Up-to-date Gifts

The Library Wishes to gratefully acknowledge the contribution of two photoduplication machines and a computer from the Ford Motor Company. Technologically speaking, we have previously been indebted only to Gutenberg and the inventors of the typewriter for our day-to-day business, but we enter the modern age with enthusiasm! The copying machines, one of them with reduction capability particularly suited to sheet music, will minimize the security risks involved in taking rare materials out of the building for photoreproduction. The computer has great potential for cataloging, initially at least for non-book material such as music, prints, and perhaps manuscripts.

New in the Manuscript Division

Two Manuscript Lots of Revolutionary War date acquired at auction in the past year deserve notice. Last fall we added to our extensive Loyalist holdings three dozen letters from Henry Addison (1717-1789) to Jonathan Boucher (1738-1804). The majority were written during the war from England, where both Anglican clergymen had fled in 1776.

Addison, well connected by family ties in Maryland, matriculated at Oxford and was ordained in England in 1742 before returning to the colony. He befriended and helped to advance the career of Boucher in Maryland and Virginia. The letters provide an interesting picture of the difficult situation Loyalists faced in Britain. Highly enamored of a British society which paid them little respect, they were critical of American policies, but homesick for their native land, and overly optimistic as to the effectiveness of British troops against American forces.

Boucher, an Englishman by birth, remained in Britain and attained some recognition as a philologist and historian. Addison returned to America in late 1781, and he remained within British lines in New York until the evacuation. His letters during this period offer much insight into the uncomfortable position of a British sympathizer at a time when American success had been assured but peace negotiations were not yet completed. The correspondence, which suffered water damage at some point in the present century, is being carefully restored.

The other acquisition is a merchant's letter-book of considerable importance in documenting events in Revolutionary South Carolina. The large folio volume contains correspondence of two distinct but related individuals. The first two thirds, several hundred letters, is the business correspondence of Peter Leger and the Charleston firm of Leger & Greenwood between 1770 and 1775. By the latter date, non-exportation agreements put an end to a moderately lucrative trade by which rice and indigo were collected at Charleston and Georgetown and sent to Britain, Portugal, and Grenada, and "dry goods" were imported from England for sale and barter in the firm's Charleston store. The letters, particularly those with Greenwood & Higginson, the firm's London supplier of goods and credit, provide a thorough portrait of the workings of imperial trade in a colony which had a unique economic base in the American colonies.

Leger & Greenwood made the mistake of securing the contract for selling East India Company tea in 1774, and there is interesting correspondence relating to South Carolina's equivalent of the Boston Tea Party. The firm also executed special orders for its leading colonial customers. There is information on importation of such items as fowling pieces, a billiard table, a marble tombstone, and house furnishings. In one unusual transaction, they even shipped a prefabricated house to the island of Grenada!

The final portion of the book is the correspondence of Abram Greenwood, dated 1788, when the imminent ratification of the United States Constitution indicated the possibility of collecting pre-war debts owed to British mer-
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chants. This Greenwood family member belonged to the British firm, which was only distantly related and not particularly friendly toward its South Carolina cousins. In effect, Abram was acting in Charleston as a collection agent for Leger & Greenwood in the interest of paying off that defunct business’s debts to its London supplier, Greenwood & Higginson. This was an emotional political issue in colonies which had been ravaged by British armies, and it is an aspect of post-war history about which we have few hard facts. In providing a very detailed record of one particularly important firm’s experience, the correspondence is of much greater research value than is found in most mercantile records.

CLA Board Members

A Glance at our list of the Clements Library Associates’ Board of Governors will indicate some changes. By action of the Regents of the University, a new category of membership, “Honorary Board Members,” has been created for former members whose schedules or places of residence make active participation impossible, but whose interest in the welfare of the institution and the Associates continues.

Six individuals have been elected to the group: Carl W. Bonbright of Flint, Edward W. Bowen of Bay City, William C. Finkenstaedt of Grosse Pointe Farms, Howard H. Peckham of Hendersonville, North Carolina, James S. Schoff of New York, and Lee D. van Antwerp of Northbrook, Illinois.

In addition, the Board of Governors is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to its active ranks: Keith D. Jensen of Ann Arbor and Cleveland Thurber, Jr., of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Monumental Acquisition

If You Should Pass By the front of the Library, it might appear on first glance that the space problem referred to in our last issue had suddenly reached such a critical stage that we had begun to shelve our largest books on the front lawn. In reality, these volumes, unquestionably the weightiest tomes in our inventory (close to one ton for the three volumes), have spent their entire “lives” of a century or more weathering the elements of Ann Arbor.

Those with memories of our town stretching back thirty years or more will remember the stately Beal home at the corner of Fifth and William Streets. Rice A. Beal purchased the house shortly after it was built in the 1860’s. In 1869 he bought the famous Steam Press of Dr. A. W. Chase and took over the publication and marketing of Chase’s well-known receipt book
and the Ann Arbor Courier. Under the editorship of his son, Junius E. Beal, the Courier-Register became one of Michigan’s leading newspapers, while the press continued to publish occasional books.

Junius Beal was a classmate of William Clements in high school and at the University (class of ’82), and they were to serve together as regents for a quarter of a century, from the last years of Angell’s presidency until that of Ruthven. Like Clements, Beal was a true book lover. His personal library was voluminous and particularly noteworthy for examples of fine printing and incunabula (books printed between 1450 and 1500). When Clements began dropping broad hints about establishing a rare book library at the University, no one was quicker to grasp his vision or more supportive in making it a reality than Beal. He donated the Americana he possessed when the Clements opened its doors in 1923.

To return to the books on the Library’s front lawn, the Beal home was graced with a rather remarkable and appropriate set of carriage steps, fashioned, presumably by a local monument carver, in the form of three leather-bound books, two of them with spines outward, and a third across them on top. They were carved from a hard brown sandstone similar in color to the Library’s exterior.

Loretta Beal Jacobs, daughter of Junius Beal, and her children presented these remarkable volumes to the Library in a small, informal ceremony on August 29th. They are a wonderful, delightfully unusual addition to the University campus. They will serve as a fitting memorial to Junius E. Beal, regent with the longest tenure in the University’s history (1907-1939), bibliophile, and close, personal friend of William L. Clements.

**Book Beat**

An Essay entitled “Nineteenth-Century American March Music and John Philip Sousa,” by Pauline Norton, our sheet music curator, was recently published in Perspectives on John Philip Sousa, edited by John Newsom. Ms. Norton attended the grand celebration of the book’s publication by the Music Division of the Library of Congress last August. The gala included a stirring performance by the U.S. Marine Band. The handsome book is available either through the Government Printing Office or the Library of Congress, for $17.00, and we highly recommend it to your attention.

**Spectator Sport**

Dave Winfield, former a Big 10 athlete at the University of Minnesota and now the nemesis of the Detroit Tigers as an outfielder with the Yankees, was recently hauled into court in Toronto for accidentally killing a seagull while returning a practice ball to the infield. The press had a field day with the incident, which highlighted the exceptional sensitivity of the modern age to animal preservation.

Our ancestors were not so fastidious. A newspaper clipping of 1874, reprinting an 1827 letter from Buffalo, New York, is included in a scrapbook on Great Lakes navigation which recently came our way. It describes a rather strange spectator event staged on September 8, 1827, at Niagara Falls.

“The schooner Michigan was the largest on Lake Erie and too large in fact to enter the various harbors on the lake, and being somewhat decayed in her upper works, the thought struck the owner, Mr. Frazer, formerly of New York, that she would answer the purpose of testing the fate of a vessel that by accident might approach too near the stupendous cataract of Niagara, and also of the fate of animals that might be caught in the rapids....

“The proprietors of the large public houses at the Falls, on both sides of the river [seagull protective Canadians take note], and of stages and steamboats, made up a purse to purchase the schooner, aware that they would be repaid by the company which the exhibition would attract....

“For several days previous to the 8th the stages came crowded, as well as the canal boats.... On Friday night, the 7th, wagons filled with country people rattled through this town all night, and on Saturday morning Buffalo itself seemed to be moving in a mass towards the grand point of attraction.

“The Chippewa was appointed to tow down the pirate schooner (as she was termed), the Michigan.... Three o’clock was the hour appointed to weigh anchor on the Michigan. The task of towing her from Yale’s Landing to the rapids was intrusted to Captain Rough, the oldest captain on the lake. With a yawl and five oarsmen, of stout hearts and strong arms, the old captain got the schooner under way and towed her till within one quarter of a mile of the first rapids.... and cutting her adrift she passed majestically on, while the oarsmen of the yawl had to pull for their lives to effect their own safety.... The Michigan, unguided by human agency [but containing a “crew” of life-sized
effigies and a strange assortment of animals], approached, head on, the first rapid or descent, and apparently keeping the very course that the most skillful navigator would have pursued, having an American ensign flying from her bow-sprit, and the British Jack displayed at her stern... passed the first rapid unhurt, still head on... In her descent over the second her masts went by the board.

"Expectation of her fate was now at the highest. She swung round and presented her broadside to the dashing foaming waters, and after remaining stationary for a moment or two was, by its force, swung round, stern foremost, and having passed to the third rapid she bilged but carried her hull apparently whole, between Grass Island and the British shore to the Horse Shoe, over which she was carried stern foremost and launched into the abyss below. In her fall she was dashed into a thousand pieces...

But as to the live passengers: "They consisted of a buffalo from the Rocky Mountains, three bears from Green Bay and Grand River, two foxes, a racoon, a dog, a cat, and four geese. They were let loose on deck, except the buffalo, who was enclosed in a temporary pen. Two of the bears left the vessel shortly after she began to descend the rapids, and swam ashore... The buffalo was seen to pass over the falls, but was not visible afterwards... Those who had glasses could see one of the bears climbing the mast as the vessels approached. The foxes, etc., were also running up and down, but nothing was seen of them after the schooner passed over. Two of the geese were the only living things which passed over, and they were taken up unhurt... Respecting the effigies, of which there were several, the only one I saw below the falls was General Andrew Jackson, apparently uninjured, throwing his arms about and knocking his legs together in the eddies... There were over 30,000 people in attendance."

**To Oxford**

Professor John Shy, a member of the Clements Library Committee of Management, has been given the Harmsworth Professorship at Oxford University for the 1983-84 term. This is the first time a member of the University of Michigan faculty has received this coveted award. Arlene Shy, Head of Reader, Research Services, will join Lincoln College, Oxford, where she will pursue the D. Phil. degree, working in 18th-century Anglo-French history.

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**Timely Collecting**

Having recently acquired a sizable number of Confederate newspapers, we had reason to look over our holdings of wartime date. Among those already on the shelves are the first twenty-two issues of *The Richmond Whig* (April 4-28, 1865), the earliest paper to resume publication after the April 3 withdrawal of the Confederate army. Much of the city continued to burn when the single, crudely-printed sheet hit the streets, and over the next few weeks its pages contained the best primary documentation of the dramatic fall of Richmond.

While residents began cleaning up debris and putting their lives back together amid vast uncertainties, northerners flocked to the city in droves: congressmen, businessmen and speculators, and curiosity seekers. Among them were historians and collectors, and an article in the April 28 *Whig* helps to explain why so much Confederate Americana made its way to northern libraries and collections:

"**HISTORICAL RESEARCHES.** Any number of historians that are to be, members of historical societies, savants of learning and research are in Richmond intent upon hunting up and appropriating any little record, scrap of history, relic or memorial that might serve to adorn the pages of history, or fill a niche in the museum of curiosities of the 'Great Rebellion' — its rise, progress, decline and fall, with souvenirs of authors and leaders. Prominent among the things most to be desired are the autographs of Jeff. Davis, the Cabinet, and other prominent actors in the drama of the Rebellion.

"Searchers about the public buildings have been fortunate enough to get hold of great bundles of public documents, 'of no use to any one but the owner,' but of incalculable valuable [sic] to autograph hunters, who pay fabulous prices for them. Copies of the Virginia Ordinance of Secession, the original of which, we believe, was destroyed with the State Court House, are in active demand, but the supply is limited from the fact that only enough copies were struck to supply the members of the Convention who signed the document. A few are to be found in the city.

"The daily journals and other papers of the Confederate Congress were moved with the Government, and we suppose are scattered somewhere along the route of flight: active searchers might be able to pick up something in that direction..."

It was just over a month later that the historian Francis Parkman would visit the city with a pocketful of northern currency and put into motion the systematic collection of Confederate printed material which, illogically, made the Boston Athenaeum, then and now, the greatest collection of southern wartime imprints.