Over the Top!
Results of the fund raising campaign undertaken by the Associates have been more than gratifying. In an effort to raise $5900 for the purchase of some manuscripts, the Board of Governors through its chairman appealed for contributions in a circular letter that went to all members. Responses brought in a total of $6821! In all, 106 persons sent in checks, and to them the Board and the Library express their warmest thanks.

The manuscripts thus obtained were letters from Sir Henry Clinton to the Duke of Gloucester written during and right after the Revolutionary War. The

The Library's collections of British Headquarters Papers was further enriched by this generous action of a considerable number of Associates, and to all of them the Board expresses gratitude and gratification. And to our good friend, James Schoff, who arranged to hold the papers until we could act, we give our double thanks. Now with this acquisition behind us, we hope for an early opportunity to add some other interesting and valuable rarities to the Library.

Renville Wheat, Chairman, Board of Governors

To be proud of having two thousand books would be absurd. You might as well be proud of having two top coats. After your first two thousand difficulty begins, but until you have ten thousand volumes the less you say about your library the better. Then you may begin to speak.

—Augustine Birrell, 1887

duke was the younger brother of King George III and he served in the army. Clinton wrote freely to him about his campaigns, his hopes, and his disappointments in the American war. The letters are especially valuable for their frankness and fullness, and they round out the large collection of Clinton correspondence the Library owns. For some reason, Clinton never kept copies of his letters to the duke, so that only through this purchase from the recipient's side did the texts become available for scholars. They are being used by a biographer right now.

Following are names of contributors to the purchase:

Alexander, Mrs. John, Ann Arbor
Baist, Earl D., New York
Bacon, Wilbur C., Chicago
Baer, Mrs. Mervyn K., Chicago
Baits, Mrs. Stuart G., Grosse Pointe Farms
Baldwin, Mr. & Mrs. Howard C., Detroit
Barlett, Herbert H., Ann Arbor
Barton, George S., Worcester
Bender, Dr. & Mrs. Norman C., Buffalo
Bonbright, Carl W., Flint
Bowen, Edward W., Bay City
Briggs, Robert P., Jackson
Bulger, William T., Mt. Pleasant
Clark, Herbert W., San Francisco
Nat'l Society of Colonial Dames (Michigan Chapter), Grosse Pointe

Coon, Mr. & Mrs. Thurlow E., La Jolla, Cal.
Crary, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas D., Ann Arbor
Cross, Thomas N., Ann Arbor
DeLaVergne, Earl W., Farmington
Dickinson, Selden S., Detroit
Dickinson, Z. Clark, Ann Arbor
Donnelly, Gaylord, Chicago
Dumond, Dwight L., Ann Arbor
Dunlap, Elizabeth, Oakfield, New York
Dykema, Raymond K., Detroit
Ehrlicher, Arthur W., Pekin, Ill.
Evers, Fred C., Elmhurst, Ill.
Faben, Walter W., Montpelier, Ohio
Failey, Mr. & Mrs. Robert B., Indianapolis
Fairman, Louise, Chicago
Feinberg, Charles E., Detroit
Fitzgerald, Harold A., Pontiac
Francis, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas, Ann Arbor
Frisinger, H. H., Toledo
Gault, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar H., Ann Arbor
Goodrich, Margaret, Denver
Gorman, Rocco J., Charleston, West Virginia
Hale, Richard W., Jr., Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Hamm, Frank C., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Haverlin, Carl, Bronxville, N.Y.
Hayes, Hoyt E., Bay City
Haynes, Harley A., Ann Arbor
Hecker, Christian H., Detroit
Hitz, Mrs. Benjamin D., Indianapolis
Holmes, Mrs. H. S., Ann Arbor
Hunter, Mr. & Mrs. Laurin, Ann Arbor
Hyde, Mrs. Donald, Sommerville, N.J.
Johnson, Glenn D., Flint
Jones, Efroy O., Rancho Santa Fé, Cal.
Kendall, David W., Detroit
Kennedy, James A., Ann Arbor
Klein, Lawrence R., Arlington, Va.
Kremers, Ernest, Niagara Falls
Lilly, El, Indianapolis
Long, Thomas G., Detroit
McCoy, Gerald, Grand Rapids
McMath, Neil C., River Rouge
McOmber, Mrs. Fred T., Ann Arbor
Merck Foundation, N.J.
Miller, Donald C., Evanston
Miller, George H., Ripon, Wis.
Moon, George D., Berlin Heights, Ohio
Cherry Blossoms

The Library entertained members of the history department at its annual Washington Day tea Sunday, February 22. Some of the principal acquisitions made during the year 1928 were put on display. Cherry tarts formed the conspicuous part of the refreshments.

Another Spy Unmasked

James Fenimore Cooper's novel, The Spy, was published in 1821. It dealt with an American spy named Harvey Birch, who wormed his way into Tory councils and then relayed information on them to General Washington. Was this book completely a work of the imagination, or did Cooper know of a Revolutionary War spy whose actions were similar to those of Birch? Cooper didn't say.

Then in 1828 one H. L. Barnum produced a book entitled The Spy Unmasked; or, Memoirs of Enoch Crosby, alias Harvey Birch. Barnum, at least, was convinced that Cooper modeled his fictional hero upon Enoch Crosby, a native of Massachusetts, who had enlisted from Connecticut. More or less by accident he began spying in 1776 and served for more than a year, until his "escapes" from traps set for other Tories made him suspect to all Tories. In fact, they tried to kill him and almost succeeded. Crosby subsequently served in the Continental Line until the end of the war. Today it seems generally accepted that Cooper's Harvey Birch was based on Enoch Crosby.

So far, so good. But now comes an eight-page pamphlet published without title page about 1825. It is simply entitled Gray's Narrative. Remember that this is before the claims of Enoch Crosby were advanced. The writer, one David Gray, gratuitously points out that Harvey Birch is a fictional character, and that the real spy was himself. A native of Massachusetts, he served first with Ethan Allen. Throughout 1776 he served under General Schuyler, then early in 1777 enlisted for three years in Colonel Vose's regiment. In the south part of New Hampshire he became acquainted with a number of Tories and began spying on them. He got into New York City and sent information out to Washington. When he rescued an American prisoner sentenced to death, his spying career came to an end. Mr. Gray had not been very successful financially since the war and ended his recital with a plea not to reduce the war pensions.

This new claimant to literary honors seems unknown. One wonders who paid the bill for printing his glory-seeking pamphlet.
Shaking Out

In our last Quarto we made mention of a brave beginning of a collection on the Shaker sect, a group that was organized in this country in the 1780's. With 46 titles we were on our way. Already we can announce a tremendous addition, partly as a result of the director's visit to New York in January.

Our good friend Ernie Wessen in Mansfield, Ohio, turned up a collection of 64 pieces for us, and the discovery of 20 more titles in the East have pushed us up to more than 150 items. A graduate student is finding enough material for a thesis on this sect. We are by no means satisfied with our holdings and are looking for additional items we don't have. Possibly one of our readers may have something we could use. The Shaker communities spread from New York into New England, then into Ohio and Kentucky.

The New York Public Library has a large collection of Shaker material, and we are having their catalog cards microfilmed so that we may know what we lack.

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The Troubled Southeast

Two Spanish items relating to Florida remind us of the trouble that area posed for Great Britain and then for us before it was incorporated into the United States. The first acquisition was a Portuguese translation called "Manifesto ou Combinacam do Procedimento de Sua Magestade Catholica" (Lisbon 1740) reviewing all of Spain's grievances against England since the first English expansion into South Carolina and Georgia, the Asiento trade contract, and commerce with Cuba and Jamaica. There had already been a raid on St. Augustine and an invasion of Georgia. Britain and Spain had just gone to war, and soon France would become involved.

The other item was the "Memoria Sobre las Negociaciones entre España y los Estados Unidos" (Madrid 1820), the very rare first edition of the negotiations and conferences carried on between the two countries to define the boundary line after the Louisiana purchase. Luis de Onis was the Spanish minister in Washington who conducted the negotiations with Monroe and Adams. As a result of the conferences by the treaty of 1819, we acquired all of Florida and surrendered our claims to Texas. These proceedings were also a fulfillment of the new Monroe Doctrine.

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Eulogy on Franklin

We have recently acquired a pamphlet in French, published at Paris in 1790. It is entitled Extrait du Journal de la Société de 1789, and is a eulogy on Benjamin Franklin shortly after his death by the Duc de la Rochefoucauld.

The French Revolution had begun the year before, and the Duc, a popular sympathizer, was serving in the National Assembly. He had known Franklin while he was in Paris. We could hardly believe that there was an organization called the Society of 1789, but there was, and both Washington and Franklin had been elected to membership. La Rochefoucauld alludes to a manuscript copy of Franklin's autobiography which he held and declares that Franklin made a will while in Paris and left it in the hands of friends there. He described Franklin as the new man permitted to rise in the new democratic society which France was hoping to achieve. He reminded his colleagues that Franklin signed the U. S. Constitution although objecting to some features of it; he hopes that the French delegates will compromise in the interest of unanimity. The speaker also refers to Jefferson as the author of the Declaration of Independence, a claim that Jefferson had not yet acknowledged publicly.

Altogether this is an important pamphlet to add to our collection on Franklin. Our copy is also annotated in the margins.
DOTTATOR ET LNEATOR LOQUITUR

The above sketches, curiously modern in style, appear in the Port Folio for August 1817. Beneath the illustration are several lines of verse scorning the sculptor and painter, because the author-artist asserts that he can express as much as they do through his bare lines and dots. In part he says:

I scorn the art that merely traces,
By worn out rules, old-fashioned graces;
Or deals alone in tints to charm,
Though they were Titian’s, rich and warm;

I know that I can do much more
Than artist ever did before;
With but a Dot and eke a Line,
In ever shape and act I’ll shine.

Onward and Upward

We respectfully call attention to this issue of The Quarto as number 60. After some irregular appearances in the early years, it has settled down to quarterly issuance. In consequence, the last forty issues have appeared in the past ten years. We would welcome suggestions about what you would like to see in this publication. Perhaps we have neglected some aspect of the Library’s activity or policy that you have wondered about.

Illuminati

Originally the Illuminati was a group or cult in Europe that grew up after the French Revolution and was opposed to government and religion. The idea was believed to have spread to this country about 1798 because certain New England clergymen were meeting to discuss politics. Why clergymen should be opposed to religion was not explained, but this obvious non sequitur did not quiet the patriotic alarmists. Some of them suspected that the Masonic lodge was somehow involved, probably because of its secrecy. Irish immigrants were later accused. Then the Theistical Society of New York, organized in 1802, was suspected. It was nicknamed the Columbian Illuminati and got embroiled in New York state politics (where there was genuine subversion of democracy).

The Library has just acquired one of the hysterical accusations: Seth Payson’s Proofs of the Real Existence, and Dangerous Tendency, of Illuminism (Charlestown 1802). It proved nothing, only smeared. Fortunately, there was no House Un-American Activities Committee existing to magnify the fiction, and soon the common sense of doubters routed the dragon of the self-deluded and self-appointed accusers.