Associates’ Affairs

The sixth annual Randolph G. Adams Memorial Lecture on November 12 was well received. Clinton Rossiter, chairman of the Department of Government at Cornell University, spoke on John Adams and his contribution to strengthening our government. The talk was carefully prepared and well delivered. He was heard by about 140 guests.

This event followed a meeting of the Associates’ Board of Governors on November 2, at which nine rare books were purchased for the Library. They are described in other columns. The Board also reviewed membership operations and laid plans for campaigns in certain cities. At the members’ suggestion the current Quarto carries on page four a list of the Library’s areas of strength, or the topics on which a good deal of source material is found here. Also, a fresh, up-to-date list of the membership accompanies this issue. The Board will meet again next June; meanwhile an executive committee is empowered to act when necessary.

The Company

Edward Umfreville spent eleven years in the service of the Hudson’s Bay Company, during which he traveled a good deal among the Indians and made at least one trip to New York City. His book, The Present State of Hudson’s Bay (London 1709) is one of the most valuable accounts of the company, its competitors, customs of the Indians, and the fur trade generally, and it contains a journal of his trip to New York.

The copy purchased by the Associates is a presentation copy from the author to his son, who has added a note indicating that he carried the book with him in 1813 when he served with Admiral Cochrane off Chesapeake Bay. Just the kind of copy we like to get.

Anti-Moravian

The Moravians trace their origin back beyond Luther to the German members of the Waldensians in southern France. They prospered in their own Saxony settlement of Herrnhut, but some were attracted to migrate to Georgia in 1735. They considered Christianity a way of life as well as a creed. Six years later this contingent moved up to Pennsylvania and founded the towns of Nazareth and Bethlehem. Late in 1741 Count Zinzendorf, Moravian leader, arrived in Pennsylvania to try to unite the various German Pietistic sects in a confederation. His efforts failed and only intensified sectarian differences. He then turned his attention to missionary work among the Indians, in which field the Moravians became distinguished.

Animosity from Lutherans and other German religious bodies pursued the Moravians. In 1753 Heinrich Rimius, who called himself counsellor to the King of Prussia, published in London and Philadelphia A Candid Narrative of the Rise and Progress of the . . . Moravians. It is critical and antagonistic, yet one of the earliest explanations of Moravian doctrines. Whether it was aimed at suggesting to the British that they exclude the Moravians from America is not clear, but the toleration of the Penns protected them. The Associates purchased the Philadelphia edition for the Library.

Coupon in the Corner

We have raised our sights. We want more Associates. What interests us chiefly is not the increased income—welcome as that would be—but the more widespread interest in this Library, its treasures, its activities, and its services that more members would bring. We are not deterred by the current emphasis on science; the cold war ultimately will be won by the force of ideas rather than weapons.

Not infrequently we have found that someone has been delighted to learn about the Library and to be asked to become an Associate. It is not a closed corporation. In the hope of reaching more such persons, the Board of Governors suggested that a coupon be included in each Quarto for use by Associates. It may be cut off and used to suggest names to be sent an invitation to join or, better yet, may be sent after a personal or telephoned invitation to someone who shows interest in membership. This, we hope, will be its general use. (See supplement)

All of us probably know of some friend, relative, business acquaintance, or other, who might enjoy the double satisfaction of supporting such a cultural treasure house as the Library and of receiving the occasional publications issued for the Associates during the year. A bonus is offered of a free copy of a reproduction of the Columbus Letter (1498), with English translation and commentary. The Library also has informative illustrated pamphlets available to Associates who may wish material to supplement their invitations. If each Associate secures even one new member, our total doubles, of course—and will the Board and the Library be happy!
The Disastrous Twenties

Three pamphlets relating to speculation and government debts in the 1720's have been added to our previous holdings on financial schemes of that day. They were purchased by the Associates.

The first is a frank promotional: A Full and Impartial Account of the Company of Mississippi, Otherwise Call'd the French East India Company (London 1720). The text is conveniently in both French and English in accordance with the policy of issuing tracts in various languages to attract all possible investors. The organizer, John Law, a Scotch financier who had become controller general of France, had conceived an elaborate plan to reduce the national debt by exploiting the resources of Louisiana. The ensuing scramble for shares eventually broke the "Mississippi Bubble" and many fortunes, including Law's, were lost.

In England, France and Holland public interest is evidenced by the numerous writings both for and against such speculation. The English journalist and novelist, Daniel Defoe, sandwiched in a prophecy of failure between writing the first and second volumes of Robinson Crusoe. His Chimera (London 1720) predicts the collapse of Law's plan. He himself became interested in the South Sea Company, an English venture.

Another Englishman, Sir Humphrey Mackworth, a mine owner and later a member of Parliament, in his concern over the English public debt, proposed a method of raising money similar to Law's. The last book in this group, by an anonymous proponent, is entitled: Sir H. Mackworth's Proposal in Miniature, as It Has Been Put In Practice

in New York (London 1720). He wants England also to try out Mackworth's plan of issuing "current specie" and he advances arguments against "the money'd men [who] have hired a set of bell-weather, to run about from coffee-house to coffee-house, and to all the chocolate houses in the town, and cry out against this new specie, and that credit cannot be forced."

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Hamilton Lecture

In observance this year of the bicentennial of Alexander Hamilton's birth (and it now turns out he was most probably born in 1755), the university has sponsored two lectures. The second was delivered early in November at the Library by Harold Syrett, of Columbia University, who is the editor of the forthcoming, multi-volume Hamilton papers. He related his efforts to collect and sort copies of all letters to and from Hamilton, and manuscripts of his public writings. Instead of one volume at a time appearing, an effort will be made to bring out several at once. Our few Hamilton manuscripts will be included.

In printed items by and about, for and against, Hamilton, we stand well. Out of 120 listed as published before 1840, we have one hundred.

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La Florida del Ynca

Over sixty years after the death of Hernando De Soto there was published at Lisbon a graphic account of the conquistador's adventures in what is now the southern part of the United States, La Florida del Ynca, by Garcilaso de la Vega, which remains after 350 years one of the most interesting accounts of the De Soto expedition, has recently been added to the Clements Library collection in the original 1605 edition.

Garcilaso de la Vega was born at Cuzco, Peru, the natural son of an Inca princess and a Spanish cadet of the illustrious La Vega family. In 1560 he went to Spain to claim his inheritance from his father. Although he failed to obtain either the inheritance or the military glory to which he aspired, he remained in Spain and in the 1570's turned to writing as a career. While translating an Italian work into Spanish, Garcilaso had become acquainted with an old soldier of the De Soto expedition living near Cordoba; and it was largely on the old soldier's recollections that Garcilaso based his account of the adventures and the hardships of De Soto's men in the years 1539 to 1543.

Garcilaso did not hesitate, however, to embroider the factual account of the expedition with his own additions and inventions. In doing so he was merely following the literary practice of an age which believed that history was literature rather than artful truth. For example, he wrote high-flown speeches and placed them in the mouths of Indian chieftains; and he attributed to the Indians such European virtues as honor, fidelity, and pride of lineage. In this way Garcilaso helped to develop the tradition of the noble savage which later became so popular in European literature, and some of the literary devices he adopted have led later critics to discredit the work as exaggerated and untrustworthy. One praiseworthy feature of the book is the impartiality with which he treats both the Spanish and the Indians. Undoubtedly his own Inca heritage, always a source of pride to him, enabled him to see the vices and virtues of both sides.

Unfortunately Garcilaso's work did not have the immediate effect that he hoped for. In writing La Florida del Ynca he hoped to induce the Spanish not to lose the North American territory which their predecessors had struggled so hard to win. Yet Spain ignored Florida for almost a hundred years after Garcilaso's work appeared, and it was not until the end of the seventeenth century that they attempted to plant a colony at Pensacola.
The Devil Loose

We could hardly be expected to resist a title like The Devil Let Loose in a Camp Meeting, 1808. It is a curious pamphlet in the form of a letter, recounting an incident in a camp meeting in South Carolina. The unknown writer adds, “I leave you to determine whether it was brought about by chance or ordered by the immediate finger of heaven.”

It seems that a Mr. W. K., who detested all religion, tried to scare two of his Negro slaves from attending a religious revival. Whipping them had done no good, so he dressed up as the devil and put his slaves in a panic. When he tried his trick a second time, he was found lying in a stupor afterward. After he was taken home, he began to have hallucinations that the devil was after him. He screamed and tried to hide himself in his room. A preacher was sent for, and his cronies were terrified. Everyone began to pray for him, a great light filled the room, and Mr. K. fell in a faint. When they tried to rouse him, they found him dead. They were convinced, however, that God had forgiven him before taking his soul. “The wickedness of this K. perhaps was the means of converting his sinful companions to God.”

The story spread rapidly in South Carolina and, through this publication, reached other states. What shall we make of it?

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The Fancy Mr. Littell

Fancily scarce is William Littell’s Festoons of Fancy, Consisting of Compositions Amatory, Sentimental and Humorous, in Verse and Prose, Louisville, 1814. Four of the nine copies are in Kentucky libraries, the others scattered.

The volume is regarded as the first book of American humor and one of the rarest of all frontier titles. Littell, who signed himself as LLD, compiled law books for a living and wrote poems and essays as relaxation. A good deal of satire and humor run through the senti-

mental verse and the mock heroic pieces. Some of his lightning jabs penetrate deeply; he has a sharp mind. Since for the most part he deals with human frailties; he is good reading today.

In an essay “On Love and Delicacy” he starts out: “It should seem that no proposition is more self-evident, than that Love is not a voluntary passion; yet full one half of the miseries of life originate in an obstinate propensity to consider it as such.” Another sketch begins: “There is no animal in God’s creation less beloved by man that a Polecat is, and yet, none is more civically treated.” In his “Political Primer,” he declared: “It is the business of a statesman to govern his country, for its own good, in a way in which it can be governed; not curse it and consign it to ruin because it will not be governed in the manner and form pettifogging politicians say it ought to be governed.” These observations excite more reading.

Light from Above

Something new has been added! In our case, it is lights in the Main Room. For years the problem of getting better light on the items in our exhibition cases has baffled us. Fluorescent tubes inside the cases would dry out the books and manuscripts. There was no way of increasing the size of bulbs in the chandeliers. Added lights would have detracted from the painted ceiling. Finally we got a hint from the Law Library.

The design of our colorful ceiling includes numerous rosettes, a few inches in diameter. The round center was neatly cut out and the edge of the plaster painted gold. Up above the ceiling a powerful spot lamp has been installed; it is out of sight, but the beam pours down on the exhibition case. We now have such a lamp above each of the four cases, one above the receptionist’s desk, and two for the use of speakers. We are happy with the results and believe you will be.

Medicine Men

Two books purchased by the Associates strengthen significantly our holdings in early American science—specifically the field of medicine.

Dr. Kilpatrick migrated to South Carolina about 1717 and was married there ten years later. Smallpox was introduced into Charleston in 1738 and spread rapidly. Dr. Kilpatrick (a modern, up-to-date physician) inoculated 500 persons against the dread disease, of whom eight died. During the summer, Dr. Kilpatrick contributed three articles to the South Carolina Gazette, recounting with pride and recommendation the success of his inoculations. He was supported by a British naval surgeon who happened to be in port.

Another local physician, Dr. Thomas Dale, was opposed to this new-fangled inoculation idea and felt obliged to reply. Quite a controversy ensued. Kilpatrick finally published A Full and Clear Reply to Doc. Thomas Dale, known in but one copy, in the British Museum. In 1742, he returned to London, changed his name to Kirkpatrick, and took an M.D. degree (don’t ask us why). The next year he published An Essay on Inoculation, the book we have just acquired. Again he defends inoculation for smallpox, and in the appendix tells the story of the Charleston epidemic and the preventive measures he took.

The other book, by Dr. John Morgan, is the first proposal for a medical school in the United States. Entitled A Discourse upon the Institution of Medical Schools in America, it was delivered at the College of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania) in 1765. Dr. Morgan’s plea was successful and struck a blow at the time-honored apprentice system of training physicians. The country’s first medical school was established in Philadelphia immediately. Dr. Morgan and Dr. William Shippen were appointed the first professors of medicine.
FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION IN THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY

In any library some periods and topics are covered more thoroughly than others. While the Clements Library is devoted to Early Americana in general, the following areas of strength may be noted.

1. New World explorers, conquerors, and chroniclers: Spanish, Portuguese, French, Dutch, and English. Besides individual narratives, there are the Canadian Jesuit Relations and collections of voyages by De Bry, Hakluyt, Hulsius, and Purchas. Search for a Northwest passage and travels along the Pacific coast are included.

2. Promotional and descriptive literature for the colonization of eastern North America, 1550-1750.

3. Early Science: geography and cartography, geology and earthquakes, herbal and botany, astronomy and mathematics, zoology and medicine. Descriptions of plants, animals, and earth features of the New World. American contributions to the sciences. Early atlases and maps, printed and manuscript.

4. Commerce of the New World: raw products, early manufactures, fur trade, slave trade, chartered commercial companies including the South Sea and Mississippi "bubbles" and the Assiento, economic theory and history, excises, duties, tariffs, and currency.

5. Religion at Work: sermons, prayer books, Bibles and scriptures, missionary activities, revivals, denominations and cults. American contributions to philosophy; intellectual history.

6. Indians: the archaeology, ethnology, language, dramas, wars, education; missions among them; captivity narratives; Pontiac's uprising; resettlement. Crown supervision and manuscript reports of Indian congresses.


15. Arts and Crafts: self-help manuals, advice to professions, trades, and farming; ship building, furniture design and architecture; how-to-do-it books. Early musical theory, hymnals, national songs.

16. Social Reform, to 1833; antislavery tracts and state associations, temperance, women's rights, Utopian schemes, penal reform, crime, education. Weld, Birney, and Owen Lovejoy mss.

17. American Sports, in books and periodicals; health measures and spas.

18. Early State and Regional Histories; proceedings and publications of first historical societies in U.S.

19. American periodicals: almanacs, literary magazines, political and informational journals. Hakluyt and Champlain societies publications.


21. Bibliography of Americana: general and specialized bibliographies in various fields of American interest, including catalogs of dealers and auction houses.

CLEMENTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES—1958

Asterisk (*) indicates Michigan Alumni

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*Adams, Mrs. Randolph G., Ann Arbor
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*Adams, Thomas R., Providence
Alexander, Mrs. John, Ann Arbor
*Anderson, Leigh C., Ann Arbor
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Clements, James R., Darien, Conn.
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