TWO WAR OF 1812 MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS ARE PURCHASED

A major manuscript collection has been added to the Library's holdings—the correspondence of Maj. Gen. Jacob Brown of the War of 1812. It consists of five hundred letters covering Brown's military career from 1813 to 1828, and 230 letters and documents of his son-in-law, Major Edward Kirby, paymaster, in the period 1828 to 1837.

While William Henry Harrison commanded the army in the Northwest and recovered Detroit from the British, General Brown commanded the eastern theater. He fought at Montreal, at Sackett's Harbor on Lake Ontario, at Fort Erie, and was wounded at Lundy's Lane. After Harrison's resignation in 1814, Brown was senior commanding officer. Besides about a hundred letters from Brown, there are 34 from Gen. Winfield Scott; 29 from Ambrose Spencer, chief justice of New York; 13 from Secretary of War John C. Calhoun; 10 from Treasury Secretary Alexander J. Dallas; 3 from Secretary of State James Monroe; 7 from Gen. Alexander Macomb; 5 from Gov. DeWitt Clinton; 5 from Gen. John E. Wool; etc., etc. The Kirby material deals with routine army affairs, but contains five letters from Florida about the Seminole War and three from early Michigan.

There is no other body of Brown papers. The Library of Congress has a letter book; two institutions have a few letters each; a few are in the hands of private collectors. With a sesquicentennial of the War of 1812 scheduled for observance beginning next year, the Clements Library is now in possession of a collection that no scholar in this period dare overlook.

The collection contains two manuscript maps of Fort Howard (Green Bay, Wisconsin) and the acrimonious correspondence between the commandant, Col. Joseph L. Smith, and Gen. Alexander Macomb, commanding at Detroit. New York politics is the chief subject of the exchange between Brown and Justice Spencer. Financial ventures and land deals form the correspondence between Brown and Marshal Grouchy, Napoleonic veteran. All the battles of the last two years of the war are covered, of course, in letters from officers.

The manuscripts came from family descendants. The Committee of Management is much indebted to President Hatcher for handsome assistance through Development Council funds in the purchase.

Coincidentally and within a few days the Library was again able to pick up a sheaf of correspondence on the British side of the War of 1812 also in New York state. These are 52 letters to and from Gen. Thomas Brisbane, who commanded the enemy at the Battle of Plattsburg. He was a career officer who had served in the West Indies and then fought in the Peninsular campaign under Wellington. Since the war was not going well for England in America, he was sent with some Peninsular veterans to Montreal early in 1814. He placed his troops under the general command of the Canadian governor, Sir George Prevost. Thus the British had 14,000 troops to invade New York, against only 1500 American regulars under Gen. Alexander Macomb (see above) in Plattsburg and fourteen small ships on Lake Champlain under Commodore Macdonough. The battle on September 11, 1814, was an eye-opener.

Macdonough sank the enemy navy, and Macomb licked the Napoleonic veterans, and that was that. There are 17 letters from Brisbane, 10 from Prevost, 3 from Macomb, etc., etc., including three maps.
Italian Centennial

The spring of this year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the unification of Italy. To commemorate the event, the University has arranged a series of programs. The Library’s part is an exhibition calling attention to the early Italian explorers and map makers.

We are inclined to forget that the first countries to undertake discoveries toward the New World all employed Italians. Spain made use of Christopher Columbus of Genoa; England authorized John and Sebastian Cabot, or Caboto; and France sent out Giovanni da Verrazano of Florence. Vespucci, whose first name became attached to the new

land, was another Italian. The seventeenth century was the great age of Italian cartography.

To open the exhibition we had the honor of entertaining the Italian ambassador, His Excellency Manlio Brosio, and the Italian consul in Detroit, G. Della Croce. Mr. Brosio also held a press conference at the Library, before giving a public lecture.

Barbados Echoes

Samuel Keimer, an English 18th-century printer, lived, according to his biographers, a precarious and unhappy life. As it turned out, however, some of his dubious ventures insured his name in American printing chronicles.

After the failure of his business attempts in London, he migrated to the colonies in 1722. He set up his worn type in Philadelphia and it was there that Benjamin Franklin found employment when he came to that city penniless. Eventually, bankruptcy forced another move upon Keimer but not before he had published a magazine, the Universal Instructor, which Franklin carried on.

At his next stop in Bridgetown, Barbados, he edited and published the first newspaper in the Caribbean, the Barbados Gazette from 1731 until 1738 shortly before his death.

Finally (to bring it down to our library) excerpts from that paper were compiled in 1741 in London and published as a two-volume set which we purchased from the James Shearer Memorial Fund.

It is entitled: Caribbeana, Containing Letters and Dissertations, Together with Poetical Essays . . . Chiefly Wrote by Several Hands in the West-Indies . . . and is in the style of a more famous predecessor, the Tatler.

Dumond Succeeds Crane

After thirty years of service on the Committee of Management, Prof. Verner W. Crane of the History Department retired at the end of the year. He succeeded Prof. Claude Van Tyne, an old friend of Mr. Clements, in 1930 after Prof. Van Tyne’s death. Mr. Crane retired from teaching in 1959 but was asked to continue his Committee appointment until December of 1960. This is a longer term than anyone else has ever served on the Committee.

For three decades the Library has profited from his advice and interest. Many of his graduate students have worked here. He has helped the Library grow from small to impressive size; almost all of the manuscript collections came during his tenure; the staff doubled during this time. We salute him in his full retirement, knowing that it is still partial for he is busy on a new book.

A charcoal portrait of Mr. Crane hangs in the director’s office as one of the distinguished American history professors of the University.

Dr. Dwight Lowell Dumond, the ranking professor of American history, has joined the Committee under the terms of Mr. Clements’ gift agreement. He is far from being a stranger to the Library inasmuch as he was instrumental in obtaining two important manuscript collections for us. He has also encouraged our acquisition of early anti-slavery pamphlets. Mr. Dumond is an able teacher, a very productive scholar and has been active in historical associations. His magnum opus on the antislavery movement will appear later this year, and if you do not know his name now you certainly will then. Several of his graduate students have found source material here. Mr. Dumond is more than
interested; he is enthusiastic, discriminating, and decisive. The Committee looks forward to his association with it.

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**Harmonious Assembly**

The national Music Librarians Association met in Ann Arbor on February 3 and 4. The occasion gave us an opportunity to show off our collection of tune books and the early Puritan controversy over music in church. The Library director addressed the musicologists at noon, and late in the afternoon they were guests of the Library at tea while having an opportunity to view the exhibition. It was important that this group of scholars become aware of the music resources at WLCL in addition to those in the University Library.

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**Colonial Conference**

The Library and the History Department are joint hosts for the eleventh Conference on Early American History that will meet March 24 and 25 at the Library. Composed of professors of Colonial American history, it brings together sixty to eighty men devoted to this period. New findings and new theories are discussed in formal papers and roundtable sessions leavened by eating and conversing together.

These men are especially concerned about the Library's acquisitions, as the Library is concerned about their use of its materials. In a real sense these people are our most important constituents. Their visit is mutually stimulating.

The Conference is in this day of overorganization an unorganized group. It has no dues and no officers and is held together simply by the common interest in early American history.

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**The Pilgrim Press**

While in exile at Leyden before migrating to Plymouth, the Pilgrims operated a surreptitious press in the garret of one of their leaders, the scholarly William Brewster. Probably to escape detection by emissaries of the English king, they often omitted the name of the printer and place of printing, and sometimes the name of the author, from the title-page, much to the perplexity of subsequent bibliographers. However, despite the absence of these pertinent facts, so reassuring to researchers, some twenty titles printed from 1617 through 1619 have been identified, some more positively than others.

The Clements Library owns four of these clandestine items listed in *The Pilgrim Press* by Rendel Harris and Stephen K. Jones. Our most recent acquisition is number 19 in that bibliography.

The author is known to be David Calderwood, a Scotch divine and church historian, who also was a refugee in Holland at the same time as the Puritan band. He was not one of them, but like them, was not in harmony with the policies of the monarch and the practices of the established church in England. Because of his defiance of James I, then attempting to enforce certain regulations upon the Presbyterian Church in Scotland, Calderwood was ordered to leave the country. He fled to Holland where he remained until the King's death in 1625.

He was not silenced, however, and his denunciation in 1619 of the accord reached at Perth in 1618 is unqualified: *Perth Assembly. Containing... Proofes of the Unlawfulnesse of the said five Articles, viz. 1. Kneeling in the Act of Receiving the Lords Supper. 2. Holy Dais. 3. Bishopping. 4. Private Baptisme. 5. Private Communion.*

This and another by Calderwood, both anathema to King James I, came from the Pilgrim Press. They demonstrate the same resistance to Episcopalian worship as that shown by his companions in exile, the Congregationalists.

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**George Upstairs**

Our special collection of books about George Washington has been enhanced by a rare drama about him. It is entitled *Washington's Ankunft in Elisium,* and it was published in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1800, shortly after Washington's death. The author is not known, but obviously the play was intended to appeal to the German residents of Pennsylvania.

The drama concerns the great man's arrival in Heaven, where he seems to have been met by such other historical figures as Brutus, Columbus, Joubert, and William Penn—an odd mixture, to say the least. It is divided into scenes and followed by an eulogistic poem. The pamphlet is scarce enough to have escaped most bibliographers, so there has been no study of it. It is "dedicated to all genuine republican Americans." That's a small "r," Democrats, so relax.

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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 (1498) in Latin and English. (over)
The Admiral, the Quaker, and the Bishop

If you recall William Penn, you may remember that he was granted an area for colonization not because the king admired Quakers and wanted to give them a refuge, but because he felt some obligation to the Penn family for past services. We now have the book that accounts in part for the grant of Pennsylvania to William.

Sir William Penn, the father, was a British admiral. He entered the navy in the days of Oliver Cromwell and fought against the Dutch. In 1654 he was sent with Gen. Venables to attack the Spaniards in the West Indies. They captured Jamaica. Penn now soured on Cromwell and corresponded secretly with the royalists. Consequently upon the restoration of Charles II in 1660 Penn was on the king's side and was knighted. He also loaned the king quite a bit of money before his death in 1670. Thus it was that son William discharged the debt and services by accepting the grant of a tract in America for colonization in 1681.

Now as to the book. The author has not been identified; he signed only his initials: I. or J. S. But he was an eyewitness to the action in which the English captured Jamaica. The title runs A Brief and Perfect Journal of the Late Proceedings and Success of the English Army (London 1655). As frosting on the cake, the title page bears the signature of White Kennett, Bishop of Peterborough, the first man to compile a bibliography of Americana, which he published in 250 copies in 1713. He was going to write a history of Christianity in the American colonies but never got around to it. His splendid library was sold off, and we are proud to say that we have eight of the bishop's books. Several of them came through the hands of dealer Lathrop C. Harper, and we are glad to have been able to purchase this last title from the Harper Fund.

New Furnishings

Mrs. William L. Clements of Bay City has made new gifts to the Library's furnishings that enrich its appointments. A fine Oriental rug has been placed before the fireplace in the Rare Book Room along with a mahogany Sheraton chair once in the home of John C. Calhoun. Another silver coffee urn and a silver vase have been added to our services. The beautiful Venetian lace tablecloth which she has frequently loaned to the Library was presented. A hand colored etching of Gen. Nathanael Greene, whose papers we have added to our print collection

We enjoy Mrs. Clements' continued interest in the Library and her generosity with gifts that are beyond the University's ability to provide. The atmosphere of discriminating elegance that Mr. Clements wished to achieve is being enhanced.

Two Teas

On January 18 the Library gave a tea in honor of two of its consultants—Mr. Francis Goodrich and Miss Elizabeth Steere. It was also something of a birthday party, for Mr. Goodrich who was eighty-four, and Miss Steere who was not. Since they are both retired but give us one day a week of help, the University is gaining valuable and expert help free of charge. Mr. Goodrich was formerly librarian of the College of the City of New York; Miss Steere was cataloger here and at the General Library. Both of them undertake special, distracting, and irritating jobs for us, the kind of thing that most libraries must constantly postpone because of regular operations. We are fortunate to enjoy such competent extra help, done for the love of books.

On February 21 the Library held its annual tea for the History Department and in honor of George Washington's birthday (we couldn't have it the next day). Since the two departments are closely related, we mark this association by a yearly get-together when we call attention to our recent acquisitions.

Send information about membership to