New Naval Collection

An extraordinary gift of material has been made to the Library in the past two months. Mrs. Hubert S. Smith of Bay City is presenting her late husband's collection on naval affairs to an institution founded by their neighbor, friend, and fellow townsman.

The first portion of the gift has been accessioned: a group of five hundred manuscript letters from British, American, and French naval officers in the period from 1775 to 1840. Within the lot are nearly one hundred letters to and from Britain's naval hero of the Napoleonic Wars, Lord Nelson. The papers fit in very well with other naval collections the Library has in the correspondence of Viscount Melville and of John Wilson Croker. Still to come is a choice group of books on naval actions and administration in the same period.

The whole is to be known as the Hubert S. Smith Collection, carrying his bookplate. A high valuation has been placed on the lot because of the discrimination exercised in assembling it.

Mrs. Smith is particularly deserving of praise for her farsightedness and comprehension of Library problems. She is allowing the Library to dispose of an irrelevant group of manuscripts found in the collection and of any duplicate books that may turn up, the revenue from which will be used to purchase additional naval material to incorporate into the Hubert S. Smith Collection. That is benefaction of the wisest kind.

After the gift has been completed, an exhibition of the collection will be held at the Library.

Future generations will not remember present-day librarians for their organizational charts, their surveys, their classification and pay plans, their ingenious fanfold forms—however necessary they may be for day-by-day operations. Scholars of the twenty-first century will measure the accomplishments of the librarian not so much by his techniques in dealing with a twentieth century public but by the collections he built.

Lawrence S. Thompson, 1953 Director of Libraries, University of Kentucky

Splendid Record

The Executive Committee of the Associates was as surprised and gratified as the Library itself from a casting up of accounts on purchases for the Library. During the first six years of the organization's existence, it has bought for the Library acquisitions that total more than $20,000! This splendid record has been brought to the attention of the Committee of Management, and it was thought that the Associates themselves would take pride in this achievement. The Library possesses a case full of remarkable rarities as a result of your interest.

The Executive Committee met again on November 6 last and considered additional acquisitions. After looking over a number of items, they selected some gems that included seven books, one map, and one small group of manuscripts. Some of them are discussed in other columns of this Quarto.

Founder's Day

In honor of Mr. Clements' birthday on April 1, the Associates and campus friends of the Library will gather in the building for the annual Founder's Day tea and program.

James Shearer II, of Chicago, formerly of Bay City, will trace the development of bookish interests in three Bay City men as a kind of triple play: Shearer to Cooke to Clements. On exhibition will be the purchases and gifts of Associates made in the preceding twelve months.

Come and see your friends and renew your acquaintance with the Library's holdings.

Grand Right and Left

In the eighteenth century of our civilization, wars had a way of taking an intermission during the winter months. Both sides went into winter quarters and campaigns ended. To be sure, during the Revolution, the Americans usually spent cold and uncomfortable winters in camp, but the British managed to winter in cities and enjoy themselves in Tory society. Notably in Philadelphia they sponsored amateur theatricals, balls, and endless supper parties.

One thing the British officers learned were American dances, then as now differing from the more conservative European steps. Used to the stately minuet, the redcoats found themselves hopping and whirling in polkas, reels, gallops, and variants of the modern square dance. Delighted with what they termed "country dances," the officers introduced the new steps in English society upon their return.
"Off With Their Hats!"

A quarrel which took place three hundred years ago may seem a peculiar subject of modern excitement, but it was a quarrel of such magnitude that it is important even today. Some of the arguments started during that seventeenth century quarrel are still in progress. They deal with freedom of religion. The point of particular concern in our day is the separation of church and state. In the seventeenth century the point involved was the existence of civil authority in ecclesiastical hands.

The Associates have given us recently one of two books recording the Massachusetts erection of the quarrel, and the Library has purchased the other book. It seems that Dr. John Clark, who described himself as a "Physician of Rhode Island in America," and three friends went to Lynn, Massachusetts, where they held a religious service in the home of one of the townspeople. During the service, Clark and his three friends were arrested and taken off to prison. On the way, they were forced to attend a religious service of which they did not approve. (They signified their disapproval of the service by refusing to remove their hats during prayers.) They were tried and convicted, being sentenced to heavy fines and, in one case, to a public whipping. Clark later went to England to work for a liberal charter for the Rhode Island colony. He eventually secured an advantageous one which, incidentally, guaranteed freedom from harm for "any difference of opinion on matters of religion." While in England, he published his Ill News From New-England, in 1652. The first section of the book is an apparently careful account of Clark's experiences with his three companions at Lynn. This is the book purchased by the Library.

The following year, Thomas Cobbet, who described himself as "Teacher of the Church at Lynn in New-England," and who was described by one of his biographers as "remarkable for the frequency of his prayers," replied to Clark's pamphlet with a larger work entitled The Civil Magistrate's Power. Clark had included a relatively short disquisition on the civil magistrates. Cobbet chose to take this matter as his starting place and wrote a long discourse on the subject, followed by a short answer to Clark's narrative of the events. Cobbet, in his defense of the actions at Lynn, denies almost everything that Clark claims and, in effect, calls Clark a pravvicator, at the very least. One wonders, at this late date, just who had full truth on his side. This answer by Cobbet was a gift of The Associates.

One of the interesting features of this pair of books is the fact that both belonged at one time to Henry Huth, the great British collector of American material, whose sale was held in the first part of the present century. The Cobbet book later belonged to the Reverend Roderick Terry of Newport and the Clark book was formerly owned by the late Matt B. Jones of Massachusetts. At last, both, having been separated for about forty years since the Huth sale, have been reunited on the Clements Library shelves.

Victory Will Be Our Reward

The quantity of pamphlet literature issued during the American Revolutionary War is staggering. Much of it is repetitious; a good deal of it is poor reading. The result is that critics and historians have touted certain outstanding examples of these polemic discourses and made them famous. Very few of us are unable to quote correctly the first two sentences of Tom Paine's The American Crisis: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." They are words which became familiar to the present genera-
tion because they were used so frequently during World War II; yet, oddly enough, if you try to read the two sentences aloud the juxtapositions of certain words make the pair of sentences especially difficult to say aloud. The American Crisis was written to be read and pondered over rather than pronounced in public. Unfortunately, some stirring speeches sound merely like hissing serpents.

In the same month during which the first part of Paine's American Crisis was issued (December, 1776), another great American tried his hand at raising American enthusiasm for a complete break with Great Britain. The author of our newly-acquired pamphlet was John Jay. His speech does not read as well as Tom Paine's famous essay; but, spoken aloud, it is a surprisingly stirring appeal to the legislators of New York; and it may very well deserve greater fame than it has so far achieved. Jay's was the first address of the first Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York, and the Convention's third publication in Fishkill. It appeared under the heading An Address of the Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York to Their Constituents, and it was printed at the order of the convention by Samuel Loudon. On the last page of the pamphlet, the Address is dated December 23, 1776, at Fishkill, and the title-page carries the date 1776, but the piece may have been delayed by the printer as late as February, 1777. As a kind of test, try reading the following passage aloud:

You may be told that your forts have been taken, your country ravaged, and that your armies have retreated; and therefore that God is not with you. It is true that some forts have been taken, that our country hath been ravaged, and that our Maker is displeased with us. But it is also true that the King of Heaven is not like the King of Britain, implacable. If his assistance be sincerely implored, it will surely be obtained. If we turn from our sins, he will turn from his anger. Then will our arms be crowned with success and the pride and power of our enemies, like the arrogance and pride of Nebuchadnezzar, will vanish away. Let us do our duty and victory will be our reward.

Closing A Gap

The water-color drawings made in the sixteenth century by John White are probably the most famous series of American views known to exist. The paintings were made at the Roanoke colony by one of the colonists, and are now owned by the British Museum. They may be reproduced in color this year or next (at $75.00 per copy). They were used first in the De Bry edition of Thomas Hariot's New Found Land of Virginia. From that time on, since they were the earliest depictions of Indians, they have been used in variant forms over and over again. We have had a fine set of hand colored facsimiles of the series for many years. To that basis of a collection, we have tried to add from time to time notable series of pictures of life in the New World. Among the famous printed sets that we have acquired are those by Gilbert, Maximilian, J. O. Lewis, Catlin, and Wilde.

To these graphic representations of the American scene, we have recently added one of the most important and rarest of the lot, and one which we have long wanted. It is Baron Axel Leonhard Klinc­kowström's Bref om de Fören­na Staterna, följtade under en Resa till Amerika, åren 1818, 1819, 1820, published at Stockholm in 1824. The set consists of two volumes of text and one large volume of plates.

The text is extremely interesting. It consists of letters written by the baron during his extensive tour of the eastern part of the United States. They were edited somewhat after his return, but according to his prefatory note were printed almost as they were written. The first part comprises simple descriptions of scenes which interested him. As his travels progressed, he began to understand the Americans with whom he had close relations a good deal better. Then he was able to write of them critically (and sympathetic) until he returned to Sweden. Many of his observations forecast the opinions of de Tocqueville, a later traveller in America.

Equally interesting are the plates contained in the large atlas. The series consists of two maps, a pictorial title-page, a list of the contents, and fourteen plates in aquatint or line engraving. The views are of Philadelphia, Washington, New York, New Jersey, the steamboat "Chancellor Livingston," and other scenes which interested the baron. The impressions of the plates we have secured are unusually brilliant, and they are worth a special visit to the Clements Library to see.

“The Traitor and The Spy”

As far as our records go, no review or notice of a current book has appeared in The Quarto before. We have no intention of disturbing our preoccupation with earlier Americana by writing of today's historical research; yet a recent publication is so dear to our hearts that we cannot resist the temptation.

James Thomas Flexner, a New Yorker and author of several fine books, has at last brought his excellent talents to the Arnold-André story. He has produced an uncommonly distinguished book which may bury permanently the half-truths and legends that have made the notorious affair romantic. Flexner's The Traitor and the Spy spotlights Arnold as a thoroughly "bad egg" whose life, from youth to old age, was a series of compulsive attempts to express in physical activities defiance of emotional instability and mental imbalance. Flexner unwinds his story with pitiless logic, yet he never seems unduly harsh. In fact, most of the Arnold episodes are dispassionately told. This does not mean that Flexner's Arnold is inhuman. On the contrary, he is vividly alive and thoroughly comprehensible.

John André is treated with more sympathy than the other two principal characters of the drama; yet it is a great pleasure to find that André can be considered calmly and
G. Washington, Historian

Advertisement.

When I wrote this for his Honour’s Perusal, that it ever would be published, or even have more than a cursory Reading; till I was informed, at the Meeting of the present General Assembly, that it was already in the Press.

There is nothing can recommend it to the Public, but this. Those Things which came under the Notice of my own Observation, I have been explicit and just in a Recital of:—Those which I have gathered from Report, I have particularly cautious not to augment, but collected the Opinions of the several Intelligencers, and selected from the whole, the most probable and consistent Account.

G. Washington.

In paying our respects at this time of year to the memory of George Washington, we were struck by this statement that appeared on the second page of the preface to his Journal (London, 1754). Here, we said, is another facet of that great man: Washington the Historian. His explanation of what he had written forms a valid creed for any historian today: “Those things which came under the notice of my own observation, I have been explicit and just in a recital of:—Those which I have gathered from report, I have been particularly cautious not to augment, but collected the opinions of the several intelligencers, and selected from the whole, the most probable and consistent accounts.” Modernize a few words and you have wise counsel for everyone who wishes to write a historical narrative. Be explicit and just in setting down what you yourself have observed or experienced; in your research go far enough to gather several accounts and weigh one against another for consistency and reliability.

Our favorite Washington story, called to our attention by the late Carl Van Doren, shows his patience and wisdom at their sharpest. From time to time during the Revolution he was host to committees of Congress investigating the prosecution of the war and the army’s needs. So abhorrent were thoughts of military dictatorship to Washington that he always welcomed Congressional supervision.

The fact that Congress could do nothing for the dependents of soldiers caused some wives and even children to follow their husbands to camp lest they starve alone. A few unmarried women also attached themselves to certain regiments to do laundry for the soldiers, smuggle liquor to them, and otherwise be companionable—a lamentable but traditional custom among European armies for centuries. These women were allowed army rations, a regular irregularity, a condition that Washington tolerated and controlled as best he could in his unremitting effort to hold his army together.

Thus matters existed for several years. Then toward the close of the war a congressional committee “discovered” this “extravagance” and submitted a resolution that the number of women in each regiment be limited to one-fifteenth of the total number of men. Summoning all his patience, Washington took pen in hand to explain the facts of military life. Some regiments, he said, had less than that proportion of women, but after the publication of Congress’ resolution they would quickly fill up to their legal quota. Some regiments had more than one-fifteenth in women and children, but if their rations were cut off their men would desert rather than see them abandoned to starve. Therefore, if Congress would just leave such regulatory matters in his hands ... . No more is heard of the resolution.

However aloof Washington may appear from time to time, he possessed great understanding of human nature and a genuine respect for individuals. It is this wisdom, this extraordinary nice judgment, that keeps him head and shoulders above the crowd.

(continued from page 3) without the nauseating stickiness with which Anna Seward and Winthrop Sergeant endowed him.

One thing that Flexner’s new material does not change, however, is the great personal charm André had for nearly everyone with whom he dealt.

While Flexner turned up much new material, necessarily a great deal of the Arnold-André story has been known for a long time. One of the richest sources is the papers of Sir Henry Clinton in the Clements Library. Mr. Flexner used our materials to their fullest extent, and he used them wisely and well. The Traitor and the Spy is not an easy book to put down.