Dear Clements Library Associates:

The Clements Library is presently embarked upon a $200,000 fund-raising project to better adapt work space to present uses, increase the shelving area, refurbish furnishings, and maximize building security. The library structure is sixty-years-old this spring.

As building projects go, our effort is a modest one, but the accomplishments will be substantial and of pressing importance to us and to Library users. A new, combined book and map reading room, a totally secure vault for our exceptionally rare atlases, and a repair room will be created from existing space on the ground floor. An office on the first floor will be transformed into an attractive seminar room, away from the bustle of regular Library business, for classes and small groups visiting the Library. A secure, closed-stack storage area will be created on the second floor for manuscripts. Stack space will be significantly enlarged by rearranging existing shelving—providing five to ten years of room until we must meet the next challenge of building expansion. In addition, the Library badly needs a microfilm reader, two photoduplication machines, and funds to purchase a computer terminal for cataloging purposes.

A committee is now working to secure support, and they will be contacting many of you on an individual basis. The committee includes Keith D. Jensen, Chairman, and Robert P. Briggs, C. E. Frazer Clark, Jr., Roy M. Tolleson, Jr., Mrs. Harriet Upton, and John D. Wheeler. If you have an interest in assisting us at this crucial juncture, or have suggestions as to sources of support, committee members or the Library director would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. With your assistance, the Clements Library of the 1980's will be even better able to continue the tradition of service for which, as well as the unique collections, the Library is known throughout the world of historical scholarship.

Sincerely yours,
John C. Dann
Director, Clements Library

Interview with Dr. Franklin

The Newest Collection on the Manuscript Division shelves, purchased in April by the Clements Library Associates, is the Feno-Hoffman archive, over 400 pieces spanning three generations of a most gifted family of the early national period. The founder of the family is John Feno, who edited the Gazette of the United States at New York and later Philadelphia from 1789 until his untimely death by yellow fever in 1798 at the age of forty-seven. A paper fostering Federalist politics, the Gazette was befriended by Alexander Hamilton, who not only wrote for it but more than once personally bailed it out of bankruptcy.

In the spring of 1789, John Feno left his family in Boston and went to New York to set up his newspaper. Purchase of type necessitated further travel to Philadelphia and while he was there he "waited upon the venerable Dr. Franklin." He described an intimate interview with the eighty-three-year-old statesman in a letter to his wife, Polly, dated March 8, 1789 (a year before Franklin's death):

"I found him reading—there were two or three of his grandchildren in the room, who appeared to be very fond of him & very playful & happy in his company... Owing to the disorder with which he has been long afflicted, the stone, he is obliged to keep house—this confinement has taken off the floridity of his Countenance—but otherwise, he is fleshy & his venerable grey locks adorn as fine a Countenance as eighty years ever wore. I was honoured with about an hour's conversation upon several subjects and, excepting a certain uneasiness which indicated some bodily pain, he appeared to possess himself, his judgment, his recollection, hearing & seeing fully, and as to his memory it was surprizing. Certain incidents, that the course of events in his life had had no tendency to fix in his mind, tho' of a very remote date, were called up with a wonderful facility, and it appears to me, that was he as free from the stone, as he is from every
other complaint, he might live & enjoy himself for twenty years to come.

"He informed me that he had worn spectacles fifty years—he had them on, & as they appeared to be differently constructed from any I had seen, the circumstance led to some enquiry—each Eye appeared to be formed of two pieces of glass divided horizontally—he informed me that he had always worn such—lower to read with. He never was near sighted or had weak eyes—the defect in his vision was blending & confusing the rays of light so as to obscure the object.... The Doct'r says he observed spots in his Eyes when very young—notwithstanding all this, his Eyes do not yet fail him."

Author, Author

THE CLEMENTS MANUSCRIPT DIVISION has cataloged two letters written by 19th-century literary figures. Both were gifts from Board member Duane Norman Diedrich, and have been added to the Diedrich Collection of manuscripts concerning the arts, education, and social history.

The first of these letters is from Charles and Catherine Dickens, dated at Hartford, Connecticut, February 10, 1842. It is a thank-you note, in Dickens' hand but signed by both, expressing appreciation to one J. H. Adams "for the exquisite pleasure we received last night... your most beautiful serenade. If you knew how much delight it afforded us, and how many thoughts of home and those who make it dearest, your charming performance awakened; you would feel how inadequate this acknowledgement is, almost as strongly as we do." The note was written at the beginning of Dickens' famed American tour, and documents the fact that although the author went home to England disenchanted with America in general, there were favorable moments along the way.

The other letter was written on January 23, 1898, by Theodore Dreiser to a friend. In it, he makes a very private remark that corrects an error generally held as truth. Dreiser writes:

"Paul [Dreiser's brother, Paul Dresser] is being newly blessed. He has another song success entitled 'On the Banks of the Wabash.' It is being sung like 'Just Tell Them That You Saw Me' was, all over the country. He will probably clear $10,000 more on it.

"I'll tell you something, but you mustn't tell it to anyone. I wrote the words, and gave them to him outright, insisting that he should take all the credit, as song writing is his field, not mine. I smile sometimes to think. It seems strange to hear people singing the words everywhere. I wrote the words in an hour, and although no one will ever know, it is a ridiculous [sic] touch of satisfaction I get out of hearing it."

All things come to those who wait. Mr. Dreiser..."
**The Peacemaking: 1782–3**

**John Adams**, with his characteristic sense of historical drama, described the peace negotiations which established the United States as an independent nation as “one of the most important political events that ever happened on this globe.” Looking back over the tortuous months that preceded the signing of the preliminary peace on November 30, 1782, Adams reflected on his own role and what it might mean for posterity:

“However feebly I may have acted my Part...yet the Situations I have been in between angry Nations and more angry Factions, have been some of the most singular and interesting that ever happened to any Man. The Fury of Enemies as well as of Elements, the Subtily and Arrogance of Allies, and what has been worse than all, the Jealousy, Envy, and little Pranks of Friends and Co-Patriots, would form one of the most instructive Lessons in Morals and Politics, that ever was committed to Paper.” Adams had begun this diary entry for December 4, 1782, with the hope that someday, someone would collect all the information relating to the peace negotiations so that the story could be fully told.

The Clements Library, from its founding, has played an important role in the fulfillment of John Adams’ wish. The first manuscript collection purchased by William Clements was that of William Petty, second earl of Shelburne, the minister responsible for conducting the British side of the negotiations from the summer of 1782 until his resignation in April, 1783, one month after an angry House of Commons had rejected his Peace Preliminaries. Subsequently, the Library acquired important papers of other key figures in the negotiations—David Hartley, Richard Oswald, George Montagu, 4th duke of Manchester, and Thomas Townshend, 1st viscount Sydney.

Randolph G. Adams, the Library’s first director, made the peace negotiations the subject of his own personal research. At a time in the mid-twenties when little scholarly attention had been given these events, Adams began the difficult task of locating and copying material in foreign archives and private hands relating to the peacemaking. Although Adams did not live to see his history of the peace negotiations written, he left an invaluable record for scholars—notes, memoranda, photostats, and meticulous annotations of our manuscripts.

The Library will celebrate the bicentennial of the peacemaking with two events. The fall Randolph G. Adams lecture will be given by Prof. Bradford Perkins of the University of Michigan History Department, on “The Peace of Paris 1783: Personalities and Possibilities.” An exhibition, “Peace-making: 1782–83,” focusing on the British side of the negotiations, will be mounted in August and run until the end of September.

**A Cartographic Gift**

The Library was recently presented with a true landmark of 18th-century American mapping: a perfect set of the maps which resulted from the famous survey by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon.

The two English astronomers spent several years resolving the boundary dispute between Pennsylvania and Maryland. They combined remarkably accurate scientific calculations with finely detailed topographic features to produce a beautiful and impressive representation of what became known as the Mason-Dixon Line.

The maps were published in four strips on two sheets (Philadelphia, 1768). This extraordinarily generous gift was made by the Chew family of Philadelphia.

The Clements Library possesses one of the greatest collections of early maps printed in America. The standard reference source, *Maps and Charts Published in America before 1800: A Bibliography*, was compiled by two former map curators at the Library, James Clements Wheat and Christian F. Brun.
Seventeenth-century Rarity

“AMERICAN INCUNABULA,” printed items issued in the colonies between 1640 and 1699, always have held a special place in the hearts of Americana collectors. Approximately 1,000 imprints are known, the vast majority printed from New England.

The Clements Library possesses one of the better collections of these scarce relics of our earliest settlements, our copies being especially notable in terms of condition. On the average, we add one or two to the collection in a year. As is true of our collecting generally, we put a premium on textual importance.

The sermon was the pre-eminent literary form of 17th-century America to make its way into print, but besides a scattering of political statements, a few scientific pieces, and practical publications such as almanacs, statutes, and governmental proclamations, there were but eleven titles which can be classified as true historical narratives describing events in the colonies themselves. Along with the *Bay Psalm Book* (1640), which we lack, and the Eliot Indian Bibles (1663, 1685), which we have, these deserve to be considered the most important of the 17th-century imprints in terms of primary historical content.

Of the eleven, three are general histories of New England’s settlement: Nathaniel Morton’s *New England Memorial* (1669), Joshua Scottow’s *Massachusetts* (1696), and Cotton Mather’s *Decennium Luctosum* (1699), which was reprinted in his *Magnalia Christi Americana* (London, 1702). Three were histories of King Phillip’s War—two by Increase Mather (1676), and William Hubbard’s *Narrative* (1677), which has the added attraction of containing the first map printed in America. There were also two histories of the witchcraft “delusion,” by Cotton Mather and Deodat Lawson.

Of the remaining three, Nicholas Bayard’s and Charles Ludowick’s *A Narrative of an Attempt Made by the French of Canada* (1693) was printed in New York, and Jonathan Dickinson’s *God’s Protecting Providence* (1699) in Philadelphia. Of these ten, the Library owns four in first American editions and four in contemporary London editions.

The Library had the good fortune recently to acquire the one other 17th-century American historical narrative, *A Journal of the Proceedings of the Late Expedition to Port Royal* (Boston, 1690). Recently found in a Massachusetts attic, it is an apparently unique copy in America, the only other one known being at the British Public Record Office.

The pamphlet is readable and important, the primary record of an expeditionary military force in the first of our world wars, King William’s (1690-97). Fourteen vessels set out from Boston harbor on April 23, 1690 under command of the Massachusetts governor, Sir William Phips. Before their return on May 30, they succeeded in disrupting French settlements at Castine and Machias, Maine, and Passamaquoddy Bay, captured Port Royal (now Annapolis Royal), and established a satellite Massachusetts government over largely uninhabited Nova Scotia. Distance and European diplomacy at the Peace of Ryswick (1697) would return the territory to France, but the memory of the expedition would remain as one of the relatively few military successes of American forces in the colonial period.

Advice for Divot Diggers

The Ancient Game of Golf—gouff, gouff, golf—was once discouraged by the British Parliament as interfering with archery practice, an infinitely more useful skill than “chasing a quinine pill around a forty-acre lot.” But golf has come to stay, so Spalding’s *Athletic Library Official Golf Guide for 1898* assures its readers. The number of courses in the United States has reached 700. This popularity is easily explained. The beauty of golf as a sport is that it can be played by “the weak, the halt and the maimed, the octogenarian and the boy, the rich and the poor, and best of all, the ladies can play it, and play it right well.”

No one who has played golf or lived with a golfer will dispute Spalding’s assertion that “There is no game like it.” Generally, these sentiments have more to do with two-foot puts that slither past the hole than Spalding’s insistence that no other game can “give full play to muscles, test the accuracy of the eye or the evenness of the temper.”

*The Official Golf Guide* is a most useful book. Interspersed with advertisements for Spalding’s Long Spoons, Baffy, Brassie Nibles, Bulger Drivers, Clecks and Mashies (all with the finest white hickory shafts), and his Silvertown balls (molded from the best gutta percha) are the constitution, by-laws and rules of the United States Golf Association. For beginners, there are succinct instructions: “The object of the game is to put a small ball into a series of holes in the least number of strokes.”

Now that the Clements Library has added *The Spalding Official Golf Guide for 1898* to its fine holdings on sports, golfing Associates who need the proper word can consult its glossary for useful terms, like sclaff—“when the club head strikes the ground behind the ball, and follows with a ricochet.”