Another Jewel

Happily for us, Mr. Clements acquired numerous "high spot" Americana, by which we mean the very important and highly desirable books that command premium prices. Not all, because some were not on the market in his lifetime. Now when one such book appears, the Library makes an effort to buy it in spite of the large chunk of our university appropriation it takes. We are motivated by several thoughts: it is the kind of book Mr. Clements would wish the Library to acquire, it is a justly famous book, it is the kind of book scholars expect to find here, it maintains or adds to our prestige, etc.

Recently such a book was offered to us, and the Committee of Management wisely decided to buy it. It is Villagra's, *Historia de la Nueva Mexica* (Alcala 1610). It is an eye-witness report, the only source, on the victorious expedition of the Spanish troops against the rebellious Acoma Indians in modern New Mexico in 1598. Imitating Homer, Villagra wrote a long epic poem. About a dozen copies exist. At the University of California the Bancroft librarian regards it fondly as that institution's most distinguished possession.

Well, that's the story. We are happy to have a copy with which to greet the new professor of Latin-American history who is due here in August.

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St. Clair and Howe

The Associates' Board has made two stunning purchases for the Library since Christmas. Stepping into an auction sale with determination, the Board brought away a superb manuscript and an extremely rare book.

The latter was the *Proceedings of a General Court Martial for the Trial of Major General St. Clair* (Philadelphia 1778). In the previous year St. Clair had commanded Fort Ticonderoga, in the path of Burgoyne's advance from Canada down Lake Champlain. The Americans expected that the British would meet fierce resistance at Ticonderoga. Instead, the enemy dragged some cannon up a mountain that commanded the fort, and to save his army St. Clair abandoned the doomed fort and fled southward. It was not a question of cowardice, but of whether he had neglected adequate defense measures. He was severely criticized at the time, but the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga a few weeks later softened the reaction. Although he was exonerated at the court martial, the needs of defense being beyond his control, St. Clair never held as important a command again. After the war he was appointed governor of the Northwest Territory and suffered a crushing defeat in Ohio by the Indians in 1791. Nevertheless he retained the governorship until 1802.

The *Court Martial* was printed in but a hundred copies, and only a couple are known today. No copy has appeared at auction in more than thirty years.

The manuscript was the orderly book kept at Gen. Robert Howe's headquarters from June 1776 to July 1778. Howe was in command of the Southern Department and was stationed at Charleston, S.C. The orderly book begins with the British attempt on Charleston and continues through Howe's unsuccessful expedition against St. Augustine. The book is full of instructive, orders, praise or blame of officers and men, records of courts martial, marching directions, enemy prisoners, hostile Indians, proclamations, etc. The entries cover 185 pages in very clear handwriting. It was an unexpected find for the Revolutionary years.

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The Algenne Captive

This work by Royall Tyler was published at Walpole, N.H. in 1797, and in 1802 had the honor of being the first American novel reprinted in England. The author was a talented young intellect of Federalist persuasion who graduated from Harvard in 1776, and entered the bar in 1780. Taking up practice in
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Maine, he became acquainted with Governor Bowdoin who in 1787 sent him to New York on official business. Tired of legal labor, Tyler was inspired by a performance of Sheridan’s School for Scandal, and he stayed in the city to pursue a literary career.

He was fiercely patriotic and in his first work, a comedy called The Contrast (1787) which we have, he complained of the attitude which insisted that “whilst all, which aims at splendour and parade/Must come from Europe, and be ready made.” Tyler was indeed a versifier and not a poet, but the couplet is an accurate statement of his artistic aims.

Identifying with the “Hartford Wits,” Tyler added his robust voice to the general cry for literary independence. It is from this context that The Algerine Captive gains its importance. Technically, the work was done in a crudely picaresque manner. More importantly, however, it is the first recorded attempt made to depict the manners and mores of homegrown Yankees. Thus, for our concerns, its literary value lies in the first 206 pages which intervene before black pirate ships appear over the horizon. In this space, Tyler indulges in some memorably witty satire at the expense of classical education, medical quackery, and the ministry.

But when the hero doctor ships to London and boards a slaver as ship’s surgeon, Tyler is drawing on the records of his great-uncle who had been captured in the Mediterranean and never heard from again. The tone of the book turns now from gaiety to seriousness and registers deep indignation over the treatment of captives by the Algerines. After seven years Dr. Updike returns, still an upright Christian in spite of attempts made to convert him to Mohammedanism. The story ends happily, but the point is not lost that steps to a solution of this problem must be taken soon.

It is the last half of the book which sold it to Tyler’s enthusiastic public, and the first half which makes it of historical value.

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English in Illinois

An interesting piece of promotional literature has been added to the Library as a gift of the Shearer Memorial Fund: Richard Flower’s Letters From the Illinois, 1820, 1821; Containing An Account of the English Settlement at Albion. This account, published at London in 1824, is a continuation of the same author’s Letters From Lexington and Illinois, 1819. The book is in the form of letters designed to attract additional English emigrants to the new settlement; and because it was written with this purpose in mind, it perhaps overstates the case. The author contrasts the wretched situation of the poor in England with the glorious opportunities awaiting them in Illinois. He is careful to point out in the preface, however, that not everyone is temperamentally suited to the life of an emigrant. He warns those “who are averse to labour, fond of luxuries, and whose minds are riveted to the artificial distinctions of society in Europe,” that they would do better to remain at home.

The Notes at the end of the book were contributed by the author’s brother, Benjamin Flower, and are primarily concerned with refuting certain misrepresentations against the Illinois colony by William Cobbett and others. This settlement has always been overshadowed by its neighbor, the New Harmony community established by Robert Owen in 1824, although the latter failed.

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Tomo and Georgia

Through the Harper Fund, two very rare poems, written anonymously in London in 1736 and now bound in one slender volume, are available here for those interested in the loftier sentiments evoked by the settlement of General James Oglethorpe’s Georgia Colony.

The first, entitled “Georgia, a poem,” is written in classical rhymed couplets and rejoices
that, momentarily at least, 
Whilst Europe round us pants 
with dread Alarms, 
And mourns her total continent in Arms, 
Alone Britannia, uninvolved 
in Woes, 
Enjoys a steady calm, and 
sweet Repose.

The occasion for this rhapsodic outburst was Oglesborpe's second visit to his colony. Laudatory references to Georgia—established as a bulwark to separate South Carolina from Spanish Florida—are found throughout the work.

The second poem, "Tomochichi, an ode," now known to have been composed by the Rev. Thomas Fitzgerald, has a more specific historical referent. It is a tribute to a Creek chief, expressed in language which too often, unfortunately, conceals the honesty of feeling behind it. Tomochichi is most often remembered as that elderly and quaint savage who visited London in 1734, willingly placing himself on display for gawking Englishmen, and who ceded land around Savannah to Oglethorpe.

However, it was his remarkable foresight to see that the English and Indians had to be friends and fellow workers against an often hostile environment. He helped make the early years of the Georgia colony peaceful and won the respect of many white men. Indeed, your reviewer, carried away, cannot refrain from adding:

Of aquiline features and russet hue, 
There a noble Savage grew; 
Of somber Heart, 
Here's a Friend from England scarce could part. 
Side by side—the King and He—
they stood, 
And in Friendship promised 
all they could.

Lincoln for Argentines
Domingo Faustino Sarmiento (1811–1888) was sent to Washington in 1865 as minister from Argentina after a distinguished career as soldier, minister of public instruction, editor, and historian. Somehow the University of Michigan heard of him and in 1868 invited him to Ann Arbor where he was awarded the honorary degree of LLD, the first Latin-American so honored. He returned at once to his native land because he was elected president of the Argentine Republic.

During World War II Prof. Hayward Keniston served in Buenos Aires as cultural attaché. When he returned to the campus he advocated the idea of naming one of our professorships the Sarmiento University Professor. The Regents acted on the suggestion in 1951 and designated Keniston as the first to hold that title as a teacher of Spanish language and literature. The present holder of the Sarmiento professorship is Irving Leonard, who teaches Latin-American history.

In 1962 the National University of La Plata sent to the Regents a plaque recalling the University's honorary degree to President Sarmiento. It was placed in Alumni Memorial Hall.

What does this have to do with the Clements Library? We're getting there. Sarmiento was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln and wanted his countrymen to know something of this apostle of freedom and democracy. In

1866 Sarmiento wrote a biography of Lincoln in Spanish. We are glad to have been able to procure a copy: Vida de Abraham Lincoln (Nueva York 1866). A second edition appeared the same year.

Holt Rides Again
When the British occupied New York City on August 29, 1776, it seemed prudent for a patriot printer to decamp. This John Holt did, hastily abandoning his newspaper and property. Next, the British destroyed his effects in Connecticut whence he had fled, and still once more he lost out to them in his final stand at Kingston, N.Y. Not until the end of the war was he able to resume his publishing in New York City.

Before his exodus from there, Holt served the New York Committee of Safety, a governing group earnestly engaged in forwarding the affairs of the colonists. Two commissions he executed for them early in 1776 attempted to demonstrate that there were those in England who saw the justice of the American cause. The Committee, with Pierre Van Cortlandt as chairman, felt statements from abroad should surely be viewed unsuspiciously by laggards not yet committed to the struggle.

Closely related (in a bibliographical sense), the two pieces begin identically: "To the inhabitants of the Colony of New York..." This greeting is fol-

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

... Count me as an Associate. Here is my contribution ($5 minimum) for 1965. As a bonus I shall receive a copy of General Greene's visit to St. Augustine.

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followed by a brief indication of the contents of the ensuing pamphlet. In one of them, a petition and an address is specified; in the other, only an address. In the fuller one, the second page then proceeds with "... a copy of the petition of the Honourable Continental Congress, sitting at Philadelphia, July 8, 1776, to His Majesty" (7 p.). Following that, the address given in response is reprinted. It consists of pro-American speeches by John Wilkes, mayor of London, entitled: "To the Electors of Great-Britain" and "Part of the speech of the Earl of Chatham, in the House of Lords, January 20, 1775 ... for removing the troops from Boston." This section has its own half-title page and colophon note and is sometimes considered to have been issued separately (8 p.).

In the other printing of the pamphlet, only the speeches, and not the petition, appear. (8 p.)

By bringing all these before the people, the Committee, as it states in the introductory salutation, hopes to prove that the Continental Congress had tried "accommodation with Great-Britain." In other words, they were not war mongers.

The Clements Library, in acquiring all these rare issues in one coup, is enabled to piece together a bibliographical puzzle, and more importantly, swell the ranks of its political pamphlets leading up to the final break with England.

Java in Color
A fine set of four color prints of the victory of the Constitution (Old Ironsides) over the British frigate Java on December 29, 1812, has been acquired for the Map and Print Division. Unfortunately, the pictures arrived too late for inclusion in our 1812 exhibition and bulletin.

The prints were issued in London two years after the battle, evidence that the defeat rankled in Britain. It occurred four months after the Guerriere's surrender to the same U.S. Constitution. This time the disaster is explained in the set of pictures as a heavily out-manned, outgunned vessel fighting on for three hours with such tenacity that even with only one mast standing and "a perfect wreck," the Java intimidated her larger adversary into "making sail and getting out of gun shot." The final scene shows the British frigate exploding in a blast of flame and debris while the Constitution stands off to make repairs.

Filled with contemporary reactions and yet artistically presentable, the four prints are difficult to find in a set. Expensive as they were, we thought them an appropriate and necessary acquisition. Early U.S. naval prints are swept from the market by salt water collectors as well as those interested purely in history. President Roosevelt had such a collection.

J F K
The Library is not averse to putting away for safe keeping an occasional modern book in first edition. The death of Sir Winston Churchill made us aware of the passing of a British statesman who can only be compared, we think, to the first William Pitt. Perhaps we should have a set of his writings as part of our Anglo-American heritage. We have thought about the books, or some of them, written by our recent Presidents from Hoover to the present, and once in awhile we acquire one.

So much has been published about the late John F. Kennedy and his assassination that we recoil from it. We have acquired three books which can be regarded as source materials on him. We ought to have a first edition of his Profiles in Courage. It is a historical book, of course, written by a President. Does one of our Associates have a copy, 1955, which he would care to deposit in the Library? It would be very welcome.

Second Trumpet
Our call in the last issue for Associates who are book collectors and who would be willing to lend an item or two for an exhibition in 1967 evoked about a dozen responses. We are sure there are more Associates who are collectors, but who may not have bothered to reply or felt too modest about their collections.

Our aim is to put on an exhibition that will compliment the interest and tastes of our Associates during the University's Sesquicentennial observance. Anything we ask to borrow will be in a locked case, with watchmen going through the building at night. We again solicit a note from you about your collection.

My address, or send information about membership to: