Honorary Degree

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, at the 1982 Summer Commencement, conferred upon James S. Schoff the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, in recognition of his remarkable contribution to the Clements Library and the university community.

Mr. Schoff, inspired with a deep love of history by family associations, by listening to the stories of men who had actually marched with Grant and Sherman in the Civil War, and by history courses as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan, began reading and collecting in the late 1920's and 1930's on the American Revolution and the Civil War.

The Depression dealt a serious blow to the rare book market, and books and autographs of primary importance could be collected at fairly moderate prices from the 1930's until the early 1960's. Mr. Schoff brought a rare intelligence, knowledge, and enthusiastic curiosity to the market. He also imposed one crucial qualification on his collecting — in order to attract his interest, whether it be a Lincoln or Washington letter or a set of pocket diaries of a Civil War private, an item must have significant historical content.

By the late 1950's, when Mr. Schoff began donating portions of his collection to the library, it was one of the finest private collections ever assembled, especially remarkable because of this intrinsic research value of its individual parts.

Mr. Schoff was elected to the Board of Governors of the Clements Library Associates in 1959, served as its chairman from 1965 to 1972, and has served as a member of the library's governing board from 1965 to the present. His infectious enthusiasm for collecting, his invaluable contacts with New York's rare book dealers, and his personal generosity have to a large extent been responsible for the Clements Library's great success in assembling rare and important research materials in the past 25 years.

An exhibit at the library, "Adventures in American History," brought before the public a small portion of the letters, books, drawings, prints, and photographs in the Schoff Collection.

The Clements Library Associates, in recognition of Mr. Schoff's honorary degree, have given the library a rare set of Civil War photographs. The work of Levy and Cohen of Philadelphia, these photographs show Richmond, Virginia, in the summer of 1865 when it lay in ruins, occupied by Federal troops. The photographs include both cartes de visite and large-sized prints.

Royal Visit

ON A LOVELY FRIDAY afternoon in late June, the Clements Library was cordoned off as secret service agents milled about anxiously. The unusual circumstances preceded the arrival of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, who was honored at a University reception marking two hundred years of Netherlands-United States friendship.

Accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Claus and other dignitaries, Queen Beatrix spoke briefly of the warm relations between scholars at the University of Michigan and in the Netherlands. She was presented with a small white cedar tree (indigenous to Michigan) by Regent Sarah Power.

The library's main room provided a festive setting for the more than two hundred people who stood in a receiving line to personally greet Her Majesty. The guests included University administrators and faculty, Ann Arbor and state officials, and a large number of Dutch students.

The library director escorted the queen through an exhibit, "The Netherlands and America, 1609-1789." The 17th- and 18th-century Dutch atlases, maps, prints, pamphlets, and finely engraved books traced the Dutch-American connection from the exploration of Henry Hudson to the diplomacy of John Adams. Queen Beatrix graciously signed the Clements guest book for the library's own history.
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of The University of Michigan

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Upcoming

IN ORDER TO accommodate out-of-town visitors,
the Exhibit Room of the Library will be open on
Saturday mornings before home football games
on October 2, 9, and 30 and on November 13
from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, December
10 and 11, the library will host the annual reading
of Dickens' "Christmas Carol" by Prof. Bert
Hornbeck under the auspices of Ann Arbor's
Dickens Society.

The general public, and particularly As-


crates and friends, are most welcome.

A Seaworthy Life

THANKS TO the generosity of an Associate Board
member and his wife, the Clements Library has
just acquired a most remarkable manuscript
journal.

Jacob Nagle was born in Reading, Pennsyl-
vania, in 1761 and joined the American army in
1777 in time to fight at the Battle of the Bran-
dywine. After several months in the army, he
entered the navy in 1778. Over the next half
century, he served on a variety of merchant ships
in Europe and American waters, eventually retir-
ing in his 70's to Ohio.

In the course of the fascinating career which
he records in phonetic but eloquent English, he
was imprisoned twice, cast away three times,
shipwrecked, and frequently in battle.

We bid on the journal because of its Revolu-
tionary War content, which is superb, but Nagle
also served under Nelson during the Napoleonic
Wars. To our astonishment, because it was not
mentioned in the sale catalogue, we learned that
he was part of the "First Fleet" to settle Australia
in 1788. The original convict fleet commanded
by Arthur Phillip, the equivalent for Australians
to our Roanoke and Jamestown voyages, is
documented by several outstanding contempo-
rary officers' journals.

Nagle was a common sailor, undoubtedly one
of the few in the whole fleet who could write, and
he adds original details and a personal perspec-
tive. In fact, the journal as a whole has an earthy,
uncensored quality which adds to its historical
significance and readability, while possibly ex-
plaining why no publisher of the nineteenth cen-
tury would have touched it, and why Victorian
relatives who later owned it might have found it
an embarrassment. Thank goodness it survived.

The Australian expedition portion of the
journal alone is over 25,000 words, and the entire
journal is six times that long. As one of the better
Revolutionary War memoirs, as what has to be
one of the few journals of a common sailor in the
late 18th-century British navy, as a previously
unknown primary source of Australian history,
and as a simple but full autobiography of a re-
markable American entirely lost to history, the
manuscript has the potential to become a
noteworthy publication.

The library extends its deep appreciation to
John and Emily Wheeler for purchasing the
diary in memory of Mrs. Wheeler's parents,
Mary Alice and Guy Robert Moulthrop of Bay
City.
John Randolph, Loyalist

JOHN RANDOLPH, perhaps the most eloquent of all Loyalists exiled in London during the war, never wavered in his belief that reconciliation between Great Britain and America must be made. During the summer of 1778, while the Carlisle Peace Commission was making its abortive attempt to get the Continental Congress to consider their offer, Randolph made a strong personal plea in a letter to a trusted friend. Although we do not know the recipient, the tone and message are clear. Randolph, the friend of Jefferson and Washington, the king’s lawyer in Virginia before the war, member of an aristocratic Virginia family, made this grave prediction: “If our interests cease to be reciprocal, and our animosity shou’d make us a Distinct People, I will be bold enough to affirm that the Power of Great Britain will sink, and the weight of America as an Independent Country be of little consequence amongst the Potentates of the Great Quarter of the Globe.”

Neither America nor Great Britain, Randolph believed, could afford to lose sight of the true enemy. “France, that perfidious people, will never suffer America to rise to any Dignity in Government...you will find more Despotism in one act of theirs than in all the taxes which Great Britain ever laid.” Randolph pleaded with his American friend not to let the issue of independence become an obstacle to reconciliation, but to think of the horrendous consequences of an escalated war.

Two years later, still convinced that the two nations could be brought together, Randolph proposed a “Plan of Accommodation” to Lord George Germain. The Clements has this document in the Germain Papers.

Early American Technology

AT FIRST GLANCE Patent Right Oppression Exposed; or Knavery Detected appears to be a clumsy, satirical poem, but when read with the extensive footnotes that accompany each verse, it becomes a fascinating narrative of one important element in the development of American technology, the use of steam power in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. When the reader learns that the author, “Elisha,” is in fact the great American inventor Oliver Evans, the book becomes a moving personal account of a genius struggling against ignorance and indifference.

Evans, the first American to manufacture steam engines, had spent a life-time crusading for their public acceptance. In the 1780’s he developed a steam-powered machine for use in flour mills that operated elevators, conveyors, hopper boys, drills, and descenders — performing every operation involved in moving grain inside a mill. To introduce his new invention, Evans traveled through Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia. Millers everywhere reacted negatively, sometimes with real hostility. When he petitioned the legislatures of Delaware and Pennsylvania for the exclusive rights to use his “improvements in flour mills and steam carriages,” they were indifferent. With no understanding of the wider implications, the petition was granted “because it could injure no one.”

Evans settled down in Philadelphia and continued his experiments. Working first on a “steam carriage,” he later turned his attention to developing a steam dredge. In 1804 an amazed public watched as Evans moved his machinery down the Schuylkill River on a steam-powered scow, playfully named “Orukter Amphibole.” Although Evans was never given the financial support and recognition which Fulton received for his work, by 1807 Evans had engendered enough interest in his machines to allow him to start his own factory. Within the decade he had over 50 of his steam engines in operation throughout the country and had completed the largest steam power plant in America for the Fairmount Waterworks in Philadelphia.

Evans’ success in convincing the public of the usefulness of steam power did not bring him personal wealth. Increasingly, he saw his patent rights blatantly violated, his ideas copied, his machinery reproduced with no return to him. By 1813, he determined to fight back. He petitioned the government, and he wrote this eloquent plea: “Since the commencement of time, inventors have been robbed of their labours. Their ingenious productions, no matter how momentous to their existence, have been treated as public property...it is extremely difficult to convince the interested multitude that these inventors have rights.” For Evans, the public must consider “the once barbarious condition of mankind, and their present state of refinement, and then know that all this progress, this refinement and civilization, has resulted from the labours of inventors....”

Oliver Evans’ attack on the patent system is scarce and the library is very grateful to Mr. Frederick Upton for giving us this valuable addition to our collection.
Captured

In an earlier day, narratives of Indian captivity appeared frequently on the market and were systematically purchased by the library. But new examples of this endlessly fascinating genre are now seldom available, so we were delighted recently to come upon a fine copy of a very scarce title we lacked.

The History of the Life and Sufferings of Henry Grace (1765) recounts the tale of a young man who, addicted to “a course of idleness and bad company” in college, decides to enlist in the British Army. He is soon aboard ship, heading to Nova Scotia. Within six months of his arrival, while standing picket, Henry is captured by a local tribe of “Mumacks.” Knocked senseless with a tomahawk, he is taken to their village and straightaway forced to run the “gantlope.”

Stripped of his clothes, the natives force him to kneel by a great fire while they dance around him, “till my very Skin was burnt into Blisters . . . When they had finished their Sport, they gave me a Bridge-Clout to cover my Nakedness, a Pair of Indian Stockings and a Pair of Mogussons instead of Shoes for my Feet."

It would be over five years before Henry wore civilized footwear again. He proved himself a useful servant, fetching wood and carrying provisions, but his life was ever in peril. When his captors stole several cases of spirits and caroused for three days, Henry hid under a large tub at the urging of friendly squaws who knew he would be at the drunken braves’ mercy.

After fourteen months with this “family,” Henry was sold to the St. John’s Indians with whom he hunted, trapped, and fished for several years. They traveled to Quebec, Montreal, Niagara, Toronto, Detroit, and Mackinac, then pushed on down the Mississippi River. With each new tribe they encountered — the Abnakis, Iroquois, Choctaws, Cherokee, Chickasaw — Henry was again forced to run the “gantlope.” He complained of this indignity and the ignominious labor, but his greatest fear was that the party would run out of food, making Henry the expendable “extra mouth.”

After reaching Canada again, a French captain offered to buy Henry and after some discussion the Indians agreed to a price of four hundred livres and a cask of rum. Henry served out his four and a half year’s time working for the captain and was finally at liberty. But though he refound his regiment in the newly victorious British army, he was discharged in 1763, entitled to no back pay or pension, and at the time of publishing this narrative two years later, had thrown himself at the feet of a charitable public. If scarcity of the pamphlet today is any indication of its sales, he died in poverty!

Well-Traveled Tree

Early Explorers of the New World often returned with tales of fabulous beasts or other natural wonders. Occasionally they brought back the wonder itself for exhibition. This perpetual human interest in prodigies of nature is exemplified by a brief pamphlet recently added to the collections.

Published in London in 1828, it is entitled A description of the large black walnut tree, from Lake Erie, exhibiting at 107, Regent Street. The tree in question was a wonder indeed, being 36 feet in circumference, 12 feet in diameter, and 150 feet tall. It grew in Chautauqua County, New York, near the south shore of Lake Erie, 33 miles from Buffalo. In the early 1820’s a storm off the lake blew it over, and shortly thereafter it began the travels which finally brought it to Regent Street, London.

After the tree fell, it was suggested that it might be made into a canal boat, the Erie Canal then being near completion. However, the owner took other measures, and the fabulous black walnut tree, cut to a suitable size, “was transported to Buffalo, and there for several months occupied as a grocery store; thence it was taken by the Canal to Rochester, and . . . converted into a bar room.” We might meditate on the ignoble ends to which this giant of the forest had fallen if we did not know how essential to the canal boat traffic were both groceries and bar rooms.

In 1826, having served its time in trade, the tree was moved by canal to New York City, and entered show business. It had been reduced further in size, to nine feet tall by seven feet in diameter, hollowed out, and fitted with a “Brussels Medallion Carpet.” A door and a window had been cut, and in the interior of the tree “31 persons have been at one time inclosed, and 15 may sit round its interior circle.” Before crossing the Atlantic for display in London, the tree was exhibited in New York and Philadelphia before a total of some 100,000 persons, “not one of whom had been disappointed, but on the contrary, have expressed the most unqualified delight, at a sight so truly grand and impressive.” The back cover of the pamphlet has an engraving showing the great tree as exhibited. It was impressive.