What's a Quarto?

Well, it's a piece of paper folded twice. If you want measurements, everything depends on the size of the sheet you start with. Actually a page measuring 6 5/8 by 8 1/4 will barely qualify as a quarto, and so will anything on up to 9 by 12 inches. Our esteemed Quarto has been 8 1/4 by 11, but the one you are now reading measures 7 1/2 by 10. We have reduced the size because we want to send it to you four times a year instead of three, and we need a little relief from the number of words each issue devours.

So we will greet you more often this year with book gossip and hope you will find the sheet as lively as ever.

Clinton Addenda

When Mr. Clements purchased the papers of Sir Henry Clinton, British commander-in-chief in America from 1778 to 1782, he obtained some 18,000 manuscripts comprising the official correspondence. Withheld from sale were about 2,000 letters constituting Clinton's personal or private correspondence with friends in England. Last June these items were offered at auction in London, grouped in some 35 parcels.

Naturally we coveted them. One of our professors is planning a biography of Sir Henry, for which this material is indispensable. Further, it would be in letters to his intimates that he would express freely his true opinions of his colleagues and his enemies, the Americans. We would have to divide honors, if some other institution obtained this part of Clinton's papers. Bidding would involve a high amount of guess work, and once we had acquired a few of the parcels we must plunge ahead and make sure we got them all.

Here President Hatcher came to our rescue. Out of a fund made available to him by the Alumni Development Council, he offered to match dollar for dollar whatever the Library would commit from its funds. This offer doubled our purchasing power. We plunged in and swept all of Sir Henry's correspondence! The costs and commission totaled about $7,750, a sum less than we were prepared to expend. In settling the bills, $4,000 was allowed from the President's Fund, a tremendous lift over a high hurdle. We herewith express the appreciation of the Library and know that our Associates join us in gratitude to the Alumni Council and the President.

Collectors are always nagged by the urge for completeness, for finish of design. We are sure Mr. Clements was bothered by the family's refusal to part with what it called "private" correspondence. Now that the opportunity was offered, it was a Library obligation to secure this additional lot. We are thankful not only that University resources were available, but that scholarly attitudes perceived at once the desirability of making this purchase. The fact that the papers will be put to almost immediate use reinforces the wisdom of the decision. It also proves once again that the University administration understands the value of a research resource like the Clements Library.

Batting Over 1000

After several years of recording research visits to the Library of 600 to 900 annually, we have finally burst into four figures. For the University year ending June 30, a total of 1066 research visits were recorded. This does not mean that number of readers; each person is counted each day he works here. We are pleased about the increased use, but we also know that use fluctuates. Moreover, the quantity of use is not a full measure of the Library's value; it may have served its purpose more significantly the year we had 600 visits. This statistic is simply one kind of measurement.
Visit to the Huntington Library

Dr. John Haugh, in his article, describes his trip to the Huntington Library in California. He visited the library to meet with distinguished guests and to discuss the needs of the library with staff members. The Huntington Library is known for its extensive collection of rare books, manuscripts, and other artifacts. The library has a large audience of scholars who come to pursue research, and the general public who come to see a few extraordinary things. The library function is often tinged with a museum aspect, the whole carefully guarded. Dr. Haugh learned that in acquisitions the Huntington spends annually three times the amount available to the Clements.

We saw many other “sights” in Los Angeles, but soon moved on to San Francisco, where some 4400 librarians were in convention. I was glad to be in on the organization of a Rare Books Section as part of the Association of College and Research Libraries. Our Mrs. Haugh had served one year as chairman of the committee which brought about this organization. Officers were elected, and the compilation of a manual for rare book librarians is the first project of the new group. Mrs. Haugh and I have been asked to contribute essays. An institute or workshop for rare book librarians is scheduled at the University of Virginia next June.

The Bancroft Library of the University of California contains about 116,000 books plus manuscripts on the western states and Mexico. Basically it is the collection assembled by historian-book seller Hubert Howe Bancroft and is most appropriate for a western university. It includes rare books and common books and lately has been augmented by “miles” of microfilms from European archives. An active organization of friends adds zest and support to the continuing growth of the library under Dr. George Hammond.

Across the Plains and Over the Rockies

On a western tour this summer I made a point of meeting some Associates, bibliophiles, and alumni and attending the annual meeting of the American Library Association.

Our first stop was Los Angeles, where William A. C. Roethke, member of our Board of Governors, arranged a luncheon of distinguished guests for me to meet. The occasion enabled me to speak about the Library, what we are doing, and the changing role of book collecting. I also visited the Huntington Library in San Marino and was shown around by the director, Dr. John E. Pomfret. Aside from the art gallery, the treasures in books left me with my tongue hanging out.

Associate Herbert W. Clark, veteran attorney of San Francisco, was host to a delightful luncheon for me at the Union Club, atop one of the city’s famed hills. There I met bibliophiles and alumni who listened patiently to me. It was a most pleasant break in convention duties.

I also attended a champagne party given by the Book Club of California, meeting collectors and dealers and omnipresent librarians. In the hubbub William Wreden of Palo Alto and I concluded a deal for a collection of New England manuscripts (see another column). One never knows where material will turn up. In a visit to Howell’s Book Store, I purchased a few rare books for the Library.

I moved on northward to Portland, Oregon. After a tour of the city and a trip out to Bonneville Dam, I was entertained at dinner by the Michigan Alumni Club. That night I spoke at a public meeting in the Public Library. Off again the next morning to Seattle, I paid my respects to noble Mt. Rainier, saw the city, and inspected the University of Washington Library, with its Pacific Northwest collection. I tried to ransack Shorey’s Book Store, but bought half a million old books a little too formidable. Officers of the Michigan Alumni Club invited some local librarians to a luncheon to hear me. The Seattle Public Library is in temporary quarters while a new building is being erected.

The day before we were to start homeward, a glorious trip ended almost disastrously. My family and I were riding in a taxi that ran through a stop sign and was struck by another car. The children and I were cut and bruised somewhat, but my wife suffered several cracked bones. She was hospitalized in Seattle.
more than three weeks, before we could bring her back to Ann Arbor. She is now at home, mending slowly after being off her feet for eight weeks. The enforced delay was made bearable by friendly Seattleites and letters and flowers from home, but your secretary hardly had time for research or bibliographical exploration. We are grateful for all messages and expressions, and thankful that the injuries were no worse.

Howard H. Peckham

June Bounty

When the Board of Governors of the Associates met in June, they selected half a dozen significant books to purchase. One dealt with Antoine Crozat, who had obtained from his own French king exclusive rights to trade in Louisiana, the Illinois country, and the Ohio Valley. British merchants were alarmed by this development, as several of the English colonies supposedly extended to the Pacific. Some unnamed person published a Letter to a Member of Parliament (London 1713) expressing his concern. "When I see the Treasures of that rich Country Landing in the Ports of France, and after a little Circulation swell the Exchequer of a Prince who knows so perfectly how to make use of it either in War or Treaties, I cannot be quiet." The golden prospect went to the head of Frenchmen; they foresaw dizzying prosperity and speculated in a stock company for exploiting the area—that burst in 1720! The Mississippi Bubble saved our apprehensive friend.

The next item was literary: The Western Miscellany, compiled by G. (for George) W. (for Washington) Stipp and printed at Xenia, Ohio, in 1827. It contains John Bradford's notes on Kentucky plus other historical and biographical writings that pleased Mr. Stipp. It's an early example of belles lettres in Ohio, and there seem to be only eight other copies known.

Our travel accounts were enlarged by John Drayton's Travels in the Northern and Eastern States (Charleston 1794). Written in letter form, his descriptions and comments are good. He noted the fervor for the French as against the English at this time. His astonishments indicate the differences between life in the North and life in the South, such as sending girls to public school.

The Board then bought for the Library Alonso Barba's First Book of the Art of Mettals (London 1674), the English translation of a Spanish work which is the first book on mining, metallurgy, and oil wells in the New World. (We have all in Michigan.) A short-lived journal, The Free Trade Advocate (Philadelphia 1829) was the first economic weekly published in the United States. It was edited by Condy Raguet, a member of the American Philosophical Society. We now have the complete run in two volumes. Finally, the Board purchased the Letter from the Secretary of State (New York 1797) reiterating our reasons to France for maintaining neutrality in the Napoleonic wars.

The First Canal

An interesting Anglo-American collection of manuscripts relating to New England was purchased in California this summer. They are the papers of John Atkinson, British merchant who settled in Boston in 1770. After the Revolution he moved his trading business to New York and speculated in western lands. He was enthusiastic over the possibilities for development in this country, which eventually cost him his fortune.

Perhaps the most important segment of the 250 papers and three letterbooks deals with Atkinson's investment in "A Company for Rendering the Connecticut River Navigable Past Bellows Falls, Vermont." (We like that corporate title; it's informative and no nonsense; some different from "Atlas Corporation" today!) Together with his father-in-law, Ebenezer Storer (the Boston merchant and early treasurer of Harvard College, the Michigan of the East), and his two brothers, John Atkinson furnished the capital for the Bellows Falls canal. Construction began on this first American canal in 1792 and continued for ten years. In New York, Atkinson received frequent reports from his agents about the canal. Among them are some thirty letters from his brother-in-law, Charles Storer, who had also served as John Adams' secretary in the 1780's. He moved to Bellows Falls in 1790 and became an officer in the canal corporation.

Tolls paid by boats were satisfactory, but repair and upkeep of the canal cost more than anticipated—a discovery that plagued each new canal company across the country. But John Atkinson built a sawmill at Bellows Falls. Despite early setbacks, the canal continued to operate and
remained in the Atkinson family until 1866.

During the War of 1812 Atkinson suffered financial reverses. He moved to Bellows Falls in 1819 and had to mortgage or sell much of his land holdings. He sold some of his canal stock to his brother, before his own death in 1823.

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The Associates: Ten Year Report

In the first ten years of its existence, from 1947 to 1957, The Clements Library Associates has compiled an enviable record of practical assistance to the growth of the Library. All monies contributed by members may be used only for acquisitions. Consistently, the Board of Governors has selected for purchase expensive items, those which the Library itself feels are often beyond its reach. The plain figures tell the story:

Over the ten-year period, the Associates have expended $36,702 for books, maps, and manuscripts. This sum is a tremendous boost to the Library's regular appropriation and simply means that some extraordinary treasures have been added to the shelves that would not be there otherwise. They have been described in these columns as acquired. In addition individual Associates have stepped forward at times to make purchases out of their own pockets—an added benefit of the organization.

Membership, which reached 325 at the end of the first year, passed 500 in 1954 and has remained around that figure.

After the death of Dr. Randolph G. Adams early in 1951, the Associates raised an additional fund for a series of ten lectures at the Library known as the Randolph G. Adams Memorial Lectures. Outstanding scholars have been brought to the campus for these occasions, and the completed series of talks is expected to appear in book form.

These are the measurable benefits of the organization. There has been enrichment for the staff in meeting bibliophiles among the Associates and learning about their private collections. Rewarding friendships have been established. From Board members we have gained fresh insights on the Library. We hope that individual Associates have experienced similar intangible satisfactions and have enjoyed the annual gift book and other publications as well as the thrill of adding great rarities to this storehouse of resources on our American heritage.

In response to questions, we must acknowledge that the Library has taken a cut in appropriations this year along with the rest of the University. This setback, temporary we trust, makes us doubly appreciative of the Associates and their help in the coming months.

In the next issue, we shall offer a detailed report on the eleventh year of the Associates, 1957–1958.

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The Greeneville Line

After the Battle of Fallen Timbers in northwest Ohio on August 20, 1794, General Anthony Wayne negotiated a treaty with the Indians which established a definite boundary between Indian territory and lands open to settlement. The line ran east and west across central Ohio, then south-southwest to the Ohio River, taking in a wedge of modern Indiana. At the treaty ceremony, of course, only the approximate line was agreed upon. The next step was to survey and mark this boundary so that neither side would violate it.

President Washington appointed Rufus Putnam as surveyor general to run this line. Recently the Library has acquired drafts of a group of Putnam letters to Secretary of the Treasury Oliver Wolcott devoted to this business—a pertinent addition to the Wayne correspondence obtained a few months earlier. They date from January 1797 to September 1799. In the first Putnam writes:

"I beg leave to suggest that in my opinion it will be proper to have the boundary lines between these lands & the present Indian claims ascertained as soon as may be to prevent all danger of our encroaching on the Indian lands ... and because any location near them before the boundary lines are surveyed would probably occasion jealousies in the minds of the Indians which might prove of very bad consequence."

The Shawnees threatened the surveyors, but the line was eventually completed without any fatalities. Putnam wanted some chiefs to go along with the surveyors so that they would be convinced by the accuracy and fairness of the marked line, but the Indians regretted the agreement, and war parties raided down to the Ohio River.