Lilly Endowment Fellowships

The Library is proud to announce that it has received a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., of Indianapolis for summer research fellowships. These will be offered to scholars who must come from a distance to make use of the Library and need money for transportation, board, and room. It is planned to offer $1200 each summer to be split between two applicants according to the number of weeks they estimate they should work at the Library.

Holders of the Clements Library–Lilly Endowment Fellowships are expected to be pursuing the kind of research that will result in publication, and they must acknowledge the help of this Fellowship. Since the Library was anxious to inaugurate the program in the summer of 1960, application forms and announcements have been sent to various universities, and the submission date was set for March 21. A university committee will select the two winners.

We are all grateful to Lilly Endowment for this recognition and generosity, and we believe that a five-year program of such grants will not only publicize the Library but encourage the publication of significant papers and books on early American history.

Anti-Slavery

We are always tempted by opportunities to obtain a quantity of material on a single subject. This is one attraction of a manuscript collection over miscellaneous books. It is not often that we can absorb a collection of books because we are likely to have a substantial percentage of them. But since our last issue we have acquired a group of two hundred pamphlets on the suppression of slavery in the West Indies by Great Britain. The movement began in the eighteenth century and came to decision in 1832.

It is of American interest not simply because of the geographical location of these islands, but mainly because the American movement was much influenced by this effort of Englishmen, individually and collectively in societies. We were, of course, advised by our own Prof. Dwight Dumond, who has just finished a monumental work on the American anti-slavery movement and who was familiar with a number of the British authors and pamphlets we bought. We already had a few scattered items on slavery in the West Indies and now we think we have a respectable collection for research use.

Capt. Whipple Manuscripts

The naval history of the American Revolution is a confused business. Each of thirteen colonies was empowered to organize a navy or not, as it chose, and several of them did. The Continental Congress took two actions that turned out to be in opposition to each other: it created a Continental Navy and then it granted letters of marque whereby private ships could go out and capture enemy vessels, sell the cargo for the benefit of all hands, and still not be considered pirates. The unfortunate result was that sailors preferred to sail aboard privateers; as long as they had to risk their lives, they wanted a chance of some material
the British when that city capitulated. New captains were commissioned from time to time, and men like John Paul Jones gave the burgeoning U.S. Navy a glorious tradition to maintain. Eventually the Continental Navy put fifty to sixty ships in service.

Source material on the American Navy in the Revolution, especially the correspondence of officers, is extremely hard to find. Therefore we seized the opportunity to acquire a group of eighty letters and documents to and from Captain Whipple, most of them concerned with his war service. The only other Whipple material we learned about was a letterbook of his in the Yale University Library. It was regrettable that the two lots were separated, and we wrote along this line to James Babb, Yale librarian. He agreed and acquiesced in letting us have the letterbook at the price he had paid for it! This was thoughtful and discerning librarianship, the spirit that makes Mr. Babb famous. The letterbook contained copies of 101 additional missives for 1778–79. So now we feel we have a respectable collection of Whipple manuscripts on the Revolution.

Encouraging all these negotiations was the Associates' Board of Governors. With the balance contributed by members for purchase of the Anthony Wayne papers, the Board authorized the purchase of the Whipple lot. Another distinguished acquisition made possible by our Associates!

How Big is Big?

On all sides we are hearing about the “population explosion,” and the dangers are real enough as the birthrate creates a population that is outstripping food supply in many areas of the world. This probability was pointed out by the English economist, Malthus, in 1798. The projection of population growth is a touchy bit of statistical probability at best, and of course Malthus did not know enough about agricultural science to figure on increasing yield per acre. So while his timing was off, his assertion that a problem would arise was true enough.

From a recent acquisition we learn that an American professor at Harvard, Edward Wigglesworth, anticipated Malthus by more than twenty years by publishing in 1775 Calculations on American Population. He had learned that in the colonies the British Americans doubled their numbers every twenty-five years, an increase not paralleled in Europe. The reason, he believed, was the old story of opportunity in America. Americans, he declared, “are less luxurious in their manner of living, and the means of supporting a family can be more easily obtained. For the last reason Americans are induced to marry earlier in life, and consequently their families of children are more numerous.” Without counting on increasing medical knowledge which would reduce infant mortality, Wiggleworth went on to construct an elaborate mathematical equation by which future growth could be prophesied.

Thus Professor W. estimated that the country’s total population would be five millions in 1800. He turned out to be too low by 300,000. He said the population would be twenty millions by 1850. Again he was too low by more than three millions. But when he got to 1900 he was ahead of actuality: he said eighty millions, and the true figure was seventy-six millions. Consequently the error increased and he declared the population of 1950 would be 320 millions, whereas it was only 154 millions.
The good professor saw nothing alarming about his picture of growth. He seemed to assume that all parts of the continent were equally inhabitable, and with an expected population of 640 millions by 1975 this was too valuable a country for England to lose by her present quarrel with the colonies. We can only add that our authority was a professor of divinity, and his excursion was, as he said, “the employment of some leisure hours, and designed as a recreation after studies of a more serious nature.”

**Western Posse**

A quartet of Western books has come our way recently through the hands of Associate Jim Shearer, of Chicago (which is west of Ann Arbor). The oldest is John B. Wyeth’s *Oregon* (Cambridge 1833), an account of an overland journey by a party of New Englanders in 1832. These were wild and early days for crossing the continent by any route. This is several years before the Whitmans went out to establish their mission.

The book by Henry Warre, *Sketches in North America and the Oregon Territory* (London 1848) is a large one containing twenty colored pictures of western scenes. They are fascinating. Warre was part of an English group that set out from Montreal and after reaching Vancouver turned south into the delectable country. A post on the Columbia River was probably the motive of the party’s investigation.

A New Yorker, Lorenzo D. Aldrich, went to Arkansas and took the Santa Fé trail to San Diego in 1849. Upon his return from the gold regions he published his *Journal of the Overland Route to California* (Lansingburgh 1851), descriptive of his route and the new El Dorado.

In the absence of an American Automobile Association, Otis Gunn of Kansas tried to provide westward migrants with a guide book. His *New Map and Handbook of Kansas & the Gold Mines* (Pittsburgh 1859) offered the traveler statistics and other information about soil, climate, roads, Indian tribes, outfits for miners, etc. Gunn was a soldier who became chief engineer for the Kansas Pacific Railroad. Could he have been promoting business for the railroad?

All of these works are scarce enough to be costly and important enough to deserve preservation in a Library like ours. We are grateful to have them.

**Mrs. Haugh is Back**

Mrs. Robert Haugh returned to her desk in the Clements Library February 1 after a year abroad. She had accompanied her husband to South Africa where Mr. Haugh lectured on American literature at various universities for nine months. During their return journey to America, they toured around Europe for several months.

In the course of their travels, Mrs. Haugh paid informal visits to a number of libraries, particularly in Africa. She found South Africans expanding their library systems in a manner reminiscent of our own public library growth some years ago when small libraries and private libraries were incorporated into larger units. A few new buildings are being erected, but not at the rate we are experiencing here. Larger cities, of course, such as Johannesburg, have long enjoyed outstanding public libraries. Americans are quite familiar with the numerous Carnegie libraries in this country, and South Africa too has received financial encouragement from the same source.

Plaques in tribute to Carnegie adorn many libraries, both public and university. Without those funds, many buildings could not have been erected.

Grants from that foundation also have enabled many librarians from there to study abroad. Their own library schools are attempting to overcome the chronic shortage of qualified librarians. Training in South Africa is complicated by multilingualism and the desire to acquaint themselves with both American and British library practices which must be adapted to South African requirements. Over the years, England has supplied a number of fine librarians.

Librarians are well aware of the importance of rare books and nearly every library of any stature proudly exhibits its “Africana” collection. Like Americana, it includes rarities printed in Africa and also those printed elsewhere about Africa. They begin, of course, with the first Dutch settlements, and are especially rich in the early editions of grammars and texts in native tongues, set down mostly through missionary efforts. Even with limited budgets, librarians are seeking to enlarge these collections through bookdealers abroad as well as from local sources. Several notable private collections have been acquired from collectors, including a famous collection of illuminated manuscripts at the National Library in Cape Town, but more “friends of libraries” need to be found. The number of munificent donors in the United States astounds South African librarians. It is necessary for libraries to acquire basic sources from foreign countries to supply research materials for local scholars at a disadvantage because of distance. In addition, they wish to preserve their own national
history and literature. Consequently, their budgets are inadequate.

Staff members are keenly interested in American methods and everyone welcomed the Haugh cordially. On several occasions, Mrs. Haugh addressed groups, with special emphasis on the Clements Library, of course.

The campuses of Makerere College in Kampala, Uganda and of the University of Rhodesia and Nyasaland at Salisbury are breath-taking in their modern design especially in contrast to nearby primitive conditions. The British government is pouring funds into these new universities in an effort to train native leaders. The libraries are beautiful, and faculty and librarians are creating full-fledged collections as rapidly as possible. At this stage, there are no funds for rarities and naturally they have no past accretions. The difficulty of forming research libraries from scratch is glaringly obvious. Organization follows Anglo-American methods; LC classification is used at Rhodesia, for example.

If these two universities with comparatively solid resources have their difficulties, the small teacher training institutions and high schools for Africans in central Africa are indeed badly off. One of these visited had no library at all; another displayed a book-lined room made possible only through the efforts of a lady from Philadelphia who has made a project of gathering books for this school. Once more, the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation was evident in its fine gift of a large collection of books devoted to American history, politics, and literature which the Haughs noted time after time in their visits to various libraries. Without this sort of background material, it is difficult to present courses on the United States in which there is a great deal of interest.

In passing, the excellent library at Ft. Hare in South Africa should be mentioned. This is the long established college largely promoted by missionary efforts for the higher education of non-whites in South Africa, and now under government auspices. And most of the books in university libraries were in English, even though the teaching medium in some universities was another language and all direction signs within the library were non-English.

After the gracious hospitality extended in libraries in Africa, Mrs. Haugh was struck by the frustrations she encountered in visiting, or rather, attempting to visit, a few of the European libraries. Admittedly, she was dropping in on a different type of library and under different circumstances. But there are so many barriers erected against the ordinary visitor, she wondered why Americans ever complained of minor restrictions at home. Exhibit rooms, when they existed, were open only for limited hours and entrance was gained through the graces of a guard, and under his watchful eye. Lights in gloomy interiors were not turned on unless by special request; protective curtains over exhibits were not lifted unless a certain number of curious tourists gathered. To see a certain famous Book of Hours in Venice, it was necessary to come two days in succession to find the proper authority and then to fend off efforts of a guide to sell a facsimile, and finally to be allowed a brief peek at the treasure inclosed in a transparent box and kept in a safe. In many libraries, lengthy printed directions concerning restrictions on use of the library were outlined in prominent posters. Possessing a university degree was often number one on that list; also a definite research project must have been started. It was quite normal for casual visitors to be barred from reading rooms, some of which would possibly be overrun because of their architectural fame. The Laurentian Library in Florence and the Great Hall in the National Library at Vienna fall in that category.

It may be that cleverness of book thieves necessitates these precautions, but it is easy to understand the popularity of the American Information libraries abroad with their bright surroundings, quick service, and easy access. One reading room in the spacious American library in West Berlin caught Mrs. Haugh's attention: the reading room for East Germans, which was crowded with readers.

At any rate, it behooves the serious reader to come armed with credentials in order to invade many of the research libraries in Europe. As for the sightseer, his desires should be minimal. In the future, Mrs. Haugh, conditioned by her experience, may even expect a tip for showing visitors around our library, especially if the lights are turned on. And certainly, she will expect visitors to be impressed by the elegance, upkeep and facilities of our library buildings, and not to take them for granted.