The FIRST EDITION OF STAR SPANGLED BANNER GIVEN TO LIBRARY

The Clements Library jubilantly announces its acquisition of a first edition of our national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*, in words and music as printed at Baltimore in October 1814.

It has come to the Library as a gift principally of friends in Flint, climaxing a sustained interest there on the part of Associates Bly Corning and Carl Bonbright. Late in 1966 they began raising money to bid on another copy of *The Star Spangled Banner* that was coming up at the Streeter auction in New York in April 1967. That copy, however, was bought by a private collector for the stunning sum of $25,000 plus the usual ten percent commission to the dealer who bid it in.

Publicity attending that price smoked out still another copy, heretofore unknown in California. The Caravan Book Store in Los Angeles brought it to the attention of the Library, which referred the news to its Flint friends. Ultimately it was sold to this undaunted group at a price they felt they could afford and has just been presented to the Library.

Last year only nine copies of the first edition were known and could be traced. Only four of them were outside of institutions in private hands. Now that this tenth copy has been uncovered, it passes off the market.

Good collections are expensive, but poor ones are extravagant and wasteful.

—Lee Ash

Francis Scott Key's poem was written in 1814 after he witnessed the naval attack of the British on Baltimore. He was not a willing witness, having gone aboard a British ship to secure the release of a captured American physician. During the night of September 13–14, he watched in agony the enemy shelling Fort McHenry in the harbor and had to wait until morning before he saw that "our flag was still there." Full of emotion he began writing a poem which he called "The Defence of Fort McHenry."

The poem was first printed September 18 or 19 as a broadside, with the suggestion that it could be sung to the tune of "Anacreon in Heaven," a song of a convivial club in London known as the Anacreontic Society. The song had been first published about 1780 and proved to be very popular. The music had frequently been borrowed for other poems, especially patriotic ones.

Key's poem was next printed in a Baltimore newspaper on September 21 and was soon being sung in local taverns and theaters. It was printed again in *The Analectic Magazine* (Philadelphia) for November. The proprietor of Carr's Music Store in Baltimore sensed a need for the words set to music. Therefore in October Thomas Carr arranged Key's words to the popular English song and made engraved plates of the music and words as a folded piece of sheet music. Carr did something else, too: he gave the piece a new title: *The Star Spangled Banner, A Patriotic Song*. In his hurry and excitement, he managed to leave out the first "l" in "Patriotic." Only the first verse is printed under the musical measures. The other three verses are printed in stanza form after the music. There is also a suggestion for flute accompaniment.

The sheet music is on display at the Sloan Museum in Flint during March.

Fitch's Folly

Although Robert Fulton is credited with devising the first commercially successful steamboat in America, he was not the first American to work with steam navigation. As is sometimes the case, two men working independently of each other began seeking patents and monopolies for their inventions at the same time about 1785. They were James Rumsey, a Maryland
given a grant and sent to England to study steam engines. He died in England in 1792 without ever having made a boat which could run at a high enough speed to be useful. Fitch, meanwhile, constructed successful working prototypes.

At the height of their competition in 1787 and 1788, their struggle took the form of a pamphlet duel. Recently the Library purchased Fitch's, The Original Steamboat Supported... (Phila., 1788). He was so confident of his position that he appended to it a reprint of Rumsey's pamphlet, A Plan Wherein the Power of Steam is Fully Shewn. Fitch's work is a reply to Rumsey's pamphlet, which set out to discredit the originality of Fitch. The Library does not own the third pamphlet in this controversy, Joseph Barnes' Remarks on Mr. John Fitch's Reply to Mr. James Rumsey's Pamphlet (Phila. 1788). Barnes was Rumsey's Philadelphia lawyer who apparently had the last word in the dispute, though Fitch no doubt had the last laugh.

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Eastward and Upward

We are sorry to record that Albert T. Klyberg, assistant in the Division of Manuscripts, has resigned as of March 1 in order to take the position of librarian and editor for the Rhode Island Historical Society in Providence. There he will collect and organize historical manuscripts for the Society and edit its quarterly magazine. His several talents have been of great service to this Library while he has been in graduate school. His new employer will have to share management of him with a brand, spanning new baby daughter, Kimberly Klyberg (first mention in a periodical).

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Burr-Wilkinson Blot

With a real talent for intrigue, Gen. James Wilkinson precipitated himself on the road to ruin from 1798 on. On the southern frontier he managed to engage privately in the fur trade, obtained bribes from the gullible Spanish for supporting their interests, and connived with Vice President Burr in plans favorable to the Spanish. Jefferson made him governor of Louisiana Territory in 1805. When suspicions of Burr were openly talked of the next year, Wilkinson saved himself by joining the accusers of Burr and warning Jefferson. He arrested suspects and evaded court orders regarding them. When Burr was put on trial in 1807, Wilkinson narrowly escaped indictment, but his former friends all suspected him. One of them published his accusations in 1809, which led to a second investigation of Wilkinson and a courtmartial in 1811. He was unfortunately acquitted, served unsatisfactorily in the War of 1812, and was dropped from service.

The troubles that Wilkinson and Burr brought on themselves aroused and involved many others, so there is an extensive literature of conspiracy and denunciation in these years. We have some of the titles. The Streeter sale offered several more, but such were the prices we were successful in procuring only two. One was A Plain Tale... Justifying the Character of General Wilkinson. By a Kentuckian (New York 1807). It is generally conceded now to have been written by Wilkinson. The other was Mr. Rowan's Motion in Congress (Washington 1808) containing evidence of Spanish intrigue among Kentuckians and the conduct of a federal judge. The western kettle boiled furiously for a few years over this fire.
Capt. Underhill Reports

A few years back in The Quarto we announced that we had two or three basic, contemporary accounts of the Pequot War. This was the conflict in the Connecticut River Valley in 1637 between the early settlers and the Indians, a not especially creditable affair but the first Indian war in New England. The trouble brought Capt. John Underhill with 20 Massachusetts men to reinforce the Saybrook Fort. The local militia was under Capt. John Mason. The two officers cooperated together and won the support of the Mohecons and the Narragansets. Together they attacked the Pequot fort at Mystic, and only seven Indians escaped. Some 300 Pequots and their families left their villages and fled westward. They were pursued and caught in a swamp, where more than half the braves were captured and others slain. As the prisoners were distributed among other tribes, the Pequots lost their separate existence.

Capt. Mason wrote an account of the war, and so did Philip Vincent. Now we have just acquired Capt. Underhill's account, News from America (London 1638). This is the eyewitness, quickly published source we like to own.

The Field Marshal's Papers

Along about February of each year when the leaden Michigan skies tend to merge with the general greyness of the ground below we find ourselves brooding over the trends in book prices or the tendency of dealers to split up and scatter manuscript collections without compunction or concern for research possibilities. Then something usually happens to renew our faith in the inevitability of spring and restore our respect for dealers as scholarly entrepreneurs.

This year it was a letter from Winifred Myers, a London dealer, which lifted our spirits and set off a Mardi Gras of sorts in our Division of Manuscripts. Miss Myers became acquainted with our holdings and fields of interest three years ago during the last foraging expedition to Europe conducted by the Director. Her letter was about a letterbook containing some 300 letters of Lord Ligonier.

Due to circumstances beyond our control—and far beyond our patience—our Annual Report for 1966-67 has been delayed in the printing. It should have been mailed out to you before Christmas, but we are still pushing and praying for delivery.

The letters fall largely in the years 1758-1760 when Ligonier was commander-in-chief of British forces in Europe and America. This period, of course, was during the Seven Years or French and Indian War. Nearly every letter contains information of the highest level. What makes this collection even more stunning is that it represents just about the only sizable cache of Ligonier Papers in existence. Needless to say, we bought them.

Scott vs. Stone

Barton W. Stone began his ministry with a troubled mind. He was originally a Presbyterian in Tennessee and Kentucky, but he questioned such Calvinistic doctrines as the trinity, the divinity and atonement of Christ, and even the presbyteral organization. He withdrew in 1803 and established churches he merely called Christian. A quarter of a century later he joined forces with the Rev. Alexander Campbell who had formed the Disciples of Christ denomination. He was finally denounced as a Unitarian.

Along his theological way, Stone had engaged in pamphlet and oratorical arguments with other preachers. One of these was the Rev. James Scott of Indiana, who saw in Stone the heresy of Arianism, or the belief that Christ was not God on earth but a separate person. Scott became so worked up about his errant brother that he published not one, but two sermons against Stone: A Check to Arianism. Being Designed as an Answer to the Arguments of Barton W. Stone, and A Second Check to Arianism. Both were printed in a newspaper office at Indianapolis in 1826. Mr. Streeter owned the only copies known, and now they have come to us.

They are a reminder of the bitter sectarian strife of the early nineteenth century and that the differences were not always superficial matters of form but of fundamental theology.

The Library has received word of the death on January 2 of Mrs. Benjamin S. Warren of Grosse Pointe Shores. She was one of the founding members of the Clements Library Associates in 1947 and served on the Board of Governors from that date until September 30, 1965. A great lady, a generous contributor, she was always interested in the development of this Library and regularly attended meetings of the Board as long as her health permitted.
Tilting at Philadelphia Windmills?
Don Quixote in Philadelphia—Philadelphia? Si, signor. The great Spanish classic by Cervantes has been reprinted everywhere. We thought it important to pick up the first American printing, The History and Adventures of the Renowned Don Quixote (Philadelphia 1803) in four small volumes. It says something about the state of American culture and interest in the novel that this work should be printed in 1803 as a speculation.

Although all four volumes appeared the same year and no doubt simultaneously, each volume was printed by a different printer. Was it a joint venture, each office assuming a quarter of the risk? Or did the publisher spread the work among three other offices for the sake of expediting the finished product? But three of the printers were in neighboring cities; is our copy a mixed up set from four editions all printed the same year?

Recent Publications
Since last summer several books have appeared that are based on research done at the Library. We want to call your attention to a very readable biography, Gerda Lerner’s The Grimke Sisters from South Carolina, Rebels Against Slavery, a fascinating account of the extraordinary sisters. We have their correspondence.

Then there is Bertha Heilbron’s edition of The Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated, by Henry Lewis, originally published in 1854 in German. She offers a new translation and beautiful reproductions of the pictures. Her introduction makes use of our Henry Lewis letters for additional biographical data.

American Humor
The field of early American literature is a broad one. Essays abound, and so does poetry, which is not very good. The Library has a notable collection of plays—those written by Americans and those printed here although written by Europeans. Novels are scarce and expensive.

One special classification is humor. When we speak of early American humor we are likely to think of it beginning with Artemus Ward and Mark Twain during the Civil War. Someone may mention Josh Billings or Petroleum V. Nasby of the immediate postwar period, and possibly Davy Crockett will be recalled as an earlier figure. Actually, there were a number of humorists and satirists before 1860 and reaching back into the eighteenth century. It might even be argued that the very first book of humor was Thomas Morton’s ridicule of the Puritans in The New English Canaan (1637).

Be that as it may, there are dozens of books of humor in the first half of the nineteenth century that show a distinctive American wit. The Library has been slowly and quietly picking up these titles, knowing that a study of this genre cannot be expected until a respectable collection is obtained. It was happy to obtain eight more such books last month from one dealer.

Where the Tall Corn Grows
Although our view focuses largely on the geographical area to the east of Michigan, we are also interested in the Mississippi Valley and the rush to the Pacific Coast. Take Iowa, for instance.

We have Lieut. Albert Lea’s Notes on Wisconsin Territory (Philadelphia 1836), which has a good deal on the Iowa district as does W. R. Smith’s Observations of 1858. Then we have John Plumbe’s Sketches of Iowa and Wisconsin (St. Louis 1899). These three are the basis for any collection on Iowa. We also have Jesse Williams’ description of the U. S. lands in Iowa of 1840; Galland’s Iowa Emigrant, 1840, for prospective settlers; a Missionary Tour, 1843, by the Rev. James L. Scott that led him into Iowa; and John B. Newhall’s Glimpse of Iowa in 1846 which was printed in Iowa. We also have some titles of the 1850’s.

In the third Streeter sale we were able to pick up two more Iowa books. One was Newhall’s earlier work, designed for emigrants to Iowa: his Sketches of Iowa (New York 1841). The other was David Kilbourne’s Strictures on Dr. I. Galland’s Pamphlet (Fort Madison 1850). Land sales in Iowa had provoked an argument between the two men, and here Kilbourne accuses Galland of selling land to which he could not give title. Galland’s pamphlet mentioned is called Villainy Exposed, which we are looking for.

Streeter No. 4
At this writing, we have not seen a catalogue of the fourth Streeter auction sale scheduled for April. Although we are not anticipating as many books of interest to the Library will be offered as last fall, the Associates are hoping to provide the funds that may be needed. Some recent contributions have come in and are very welcome.

Readers will have to wait until the June Quarto to hear about the sale—what books we wanted and which we were able to secure. We hope for the best.