Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of the Clements Library Associates held its fall meeting on November 4. As it was the first meeting of the fiscal year, officers were elected. Renville Wheat was re-elected chairman; James K. Watkins was re-elected vice chairman; and the Library director was asked to continue as secretary. Financial matters were reviewed, and satisfaction was expressed with the amount of contributions received during the October solicitation. Members have received notice of a gift certificate that is available to be sent by the secretary to anyone for whom a gift membership in the Associates is provided as a Christmas present.

The Randolph G. Adams Memorial Lecture in 1961 is the last in the series for which contributions were solicited in 1951. The Board discussed future plans and turned several ideas over to a committee to investigate and report on. The secretary reported on Library activities and his own travels.

Various items were shown the Board for consideration as purchases. In the discussion Mr. Roethe, recalling his war service in Alaska, offered to buy for the Library Staehlin's Account of the New Northern Archipelago Lately Discovered by the Russians (London 1774). This is the first English translation of Russian settlements; it contains a map that is wildly inaccurate and portrays Alaska as an island. The book is a coveted addition to our holdings on the Northwest Coast.

Mr. Schoff was much taken with half a dozen letters from Benjmain West, a Massachusetts youth who journeyed south to Charleston, S. C., in 1778 and carefully described the towns and inhabitants he observed en route. They were addressed to his more famous brother, the Rev. Samuel West. These glimpses of American life in war time are fresh and penetrating, and Mr. Schoff furnished them to the Library.

The Board then purchased four other items which are described elsewhere as notable acquisitions. Their cost totaled $1740. The next meeting is scheduled for Commencement time next June.

The Season's Greetings are warmly extended to our Associates from the Library Staff.

Hail to the Marquis

When the Marquis de Lafayette visited this country in 1824-25, he returned as a popular hero. The Revolutionary War was fifty years in the past, but here was one of our major generals, the lad of nineteen who came across the ocean to help us out of the fervency of his spirit and who became a great favorite with George Washington. During the French Revolution he stood for freedom even though he was an aristocrat. Now he was a much venerated elderly man, and the United States rolled out the most remarkable red carpet it has ever offered a guest. Lafayette toured the country, going even to New Orleans, St. Louis, Cincinnati besides all the eastern cities, and enjoying a continuous triumph. Everywhere he was greeted by state and city officials, by crowds of eager citizens to whom he was already a legendary figure, by grizzled veterans who remembered the dashing French officer, by children who had read about him. He was entertained by bands, banquets, speeches, fireworks, gifts, tours, receptions, etc., that probably fatigue him as much as any campaign of the Revolution. By special act he was made an
indicative of the level and spread of musical knowledge. Mozart’s reputation is not in danger, but we now have a better idea of what Americans could compose when moved by a national spectacle and provided with an opportunity.

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Seminole Trouble

As we have remarked more than once, titles are deceiving. For instance, this Library would not normally be attracted to an anonymous work entitled Narrative of a Voyage to the Spanish Main (London 1819). But a large part of the so-so volume consists of an appendix relating to the Seminole War in Florida in 1818. Spanish Florida was a place of refuge for slaves from the U. S. and of foreign intrigue against the U. S. American troops had invaded the area in 1816 in search of escaped slaves and had blown up a fort. This illegal action provoked a retaliatory raid by Negroes and Seminoles. Andrew Jackson then led an expedition against the Seminoles and incidentally executed two British subjects. The fat was in the fire. The British objected, Spain objected, and the Seminoles complained. The chief result was that we bought Florida from Spain, although that action did not justify or rectify the actions that had been taken. The work cited above is scarce, and when a copy turned up, the Associates’ Board was ready and acquired it for us.

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Un-American Activity

As long as Spain remained in control of a part of North America, she was the center of intrigue. The trouble sometimes centered in Florida, sometimes in Louisiana as the port of the entire Mississippi Valley. She ruined the reputation of former Vice President Aaron Burr, Gen. James Wilkinson, U. S. commander-in-chief, and Senator William Blount of Tennessee. The Library has source material on the careers of all three men. The Associates have just filled in a gap on Wilkinson and Blount.

Concerning Wilkinson, we now have President Jefferson’s message of January 20, 1808, and the House committee’s report of May 1, 1810, both containing the documents that tied the general to the absurd plotting of Spanish officials. Poor Senator Blount, being heavily involved in debt, conspired to launch an Indian attack on the Spaniards in Louisiana in order to bring about British intervention and earn a land grant. He was exposed and expelled from the U. S. Senate, but in the old Southern tradition remained a popular hero.

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Adams Lecture

The ninth Randolph G. Adams Memorial Lecture was delivered by John Bakeless, biographer and historian, to a fascinated audience on November 16. He spoke on the intelligence service (spies) of the American Revolution. A most respectable network of spies was organized under the personal direction of George Washington, who was also successful in feeding the enemy false information. (This is the boy, remember, who could not tell a lie.) Dr. Bakeless has engaged in much tedious research running down the identities of these otherwise obscure persons who served the American cause as spies. One result is his absorbing book, Turncoats, Traitors and Heroes.

The lecture was followed by the usual pleasant hour of refreshments and conversation.
Campaign Literature

A timely exhibition at the Library this fall demonstrated that partisan interest in candidates is not peculiar to our day. Though Washington himself was never the center of heated controversy, by 1796 and 1800 conflicting political views replaced the spirit of national unanimity. Opposing forces turned out pamphlets, started newspapers, and resorted to broadsides for caustic comment on their opponents.

Early in the next century when presidential hopefuls were no longer drawn from the ranks of the founding fathers, when the West was being settled and new blocks of voters entered the scene, the campaign biography became popular. Andy Jackson made "good copy," and a thumbnail sketch of Franklin Pierce in 1852 measures only one by one and a half inches.

With the campaign of 1840, candidate William Henry Harrison for the first time traveled around making speeches. Since the Whigs had already adopted the log cabin and barrel of hard cider as symbols and "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" as a slogan, Harrison provided numerous opportunities for parades, picnics, fireworks, and general whoopla. We showed even an American flag bearing the words "Harrison and Reform" and a picture of a cider keg. Familiar devices of propaganda—music, slogans, buttons, badges, handkerchiefs, pictures, free drinks, and parades—all were instituted or expanded.

During the exuberant campaigns from 1840 to 1860, song books, or songsters, were published in quantity. Glee clubs led spirited singing at party rallies. Verses were translated into foreign tongues to catch the foreign vote.

As a matter of cognate interest, the exhibition included samples of election sermons published in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These cannot be considered campaign documents because they were delivered before the newly elected state officials to impress on them the solemnity of their duties. The Library owns the first one ever published—John Higginson's The Cause of God and His People in New England (Cambridge 1665).

Our current exhibition displays guide books written and published for immigrants to this country, in the latter part of the eighteenth century and the early part of the nineteenth.

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The Fourth Estate

As a class of printed source material, newspapers are far and away the hardest to find. Not individual issues of eighteenth-century papers, but continuous runs of five or ten years. The reason is simple: what do you do with today's newspapers? You throw them away, and so did your ancestors. Yet we are always seeking long runs of colonial or early federal newspapers, either to fill in gaps of our present holdings or to augment them with new titles.

This autumn we picked up three lots. We added 43 issues to our holdings of The United States Chronicle (Providence) in 1792 and 1793. Then we thickened up our New England Palladium (Boston) by adding 277 issues in the years 1803 to 1815. Finally, we were able to acquire 350 issues of the New England Repertory (Newburyport, Mass.) in the same years 1803 to 1815. This is an important period, covering Jefferson's efforts to remain neutral in the Napoleonic Wars and the resulting War of 1812.

Newspaper Map

One of the by-products of Christian Brun's research for the bibliography of maps printed in America before 1800 has been the compilation of a "ghost list" of maps of which no copy can be located today. Twenty-eight were on the list in 1958. Now three of them have been located, and one was determined to be English in origin. Another of the alleged ghosts, we must confess, was found right here in our file of Porcupine's Gazette, published by the fiery William Cobbett during part of his first American visit, 1792-1800. The map, "Plan of the blockade of Cadiz by the English fleet...1797," is in the issue of September 21, 1797.

Until this year, only four maps altogether have been located which were printed in newspapers before 1800 in America. The above is now the fifth. One of them is the well known "The order of battle, fought on Stragallan-Moor, near Culloden-House, on Wednesday the 16th of April, 1746," which appeared in The Virginia Gazette for July 24-31, 1746, of which this Library has an apparently unique copy.

Secretary, Clements Library Associates
The University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

... Count me as an Associate. Here is my contribution ($5 minimum) for 1961. As a bonus I shall receive a reproduction copy of the Columbus Letter (1493) in Latin and English. (over)
Award

At the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History this fall, the Clements Library was singled out for a Certificate of Award for its phonograph record, "Voices of the American Revolution." The Association takes note each year of any historical institution that performs a service or carries out a project over and above its normal activities. Yes, we're happy about the recognition—and the fact that the record continues to sell.

Ohio Mormons

The Library has never tried to collect material on the Mormons, even though it is a native American religious denomination. For one thing, most of it lies in a period beyond our time; for another, it is fabulously expensive; and for a third, it belongs sentimentally in Utah. After all these disclaimers, we confess to an interest in the movement in New York and Ohio in its formative years. We have the Book of Mormon (Palmyra, N. Y., 1830) and a couple of items on the Mormon sojourn in Kirtland, Ohio. Recently we had an opportunity to acquire a run of the Mormon newspaper in Kirtland; this is of regional interest and not devoted exclusively to church news.

The Evening and Morning Star was a small, two-column leaflet issued weekly. Ten issues were printed in Ohio, and 14 in Missouri, from 1832 to 1834.

Then the Kirtland printer reprinted the 24 issues in book form. The separate issues are scattered, and the reprint is scarce enough. Two years ago a copy sold in London for more than $400. Aside from church doctrine and the tribulations of the faithful, it contains news of the Gentile world. As it is a newspaper in the Old Northwest, the Associates' Board decided we should have it. It is a rare find for us.

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Hudson River Map

Size is no test of the monetary or historical value of a map, but we have just acquired the longest map to be found in the Library. It runs slightly more than nineteen feet and is only a foot and a half wide. It is a detailed plan of the Hudson River and then the connecting Mohawk River over west as far as Lake Ontario.

The map belonged to Lord Le Despenser, the notorious Francis Dashwood, who died in 1782. The map is a manuscript, not a printed item, and was probably made in the early 1760's by a military engineer and sent to London where Dashwood, as an interested cabinet minister, seems to have appropriated it. It invites much study and research. The map is comparable to the detailed survey of the St. Lawrence River made at the same time in a series of sheets which we also have. A much smaller map derived from the long one is in the Crown Collection, London.

Posse of Witnesses

Another handful of important Western books came our way this fall, courtesy of Associate James Shearer II, of Chicago. They are mid-nineteenth century titles relating to the filling up of the great plains. The General Epistle of the Mormon Council (St. Louis 1847) describes the exodus from Nauvoo, Ill., and the long trek to the Salt Lake Valley. It urges others to come west. Nebraska in 1857 (Omaha 1857) is a guide book by J. M. Woolworth describing lands lately opened.

Captain Gray's Company (Portland, 1859) by Mrs. Dunaway is a romance based on the author's own experience in crossing the plains in 1852. The Life of J. C. Adams (New York 1860), known as Old Grizzly Adams, was actually a dime novel recounting the western adventures of an early character who knew how to exploit himself. On the Plains (New York 1863) is another adventure story by the noted E. S. Ellis. The Dismissal of Major Granville O. Haller (Paterson, N. J., 1869) is that officer's complaint of an injustice which was rectified by Congress in 1879; it also recounts his services against the Indians in 1848. All these titles represent source material selected by bibliographers for its picture of the West. Because the books have been thus written about and attention called to them, they are sought by collectors and have become expensive.

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Send information about membership to