Founder's Day

Although our annual tea occurred on Easter afternoon under leaden skies, more than a hundred friends joined us in a pleasant and leisurely gathering to mark the birthday of Mr. Clements. We showed off the unusual purchases made for us by the Associates late last fall. Prof. Allen Britton of the School of Music spoke on the development of church music in this country as reflected in some of our early books, not only tune books but sermons and essays on the controversies that music aroused.

As a "bonus" from the occasion, Dean Earl V. Moore of the School of Music expressed the opinion that we ought to have a piano in the Main Room for use on certain occasions. We now have on loan an ebony Mason and Hamlins grand, which is unobtrusive in so large a room and adds a decorative touch. We shall also make use of it, as there have been times when a piano would have been most welcome.

Recent Shows

As a tribute to Benjamin Franklin during the 250th anniversary year of his birth, we held a Franklin exhibition in the spring. We showed a few of the small collection of Franklin letters we own, but mainly displayed books that reflected the practical and humane man: his interest in hospitals, education, navigation, electricity, heating stoves, abolition of slavery. We hope that the aliveness of the man to his own times may have inspired some of the visitors to be as alert to their own.

The current exhibition was fun to put together. We selected about thirty of the various self-help manuals published in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The eager American, who wished to know and had to know how to do a variety of things to sustain himself in a new country, found such books almost indispensable. Of course, we labeled them "Do It Yourself" books. Because we thought this way of looking at some of our early practical treatises was perhaps new and suggestive, we published a leaflet briefly describing each exhibit. Associates and other libraries have been mailed copies.

And Coming

During the Summer Session, whose theme is the Negro in America, we will have two exhibitions. The first will be entitled "Anti-Slavery Origins: the Stirrings of American Conscience" and will bring out our books critical of slavery published before the American Anti-Slavery Society was formed in 1833. The second will be called "Negro Contributions to American Culture" and will display books reflecting Negro accomplishments in the arts, in politics, and in the humanities.

Educational TV

The series of eight television shows done by this Library last fall and shown over all Michigan TV stations has been purchased by the Ford Foundation Educational Television Center. This means that the films will be copied and supplied free of charge to the eighteen educational television stations across the country, probably for showing early this fall. The Center selects the best educational films it can find and makes them available to the stations dedicated to educational programs, all by way of encouraging the use of TV in this field. The recognition given our series is an honor, and also it means nationwide publicity for the Library and its holdings.

Extra Lift

It is often difficult to explain to persons unfamiliar with rare books the problems involved in selection and purchase: the myriad questions of desirability, priority, monetary value, possibility of finding the title again later, physical condition, importance of the text or author, relative value in relation to other books wanted, appropriateness for our collection, etc. Purley as a financial transaction, orthodox rules of business do not apply. We are buying a product no more of which are being manufactured. We cannot budget our purchases because the availability of the product is irregular; it is neither constant nor seasonable. We must accept or refuse when the item is offered, which may or may not be convenient for us.

The University is very understanding of these conditions. Just a month ago some fine books were offered us, as our fiscal year was
The Way to Grow Rich

Two tradesmen, in converse, were striving to learn
What means to make use of great riches to earn;
A friend who sat near them advis'd
With a smile,
"Live on half of your incomes, and
Live a long while."

—The Kentucky Almanac, 1804

drawing to a close and our resources were limited. The University found some unspent balance and generously transferred it to our purchasing fund. Consequently we were able to acquire the books without mortgaging our appropriation of the next year. We are delighted and grateful. Perhaps the University did not "spend" the money at all: as cash it was an asset; now it has been transformed into books which are also counted as an asset, or resource, of the University.

S. S. Company, Limited?

Europeans possessed some strange notions of New World geography which were reflected in the areas staked out by the commercial trading companies. Ordinarily a library of Americana would have no concern with the South Sea Company of England. But the operations of the company extended to the west coast of South America, Mexico, and California. That is made clear in a new book, View of the Coasts, Countries and Islands within the Limits of the South Sea Company (London, 1711). Besides all the geographical and economic information about the ports, products and people, there is a steady complaint about the Spaniards, who happened to have got there first. The folding map is by Herman Moll.

Neckwear

Male members of the staff have been fascinated by a new acquisition: The Art of Tying the Cravat; Demonstrated in Sixteen Lessons, Including Thirty-two Different Styles (N. Y., 1820) by H. Le Blanc. In the first place, it was difficult to believe there are thirty-two ways of tying a necktie, but the illustrative plates afford proof. Secondly, we learned that a cravat can be tied in a bow as well as like a four-in-hand or a scarf.

To the tie-less generation that inhabits our campus we commend a paragraph from the introduction: "The cravat should not be considered as mere ornament; it is decidedly one of the greatest preservatives of health; it is a criterion by which the rank of the wearer may be at once distinguished and is of itself 'a letter of introduction'."

If you wonder about the meaning and origin of the word, M. Le Blanc explains that in 1660 a regiment of Croats arrived in France (presumably from Croatia). They wore around their necks a tour de cou of lace or silk, the ends arranged en rosette that hung gracefully on the breast. (Do you follow?) The accessory was first called a Croat, since corrupted to Cravat. When the cravat (Le Blanc always capitalizes it) was secured around the neck with a clasp or buckle, it took the name of stock. Colors, stripes, and figures were soon introduced in the material, as well as various degrees of starch and linings.

We think shirt and necktie makers are missing a bet in not publicizing some new variety of knots. The author recognizes even one method as the Cravate à l'Américaine, "extremely pretty and easily formed, provided the handkerchief is well starched."

We've decided we're too old to learn new tricks. We can't even tie any body else's tie without getting behind them and reaching around in front of their Adam's apple.

Secret Service Informers

A complex and extensive secret program carried on by the British during the years from 1782 to 1791 is revealed in an account book recently acquired by the Library. This record of payments for intelligence and counter-intelligence includes items relating to the surveillance of the French, Spanish and Venetian ministers, who were suspected of carrying on their own espionage programs. The British officials seem to have been especially concerned with one Mademoiselle d'Eon, an eighteenth century Mata Hari in the service of the French.

Many entries relate to securing information about the French naval force and port installations, and of movements of the French fleet. That the British were aware of similar attempts by the French to secure information about such ports as Chatham and Portsmouth is shown by another entry.

A number of the entries relate to America, including one concerning Benjamin Franklin dated August 30, 1784:

Joseph Hinson as full compensation, in lieu of a Pension of £200 per annum, which has been given to him for intercepting the Dispatches of Doctor Franklin & others to Congress, during their residence at Paris. [Payment]—£1000.

No mention of Hinson is made in Carl Van Doren's Secret History of the American Revolution or in his biography Benjamin Franklin. The importance of Hinson's role in securing intelligence for the British, however, is shown by the considerable payment made for his services.

Other items of American interest include an account of compensation paid to Joseph Brant, Mohawk chief and British loyalist, for depredations suffered at the hands of the American troops during the American Revolution. Another entry records payment to a Mr. Murphy on August 25, 1786 for watching the movements of Doctor Witherspoon and Doctor Seabury, two American
bishops who had been in London. Still another payment went to Isaac Smith on Oct. 31, 1791, for his attendance at Greenwich in order to discover the residence of Thomas Paine reputed to be there from the 25th to the 26th of September.

The account book was kept for Lord Sydney, Secretary of State for Home Affairs, by Sir Evan Nepean, an under secretary. The acquisition of this account book represents an important addition to the Library's already large collection of Sydney Papers.

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Welcome Gifts

Dr. B. A. Uhlendorf, of the Engineering Research Institute, and an old friend of the Library, recently presented to us five items of interest. Two of them were German pamphlets: an emigrant's guide book of 1829, and a mid-eighteenth century speculation on how the Indians reached North America. Two were broadsides of the Free Quakers, 1781, published at Philadelphia. The fifth was a collection of music published at Boston in 1811.

Dr. Uhlendorf has translated and edited the Revolutionary War letters of Major Baumleister, one of the more articulate officers represented in our collection of von Jungkenn manuscripts. They will be published later this year by Rutgers University Press.

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Alumnus to Chicago

Lloyd A. Brown, director of the Peabody Library in Baltimore and formerly curator of maps in this Library, is going to become director of the Chicago Historical Society on July 1. Associates will recall that Mr. Brown spoke at Founder's Day last year. The Chicago Historical Society has a library of books, manuscripts, and maps, as well as a museum. It recently observed the centennial of its founding, at which President Hatcher gave the principal address.

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Anyone for Chocolate?

Some botanical books have come our way recently that tickle the palate as well as the mind. The earliest is The American Physician (London, 1772) by William Hughes. The author spent some time in the West Indies and undertakes to describe the plants, fruits, herbs, and shrubs he found useful as foods or medicines. He was quite taken by cocoa and the ways in which it was made up into a chocolate drink. The book is a useful reminder of how much the European diet was enriched by foods from the new world.

Two books from the pen of Benjamin Smith Barton, noted physician and naturalist, were obtained. One is his Elements of Botany (Philadelphia, 1803), the first elementary work or textbook in the field; the other, his Collections for an Essay towards a Materia Medica of the U.S. (Philadelphia, 1798).

David Hosack described the foreign and domestic plants cultivated in the Elgin botanical garden of New York in his Hortus Elginensis (N.Y. 1811). Oliver O. Rich offered a Synopsis of the Genera of American Plants (Georgetown, 1814). Botany is one of the few sciences in which there is considerable interest in its own history, and we have encouraged that interest with early accounts of American flora.

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Feux de Joie and Such

Americans were not the only ones that celebrated the victory at Yorktown in 1781. (British feelings were aptly expressed by Lord Cornwallis' band playing "The World Turned Upside Down.") It was also a victory for the French, because Admiral de Grasse and General de Rochambeau participated actively with General Washington in bottling up the British. Consequently, the French king issued a broadsheet calling on the governors of each province to attend a mass of thanksgiving with local officials commemorating the victory, then fire cannon and fireworks in celebration. Discreet whoopee, as it were. Anyway, the rare broadsheet affords some idea of how much importance the French attached to the Yorktown battle and of how they reacted to it officially. We do not know of another copy.

A similar acquisition is a French leaflet published in Paris in 1778 relating the surprise victory over the island of Dominica. An expedition under the Marquis de Bonillé made up at Martinique, in the West Indies, and had no difficulty in seizing Dominica from the British. The leaflet is primarily a news sheet, but no doubt it caused excitement too.

Another government document highlights Spain's entrance into the Revolution on our side, or, more accurately, against England. This decision was made in 1779, and the royal order of Charles III announces that the Spanish ambassador to England has been recalled, that English subjects must leave Spain, and that Spanish subjects must cease trading with England. In passing the monarch mentions that the British have inspired Indian uprisings against Spanish colonists in Louisiana. The real cedula was published at Madrid in 1779.

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China and the West

A short time ago we were visited by a Chinese student who was looking for examples of early Chinese cartography. He found that we had one map which he termed a prize and one of the rarest of seventeenth century Chinese cartography. The map in question was printed in China in the year 1674 by a Flemish Jesuit, Father Ferdinand Verbeist, and was part of the attempt by the Jesuits to introduce Western knowledge and ideas to the Chinese people during that century.

The map, as we have it here, is mounted on eight panels of a large folding screen. The map proper, depicting the two hemispheres, occupies six of the panels while the other two contain part of a series of explanations of natural phenomena such as the tides, earthquakes, the
The above illustration is the upper part of a famous broadside owned by the Library. The lower part is a description in verse of the defeat of the U.S. Army under Gov. Arthur St. Clair in northwestern Ohio on November 4, 1791, at the hands of the Indians he was going to chastise. Something like 900 of his 1200 troops were killed or wounded in the surprise on his camp at modern Fort Recovery, Ohio.

We offer this piece, however, as an example of early journalism. It was issued as soon as the news reached Boston. Two woodcuts that probably had been used before depict an Indian attack on a house and a portrait of Maj. Gen. Richard Butler, who was killed. Absolute accuracy was not considered essential. The graphic manner of emphasizing the number of officers killed, by showing their coffins, would hardly be in good taste today. The "lead" or introductory paragraph makes no attempt to be dispassionate or impersonal. In other words, the writer is attempting more to create an effect, to wring all the pathos and shock out of a tragic event than to explain succinctly what happened, how, and why.

The only modern standard met is timeliness. The fact that this is a broadside indicates an effort to be prompt in spreading the news. So when you think today that news reporting is deteriorating, recall this piece and remember that it would not be issued today. Our newspapers do a much better job all the way around.

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Most of the world is fairly well delineated with, of course, the Northwest American coast, which was not yet to be thoroughly known for over one hundred years being one of the natural exceptions. On the map also are small written (in Chinese, naturally) explanations of the various regions depicted. For example, in the Northwest Coast region mentioned above this explanation begins as follows (for this we take the word of another of our Chinese friends):

As you go northward there are less people; you will find no cities, no writing, only a few people living together. These people like to drink, like to fight, killing and revenging being their primary business...

It goes on to say that they live together fairly peaceably but seem to prefer this other mode of life. The soil is apparently fertile and the article goes on to discuss some of their customs and beliefs. In the region of Labrador is the following:

Region of high mountains, dense, luxuriant forests and strange animals...

Just north of the "Great Lakes" we note that the:

Ground is barren and the climate warm and fit to raise five different varieties of grain.

Each of the continents is identified by appropriate information regarding its topography, climate, products, etc. While the map is complete in itself, we are now attempting to secure the volume K'un-yü t'ushe also published by Father Verbeist in 1674.