Founder’s Day

The first day of April, 1951, was celebrated, as it has been for some years, as our Founder’s Day. We also celebrated President Alexander G. Ruthven’s sixty-ninth birthday. President Ruthven has served since 1929 as Chairman of the Clements Library’s Committee of Management. As Chairman of our Committee, he has guided the Library through some difficult years magnificently. The Library felt that out of these experiences President Ruthven would have formulated certain theories, and reached significant conclusions about the position of the Clements Library in the University of Michigan community. Therefore, on this Founder’s Day, President Ruthven was invited to speak to The Associates. (His address is printed elsewhere in this issue of The Quarto.)

About one hundred and seventy-five Associates and friends were here on Founder’s Day to applaud his talk warmly. The Library felt that he had achieved the desired end. President Ruthven was then presented with the Library’s fourth citation, given to friends who have distinguished themselves in support of the Library. It read, “Alexander Grant Ruthven, with all the warmth of our hearts, we thank you for your kindness to the Clements Library.”

The presentation was followed by the announcement of two gifts to the Library in honor of President Ruthven on Founder’s Day. One of these gifts is a series of about one hundred and fifty manuscript and printed maps, used by General William T. Sherman on his march through Georgia. This was the gift of Clinton H. Haskell of Evanston, Illinois. The collection is described elsewhere in The Quarto. The other gift comprised four original letters of Revolutionary War date. They were the gift of Dr Joseph E. Fields of Joliet, Illinois. One of the letters is an addition to our Papers of Sir Henry Clinton, one of the British Commanders-in-Chief during the Revolution. Two other letters in the series are descriptions of Boston during the British occupation in 1775-6. They are important additions to our resources covering the American Revolutionary War.

President Ruthven Said:

Each year since the death of William L. Clements in 1934 it has been the custom for his friends and the friends of The William L. Clements Library to gather here to rededicate his gift. I trust that this custom will be continued, for it is appropriate that such trusts be re-examined from time to time to make sure that the activities which they represent are being carried on at least within the spirit of the conditions of the gift.

Mr Clements had an intimate knowledge of universities and of the objectives, needs, and problems of higher education. While he was especially interested in the development of the several libraries on this campus, he was also concerned with management and the place of these departments in the general organization. He was tolerant of duplication of effort and expenditures only when these were clearly justifiable. Again, from his experience in industry, he was an advocate of decentralized administration in large organizations and of the corporation type of management for the University.

It was my good fortune to have had a long and close association with Mr Clements. Many times in private conversation and in meetings of the Board of Regents he discussed in my hearing his hopes for the future of his Library. I feel sure that most of us who worked with him understood and agreed with his concept of how his gift should contribute to the future welfare of the University.

Perhaps I appreciated Mr Clements’ thinking as well as any of his associates because of my familiarity with the history of museums, which are kindred institutions. Libraries, like museums, may be classified in different ways. Two of the obvious ones are by sources of support and by objectives. There are privately endowed libraries, government supported libraries, and school libraries, and again, research libraries, collectors’ libraries, and service libraries. It goes without saying that many of these institutions have more than one source of support and cultivate more than one function, but the classifications are helpful when they represent the principal characteristics of the units.

It was, without any question, Mr Clements’ thought that his should be a collectors’ library, supervised by a Committee of Management, and associated with book-lovers. He realized, and often said, that it should furnish materials for research and should also be made available to scholars properly equipped to handle rare, often priceless, books and documents. At the same time, he recognized that many human documents represent vanishing data and was determined to do everything in his power to save for posterity these evidences of social evolution. In his plan the Library which bears
his name would encourage research but emphasize the salvation of human records.

Neither teaching nor research should be neglected in a great university. Experience shows, also, that in these institutions the emphasis on instruction, investigation, and service will vary in the different units. Finally, our universities are among the most permanent of social agencies. It follows then, I believe, that no more appropriate environment exists for a collectors' library than on a university campus. This was the reasoning which led Mr. Clements, after many conferences with scholars, book collectors, and members of the Board of Regents, to give his Library to the University of Michigan.

Paradoxical as it may seem, we are in a changing world sometimes prone to overlook the inevitability of change in every phase of our lives. This is particularly dangerous in education. I would not, therefore, advise those responsible for the administration of the William L. Clements Library ever to try to place it in a straitjacket. I would suggest, however, that they always keep in mind the main objective of Mr. Clements' gift, and endeavor to keep it always an active, growing agency for the preservation of vanishing data on the history of mankind.

The Clements on TV

In the middle of the summer we received a frantic telephone call from New York asking if we would take part in a television broadcast from New York. We had no hesitancy, since we are not expert in the subject to be discussed. The present year is the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. NBC-TV wanted a program on Signers of the Declaration in which original letters and manuscripts would be shown. We thought we knew enough about certain individuals and could display certain rarities to spin out a program.

NBC had asked the National Society of Autograph Collectors to supply four programs under the general title "History in Your Hands." Ours was to be the second program in the series. Our colleagues were to be Associate Dr. Joseph E. Fields of Joliet and Dr. David C. Mearns, Chief of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. The moderator was to be Charles F. McCarthy of the NBC staff.

Throughout the summer we have had an exhibition in our Main Room the extraordinary collection of letters and documents by Signers belonging to Dr. Fields. He wanted to exhibit some of the pieces on the TV show; therefore, he flew from Chicago to Willow Run on a Saturday morning. We picked him up at the airport, brought him over to the Library, selected his material, picked up our own things, including the famous Germain copy of the Declaration, went back to the airport, and took off at noon for New York. The telecast on Sunday was a fascinating business, even though the preliminaries, which, by the way, did not include a full rehearsal, were just plain bewildering. We started work at nine in the morning for a twelve forty-five deadline. At the very last moment, while the final camera adjustments were being made, none of us had a clear idea of what was going to happen on the program.

Surprisingly enough, it seems to have gone off rather well. Robert L. Shayan, in The Saturday Review of Literature, noted that "The commentary was learned, informal, and refreshingly accurate . . ." A tape recording was made while the program was in progress. None of us seems to have omitted too many "ers" and "uhhs." At any rate, NBC-TV was pleased with the program and there is a possibility that a regular series may be carried under the same title later this year.

Toward the end of the program, the cameramen began to move their equipment to the other end of the studio, where Associate Ben Grauer was waiting to appear in the show following ours. If dinner beside the fountain of the flying man and an early plane had not been awaiting us, we would have been able to watch a professional at work.

Maps

A map in TIME magazine showing the ebb and flow of U.N. fortunes in Korea was just enough to set us thinking last week about recent map acquisitions. "Recent" happens to be a relative word meaning "since the last time we wrote about them." The Library has no Curator of Maps at present but that does not deter us at all.

A few maps, such as the huge Le Parmentier "Carte d'Amérique Paris, 1750 . . ." came as gifts from The Associates and from other friends. The Le Parmentier map is a fascinating piece measuring forty-three and one-quarter by sixty-two and three-quarters inches. The entire Western Hemisphere and the western bulge of Africa appear in the center of the map. There are two columns of engraved text running from top to bottom, two shorter columns beneath the map, and twelve vignettes (with descriptive texts) down the sides. One of the vignettes depicts a marriage ceremony which is described as follows: "The inhabitants of Peru make no other ceremony of marriage than to put on the feet of their intended brides sandals of wool, if they are virgins, and of rushes, if they are not."

Of similar scarcity is the polar projection by an unidentified English cartographer entitled "A Polar Map of Part of the Northern Hemisphere From the Latitude of 40 degrees to the Pole. In which is described the New Discoveries of ye Russians under Captain Bearings . . ." tentatively dated 1730-35. We have been partial to polar projections ever since the discovery of our copy of the famous Cassini map which is one of the chief treasures of our Division of Maps. This new example, which we have been unable to find recorded elsewhere, needs a good deal of study—perhaps when we have a Curator of Maps.
Abe’s Map

Last year, the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., put on a stunning show of American historical art. The Clements Library was represented by two woodcuts from a group of unusual materials we have been acquiring slowly. Why we have the two woodcuts at all involves the late Director of the Library. It is said that many years ago, after a successful attempt to convince the President of the University that an incunable edition of Plato could be called Americana, the Director was told by the President that very shortly he expected the Library would buy Japanese prints as Americana. Well, when the President visited the Library next, the Director showed him a volume containing Japanese prints which the Library had bought—Japanese prints depicting the American Civil War. That episode set the Library thinking about Japanese-American and we have, from time to time, added such pieces as a manuscript account of a Japanese visit to California before 1840, and a number of Perry Japanese maps. Among the latter there is a colored woodblock by Yoshito Abe printed about 1840. It is a map of the world based on a French map of 1835. It may have been made for export as well as home-grounds use, for there are Chinese translations of the place names described.

Yorktown Cartography

To our large number of Siege of Yorktown maps, we have added two. One is a French manuscript plan showing the positions of the American-French lines and the British fortifications. The lines of fire from the batteries are not entered, nor are positions of the French and American troops indicated by name. The plan is apparently incomplete, although the very interesting cartouche contains a summary of the men and material surrendered by Lord Cornwallis and a list of the ships destroyed.

The other Yorktown map is a brilliant copy of the Sebastian Bauman plan dedicated to George Washington. We have had an indifferent copy of the plan and a manuscript copy signed “Waldschmidt 1785” for some years. Now we have a perfect copy of the rare map engraved by R. Scot in Philadelphia in 1782.

William T. Sherman’s Maps

All of these comments on maps acquired recently lead up to mention of the collection of maps given us in honor of President Ruthven on April first. They came as the gift of Associate Clinton H. Haskell of Evanston, Illinois. The series comprises about one hundred and fifty manuscript and printed maps used by General William T. Sherman during his famous march through Georgia. There are general coverage maps showing large areas over which Sherman was working in 1864, and small detailed maps recording battles and skirmishes; there are manuscript maps and printed maps, tracings, photocopies, and sketches. Among the many manuscripts there are profiles of difficult terrains with positions for artillery and infantry detachments carefully indicated. Some of the printed maps—lithographed in most cases—carry imprints stating that they were printed in the field. Especially interesting are several battle maps lithographed on linen. In many cases, the use of the maps by Sherman personally is obvious from the annotations and additions, corrections, lines of march, positions of camps, etc. clearly marked in Sherman’s hand. Some of the maps seem to have been used by General Schofield and other field officers as well.

As much as we would like to open these maps for general use by scholars, we must, for a time, reserve them from public view. Several years after the Civil War, the collection was mounted in a large album. The mounting paper was of such inferior quality that the maps are now in unusable condition. All of them, including the fragile tracing paper maps in pencil and colors, are being remounted by Harold Tribolet at the Lakeside Press. Half of the group will be done this year and the other half next year. Then we shall be able to arrange the maps for use, exhibit them, and possibly publish a descriptive list.

Who Said That?

Some years ago, due in part to the peculiar and delightful enthusiasm of the late Carroll A. Wilson, the book collecting world was stirred with excitement for the gathering of first appearances of famous quotations. There are some collectors who think this weird mania was all part of a publicity stunt whipped up by the publishers of the new edition of Bartlett. But having known Mr Wilson, we think it unlikely that he would fall in with such a plan. He was genuinely interested in spotting the earliest appearances of famous quotations, as are some other collectors. That this enthusiasm persisted, is evidenced by the amusing article in the current number of The New Colophon by John Winterich about the gravestone of the author of “Rock Me To Sleep.”

We must confess that somewhere along the line we fell victims to this fancy, but we self-righteously proclaim that our attempts to secure first printings of famous quotations are only incidental and by the way. Of course, what we are leading up to is the announcement that one of the recent purchases by The Clements Library Associates is a volume which contains a poem with a famous line. The title of the poem is, “On The Prospect Of Planting Arts and Learning In America.” It is a six stanza poem, twenty-four lines in all, but only one line has ever been worth repeating. It occurs in the last stanza and reads, “Westward the course of empire takes its way.” How many times have you heard that line quoted by Fourth of July ora-
The author was George Berkeley who was also Bishop of Cloyne. Now that makes him sound thoroughly British and, of course, he was. Yet, for a number of years the gentleman lived in Rhode Island where he evolved a theory of philosophy which was one of the first worked out to its logical conclusions in the New World. The famous line was first printed in A Miscellany, London, 1752, page 187. The volume comprises poetry and prose on various subjects such as “Farther Thoughts On Tah-Water,” “Maxims Concerning Patriotism,” “A Word To The Wise,” “De Motu,” etc. Our copy from The Associates is in a contemporary calf binding and carries the fine Chippendale-type engraved book plate of William S. Johnson on the inside front cover.

**Americana Philosophica**

A few paragraphs above we described the volume by George Berkeley which contains the line, “Westward the course of Empire takes its way.” We come again to consideration of the Bishop of Cloyne because of a second gift by The Associates. George Berkeley fascinates us. He was born in 1685 in Ireland of English parents. He early displayed promise as a scholar and was, naturally, educated for the Church. We are interested in the future bishop because he lived for awhile in Rhode Island. Berkeley was a philosopher. His theories, which were considered seriously in the eighteenth century and are still discussed today, are believed to have been formulated in large part during his visit to America. He came here because, through his reading, he thought a defect in British North America was the lack of schools and education. He believed that a college should be established for the education of planters’ children, and that young natives of the country should be trained for missionary work. Toward this end, he tried to found a college in the Bermudas. He was almost successful. In fact, he secured promises of subscriptions toward a college amounting to five thousand pounds and a grant from the king (contingent on the sale of an island) of twenty thousand pounds. His attempts to found the college, carried on in London, were met with sympathy, for Berkeley invariably made a splendid impression on the people he met. Alexander Pope, who usually disliked everyone with whom he came in contact, spoke of Berkeley as having “every value under heaven.” Francis Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, is said to have exclaimed after meeting Berkeley, “So much understanding, so much knowledge, so much innocence, and so much humility, I did not think had been the fashion of any but angels, ‘till I saw this gentleman.”

Part of Berkeley’s difficulties over the projected college in Bermuda stemmed from the death of George I and the disturbed state of British governmental finances on the accession of George II. The money involved was a little more than the government cared to release at that time. So instead, Berkeley married a daughter of George Forster and took her and her fortune to Newport, Rhode Island. He arrived in 1728 and stayed three years in America. He bought a small farm and built a house, called Whitehall, which still stands. He found a spot overlooking the sea where he thought about, and wrote his most famous book, *Alciphron*. The descriptions of scenery contained in the volume are clearly places he visited in America. While in this country he conversed with, and corresponded with, most of the intellectuals of the period. He became especially well acquainted with Dr. Samuel Johnson then at Hartford, Connecticut, and later president of King’s College (Columbia University) New York.

It was probably during this period of American residence that Berkeley formulated his philosophical discourses. He is a link between the materialism of Locke and the newer ideas of Hume in his *Alciphron*. Berkeley led philosophical thought on the road toward skepticism. He believed that abstract ideas are an illusion, yet ideas did not represent something outside the mind, but were the whole world of reality. Although Berkeley was thoroughly English, and although his philosophical theories were put into print in England, we consider his *Alciphron* a specimen of Americana because the ideas expressed were put into form in America. Berkeley’s philosophy is, in truth, the first “new” set of philosophical ideas developed from America. The history of intellectual thought in America cannot be studied without careful attention to this recent gift by The Clements Library Associates.

**A New Chairman**

According to the terms of the Gift Agreement under which this Library came to the University of Michigan, the administering body is the Committee of Management of the William L. Clements Library. The chairman of the Committee is ex officio the President of the University. On September 1, President Harlan H. Hatcher took over his duties on campus. *The Quarto* and the Library join the Committee of Management in welcoming their new chairman. The Associates will shortly receive invitations to meet President and Mrs Hatcher on the evening of October ten at the Clements Library. We hope that many Associates will be here that evening.