient to court us to stay."

Spaghetti A La Pablos

"Take a printer (Italian), food (various), and wine (local and sour); mix well in a house in Mexico City. Serve with trouble sauce." Arthur S. Aiton, of our History Department, tells us the recipe suggests that Juan Pablos (the authorized printer in Spanish America for the house of Cromberger, of Seoul) not only produced the first book printed in the New World (1539) but also opened the first Italian restaurant in America.

Perhaps printing didn't pay well, or perhaps there was inflation or something. At any rate, Pablos carried on two kinds of business at his home. The town records of the City of Mexico show that in addition to books, Pablos was authorized to sell food and wines from his house. His place was called a "tienda" which indicates that his wares were to be consumed off the premises. A later action in which Pablos was involved (1547) suggests that the sale of food and drink for consumption on the premises changed the character of the "tienda" to that of "taberna." For this change, Pablos' license was revoked. Shades of the Michigan Liquor Commission!

Book Madness

Since its first issue, *The Quarto* has carried on its first page a quotation of one sort or another, usually regarding the collecting of books. We have never mentioned these quotations before because most of them were self-explanatory. Our present choice is no more obscure than the others, but we wish to call attention to the source of the quotation. It appears as the final paragraph of the most important statement about rare book collecting printed in the last ten years. The author is our friend Mr Lawrence C. Wroth, librarian of the John Carter Brown Library. He wrote the essay for the *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal* (Vol. 3, No. 1, Oct., 1943) in his capacity as "consultant on the acquisition of rare books." We were much taken with it and started planning a reprint. But before we had time to place our order, Princeton University asked us if we would take some of their copies. We have them now and any of our subscribers who have not read the essay are welcome to ask for a copy.