Spring Meeting

REAR ADMIRAL G. S. RITCHIE, former Hydrographer of the Royal Navy and currently the President of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco, will present a slide lecture entitled "Captain Cook as a Hydrographic Surveyor" at our Spring meeting of the Associates. The date is Tuesday, April 14. The time is 8:00 in the evening. Refreshments will be served following the program. We hope you can attend.

Exhibition

FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS the response to Captain James Cook's accomplishments has been one of unequivocal praise. A contemporary called him "the most able and enlightened navigator that England ever produced." J. C. Beaglehole, the eminent biographer of Cook, wrote, "His competence changed the face of the world." In his Master Mariner, Daniel Conner succinctly described Cook's contribution:

"All three Pacific voyages of Capt. James Cook have been remembered as great, even epic journeys. Over a period of some ten years his explorations enlarged the known world far more greatly and far more suddenly than in the thousand years before. He mapped New Zealand, crossed the Great Barrier Reef to chart the long eastern shoreline of Australia, discovered Hawaii, and examined the northwest coast of America, thus completing the outline map of the Pacific for the first time. No navigator before Cook had made voyages of such length or brought back so much accurate knowledge.

"Cook's achievements as seaman, navigator, surveyor, hydrographer, and leader of men have attracted considerable notice from historians over the two hundred years since his death. . . . Not only did Cook map the islands and coastline of the Pacific but also he, his officers and men, through their journals and sketches, recorded and commented upon the cultures they encountered. In addition to witnessing strange ceremonies, they noted these peoples' possessions, beliefs and ways of governing themselves, recorded their daily activities, learned a few words of their languages, and sketched their homes and countryside."

An exhibition, "The World of Captain Cook," coincides with the Associates' Spring Meeting. Drawing from the Library's fine collection of maps, engravings and contemporary published accounts describing the extraordinary achievements of Cook, the exhibit focuses broadly on his impact on the eighteenth century.

Changes

ANY MICHIGAN RESIDENT, or person with an eye on the condition of the American automobile industry, is aware of the financial difficulties presently facing the state. The University has made reductions in all departmental budgets in the current fiscal year and projects even further cuts for next year. Out of a library staff of eleven full and part-time employees a year ago, two have been lost this year, a third will go this summer.

Simultaneously, the library, as currently arranged, is almost completely out of shelf space. Some thought and planning has been given to a modest, single-level underground addition, but the economic climate is not conducive to raising the one and a half to two million dollars needed, barring a major and unexpected gift or bequest.

Plans are now underway to maximize efficient use of current space and in the process preserve and even strengthen security. In the process, we are adapting ourselves to a reduced staff. The beautiful main room and rare book room will be untouched, but work and staff areas will be modified, collections and staff members shifted within the building, and staff members' responsibilities changed. We actually expect to have a better library for it and will share details with you in future Quarto issues.
of Old Lyme, Connecticut, through the good offices of her daughter, Mrs. Lovell Royston of Ann Arbor.

Overshadowed in the history books by the stunning heroics of Perry and McDonough, Chauncey had a distinguished career. In time-honored naval tradition, he went to sea as a boy, rising to command of a merchant vessel at age 19. Chauncey entered the U.S. Navy in 1799, serving during the undeclared war with France. He performed gallantly during the Tripolitan War and achieved the rank of captain in 1806.

After several years in the employment of John Jacob Astor, Chauncey was called back into service by President Madison and in September, 1812, was appointed commander of the Great Lakes. From the base at Sackett’s Harbor, he created a respectable naval force. He gave valuable support to the army at the reduction of York and Ft. George and defeated the British fleet on Sept. 28, 1813.

After the war, he was assigned to the Washington, commanded the American squadron in the Mediterranean, and helped negotiate a treaty with Algiers. The three letterbooks, including retained copies of all his correspondence, cover the entire period of his War of 1812 and Mediterranean service.

Book Scout

WE HAVE LEARNED THROUGH LONG experience never to underestimate our Associates! The Doctors Kish (Professor and Mrs. George Kish) occasionally attend household auctions in the greater Ann Arbor area. Mrs. Kish spotted a few volumes at a sale recently which she suspected were “up our alley,” secured them, and generously delivered them by way of her husband to the Director’s desk as a gift.

What she found was a complete, bound run of the first nine volumes of Walter R. Benjamin’s The Collector (N.Y., 1889-95), the first periodical devoted to autograph collecting. It doubled as a catalog for mail order purchasers. Benjamin was one of the pioneers in the field, and the magazine helped to create a national market. Benjamin’s own intelligent and educated understanding of letters and documents helped to raise a sentimental hobby into a true handmaiden of historical scholarship. Both the firm and The Collector continue to flourish almost a full century later. Fewer than half a dozen other institutions can boast possession of these volumes.
Mrs. Randolph G. Adams

WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED here of the death of Mrs. Randolph G. Adams on January 30 in Austin, Texas. She was the widow of the Library’s first director.

From 1923 to 1951, Helen Adams arranged all the teas and receptions held at the Library and set the high standards of elegance that made them memorable. In addition she entertained distinguished Library guests in her home on Norway Road. She was active in the Episcopal Church and helped organize Ann Arbor’s Thrift Shop. In honor of her late husband she established a Directors Fund for the benefit of the Library. Memorial contributions may be made to it.

In 1964 Mrs. Adams left Ann Arbor to live near her son Richard, professor of anthropology at the University of Texas. Her other son, Thomas, is director of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University. The funeral was held in Philadelphia, and she was buried beside her husband, Dr. Randolph G. Adams.

Family Reunion

FIVE YEARS AGO, the library acquired a small but important series of letters and documents of David A. Ogden (1770–1829), New York City lawyer, congressman, and land speculator, who after 1812 took up residence in a beautiful country house on one of many islands he owned in the St. Lawrence River.

The Ogden family was a large one, distinguished over successive generations by real ability. David A.’s father, Abraham (1743–1798), had been a patriot in the Revolution, Attorney General of New Jersey, and was appointed commissioner by Washington to negotiate a treaty with the Iroquois. His grandfather, David Ogden (1707–1800), had been a member of the governor’s council, a judge of the New Jersey Supreme Court, and a delegate to the Stamp Act Congress, although he later became a Loyalist. In England after the war, he became the agent for New Jersey’s Tories in arguing claims against the Crown. Our manuscript collections have long contained a number of his letters.

Thanks to the magnificent generosity of William Niven of Oyster Bay, Long Island, we have been given the papers of Thomas Ludlow Ogden (1773–1844), brother of David A. Ogden who himself is also well represented in the collection.

According to tradition, Thomas L. Ogden, as a very little boy, inflicted the only “battle scar” upon the person of George Washington in a playful swordfight while the commander in chief was living with the family at Morristown. He graduated from Columbia, was admitted to the New York bar in 1796 and, with brother David A., practiced law in conjunction with Alexander Hamilton until the latter’s demise in the celebrated duel of 1804. He was one of the most prominent attorneys in the city, representing leading corporations and families, primarily in Chancery Court. His major client was the Holland Land Company, which held title to a good portion of the unsettled lands of western New York State.

The vast collection of papers consists of personal correspondence, hundreds of letters of Paul Busti and John J. Vander Kemp, agents for the Holland Land Company, and neatly arranged bundles of legal papers involving huge sums of money in dispute between the leading mercantile firms of New York City from the period of the War of 1812 until 1844.

Shortly after receiving this collection, Professor and Mrs. Henry V. Ogden of Ann Arbor gave papers of a third brother, Gouverneur Ogden, also a lawyer, who removed to the St. Lawrence landholdings of the family, served as agent for his brothers, erected mills and an iron manufactury, and was a highly-respected judge in the county courts.

Legal historians, students of land speculation in Western New York, and those interested in some noted, long-standing disputes between the Indians and the Ogden Land Company will find these collections to be a rich and unexplored body of source material.

Wyeth Portfolio

THE LIBRARY HAS HEARD from enough of you to believe that the handsome A. N. Wyeth portfolio arrived safely and was much appreciated. They are likely to have some value in the rare book market some day.

They were sent only to dues-paying Associates, and the copies remaining will be distributed only on that basis. If non-members should eye your copy covetously, please suggest that they consider joining our ranks!
More Colorful Library

Colorplate Books, volumes containing either hand-colored copper and steel engravings or colored lithographs, have long been highly sought after commodities on the rare book market. The finest examples are breathtaking in terms of beauty, and increasingly so in terms of price as well.

Audubon's bird folios, the highly prized first book purchased for the University of Michigan library, is a treasured possession of the Hatcher Library's Rare Book Room. The Clements has an outstanding collection in the field of Americana, but there are also key titles which have eluded us. One of the problems associated with them is the almost insatiable market for prints which can be framed and put on the wall. Most of these books were published in relatively small quantities anyway, and a good proportion of those which do appear on the market are broken apart, the prints sold individually at a cumulative, astronomical sum. True book lovers shudder, but the laws of the market are stacked against them.

The Clements has had the remarkable good fortune to pick up not one, but two of the landmarks in American colorplate publishing. William Birch's Views of Philadelphia (Phila., 1800) is the grandfather of them all, the very first one issued by this country's presses and paint brushes. A copy in the original binding "walked in" to a Philadelphia bookshop while the library's director was present. To see it is to fall in love with it, and the Clements Library Associates committed themselves at their fall meeting to help raise the necessary funds to bring it to the library. Fund raising efforts for this continue. The volume contains twenty-eight copperplates on wide-margined, handmade paper. The views are delicately colored, lively street scenes of the nation's capital and are accompanied by a map of the city.

This winter, we were offered the equally magnificent Chicago Illustrated (Chicago, 1866-67) edited by James W. Sheahan. Just as Birch's volume stands as a landmark of American copperplate engraving, Sheahan's book is one of the monumental examples of lithography. Of the fifty-two plates showing in brilliant detail a city on the eve of fiery destruction, about half are tinted with a single stone, half with two stones, and five plates exquisitely hand colored. The magnificent volume was purchased for the library by a generous and highly-valued Ann Arbor Associate.

Both volumes must be seen to be appreciated, and the library issues a standing invitation to Associates to "stop up" and let us "show off our etchings!"

Western Road

Almost Twenty-Five Years Ago the library acquired two exceedingly important orderly books describing the 1764 march of Col. Henry Bouquet's army from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to the Muskingum River in Ohio. This expedition forced the surrender of 363 prisoners held by Indians and effected a decade-long peace. The army followed the Forbes Road over the Pennsylvania mountains, a route cut by Colonel Bouquet for the forces of General John Forbes in the French and Indian War.

Historians have long been puzzled by many details of this famous road, but now we know that the surveyor on the expedition left a journal. This invaluable work has joined the Bouquet orderly books in the Clements Library.

Edward G. Williams of Pittsburgh has spent over thirty years studying Colonel Bouquet and the Forbes Road. A self-described "road-scout-historian," he has skillfully edited and published the orderly books and retraced hundred of times what is known of the original road, visualizing the area with the ruts of wagon wheels and hoofprints. This is no mean task considering the modern obliteration of landmarks by highways and land developers.

Several years ago Mr. Williams became enormously excited when it was discovered that Mr. Robert Crouse living in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, was descended from Samuel Finley, the assistant engineer on Bouquet's march in 1764. In their possession was a small journal with Finley's remarks and surveyor's notes, recording distances between landmarks, streams, Bouquet's camp sites, and the character of the topography and soil along the way.

Mr. and Mrs. Crouse made the journal available to the library with a generous contribution in honor of his grandparents, John Denny and Jenny Todhunter Finley who had valued and preserved it, and Mr. Edward G. Williams, who is editing it for publication.