Enlarged Board

The Board of Governors of the Clements Library Associates has been enlarged by the Board of Regents so as to enlist the interest of persons living outside of Michigan, with one exception. Not only will their counsel be welcome, but their “missionary” activity on behalf of the Library in their respective areas will spread word of our educational “mission.” The enlarged Board expects to meet in Ann Arbor on June 14.

The new members are Col. Thomas Spaulding of Washington, D.C.; Mr. Harold O. Hunt of Minneapolis; Mr. S. Spencer Scott of New York; Mr. Edward F. Parker of Pasadena; Mr. Hoyt E. Hayes of Bay City; and Mr. Morrison Shafroth of Denver.

Real Estate Adv.

A major book acquisition was made when the Committee of Management authorized the purchase of A Letter, Sent into England from the Summer Islands, by the Rev. Lewis Hughes (London 1615). Four other copies are known of which only two are in this country.

Bermuda was settled by the Virginia Company in 1612, five years after the Jamestown colony was planted. Hughes, the first clergyman in the islands, came with the earliest settlers and got involved in the political quarrels that promptly broke out. He was imprisoned once for his opposition, but later was appointed to the governing body of the colony.

In his pamphlet he not only gives an account of the settlement, but describes the flora and fauna of the islands. He also offers a list of supplies that the new settler should bring with him. Clearly this is promotional literature designed to attract additional people to the islands. Hughes is called “the second writer who may be claimed as an American author,” being preceded only by Captain John Smith. A later work, describing Bermuda in 1648, was reported in the previous issue of The Quarto.

Gift Book

Associates are enjoying, we hope, the gift book for 1957 just distributed. Since it concerns a “suppressed” map, someone has asked whether the Library has received “stolen” goods. Hardly! The twenty-four copies of the map that were finally printed nearly a century and a half after the map was engraved on wood were distributed to various institutions and individuals. No doubt some of them have been destroyed; Professor Kish could locate only four today. We hope to hear of a few others as a result of our publication.

Extra copies of The Suppressed Turkish Map of 1560 are available from the Library at two dollars each.

War of 1812

In the past few months we have been fortunate in adding to our War of 1812 collection from several sources. Associate Christopher Van Deventer of Chicago gave us a British Army broadside issued at Montreal in 1812 concerning American prisoners of war. We bought a British reply to an American pamphlet entitled War Without Disguise (London 1812). Perry's victory on Lake Erie led patriot Benjamin Allen to issue Columbia's Naval Triumphs (New York 1813). An Englishman who had lived some time in this country and enjoyed needling his government, William Cobbett produced The Pride of Britannia Humbled. It was widely printed here, and ours is the Cincinnati edition of 1817.

Notes on the War in the South (Richmond 1819) was the work of N. H. Claiborne. An important government document relating to the war was the Letter from the Secretary of the Navy dated Dec. 21, 1815. This war also produced a historical novel, one of the rarest, in The Champions of Freedom (New York 1816) by Samuel Woodworth.

Indian Captives

Our growing selection of accounts about white persons captured by Indians has been augmented by four titles. The earliest is William Walton's Narrative of the Captivity and Sufferings of Benjamin Gilbert (Philadelphia 1784). Gilbert's family was taken in 1780 from a Pennsylvania farm. In the Secretary of War's report on murders committed by the Indians in Tennessee (Washington 1815) is an account of Mrs. Crawley's captivity.
Nathaniel Segar’s *Brief Narrative* (Paris, Me., 1825) was published in his old age, and he reminisces about his capture while serving as a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. It was bought from the James Shearer Memorial Fund. Mrs. Hannah Lewis’ *Narrative* (New York, 1833) is a revelation of the popularity of this kind of literature. The extended title indicates that Mrs. Jane L. Lewis was captured by Sac and Fox Indians during Black Hawk’s War (1832). Actually Mrs. Lewis was taken near St. Louis in 1815. The editor, however, sought to revive the story and update it in order to take advantage of the market created by Black Hawk’s uprising.

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**De Bry’s Voyages**

One of the most notable groups of books in the Clements Library is its collection of Theodor de Bry’s illustrated voyages and travels known as the *Grands et Petits Voyages*, 1590–1644. Originally purchased by Mr. Clements and added to through the years, our set has been augmented recently by three rare editions. They are the second editions of parts two, three, and ten in Latin of the *Petits Voyages*. By virtue of the number of variant issues and inclusion of particular rarities, our set ranks as one of the foremost both in this country and abroad.

Theodor de Bry, goldsmith, engraver, and religious refugee from Flanders, in 1590 began his ambitious project at Frankfurt of reprinting narratives by the early adventurers. Eventually by 1644, the family firm had published 57 parts in two series. The *Grands Voyages* related to the New World; the *Petits* concerned Africa, Asia, and the East Indies. De Bry, an erudite editor and translator, issued all parts in both Latin and German, and parts 1 on Virginia, his initial venture, came out in English and French also. In addition, there were variant issues of nearly all the parts, created by continuous republishing to meet current popular demand. That market has continued through the centuries as owners strive to complete their sets. Some possess a set of one language, but a collection comprised of all languages with many of the variants, particularly the exceedingly rare and valuable English and French of part 1 in Mr. Clements’ original purchase, has been achieved by few.

An important feature of the de Bry narratives resides in the numerous detailed maps and illustrations, many of them based on original sketches of scenes and people never before depicted, such as those in part 1, made from John White’s actual paintings of Indians when he was a colonist with the first English settlement in 1585 at Roanoke. De Bry’s folio edition (1590) of the account of this colony written by another participant, Thomas Harriot, *A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia* complements probably the greatest rarity in our library, the quarto edition of Harriot first issued in 1588 without White’s drawings. De Bry when securing the rights to reprint the story also obtained the paintings from White’s widow.

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**The Doctor Is In**

A few weeks ago we heard words we like to hear. An Associate from Chicago dropped in and said: “There’s a book the Library doesn’t have which I think it ought to have. If you will accept it, I will buy the next copy you are able to turn up.”

The book in question was Dr. William Beaumont’s *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice* (Plattsburgh, 1833), the monumental medical work on digestion relating the experiments performed in the stomach of Alexis St. Martin, who was wounded on Mackinac Island. Because there was a copy on campus, we had never obtained one, but with such an offer—a splendid copy in original boards and paper label coming on the market, we notified our old benefactor, Jim Shearer II, and he sent us a check forthwith. We are now the proud possessors of a rare title of combined historical, medical, and Michigan interest. It crowns a little sheaf of correspondence of St. Martin given to the Library years ago by Dr. Frederick Coller, a Beaumont fan and Associate.

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**Adams to Brown**

Friends of Mrs. Randolph G. Adams and the late Dr. Adams have been delighted by the news that her son, Thomas, Custodian of the Chapin Library at Williams College, has been named Director of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University to take office this summer. He succeeds Lawrence C. Wroth, who is retiring.

Readers not acquainted with the eminence of the John Carter Brown Library should know that it resembles the Clements Library more closely than any other library. It is also older, having opened its doors in 1906, and is based on a private collection of Americana begun in the 1840’s. To say it is a distinguished library is a mere statement of fact. It concentrates on books and keeps sharply to the period before 1801. We congratulate Tom on his selection and on his exciting prospects.

Many of our Associates remember Mr. Wroth. He spoke at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Clements Library in 1948. He is probably the country’s most distinguished bibliographer in the field of Americana. He is also a delightful writer on various historical topics. Since 1922 he has acquired a distinctive and enviable place in the scholarly world, and it is with real regret that we realize Mr. Wroth is eligible for and deserving of retirement.
Quakers and Sugar

Income from our Philadelphia Alumni Fund enabled the Library to pick up two unusual Philadelphia imprints. One concerns the Quakers, who at the beginning of the Revolution divided over bearing arms. It is called an Earnest Address to Such of the People Called Quakers as are Sincerely Desirous of Supporting and Maintaining the Christian Testimony (1775). Probably it was written by a non-Quaker, as he appears to offset a Quaker opinion that the colonial assemblies had not done all they could to obtain a peaceful redress of their grievances from Britain. He assures the Quakers that peaceful procedures have been exhausted.

The other item, also anonymous, is more cheerful: Remarks on the Manufacturing of Maple Sugar (1790). The information and directions were collected “by a Society of Gentlemen, of Philadelphia,” a surprisingly rural interest for urban dwellers, and for what purpose they were published is not now known. The making of maple sugar was actually an old Indian custom, which the early settlers observed and copied. Most farmers and frontiersmen had no need of this pamphlet, but the Philadelphia gents were impressed by the possibility of tapping the maple groves along the Delaware River and operating on such a commercial scale as to compete with the imported West India sugar. Thus their publication was an appeal to patriotism as well as profit.

How To Arouse Ill-Will

Among the manuscripts in the Hubert S. Smith Collection, gift of Mrs. Smith to the Library, is a group of documents that reveal the tribulations of an American ship, Franklin, James Forsyth master.

The Franklin sailed from Martinico in the West Indies in November 1808, a dangerous time for the ships of a small neutral power. Napoleon and Alexander of Russia dividing Europe into spheres of influence had agreed upon the Continental System, designed to bring proud Britain to her knees. The British in turn blockaded the coast of Europe and intercepted trade with the enemy, defining contraband very broadly indeed.

The ship had scarcely cleared the land when she was stopped by a British sloop of war. The Franklin’s papers being in order, she was permitted to resume her voyage. Two French privateers and another British warship were safely passed when the aptly named Ferret signalled her to heave to. The mate of the Franklin and three seamen were pressed into the British navy, and a British prize crew put aboard the American vessel. The prize master immediately set about making himself stupid with rum. Week after week passed while the Franklin slatted erratically about the ocean. The prize crew repeated its deplorable exploit of Captain Forsyth to navigate the ship. Finally he reluctantly took charge.

Then another British frigate stopped the Franklin, took off additional American crewmen, and put a new and sober prize master on board. He took the ship into Gibraltar, where the court of vice admiralty heard the case. The court evidently agreed with Captain Forsyth that his cargo and voyage were legal, but still condemned the ship as a prize because Forsyth had illegally rescued his ship from the drunken prize master!

This specious logic, repeated frequently, is the kind of action that brought on the War of 1812. Not daunted, Captain Forsyth sued in the civil courts for the recovery of his vessel and for damages against all his tormentors. Here the papers end, but it is unlikely that the captain ever recovered his ship or collected just damages.

Schenectady Mutiny

The mutiny of the Pennsylvania Line on January 1, 1781, is well known. The men defied their officers, marched out of winter camp in New Jersey and insisted on dealing with civil authorities from their own state in redressing their grievances. They won this country’s first “sit-down strike.”

Some New Jersey regiments tried to imitate them, but this time Washington put down the revolt by force—for the very reason that such behavior might spread to the troops of other states. That seemed to end the disturbance of January 1781.

But there was one more mutiny in another region that has received almost no attention. We were glad to get some information about it through a letter we have just acquired. The letter was written by Major Joseph Strong at Albany late in January 1781. News of the Pennsylvania Line’s action had reached the Northern Department, and on the 24th some New York troops at Schenectady “began to mutine.” They were not disorderly or hostile, but apparently refused to do duty till certain grievances were remedied. Their complaints were lack of flour and lack of pay.

To pacify them, Gen. Schuyler and some other men bought some flour with their own money and forwarded it to the camp. Commissioners were sent from Albany to make an adjustment of their pay. Major Strong hoped that these actions would take care of the embarrassing difficulty.

It certainly would appear that the mutineers won their case, and in justice they should have. The fundamental difficulty lay with the state governments, which broke their contracts with the soldiers continually. Mutiny was fallen upon as the only way of obtaining redress. It is true also that after these three mutinies, the soldiers fared better, chiefly because the states became alarmed. The other factor was that Congress obtained another loan from France, so that a little more money became available. But the mutinies were typical American behavior.
Rare Book Philosophy

The Spring issue of Library Trends is devoted to Rare Book Libraries and Collections. Mr. Peckham served as guest editor, rounding up a dozen articles in this field for the magazine. One of them was written by Georgia G. Haugh, our Curator of Printed Books, who made a survey of how various research libraries protect their rarities while servicing readers; in short, their regulations about admission and use of valuable materials.

Mr. Peckham's introduction summarizes the distinctive policies of rare book libraries and why those policies have developed. Our Associates may be interested in his statement, and part of that introduction is reprinted here:

To devote an issue of Library Trends to rare book libraries and collections is clear recognition of two facts: that they are administered differently from other libraries, and that there is no extensive literature on the subject. Not alone is the American public in labeling rare book libraries as esoteric places difficult to understand. Younger librarians, trained under today's banner extolling service, sometimes are affronted by locked book cases and regard "non-circulating library" as almost a contradiction in terms, akin to "bladeless knife." Even some scholars think it pointless extravagance to buy an expensive first edition of a title that has been reprinted or can be photostated. Inevitably, the rare book library has acquired a reputation for arrogance or preciousness.

Yet these same people understand and approve the concept of a limited hunting season and a limit on the number and size of fish that may be caught. These rules apply to the conservation of natural resources. The application of conservation measures to books (which incidentally do not reproduce themselves) for the sake of preserving them through innumerable seasons for successive generations of "hunters" to use and enjoy is not so readily comprehended. Rare book libraries do have regulations that may appear strange. Certainly they reflect attitudes no longer in vogue. Yet they cannot be dismissed as antiquarian hangovers; the distinctive operating practices have developed logically from the nature of the material in custody. The unusual characteristics of that material may be summarized briefly as follows:

It is expensive. The average cost of each book added to a public library is about four dollars; to a university library, about six dollars. The price paid per acquisition at the William L. Clements Library last year averaged $92; at the John Carter Brown Library, $97. These figures are unexceptionable and probably are exceeded by a few other institutions.

It is so scarce as to be difficult or impossible of replacement. Two copies of a book are not bought in the first acquiring of a title, and reordering in case of loss is useless. Manuscript items are, of course, unique.

More than the text is important. Rare books may be prized for their pictures or maps, for their binding or association, for their printer or place of publication, for their scarcity or other factors. Priority puts a premium on first editions. In such libraries it does make a difference in what form a text reaches their shelves.

Compared to modern publishing output and the size of city libraries, material eligible for inclusion in a rare book library is small in quantity. Usually it has been sifted by generations of scholars and collectors. A rare book library, therefore, is almost never a big library. Such characteristics as have just been mentioned stimulate certain attitudes toward rare books. Translated into policies they include the following:

Physical protection is emphasized. The attitude of the curator more nearly resembles that of a conservationist than of a public librarian. Measures taken include locked cases and file drawers, humidified circulating air, absence of direct sunlight, cleanliness, oiling of leather bindings and boxing of books in paper or board covers, careful checking in and out of books used, and sometimes special insurance.

Use is restricted. Circulation outside the building is almost never permitted, and reading rooms are supervised. Cautions are given about handling rarities. Readers have to identify themselves and sometimes prove their competence by depositing that they have exhausted the secondary materials on their subject. Since most of the patrons are doing research, a very high percentage of them are scholars, as distinguished from the lay public and children.

Acquisitions are given prime attention and usually are the direct concern of the administrative head. Dealer catalogs are studied intently. Books are bought individually, not in lots, and exchanges with other libraries are not practiced.

Classification is simplified where the library is small or devoted to a single field, and spine labels are generally avoided. A chronological arrangement is favored for rare Americana, for instance. Further unorthodox classification is readily made if reasons appear for it.

Cataloging is frequently detailed, so as to permit identification of the particular copy owned. References to bibliographies ordinarily are made, as well as added entries for printer, place of publication, date, bookplates, binding, autographs, etc. . . .

Clinton H. Rossiter, professor of political science at Cornell University and distinguished author, has been engaged for the next Randolph G. Adams Lecture in the fall. He will speak on "The Legacy of John Adams." The lecture will occur during the first week of October.