**Birchbark Maps**

We recently acquired several large pieces of birchbark with maps drawn on them. We were particularly excited because only four other examples of such maps are known. Ours had been described as "apparently of Indian origin." On closer examination this seemed unlikely; the handwriting looked decidedly non-Indian, and when we compared it with that of some accompanying geological field notes our suspicions were confirmed. The writing was identical.

The field notes had been compiled by two geologists, W. E. Francklyn and T. Michaud, who mapped virtually unexplored parts of Ontario towards the end of the nineteenth century. Because many of the notes were written on pages ripped from account books belonging to the Canadian Pacific Railway or on hotel stationery, we concluded that the Canadian Geological Survey was remarkably parsimonious with its paper supplies. Perhaps Michaud, in desperation, finding himself stranded on the banks of the Sturgeon River without so much as the back of an envelope to write on, resorted to this more traditional medium. He was probably familiar with the birchbark maps of the Algonquian- and Iroquoian-speaking Indians of the Great Lakes region. We know of the Indians' use of such maps and their techniques of marking the stripped inner bark of the birch tree from contemporary accounts. Michaud simply scratched and penciled his maps on the rather soft, pale surface of the bark.

Although the field notes are concerned mainly with descriptions of the rock types encountered, one is given the impression that these expeditions involved a great deal of hardship and a certain amount of danger. The men traveled mainly by canoe and the sketch maps show their routes, including the portage distances between the various lakes and rivers. Francklyn marks one spot with a cross and adds "2 bears killed."
Correspondence of Admiral Smith

The Career of Thomas Smith is truly representative of the British Navy in the eighteenth century. It is documented in 180 letters purchased by the Associates board at their April meeting. These manuscripts, written on the eve of the Seven Years War, provide a valuable picture of the internal politics of the Royal Navy and their wider implication for the Anglo-American Empire.

Thomas Smith was the illegitimate son of Sir Thomas Lyttelton, and through him, was connected to the politically powerful Grenville-Pitt-Temple “cousinhood.” As a young first lieutenant on the Gosport, in 1729, he nearly ended his naval career prematurely. In the absence of the ship's captain, he compelled a French frigate in the Plymouth Sound to lower her topsails in salute to the Gosport. Smith was immediately court-martialed and dismissed from the service for insulting France. The following day he was reinstated, made a post-captain and given the nickname “Tom O’Ten Thousand” by his admiring fellow seamen.

Smith served in the Newfoundland and Mediterranean stations before taking command at Leith in 1745 with the special duty of preventing communication between the Jacobites in Scotland and French sympathizers. He was commander-in-chief at the Downs in 1755 and in that capacity was ordered to preside at the notorious trial of Admiral Byng. Among his contemporaries, Smith had a reputation for kindness and generosity. Many of the letters in this collection relate to his efforts to help junior officers and they show in fascinating detail the workings of the Royal Navy's patronage system.

The collection contains a number of important letters from America describing British naval maneuvers on the American coast and in the West Indies. In one, written from Hampton Roads, Virginia, in May, 1755, Smith describes the beginning of the ill-fated Braddock Expedition and predicts that the English will “drive the French quite off the continent.”

Summer Refreshment

Henry D. Gilpin (1801–60), Attorney-General of the United States in Van Buren's cabinet, accompanied the President on an excursion to Virginia in July, 1838. The record of his trip is one of two long, beautifully written diary-like travel letters recently purchased on the Duane N. Diedrich Fund. The other one, seventy pages in length, describes an 1828 trip from Philadelphia to Baltimore, then to Pittsburgh, and back again through central Pennsylvania.

In summing up the Virginia trip, Gilpin noted that “I omitted to tell you of one thing which the Secretary of the Navy and myself carefully studied as one of the most important branches of domestic manufacture in the Old Dominion—that is the manufacture of 'a mint sling.' It is an art unknown north of the Potomac, and it really does produce a substance so unique and tempting that one can almost excuse persons for being topers.
“It is thus manufactured. A tumbler is filled one half with the very freshest leaves or sprigs of new mint; the other half is then filled with ice chipped into pieces about the size of a grain of corn. Into the intestines of this is poured exactly a nine glass of the finest old Cogniac to be got. Then exactly another nine glass of quite sweet sugar and water, thoroughly mixed, is poured in. These are the materials.

“The workman then takes this tumbler in one hand and an empty one in the other, and pours the sling rapidly from one to the other, ten or twelve times—hands it to you—you take one sip, then another—and agree that old Virginiav knows what is what.”

Newspapers

In the Past several months, Galen Wilson, a graduate student in the Archives Program at the University, has thoroughly reorganized the Clements Library newspaper collection, preparing a new card catalog with separate indexes by place of publication, title and date. He has done an outstanding service to the library and its users. The newspaper collection covers nearly one thousand American and foreign titles dating from 1694, featuring extensive runs of eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century eastern seaboard newspapers, especially those published in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington. Events of national impact recorded in the collection include the nation’s first four wars—the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War; the anti-slavery crusade; and “manifest destiny.”

Gold Rush Map

The First Maps spawned by the discovery of gold in California were crude efforts by untrained hands. But the demand for skilled surveyors developed as soon as miners began filing claims. One English surveyor named George H. Goddard came out in 1850 and spent the remainder of his long life surveying mountain passes in the Sierras, state boundaries, rail routes, and land grants.

One of Goddard’s more significant accomplishments was the construction of a detailed manuscript map in 1855 on a huge scale of two miles to the inch, which the state failed to buy for $2,000 and which is now lost. It depicted immigrant trails and wagon roads, placer mines, new settlements, and previously unknown mountain configurations.

When Goddard could not sell the manuscript map, he took it to the San Francisco firm of Britton and Rey where it was lithographed in 1857 at a much reduced scale. The resulting copy is a combination of carefully hatched terrain relief and attractive hand-colored counties. One cartobibliographer described it as the most accurate and complete map of California and its gold regions yet published, and we were delighted to acquire the handsome printed version for our collection.

George Townshend Correspondence

George Townshend, like his more famous brother Charles, was a flamboyant public figure in eighteenth-century British politics. His contemporary Horace Walpole describes him as “a very particular young man . . . with much oddness, some humour, no knowledge, great fickleness, greater want of judgment.”

Although George was never as successful as Charles in achieving high office, his talents were not unrecognized. He was appointed aide-de-camp to the Duke of Cumberland in the War of the Austrian Succession but quarreled with his commander publicly and was forced to resign in 1750. Eight years later he returned to the army, fought under Wolfe at Quebec in 1759 but again was involved in a public controversy concerning his conduct toward Wolfe. Through the influence of his brother Charles, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Chatham administration, he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1767. In an attempt to rebuild the Crown’s influence in Irish politics, Townshend was ordered to make his residence in Dublin and directed to break the political power of the local “undertakers” and build a party in the Irish Parliament dependent upon the king. He succeeded, but by using methods so corrupt that he was recalled in 1772.

The library, through the generosity of the Associates, has been able to acquire a small but significant group of letters which completes a missing segment of our present George Townshend collection and expands it with important early, private letters. This correspondence, like our existing collection, falls largely between 1767 and 1771, when Townshend held the post of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
A RECENT ACQUISITION of the Clements Library is the second edition (1704) of Christ's Fidelity the Only Shield Against Satan's Malignity, a sermon preached by Rev. Deodat Lawson in Salem Village, Massachusetts, on March 24, 1692. The setting, of course, was the infamous Salem witchcraft delusion which resulted in twenty executions before it ran its course.

Deodat Lawson, who had been the pastor of the Salem Village church from 1684 to 1688, was recalled from Boston in the spring of 1692 by his successor at Salem Village, Rev. Samuel Parris, to assist in examination of the bizarre antics of several teenage girls in the community. By his own statement, Lawson was attracted not only by general interest in Salem Village but also by assertions of the girls “that my Wife and Daughter, who Dyed Three Years before, were sent out of the World under the Malicious Operations of the Infernal Powers.”

The examining committee pronounced that Satan was indeed at work in the village, and the hunt for his agents—witches and wizards—was on. Thursday, March 24, was a scheduled “lecture day,” and Lawson was invited to give the address. He excused himself from the examinations of the afflicted girls and within earshot of the “hideous scrietch and noise” put the finishing touches on his sermon, a thoughtful and precise disquisition on the nature of Satan and his power.

The magistrates who were responsible for the prosecution of the trials were present to hear the discourse. Full of “thirdlies” and “fourthlies,” the sermon proceeds for ninety-two printed pages, and concluded with the statement that Satan’s visitation was obviously the righteous judgment of Almighty God. “Let us Return and Repent, rent our Hearts, and not our Garments,” Lawson asserted. “Who can tell if the LORD will Return in Mercy unto us?”

The sermon was first published in 1693, and Lawson also published the first historical account of the witchcraft affair: A Brief and True Narrative, which detailed the course of events up to April, 1692. It was published two months before the first “witch” lost her life on the gallows and when public opinion had not yet been soured on the trials.

As sober reflection took hold of Massachusetts late in 1692, the heroes of the day gradually became the villains. When Deodat Lawson left Massachusetts for his native England in 1693, it was possibly to escape the general condemnation leveled in the colony at those who had relentlessly promoted the trials. In 1704, he published in London the second edition of Christ's Fidelity to which he added an appendix defending his position and his belief, even twelve years later, that he had acted righteously in pursuing the Devil.

The world has but two glimpses of Lawson following this publication. In 1714, he wrote to friends in New England begging food and clothing for his starving family; in 1727 another writer referred in passing to “the unhappy Mr. Deodate [sic] Lawson, who came hither from New England.”

While history has repudiated Lawson for his views and actions, at the time it was surely the prudent position to hold. His predecessor in the Salem Village pulpit, the skeptical Rev. George Burroughs of Maine, was imported for the trials as was Lawson—but he was tried as a wizard, convicted, and hanged! We were delighted to have the opportunity to purchase this scarce volume recently, and were able to do so with proceeds of the Harper Fund.

Almanac

THE ALMANAC HAS BEEN CALLED the most universally owned and most widely distributed of all printed items in the United States, surpassing even the Bible. The Clements Library Associates recently purchased a singular copy of An almanack for the year of our Lord 1693 . . . by John Tullery (Boston, 1693), which bears out the usefulness and regard in which early Americans held these little books of guidance, wit, and wisdom. Its original owner apparently retained the almanac long after 1693, adding to it additional pages upon which were recorded, in an almost Elizabethan hand, recipes, accounts, legal notes, cures, and quotations. It has in fact some aspects of a commonplace book.

The almanac proper contains the usual calendar, weather predictions, tides, eclipse information, plus notices of Massachusetts court sessions and a table of the rulers of England. But there is fascination for the researcher in the approximately seventy pages of manuscript notes. In reading the accounts, cures, and other matter, both vital and trivial, one comes very close to the early New England colonist who wrote these notes.