The Directors Fund

With the appearance in October of Dr. Louis B. Wright, director of the Folger Shakespeare Library, the series of annual Randolph G. Adams Memorial Lectures was completed. This series has been sponsored by the Clements Library Associates from a fund raised after the death of the Library’s director in 1951. It has offered members and friends a varied and attractive program of talks by historians and librarians.

The Associates’ Board of Governors, however, was unwilling to drop the memorial aspect of this program. In its place it has established, with the approval of the University’s Board of Regents, a permanent endowment fund for the Library to be known as The Directors Fund, in honor of Dr. Adams. Hereafter, all contributions received from Associates have been spent on acquisitions; now Associates may designate part or all of their contributions for investment and only the interest to be spent. Other unspecified gifts may be put into this fund. Purchases made from the interest of The Directors Fund will carry a bookplate bearing the name of Dr. Adams as well as the name of the fund.

Substantial pledges have been received that make the fund an immediate reality. Associates, particularly those who knew Dr. Adams, are hereby notified of the existence of The Directors Fund and are invited to make contributions to it. Since the fund benefits a University department and has been authorized and is administered by the University, contributions are deductible under provisions of the internal revenue act. Checks should be made out to the Clements Library or to the University. Letters have gone to friends of Dr. Adams.

The Library’s Committee of Management has expressed its appreciation to the Associates’ Board of Governors on the inception of this endowment fund as showing a heightened interest in the growth of the Library. The Board has every hope that over the next several years The Directors Fund will become an impressive sum from which selected acquisitions can be made.

New England Book Tour

Besides the book dealers who send us frequent catalogs of their wares, there are, we knew, other dealers who did not issue catalogs or rarely did so. We have often wondered what might be found on their shelves. Having obtained addresses of about fifteen of them, mainly in small New England towns, I set out to call on them in October. I confined myself to Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and western Maine.

They operated in houses, barns, and stores, sometimes having a sideline for income. There were women proprietors as well as men. More than half had nothing of interest to us, since they dealt largely in fiction of the past hundred years. I must have seen altogether more than 200,000 books. I did not see any seventeenth century books, and probably about ten per cent of the stocks were even eighteenth century. That is the negative side of the picture.

On the positive side, half a dozen of these dealers are worth keeping track of and they now know of the existence and wants of the Clements Library. I brought back 70 to 80 items to add to the collections, a few of them extraordinary things. In this sense, the trip paid off, quite aside from future benefits. It is true that New England attics have been combed over repeatedly, and no Bay Psalm books or Eliot Indian Bibles are going to turn up. But this does not mean there is nothing left. Besides, there are later generations who are letting their libraries go, where their ancestors refused to sell. The fun of search and discovery is still to be enjoyed in a limited way. The dealers are more than merchants; they are informed and interesting people to meet.

Pike’s Peak or Bust

Our collection of Western Americana continued to grow through the avid interest of As-
THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY
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William C. Finkenstaedt, Grand Rapids
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Associate James Shearer II of Chicago. One is Joseph E. Field's Three Years in Texas (Boston 1836), the first printing in book form of a participant's account of the taking of San Antonio by the Texans and the massacre of Fannin's forces at Goliad. Another is Letter from Col. Benton to the People of Missouri (Washington 1853), the senator's appeal for a national highway from the Mississippi to the Pacific. The last is the rare Illustrated Miners' Hand-book and Guide to Pike's Peak (St. Louis 1859), the year in which several guide books to the West were issued. The compilers were Parker and Huyett, who quote letters, give itineraries and distances. A map shows five main routes to the gold region. Six other copies are known.

War of 1812

Source materials on the War of 1812 continue to accumulate in the Library—partly from assiduous reading of book catalogs, partly from a recent visit to several dealers, and partly from direct correspondence.

Consider printed books first. We obtained A Narrative of the Affair of Queenstown (New York 1836) by Solomon Van Rensselaer, who commanded the advance and fell wounded before the American retreated. The Proceedings of a Convention of Delegates (Northampton 1812) from three western counties of Massachusetts was one of those anti-war gatherings in New England. Facts and Documents Relating to the State of the Controversy (Boston 1813) is a variant title for an anonymous work on impressment of American seamen. In addition we picked up several sermons on the war and broadsides of orders issued to Massachusetts militia by their adjutant general in 1814.

In the field of manuscripts, two collections are described elsewhere. But the Associates bought for us a sheaf of four documents by Capt. Robert Barclay, the naval officer who surrendered to Commodore Perry on Lake Erie. A British court martial exonerated him. Nevertheless, the admiralty officer ignored him for several years. In 1822 Barclay complained about his neglect in two letters seeking promotion and enclosed both the finding of the court and a narrative of the battle. A nice little find!

Dartmoor Prison in England was the "Andersonville" of the War of 1812. Captured American seamen were confined here under a particularly cruel jailor and were scandalously ill-fed. By the end of the war 5500 prisoners were in Dartmoor. Peace was announced, but no change in status occurred for them. In April 1815 they rioted, and the jailor called in some local militia who fired on them, killing 7 and wounding 60. New England, whence many of them came, made a fearful roar. At Salem was published a pictorial plan of the prison at the moment the redcoats were firing. At Boston was issued a pictorial broadside containing a narrative of the tragedy in verse. These two rarities came to the Library along with a signed manuscript drawing of the prison. (A joint commission investigated the incident, and England paid damages to the families of those killed and awarded pensions to the disabled.)

On the lakes occurred Perry's victory of Lake Erie, 1813, and Commodore Macdonough's victory of Lake Champlain, 1814. Both engagements were celebrated in engravings. Two views of Perry's fight were issued in 1815, showing different stages in the battle. A similar print of Macdonough's engagement was published to celebrate that victory. The three prints are a gift of Mrs. Hubert Smith of Bay City.

War of 1812 Manuscripts

Two more collections of War of 1812 papers, small but significant, have reached our shelves. One is composed of some correspondence, 55 pieces, of Brig. Gen. Thomas Flourney, of Georgia. He served in Georgia and East Florida during the war, then stayed in the region to pacify some Indian tribes. Through his brother in Kentucky he kept track of national political fortunes in the postwar period. This theater of the war is new to us.

The other collection consists of about 185 letters to Major
John O'Connor from 1812 to 1825, and a few drafts from him. He served in the northern theater and afterward was made colonel of New York militia. The collection parallels our Maj. Gen. Jacob Brown papers, as both men became involved in state and national politics in the decade after the war, a period of turmoil and realignment.

In the one instance the Library uncovered the manuscripts by its own search, and in the other it moved quickly when a dealer offered only part of the collection. In both cases, ready money made the acquisitions possible. Our search goes on.

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The Urban Landscape

A most valuable (and costly) "book" has come our way. It has a title page and table of contents, but the body of the book consists of 28 views of cities in North American. It is entitled Scenographia Americana (London 1788), and all the loose pages measure 18 by 25 inches.

Among the views are plates of Montreal, Quebec, and other spots along the St. Lawrence; Boston, Bethlehem, Charleston, and two views of New York; Havana; and Guadaloupe. The dean of American print dealers declares that they are "far and away the finest eighteenth century views of American cities."

The publication arose from Britain's conquest of Canada and the West Indies. What did these new parts of the empire look like? An enterprising printer obtained sketches of these far-flung cities from army and navy officers, plus Gov. Thomas Pownall, which he had engraved in London. The title page is in English and French, suggesting that he anticipated sales on the Continent. Separate prints from this collection range in price from $125 to $550. Complete sets are found only in the Boston Public Library, the New York State Library, and possibly one or two other places.

The Library's collection of prints is not extensive or especially notable. The Committee of Management concluded that the only way to build it up is boldly to make acquisitions of this caliber from time to time.

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The Till Was Empty

In settling some accounts of the War of 1812, Tobias Lear in the accountant's office of the War Department notified former Lieut. Samuel Hodges that the latter had coming to him a balance of $98.25. A check from the War Department would be forthcoming.

Then in a postscript Mr. Lear was forced to add: "The situation of the Treasury at this moment will not admit of a remittance being made to you. When it can be done, you will be apprised of it."

In other words, when Uncle Sam was a hundred dollars ahead, the officer would be paid.

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We're in the Movies

The film division of Encyclopedi Britannica has had a crew at work in the Library making a movie explanatory of the French and Indian War—in 16 minutes, it must be added! Nevertheless, this effort to visualize what the war meant for the benefit of junior high school students has its merits. It opens at Fort Ticonderoga, New York, then moves to the rare book room of the Library to view maps and prints and books. The story is narrated by the Library director—who certainly leaves much to be desired in dramatic talent! The strain to make him a junior Clark Gable was as severe on the producer as it was on him.

The finished color film will be available to schools on a rental basis or outright sale. Although this is an unusual use of the Library's resources, it will certainly publicize the institution among thousands of young people. A couple of other movies in this series will lean heavily on the Library for material. A high standard of technical efficiency is maintained; the film is not amateurish in that sense. The viewers will not only learn about the significance of the war, but also by what means we now know of that event in our history.

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Payne's Pain with the French

One fact about the French and Indian War is sometimes forgotten. It began in America, and more than one battle was fought before the two European powers, France and England, officially declared war on each other. This peculiar circumstance of 1755 and 1756 bothered one Englishman, a Mr. J. Payne.

A Christmas Suggestion

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

... Count me as an Associate. Here is my contribution ($5 minimum) for 1962. As a bonus I shall receive a reproduction copy of the Columbus Letter (1493) in Latin and English. (over)
Early in 1756 he wrote and published a pamphlet entitled The French Encroachments Exposed (London 1756).

He tried to arouse his countrymen to perceive France's game of pushing back the English colonies without declaring war. It was to France's advantage to pursue an aggressive and hostile course without a declaration of war, because she did not have to worry about fighting at home. Payne argued that England was foolish to delay a formal declaration, for it would enmesh France in European battles too.

Further, he rejected France's insistence on America not being worth a war. Payne declared that the English colonies were much too valuable to be risked in this way. As for France's claim of priority in America, he demolished that too by citing early English explorations and settlements.

Only two copies of the booklet are known: one in France and the other in this country. Our Associates decided that the Clements Library should have the third.

Dumond's New Book
At the end of September the History Department, the University Press, and the Library gave a tea honoring Prof. Dwight L. Dumond, member of the Committee of Management, upon publication of his notable book, Antislavery, the Crusade for Freedom in America. It is a trenchant, authoritative narrative told with feeling. The work includes a separately printed bibliography of sources used by the author.

"The course of the men and women," Prof. Dumond writes, "who dedicated their lives to arresting the spread of slavery was marvelously direct and straightforward. They denounced it as a sin which could only be remedied by unconditional repentance and retributive justice. They denounced it as antithetical to the foundation principles of the nation, contrary to both natural law and moral law. They were a small group in the beginning, a constitutional majority in the end."

Prof. Dumond's interest has encouraged the Library in picking up the earliest antislavery pamphlets published in America. As early as 1830 or 1835 almost everything had been said about the "peculiar institution" that could be said. The next thirty years saw numerous publications, but the arguments were repetitive of earlier statements.

A group of 28 early antislavery titles having turned up in October, the Associates' Board voted to buy them in recognition of Prof. Dumond's publication. In addition, the author himself has turned over to the Library 86 antislavery pamphlets which he collected during his research. All these on top of what the Library already owns makes a most respectable collection available here.

Cape Breton, North Atlantic
Cape Breton Island is rarely in the news these days. In fact it has seldom been heard from in the past century. Its location would make a good quiz question on TV. It lies off the northern tip of Nova Scotia, below the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. Its principal city is Louisbourg.

But in the middle of the eighteenth century, everybody knew where it was and was talking about it. After the French lost Acadia, or Nova Scotia, in 1713, they began building a strong fortress at Louisbourg, to guard the entrance of the St. Lawrence. In 1745 in King George's War some New England militia sailed up there and to everyone's surprise—including their own—captured the place. Then, oddly enough, England began debating the question of whether it was worth keeping, and when in 1748 the French king insisted on its return as the price of peace, England restored Louisbourg—to the great disgust of the Americans. In the next war, the French and Indian War, British forces had to capture it again in 1758.

The Library has several pamphlets discussing the value of Cape Breton Island to England in this period. Last month at auction in London, we were able to pick up two more from our Harper Fund. One was Two Letters Concerning some Farther Advantages of Keeping Cape Breton (London 1749), which of course argued the strategic value of the island. The other was An Accurate Description of Cape Breton (London 1755), a regretful retrospectus lamenting the loss of the island and its present advantage to France. It contains a map.

Send information about membership to