CLA: Seventeenth Year

In this month the Clements Library Associates closes its books on its seventeenth year of activity. Membership, including wives specifically included, stood at 557. Expenditures for the year on acquisitions for the Library amounted to $4670 from regular contributions and $3950 from designated grants made to the Associates. This total of $8620 raises the grand total of seventeen years' expenditures to $196,697.80.

The annual Assembly was held last October to open a special exhibition marking the bicentennial of the siege of Detroit by Chief Pontiac. The Director of the Library spoke on that occasion and a special descriptive bulletin was distributed. The annual gift book from the Library to members was General Greene's Visit to St. Augustine in 1785, edited by Helen H. Tanner. Four issues of The Quarto were mailed out as usual.

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Research visits to the Library numbered 845 for eleven months (905 for twelve months actually). Altogether it was a year of growth and progress during which dollars were turned into tangible and permanent wealth for our shelves.

We must look at the past not only because it shows us how finite we are, what creatures of our determinations, but because we are also responsible agents in history and we must study the past to free ourselves for the future. We must know the past, and then we must not be preoccupied with it.

—Reinhold Niebuhr

New Staff Member

We are glad to introduce to the Associates Mr. Nathaniel Shipton of Worcester, Mass., as our new Map and Print Librarian, succeeding Christian Brun. Mr. Shipton received his master's degree in American history from Clark University last June and began work on July 1. He has had some experience in the American Antiquarian Society, of which his father is the director. He is familiarizing himself with our holdings in maps and prints, and the staff looks forward to a pleasant association with him.

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By Unabated Diligence

Before you write your Congressman to complain of singing commercials, consider the case of Aaron Oliver, post-rider. He advertised in the Northern Budget (Troy, N.Y.) in 1799 that he had extended his route. He now carried the paper to Pittstown, Hoosick, Mapletown, part of Bennington and Shaftsbury, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, and Schodack. "He returns his sincere thanks to his former customers; and intends, by unabated diligence, to merit a continuance of their favours."

So far, so good. But then Aaron had to lapse into poetry, which has a beat if not a visible melody: "O'er rugged hills, and valleys wide,
He never yet has fail'd to trudge it:
As steady as the flowing tide,
we are glad to introduce to the Associates Mr. Nathaniel Shipton of Worcester, Mass., as our new Map and Print Librarian, succeeding Christian Brun. Mr. Shipton received his master's degree in American history from Clark University last June and began work on July 1. He has had some experience in the American Antiquarian Society, of which his father is the director. He is familiarizing himself with our holdings in maps and prints, and the staff looks forward to a pleasant association with him.

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Navy-Army Career

Mrs. Constance B. Stanton of Grosse Ile has enriched the Library by presenting 41 letters and a journal written by George William Taylor of New Jersey. He entered the Navy as a midshipman in 1828 and spent most of the next three years in the Mediterranean, as his letters reveal. Soon afterward he left the Navy and pursued a mercantile career in New Jersey. At the outbreak of the Mexican War, he raised a company of volunteers.
Taylor's journal covers the period 1828 to 1832, while he was in the Navy. Of course, it fills in the intervals between his letters.

Pax Vobiscum

One of the distressing voids in our collection of documents regarding the Treaty of Paris following the end of the American Revolution was an American printing of the final terms signed by the British and Americans. We had long owned the London version. That gap has now been closed by a diplomatic exchange of documents with the Library of Congress.

At the time of signing in September 1783, the peace commissioners agreed that the document, duly ratified, should be back in Paris by March 3 of the following year, no mean feat considering the snail's pace of transportation. Furthermore, a special session of representatives from the various states had to be called for the ratification. The day-by-day frustration of gathering in delegates from nine states to the capital, Annapolis, has been outlined by Dwight L. Smith in an article "Josiah Harmar, Diplomatic Courier," (1963). Eventually, he relates, the quorum was assembled, ratification quickly followed, and a trustworthy courier was chosen. Col. Josiah Harmar was speedily posted off to Paris. His instructions signed by Thomas Mifflin, president of Congress, touching upon mode of travel, remuneration, and duties is in our Harmar Papers where it may be seen in its fresh immediacy.

As was to be expected, wind and weather delayed his coach and ship and he did not reach Paris until March 29, past the deadline of March 3. But, Franklin, one of the three commissioners, anticipating this delay, had resorted to diplomacy in a holding operation, and all was well.

Meanwhile, back at the capital, Congress had ordered struck off by John Dunlap, the government printer, an official broad-

side of the treaty which begins: "By the United States in Congress, A proclamation. Whereas definitive articles of peace and friendship, between the United States of America and his Britannic Majesty were concluded and signed at Paris, on the 3d day of September, 1783"; lists the Articles of Peace, and concludes the third column: "And we the United States in Congress assembled...this 14th day of January 1784, approve, ratify and confirm the same..." And finally, the Clements Library has added its insignia.

"Desolate Sheep in America"

Dr. Thomas Coke was considered a liberal of his day, having become "tainted with Methodism" at college in England. After a meeting with Wesley in 1776, he began moving completely away from the Church of England toward the magnetic reformer. Later he was appointed by the Wesley group as one of three emissaries "to go and serve the desolate sheep in America." He journeyed to America nine times between 1784 and 1803 on his tireless missionary tours. Along with Francis Asbury, another great name in the annals of the Methodist Church, he laid the foundation of American Methodism, and his stand against slavery was strong.

On his third tour he visited the West Indies and published a Journal, which we have. After a fourth tour appeared his Journal of the Rev. Dr. Coke's Fourth Tour on the Continent of America (London 1792). This was his last tour to be marked by a separate publication. Extracts on five visits to America appeared in 1793. In the Journal we have now acquired, he describes his travels through Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia, and a visit
to the Catawba Indians (who were anything but sheep). It was purchased from the Harper fund.

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**A Critical Intellect**

Probably no one else is, but we're interested in Robert Baillie (1662-1662), a graduate of the University of Glasgow and a powerful Scotch Presbyterian divine. For one thing, he fought the Archbishop of Canterbury and in the English Civil War joined the Scottish army as a chaplain against the king. Then he took on the followers of Jacobus Arminius, who had dared to modify the doctrine of predestination of John Calvin.

It was all right for him to line up against the Church of England, but woe to those who opposed it in a way that undermined Presbyterianism too. Consequently he was venomous toward separatists or independents like the followers of Robert Browne, who migrated to Holland and then to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. He also grew critical of the Puritans, who separated physically and then doctrinally from the Anglican Church. He awed opponents because he spoke 13 languages.

Baillie wrote three books with special reference to the religious errors perpetrated in America. The first was *A Dissuasive from the Errors of the Time* (1645), which he revised the next year. Then he produced *Anabaptism, the True Fountain of Independency...* and other *Errors... Unsealed* (1647). This provoked some reaction, and later he replied in *The Dissuasive from the Errors of the Time Vindicated from... Mr. Cotton and Mr. Tombes* (1655). This is all part of the ferment that diluted Puritanism in America. We have just acquired the last title to go with the earlier ones we owned.

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**Boston Gazette**

Colonial American newspapers are always desirable and very seldom appear on the market. We have a fair representation of newspapers during the Revolution and even in the 1760's. But papers during the French and Indian War are an other story. Not only were there fewer of them being published, but fewer have survived.

Therefore we jumped at the opportunity to add to our holdings of the *Boston Gazette* from June 1755 to January 1757. We purchased 90 issues within this period to strengthen our run. Indeed, they double the number of issues we hold. They were not cheap, but colonial newspapers are a desiderata around here and we cannot begrudge the expenditure. Moreover, this is the kind of paper that is never found in an attic in this part of the country.

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**A Systemized Atlas**

Seldom do we care to acquire an incomplete item. However, there are some titles which are available in no other form. In the case of the unfinished Geological Ledger and Systemized Atlas, Christopher Colles started something he couldn't afford to finish. He was an Irishman who migrated to Philadelphia in 1771, where he tried various jobs—manufacturing, teaching, astronomy, and surveying. In 1780 he published *A Survey of the Roads of the United States of America* and sold it by subscription. (The Library didn't subscribe, of course, but we have one.) He gave exact distances between towns by using his invention, called a "perambulator," a wheel for measuring by revolutions.

Then he got the AAA idea of small sectional road maps, with indexes, that would show all the roads and distances of each section. They would be bound together and keyed to a larger map. This was to be the Geographical Ledger etc. Apparently he only made up some sample pages. Four other fragments have been found in other institutions. Ours contains the introduction and eight engraved maps showing the connecting roads from New York to other cities. (We don't think you could get to the World's Fair by it.) In view of all our American map holdings, we thought we should have the second and last incomplete work of Colles. It was bought from the Harper fund.

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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 1964. As a bonus I shall receive a copy of *Life in the South 1777-1779, Letters of Benjamin West.*

(over)
The Georgia Argument

You may not recall the War of Jenkins' Ear, which began in 1739 between England and Spain, but it produced an unsuccessful siege of St. Augustine by Gen. James Oglethorpe in 1740. This failure of English (actually Georgia and South Carolina) arms produced a pamphlet war of explanation and criticism.

First of all appeared An Impartial Account of the Expedition Against St. Augustine (London 1742). It was published anonymously, but now is credited to Oglethorpe himself as author. Then the South Carolina Assembly, which did not like the reflections cast on its indolent state militia, published The Report of the Committee... into the Causes of the Disappointment of Success in the Expedition (London 1743) charging Oglethorpe with incompetent leadership. In addition, a disgruntled officer under Oglethorpe produced The Spanish Hirlng Detected (London 1743) which announced that it refuted the falsehoods found in An Impartial Account. The author was identified as Lieut. Cadogan.

The Library owned these three books, but lacked the fourth one, which was Oglethorpe's bitter reaction: A Full Reply to Lieut. Cadogan's Spanish Hireling (London 1743). This rare title completed the argument, and we felt fortunate to pick it up this summer.

Oglethorpe's brilliant success in defending Georgia from Spanish invasion in 1742 quieted criticism of his failure to take St. Augustine two years earlier. The truth seems to be that the great stone fort of San Marcos in St. Augustine was simply too formidable for anything but heavy artillery, which he did not have.

We also obtained another Georgia book of an earlier period. It is entitled A New Voyage to Georgia. By a Young Gentleman (London 1787). The author has not been identified, but he arrived in Savannah in January 1734. He also explored both Carolinas, and included in his personal adventures a letter from Oglethorpe in 1733 giving some account of the Indians.

These two Georgia titles strengthen our considerable holdings on the beginnings of the last of the original thirteen colonies.

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Housekeeping Notes

Things have been rather hectic around the Library this summer. The building has been completely rewired as a safety measure, modern fuse boxes have been installed, a huge transformer has been set in our former storage room (which had to be cleared out), and modern, more luminous light fixtures have been hung in the basement and second floor. The great chandeliers in the Main Room have not been disturbed, but we are getting more light from them.

The work is still going on at this writing. Additional work has been done in the west basement in preparation for moving the division of maps and prints to larger quarters there. Radiators formerly on the ceiling have been removed to the side wall under the windows, and the rough ceiling has been smoothed over and painted previous to installing new ceiling light fixtures.

The glass curtains in the Main Room have seen their day and are soon to be replaced with new ones. Outside the building our scraggly hedge along the sidewalk has been replanted with a heavy row of greenery which we hope will also discourage students from continuing a path across the front lawn.

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The Bounding Main

While you are reading this, His Nibs the Director of the Library will be on the high seas (he may very well be lying low) bound for England. With a University research grant he will be investigating a bibliographical project relating to the Library at the British Museum, and he will also be calling on certain London book dealers who are old friends of the Library.

His research will take him to the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and other book dealers. Whether there will be time for Amsterdam, the other great book market, and Brussels and any other places, he did not know when he left. Anyway, he will be back at the end of October and, we hope, with some rare acquisitions for the Library.