
For a good many years, the Library has marked April 1, Mr. Clements' birthday, in some special manner. It is natural, therefore, to call April 1 Founder's Day and to continue, in more recent years, the custom of inviting Mr. Clements' and the Library's friends to meet. Usually, a short talk by someone who knew Mr. Clements, or by someone whose interests were closely allied to his, preceded the tea. In 1949, we were fortunate in securing Herbert G. Watkins, Secretary of the University, as guest speaker.

Simultaneously, we exhibited the purchases made during the first eighteen months of The Clements Library Associates. The Library has been aware of its friends for a long time. Yet the exhibit inaugurated on April 1, 1949, impressed on the Library, as nothing had before, the extent of The Associates' generosity. They contributed, in a year and a half, more than $12,000 in gifts of books and manuscripts, special purchases, and dues. It has been a heart-warming experience to know the friendship of The Associates.

The membership of The Clements Library Associates stood at 419, when the fiscal year ended—an increase of nearly 100 members over the preceding year. In January and May, the Executive Committee of The Associates purchased sixteen books, manuscripts, and an original drawing for the Library. These acquisitions are described in the present issue of The Quarto.

Invitations were sent to all Associates in the fall of 1948 inviting them to visit the Library's exhibit called "A Freedom Train for Michigan." This series of great American documents was viewed by a large number of Associates, particularly on Saturdays before the football games. April 1 brought a large group of Associates and friends of the Library for the Founder's Day celebration. On a third occasion, June 10, Associates and alumni were invited to inspect a special exhibit of recent gifts to the Library.

Two issues of The Quarto (Nos. 17 and 18) were sent to Associates during the year. The first was devoted to the gift by Associate George Matthew Adams of New York, of his R. B. Cunningham Graham collection. The Quarto carried an essay on Graham by Hereward T. Price, and an essay and checklist of the collection by Hildegard Braun. The second number of The Quarto contained the annual report of The Associates and descriptions of eight rare books and manuscripts bought by The Associates for the Library in 1947-1948.

The speaker at the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration in June, 1948, was Lawrence C. Wroth of the John Carter Brown Library. Dr. Wroth's address, entitled A Tribute to the Clements Library, comprised Bulletin 54 in the Library's series. Some American Bibles was the title used for Bulletin 55; it was prepared in honor of the visit of a group of Methodist ministers meeting in Ann Arbor. Special limited editions of each bulletin were printed for The Associates. Several reprints and off-prints of articles by staff members, or results of investigations carried out in the Library, were distributed to The Associates during the year.

The Financial Report

The balance of The Clements Library Associates Trust Fund on July 1, 1948, stood at $108.00. During the fiscal year July 1, 1948, to June 30, 1949, contributions to The Associates amounted to $4020. Operating expenses during the year were $90. Printing charged against The Associates was $250. Purchases for the Library were $5160.98. The balance at the end of June, 1949, was $1544.62.

Enter, Three Plays

We have heard weeps and wails occasionally about the death of the drama and, since we read The New Yorker, we think sometimes that the obsequies must be overdue. But we are naturally skeptical of immediate dangers. Also, we remember that there was a time when the stage was a glory and acting an art. It was fun while it lasted.

With the continued help of Associate Mrs. Herbert C. Ely, we have added richly to our collection of rare American drama in the Herbert C. Ely Memorial Collection. Last year, we secured a copy of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night (Boston [1794]), the first American edition and the first Shakespearean play printed and produced in America. Shortly after The Associates had given us Twelfth Night, the play was produced at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, here in Ann Arbor. The Director of the Library took an afternoon off to consort with the players, Malvolio, Viola, and Sir Toby Belch, and to show them our newly found treasure. [The production was restaged on Broadway last fall, with the same principals, and met with some success.]

In the mundane (non-Shakespearean) theatre, we received Tombo-Chiqui or The American Savage, by Louis François Le Dréevière, published in London in 1758. It contains a fascinating and implausible idea buried in claptrap, the Rousseauesque thesis that the Indian savage in a state of nature is nobler than the polished European gentleman. This attempt to present
a contemporary idea in terms of the drama (translated, incidentally, by the author of the immortal Fanny Hill, John Cleland) is not without merit. What the merits are, we shan’t say. However, it is one of a series of plays presenting contemporary conflicts which includes Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Winterset, and Cry the Beloved Country.

Of a somewhat different nature is another acquisition, an anonymous farce The Better Sort: or, The Girl of Spirit. An Operatical, Comical Farce, printed at Boston by Isaiah Thomas & Co., in 1789. (Isaiah Thomas, the great American printer-publisher-author-philanthropist, was the subject of The Quarto, No. 20) The author of The Better Sort remarks in the first line of his Preface, “The thirst for Novelty is unextinguishable.” He then proceeds to use a melange of old japes in which there was no novelty, even in 1789, interspersed with songs which the “Sweet Singer of Michigan” could have bettered. Witness the following:

“In the state of marriage
There is dissimulation,
A proud and saucy carriage
Will cause a disputation.
Yet ‘tis ‘honey, love, and dear.’
Whenever we do come near—
But, lack-a-day! I fear
’Tis ‘no such thing’ at home.”

**Fakes, Forgeries, and Real Ones**

The National Society of Autograph Collectors will exhibit a collection of fakes and forgeries in the Library of Congress on May 1 and 2. The Director of the Clements Library, who is by way of being an expert on the subject, is scheduled to lead a panel discussion on fakes and forgeries. This Library plans to exhibit a number of curiosities it has gathered (deliberately, we are happy to say) through the years, for the purpose of removing such materials from the market and to use as warning signals to our friends that the inexpert are often easily caught. But the presence of a handful of fakes and forgeries in the Clements Library does not mean that we suspect all of our collections.

Indeed, The Associates have just given us four “genuwine, aw-then-tick” autograph letters signed and one fine original drawing. The letters, arranged chronologically, were written by Alexander McDougall; Jonathan Trumbull; William Alexander, Lord Stirling; and James Monroe. The McDougall letter, to Nathanael Greene on March 24, 1780, comprises his reflections on the importance to the American cause of trouble in Ireland. The letter from Trumbull to Richard Varick, June 29, 1781, is tantalizing, for it is cautiously worded (Varick had been cleared of complicity with Arnold in the attempt to surrender West Point to the British) yet holds hints of important moves afoot. Of course, what was in the wind was the American-French offensive which led to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown later in the year.

Central New York state is more conscious than the rest of the country that the Revolutionary War was not confined to the Atlantic coast. Part of the story of fighting west of Albany is told in a two-page letter from William Alexander, Lord Stirling, to Henry Glin, dated October 26, 1781. It contains the earliest reference we have come across to the indecisive battle on October 25 between the British under Major John Ross and the Americans under Colonel Marinus Willett. Lord Stirling thought Willett had lost the engagement, whereas he had chased the British from the field.

The letter by James Monroe (August 30, 1812) refers to a real disaster, one which affected Michigan directly. Monroe was secretary of War, when this letter was written, and the War of 1812 was being fought vigorously. In the letter, Monroe wrote, “The disaster at Detroit has fixed an impression on the national character which must be removed.” Apparently, in the early nineteenth century, what happened in Detroit was important to the nation, even as it is today.

The original drawing presented by The Associates is a monochrome wash sketch entitled “View of the Garrison at Toronto or York Upper Canada, with part of the Houses on the road to the Town of Toronto—March 11th 1805.” The artist is unidentified, but that does not detract from the desirability of the drawing. A number of years ago, the Library acquired, as a gift from a group of Detroiters, a portfolio of original watercolor drawings by Edward Walsh, a surgeon with the British Army. Among Walsh’s sketches, there is another view of Toronto which is now supplemented by our new acquisition. Both of the views are especially desirable to us because of the Library’s collection of John Graves Simcoe Papers. It was Simcoe, as lieutenant governor of Upper Canada, who established Toronto as his capital city.

**Various and Sundry**

Books selected by The Associates are often widely separated by time and subject matter, yet they are all Americana. More importantly, each of them was secured because it fills a gap in an existing collection. For instance, during the last war, the importance of logistics was impressed on the American mind very forcefully. We still think of material as something vitally necessary. Therefore, anything that we can find on the study of logistics during earlier American wars has increased interest for us. The earliest of our new book acquisitions from The Associates is concerned with this very subject—nearly two hundred years ago. It is an anonymous pamphlet entitled A Scheme to Drive the French Out of All the Continent of America, published at Gloucester without date [but 1754]. The pamphlet is slight, physically, but it contains a detailed plan for large scale military operations involving simultaneous attacks on New Orleans and Quebec—with simple mopping up operations to follow. Especially interesting is the author’s careful attention to methods of supplying...
such a huge enterprise with food, clothing, and weapons of all sorts.

Because of the large quantity of books and manuscripts relating to the Clinton-Cornwallis controversy (over who was responsible for the British defeat at Yorktown), we have always fancied the Library to be a kind of Clinton-Cornwallis conservatory. In fact, we thought we had covered the field pretty thoroughly. However, to our delight, we turned up another volume in the series which has not been previously represented here. *The Pangs of a Patriot; expressed in a Letter to a Nobleman, upon the Unfortunate Capture of Lord Cornwallis (London, 1782)*, was not in our holdings until The Associates came to the rescue and placed the alliterative title on our shelves.

The third pamphlet in the series of gifts is so scarce that it is almost unknown. It is one of the earliest accounts of the first of fourteen projected paintings by John Trumbull on American subjects. Apparently a separate pamphlet for each of the paintings was intended, but we have been able to locate only the present one which, although bearing the imprint “Londres, 1786,” was written in French: *Piéce Historique sur la Bataille de Bunkers-Hill ... pour servir d’explication au premier des XIV Tableaux ... peints par le Colonel Trumbull ...* The year this pamphlet was issued, two paintings (“Battle of Bunker’s Hill” and “Death of General Montgomery in the Attack of Quebec”) were on exhibition in London and on the Continent.

Not long ago, the newspapers carried a notice that the last pensioner from the War of 1812 had been paid for the last time. The phenomenon of pensions for wars is no longer a phenomenon; it is merely normal. In earlier times, there was no general coverage for all who joined the Army; each case was considered separately on the needs (and influence) of the individual concerned. An evidence of this procedure is found in *A Petition Presented by Capt. Alexander Patterson to the Legislature of Pennsylvania ... Lancaster, 1804*. Patterson had fought for Pennsylvania in the Pennamite Wars (1768-84) during which Pennsylvania tried to throw Connecticut settlers out of lands claimed by both Connecticut and Pennsylvania. As a loyal son of the victors, all Patterson demanded was compensation for his services. The fascination of the volume lies in Patterson’s first hand account of his experiences on the frontier, with life at its crudest and cruelest.

The name of Stephen Simpson is probably almost forgotten in this country, although at one time he was a prominent radical gentleman. He stood for Congress as the candidate of the first political organization of workers (the Workingman’s Party) and for the Federalist Party, in 1830. Simpson’s chief work, *The Working Man’s Manual: A New Theory of Political Economy, Philadelphia, 1831*, adopted Adam Smith’s dictum “all wealth is produced by labor” and by extension claimed that labor ought to receive the whole of its product. Simpson, therefore, was a progenitor of Karl Marx. He wrote that if “the party of producers” ever triumphed politically over “the party of stockholders and capitalists” labor “could not fail to shed a genial, and prosperous beam upon the whole society. Such a party would merely exhibit the interest of society, concentrating for the true fulfillment of the original terms of the social compact.” And we thought PAC was new!

Combining the University’s General Library and Clements Library holdings, the War of 1812 is rather well covered on campus. However, we occasionally spot rarities that are not represented in the University’s collections—and once in a while we add them to the Library. The Associates helped us out, when they bought Paris M. Davis: *The Four Principal Battles of the Late War ... Harrisburg, 1832*. Our copy is in brilliant condition, in the original wrappers, in the original size. It contains an account of the destruction of Washington which is practically hair-raising. The other three battles (Chippewa, Baltimore, and New Orleans) are equally well told. There is no description, however, of the fracas at Detroit.

The final volume selected by The Associates is a puzzle. It is *Les Petits Voyageurs en Californie, Tours, 1855*, by H. de Chavannes de la Giraudière. It is unmentioned by the normal run of California bibliographers, nor is it listed in either Sabin or the British Museum catalogue. One begins to suspect that the thing may be a rarity, when no mention of the title is found where it should be expected. Yet even more attractive than the bibliographical problem is the series of charming lithographic plates showing scenes in California during Gold Rush days. They are vivid and graceful and seem to be authentic. Have we an interested Californian in our midst?

**In Error We Stand**

That’s not surprising at all. What astonishes us is that we are not caught out more frequently. *The Quarto, No. 19* carried the statement that we had just received our first George Washington letter written from Valley Forge. Well, it turns out that it wasn’t the first one in the Clements Library. Our other Valley Forge letter was the gift of another Associate, Joseph J. Morsman of Chicago, who gave us the letter ‘way back in 1925. Having two such letters makes us twice as pleased as we were before.

**Plaintive Note**

We wish Associates would assume that invitations from the Library (except when specified otherwise) include wives, husbands, and adult children, even though the envelopes are addressed to one person only.
On August 27, in the year 1818, the first steamboat seen by Detroiters slipped next to Austin Wing’s wharf and began to unload her passengers and cargo. The French habitants who had watched her approach the village thought she was an invention of the Devil, and the Indians gullibly believed that she was hauled up the river by fish in harness. The arrival of the “Walk-in-the-Water” was a great event in the minds of the residents of the old Northwest Territory, for it was believed generally that this new, easy mode of transportation would open the Territory to all kinds of emigrants.

The “Walk-in-the-Water” was built on the shores of the Niagara River at Black Rock early in 1818. She was launched on May 28 amid a wild celebration. Noah Brown was the builder, and his work was paid for by capitalists from New York City and Albany. The original vessel was about 145 feet long. It was rigged as a schooner, for sails could be used in case the engine broke down. The intention of the owners was to carry cargo and passengers on Lakes Erie, Huron, and Michigan. She could carry more than 200 passengers and a large cargo at the same time. Her numerous trips during the next three years were satisfactory to the owners, even though she was never a fortunate ship. On November 1, 1821, near the town of Buffalo, she was beached during a storm and broke up. No lives were lost in the wreck but, except for the engine which was salvaged, she was a total loss.

Some years ago the Library received a gouache and pen sketch of the “Walk-in-the-Water” in the Detroit River. The painting is said to have been made by Captain George Washington Whistler, and it is said to be the original from which two lithographs were made in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The new acquisition of the Library pictured above supplements most dramatically our other materials about “Walk-in-the-Water.” The model portrayed was made by a maker of models, Mr. Craven, and was secured for us by The Associates. Experts from the Engineering School have pronounced it an exceptionally fine model.

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