Report on the Directors Fund

Since announcement of establishment of the Directors Fund in the last Quarto, the Associates' Board of Governors is much pleased by the response of friends of Dr. Adams as well as other friends of the Library. Receipts as of the middle of February amount to $8375 from contributors.

The money is to be invested by the University and the interest made available to the Board of Governors for acquisitions.

The Directors Fund is permanent, of course, and a continuing opportunity. Additions to it may be made at any time. Memorial occasions will suggest it as a proper expression of tribute. The Board hopes that the fund will continue to grow not merely at this initial season, but year after year.

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Introducing William T. Gossett

In considering a replacement for the late Dr. Lawrence Reynolds on the Library's Committee of Management as a member at large, desirable attributes discussed were an interest in scholarship, an understanding of book collecting, a faith in the University, a nearness to the campus so as to insure attendance at meetings—in short, a congenial intellect. The Committee is happy to have found a distinguished colleague in William T. Gossett, of Bloomfield Hills.

The time will doubtless come when early periods of American history will be eagerly inquired into, and it is the duty of every generation to hand to its successor the necessary means of acquiring such knowledge, in order to prevent their groping in the dark, and perplexing themselves in the labyrinths of error.

—Ebenezer Hazard, 1774

Mr. Gossett is vice president and general counsel to the Ford Motor Company, from which position he soon retires to devote himself to public services that interest him. He earned his law degree at Columbia University and has been awarded two honorary degrees. Since 1947 he has been a Michigan resident active in cultural pursuits. The Board of Regents has just acted on his appointment for Dr. Reynolds' unexpired term. The Committee looks forward to his association with them.

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Award to Dr. Dumond

Publication last fall of Anti-slavery, the Crusade for Freedom in America climaxed Prof. Dwight Dumond's productive career in the history department. Last month he was notified that the book had received an Anisfield-Wolf award for 1961, one of three books judged to have done most to promote interracial understanding. The award is a distinct honor, and congratulations are due the author, who also serves on the Library's Committee of Management.

The book has also been recommended among the fifty best published in 1961 for adult readers by the Notable Books Council of the American Library Association.

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Witchcraft Then - - and Now

A recent purchase revives recollections of the witchcraft hysteria in Massachusetts in 1692. That was not the first manifestation of it, nor was it peculiarly an American delusion. Belief in witchcraft was universal, was sanctioned by the pope, and trials had been held in England in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. So the idea was firmly implanted in the settlers of New England.

Several executions for witchcraft were made at various places in New England before 1690. The tragedy of the hysteria that swept over Salem Village (now Danvers, Mass.) in 1692 was twofold: the accusations were made by young girls, and the clergymen who should have counteracted the madness gave approval to it. When the people came to their senses, the presiding judge publicly admitted his error and so did the jurors. Finally in December 1692 the Massachusetts legislature passed a resolution to that effect.

Still, there were clerical apologists: the Rev. Cotton Mather of Boston; the Rev. John Higginson of Salem; and the Rev. John Hale of nearby Beverly. The lat-
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James Shearer Memorial Fund enabled us to procure a rare “western” item a few weeks ago. It was John Plumbe’s Sketches of Iowa and Wisconsin, St. Louis 1839. The title does not indicate the contents accurately, because as a matter of fact the author restricted himself to Iowa and promised a second volume on Wisconsin. His purpose was to attract settlers to the new territory of Iowa, and he included descriptions of the towns and resources in elaborate detail. There is also a large map of the surveyed part (eastern) of Iowa.

He discusses the climate, crops, natural resources, dangers from Indians and wild animals, and market outlets. Besides his own residence in the area for three years, he draws on the accounts of travelers and military officers. Plumbe did have one pet enthusiasm: the railroad. It was a new form of travel, and he promoted it as a national need and benefit. This is the first book printed west of the Mississippi to discuss and recommend a national railroad to the Pacific coast. Later the author crossed the plains and Rockies to satisfy himself of the feasibility of his railroad project. At the Dubuque Convention of 1847 he was recognized as “the original projector of the great Oregon railroad.”

We can’t find the date of his death, but probably he did not live to see his railroad dream a reality. Certainly he saw Iowa become a booming state.

Gunner John O’Connor

Mention was made in the last Quarto of the acquisition of some manuscripts of Major John O’Connor. Since then additional papers were obtained which bring the collection to about 370 pieces in the period 1812 to 1825.

O’Connor entered the war as a lieutenant of artillery, was a captain in 1813, and a major and assistant adjutant general in 1814. He served in the northern theater of the war with New York troops. In 1815 he was discharged, but before the year was out he was recommissioned as a captain and stayed in the army until 1821. Afterward he was...
made colonel of the New York state militia.

As a student of military fortifications, he was concerned that there were no satisfactory works on the subject in English. With the encouragement of William H. Crawford, then secretary of war, O'Connor set about translating a French book on the subject. It was Baron Gay de Vernon's *Treatise on the Science of War and Fortifications* (New York 1817) in two volumes plus an atlas. O'Connor dedicated his book to President Monroe. It was adopted as a text at the Military Academy at West Point. O'Connor added his own *Summary of the Principles and Maxims of Grand Tactics and Operations*.

O'Connor voiced some hopeful thoughts in the dedication that continue to bewitch military minds even in this age: "In the perfection of war, even the Philanthropist and the Patriot find causes of gratulation; for in proportion as it is improved, its ravages are mitigated. And there is reason to hope that when its principles are better understood, the State of War, though as necessary in the political, as tempests in the natural world, will occur less frequently, and will be accompanied by diminished slaughter. A just respect for each other's skill and courage, will often induce nations to decline a severe and unproductive contest; and the history of mankind will cease to be filled with petty and indecisive wars."

The book did not sell well, and the effort consumed O'Connor's attention and made him peevish. There is importuning correspondence with his friends, and quarrelsome letters with his publisher. Crawford's entry into the presidential race occasioned many letters of political interest from New York state and nationally.

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**Some of the Boys**

Joseph O. Jackson of Detroit has presented to the Library one hundred letters written by his grandfather to relatives during his service in the Civil War, 1862-65, as a Union soldier in the 83rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. What is remarkable about this series is not only their readability and general information, but the fact that such a long series from a private exists. They were published by Mr. Jackson two years ago under the title *Some of the Boys* (Southern Illinois University Press).

Besides his comments on southern cities, Pvt. Jackson recounts his participation in the siege of Vicksburg, the occupation of New Orleans, forays up the Mississippi, and the tragic fighting that went on in Alabama after Lee's surrender. The letters are frank and unsentimental, throwing much light on the life of the common soldier. He was an uncomplicated sort of man whose morale never weakened. He did his duty because it was his duty.

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**G. W. Party**

Washington's birthday was observed here as usual by our annual tea for members of the history department. As the Library is more closely associated with this department than with any other, we emphasize that relationship by bringing teachers and staff together once a year. The occasion also provides an opportunity to show off the previous year's acquisitions and to make new departmental members better acquainted with the Library's holdings.

Appropriate to the observance, we served miniature cherry tarts and "hatchet" cookies. The campus no longer suspends operations for Washington's birthday; we don't either but we pay our respects as the one unit that should do so.

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**Housekeeping**

Despite the fact that spring seems to be around just another corner—and another—the Library has had to carry out what might be called a "spring cleaning" chore. These housekeeping duties sneak up on us from time to time. Suddenly, the rare book room was full of books. We mean full—no room to add another volume.

The room holds approximately 3300 volumes and is reserved for the most expensive books in the building. As most of you know, it is a kind of glorified bank vault built into the building, affording maximum protec-

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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 1962. As a bonus I shall receive a reproduction copy of the Columbus Letter (1493) in Latin and English. (over)
tion against fire and theft. We faced the necessity of thinning it out by removing titles that seemed to us of lowest market value. The selection was made and more than a hundred books were taken out. They have now been added to the chronology in the main room, where space is not at a premium. A few cases there are growing tight, so further shifting had to be done. But now we are on an even keel again, ready to accommodate further acquisitions in both areas.

Ultimately we face the necessity of developing a stack room in the lower Library, as a kind of overflow space. No addition to the building is contemplated at this time. Furthermore we have been bravely moving to the General Library certain secondary works once shelved here primarily as a convenience to staff and readers. They were not source materials and consequently not additions to the permanent collections. Convenience must be sacrificed as space fills up.

Go, But Don’t Count on Me

We have just bought at auction in London a sermon preached July 20, 1775, at York, Pennsylvania, before two companies of Virginia riflemen who were on their way to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to join the New England forces which were besieging the British in Boston. The minister was the Rev. Daniel Batwell, who was saddened by the conflict with the mother country and hopefully foresaw a short war presumably confined to the North.

Mr. Batwell, who was an Anglican clergyman fairly fresh from England, thought the war was “unnatural,” but much more the fault of Great Britain than of the colonies. “The present situation is the most distressful that could have happened to beings endued with humanity. It is more replete with anguish, than even with danger . . . But my duty in this sacred place leads me no farther than to bewail the miseries brought upon this country by those fatal misconceptions that have gone forth on the other side of the Atlan- tick.” He was optimistic of the outcome and prayed for the king to come to his senses. “There is no reason to think that any state legitimately constituted will be destroyed by His supreme fiat, till that state has rendered itself unworthy of continuance by acts that defile its purity and corrupt its very essence.” Of such acts the united colonies are free, he declared, and “may expect the blessing of Heaven upon our endeavours.”

“Go,” he admonished the riflemen, “and defend our franchises, our wives, our children, and possessions: Go, and bring us back a speedy and honourable peace.” Somewhere far off the war would be won.

The captains of the two companies were Price and Morgan.

The latter, of course, became the famous Brigadier General Daniel Morgan. Even now he achieved fame for marching his company the six hundred miles to Cambridge in three weeks. Equipped with rifles, as few soldiers were, and dressed in long hunting shirts and buckskin breeches, they were the terror of exposed British sentinels, and in off hours they picked up spending money by betting on their marksmanship with skeptical Yankees. Morgan was ultimately forced to retire to his home near Winchester, Virginia, by ill health before the war ended.

And what of the patriotic pastor? As a good Anglican he continued prayers for the king. Then came the Declaration of Independence and the capture of New York City by the British. These events evidently changed his mind. In 1777 he was pitched in the river as a Tory, his church was closed, and he was jailed in York. Released later, he fled to the enemy and was appointed chaplain of a New York Tory regiment in 1778. He returned to England in 1783. Batwell was one of those colonials opposed to British policy yet unwilling to make the break with England.

French Style

We bid at auction in London only once in awhile, and almost never in Paris. For one thing, Continental auctions are not conducted like our own. In this country and in England the seller pays a commission to the auction house for selling his goods. The buyer pays no commission unless he employs an agent to examine the goods and bid for him. But in Paris, for instance, the Library is obliged to pay two commissions: one to our bidding agent, and a larger one to the auction house.

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