Volunteers

If there are any Ann Arbor Associates, or their friends or acquaintances, who would be able to work several hours a week at the library on a volunteer basis, please contact John Dann or Vivian Maine at the library (764-2347).

Our NEH sheet music project is entering its last year this summer, and we will need to reproduce, on a memory bank typewriter, thousands of cards and file them in the card catalog. The typewriter, which should arrive late this summer, is not difficult to operate and does not require professional typing ability for card reproduction. But it will need the attention of a careful operator for more hours in the week than our staff can provide. The current economic outlook for the University makes it impossible to hire new employees for this work.

We can provide any volunteer with pleasant working conditions, morning or afternoon tea or coffee, reimbursement for travel to and from the library, and our eternal gratitude.

donathan Yankees

So much of our colonial and Revolutionary War history was made in New England and such a large percentage of America’s earliest printed items and histories emanated from this region that we tend to forget that Bostonians were not universally respected.

James Hall, Philadelphian, army officer, banker, and publisher with Thomas L. McKenney of the famous History and Biography of the Indians of North America (1838–1844), was briefly stationed in Boston in 1815. In writing his friend Thomas I. Wharton, he leaves no doubts about his opinion of Yankeeedom.

“T’m heartily sick of Boston—my epaulet procures me nothing but insult. The people here look upon officers with disgust and terror. No gentleman who has a virgin daughter invites one willingly to his house. They seem to think we will exercise the right of search upon all female bottoms, and that no maidenhead is safe if an officer can get within pistol shot of it.

“They think of nothing but making money, and they judge of the abilities of every stranger by his dexterity in this admirable science. They consider every person as dangerous who is not engaged in this way—preaching, praying, lying, and cheating alternately take up their time. D—mme, Tom, if you or I could live here.

“I do not think myself safe in the street without my dirk on. And then they are so religious. I am told that no man of ‘steady habits’ ever thinks of raising a stake before he has said a prayer and sung a psalm, and that even to think of such a thing on Sunday would subject him to rigors of the blue laws. It is said, that if a barrel of beer works on Sunday, it is immediately knocked in the head.”

Hall’s opinions were partly the result of Federalist New England’s vocal opposition to the War of 1812, and he goes on to describe, “I had the honour of seeing Gov. Strong inducted into office upon his reelection, upon which a sermon was preached wherein the Parson informed us that the victories we had gained were not to be attributed to the exertions of the army or navy but to the magnanimous clemency of G. Brittain!—who patiently suffered us to beat her, and like a good Christian turned the other cheek—and all, verily, because she loved us so much that she [could] not bear to chastise us!”

Shortly after the letter was written, Hall embarked on the Enterprise with Stephen Decatur’s expedition to Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli. The mission was a brilliant success, and Hall’s opinion of New Englanders and their interpretation of historical causality must have sunk even lower!
Changing of the Guard

In Omitting The December issue of the Quarto, we failed to notice that the Clements Library Associates have new officers. At its October meeting, the Board elected Harriet S. Upton its new chairman and Duane N. Diedrich the new vice chairman.

Mrs. Upton, Ann Arbor native, daughter of the late Professor Clarence Skinner, wife of David Upton of St. Joseph, has been a member of the CLA Board since 1966.

Duane N. Diedrich, of Muncie, Indiana, holds a doctorate from the University's School of Business Administration. He is a collector of manuscripts and has been a member of the board since 1975.

At the same time that new officers were selected, the board voted its gratitude for the outstanding service performed by Robert P. Briggs, outgoing chairman, who had served since 1975. Mr. Briggs retains his seat on the board.

Revolution Remembered

The Final Volume in the library's Bicentennial Publications Series, The Revolution Remembered: Eyewitness Accounts of the War for Independence, edited by John C. Dann, has been receiving a good deal of most welcome publicity. The director has been interviewed by radio stations in Rochester, New York, and St. Louis, Missouri, and by the stations of Northern Michigan University and the University of Michigan, WUOM.

Mr. Dann appeared on public television in Bay City, and on July 4th the Today Show will feature a segment on the new book. Released by the University of Chicago Press in May, The Revolution Remembered is expected to receive reviews in all major journals and newspapers. A full-page advertisement has already been published in the New York Times Book Review.

Boondoggle

In This Election Year we have received a vivid reminder that politics and politicians of the nineteenth century were not very different from those of today. Charles Ogle, Whig representative from Pennsylvania, spoke in the House of Representatives on April 14, 1840 on the subject of "The Regal Splendor of the President's Palace."

Delivered in response to an appropriations bill, Mr. Ogle's speech moved to strike out a clause in the bill "for the alterations and repairs of the President's house and furniture, for purchasing trees, shrubs, and compost, and for superintendence of the grounds, three thousand and sixty-five dollars. While ostensibly an objective attempt to save the people's money, the speech sounds very much like a personal attack on the incumbent Democratic President, Martin Van Buren.

It was Representative Ogle's contention that the presidential salary of $25,000 a year should be sufficient to cover all expenses and there
should be no emoluments of any kind. President Van Buren, he said, had been "laying up" from $15,000 to $20,000 a year in "hard money" at a time when the average citizen was suffering economic hardship.

To point out the President's lavish style of living, Ogle described the furniture of the "palace," listed the plants in the White House gardens, which he sarcastically compared to those at Versailles, and gave a sample French menu from one of the "court feasts" served in the "Palace Banqueting Room." He seemed particularly indignant over the installation of bathrooms in the White House, remarking that President Adams was in the habit of walking 100 rods to the Potomac each morning for his bath!

Besides providing a fascinating glimpse into life at the executive mansion in the mid-nineteenth century, the pamphlet enables one to compare relative costs for both ordinary and luxury items. As to what effect it may have had on Van Buren's political future we can never be certain, but the fact is that he was decisively defeated in the 1840 election by William Henry Harrison.

But it was George Catlin, Putnam's second, and favorite, son, who was a special problem, special because he was so like his father and yet so unlike him. It is very much to Putnam's credit that he was able to show such kindness and understanding to all of his sons, regardless of their failings, and that he especially appreciated the son who took the different route and became the best-known Catlin of all.

Recently the Clements Library acquired two interesting letters to and from Putnam Catlin, written when he must have had great hopes for the legal career which lay ahead for George. Putnam gave George his greatest trust by scraping together the money to send him to the best law school in the country, at Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1817. George tried very hard to become a good lawyer, but as a student he spent his free time executing portraits, of distinguished jurists among others, and he knew that painting was his true profession. George Catlin's biographers have assumed that his father was not pleased at first by his son's preference for art over law, and there has been little heretofore to document this aspect of George's career. But in a letter to Thomas I. Wharton, a business associate and notable Philadelphia lawyer, Putnam wrote the following on December 13, 1819:

"I shall send this by my son George who intends going to Philadelphia to spend the Winter. He is a clever fellow and although Messrs. Reeves & Gold (whose Lectures he attended) have pronounced him a good young Lawyer, and though he has admission in the courts, he goes to try his hand at painting, little doubting that he shall eventually succeed. I strongly hope he may."

Wharton's reply to Putnam, some months later, is reassuring: "Your son has every prospect I think both of gaining a living and making himself a name here. We are not rich enough yet to give much encouragement to historical and fancy painting but by portrait painting several persons here gain a respectable income and his talent in that department is very considerable. I do not doubt of his gaining reputation in his profession. Anything I can do to promote his interests I will gladly render."

George Catlin continued to paint portraits for much of his life, in order to finance his many trips into the western wilderness where he would document the American Indian as no other painter did. These two letters were purchased with proceeds from the Duane N. Diedrich Fund.

\textit{Father and Son}

\textbf{Few Concerns} are so precious to a father as the welfare of his sons. Putnam Catlin, a lawyer/farmer who lived much of his life in north-eastern Pennsylvania, believed fervently that a father's role was to teach and counsel his children and to direct them toward disciplined, respectable pursuits. Putnam's own father had brought a rigid Puritan heritage to bear on his only son's upbringing. But when Putnam became the father of nine boys, at a time in the early nineteenth century when the young were particularly adventurous and rebellious, his parental precepts were sorely tried.

For all of Putnam Catlin's fine qualities, he remained singularly unaggressive when it came to making money. He was able to educate his children from his own store of knowledge and managed to send only two sons through the local academies and on to law school and one to West Point. Of his nine sons, two died early of illness, another two succumbed to drink, and another spent a long life troubled by financial mismanagement.
Terra Incognitae

Terra Incognitae: The Journal for the History of Discoveries has been edited at this library since 1977 by Douglas Marshall, Curator of Maps. The collection of discovery materials here makes it possible to check references to obscure citations in the manuscripts submitted.

The forthcoming issue, volume 12, includes three lengthy articles by individuals with connections to the library. Charles Boxer, who served as visiting professor of history in 1978, sponsored by our Program in the History of Discovery, submitted "Sailing Orders for the Portuguese East-Indiamen of 1640 and 1646"; Martin D. Snyder from Duquesne University spent a summer here in 1976 on a Discovery Program Fellowship, and he authored "Bishop Geraldini and the Itinerarium of 1522"; and Michigan Professor of History Charles Gibson contributed "Conquest and So-Called Conquest in Spain and Spanish America."

Until 1979, the journal had been published in Amsterdam, but beginning with volume 11 it became the responsibility of Wayne State University Press—a publisher which offers the advantage of proximity and a regular schedule of production. Moreover, at the annual meeting in 1979, the Society for the History of Discoveries voted to award a prize of $200 for the best article to appear each year. There is hope this will encourage contributions.

Seduced and Abandoned

ONE OF THE MOST popular works of fiction of the early days of the republic was Susanna Haswell Rowson's Charlotte, A Tale of Truth. The book was first published in London in 1791 and had gone through a hundred editions by 1860. The Clements Library, which has for years tried to obtain as many editions as possible of this best-selling book by one of the country's first woman authors, has twenty-nine of the first hundred editions. Now we have also an early edition of Mrs. Rowson's sequel, Lucy Temple: One of the Three Orphans.

The sub-title of Charlotte—"a tale of truth"—is apparently accurate, for though it is fiction, it seems to be based on experiences which occurred within the author's family. Charlotte, a young woman pupil in an English girl's school, is seduced by an army officer, and elopes with him to America. He then deserts her; she has an illegitimate daughter and dies in poverty. The later work, Lucy Temple, follows the adventures of the daughter, who narrowly escapes marrying her own brother. Like Charlotte, it seems to be based on fact.

Though not a native American, Mrs. Rowson spent most of her life in this country. She and her husband, an amiable but unenterprising sort, made their living in the theater for some years in the 1790's. During this time she wrote or adapted several dramatic pieces and composed song lyrics for the use of their company. In 1797 she opened in Boston a "young ladies' academy" which became very successful and which she operated for the next quarter-century. She continued to write, producing poems, novels, and textbooks, and serving for three years as editor of the Boston Weekly Magazine. She died in 1824.

Lucy Temple was published posthumously in 1828, and became nearly as popular as its predecessor. It went through at least thirty-one editions, first as a separate publication, then in combination with Charlotte, the two being published together under the title of Love and Romance. The Clements copy of Lucy Temple is dated at New York, 1851.

Summer Exhibits

IN CONJUNCTION WITH the University's observance of the International Year of the Child the library mounted a widely popular exhibit this spring on "Childhood in Early America."

The current exhibit, which will run through July, is "Black Voices from America's Past: A Tribute to Robert Hayden." A well-known poet and professor at the University, Mr. Hayden died earlier this year. The exhibit includes printed and manuscript items by Phillis Wheatley, Benjamin Banneker, Sojourner Truth, and Frederick Douglass; directories of Black citizens in Philadelphia and Chicago; documentation of Black participation in the Revolution; numerous autobiographies of Blacks published before the Civil War. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies at the University.

Still in the planning stage for an exhibit in August and September is a fascinating look at American gadgetry and labor-saving devices of the nineteenth century.