Fall Music

We are proud to be able to present Joan Morris and William Bolcom, Clifford Jackson, and the brass band of Heritage Americana in an evening of song and band music. This fall's Associates meeting will celebrate the near-conclusion of the NEH sheet music project by featuring songs, dances, marches and other popular music of the mid-1850's to the turn of the century.

Ms. Morris, Mr. Bolcom, and Mr. Jackson, nationally known for their many performances of nineteenth- and twentieth-century popular songs, are featured on several highly acclaimed recordings on Nonesuch, RCA, and Columbia labels.

The premier soloist with the brass band will be cornetist Henry Meredith of Ontario, a specialist in the music of the Victorian period. The brass band of Heritage Americana, costumed in period uniforms, will perform on authentic nineteenth-century brass instruments under the direction and consultation of Robert Garofalo, associate professor of music at Catholic University, and Mark Elrod of Washington, D.C.

The date is October 20, Tuesday evening, at 8 P.M. There will be an Intermission.

Joan Morris and William Bolcom have performed to rave reviews at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Washington's Kennedy Center. Our fall program promises to be of a quality which would do any of those great auditoriums justice.

Monster Concert

With a musical program on tap for our October meeting, and the football season ushering back the half-time show, it might be appropriate to look at one of the stranger phenomena in our past—the giant, open-air concert.

Reputedly the first such extravaganza occurred in New Orleans in 1864 and was the brain-child of Patrick S. Gilmore, the noted musician then directing a Massachusetts regimental band. To quote the recently acquired National Peace Jubilee and Musical Reporter, Gilmore "conceived the idea of celebrating the return of Louisiana to the Union by a demonstration altogether novel . . . a chorus of ten thousand voices, selected from the children in the public schools, was organized, together with an orchestra of five hundred musicians."

According to the newspapers, "the first piece performed was 'Hail Columbia,' first time, full band; second time, full band and grand chorus; third time, full band, grand chorus, and a chime of all the bells in the city; fourth time, full band, grand chorus, chiming of bells, and a great gun accompaniment by fifty pieces of artillery."

The performance was held at a "monster amphitheatre" erected in Lafayette Park, seating 15,000 spectators, almost an equal number of performers, and a vast crowd of civilians and soldiers besides. "Fifty blacksmiths . . . kept time on their anvils."

"The effects of this effort were very grand; and the loud cheers that rent the air from the thousands assembled, gave the stamp of success to the first series of what had been looked upon as an experiment."

World Turned Upside Down

"I have the mortification to inform your Excellency that I have been forced to give up the posts of York and Gloucester, and to surrender the troops under my command, by capitulation on the 19th inst. as prisoners of war to the combined forces of America and France."

So the news came from Lord Cornwallis to Sir Henry Clinton in a letter dated October 20, 1781, which is one of many priceless documents and beautiful maps making up the exhibit "Yorktown: The World Turned Upside Down" now showing at the library.

To accommodate out-of-town visitors, the library will be open from 9 to 12 A.M. on Saturday mornings before the Navy (Sept. 26) and Iowa (Oct. 17) football games. Don't miss it!
Volunteers

Are there any Ann Arbor Associates with leisure time who would be interested in volunteering one or two days a week to help organize a very exciting Library project?

The Clements Library is justifiably proud of the completeness of its cataloging, not only in books, but in manuscripts, maps, and newspapers. Some years back, we completed the cataloging of American maps in printed books up to 1840, and we have continued that process through the mid-nineteenth century.

There is one glaring omission in our system. We have not cataloged prints with American subjects found in books. Nor does any other Americana library have such a catalog. The American Antiquarian Society is making a fine effort to catalog wood, steel, and copper engravings produced in this country. But until the third and fourth decades of the nineteenth century, the majority of the best American views were published in European books.

It is probably a safe statement that on the basis of its total collections of both native and European origins from the Age of Discovery through the Civil War, and on the basis of condition, the Clements Library's holdings of printed books illustrated with American views and subjects is unsurpassed among rare book libraries. At the present time, if someone wanted prints of Delaware Indians, American farm buildings, the fortifications at St. Augustine, or the capture of John André, he would have to rely on browsing the curators’ memories, and a scattering of specialized, obscure, and largely incomplete finding lists. If a comprehensive Americana iconography should ever be undertaken, the Library would be a first-rate place to do it.

The grandest projects have small beginnings. What we need is one or more volunteers who could help formulate a comprehensive cataloging system, test it on various sorts of illustrative material, and begin the long process. The following stage might be appropriate for foundation support.

If you are looking for a very creative project involving the careful handling of the fascinating and rare illustrated books on our shelves, please contact John Dann at 764-2347. The ability to type and to make a regular, sustained commitment of time are qualities which would be especially valuable.

Tunes

Two Music Books recently acquired by the Library are of more than ordinary interest. Israel Porter's manuscript of secular tunes, copied (according to an inscription) in 1775, is one of only four secular manuscript volumes in the Library's collection. And if datings of this and the Library's Carleton manuscript are to be believed, this is Clements' earliest secular manuscript, taking its place with about 170 similar pre-1800 items located in the United States to date. Porter was not the only copyist of the eighty-five songs and instrumental tunes in this book; the work of several different hands is clearly evident. Many of the songs have numerous additional stanzas.
of text; there is one by "I. Porter" and several by the psalmist Timothy Swan. The instrumental pieces range from the lively dance tune "Hob or Nob" (often texted "The Campbells are coming . . .") to a two-part reduction of "Handel's Water Piece."

The second volume, printed at Exeter, New Hampshire, in 1818, is a fine example of Yankee ingenuity. It is two books in one: an edition of Isaac Watts' Psalms and Hymns (without music) and a collection of textless tunes, bound not sequentially but in vertical juxtaposition, their pages separated in a "Dutch-door" effect. For use in the Congregational worship service, this handy book permitted any tune to be matched with any text, provided they were of the same meter. Thus, the worshipper could turn first to the announced psalm or hymn text in the top section, then to the chosen tune in the bottom section—all within his one volume. The only other thing he needed was a nimble pair of eyes to read words and music simultaneously.

This innovation was the work of one Moses Elliot, who remarks: "This construction, the benefit of which is secured to the inventor by patent, it is believed will be found convenient for the purposes of public worship." The book was evidently prepared for local use; its sixty-five subscribers, listed on the last page, hail from an area between Concord, New Hampshire, and Andover, Massachusetts. These exceptionally fine additions to our music collection were given by Joyce Bonk in memory of her late husband, Prof. Wallace J. Bonk.

"The Bugle That Woke America"

Theodore Roosevelt began his most strenuous political crusade in the last four years of his life. His goal was to persuade the American people to enter World War I, to convince them that the preservation of their rights depended on fighting Germany. During the winter of 1915-16, using the public fear generated by the sinking of the Lusitania, Roosevelt concentrated on the issue of neutral rights, using it as a basis for his demands that America prepare for war.

In a speech given in Denver, Colorado, during the fall of 1916 TR made one of his most searing attacks on Wilson's diplomacy and his most extreme statement of preparedness, to the point of urging universal military service: "I speak to you," TR warned, "especially of the prime duty of self defense. I abhor unjust and wanton war. I shall always do, as I have always done, every-

thing to secure an honorable and lasting peace. But it is folly to say that we shall never be engaged in war. The events of the past two years show that as the world now is, such an assumption is . . . not only folly, but criminal folly. . . . Our prime duty is so to prepare as to minimize the number of occasions when war will come and to ensure when it does come, it shall result neither dishonorably nor disastrously for the American people. At this moment we are not ready in any way, physically or spiritually. . . . Mr. Wilson has not only been too proud to fight, but has also been too proud to prepare." As TR's biographer William Harbaugh wrote: "If the Colonel was not literally 'The Bugle that Woke America,' he was surely the leader of the corps. . . ."

The Clements Library has recently acquired Roosevelt's own autographed typescript, from which he delivered his famous Denver speech, through the generosity of Professor Margaret Maxwell, University of Arizona.

Choctaw Indians

The Library has had the good fortune to pick up two exceedingly scarce publications of the Choctaw Nation, both printed in once-important settlements of Oklahoma which have entirely disappeared.

The Constitution, and Laws of the Choctaw Nation (Doaksville, 1852) contains both the fundamental body of law and all session laws yet in force passed between 1834 and 1851. It is one of those little gems of frontier printing which quickens the pulse of any Western Americana collector, containing not only the stipulations of a highly democratic political system, but a multitude of specific acts telling a great deal about the social conditions and settlement patterns of a civilized and proud people.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, George Hudson delivered a Message of the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation to his general council. They then passed several resolutions expressing dismay at the political divisions in the United States, but stating clearly that, in event of armed conflict, the Choctaw Nation "shall be left to follow the natural affections, education, institutions and interest of our people, which indissolubly bind us in every way to the destiny of our neighbors and brethren of the Southern States." This pamphlet, existing in but one other known copy, was printed at Boggy Depot in April, 1861.
Bibliographies

A Rarely Appreciated Fact of scholarship and librarianship is that notable historical research and publication has almost always been preceded by the exacting work of a dedicated bibliographer. Men such as Obadiah Rich, Henry Harrisse, Henry Stevens, and, later, Joseph Sabin elevated the field of Americana from a casual gentlemen's collecting hobby into bibliographic science and laid the groundwork for the breakthroughs in our historical understanding of previously obscure events.

Good bibliographies are usually the products of decades of lonely work. Without healthy subsidies, paid in advance, publishers tend to avoid the finished manuscripts like the plague. Author royalties are practically nonexistent, publication reviews late and perfunctory, and the gratitude of researchers rarely expressed. Perhaps because great bibliographies are such truly monumental contributions, it often takes years for their impact to be fully appreciated.

The Clements Library would like to take a deep bow to three bibliographers with whom it has had the privilege of close contact over many years.

Thomas R. Adams, son of our library's first director, Randolph G. Adams, was carefully examining and familiarizing himself with treasures of the Clements' collection from childhood. He is librarian of that mecca of early Americanists, the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, Rhode Island. More than twenty years ago, he began collecting bibliographical data on the pamphlet literature of the American Revolution. A superb compilation of American imprints was published in 1965. In retrospect, this was the "easy" part of the work, because the British press was far more productive—much more so than any of us realized. In 1989, Adams' two-volume The American Controversy, A Bibliographical Study of the British Pamphlets about the American Disputes, 1764–1783 was published by Brown University Press in conjunction with the Bibliographical Society of America.

John Alden worked at the Clements while a graduate student in the library school here. He went on to a distinguished career as bibliographer and librarian. Upon retirement as Keeper of Rare Books at the Boston Public Library, he was enticed to the John Carter Brown Library to undertake a long-needed bibliography of European Americana (Readex Books, 1980–).

Joseph Sabin's Biblioteca Americana (1868–1936), a standard reference book for Americanists, has long been as notable for its deficiencies as for its virtues. It is woefully incomplete and it follows a dictionary format only. Charles Evans' American Bibliography and Clifford Shipton and James Mooney's updated short-title version, Ralph R. Shaw and Richard H. Shoemaker's continuation of Evans, and their successors' efforts have provided substantial bibliographical control over American imprints. But for the student and collector of Americana published in Europe, far more important textually until America came of age in the late eighteenth century, there has been no comprehensive contribution in half a century. Alden's first volume covers the period from 1493 through 1600. The project will eventually be carried to 1776. It is organized chronologically.

C. E. Frazer Clark, Jr. is a devoted and much-appreciated member of the Board of Governors of the Clements Library Associates. He is one of a considerable number of collectors-turned-bibliographers in the annals of the rare book world. Clark's Hawthorne collection is unsurpassed, and his book, Nathaniel Hawthorne, A Descriptive Bibliography (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1978) is a model of what a single-author bibliography ought to be.

We hope that these three definitive bibliographies will receive the constant and appreciative use which they so richly merit.

Jamaican Map

A Beautifully Drawn manuscript map of Kingston, Jamaica, has been added to the Library's collections, thanks to the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. David F. Upton of St. Joseph and the Frederick S. Upton Foundation.

The map, measuring approximately two by three feet, was drawn in 1766 for the British Navy Board. The draftmanship is markedly superior, and the coloring is fresh and strikingly attractive. The chart, an overview of the harbor and surrounding area, shows fortifications, settlements, and soundings.

Harriet and David Upton established a library fund in 1971 which has made possible the acquisition of highly important books, maps, and prints of the West Indies from the 17th through the early 19th centuries. Frederick S. Upton established a fund for acquiring books in the fields of science and technology in 1972.