April Meeting

Founder's Day at the Clements Library, being celebrated this year on April 19, is worth marking on the calendar! Starting at 8 p.m. in the library, Lt. Col. John Montresor, descendant and namesake of an eminent mapmaker of the British army during the American Revolution, will speak on his interesting military ancestor to the Clements Associates and the Friends of the Museum of Art.

We will then adjourn to the Museum for a preview of exhibits mentioned elsewhere in the Quarto. Refreshments will be served.

A La Carte

Two Exhibitions at the University of Michigan Museum of Art this month will feature maps from the Clements Library and other major archives.

One is entitled “John Montresor in America: Eighteenth-Century Military Maps.” This display concentrates on the work of Capt. John Montresor (1736–1799), one of the most colorful officers and skilled cartographers to serve in the British army. During twenty-four years of service in America he mastered the various conventions of surveying, drawing, and shading required of military engineers. By using his maps, this exhibition will examine the various themes of military map construction and use in the late eighteenth century.

Different maps indicate the divergent purposes intended for military maps and also the variety of techniques and styles required to obtain topographic information. Exhibited here will be town plans, route surveys, printed maps, reconnaissance maps, troop disposition charts, and a series showing the evolution of a manuscript map from ground plan to finished fair copy. A gallery guide in the form of a poster will be available.

Concurrently there will be an exhibition of maps and survey instruments arranged by graduate students in the Museum Practice Program. It is titled, “Decorative Imagery in Maps, Sixteenth-Eighteenth Centuries,” and emphasizes symbolic properties of the engraver’s art, particularly on Dutch and British maps. An exhibition catalog will be issued.

Both exhibitions will open April 20 and continue through May 26, with a possible extension through the summer.

CLA Board

Two New Members have been welcomed to the Board of Governors of the Clements Library Associates. John D. Wheeler, a native and resident of the Bay City area, is a partner in MCI Insurance of Bay City and Saginaw. Mr. Wheeler has long been interested in the library and is an enthusiastic collector of maps.

Peter N. Heydon, a faculty member of the university, pursues many philanthropic and cultural interests in Ann Arbor. Prof. Heydon published several works about Robert and Elizabeth Browning, and he has assembled a notable manuscript collection.

New Secretary

We are pleased to announce that Vivian C. Maine has joined the Clements staff as secretary, upon the retirement of Agnes Pope. Mrs. Maine brings to the library an impressive background in academic and governmental work. In addition to her clerical skills, she has experience in public relations, which makes her a valuable asset to the Clements Library Associates organization.
"Census" of Revolutionary America

A NEW LIBRARY PROJECT, growing out of the Bicentennial program, begins in 1979. The project will create a "census" of the United States at its origin—in and around 1776. Although the "new" social history is perhaps the most active field of historical studies today, the lack of individual-level data on a national basis has severely limited study of United States society before the Civil War.

Using military records, which are very full for this earlier period, as its core, and incorporating data from non-military sources, the completed census will provide information on roughly a quarter-million Revolutionary veterans and their families. For a population of less than four million at the first Federal census in 1790, the Revolutionary census will encompass a very large proportion of the society. Not until 1850 does the Federal census begin to contain the quantity of data for individuals that the project will reconstitute for the Revolutionary period. The completed project will be of major value to demographers, sociologists, and antiquarians as well as to historians.

With a modest research grant from Rackham and using the magnificent university computer capabilities, Dr. Dann and Professor John Shy of the History Department will undertake a pilot project on selected sample groups of participants in the American Revolution. The pilot project will produce a body of interesting and usable personal information, and will also perfect the techniques of extraction and computerization. With this experience, a much larger grant from outside the university will be sought to establish the project on a national scale.

Civil War Records

The Library Has received an important gift from the estate of Bruce Catton. He bequeathed to the Clements his set of The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies and the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies. This invaluable reference work for the Civil War was begun in 1864 and completed in 1927. The series devoted to the armies comprises 128 volumes. This splendid gift complements the library's growing collection of primary sources for the Civil War.

Bruce Catton served on the Library's Committee of Management from 1973 until his death last fall.

Bequest

The Clements Library recently received a generous bequest of $7,500 from the estate of Jay H. Schmidt. In 1916 Mr. Schmidt received a degree in chemistry from the University of Michigan, later becoming president of Special Toiletries Corp. of Irvington, New Jersey.

When he visited Ann Arbor, Mr. Schmidt regularly stopped at the Clements. His special interest in Abraham Lincoln prompted pleasant conversations with the staff. Mr. Schmidt's death occurred on October 8, 1976. Purchases made possible by his bequest will carry a bookplate honoring his memory.
**Georgia**

Among the first immigrants to Georgia was a group of seventy-eight Germans from Salzburg in Bavaria. They arrived in March, 1734, little more than a year after James Oglethorpe and his trustees had landed the first group of colonists. The Salzburgers were Lutherans, seeking religious freedom, and their story is told in a remarkable collection of narratives entitled *Ausführliche Nachricht von den Salzburgischen Emigranten*, edited by Samuel Urlspurger and published in Germany from 1735 to 1752.

The complete series, three volumes containing nineteen parts, is extremely difficult to obtain and is held by only a handful of libraries; the Clements had owned four of the parts, all imperfect. Recently we acquired complete copies of two of the sections previously owned, plus a third section which is new to us. Best of all, our set now includes two of the key elements of the entire collection: the “Map of the County of Savannah” and the portrait of the colonists’ friend, the Yamacraw chief Tomo-chi-chi.

The map is one of the very earliest to depict the area where the Georgia colonists settled, at the mouth of the Savannah River. It shows the layout of the town of Savannah, the villages of Highgate and Hampstead, Fort Argyle, the upper river settlement of Josephs Town, and the village settled by the Salzburgers and named Ebenezer. The engraved portrait of Tomo-chi-chi was done from a painting of the chief made when he visited England in 1734. It shows him as a dignified, fine-featured man, posing with his arm about the shoulder of his nephew.

The new acquisitions are important source materials for both the history of Georgia and of German immigration. They were acquired through the Shearer Memorial Fund.

**Mary Parker Smith**

We were sorry to learn of the death of Mary Parker Smith, widow of Bay City industrialist Hubert S. Smith, on December 8, 1978. Her long association with the library, her graciousness and generosity made her a valued friend.

In 1955 Mary Parker Smith gave the Clements one of its most significant acquisitions—her husband’s magnificent collection of books and manuscripts relating to British and American naval history. At that time Director Howard Peckham described the bequest: “A man devoted to ships and sailing, to naval exploits and voyages of discovery, may range far and wide in his collecting. Hubert Smith did so, and the breadth of his interests, heightened by the sureness of his taste, is reflected in the books and manuscripts he acquired.”

When we consider both the historical importance and the aesthetic quality of the Smith Naval Collection—from a twelfth-century copy of Vegetius’ *Epitoma rei militaris*, a Willem Blaeu *Atlas* or the elegantly bound letters of Admiral Lord Nelson, we recognize our deep indebtedness to Mary Parker Smith.

**Discovery Professor**

David Beers Quinn, Emeritus Professor of History from the University of Liverpool, is in residence at the library this term as part of our Program in the History of Discovery. His appointment here is being shared with the university’s History Department, where he is visiting professor.

Two courses are presently meeting under Prof. Quinn’s instruction. He lectures in an undergraduate survey course on North America to 1660 which is oriented to the first discoveries of the English, French, and Spanish and the gradual contraction of the native American societies into the interior. A graduate seminar meets once a week in our map room and has drawn students from such diverse fields as anthropology and the history of art in addition to those from history and English literature—disciplines more traditionally associated with the history of discovery.

Prof. Quinn is a renowned authority on the earliest phases of North American discovery and settlement. His books include subjects familiar to all students of American history—Sebastian Cabot, Thomas Cavendish, Sir Walter Raleigh, and the drawings of John White—in addition to edited works on Sir Humphrey Gilbert, the Roanoke voyages of 1584–1590, and Richard Hakluyt’s *Principall Navigations*. Prof. Quinn follows Charles Boxer as the second participant from outside the university’s faculty to teach in the discovery program.

Alison M. Quinn is with her husband in Ann Arbor. Mrs. Quinn was awarded the Wheatley Medal of the British Society of Indexers and has set to work on the enormous task of indexing the thirty-volume series of *Imago Mundi: A Review of Early Cartography*. She has organized a team of assistants drawn from Clements Associates and the Michigan Map Society.
Russian Discovery of America

The Clements is participating in the Russian Arts Festival sponsored by the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Michigan. Our contribution is an exhibit entitled "The Russian Discovery of America: Bering's Voyages, 1728 and 1741," designed by Arlene Shy, Manuscript Curator. The Clements has a fine collection of maps and books relating to the history of Alaska before 1868. This exhibit focuses on the earliest Russian voyages.

As the sixteenth century ended and the seventeenth began, while Englishmen made tentative footholds in Virginia, Russians moved eastward from Muscovy into Asia. They reached the Pacific at the mouth of the river U'la, on the sea of Okhotsk in 1639. Bands of Cossacks, tribute collectors, political exiles, and promyshehenniki (fur trappers) continued to fight their way across Siberia, dotting the riverways with settlements, threatened by fierce Mongolian natives and the cruel climate.

By the beginning of the eighteenth century Russia’s Asian empire extended southward to Kamchatka and the Kurile Islands. Yet little was known about its eastern boundaries. The primary question concerning exploration in this area was whether Siberia and America were joined by land.

Peter the Great, in his drive to modernize and westernize Russia, visited England and Europe, consulting experts in a variety of technical and scholarly fields. Among the learned men he met were cartographers and scientists involved in the numerous maritime explorations being undertaken in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century by England, Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands.

Only weeks before his death he drew his instructions for the first Kamchatka expedition and chose the Danish naval officer Vitus Bering to lead it. In January, 1725, Empress Catherine I carried out her husband’s wishes, directing Bering to “Sail along the shore which bears northerly and which, since the limits are unknown, seems to be part of America. Determine where it joins America.”

The first expedition left the southern end of the Kamchatkan peninsula in July, 1728. Sailing north along the eastern shore of the peninsula, they reached latitude 64° 30’ at the Anadir River. Here native Chukchi told them the coast turned westward after rounding East Cape. Bering continued until he reached St. Lawrence Island, the first part of modern Alaska to be seen. When he reached latitude 67° 18’, having passed the easternmost point of Asia through the strait now carrying his name, Bering concluded that Asia and America were not united and considered his mission completed.

Reports of this voyage were met with criticism. It was not certain, from Bering’s limited discoveries, that America and Asia might not be joined at some point higher than he had reached. There was no positive evidence that the land he discovered opposite Asia was America at all. Since the distance across the strait was narrow, the land to the east could very well be an island far from America.

To answer these criticisms, a second Kamchatkan expedition was launched in 1733. Far more ambitious than the first, Bering was accompanied by a distinguished group of scholars and supported by a party of nearly 600 people.

From the beginning the expedition suffered delays and incredible hardships. Bering’s ineffectual leadership exacerbated the difficulties imposed by great distances, difficult terrain and Arctic cold. Finally, on July 15, 1741, the expedition left Avatcha Bay in two ships, with Bering commanding the St. Paul and Alexi Chirikov in the St. Peter. Shortly after, the two vessels were separated and would not meet again. Chirikov, after searching for Bering, turned eastward and on July 15, discovered the American coast about 100 miles south of the present site of Sitka, Alaska. Bering, sailing eastward on a more northerly course, discovered St. Elias Island (now Kyak) on July 17. As his officers gathered to congratulate him, Bering responded, “A great discovery no doubt, and the accomplishment of all our desires; but who knows where we are, when we shall see Russia, and what we shall have to eat in the meantime.”

His laconic reaction proved prophetic. Although Chirikov returned, Bering did not. The St. Paul was wrecked in November on Bering’s Island, almost within sight of Avatcha Bay. Bering and most of his crew died from scurvy and exposure during the winter months. By spring a remnant of the party, including the great German naturalist Georg Steller, constructed a boat from the wreckage and reached their home base in late August.

Peter the Great’s dream was fulfilled. Russians had proved that Asia and America were not united; an American province was added to the Russian Empire and a new source of great wealth had been found in the fur-rich American coast,