Once in a while, librarians are embarrassed by failure to find what they are looking for where it ought to be. Once in a longer while, other filing systems break down. The recent report of the preservers of Mount Vernon contains an enchanting tale of the rediscovery of a lost plan of the buildings at Mount Vernon which had been misfiled in an insurance office under “Mount Vermont.” The story reminded us of a recent acquisition by the Clements Library. In the Bicentennial Notes on George Washington, No. 2, issued in 1931, the frontispiece carried the caption “From a rare aquatint of Mount Vernon in the collection of Mr. William L. Clements, Engraved by Francis Jukes, after Alexander Robertson, c. 1800. Probably the earliest important print of Mount Vernon.”

The Library has wanted that rare view for a long time, and when the Clements house in Bay City was demolished last year, we made certain the Robertson view would come here. When it arrived, the print was removed from the frame for cleaning. We found that it is an exceptionally large copy, with the original wide margins folded around and glued to a wooden inner frame. Unfortunately, to ensure a strong, black border, a former owner painted out the margins (including the engraved caption) with black ink. As in all cases of this sort, we yelped for Harold Trbolet of The Lakeside Press. He came to our rescue magnificently and the print is now in fine condition. We’ll be glad to show it to you, when you are in the neighborhood; in the meantime, the reproduction above will give you an idea of what the print portrays.

The Randolph G. Adams Memorial Lecture will be given in October (date to be announced). The speaker is Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman, the distinguished historian, biographer, and Pulitzer Prize winner. Remember the date and plan to be with us, please.
Anna and Others (but not the King of Siam)

The Christmas season of 1952 was a delightful one here at the Library because some of our friends enriched the collections by generous gifts. They arrived just in time to find a place in the special display set up for the Library’s annual Christmas Open House. Associate Foreman M. Lebold of Chicago sent us a group of original manuscripts by the British poet Anna Seward, including an autograph manuscript of her most celebrated poem, Monody on the Death of Major John André. Anna’s poetry has been praised and ridiculed blithely by critics and pseudo-critics. Horace Walpole called her scornfully, “one of those harmonious virgins,” and Miss Mitford thought her “all tinking and tinsel,” but Sir Walter Scott was more generous, finding beauties worth preserving in her poetry. We’ll let you judge Anna by the following verses from one of the manuscripts given us by Mr. Lebold.

Epitaph

On Anne Whately who died May 1793 aged ten years
Mild as the Dew that cheers the fading flowers
Bright as its drops were Anna’s infant hours.
Ah! scarce less transiently their influence given,
They shone, but soon exhaling rose to Heav’n.
Ye Talents dear, ye Virtues soft, & kind,
That lighten’d & adorn’d her opening mind,
Ye leave her Parents wounded hearts to mourn
Their comforts perish’d in this timeless Urn.
Religion, harbinger of endless Life,
Calm thou their sorrow’s unavailing strife,
And with blest hope that they shall meet her there,
Gild the short hours of deprivation here.
The poem on André is probably an accurate reflection of the horror with which his execution was regarded in England. Anna was deeply (and apparently sincerely) affected, even though her life seems to have been cluttered with a series of lost loves. Elizabeth Lee recounts the experience of Sir Walter Scott, when “Miss Seward, whom he had never seen, sent him a long and passionate epistle on the death of a dear friend whom he had likewise never seen, but conjured him on no account to answer the letter since she was dead to the world. ‘Never were commands more literally obeyed,’ wrote Scott to Joanna Baillie. ‘I remained as silent as the grave, till the lady made so many enquiries after me that I was afraid of my death being prematurely announced by a sonnet or an elegy.’”

Mr Peter Brandt of New York, sent us two unusually fine manuscripts, each of which deserves (and will eventually receive) very careful study. The earlier of the two pieces is a thirty-six page plan by Secretary of War James McHenry for the military establishment of the United States. McHenry was one of those anti-British Irishmen who rushed to Cambridge in 1775 and found themselves caught in a war. He had already studied medicine under Dr Benjamin Rush, so at Cambridge he was assigned at once to the medical staff. However, in 1778, he became one of Washington’s secretaries and never again practiced his profession. He was transferred to Lafayette’s staff, remaining there until he was elected to the Maryand Senate in 1781. Fifteen years later, he succeeded Timothy Pickering as Secretary of War. It was probably shortly after assuming this position that he composed our long manuscript plan for the military establishment. Some of the suggestions, which may have been original with McHenry, were used, although the plan is a long way from the final form adopted.

The other gift of Mr Brandt is an eleven-page letter accompanied by a shorter letter, both by President Benjamin Harrison and both written in 1876. Harrison had been asked by a fellow Civil War officer to give an account of his own army experiences and those of the troops under his command. Harrison went to the records he had retained and from them compiled a long, factual report on the 70th Indiana Infantry of which he was colonel. The Harrison manuscript is of especial interest to us because Harrison’s command was attached to Sherman’s Army in 1864 and took part in the Atlanta Campaign. The letters will be an important part of a collection we hope to build around the splendid series of maps used by Sherman during the Campaign which were the gift two years ago from the late Clinton H. Haskell. The fascinating series of maps was exhibited at the Chicago Historical Society for the Civil War Round Table of Chicago in October and for the Michigan Civil War Round Table in March at the Clements Library.

Associate Charles E. Feinberg of Detroit, also gave the Library two manuscripts for Christmas. One is a detailed report by Francisco Luis Hector, Baron de Carondelet, governor of Louisiana and West Florida, on the condition of the slaves in Louisiana and plans for preventing a threatened uprising. The manuscript will find itself in good company with an ever-growing number of documents in the Library relating to slavery in America. The other manuscript from Mr Feinberg is Queen Anne’s “Orders and Instructions to Our Right Trusty & Right Well beloved, the Lords Proprietors of our Province of Carolina . . .” relating to trade and navigation, issued in February 1708/9 to Deputy Governor Edward Tynt. In addition to listing the laws in force, which Tynt should be familiar with, the Queen issued numerous other instructions and regulations which were to be complied with, if the Deputy Governor ever expected to climb farther on the administrative ladder.
Associate Dr Joseph E. Fields of Joliet, Illinois, presented the Library with fifteen letters and documents and a book — but what a book! It is the first edition of John Hancock’s “Boston Massacre Oration” for 1774, and it carries on the title-page the signature of Samuel Adams. In our time, we have examined so many books that we ought to be armed against excitement. We should be able to remain calm — but we very seldom can. This is especially true for such books as the gift of Dr Fields. Then it is that for a moment Sam Adams and John Hancock live again. From this copy that once belonged to Sam Adams, on Inauguration Day (1953), we re-read the Oration and came across a passage peculiarly appropriate:

But I thank God, that America abounds in men who are superior to all temptation, whose nothing can divert from a steady pursuit of the interest of their country, who are at once its ornament and safe-guard... From them, let us, my friends, take example; from them let us catch the divine enthusiasm; and feel, each for himself, the God-like pleasure of diffusing happiness on all around us; of delivering the oppressed from the iron grasp of tyranny; of changing the hoarse complaints and bitter moans of wretched slaves into those cheerful songs, which freedom and contentment must inspire.

Several of the manuscripts tease the mind. For instance, the slightly frenzied plea of Dr Nathaniel Freeman to John Adams (1772). “you have been my attorney herefore I desire you would not take up against me as you may depend upon being feed by me when I come up to Boston this fall,” and Adams’ calm reply on the verso. “I am not engaged against Dr. Freeman, and am ready to engage for him, John Adams.” Almost equally attractive is the petition to George Washington signed by eighteen gentlemen, including William Smallwood, James McHenry, Benjamin Stoddard, and Samuel Chase, and Louis Grosse’s application to the Duc de Dalmatic supported by signed statements of Lafayette, George Washington Lafayette, and General Fabrier. There is also a beautifully written formal letter from Henry Knox to Joseph Brant, inviting the great Indian leader to visit Washington and discuss a treaty for the Six Nations, but the prize of the lot is a series of four letters by Lucy (Mrs. Henry) Knox, three of which are to her husband. “Adieu,” she wrote at the end of one letter, “let me hear from [you] by every possible opportunity and believe never was an affection more pure or more ardent than that in the bosom of your Lucy Knox.”

To all of these friends for their Christmas gifts, the Library sends warmest thanks.

CLA MSS

Six manuscripts were selected for purchase by the Executive Committee of The Clements Library Associates at their last meeting. Among them is a set of anonymous notes entitled “Some Objections by some of New Eng[lan]d” which fits into a bit of research we engaged in recently. The Library’s holdings of seventeenth century New England printing are respectable, if not spectacular. To determine what was missing, we reread the late George Parker Winship’s The Cambridge Press, 1638–1892. There we came across the title Sampawumtaeacu Quinnuppekompuaeuenin, one of John Eliot’s translations printed in 1689, and we wished heartily that the Library had a copy. At this point, we remembered that The Associates’ gift was dated 1689, so we dug around a bit to find the reason for this set of sarcastic observations. The tone of the manuscript is seen in the author’s remark, “As for N–Eng[lan]d, that Plantation is the least Profitable of any other to this Crown or Nation, for I suppose that all those native Commodities of theirs that are transported here in a year do not pay the value of above 5000 or 6000 [pounds].” This contempt for the importance of New England may have been fostered by the uprising of 1689 in which Sir Edmund Andros was tossed out of office by the citizenry of Massachusetts, or it may have derived from an attempt to pronounce Quinnuppekompuaeuenin.

Among the other manuscripts selected by The Associates, there is a fine, long draft of an autograph letter by Chancellor Livingston (written when Minister to France) regarding the collection of debts by French citizens from American debtors. The letter, undated, was written to the Minister of Exterior Relations some time after the Louisiana Purchase had been effected. There are also letters of recommendation for promotions in the British Army by Sir William Howe and General Thomas Gage, a Revolutionary War letter by Anthony Wayne, and a long letter by the British general James Patterson to Lord Townsend. It was written on September 25, 1778, and contains detailed information about the military operations of the British in the vicinity of Newport, Rhode Island.

Donors

During the fiscal year 1951-1952 and during the current year, the Library received numerous generous gifts from Associates which have not been mentioned in The Quarto. We hope to describe these from time to time as well as acquisitions by purchase and gifts from other friends. In the meantime, we wish our friends to know that their gifts are appreciated and we wish to thank them for their generosity. Since our last report, we have received gifts from the following donors (other than Associates):

George Arents
Charles Arnade
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Mrs Herbert O. Crisler
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Marcus M. Farley & Mabel Stone
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Wilson W. Mills
Wyman Parker
Kenneth M. Stevens
Myron C. Taylor
Harold W. Tribout
J. J. Williams
Miss Gertrude E. Woodward
Ex Libris

On this page are reproduced three bookplates new to the Library. One of them will be inserted in the various gifts to the Clements Library from the grandchildren of Regent James Shearer. In addition to a number of desirable books from the James Shearer collection which they gave to the Library, Miss Marie L. D. Shearer of Ann Arbor, Mrs Charles L. Willard of San Diego, Mr James Shearer II of Chicago, and General Alfred M. Shearer of Sacramento, established a memorial fund in 1950 to which they have added from time to time. The income may be used for additions to the Clements Library collections.

One of the two small bookplates will be used in all books purchased from the John W. Watling Trust Fund, the establishment of which was announced in The Quatro some time ago. The third bookplate will be mounted in all books purchased for the Library by The Associates.

All three bookplates were lettered by our wonderful friend James F. Hayes, the Chicago calligrapher. Mr Hayes is one of the most distinguished practitioners of the art of beautiful writing in this country. It was he who conceived and created the superb exhibition, "The Roman Letter," which was shown first at The Lakeside Press in Chicago. To accompany the exhibition, Mr Hayes wrote a brochure which is already a collector's item. Last fall, after "The Roman Letter" had been shown in New York at the American Institute of Graphic Arts, we borrowed it for the Library. It remained on view here for about three months. In November, Mr Hayes was invited to Ann Arbor to give a demonstration-lecture for The Associates and students in the College of Architecture and Design and the Library Science Department. Just after the first of the year, "The Roman Letter" was loaned to the Detroit Institute of Art, where it is still on display. In March, at our request, the exhibition was given by The Lakeside Press to the Regents of the University for permanent display and use of the University's students. Mr Hayes' three bookplates for the Clements Library will be added to the exhibition, along with anything else of his that comes into our hands.

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New York No. 1

Dinner was served recently from Wedgewood plates on which were depicted scenes of early New York. The one before us, as it was gradually uncovered, brought a glow of delight, for it was the Hartgers View "t' Fort Nieuw Amsterdam op de Manhatans," the earliest view of New York (1656-58). We happened to know something about the View, for The Clements Library Associates, a week or so before, had given us an important little book in which the copperplate engraving is found. It had appeared first (1651) in Beschryvinghe Van Virginia, Nieuw Nederlandt... and was used a second time in Adriaen Van der Donck's Beschryvinghe Van Nieuw Nederlandt... Amsterdam, 1655.

The Library had long owned the second edition (which, incidentally, contains the second view of New York), but lacked this first edition, which differs in several respects. Van der Donck was a lawyer from Breda who came out to the New Netherlands Colony in 1641. He was active in governing the Colony, was at one time one of the "Nine Men," and became the proprietor of sizable lands. His tract "Colen Donck" (Donck's Colony) was referred to as "de Jonkheers Landt" and in time became Yonkers, New York. The Beschryvinghe is an excellent and important account of affairs in New Amsterdam, containing glowing descriptions of the country, its products, inhabitants, and possibilities.

The Hartgers View is especially interesting. It is a little on the order of a recent photograph in Life magazine (the fantastic one looking directly down onto the top of the Empire State Building) since it is a semi-imaginary bird's-eye view. Perhaps the artist was cross-eyed, too, for the scene is reversed, but this may be due to negligence on the part of the engraver who forgot to turn the original drawing around when he engraved it. About thirty houses and one windmill are shown. Near the center of the view, stands the Fort, which the Dutch erected, or at least planned to erect. As depicted, the Fort is an elaborate and sturdy edifice with five bastions. Only four bastions were completed—and they consisted of common sod walls until long after 1653.

The John W. Watling Fund
*1952*