New Footings

After forty-six years of faithful and daily service, the rugs on the floor of the Main Room showed undeniable signs of wear. The University has just provided us with new rugs which have brightened the scene. They catch the soft blue in the decorated ceiling mixed with gray and turquoise yarns. The bright change is a little startling to the staff, of course, who were long used to the neutral brown.

Drop in and see us. We think you will like the new color. The University’s interior decorator guided us in our choice, and she is much pleased with the result. Not only were the colors custom blended, but the Philips Crawford Carpet Company loomed them in special large sizes for this great room.

Leave It To Ben

The accessioning of three more autobiographical accounts by the Rev. George Whitefield reminded us that this evangelical preacher who contributed so much to the Great Awakening here was virtually a commuter between England and America between 1738 and 1769. His first visit was to Georgia. Gen. James Oglethorpe, the principal founder of this colony for unfortunates, suggested to Whitefield the need for an orphanage. Upon his return to England, Whitefield was named by the trustees minister of Savannah, to which place he returned in 1739 with money to start the orphanage. He spent most of his time as an itinerant preacher, moving up and down the Atlantic coast and always raising money for his orphanage. It was called Bethesda and was located outside Savannah.

Why Georgia, we asked ourselves. Normally the need for an orphanage would be in a colony of greater population. Why didn’t he establish an orphanage in Philadelphia or Boston? The answer to this question we found accidentally in perusing (again) Franklin’s autobiography. He knew Whitefield, entertained him in Philadelphia, and had this to say about Georgia:

“The settlement of that province had lately been begun, but, instead of being made with hardy, industrious husbandmen, accustomed to labor, the only people fit for such an enterprise, it was with families of broken shop-keepers and other insolvent debtors, many of indolent and idle habits, taken out of the jails, who being set down in the woods, unqualified for clearing land and unable to endure the hardships of a new settlement, perished in numbers, leaving many helpless children unprovided for.”

Such was the pragmatic Franklin’s view of the do-gooder.

To Our CLA Members

Two recent developments deserve your attention. One concerns only those members living in Michigan. As you may recall, the new state income tax allows a deduction for contributions made to a state educational institution for general purposes. We have learned that your contribution to the CLA is considered a specific gift not for the general benefit of the University of Michigan. Of course, it is of benefit to the University, but legally it is not viewed this way. University officials are working to make a case for recognizing all contributions to the Clements Library as allowable deductions from the state income tax, but a decision probably will not affect your 1969 contributions, we regret to say. Deduction from federal income tax is still permitted. The dues notice you receive will contain a statement of the situation.

The Board of Governors has decided that members who contribute one hundred dollars or more are entitled to special recognition. Beginning with the new fiscal year, they will be called Clements Library Fellows and will receive a spe-
Fall Assembly

The next assembly for the Associates is scheduled for Thursday night, November 6, when Henry D. Brown, director of the Detroit Historical Museum, will speak. There will also be a brief report of the final Streeter auction sale. Invitations will go out in October.

The Board of Governors will have a meeting in the afternoon.

Gen. Wayne Helps Us

A few years ago some interested persons in Detroit and Ann Arbor formed the Anthony Wayne Society in order to gather and publish material on the Great Lakes. The first project was to find and edit the letters from (and possibly to) General Wayne while he was in Detroit on an inspection tour in 1796. As he died on his way back East, this correspondence was his last as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Army.

Then two of the leading spirits in the Society left Detroit, and a third, Renville Wheat, died. Uncertainty followed. Finally the treasurer of the Society polled the members with the proposal that the Society dissolve and give its funds to this Library in memory of Mr. Wheat for the purchase of additional old maps of the Great Lakes. The Wheat Endowment Fund has therefore been enriched by nearly $850. The Wayne publication project is not dead, and we hope it will appear under other sponsorship.

The Vandeleur Captivity

JOHN VANDELEUR, a crewman aboard a Dutch ship, was captured by Indians on the Northwest Coast in 1784, and he married an Indian girl and lived with his new friends. That's about all we can be sure of in this tale we have to tell. We don't even know the correct spelling of his name, or how he got on shore. His story first appeared in print in 1788, written by Don Alonso Decalves, who said he met him in the course of his travels and produced a book entitled New Travels to the Westward. But Decalves is a fake; the name is a pseudonym for some writer not yet identified. Another account of the episode was published by the captain of the Dutch ship.

The story was popular and kept getting reprinted over the next two decades. It was usually of pamphlet size, running to thirty-odd pages, unless reduced to a very small format, when the number of pages doubled. By 1812 twenty editions had appeared, chiefly in New England. Then Vandeleur himself came forward and told his story, we are assured, and it appeared at Montpelier, Vermont, in 1812, running to 96 pages under the title A History of the Voyage and Adventures of John Van Delure. Why it should have issued from Vermont we knoweth not. It was reprinted at least five times elsewhere.

The book is, of course, one of the "captivity" literature. We already owned a Decalves version of 1797 printed at Dover, N. H. Now we have the first edition as related by Vandeleur in 1812, purchased from the James Shearer II Fund. Five other copies of it are known, but none has appeared at auction since 1927. One of the five was owned by Mr. Streeter and will appear at his last auction next month. It merits historical as well as bibliographical study.
That Was the Year That Was

War clouds spread gloom over the world. The reputation of a prominent politician was under fire. Americans were exploring space. The condition of the Negroes was being debated in Congress. Materialism was rampant. And students rebelled against university authority, issued non-negotiable demands, and insisted on amnesty for their leaders. Is this our Michigan of 1969?

No, it's the world and Harvard and Princeton in 1807. Napoleon was marching at will through Europe and had invaded Russia. That country was also fighting the Turks. English naval forces had just captured Montevideo, while at home the government had resigned. Aaron Burr was being sought on a charge of treason. Col. Zebulon Pike reported from the uncharted West that he had seen a distant mountain peak, later named for him. Congress had just passed a bill prohibiting further importation of slaves. State election campaigns were in ferment. Some Princeton students had been expelled in March, whereupon 145 out of the 180 signed a petition refusing to obey the professors unless the expelled were readmitted. The professors refused, and most of the students went home.

In the same month the students at Harvard complained about their dorm food. The administration undertook an investigation, during which a few students created further disturbance, and four were suspended. The seniors promised peace if one of the four was reinstated; he was, but the seniors then organized a mass walkout from the commons at a given noon if the food should look unattractive. This they did immediately after grace. However, since they had to make arrangements for obtaining a meal in town, it was clear that the decision was taken in advance, a "previous combination" of deliberate defiance. When they did not show up for supper, the president closed the commons.

The administration decided it was unjust to punish all, while the organizers of the strike could not be identified. The Corporation therefore prepared a certificate the students should sign, acknowledging improper conduct and promising reform. When the president read the certificate at chapel, he was interrupted by "the rude shuffling of feet," and the unregenerate and illegal student government quickly circulated a paper promising punishment to any student who should sign the certificate.

Nevertheless, 74 students signed, and 67 more were recognized by the college as not involved. That left 77 in danger of suspension on April 16, which is the last date in our Narrative of the Proceedings of the Corporation of Harvard College Relative to the late Disorders in that Seminary (Cambridge, April 1807). Twelve days later a Boston paper reported that order was restored at Harvard. Exactly what happened we haven't been able to learn, but it appears that the Corporation stood firm, and some or all of 77 cavied in. The campus remained quiet for years—before another outbreak in 1823.

New Bibliography of Maps

The long awaited bibliography, Maps and Charts Published in America Before 1800 has appeared. This work was started in our Library in the 1930's by the late James Clements Wheat, and it was brought to completion and revised to please the publisher by our former map librarian, Christian Brun. Aside from our long support of the project, we are glad to have our appropriate maps cited in it. The book is wonderfully well done and will become a useful tool and authority for historians, geographers, and librarians. Yale University Press is the publisher.

Bibliographies are notoriously difficult to compile because of the numerous details which must be correct, but we believe that the care with which this one was done should eliminate all errors. Its 915 entries indicate the amount of cartographical activity among early American printers. It opens up new source material to historians, who have frequently ignored maps unless coming across them accidentally. The holdings of the Clements Library make a very good showing, and we now know the particular maps we lack. Mr. Brun did an earlier bibliography for us listing our manuscript maps. The two works help make known our map holdings.

Susquehanna Claim

Attempting to compensate for its small size and wanting room for expansion, Connecticut clung fiercely to its colonial lands in the west—land in Pennsylvania known as the "Susquehanna claim" and farther west, land in northern Ohio, the "Western Reserve." As was to be expected, difficulties ensued with Pennsylvania, though Connecticut claimed their royal charter of 1662 from Charles II gave them permanent
rights. The “Wyoming Massacre” by the Indians and the Pennamite Wars with the Pennsylvanians resulted. In 1782 the lands were awarded to Pennsylvania, and in 1786 Connecticut formally ceded most of her public lands to the new federal government. In actual practice, Pennsylvania did honor claims of some of the Connecticut encroachers who had become established as settlers.

The Pennsylvanians were especially active in publicizing their cause—five of the six new items relating to them present their views, Connecticut Claim (Lancaster, 1801); An Important Statement of Facts by Tench Coxe (Lancaster, 1801); Papers Respecting Intrusions by Connecticut Claimants (Philadelphia, 1796); The State of the Lands said to be once within the Bounds of the Charter of the Colony of Connecticut (New York, 1770); and Charge of Judge Paterson to the Jury (Philadelphia, 1796). The Connecticut side is judiciously outlined by Jonathan Trumbull in The Susquehannah Case (Norwich, 1774).

Connecticut came off better in its other land claims. When she ceded her public lands to the U. S., she was able to retain the “Western Reserve,” later incorporated into Ohio Territory.

**General Montgomery**

.probably the most exciting manuscript acquisition during the past year was the purchase of three letters written by Richard Montgomery, the American officer who captured Montreal in November of 1775 and was killed during the siege of Quebec later that year. Richard Montgomery letters fall into the excessively rare category, and two of these letters written to his friend, British officer Perkins Magra, are outstanding. In one of the letters written in 1774 when Montgomery was establishing his farm near Rhinebeck, New York, he says, “... ‘Tis a pity you can’t come and help me plan a house which I shall lay the foundation of this fall. My Mill is almost finished ... A country life is the only resource of disappointed ambition—to have something to do is the surest means of procuring good spirits & comfortable feelings. I begin to think I shan’t die by the pistol ...”

The other letter, written on July 2, 1775, when Montgomery was a member of the New York Provincial Congress, describes his feelings in casting his lot with the patriots. “... I now yield to a generous impulse which will not permit me to withhold my little assistance in support of rights, without which life is a burden—hard fate to be obliged to oppose a power I have been ever taught to reverence! ...”

**Whipple Papers**

The library has recently acquired a manuscript collection touching on an interesting phase of American technology before the Civil War. This collection relates to James Aldrich Whipple (1826–1861), an inventor and practical submarine engineer from Boston, Massachusetts. His papers, numbering nearly 500 letters and 200 business items in the period from 1847 to 1860, deal in large part with Whipple’s work in raising sunken property from wrecks along the Atlantic coast and in the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas.

In 1854 Whipple recovered the metal plates carried by the steamship Pioneer which sank in the Hudson River in 97 feet of water. The vessel had capsized while bringing its cargo from the West Point Foundry to New York. Each plate weighed 22 tons, and the nature of the undertaking may be conceived when this weight is taken into consideration with the depth of the water. Captain Asa Eldridge, part owner of the Pioneer, reported “Mr. Whipple did himself great credit, and exhibited much mechanical knowledge in securing them for raising. He made numerous descents himself, and superintended the work above and below.”

Another interesting assignment concerned the recovery of a statue of John C. Calhoun, sunk in quicksand off Fire Island near New York while being transported to Charleston, South Carolina. The Council of that city in 1850, mindful of this contribution “Resolved, That too much praise and credit cannot be awarded to all parties engaged, for successful exertions in recovering the Statue of John C. Calhoun from the deep sea, after a labor of three months from the time it was wrecked on the coast near New York.”

Of particular interest are items relating to the salvaging of materials from the wreck of the Spanish warship San Pedro which sank off the coast of Colombia, South America in 1815 with plunder from several cities on board.

In addition to his work as a practical submarine engineer, Whipple was responsible for improvements in submarine armor and apparatus used in underwater operations. His inventions of a steam pump, a steam fog whistle, and a submarine trumpet used for communications between the diver and the assistant above, added to his accomplishments as an engineer.