Adams Memorial Lecture

Dr. Thomas D. Clark, chairman of the history department at the University of Kentucky and popular author, delivered the fifth Randolph G. Adams Memorial Lecture on October 18. He spoke on the frontiersman’s concept of himself as the common man and the literary image of him that has become traditional. About 150 Associates and guests enjoyed his address. Dr. Clark quoted from a number of contemporary books on Ohio settlement that are to be found on the shelves of the Library.

Due notices have gone out to members of the Clements Library Associates. If you know of anyone who would like to join this group, please send in their names to the Library. The Board of Governors intends to enlarge itself next year to include active persons outside of Michigan who may extend interest in the Library to bibliophiles in their communities.

In September the Library mailed out to Associates a gift book in the form of a reproduction of An Anthem Designed for Thanksgiving Day (Boston 1799), composed by William Cooper. We thought we should give our friends a few weeks in which to practice before they stand up on November 22 to sing parts.

Lend Lease

With campaign oratory and political slogans still ringing in our ears, it is reassuring to note that earlier generations were afflicted by their own brand of broad political satire. An example recently acquired by the Library is in the form of doubtful poetry: entitled A Simile (London 1759). It directs barbs against the elder Pitt, particularly his involvement in Ger-

Gift

The Library is happy to announce the gift of a fund from Michigan Chapter of the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America designated for the purchase of manuscript material on the Old Northwest Territory. In a sense this money will help bring back to Michigan letters and documents originating here and in the region concerned with its early development.

many during the Seven Years’ War, our French and Indian War.

The author complains that the English were first beguiled by the Prime Minister into sending a subsidy to Hanover, ancestral home of the English sovereign; next, into dispatching just a regiment or so to protect the border; and finally thousands of the British were fighting with the Prussians against the French, Austrians, and Russians. In truth, the astute Pitt did encourage strong subsidization and material aid to the German cause not only to protect Hanover, but also to pin down as many French troops within Europe as possible. At all costs, the French were to be weakened for the larger colonial struggle then proceeding on simultaneous war fronts in America, the West Indies, the East Indies, India and Africa.

Fortescue, historian of the British army, says that by 1759 there were 55,000 troops in Europe on the English payroll. The Hessians obviously did not make their initial appearance as mercenaries in the American revolution.

The anonymous rhymster was probably more accurate than he realized when he says bitterly:

“Nor scruple they, with Truth to say,
Are fighting for America.”

Pitt is generally credited with military insight in his diverisonary policies, for British successes in the colonies justified his continental interest, as Quebec fell to the British and the French lost Canada.

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A Hoe and a Hoe Down

What is considered the earliest book on gardening to be published in this country has been acquired by the Library. It is the anonymous

The Husbandman’s Guide (Boston 1712), written by an American. The first edition appeared two years earlier and is known in but one copy. Our edition is hardly common; it exists now in two copies!

Even scarcer is a peculiar little book by Nathan Allen called Select Country Dances, published somewhere in this country about 1707 to 1800. No other copy is known. Half the pamphlet describes popular dances of the time; the other half contains instructions for children in proper deportment on various occasions. Allen signed himself a native of New Hampshire.

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The Crown Collection

Photographs of rare materials in another research library are not usually very exciting news when they are added to the Clements collection except in the sense that this is rarely done. However, through the purchase of the scarce First Series of Archer Butler Hulbert’s The Crown Collection of Photographs of American Maps (Cleveland 1907) we now have all five of these valuable Series which reproduce the British Museum’s Crown collection of manuscript maps of America. These plans and
drawings augment our own rich store of manuscript maps from the Gage, Clinton, Germain and other collections.

In another demonstration of co-operation, the General Library has presented us with their copy of the separately printed index to the Series (only fifty copies printed) which some far sighted librarian purchased when it was published in 1909.

The five volumes of the First Series, always the most difficult to obtain, contain a wealth of cartographic material for the student of American history. A few of the maps date from the seventeenth century, but most of them portray the time and events of the eighteenth and concentrate on the period of French and English conflicts and the development and exploration of the expanding seaboard colonies. The first volume is concerned with American rivers and contains 10 maps of the Hudson-Mohawk route from New York to Lake Ontario, 4 of the Niagara River, 14 of the Mississippi, etc. In the second volume are maps and drawings relating to the forts and fortifications in the Southern states, Pennsylvania, and New York; in the third are more of these in western New York. The fourth volume has plans of Boston and also a series of 24 views of Niagara and Lake Ontario drawn probably by Mrs. John Graves Simcoe, wife of the lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. Some of her work is already represented in the Library. The fifth volume is a series of 50 maps and charts of the Eastern coast.

The Second and Third Series, which we already had, present many more maps of this period, while the Fourth and Fifth treat of the nineteenth century West.

Poem

Jefferson's second inaugural address, 1805, inspired this satire by one of the Hartford wits, who belonged to the Federalist opposition. As the poem is long we quote only the lines in which Jefferson is portrayed as invoking the Muse of Flattery. Taken from The Echo, With Other Poems (N.Y. 1807).

O still propitious prove, still give my tongue
With honied sounds to lure the blinded throng!
Give them to trust, implicit, in my word,
How'er fallacious, and how'er absurd!
Make them believe whatever I propose
From purest zeal for public welfare flows!
That those my fav'rite projects who decry
Are urg'd by malice, or mean jealousy!
That I alone the proper course can see,
And all of wisdom emanates from me!
Then shall our doubting brethren, who, as yet,
To rally round Us have delay'd "a bit,"
When they so pleas'd and wonder-struck shall hear
That all republican, all f'dral are;
That in all questions that betwixt us rise,
Where party passions clash, and interest vies,
Justice her scale holds so much more than even
The balance ever to our side is given;
When they shall see this blissful state, 'tis plain
"Tis not in human nature to refrain;
Within our fold in droves those sheep will run,
And joyful take our ear-crop, every one,
And as a proof of love when safely penn'd,
Their silly fleece we'll shear, their mutton vend.

Lewis & Clark Case

Although having felt no uneasiness, this Library rejoices with other libraries and private collectors over the recent decision of the U.S. District Judge in Minnesota regarding ownership of Captain William Clark's notes on his expedition to the Pacific Northwest, 1804-06, with Lewis. These notes were found in an old desk given to the Minnesota Historical Society. When the donor and the society disputed ownership of the manuscripts, the Federal Government stepped in and laid claim to them on the ground that Lewis and Clark were obliged to report on their expedition and therefore the papers were archives that belonged to the government.

When your Library director was asked to comment on the case several months ago, he ventured to point out that the Federal Government was stretching a truth. While the government was entitled to receive a report from Lewis and Clark, President Jefferson did in fact receive such a report in the form of a journal kept by the explorers. The notes in question appeared to be memoranda from which the journal was compiled, and since the President had received the latter the government was deprived of nothing to which it was entitled in not getting the private, rough notes too. To our surprise, Judge Nordbye reached the same conclusion: the notes "were a purely personal account of daily events ... not official documents of the expedition ... all pertinent information had been rewritten in the journals by Clark in a more legible and intelligent manner ... no evidence was produced to show that the notes would have been of more value to officials than the journals."

We are happy that the government's flimsy case was punctured. Had it been able to obtain such papers, a wide variety and immense quantity of correspondence bearing the signatures of former government officials and now in the hands of dealers, collectors, and libraries...
Fourteen books and pamphlets were acquired on the War of 1812. They ranged from accounts of spies and battles to a drama based on the battle of New Orleans. They make a fine addition to our several hundred titles on that war.

The rising power of a western democracy and the bitterness of political feuding are apparent in the thirteen titles about Jackson. Long held against him was the court martial held and the sentence he approved for the shooting of six militiamen during the campaign against the Seminoles in 1818. This kind of rigorous military punishment did not set well in the West, where militiamen were pretty free-wheeling and independent; they simply didn't take discipline that seriously. Jackson's political enemies made capital of it, when a rift developed in his cabinet in 1828 over states rights and Jackson declared for preservation of the Union. Other campaign literature of 1828 is included. Some of the titles were bought from the James Shearer Memorial Fund and others from the Alice Grable Fund.

Library Trades

The search for a northwest passage around North America to India was still a hot subject of debate and exploration in the middle of the eighteenth century. The Hudson's Bay Company was interested in the possibility, and so were several individuals in England. Arthur Dobbs commissioned Captain Middleton to make the attempt in 1743, and of course he failed. Dobbs accused him of treachery and misrepresentation, and their quarrel boiled merrily for the next three years. Then in 1746 Henry Ellis joined a second expedition going out to Hudson Bay for the same purpose, and with Dobbs' blessing. Upon his return in two years he published on the subject, still believing there must be a way through the ice field. Both Dobbs and Ellis became colonial governors in America.

All these arguments and efforts resulted in 13 pamphlets published between 1743 and 1750. As collectors we were interested in getting all of them. We found that the Clements Library already owned two of them, and a dealer was offering three more. The General Library owned four. It was apparent to both libraries that one or the other should buy the three being offered and also try to get the missing titles. By the generous action of the General Library, their four titles, bound in one volume, were transferred to the Clements, and the purchase was made. So now we have nine of the pamphlets and look forward to picking up the other four. This will give the University a clean sweep on this episode.

In another generous gesture the Transportation Library transferred two titles to us that we wanted and that they owned in duplicate copies.

Early Political Campaigns

The French have a proverb to the effect that "the more it changes, the more it is the same thing." Our recent exhibition reminded us of this observation. We brought out broadsides, pamphlets and newspapers about political campaigns before the Civil War. There we saw vilification and demagoguery on a scale we have never reached since. Contrary to what many people think, our campaigns are much more mild and gentlemanly than they were one hundred to one hundred and fifty years ago. We saw examples of the first campaign biographies, a device that is still with us. Moreover, the newspapers were often as wrong then as now, frequently predicting with confidence and fearlessness the election of the wrong man. The campaign of 1840 had everything—speeches, parades, banners, badges, free cider, and a log cabin symbol. Even American flags were imprinted with a picture of a cider barrel and a log cabin—what we would consider desecration of the flag today.

We don't think our show had any discernable effect on the voting this year, but we thought it might soothe frayed nerves.
Bermuda Jockey

One of our major acquisitions this past summer concerns Bermuda. The Puritan minority there was pretty unhappy in the 1640’s regarding the power of the colonizing company over them in setting trade restrictions and the hostility of the majority on the island who favored the established Anglican church. The Rev. William Golding, of the Puritan group, went to England in 1646 to press for relief. Emphasizing the economic restraints, he particularly complained of Deputy Governor Turner and sought permission for the dissenters to migrate to the Bahamas and be free of the company’s trade regulations. Getting nowhere with the company, Golding petitioned Parliament, which had promised liberty of conscience in Bermuda, and then published his proceeding in Servants on Horse-back (London 1648).

Parliament, which was on the point of overthrowing the king, was tolerant of the Puritans in Bermuda, but the royalists in the island rose up against the non-conformists and forced the governor and council to banish them. So they went to the Bahamas as they wished, and found them barren. After the execution of the king and the establishment of the Commonwealth, most of the Puritans returned to Bermuda happily and in safety.

Cook Books

Old cook books constitute a field for collecting in themselves. Usually they are collected by individuals, and particularly by women. It is questionable how far a library like the Clements should venture into this field for “research material.” We feel safe in saying that there are at least two cook books that should be in a representative collection of rare Americana.

One, of course, is the first cook book published in this country. This is the fabulously scarce E. Smith’s The Compleat Housewife (Williamsburg 1742) which exists in but one copy and that is in the American Antiquarian Society. The second most desirable title in our opinion is the first cook book to be compiled by an American: Amelia Simmon’s American Cookery (Hartford 1790). A copy has just come our way with the important errata leaf which explains that Amelia, who called herself an orphan, could not read or write. She apologizes that the amanuensis who prepared the manuscript for her treacherously omitted or changed an ingredient in several of the recipes to discredit Amelia’s culinary art. But Amelia offered the necessary corrections. Cook books, when they do survive, are often in miserable condition from hard usage in the kitchen. Ours is in splendid condition, its first owner having either prized it or used it sparingly.

In this warm political season we offer you the recipe for “Election cakes”:

Thirty quarts flour, ten pounds butter, fourteen pounds sugar, twelve pounds raisins, three dozen eggs, one pint wine, one quart brandy, four ounces cinnamon, four ounces fine colander seed, three ounces ground allspice. Wet the flour with the milk to the consistency of bread over night, adding one quart yeast. The next morning work the butter and sugar together for half an hour which will render the cake much lighter and whiter. When it has risen light work in every other ingredient except the plums [1], which work in when going into the oven.

Obviously the victorious candidate intends to feed everyone who voted for him. Furthermore, he is not running on the Prohibition Party ticket.