Associates' Board Meeting

At its meeting on June 15 the Board of Governors of the Clements Library Associates made some spectacular purchases for the Library that are described in other columns. Altogether $2932 were expended for books and prints that will give added distinction to the collections. When this sum is added to the amounts spent on acquisitions by the Associates since their organization in 1947, the total reaches the impressive figure of $72,979!

The Directors Fund, an endowment account, has passed the $4000 mark, a particularly gratifying tribute to the memory of Dr. Randolph G. Adams, the Library's first director.

Next October 26, the Associates will hold an annual gathering for members and guests. A special exhibition will be opened that evening with an illustrated lecture about it. This is a departure from the usual fall formal lecture. Refreshments will be served as usual. Notices will be sent out in the fall.

Mr. Roscoe O. Bonisteel, Ann Arbor attorney and former University Regent, was named to the Board of Governors by the Regents. Mr. William T. Gossett joined the Board as liaison member, along with Mr. Wheat, from the Library's Committee of Management.

History in Pictures

The last big battle of the French and Indian War was the siege and capture of Havana by the British in 1762. It was also the costliest engagement, for the British lost more than a thousand soldiers and sailors, chiefly from disease. The action was against the Spaniards, of course, and Spain wanted Cuba back so badly that in the peace treaty of the next year she traded Florida to England for it.

Because of the importance of this victory by combined naval and military forces, an enterprising London publisher issued a set of twelve large line engravings of different stages of the siege in 1776. They were made from sketches done on the spot by a naval officer. Only enough sets for subscribers were struck off. We found one in England, and the Associates' Board decided the Library should have it.

Another set of four engravings was also purchased by the Board. These are reproductions of the portraits of the four Mohawk chiefs taken to England in 1710 to meet Queen Anne. They were part of an effort by the northern colonies to gain British aid for an attack on Quebec, because the Mohawks were anti-French also. Promised help the year before had never come, and the colonies wanted to be sure that England would fulfill her promise the second time. She did in 1711, sending over a naval force that failed miserably in the St. Lawrence, and Quebec was never approached. But the Indian chiefs had a great time in London, were presented at court, were widely seen and written about, and made a lasting impression. The full length engravings were quite popular, but we had never owned a set.

Two Lilly Fellows

The two scholars who will be doing research here this summer on Clements Library-Lilly Endowment Fellowships are Professor Dwight Smith of Miami University and Assistant Professor Jack Sosin of the University of Nebraska.

Mr. Smith will be working in the Harnar papers, especially the general's diary of his service in the Old Northwest. Mr. Sosin will be using several British manuscript collections in his study of the frontier during the American Revolution. Both men have visited the Library briefly before, and we are looking forward to their extended stays this summer.

The Scholarly World

The Library director has been away on three trips since our last issue. He attended the Conference on Colonial History at the University of South Carolina late in March, using the opportunity to visit half a dozen rare book dealers in that direction. They are rather largely concerned with some event called...
by providing opportunities for publication and research. It has been a fruitful connection for the Library, and we hope it may be resumed at a later date.

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**Where the Gold Is**

After Edward Bliss, editor of the Rocky Mountain News, became agent for the Colorado Emigration Office in New York City, he sought to encourage westward migration even in the midst of the Civil War. He prepared a pamphlet describing Colorado Territory which was published as *A Brief History of the New Gold Regions of Colorado Territory* (New York 1864). It included "hints" or instructions on crossing the plains and a map of the route from the Missouri River to Denver, 650 miles. He could hardly have hoped to start another 1849 gold rush, but the pamphlet has become a valuable title in the Wagner-Camp list. Six institutions have copies.

When a mint copy came to the attention of James Shearer II of Chicago, he decided we should have it. It is another milestone on our record of the westward movement.

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**Gift Book**

The Library's annual gift book to Associates has been distributed. It is *A Bibliography of Randolph G. Adams, with an Introductory Memoir*. In a sense this item forms a fitting conclusion to the series of ten Adams Memorial Lectures sponsored during the past decade by the Associates. It is also a record of the productiveness of an original thinker in the fields of collecting, library administration, and bibliography. Some copies were bound in boards for deposit in libraries and library science collections around the country.

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**Founder's Day**

A large crowd of friends helped us on April 2 observe Founder's Day. We are glad to report that Mrs. Clements was able to be with us from Bay City. Professor John Bowditch, chairman of the history department, spoke on our French allies in the American Revolution. On exhibition were purchases made by the Associates during the year and gifts from some individual Associates. Tea and coffee stimulated the social hour.

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**Mrs. Haugh in Woodcut**

We don't mean to imply that Mrs. Haugh, our curator of printed books, is old enough to have had her likeness reproduced in woodcut, but only to say that for the past few weeks she has been deeply immersed in woodcuts. More precisely, she has been preparing a paper on illustrated books in America up to 1820. The object of her research was a lecture (illustrated, of course) at the annual meeting of the rare books section of the Association of College and Research Libraries at Coral Gables, Florida, in June.

This section was organized a few years ago chiefly for the benefit of public and college librarians who wished to learn something about the identification and care of rare books. Persons who already work in rare book libraries have been the speakers, for the most part. Mrs. Haugh was able to find the products of a number of early American engravers in the almanacs, broadsides, newspapers, and books in our Library. A by-product of her investigation is that we now have on exhibition a number of works that show the growth and variety of early American illustration.
Looking West

It is astonishing to see in print in 1701 a proposal to Englishmen to form a joint stock company to trade with the Indians beyond the Alleghenies. Settlement had hardly reached the eastern foothills of that mountain range, yet here was a bold suggestion for trading posts in the Great Lakes region that would also stop westward expansion of the French.

The idea came too soon to arouse support. The next year England was embroiled in war with France, and most of the western Indians sided with the French. Detroit was founded, and it was too late for the English to penetrate the region without meeting immediate resistance. But the suggestion shows the enthusiasm for empire building that permeated certain circles. The proposal mentioned by an American and tamely entitled: *Essay upon the Government of the British Plantations on the Continent of America* (London 1701) The Associates' Board decided we should have it.

Miles Philips sailed with Sir John Hawkins in 1568 and was captured by Indians in Mexico, then turned over to Spanish colonists. After being enslaved for six months, he and his companions were sold as servants to Spanish families for a period of six years. At the end of this time the Inquisition seized them as heretics, and Philips was sentenced to serve in a monastery for another six years. Upon release penniless, he bound himself to a weaver for three years. Finally he escaped back to England in 1584.

Nothing daunted, he took ship to Canada shortly and sailed up the St. Lawrence as far as the future Montreal. On this voyage he found an old companion, Job Hortop, who had been captured in 1568. Hortop's story was published in 1591 and is an extremely high-priced rarity. Philips finally wrote about his own career in *Voyages and Adventures... in Mexico, and Canada* which did not get printed until 1724, in London. What few persons know is that in this book he relates Hortop's story too. The reason it is so little known is that only one other copy of Philips' book seems to be known.

With such a background the book appealed to the Board of Governors as a proper purchase from Associates' funds.

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Potash, Anyone?

England was spending £100,000 a year in foreign countries to obtain potash. So the Board of Trade offered encouragement to anyone who could produce it in the empire, so as to hold this trade within the family. The challenge appealed to William Stephens, London agent for the colony of Georgia. In 1754 he visited America again and by a secret new method set up several potash extraction works in several colonies. For his success he was given a bounty of £3000. No shrinking violet, Stephens declared that wasn't enough. He appealed to Lord Halifax, president of the Board of Trade, in a booklet, *The Rise and Fall of Potash in America* (London 1758). It contains reports from Massachusetts and Virginia about his potash activity. As an example of early industry, it is illuminating. The trouble with his appeal was that it came in the midst of an expensive war, when every financial resource was strained to meet the soaring costs. For economic history, the book is a good source, and the Associates' Board made sure we could keep it.

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The Way We Looked in 1820

The European lecturer who tells us our faults is a fairly common phenomenon of America's avid pursuit of culture. Occasionally one of them praises us. Our willingness—nay, eagerness—to listen to these outsiders began soon after our independence.

In 1820 there appeared in an American magazine a long letter from an English traveler in New York to his friend in London. It was reprinted as a separate pamphlet. Although the identity of the author is not known, he makes some interesting observations.

"My confidence in the American form of government, in itself considered, is unshaken. It is the master work of political wisdom, and ought to produce the most exalted state of human society... While the price of their freedom was fresh in memory, the possession was highly valued; but it has become an old story... They do not aim at national literature, nor national character..."

"Notwithstanding their low rank in those intellectual im-

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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 (1498) in Latin and English. (over)
provements which ought particularly to be expected from their peculiar advantages, it is not true that they are deficient in native powers of mind. They have, on the contrary, an uncommon share of original talent: but no national impulse has ever been given, to favour the cause of literature. . . . Learning is too little honoured to bring it into great demand for public employments.

"With the best native talent as a people, avarice is the governing principle in their pursuits, and many who are deaf to the trumpet of fame, may be roused to every deed of daring if you jingle dollars in their ears.

"Among other objects of curiosity, I have visited a number of American Colleges. A few of them are very respectable and improving; but what would you say of a university, without a man of learning, talent, or influence, connected with it, sending out graduates by scores, without a knowledge of common Arithmetic, or English grammar, and proudly flourishing a Latin Diploma which they are unable correctly to construe.

"In New-York the chief emulation is in eating and drinking . . . The ladies—whose influence, good or bad, is always great in civilized society—are here very fond of outside show, partial to almost every thing foreign, and much more likely to patronise the makers of fine looking-glasses and fine shawls, than the authors of superior works of genius, learning, and taste.

The author's disappointment in Americans, particularly New Yorkers, is enhanced by his disgust that they even try to imitate the British. "With all their July boasting about America and its independence, their enemies may smile to see how little sincere regard there is for either. A lurking but absolute preference of Great Britain may still be traced."

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**Harmony Without Barbershop**

Two song books were shown to the Associates' Board. One was the result of a contest held in Philadelphia to find the best "national song." Five songs were selected for publication in 1809. One of them, entitled "Freedom and Peace," was declared the winner of the gold medal. The authors were Wilson and Taylor. The local society was trying to promote a national anthem, but unfortunately for them and the authors, this winning song never seemed to catch on. Four years later, of course, "The Star Spangled Banner" was written, and it immediately became popular. But this earlier effort indicates a growing spirit of nationalism, and we are glad to have the booklet. Only two other copies are known.

The other item was from the hand of our old friend William Billings, Boston composer and director. He was the first American to make music his profession. It was his tune "Chester" that became the marching song of the Revolution. His book *The Singing-Master's Assistant* (Boston 1781) contained a variety of tunes with words, and 27 pages of instruction in singing. It was first published in 1778, and this edition seems to be unknown to Evans' bibliography. It appealed to Associate James S. Schoff of New York who bought it for us.

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**Mr. Thomas Retires**

Friends of the Library have grown used to seeing Mr. Carl Thomas about the building as our custodian for the past dozen years. He has served as both guard and janitor, keeping an eye on building repairs, cleaning the rooms, locking up and unlocking, and safeguarding our treasures. He operated on all three floors of the Library and put in a long day. Having reached the University's retirement age, he leaves us at the end of June.

The staff tendered a tea to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas.

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**Dubious Liberal**

That rascal John Wilkes, who was expelled from Parliament for libelling the king, then arrested and imprisoned, offered himself as a martyr against despotic power. Several American colonial assemblies regarded him as a champion of liberty and sent money for his defense. Actually he was first of all a political opportunist, but one who aroused a barrage of pamphlet literature. The Library has a good many publications about the Wilkes controversy, but when a group of 14 titles turned up bound together which we lacked, we ordered it to show to the Board of Governors. We are glad to report that they bought it for us.