Plagiarism, That's What!

Right after we sent out the article on the forty books considered significant enough to merit individual articles in the Dictionary of American History, our foolish contemporary, the ALA Bulletin, published an article on "Books That Influence American Thought and Action" by Norman Cousins (Feb. 1944). At the outset, Mr Cousins altered his assignment by choosing the books that *should* influence thought and action in America. Then he selected the Federalist papers, Padover's *Complete Jefferson*, the writings of Tom Paine, Walt Whitman, and Heinrich Heine, and Stern's *Life and Writings of Lincoln*.

Of course, any man composing such a list becomes sitting game for all pot shots. Not being a bibliographer, Mr Cousins apparently overlooked the errors and omissions in the Padover edition of Jefferson. We are waiting to dip into the forthcoming definitive edition of all of Jefferson's writings to be edited by Julian P. Boyd at Princeton. From this monumental work, perhaps a new one-volume Jefferson will be compiled. Since Mr Cousins does not specify editions of the Federalist papers and Tom Paine's writings, we are going to recommend the Sesquicentennial Edition (1937) of the former and M. D. Conway's edition of the latter.

Among the solicited comments on Mr Cousins' selections, we especially liked Helen T. Steinberger's plea for substituting Benjamin Franklin for Heine. By all means! BF was a much wiser democrat than either Heine or Whitman, to our way of thinking. Easily the most provoking comment came from ex-librarian Charles F. Butler, now a sergeant in the AAF. He believes that many Americans have been reading Mr Cousins' books for generations. What disturbs the sergeant is the fact that these books—and perhaps the printed word generally, you librarians—have produced so little effect. Aye, there's the rub! It requires only a few men who actively and willfully deny the faith in democracy declared by our philosophical democrats to turn the world to barbarism again.

Conspicuously absent from the list, of course, is the Bible. To keep our list American, we would specify Goodspeed's translation of the New Testament. After all, if we would only *allow* our thoughts and actions to be influenced by that slim volume, we would resolve the whole problem raised by Mr Cousins. 

The Marquess of Seattle

As has been observed by others, the number of speeches delivered in Congress is no measure of a Representative's or Senator's effectiveness as a legislator. Much more influence is exercised by the Congressman who can offer a few wise suggestions in committee conferences or in discussion with his colleagues around his own hearth. (Cf. the late Senator Huey Long with the late Senator James Couzens.)

Lord Shelburne, whose political correspondence is in the Clements Library, was one of those self-effacing party leaders in the British House of Lords. With remarkable consistency he stood faithfully for his convictions, quietly converting others to his point of view. He was a follower of Chatham and Rockingham and became Whig leader only because of the death of those two men; otherwise he probably never would have become Prime Minister. Throughout the years of the American Revolution, he was in the opposition, not as an oratorical baiter of the ministry but as a quiet arguer against the government's foolish policies. His speeches that achieved publication are so few that we are delighted to acquire them whenever one turns up.

We felt particularly fortunate to obtain only last month Lord Shelburne's *Speech... on the Convention with Spain*, London, 1791?. An added filip, not to say mystery, to the purchase was the dealer's note that only one other copy of this pamphlet has been located in America—in the Public Library of Seattle! Possibly because the speech relates to the Nootka Sound affair, which is the earliest episode in the diplomatic history of the United States.

Battle of the Sexes

Misogynists, take heart! We are happy to report that co-education has not invested every precinct of the campus. Searching through the ranges in the General Library devoted to college catalogues, we found these publications in alphabetical order by name of the issuing college. This struck us as almost too simplified and logical a classification to be approved by library scientists. However, at the end of the alphabet—Yale, as we recall—a fresh alphabet began of the catalogues of women's colleges. This many segregation somehow heartened us the rest of the day.
This scholar with visage benign
Ignores ancient books for old wine.
He sampled his beaker
Then named the rich leaquer:
"Napoleon 18-o-9!" #5.

**Two Known, Four to Go**

One of the several sensible actions by the members of the first session of the first Congress of the United States was their order to print the acts of that session at the earliest possible moment. In the first place, authentic printed copies were needed desperately by the officials of government and, in the second place, the country as a whole was vitally interested in those acts because by them would the country function. Between 1789 and 1799 several editions were published — each of them attractive in its own fashion. The most interesting edition is the undated edition in folio printed at New York by Francis Childs and John Swaine (who described themselves as "Printers to the United States") in 1789; it is the most interesting edition because it is certainly the one used by at least two of the principal members of government, the President and his Secretary of State.

We know the whereabouts of George Washington's and Thomas Jefferson's copies and we would like to know whether or not other members of Washington's cabinet received copies similarly bound. Both Washington's and Jefferson's copies are bound in full tree calf, the backstrips gilt tooled with rayed ovals, small floral garlands and tiny suns; each cover is bordered with an intricate Greek key roll and in the center of each front cover there is a rectangular onlay of morocco.

Washington's copy being lettered in gilt "PRESIDENT OF U STATES" and Jefferson's copy being similarly lettered "THE SECRETARY OF STATE". Copies may have been bound in the same fashion for the secretaries of the Treasury and War, the Postmaster-General and the Attorney-General. Washington's copy is owned by a Connecticut collector; Jefferson's copy is owned by Dr Randolph G. Adams, Director of the Library; who owns the other copies — if they exist?

*Inter alia: The Law Library has Fisher Ames' copy, in original boards, autographed.*

**Block Books**

When Johnny Gutenberg whittled out his first specimen of wooden type with his pen-knife — some time before his experiments with metal type-casting — he was but imitating earlier knife-experts. He only added movability to individual letters; there had been printing in Europe for nearly a hundred years and in the Orient for several hundred. Books which preceded those of Johnny's time were block books, each page being printed from a separate block combining illustration and text. The crude art of block books flourished in the early part of the fifteenth century and is an important link between books in manuscript and books printed from movable type. The tedious physical labor of carving blocks for books probably initiated Johnny's harder search for an easier method of producing printed pages. The success of his invention ousted the block book from the bibliopole's shelves.

These earliest printed books were meant for the use of the common people — the educated groups clung to their expensive manuscripts — and were limited to Bible stories and moral lessons. The stories and lessons were told in pictures, some of them very forcefully and vividly, with only as much text as the semi-literate could absorb. As for the illiterate; the pictures themselves were presumed to suffice.

The General Library's Rare Book Room houses some impressive manuscript books and some important incunables, but it possesses not even a page from an early block book. An example of this kind of book is urgently desired. If you have a stray copy cluttering up your parlor table, how's about it? Dorothy Keny.

"In Memory of Herbert C. Ely"

In the memory of his friends a man can live long, but when those friends are gone remembrance vanishes. Statues and buildings and plaques proclaim the fame of a man and he is remembered until a new generation whispers "What did he do?" But in libraries, the contents of which are used and re-used, the name of a giver of books or the name of a man in whose memory books are given lives forever, for it is sufficient that he gave books to a library. Such men have joined the noble company of whose ranks include Sir Thomas Bodley, John Rylands, Cardinal Mazarin, Lorenzo d'Medici, John Harvard, H. C. Folger, and Pierpoint Morgan.

To this procession of great booksmen, we add two of the most recent benefactors of the Library, Mr John Watling and the late Herbert C. Ely. It is in memory of the latter that Mr Watling has given generously to the Library a sum of money to establish a collection of books relating to early American drama. The University has long had a few specimens in this field and we are now in a position to draw them together and add to them in such a way that the subject may be studied adequately. The first two acquisitions from the Watling-Ely fund are Thomas Godfrey's *Juvenile Poems* (Philadelphia, 1765), which contains the play "The Prince of Parthia" — "the earliest known tragedy written by an American"— and Ralph James's *The Fashionable Lady* (London, 1730), "probably the first printed play by a native American actually produced by professional players."
Conversation on Michigan

In 1824, a John Graeme Melish was oppressed by thoughts of the low level of American conversation—people talking about the price of butter and eggs, the latest Paris styles, other people's children, and similar unedifying subjects. John decided that he would do something about this sad condition, and he did. He produced *A Dialogue on the Geography of the United States, Comprised in a Pack of Geographical Conversation Cards* (New York, 1824), which probably made people a great deal more interested in talking about the election of John Quincy Adams. The set of "Conversation Cards" (the Clements Library acquired a set recently, complete with title-page, instructions, and cardboard slip-case) consists of thirty slips bearing printed questions and answers and thirty small (3½ by 2¾ inches) colored maps of states and territories. Two dull, but earnest, players are needed for the game; one to read the questions and one to look at the maps and ponder the answers. The process was "calculated to make an indelible impression on the mind" and we shall never forget that the number of counties in Michigan was eight, that the seat of government was Detroit, and that the population of the state was 8,896 souls. It is in contemplation of this sort of ornamental learning that we often wonder if there ever were any "Good Old Days".

Association Books

The current exhibition at the Clements Library of books formerly belonging to famous collectors and other libraries reminds visitors that extensive collections of rare books are built upon extinct libraries. The fruits of a collector's zeal are often dispersed at auction by his estate; libraries still active sell off duplicates. From these sources the rising collector secures items for the library he is forming. Evidences of previous ownership, far from destroying the value of old books, afford them an added value because their provenance and association can be traced. You have only to recall the astonishing prices brought by books which have no appeal except the bookplate of George Washington in them.

This characteristic trend was emphasized anew at the two auction sales held recently of the New-York Historical Society's duplicates. The catalogues were searched at the libraries on this campus, and a gratifyingly large proportion of the items were found to be owned already by the University of Michigan. However, there were certain books not here which were highly desirable. The General Library, the Law Library, and the Clements Library submitted bids and secured a total of 28 items. The Clements Library placed several bids made possible by the generous assistance of two friends. It is proud to have increased its holdings out of the superabundance of the second oldest historical society in America.

"A. Lincoln"

The donor of the Clements Library's Lincoln Collection, Mr. A. H. Greenly, has just added magnificently to his gift. We have numerous editions of the Lincoln and Douglas Debates (issued in 1859 at Cincinnati) for it is one of the most interesting and perplexing of all nineteenth century bibliographical problems. We have never had, though, that most fascinating variety of the work—a copy signed by Lincoln. Mr. Greenly has made up that deficiency with an excellent copy, and few single items have brought us a warmer feeling than this association treasure. Just out of curiosity, we'd like to know whether there is any copy of the book known to exist with both Lincoln's and Douglas' signatures. What about it, Mr. Angle?

Right this Way!

Step a little closer, folks. Crowd around a bit there, so the other jealous map collectors can't see what we have. Here it is, the nearest little portable globe the world has ever seen, made by Mr. Betts, of London, the man who makes the Interrogatory Maps, the man who holds the Queen's letters patent. Here, I'll open the box and show you the world, long and slim—like a cigar—until I lift it out, grasp it firmly and push up! There you are, folks, Mr. Betts' Patent Portable Globe! Works like an umbrella, made of the finest steel and the best chintz, printed clearly in color, tells you where you are at any hour of the day, carry it with you on trips to Africa or the South Seas. Press the catch and—Pouf!—it closes, just like an umbrella. Step a little closer, folks, see the collapsible Patent Portable Globe! 

Want List

"It pays to advertise" is not an Elizabethan proverb, but the saying applies very well when it comes to finding books in which Elizabethan and seventeenth century proverbs appear. The editors of the *Proverb Dictionary* were gratified by the response to their appeal in the last *Quarto*. To Edward A. Henry, librarian at the University of Cincinnati, and Colonel Thomas M. Spaulding of Washington, D.C., their thanks for letters concerning books wanted. If these good gentlemen, or any others equally good and interested, could tell the editors how to beg or borrow (did we say steal?) any of the following titles, they would earn undying gratitude in that small corner of the scholarly world:

Poor Robin's Almanack, 1664 to early eighteenth century, (incidentally, the spiritual antecedent of Franklin's *Poor Richard*); Daniel Rogers, *Nanman The Syrian*, 1642; Thomas Walkingon, *The Optick Glass of Humors*, 1607; Daniel Tuvil, *Vade Mecum: A Manuall of Essayes Morral, Theological*, 1629 (earlier editions were published in 1608 and 1609); George Turberville, *Tragical Tales*, 1587; Andrew Yarranton, *England's Improvement by Sea and Land*, 1677; William Hughes, *The Man of Sin*; or *a Dis­course of Popery*, 1677. E.
“The Collecting of Rare Books”

At the instigation of the University Extension Service, two of the editors of The Quarto dug into what they laughingly call their brains and laid out a course of lectures on “The Collecting of Rare Books.” It was offered in the main room of the Clements Library and ran for eight successive Monday evenings, starting on March 27. An extra (ninth) lecture, sponsored by the Library, was delivered by Mr. H. W. Tribble of the Lakeside Press on modern fine binding.

Being normally pessimistic about the appeal of such a course, the view of an escape from war. At least we have heard more than one soldier on campus admit to an interest in anything that did not relate to the army. Still, we were gratified and agreeably astonished by the demonstrated fact that rare books have a constant and continuing attraction, even to persons not actively collecting.

Our thanks to Jacob Blanck for his salute to the course in The Publishers’ Weekly for May 13.

Cherchez la Femme, etc.

This new book, My Dear Lady by M. B. Greenbie, implies that the lady (Anna Ella Carroll) was frequently consulted by President Lincoln in making important decisions. Having absorbed that information, we were about to dismiss the dear lady from our mind when we received a letter from the legal officer in the palace of the Military Governor of Hawaii. The officer requested immediate dispatch of a photostat of Anna Ella Carroll’s Reply to . . . Breckinridge . . . in Defence of . . . the Suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, Washington, 1861.

The coincidence was heightened by mystery over the Army’s interest in Lincoln’s friend. Then we read a news dispatch from Honolulu concerning a protest against continuation of martial law there, and the Army’s defense of its abrogation of certain civil rights. Anna, it appeared, was going to the assistance of the embattled Army administrators. But her defense, effective during the Civil War, apparently failed to convince the courts in this war, for martial law in Hawaii has since been lifted.

Incidentally, in complying with the request from Honolulu, we noticed that our copy of La Carroll’s pamphlet is inscribed “With the author’s compliments” to our old friend, Henry Vignaud, whose library the University purchased in 1922.

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