General Greene

When Mr. Clements purchased the correspondence of Gen. Nathanael Greene in 1945, he acquired about 5,000 pieces, the bulk of the total correspondence. They had come down directly from a Greene descendant until sold to a collector in 1894, who in turn sold them to a dealer in 1905, Joseph Sabin. From time to time Mr. Sabin sold a few Greene letters—apparently whenever he got hard up. He may have disposed of a few hundred before Mr. Clements stepped in.

Besides this number, the American Philosophical Society has twelve volumes of papers of the quartermaster general’s department, which Greene headed until 1780. The Library of Congress owns five more volumes of quartermaster papers, three volumes of Greene correspondence, and three letterbooks. Duke University has more than a hundred letters and 2,600 transcripts made by G.W. Greene while working on the biography of his grandfather. The Huntington Library has a few original letters and 2,600 transcripts made by G. W. Greene while working on the biography of his grandfather. There are scattered items in the Rhode Island Historical Society, the New York Public Library, and Marietta College. An interesting lot of 130 letters from Greene and to Mrs. Greene escaped Mr. Clements because they were held in private hands. They passed into ownership by a dealer in 1948 but were not offered for sale. Following his death, this lot came up at auction in September of this year.

It was the feeling of the Committee of Management that the Library should make every effort to obtain this additional lot. Greene is widely regarded as the second ablest general in the Revolution, and from 1780 to 1782 he held a semi-independent command in the South. It was he who drew Lord Cornwallis out of South Carolina and reconquered that state, and then recovered Georgia and North Carolina. He quelled the numerous Tories and suppressed a lively civil or guerrilla warfare. In gratitude Georgia presented him with a plantation, and Greene settled there after the war, but his useful life was cut short by death in 1786.

The unpleasant fact faced by the Library was that by virtue of our extensive holdings, Greene letters rarely appeared on the market and when they did, they brought very high prices. In a sense we were responsible for the high value placed on his letters. We girded ourselves for battle. Fortunately, we had a fund provided through the generosity of Mrs. Elizabeth Drew of New York specifically for the purchase of Greene material, and with her permission we decided to throw it all into this opportunity. We were offered help by Regent Eugene Power, a Xerox Corporation director. We had our University appropriation for the year, only slightly depleted. With all these resources we moved in on the sale and successfully carried off the prize, albeit at a high price.

We can only add that a sale a week later saw two Greene letters go at prices which, if they had prevailed for the collection we bought, would have ballooned the price to almost three times what we paid!

The important aspect of this new acquisition is that the letters are extraordinarily fine. Many of them were written by Greene to his wife: they are long, frank, and free and easy in expression. Secondly, no scholar has had access to these letters. Thirdly, we do not know of any other collection remaining in private hands.

Secrecy of War McHenry

Not quite exhausted by our effort to obtain the Greene collection (above), the Library felt called upon a month later to take another “now or never” step.

Back in 1945 the correspondence of James McHenry, Revolutionary war officer and secretary of war under Presidents...
THE CLEMENTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

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Washington and Adams, was scattered at auction. It has been estimated that it must have totalled about 2,000 pieces. In the last few years by luck and by exertion the Library managed to pick up more than 400 letters. Now we had an opportunity to enlarge this holding into a genuine, significant collection and repair the damage done to scholarship by the first auction.

Utilizing the last of our funds for the year, we purchased in all 340 additional letters. One special group is noted in another column. Prices were higher than we had ever paid before, but we are proud to have now 754 items—or more than a third of the original McHenry collection. We believe we must have more than any other institution. We could not get everything on which we bid, but we have performed a service to scholars by bringing together again in one place a score of scattered handfuls of correspondence from this important office when Indian troubles in the Northwest, the Jay treaty, and evacuation of the British-held posts on the Great Lakes occupied the attention of the infant federal government.

The Constitution Battle

When George Clinton ran for re-election as governor of New York in 1789, against Robert Yates, the campaign had far more than local interest. The new Constitution of the United States was up for ratification, and the decision of the people of New York would not only register the view of a large state but probably influence other states. Clinton was opposed to adoption of the Constitution, and Yates favored it.

Alexander Hamilton, who had labored hard on drafting the Constitution, had also written several of the Federalist papers which had been published in various newspapers. These were expositions of what the Constitution meant and why the various articles were included. He did not want to see the Constitution turned down in his home state. Consequently he jumped into the gubernatorial campaign and wrote three tracts favorable to Yates.

But Clinton headed a powerful faction, and to each of Hamilton's tracts, Jonathan Lawrence composed a reply. The outcome was that Clinton won the election, but when he called a convention to consider the Constitution and presided over it, the delegates overrode his objections and ratified the Constitution anyway!

As for the great bibliographies, Evans listed three of these tracts, and Sabin knew of only one. Apparently no institution owns all six of them. But now the Clements Library does—thanks to the decisiveness of our Associates' Board of Governors! They were high priced, but the opportunity to get all at once was seen as a challenge that must be accepted.

Associates Board Meets

The Board of Governors held its fall meeting at the Library on October 4. Mr. Wheat was re-elected chairman, and Mr. Schoff was elected vice chairman. Steps toward increasing membership in the Associates were reviewed coincident with the annual appeal for contributions for the new year. The executive committee had acted to obtain two items at a sale ten days earlier, and its expenditure was approved by the full Board. Additional purchases were then made from titles on display. They are described elsewhere in these columns.

After a dinner at the Michigan Union, the Board, other Associates, and friends gathered at the Library to preview a new exhibition on Pontiac's War, 1763-64 and to hear the Library Director speak on Chief Pontiac. A pleasant social hour followed. Attendance was estimated at 190. A descriptive bulletin about the exhibition was distributed and since then has been mailed to all Associates and to various libraries.
Army Regulations Revised

Our readers may be familiar with the fact that during the Valley Forge winter after Baron von Steuben began training our troops, he also wrote out the first manual of arms for the benefit of inexperienced American officers so that they too could drill their men. These army regulations continued to serve the postwar troops along the Ohio River, and the first small U. S. Army.

Late in 1797 Secretary of War James McHenry decided that the whole book of army regulations needed revision, which he drafted. He asked the commander-in-chief, James Wilkinson, to submit his ideas. General Wilkinson offered a running commentary on the revised regulations that runs to 43 pages. The same appeal was made to Col. John F. Hamtramck, commander of Fort Wayne at Detroit—an indication of the high regard in which this officer was held. He submitted his observations in an essay of 22 pages and a covering letter.

These four manuscripts about this important episode in our military history were offered at auction this fall. We wanted them for several reasons, but we knew they had appeal to other institutions and private collectors. Fortunately for us, Mrs. George Willson of Flint, an Associate, sent a check that more than paid the bill. The items will be put up in a suitable slipcase bearing her name. We hope she is as proud of the acquisition as we are.

D.C. and Md.

Recently the Library made two separate map acquisitions for which there seems to be more than a passing historical connection. Both maps were engraved by Thackara & Vallance of Philadelphi, one a map of Maryland and the other a plan of the new Federal City of Washington.

The original design of the Federal City was done by Major Pierre Charles L’Enfant, which it is believed he submitted to President Washington for approval sometime in 1791. Later that year, L’Enfant apparently became embroiled in a dispute with the commissioners of the city, and as a result was suspended and later dismissed from the government’s payroll. The work was then taken over by Andrew Ellicott, an assistant of L’Enfant’s and a recent surveyor of the proposed site. Working from a copy of L’Enfant’s design, Ellicott in February of 1792 submitted his own plans to Thackara & Vallance for engraving, and they in turn promised publication by early November of that year. Before this engraving appeared, however, a plan of the Federal City was published in The Universal Asylum, and Columbian Magazine in March of 1792 as frontispiece for the magazine. Authorship did not appear on the plate, but apparently Messrs. Thackara & Vallance, the engravers, copied it from a prototype of the Ellicott plan. The map acquired by the Library is one printed from a later state of this plate, and it is believed to be the one which appeared as frontispiece to Tobias Lear’s Observations on the River Potomack, published in 1793.

The map itself is in very good condition, and measures 8½ x 11 inches. Only three other copies are extant, thus assuring it rarity.

The aforementioned historical connection between this map and the Maryland is contained in the inset plan of Washington which appears on the Maryland map. Cartographer of the map is Dennis Griffith, and the inset, bearing no other author’s name, is also credited to him. Because the map was published in 1795, however, it is likely that Thackara & Vallance engraved the inset from a copy of Ellicott’s plan of the City, and placed it on the map with Griffith’s consent. Since at the time interest in the new Federal City was running high, this could only lead

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

...Count me as an Associate. Here is my contribution ($5 minimum) for 1964. As a bonus I shall receive a copy of Life in the South 1777-1779, Letters of Benjamin West.
to a greater sale of the map. This does not seem to us an altogether disagreeable ploy, especially in light of the fact that it increases the map's interest and value, and in the process enhances our ac-
quisation, pleasing us no end.

As map sizes go, this one is quite large, measuring 29 x 51 in. Detail on the map is elaborate, with all major rivers and their tributaries shown, along with most towns and cities of the period. Like the Washington map this one is quite rare, with only six other copies known to be in existence in the United States.

It may be guessed at this point that the two maps were not cheap to acquire, but again our Associates' Board stepped into the breach and made the purchase. Both appear in the bibliography of maps printed in America before 1800, just compiled by the late J. C. Wheat and our former map curator, Christian Brun, and to be published in 1964.

Lee's Letter

Charles Lee certainly impressed members of the Continental Congress. He had been a British officer who fought over here during the French and Indian War. Then he served in Portugal under Brig. Gen. Burgoyne. Later he mixed himself up with the pro-Russian forces in Poland. In 1773 as a retired professional officer he took up land in Virginia and was considered a valuable liberal. Not surprisingly, he was appointed a major general in the Continental Army after the Revolution began.

In June 1775 his old commander, John Burgoyne, arrived in Boston as part of a reinforcement for General Gage. Lee decided to write him a public letter, appealing to him not to take

1963-1964

The Committee of Management, the Director, and the Staff of the Clements Library extend warmest wishes to all members of the Associates for the Christmas season. With pleasant memories of past co-operation, the Library's governing body and employees look forward with confidence and keen anticipation to the New Year of combined interests and efforts.

part in suppressing this revolution. He argued that Britain could never conquer the colonies, and that they were struggling in behalf of human freedom everywhere.

Actually Lee got the letter printed in New York before Burgoyne received the original in Boston. Burgoyne replied in bombastic form and tried to wean Lee away from the American cause. It was also published. Of course, neither persuaded the other.

We have Burgoyne's reply, but the first separate New York edition of General Lee's Letter we, surprisingly, have never owned. The reason is its exceeding rarity—else Mr. Clements or Dr. Adams would have picked it up years ago. There is no record of a copy offered at auction. When we located a copy, we were happy and relieved to have the Associates' Board settle the not inconsiderable bill.

The Scioto Dream

There are probably a score of titles relating to the unhappy Scioto Company. A group of speculators obtained a grant of land in Ohio in 1787 that lay north of the Ohio Company land and extended west to the Scioto River. They had difficulty raising money to pay for the land, so upon the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789 they sent Joel Barlow abroad to interest French noblemen who might need a refuge of escape. But Barlow teamed up with an unscrupulous English promoter who soon ruined the French end of the company.

There was printed publicity for and against the Scioto Company. Some Frenchmen did migrate to Ohio and were appalled to find that they were going to have to work like peasants. The town of Gallipolis is the only result of the confused operations. It was a time of high hopes and deep disappointments, earnest ideals and satire. The Garden of Eden was not found on the banks of the Scioto.

The pamphlets about this failure in settling the West from Europe, are all exceedingly scarce. We have picked up a few of them. Another was offered this fall: Le Parlement de Paris Etabli au Scioto, Paris 1790. It was described as rare in 1880. The John Carter Brown Library obtained a copy in 1935. It is a satirical piece reflecting all the publicity around Paris in behalf of the company. The Associates' Board wisely decided to strengthen our holdings by acquiring it.