In Print

When members of our staff drop their current reprints on our desk, we are sometimes surprised at their catholicity. All such contributions stem from work at the Library. A twelve-page pamphlet, *The Tunebook of Conrad Doll* (from Vol. 42 of the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*) is the joint work of our Robert B. Brown, and his colleague in the German Department, Frank X. Braun. It describes a book printed in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1798, which is said to be "the first German-American singing book printed before 1800 in which the music is presented in parts together with all the words for several stanzas." Next Mr Brown left with us his trial check-list of the printed editions of the work of Isidore of Seville, a seventh century Spanish encyclopaedist, most of whose titles are either incunabula or sixteenth century books. This pamphlet is No. 5 of the "Occasional Contributions" published by the University of Kentucky Library at Lexington. It is more difficult for us to understand the propriety of Mr Brown's recent article in *Bokvännan* (Stockholm, March, 1949). True, it contains an article on the Director of the Library, but the whole has been translated into, and published in, Swedish, and the author alleges he has lost his original English text. More "American" is Mr Brown's article which comes to us in the *Bulletin of the Dominican Embassy* in Washington, September, 1949. It describes and notes the significance of our Diego de la Maza, *Memorial*, Madrid, 1693. The Dominicans (Fathers and citizens) regard this book as real evidence that they had the "First University of the Americas." Their date of 1538 appears to preclude those of the University of San Marcos of Lima, Peru, and the University of Mexico, both of which claim 1551 as a founding date. Three learned priests recently examined our book. All were members of Roman Catholic religious orders. They suggested (with twinges) that the existence of the book would start anew the controversy between the Jesuits and the Dominicans as to the "influence" of those two important bodies in education in North America. This argument has been going on for more than 300 years. Those of you who have motored in California may have visited the Mission at Carmel, where there is a large and magnificent mural map showing the allegiance of the California outposts, marked by the insignia of the Jesuits, Dominicans, Franciscans, and Carmelites.

On the stone steps, just outside the door to our office, Alumnus William E. Humphrey (Ph.D., 1947) halted. Pointing to a fossil embedded in the step, he exclaimed, "The oldest thing in the Library!" Our Prof. E. C. Case (Historical Geology) came to view the remains and remarked succinctly "Archimedes." He called for curator of Mesozoic and Cenozoic Invertebrates Lewis Kellum who said, "Dr Elias at the University of Nebraska," who, in turn, advised us that our specimen was "Archimedes Missourienis—275,000,000 years old, more or less." He also cited David Dale Owen's description of our fossil in our copy of *The American Journal of Science*, for October, 1849. (David was of New Harmony, Indiana, and brother of Robert the Communist) Our Archimedes was so well depicted by Owen's fellow naturalist, Alexander LeSueur, that we reproduce his drawing of more than a century ago, which accompanies Owen's article. Further, says Dr Elias, it was LeSueur who called our animal "Archimedes" because he is "vitticellated spirally like a screw." Archimedes the Greek is credited with discovering the principle of the screw. "Missourienis" explains itself, and, in fact, the University records show that the stone for our steps came from a quarry in Missouri.

Already Rare

While we collect rare books, we do not intentionally make books rare. Roger L. Williams of the History Department did a little note for the *Quarterly of the New-York Historical Society* on "Three Papers pertaining to the Genet Affair," of which reprints came to us during the summer. By the time Mr Williams returned from his vacation in Colorado, not a copy of the 600 reprints survived for him. Many were sent to our Associates. In the event any Associates have copies and do not wish to keep them, we would be glad to see them returned to the Library for Mr Williams.
Mr. Poe,

With this letter, a bound volume of the "Southern Literary Messenger" (Vol. I) is forwarded to your address, at the request of Mr. J. W. White, the Proprietor, who hopes you will accept it—learning that your usual price volume is deficient in some numbers.

It is our design to issue on the 1st August a number of the "Messenger" consisting altogether of articles from our most distinguished literature, and to this end we have received many excellent papers—from Judge Hopkins—Mr. Alexander of Princeton—Paulding—Dr. McD.—the Eggers—Levi Lincoln—Prof. Abbotton Xc. Mr. White has informed me that you had, in part, made him a promise of a contribution, and I have ventured, accordingly, to mention our design in relation to the August number, in hope that you would be able to send us something in season. If you can possibly do so, it would greatly advance the usefulness of our Journal—especially in the South—and this must be my apology for troubling you upon this point.

Mr. White desires his last respects, with the highest respect,

Mr. O. R.

Edgar A. Poe

An Unpublished Letter from Edgar Allan Poe
FACSIMILE FROM LEWIS CASS PAPERS IN THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY

1836
A few days ago, Richard D. Altick sent us a reprint of his essay "A Neglected Source for Literary Biography" which had appeared in the June, 1949, issue of PMLA, the quarterly publication of the Modern Language Association of America. Mr. Altick argues that biographers have largely ignored rich sources by neglecting catalogues of public and private collections, sale catalogues, periodicals, and books of facsimiles. As the Director is wont to say, "This is where I came in twenty-six years ago!" Well, well, the "boys in the back room" are beginning to wake up at last! Private collectors—and research libraries, too—often own things that deserve a little attention from the scholarly world.

Here's an example. Last year, we received part of the Lewis Cass
Papers. This year, we received the balance. They had been saved by a private collector whose family passed them on to us. For the most part, the papers are good historical materials, even essential to any biography of Cass. Yet, among the papers there is a series of literary letters, one of which is especially important. It is an unpublished letter by Edgar Allan Poe. Dr. Arthur H. Quinn, one of the country's great Poe scholars, has urged us to publish this letter. We accede to Dr. Quinn's request with a good deal of pleasure, hoping that someday another Poe scholar will pay attention to The Quarto.

Richmond, July 4, 1836.

Dr. Sir,

With this letter, a bound volume of the "Southern Literary Messenger" (Vol. 1) is forwarded to your address, at the request of Mr. T. W. White, the Proprietor—who begs you will accept it—learning that your own first volume is deficient in some numbers. It is our design to issue on the 1st August a number of the "Messenger" consisting altogether of articles from our most distinguished literati, and to this end we have received many excellent papers—from Judge Hopkins, Prof. Alexander of Princeton—Paulding, Dr. Bird, Mrs. Sigourney, Lieut. Slidell, Prof. Anthon &c. Mr. White has informed me that you had, in part, made him a promise of a contribution, and I have ventured, accordingly, to mention our design in relation to the August number, in hope that you would be able to send us something in season. If you could possibly do so, it would greatly advance the interests of our Journal—especially in the South—and this must be my apology for troubling you upon this point. Mr. White desires his best respects. With the highest respect.

Yr. Ob. Sd.

Edgar A. Poe

Gov: Lewis Cass
Address care of T. W. White

The first number of the Southern Literary Messenger appeared in August, 1834. It was published at Richmond, Virginia, by Thomas W. White (1788-1849), a local printer and editor. Poe joined the magazine in July or August, 1835, and stayed with it for a little more than a year. He called himself its editor, but Publisher White did not always acknowledge the title in his own correspondence with authors. The August, 1836, issue of the Messenger was a notable number. Poe's own poems "Israel" and "The City of Sin" were used in it, along with nine pages of editorial notes, and eighteen pages of book reviews by him. Joseph Hopkinson (1770-1842), congressman, jurist, and author of "Hail Columbia," contributed "The Right of Instruction." Archibald Alexander (1772-1851), clergyman, educator, and first professor of the Presbyterian theological seminary at Princeton, did not contribute a signed article, but he was probably the "Borealis" of New Jersey, whose "A Hint, Touching the Greek Drama" appears in this issue. James K. Paulding (1778-1860), the New York litterateur and associate of Washington Irving, submitted his poem "The Old Man's Carousal" and an anecdote "Judgment of Rhadamanthus." Robert M. Bird (1806-1845), physician, playwright, and novelist, appears as a poet, with his "The Pine Wood." Mrs. Sigourney, born Lydia Howard Huntley (1791-1865), educator, poet, and moralist, held first position in the magazine with her poem "The Ruler's Faith." Alexander Slidell (1803-1848), naval officer and author, was the brother of John Slidell who changed his name to Alexander Slidell Mackenzie in 1838. His "Scenes in Campillo" was a chapter from his forthcoming book, A Year in Spain. Charles Anthon (1797-1878), one of the outstanding classical scholars of his generation, is the only writer of the group mentioned by Poe who did not appear in the August, 1836, issue. However, Professor Anthon was an irregular contributor to the magazine.

Poe's letter to Cass, at first glance, seems to present no serious problems. A close examination, however, gives cause for speculation. The two lines at the end of the letter, "Gov: Lewis Cass/Address care of T. W. White." show evidence of erasure. If a name other than Cass' appeared originally, no trace of what it was remains. The change was made by Poe, for the new name and address are clearly in his hand. Possibly Poe wrote a series of letters to contemporaries he considered distinguished, trying to extract essays or poems for his August issue. As early as June 7, he had written to Robert M. Bird, James F. Cooper, Fitz-Greene Halleck, and John P. Kennedy soliciting contributions and using closely similar phrasing. Yet little can be determined on this point, since the number of Poe letters in print is surprisingly small. John Ward Ostrom's edition of the letters (1948) carries only 333 letters (a number which seems absurdly small for a man as busy as Poe), but no letters are given between June 8 and July 16, a period during which Poe must have been searching frantically for contributions to fill the August number.

Further, if he had followed Cass' career as closely as he intimates in his letter, Poe blundered in addressing Cass as "Gov." Cass had been governor of Michigan Territory from 1813 to 1831, but from the latter year until 1836, he was Secretary of War under Jackson. In 1836, he was appointed Minister to France. As a former military person, Poe might have been expected to follow political changes in the War Department more closely. Cass eventually did contribute to the Messenger, although not during Poe's tenure. A later editor picked up one essay from The Democratic Review (1838) and accepted two travel sketches (1839 and 1841).
Tract for the Times

In another note, herewith, we observe the gifts of autograph letters of certain of the "Founding Fathers." Perhaps our friends can help us document the story of Abraham Davenport, of Connecticut, a legislator in 1789. At the time, the Nutmeg State was troubled by one of those periodic delusions that the world was coming to its end. A pious member of the law-making body sitting at Hartford, arose and moved that, in view of the impending Day of Judgment, the legislature should adjourn. Less thoughtful citizens prepared themselves by liquidating their property and burying hard cash under apple trees. Other folk readied sackcloth and ashes—or else got drunk. But in the legislative hall, Abraham Davenport responded to the motion for adjournment. Said he, in effect: "If the end of the world is really coming, I think that the Almighty would wish to find each of us at his post, doing his job. I see that the next order of business is the regulation of the alewife and shad fisheries on Long Island Sound. I move that we proceed with that business." The poet John Greenleaf Whittier retold this story in a poem, "Abraham Davenport." The Library would be grateful for an autograph letter of Abraham Davenport, preferably one dated from Hartford in 1789. (The Quarto, picked up this story from one of Dr Ronald Bridges' "Church of the Air" sermons, from Berkeley, California. Our ex-colleague Douglas Bryant, now of the University of California Library, pursued Dr Bridges to his study to get a printed version for us. But we still want documentation.)

Vol. 1, No. 1

A new magazine "hit the stands" last month which promises to be the answer to some of our prayers about popularizing American history. The articles in the first number are all short, well written, and appealing to many ages. Among the contributors are Carl Carmer, Allan Nevins, Jerome Weinstein, Howard H. Peckham, and Colton Storm. The first issue contains (on sixty pages) ninety-one illustrations, twenty-six of them in color. The editor is Earle Newton; the publisher is the American Association for State and Local History, Montpelier, Vermont. One of our friends (an Associate, by the way) is so enthusiastic about the first number that he has bought a dozen subscriptions for his friends. And, you know, that's not such a bad idea for a Christmas present—the first year of a new magazine.

Craps

One of the functions of our Library is to supply books which may be infrequently consulted, but, when needed, are the only sources available. Take for example the recent news reports that the Casino at Monte Carlo had to import an American "professor" to teach the habits how to shoot craps. It seemed to us there was something radically wrong with the accounts in the newspapers and weekly news-magazines, such as LIFE. Yes, we were right. Craps is a French game imported to America via New Orleans. See our copy of The Palingenesis of Craps, by Edward L. Tinker (New York, 1933). Here is historical research pointing out that Americans observed the game being played by French sailors at the Crescent City. So they called it "Johnny Crapaud's game"—hence "craps." The Americans who so called this pastime thought of the French as "frogs" and misused the word "crapaud" (toad) when they ought to have used "grenouille" (frog). Our readers will not be surprised at this free use of a language by sailors. Malcolm Bingay, of Detroit's Free Press, picked up this story, and, went on from there by reading the Palingenesis of Craps. He notes that on the early maps of New Orleans in our Library, the streets parallel to the Mississippi proceed in this succession: Rue des Grand Homme; Rue de Craps; Rue d'Amour; and Rue des Bons Enfants. Yes, a Library such as ours can throw some light on an Associated Press news dispatch.

From WUOM to You

"Treasures off the Shell" is the title of a series of radio broadcasts in dramatic form about books, manuscripts, and maps in the Clements Library. The thirteen weekly shows will be broadcast from the University's radio station WUOM starting Thursday evening, October 6, at eight o'clock in the evening. The stories have been written by William Bender, Jr., from materials supplied by the Library. More than twenty stations in Michigan and Indiana have agreed to carry the programs (although not all of them will use the shows on Thursday evenings at eight), including stations in Adrian, Alma, Alpena, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Cadillac, Detroit, Flint, Kalamazoo, Lafayette (Ind.), Petoskey, Pontiac, Saginaw, and Traverse City.

We invite you to tune in on the station nearest you and learn about what we have.

We Have for Sale—(adv.)

The publishers of an excellent series of facsimiles have given us a few sets of their Documents of the American Revolution to be sold for the Library's benefit. Each set comprises facsimiles of thirty-five manuscripts and two maps from the Clements Library collections and includes such pieces as the series of documents leading to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Gage's orders sending troops to Lexington and Concord, and Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga. The sets are available to The Associates (first-come-first-served) at $6.90 plus ten cents to cover mailing costs. Please make checks payable to the University of Michigan.