The Board Extramural

The Board of Governors held its fall meeting in New York City on the day of the third Streeter sale, October 24, to afford the members an opportunity of attending the first session and seeing how a book auction is conducted. They watched the Library bid on 73 books and obtain 44. The Board transmitted a recommendation to the Library's Committee of Management regarding erection of a suitable plaque in the building recognizing major donors to the institution in the past forty years. Members also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of instituting several grades of membership, without action. Finances were examined.

On behalf of the Board, the chairman, James Schoff, presented to Renville Wheat a sterling silver letter opener made in London in the momentous year of 1781 and appropriately engraved in recognition of his fifteen years as chairman, 1951–1966. (The gift was from his fellow Governors, not from the Associates' treasury.) Mr. Wheat may have been tempted to use his gift as a sword in the sparring that went on that night at the sale.

Amherst Maps Again

In the September Quarto we reported getting in July seven manuscript maps at Sotheby's auction house in London. They were maps once owned by General Amherst, who commanded the British troops here during the French and Indian War. Among them was a map of Lake Ontario showing its four forts; two maps of the fortifications on Oneida Lake; and four maps of Canada, including one of the Allegheny River from Lake Erie down to modern Pittsburgh. All of them date about 1760.

In October Sotheby's brought hundreds of paintings, drawings, and antique furniture and porcelains to Toronto for an auction promoted by Simpson's department store—the first time in 223 years that Sotheby's had conducted a sale outside London. Buried in the art offerings were twelve more manuscript maps of General Amherst. Mr. Peckham—along with 2500 other persons—attended the sale. They were seated on three floors of the store, and closed circuit television was used. He bid on four maps and obtained two.

One was a map of the British attack on the French in Fort Ticonderoga in July 1758. It was an unsuccessful assault, led by General Abercromby. The map measures 14\(\frac{1}{2}\) by 19 inches, made by a British army engineer from a French map not now known. The other map shows the position of the forces when the French tried to recapture Quebec in April 1760. This, too, was unsuccessful. More than half of the 26 by 16-inch map is covered with handwritten annotations.

The Toronto sale was as well a social and civic event, attended by Princess Alexandra and her husband, and well reported by the local newspapers. Mr. Peckham was surprised to learn the day after the first session that several Canadian dealers had combined in an effort to keep all the Amherst maps in Canada. They divided up their bidding efforts, but, according to the Toronto Globe, owing to one dealer's confusion about his assigned role, his failure "allowed the University of Michigan to carry off two of the documents."

Had a Canadian dealer been commissioned to bid for the Library, obviously we would have obtained nothing.

Antislavery Appeals

Among the Streeter treasures we acquired were five early antislavery tracts. Two came, of all places, out of Kentucky. Under the pseudonym of "Humanitas" was published Hints for the Consideration of the Friends of Slavery (Lexington 1809) and Aaron Martin wrote An Attempt to Show the Inconsistency of Slave-Holding (Lexington 1807). As a result the Kentucky Abolition Society was formed in 1808, but the movement failed.

Morris Birkbeck is remembered chiefly as an Englishman who promoted settlement of Illinois, about which he wrote descriptive pieces. But he was also aroused about attempts of Southerners to turn Illinois into a slave state. In 1824 he made two vigorous attacks: Remarks on the Proposed Introduction of Slavery and Impartial Appeal to Reason . . . on the Injurious Effects of
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Slave Labour. He was one of the small band that was victorious in keeping Illinois a free state.

The four publications show why the Ohio River became a boundary line in this momentous struggle.

The fifth item is the Correspondence of G. W. Brown and Gov. Wm. Walker of Wyandott (Kansas, Mo., 1854) relating to the establishment of slavery in Kansas Territory. This is part of the fight that raged over slavery in “bleeding Kansas.” It is also four years earlier than what has been considered to be the first printing in Kansas City.

Old Northwest

Part of the third Streeter sale offered items relating to the Old Northwest Territory. Of course, we had many of them, but we also acquired nearly a score of new titles. We can best describe them by the states to which they refer.

Ohio . . .
We obtained the Contract of the Ohio Company with the U.S. Treasury Board (New York 1787) for purchase of lands on the Ohio River, which began the settlement of the region. A deed was not given immediately, and so we have the Report of a committee of the House of Representatives on a memorial from the Ohio Company for a deed to the land bargained for in 1787; this document was printed in 1792. The next big land company was organized by Rep. John Cleves Symmes of New Jersey as the Miami Purchase. He was then appointed a judge of the Northwest Territory and moved to Ohio. He was also careless in the sale of lands and created trouble for purchasers. His partners had to issue a Reply to John Cleves Symmes (Cincinnati 1803) to disassociate themselves from some of his transactions. This item we bought.

Two travel accounts describe Ohio. James Tongue issued a Letter Addressed to the People of Maryland (Washington 1807), describing the area along the south shore of Lake Erie. Chester Loomis made a Journey Through the Great West in 1825 (Bath 1825), covering a good part of Ohio on horseback. We also obtained two maps: Pitt’s Western Reserve, published in Portage County, 1826, and Burr’s map of the contested Ohio-Michigan line in 1835.

Michigan . . .
A message from President Jeffer-son to Congress transmitting a letter from Indian agent Jouett on the private and public lands in Detroit, 1804, appealed to us. A similar message transmitting a report by Judge A. B. Woodward analyzing land titles in Michigan, 1806, was bought by Associate Marie Shearer for us. It helped clarify disputes after the fire that levelled Detroit in 1805.

Indiana . . .
Besides John Melish’s rare Map of Indiana (Philadelphia 1817), we secured George Courtald’s account of Harmony (1820) while it was a Rappite settlement and before Robert Owen bought it and renamed it New Harmony. We also picked up James Scott’s two sermons against Arianism (Indianapolis 1826) in reply to Barton Stone, denouncing him as a Unitarian, although Stone worked with Alexander Campbell in establishing the Church of Christ’s Disciples. Mr. Streeter had the only known copies of Scott’s pamphlets.

Illinois . . .
Besides the two Birkbeck items noted in another column, we procured the first edition of Richard Flower’s Letters from Lexington and the Illinois (London 1819). Flower was co-founder with Birkbeck of the English settlement of Albion in Edwards County, Illinois, and here he was advertising its advantages.

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Remodeling

Throughout the fall the Library staff has been enduring some work on the building. The west part of the basement was re-decorated, a private office added, and a new entrance from the back hall was cut. After plastering and painting and the addition of rugs, this large room received the various map drawers and atlas cases. The Division of Maps and Prints now has newer
and larger quarters commensurate in decoration with the rest of the Library.

The area formerly occupied by maps is to be filled with double-faced book shelves and developed as a closed stack area. About 8,000 books are housed there now, and there is room for as many more. Our expansion needs for books are taken care of for the next dozen to fifteen years. Of course, additional steel shelving has to be purchased. We’re using old wood shelves and even boxes now.

Plans for this interior redevelopment have been “in the works” for five years, but only this summer was money assigned to it. Meanwhile, directly behind our building, an addition to the University Library is underway, with accompanying noise and dust. But we welcome this enlargement in place of the old Physics Building, which stood much closer to us.

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Father De Smet’s Mission

Associate James Shearer of Chicago, who has been indispensable in helping us acquire early western books, is reimbursing the Library for two books he asked us to try for at the last Streeter sale. Both were written by Father De Smet, an articulate priest-missionary to the Indians of the West.

*The Indian Missions in the United States* (Philadelphia 1841) recounts De Smet’s adventures in traveling to the 1840 Rocky Mountain rendezvous of traders and Indians, his visit to the Flathead village, and his return across the Rockies. Mr. Streeter said he had to wait thirty years before finding a copy.

*The Voyage au Grand-Désert en 1851* (Brussels 1853) tells of another extensive trip as a missionary. Mr. Streeter seems to have had the only known copy of this work. It contains much information on the Siouan tribes on the upper Missouri.

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**Reminder**

The third Streeter auction (see accounts in other columns) absorbed $42,500, which included $10,000 furnished by the Library from its university appropriation. Altogether, the Associates have spent $147,000 on the three auctions, using up the funds raised for that purpose. They have done extremely well in obtaining important books for that expenditure.

The original goal of the Associates was $250,000, and there remains to be received only modest balances on a few three-year pledges. James Schuff, Chairman of the Board of Associates, has directed a circular letter to the membership seeking pledges toward the last $105,000. Such a sum would allow the Associates $25,000 for each of the last four Streeter sales. Accompanying the letter was a concise statement of the Library’s acquisition policy, designed to answer questions that might occur to members.

There will be two Streeter auctions in 1968 and two in 1969. The accounting and reminder are sent at this time to show how well the Associates have done with funds received and to help members plan any additional contributions in the coming two years.

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Toreador In Striped Pants

Luis de Onis was Spanish minister to the United States from 1809 for a decade, and no one served his royal master with more devotion. While he was here, he wrote three pamphlets under the pseudonym of “Verus,” trying to pass himself off as an American critical of American policies toward Spanish Florida. We had his two essays of 1813 and 1817 and naturally were anxious to get the first one of 1810. The Streeter auction provided the opportunity.

We completed the trilogy by acquiring *Observations on the Title to West Florida*, in which this sly scamp argued in favor of Spain’s good title, to offset rising U. S. interest in gaining this region.

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Mississippi Valley

One section of the Streeter sale dealt with the Mississippi Valley, and we expanded our holdings here with some judicious purchases.

**Tennessee and Kentucky** . . . .

Daniel Smith’s *Short Description of the State of Tennessee* (Philadelphia 1796) is a revised edition of his 1793 book, which we have, a new title, a different map, with some additional information, and the constitution of the new state, admitted to the Union in 1796. We must be one of a very few libraries to have both books.

Two antislavery items emanating from Kentucky are mentioned in another column. We also obtained a *Plan of a Society for the Sale of Lands* (London 1794), a scheme for selling in England 15,000 acres in western Kentucky. We were glad to get David Rice’s *Sermon on the Present Revival of Religion* (Lexington 1803), since it dealt with the second Great Awakening that swept across the West. The *Proceedings of the Ohio Canal Company* (Lexington 1803) advocated a canal around the rapids at Louisville, while Henry Banks’ *Observations* (Frankfort 1819) recommended a turnpike road from Lexington to the James River in Virginia.
Two music books came our way. One was a Collection of Sacred Hymns (Bardstown 1815) designed for use in the Catholic Churches of Kentucky. The other was the famous Kentucky Harmony (Lexington? 1816), the first hymnal for the state’s Protestants. 

President Jefferson’s message including a treaty for cession of Louisiana to the United States (Washington 1803) filled a conspicuous lack on our shelves. The transaction prompted A. B. Magruder’s Political, Commercial and Moral Reflections on the Late Cession of Louisiana (Lexington 1803), one of several commentaries we have.

Our interest in canals led us to buy the Act of the Territory of Orleans for improving inland navigation (New Orleans 1805). We were surprised to learn that the attack by the British ship Leopard on the U.S. Chesaapeake aroused not only the Atlantic seaboard, but a southern port too, and therefore we picked up the Declaration of American Citizens on the Mobile (Wakefield 1807). It happens to be the first Alabama imprint and is one of only two perfect known copies. Finally we secured Andrew Marshall’s scarce Letters to Judge George Poindexter (Washington, M.T., 1814) on freedom of the press in Mississippi Territory.

Another notable collection of church music is found in the Missouri Harmony, compiled by Allen D. Carden (Cincinnati 1820). It ran through six editions by 1850, although only two other copies of our first edition seem to be known. We also obtained Alphonso Wetmore’s The Pedlar (St. Louis 1821), reputed to be the first play printed west of the Mississippi. Here it joins another remarkable drama, just acquired, La Fête du Petit Blé (New Orleans 1814), a tragedy in five acts by a French Marine Officer who had served in Louisiana.

The Treaty between the U.S. and the Ioway Tribe (Washington 1825) was aimed at removing the Iowas from Missouri land, since Missouri had entered the Union in 1821. To delineate this region, we got a map of Missouri and Arkansas Territory, 1825. Finally, we secured a run of the Western Journal (St. Louis 1848-53), the first eleven of fifteen volumes. It was devoted to news of agriculture, manufacturing, internal improvements, and literature.

**American Music Night**

One of our most delightful fall programs was sponsored by the Associates on November 10, Assistant Professor Richard A. Crawford of the School of Music spoke on the development of American music from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, commenting on composers and performers, foreign influence, and public taste. To illustrate his exposition, certain representative compositions were performed, by Mrs. Crawford at the piano and Miss Gwen Scheffel, soprano. They were as charming as they were talented.

The program illustrated one use made of our Corning Music Collection, a growing gift from Mr. and Mrs. Bly Corning of Flint. Both were present, along with several Flint friends.

James Schoff, Chairman of the Associates’ Board of Governors, presided and reported briefly on the third Streeter auction. Associate Dean Charles Joiner, Chairman of the University’s Sesquicentennial Committee, presented Sesquicentennial Award certificates and medallions to Associates James Shearer II of Chicago and Renville Wheat of Detroit. The awards were in recognition of these men not merely for their activity in the Associates, but also for their services to other sectors of the University and the distinction they enjoy in their own fields of endeavor.

**Early Kentucky**

Not all of the best western fighters in the War of 1812 came from Kentucky; it only seems that way. One reason for this impression is the larger-than-life figures, such as Isaac Shelby, which Kentucky produced. A veteran back-country Revolutionary and first Governor of Kentucky, 1792–1796, Shelby came out of retirement in 1812 to be Governor again and to help Harrison raise badly-needed troops on the frontier. A man of rare deeds, his letters are now equally rare.

The Library has recently augmented its Shelby correspondence through the generosity of Mr. William A. Wilkinson of Pasadena, California. Mr. Wilkinson has given us over thirty letters belonging to his forebears, Colonel George Thompson of Virginia and George C. Thompson of Kentucky; about a third were written by Isaac Shelby. They concern the early settlement of the region and Kentucky’s contribution to the War of 1812. Of particular note are references to Indian warfare, frontier politics, the Louisiana Purchase, the River Raisin Massacre, and the Battle of New Orleans.

The gift occurred as a result of activity by two Associates. Dr. Lee D. van Antwerp of Glenview, Illinois, heard of the collection and notified the Library, while James Shearer II of Chicago met Mr. Wilkinson and examined the documents during a visit to California.