Three Loves

A crowd of about 270 persons gathered in the Library on October 6 to hear the second Randolph G. Adams Memorial Lecture. Dr. Lawrence Clark Powell, director of libraries at the University of California at Los Angeles, charmed the audience by his keen and witty analysis of what books mean to him. Under the title of "Three Loves Have I," he asserted that he liked to collect books, to keep them—that is, read them—and to give them away. Paying the late Dr. Adams high tribute for his influence on Powell's thinking and his career, the lecturer admitted the emotional appeal of books to him.

Dr. Powell was a happy choice for the occasion, sponsored by our Associates. He is stimulating, incisive, enthusiastic, and broadly experienced. The audience was warm in its applause and complimentary in meeting him afterward. Associates who could not attend missed a delightful evening.

The Library gave a luncheon for Dr. Powell and invited the library science faculty to meet him.

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"Unhand Me, Villain!"

While looking for our copy of the first edition of Thomas Chandler Haliburton's The Clockmaker (1836), we drew from the shelf another piece of fiction in an entirely different vein, although published during the same year. The Clockmaker, which the Library bought recently, consists of "The Sayings and Doings of Samuel Slick, of Slickville" (of Onion County, Connecticut), one of the most popular of all American comic characters. Sam's shrewd foolishness has amused generations of readers of the English language with such phrases as, "them lips aint a bad bank to deposit one's spare kisses in," and "just sweet enough to catch flies, cockroaches, and half fledged gals." Sam was a Yankee trader who depended on "human natur" and "soft sawder" to sell wooden Connecticut clocks which cost him $6.50 for $40.

But before we could sip Sam's distillations, we were above our ears and wallowing in another new acquisition, that wicked novel The Partisan Leader. It is the antithesis of The Clockmaker; it is almost fantastic that the two were published in the same year. The Partisan Leader, written by Nathaniel Beverley Tucker under the pseudonym Edward William Sydney, owes much in character treatment and romantic attitude to Sir Walter Scott, whereas The Clockmaker is thoroughly earthy. Tucker's novel is one of the earliest American prophetic novels—a kind of prototype of George Orwell's 1984.

There is a second similarity between Tucker and Orwell: Tucker, too, forecasts a dictatorship. The Partisan Leader pretends to be an account (the title-page is dated 1856) of the struggle of the South to secede from the Union. Tucker, a professor of law at William and Mary College, was a vigorous supporter of states' rights. His polemical writings followed the Dew line of reasoning. He accurately predicted a break between the North and the South which would lead to war; otherwise, the whole novel is, for the modern reader, vaguely comic. At the time it was published, it was accepted as a serious and important work. Tucker, while using the novel form as a vehicle, expressed a point of political view which was extremely popular in the South. His hero was a "Cavalier" Virginian and his arch-villain was the Northern President Van Buren.

The action of the novel hinges on an "insult" to the heroine for which the hero throws out a challenge. The challenge is not accepted, but an apology is offered. During the discussions, the following passage occurs: "If the President is never satisfied till I furnish a paper which is to blend my cousin's name with a public discussion, he must remain dissatisfied. I cannot help it. Better to have suffered the insult to pass unnoticed, than to make a lady's name the theme of guard-house wit." "Bless you, my noble boy," said the admiring father. "You are right and there is no help for it."

The novel was rushed into print unfinished in an attempt to influence the presidential election of 1856, but Van Buren was elected anyway.
Greetings!

Let me take this opportunity to greet the Associates and assure you of my deep interest in and gratitude for what you are doing. I have seen many of the notable books and manuscripts you have added to the Library. Such an organization helps us fulfill our functions in no small way. At the same time we share the excitement of mutual achievement—the acquisition of long-wanted books, the discovery of old manuscripts, the enlargement of services, the attraction of scholars, the growth of prestige, the social gatherings of like-minded friends who find fun in intellectual pursuits.

It is delightful for me to be back at the Library again (though strange to be in the director's office) and I look forward to meeting the Associates. I do not already know. Filling the active shoes of Randolph G. Adams is another matter. At the reception so kindly tendered us after the Adams Memorial Lecture, my thoughts went back to a similar occasion in the fall of 1929, when a brilliant gathering in the Library honored the late Dr. Max Farrand, director of the Huntington Library. Everyone wore formal clothes. Mr. Clements was on hand, along with many faculty members and numerous friends of the Library. Also among those present was a reporter for the student Daily, invited by Dr. Adams. I regret to say, however, that this reporter was less impressed by the distinguished guest of honor than by the fact that he was for the first time in his life wearing a tuxedo! So you see my memories of the Clements Library go back some years.

Dr. Adams supplied me with stories about the Library and its contents while I worked on The Michigan Daily. I continued to visit the Library while I was in graduate school. After I was out of college and had done some other work, I was happy to receive an offer from Dr. Adams to join the staff. I began work late in 1933, and until early 1945 spent happy, stimulating, and rewarding years under the Library roof. Of course, I absorbed the traditions and aims of this "temple of American history."

My eight years in Indianapolis have given me much valuable experience in administrative work. As director of the State Historical Bureau I had to plan and supervise a publication and promotion program in state history—writing, speaking, working with committees and state commissions, conducting workshops and conferences, doing research, and meeting a variety of audiences interested in our heritage. As secretary of the Indiana Historical Society I had the opportunity of helping develop the society library as a collection of rare books, manuscripts, and maps on the Old Northwest. We were glad, nevertheless, to return to academic life, Ann Arbor, and the challenge of managing a great research library of early Americana.

Howard H. Peckham

Advisory Group

One of the measures adopted at the last Committee of Management meeting called for the creation of an Advisory Committee on Acquisitions to assist the director. It is made up of faculty members from the following departments: history, economics, political science, botany, geography, American literature, romance languages, and fine arts. This step resulted from a suggestion made by the executive committee of the history department.

Three purposes will be served by such a committee. The members will help the director evaluate possible acquisitions. They will survey the Library's holdings in their own fields and advise on items that should be sought to round out those collections. Finally, this interplay of advice should make the departments concerned feel that they are having a hand in the building of the Library's contents.

Fellowships??

The Committee of Management has recognized a situation among Library readers that other institutions have been forced to meet. Briefly, it is this: the reader this Library likes to serve is often a professor from a distant campus engaged in some research problem. To pay a visit to the Clements Library during a summer period, he must forego his summer school salary and in addition pay his expenses of travel and living away from home. This double drain on his income is often more than he can bear. Therefore, the Clements Library is seeking ways and means of offering subsistence fellowships to a couple of readers next summer and annually thereafter. The grants would cover traveling expenses, and board and room costs in Ann Arbor. Awards of $400 to $800 would take care of such a reader, depending upon the length of his stay. The sum of $1500 would provide two fellowships. Applicants would be sought and then screened to find the two best equipped to make use of the Library.

Investigations are under way to obtain funds, and no public announcement will be posted until an award can be made. The Huntington and the Newberry libraries have been offering fellowships for several years.
John Smith, With Music

We have no objection to the use of our material by historical novelists. There are times in our reading when we have wished that the authors had used sources more extensively. Therefore we were pleased to find a young playwright scrupulously citing his authority at the beginning of his play; to wit, John Smith’s History of Virginia, 1624. Thus J. N. Barker, the twenty-four-year-old author, introduced The Indian Princess; or La Belle Sauvage. An operatic melo-drame, in three acts (Philadelphia, 1808). We wish we could say that the authoritative source material had improved the dramatic action.

Aside from the fact that one of the climaxes of the play showed Pocahontas saving Smith from execution, several other aspects of the work interested us. It is written in both blank verse and prose (as in Elizabeth the Queen, by Maxwell Anderson). The cast of characters is divided into two groups: Europeans and Virginians; and contrary to what you are thinking, the Virginians are the Indians! F.F.V., please note. Although it could not be called an operetta, the characters did break out in song now and then. The lyrics are printed, but not the music. A note tells us that the music was written by John Bray and was for sale separately.

A proper addition, said we, to the Herbert C. Ely Memorial Collection of early American drama.

Mimes Opera, Harvard Style

Another kettle of fish is Thomas Prentice’s Letter to the Reverend Andrew Crosswell; occasioned by his brief remarks on the satirical drollery, last commencement day (Boston, 1771).

It seems that some of the boys were whooping it up, or, more accurately, that some of Harvard’s seniors staged a skit during their Commencement exercises. While the audience enjoyed it immensely, Mr. Crosswell at least was offended. Indeed, he was horrified that any “buffoonery” productive of “extravagant mirth” should have been presented in a building that was also used for divine worship. Mr. Prentice is commending him for his righteous stand, while at the same time hiding behind a pseudonym, “Simon, the Tanner.”

The Commencement program as published in a Boston newspaper does not mention a play; it lists only “a speech on quackery in all professions.” Yet Prentice refers to “the mimickry of the young Candidates,” and calls the Cambridge Meeting House “the stage of action for these wicked mimicks” and their “comic scenes,” and a “den of players.”

Obviously more than one person participated, but whether the performances comprised a scene or a series of monologues is not clear. Meanwhile, we are looking for a copy of Crosswell’s expostulation, entitled, Brief Remarks on the Satyrical Drollery at Cambridge Last Commencement Day, (Boston 1771).

Somehow the suspicion begins to form that there may have been another objection to the play. Perhaps the burlesque satirized local dignitaries and faculty—possibly Mr. Crosswell and/or Mr. Prentice.

The Mills of the Gods

Although the report in the Boston Evening Post of Harvard’s Commencement exercises (above) made no mention of the “burlesque” or “buffoonery,” the same issue contained an advertisement that caught our eye: “This day is opened a new London Book-Store, by Henry Knox,” etc. His list of titles verified his claim to stocking “a large and very elegant assortment of the most modern Books in all branches of Literature, Arts and Sciences.”

Four years later Knox found himself behind a cannon, and the giant, jolly fellow rose to be Washington’s reliable commander of artillery. Did he ever expect such a turn in his career as he proudly opened his book shop that July morning of 1771?

In the same issue were advertisements of John Adams & Co., John Hancock, and Dr. Benjamin Church. The first two became staunch patriots of Knox, of course, while the third played the informed, was court martialed, and died on his way to England. Who could have predicted the course of those four careers in 1771?

The Robert Spring

“I expect to get a whole lot of Autographs before long . . .” wrote Robert Spring, the forger, in 1862. What we would not give to have a look at those manuscripts now! Oh, but only out of curiosity, for they were probably forgeries. It would have been interesting to see what he charged for them. In the same letter, Spring offered Morrell, a Philadelphia bookdealer twelve pamphlets for $75.50. Among the lot there was “Hancock’s Oration” (probably An Oration delivered March 5, 1774 . . . Boston, 1774, in commemoration of the “Boston Massacre”). Mr. Spring wanted $15 for his copy; a copy sold for $80 at auction recently. Fortunately, we have a copy which belonged to Samuel Adams; it was described in The Quarto, No. 27.

But it is not as a bookdealer that Robert is best known. Among the four letters recently acquired, there are two by Spring to William S. Herriman, of Brooklyn. In the earlier letter, Spring wrote, “Some time since I was so fortunate as to obtain possession of the papers belonging to the branch of the old US Bank of this City [Baltimore]. Among them I found many autographs of distinguished men and quite a number of the immortal Washington. I have been advised to send you one. Enclosed please find two. My price is $10 each $20 for both.” Washington was Spring’s favorite subject for his forgeries; they were usually either passes or checks. Three days later, Spring
wrote again to Herriman: “Your esteemed favor by Mr Silliman with ch[ec]k for $26. I am in receipt of.”

Spring was certainly successful at enlarging the immortality of Washington.

The final letter in our series is rather pathetic. It was written in 1871, again to Mr. Morrell, after Spring had been released from prison—for forgery. “It is some years,” he wrote, “since we communicated. In the intervening time misfortune has reduced me to the greatest straits. It was [an] unfortunate thing that I left the collecting of Rare book &c. Had I continued I should before this have realized a fortune, for I have the vanity to believe that few could collect the rarities I daily collected.”

Spring forgeries are fairly common, but these are the first Spring letters we have seen. Now (far, far too late) the horrid thought occurs: How do we know these, too, are not forgeries?

**Vatican Library Sloughing**

A mild flurry developed earlier this fall upon receipt of a catalogue from a Canadian dealer. In it he offered a number of duplicates from the Vatican library. No one suspected his honesty, but everyone was dumfounded. The story is actually a simple one. The dealer wrote a letter several months ago to the librarian of the Vatican and expressed a desire to handle any duplicates that might be put up for sale. In time he received a reply to the effect that he had been investigated and that the Vatican was sending over a thousand books for him to sell! (Incidentally he is both a Protestant and a Mason.)

There was almost no Americana in the lot. But we did get one item, which the Clements Library should have, bearing the stamp: *Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana duplicato.* It is two books bound together: the Italian and Spanish editions of Philip V’s decree concerning the expulsion of the Jesuits from Paraguay, printed at Naples in 1744.

**Cistematic Collecting**

A long time ago, well, at least a few years ago, we were mightily interested in the career of Lieutenant John Armstrong. His exploits are threaded through the pages of Lewis Cist’s *Cincinnati Miscellany* (1845) in a series of letters, diaries, and manuscripts.

Lewis Cist was a collector of autographs and manuscripts. He collected, among other groups, Signers of the Declaration, Signers of the Constitution, New England Governors, Members of the Old Congress, Generals of the Revolution, Cabinet Officers, American Bishops, Judges of the Supreme Court, Foreign Names, Presidents of Congress, Rulers of Great Britain, etc. Much of the material in his *Cincinnati Miscellany* was cribbed from his own collection. In 1886–1887, his holdings were sold at auction, but there is no mention in the sale catalogue of any collection of John Armstrong material.

Now another famous autograph collector of the period was Mrs. E. H. Allen, of Providence, Rhode Island. We acquired a few weeks ago nine letters by Cist to Mrs. Allen between 1835 and 1859. All of them deal with autograph collecting and they show how an active collector worked a century ago.

Cist seems to have bought few letters; most of his acquisitions were made through a series of shrewd swaps. For instance, Cist wrote, “My chiefest object of longing from your State is... something of its Immortal founder Roger Williams, & for this I would give many a rare & high priced European name, whether Duplicate or Unique in my Collection. Charles 12th & Queen Christine of Sweden, Swedenborg, Pufendorf, Charles V of Germany, Melanchton, Catherine II of Russia, Haller, Zimmermann, Klopstock, Gellert, Wellington, Card[ina]l Fleury, Gen. Paoli, Lord Burleigh, Monk, Dukes of Albermarle, Marlborough, & Wellington—which & how many of these shall I offer you for it?” What, we wonder, did his papers of John Armstrong draw into the Cist collection?

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**Attention, Hillbillies**

There are irreverent souls who assert that this part of the country never amounted to anything until certain farmers discovered how to turn their great staple, corn, into sour mash bourbon. Perhaps it was recollection of this opinion that provoked our interest in two books recently offered which we obtained for the Library. One is Samuel M’Harry’s *Practical Distiller* (Harrisburg, 1809); the other, Harrison Hall’s *Distiller* (Philadelphia, 1813).

Both books are remarkably complete guides. They begin with advice on selecting grains, malt, hops, yeast, etc., details on the distilling process and fermentation, and business advice on marketing. Hall’s book contains a diagram and directions for making a still. M’Harry reveals that the taste of singed whiskey can be improved by adding tea! He also confesses that when he began his business, “I was totally unacquainted with it. I was even so ignorant of the process as not to know that fermentation was necessary.” Whiskeys produced by men like M’Harry are still on the market, we are told.