Board of Governors
The Board of Governors of the Associates met on Commencement day, April 30. It discussed strategy and commitment for the sale of Newberry Library duplicates (see other columns of this issue). Members elected to the Board Mrs. David Upton of St. Joseph, Michigan; her formal appointment will be made by the Regents.

The Board purchased two items for the Library. One was a British book published during negotiations for the end of the French and Indian War: An Impartial inquiry into the Right of the French King to the Territory West of the Great River Mississippi (London 1762). Thankfully, the French did retain title to this region, because ultimately we bought it from them in 1803. The other was Alexander Hamilton's Treasury Department order in 1790 about the disposition of public lands, then beginning to be sold in the Northwest Territory.

The annual gathering of the Associates at the Library to hear a distinguished lecture and enjoy a social hour is scheduled for Friday night, November 4. Please save that date.

Fund Raising Continues
Responses are still coming in toward our “war chest” for the future auctions of the Streeter collection of Americana. The first auction is scheduled for late October, and the second will follow in the spring of 1967. That means two in a single fiscal year of the Library.

A taste for books is the pleasure and glory of my life ... I would not exchange it for the wealth of the Indies.
—Edward Gibbon

Twenty of them happened to be duplicates of twelve books which are due to be offered in one of the Streeter sales next year. While this circumstance gave us two chances to get such titles, we considered it more prudent to try to buy the Newberry copies, believing that the Streeter copies would go for as much and probably more. We are happy to say that we got all twelve.

There were five western books in which Associate James Shearer of Chicago had a particular interest, and one that appealed to Associate Renville Wheat. They made it possible for us to bid them in.

There were another ten books which we thought the Library should have. We obtained all but one—and that one went for $10,000! We came away from New York happy—and also panting. For we saw a new high price established for a rarity we have long held. John Eliot’s Indian Bible is the first Bible printed in this country, 1663. We have had ours about twenty years, and it is in fine physical condition and was bound by the first American binder. Just a few years ago, we were rocked on our heels when a copy sold in London for about $20,000. There was speculation on what the Newberry duplicate would bring—$25,000, maybe? It was finally knocked down at $43,000! What gave us the shivers was that we have dozens of books which we had always considered more valuable than the Indian Bible. We don’t dare estimate them now.
Riches For All

Four gems we obtained at the Newberry duplicate sale were particularly satisfying. The oldest was A Journal of Two Visits Made to Some Nations of Indians on the West Side of the River Ohio, in the Years 1772 and 1773, by the Rev. David Jones, Burlington, N. J., 1774. This is the sort of book we should have had, and you may wonder why we lacked it. For one thing, it was considered “very rare” by bibliographers in 1865; for another, this is the second copy to appear at auction in this country in the last half century. Only four other copies are known. It is a pre-Revolutionary item, an Indian item, a travel item, and a Northwest Territory item, all rolled into one.

The second is just as scarce: four other copies known. It was A Treatise on the Mode and Manner of Indian War, Their Tactics, Discipline and Encampments, the Various Methods They Practise, ... by Col. James Smith, Paris, Kentucky, 1812. It was written by an old expert, as Smith had been fighting Indians since 1755, for the western militia which would be fighting redmen in the War of 1812. It was a fitting companion to another War of 1812 book: Historical Details, Having Relation to the Campaign of the Northwestern Army, under Generals Harrison and Winchester, During the Winter of 1812-13, by Winchester himself, Lexington, Kentucky, 1818. Winchester’s detachment was captured at the River Raisin in January 1813 and as prisoners of war were butchered by Indians. Winchester was criticized by others, and this is his justification. It was a source book relating to Michigan as well as the war which we had lacked.

The fourth book was a Far Western item: California As It Is, and As It May Be, or a Guide to the Gold Region, by Dr. Felix B. Wierzbicki, San Francisco, 1849. Called the supreme California imprint, it was the first original work that was written and published in California. It also recounts the first year of the Gold Rush.

We had to reach for these books, paying more than we wished to. Did we pay too much? We won’t know for sure until another copy sells, but we do know that we have enriched our resources with basic books—exactly the kind of thing which this Library was founded to conserve.

On to California!

As indicated above, we made five additions to our holdings of Western books, those listed in the famous Wagner-Camp bibliography. One of them in the Newberry sale was a cripple, but we found a perfect copy in the hands of a dealer and bought that one instead. It was James Abbey, California; a Trip Across the Plains (New Albany, Ind., 1859).

Another was J. Wesley Jones, Amusing and Thrilling Adventures of a California Artist while Daguerrotyping a Continent (Boston 1854), one of the most literate and realistic accounts of the Gold Rush. The pictures Jones took have never been found, but he used them to paint a “pantoscope” of California. Lieut. Sylvester Mowry’s Memoir of the Proposed Territory of Arizona (Washington 1857) contains a folding map and describes the sparsely settled area before the Civil War.

The fourth W-C number was Joseph T. Moffette, The Territories of Kansas and Nebraska (New York 1855), which describes their resources and settlements and contains two colored maps. It was designed to encourage further settlement. Finally, we obtained Emerson Bennett’s Wild Scenes on the Frontiers (Philadelphia 1850) which is actually a series of short stories.

In addition, we bought a few other books relating to the Far West, including two of the eighteenth century. One was Luis de Sales, Noticias de la Provincia de Californias (Valencia 1794) and the other was Francisco Clavigero, Storia della California (Venice 1789).
Midwest Too

Mention of books on the Far West should not obscure the fact that we are committed even more heavily to books on the Midwest—the area from Ohio to Kansas, roughly. By no means do we jump from the Appalachians to the Rockies and Pacific coast. Readers expect to find books here on the “first West,” or the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, and we do not disappoint them.

So far in 1966, for example, besides the Jones and Smith books mentioned in other columns, we have added 20 books on the Midwest dating from 1817 to 1858. Three of them are by Morris Birkbeck, the remarkable Englishman who tried to develop an English settlement in Illinois about 1820. Three other books describe Iowa in the 1840's as it was beginning to fill. Two titles deal with the mob murder of Mormon Prophet Joseph Smith in Carthage, Illinois in 1844. One is concerned with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1821. Several are travel accounts. Another is the amazing Illinois Monthly Magazine published at Vandalia in 1831-32. The industry of editor James Hall kept this periodical alive for two years in a pioneer region.

It is this Midwestern region where we anticipate the Library’s greatest future growth. It represents the fruits of the American Revolution, our second frontier, and the testing of our Constitution.

Land Troubles

If it were necessary to nominate one land company as having the most complicated enterprise, perhaps the Holland Land Company would win hands down. Financed and managed by Dutch business men, it engaged local agents to sell land obtained in western New York and Pennsylvania through influential interests.

A new acquisition presents the company point of view in a running controversy over title to a tract in northwestern Pennsylvania. It has an unorthodox title page: The Following Numbers of the Citizen, Now Republished from the Lancaster Journal, are Respectfully Inscribed to the Citizens of Pennsylvania by the Author. Lancaster, December 10, 1810.

Gift Book Coming

The annual gift book for the Associates, usually distributed in May, has been delayed by circumstances beyond our control. We expect to receive it from the reprinter at the end of June and then will mail it to our Associates. We seized the opportunity to get a valuable, interesting, and fairly long book reprinted at a favorable price in conjunction with a larger project.

The author castigates local politicians who regularly brought up laws to negate the company purchases, in spite of the fact that the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled the purchases valid. The company had received warrants, but that system of disposing of land offered the greatest opportunity for overlapping claims, because each buyer was allowed to pick out his acreage and have it surveyed after settling on it.

Our copy is inscribed to William Tilghman, an anti-company Supreme Court Justice of Pennsylvania, by Andrew Ellicott, a surveyor of repuete who had helped lay out the land in question here. Upon becoming secretary of the Pennsylvania Land Office, which validated grants, he loyally followed the law whatever the consequences.

The book was given to the Library by Mrs. Renville Wheat of Grosse Pointe.

Soldier and Engineer

When Hilon A. Parker marched off to war in 1862 with the Tenth New York Artillery he began keeping a diary and continued this practice until his death in 1911; in all he kept forty-nine volumes of diary. The Clements Library recently purchased these along with almost four hundred and fifty letters. Four of the diaries and more than half of the letters relate his Civil War experiences in Virginia.

Parker, who was born in Plessis, New York in 1841, went to Illinois after the war and joined the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad as a surveyor and engineer. For the next twenty years he was a resident engineer and a chief engineer on many branches and divisions of the road. He became a Vice President of the railroad in 1885. In the early 1880's he served a term in the Illinois legislature.

Parker's Civil War letters contain first-rate accounts of various actions in Virginia as well as the heated opinions of a son writing to a father who held Copperhead sympathies. The later letters and diaries covering his railroad career also provide insights to the heyday of American railroading.

Story Papers

Occasionally it may be thought that the libraries of the University of Michigan compete with one another, or that they go blithely on their separate ways.
ignoring one another. Neither concept is true. They don’t compete, they are not ignorant of one another’s interests, and actually they co-operate for the good of the University.

Here is a good example. The Clements Library learned of a manuscript collection in the East. The director and James Schoff of the Library Committee went to inspect it in January in connection with other business in New York. It was correspondence, about 700 letters, to Justice Joseph Story of the U. S. Supreme Court, dating from 1798 to 1842. We thought it had research use, especially for legal scholars.

Back in Ann Arbor we talked to the dean of the Law School and the director of the Legal Research Library. They thought the collection should be procured for the University and that the price was fair. How should it be paid for? Who would catalog and house the collection? Renville Wheat came into the discussion both as a member of the Clements Library Committee and as an alumnus of the Law School.

He thought he could raise part of the money among other Law alumni in Detroit.

The result is that the Story correspondence is now on campus. It was paid for largely by the Law School, with alumni help, and with a contribution from the Clements Library. It will be cataloged and housed here. So you see what cooperation can accomplish.

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New York to Cincinnati

The trials of members of the New York mercantile firm of Ingraham, Phoenix and Nexsen, who failed as a result of the embargo, 1807-09, are recounted in a collection of papers numbering about 100 items recently acquired by the Library. Confined to debtors’ prison (Mr. Phoenix did not rise from his ashes), they tried to gain release, succeeding finally by means of an act of Congress in 1813.

A surprise among the later items was the discovery of 11 letters signed H.E.B. or simply H. and written to Elizabeth Phoenix. The letters proved to be written by Harriet Elizabeth Beecher, better known under her married name of Stowe as the author of Uncle Tom’s Cabin. They are dated in the period 1826-32, while Harriet was teaching in her sister’s female seminary in Hartford, Connecticut and after she removed with her family to Cincinnati, where their father undertook to supervise Lane Seminary, the original “hot bed” of abolitionist sentiment.

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The Long View

Our distinguished colleague, Louis B. Wright, Director of the Folger Library in Washington, viewed the campus scene recently and remarked: “Since the days of Peter Abelard at the beginning of the twelfth century, students have complained and rioted. Over the centuries their dissatisfaction has invariably expressed itself in three constants: complaints about their food, about the quality of their teachers, and about fancied threats to their ‘freedom.’

“Frequently, when they could find no legitimate reasons within these constants, they have rioted just for the hell of it. Any historian of education can confirm this, and we need not despair; our educational system is not about to fall apart.”

History does provide perspective, and perspective gives reassurance. That is one of the calming effects of a great historical library.

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Poor Harriet

Harriet Martineau’s Society in America, 1837, was, like Mrs. Trollope’s earlier work on her American travels, received with some indignation by most readers in this country. A reflection of a typical American attitude towards the book is to be found in a long review originally printed in The American Quarterly Review for September 1837. We have recently added a contemporary reprint of the article, entitled Miss Martineau On America, Reviewed. The unnamed reviewer objects particularly to the fact that Miss Martineau had repeatedly stated that she had no intention of writing about her travels but was here simply as a guest. She was already popular in the United States through her previous writings, and according to the reviewer was received with greater cordiality than any foreign visitor since Lafayette. It is her breach of American hospitality that he considers most unforgivable, for (he says) she already had much of her book ready for the publisher at the time she left these shores.

Of greater interest than the book review, perhaps, is a manuscript letter from Miss Martineau which was inserted in our copy of the article. It is addressed to Benjamin B. Thatcher, prominent abolitionist and promoter of the American Colonization Society. Internal evidence reveals that she wrote it somewhere in the South in the winter of 1834-35, during her American journey. She expresses frank doubts as to the work being promoted by members of the colonization group.

The letter has been removed from the bound copy of the review and may now be found in the Manuscript Division of the Library.